

Times of DeKalb

DeKalb History Center
Summer 2020 Newsletter

Death House

by Melissa Carlson Forgey



This gorgeous Queen Anne Cottage was built at 719 Sycamore Street; now it is located at 813 Sycamore Street. It is very close to the MARTA tracks on the eastern edge of the historic core of Decatur. The DeKalb History Center has a subject file for this house, but only about 120 houses in DeKalb County are documented individually in our archives. The file contents are primary and secondary

sources and include a note from an old house tour that dates the home to about 1895. When I found that there were two addresses for the structure, it made this research much easier. If I wanted an exact date for the house, I could go back through the deeds in the Records Room of the DeKalb County courthouse. However, deed research can be grueling, and this date is accurate enough. Sometimes, even diligent deed research does not give you a definitive date for when a house was built...

[The full article with illustrations in on our Blog -click here to read more](#)



Watch this quick video on The Death House!

Highlight from the DHC Collections



Oak tongue from a horse-drawn ambulance, circa 1918.

World War I Buggy Tongue

This three-and-a-half yard long wagon tongue was used in service as part of a horse-drawn ambulance at Camp Gordon during WWI.

The Spanish flu of 1918 was devastating the world during this time and training camps like Camp Gordon were massive hot spots for the virus. About six weeks before the end of the war, the flu hit the hardest and horse drawn ambulances would have been in high demand transporting sick trainees and picking up coffins at the railroad siding.

Bronze Lens Selection



The DeKalb History Center's Black History Month film, **The Jazz Age: An African American Perspective**, has been officially selected for the 2020 Bronze Lens Film Festival as a short documentary!

A Review of Walking with the Wind

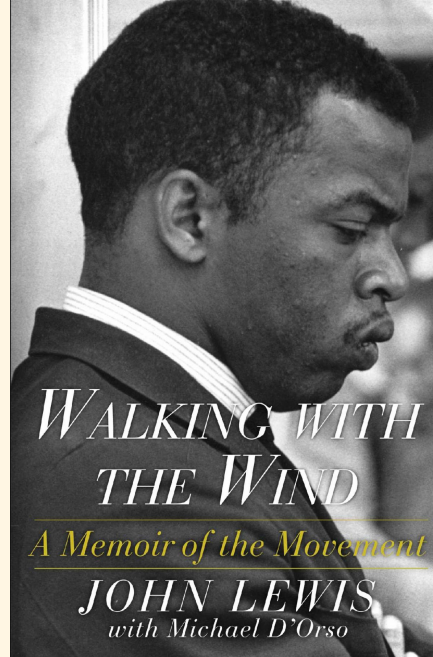
by Jennifer Blomqvist

*** This review was written before the passing of John Lewis on July 17, 2020. We mourn his death and celebrate his legacy.*

John Lewis' Walking with the Wind is largely written about his work in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, but feels as if it could have been written about what is going on in 2020. Just like the movement happening today, they held demonstrations, gave impassioned speeches, and worked to register and encourage people of color to vote. Mr. Lewis' accounts of personal injury, determination, and the spirit of building a "beloved community" are weaved throughout the book. Later in life, Mr. Lewis worked with non-profit organizations (once as a volunteer coordinator) and then ran for public office. It was Mr. Lewis that recommended the Martin Luther King holiday should be a day of service, not just a day off. He now represents Georgia's 5th congressional district, which includes parts of DeKalb County.

One of my favorite anecdotes is in the prologue and sets the tone for the entire book. It's the story of a Saturday afternoon at his Aunt Seneva's house. Young Mr. Lewis was there with 15 or so other kids. There was a terrible storm outside and the house began to sway and lift. Aunt Seneva told the kids to hold hands and move back and forth along the corners of the house that were moving with the winds. They were literally holding the house down! Metaphorically, we see that when people work together towards a common goal,

good things can happen.



Closing Exhibit: Silk & Stitch

We invite you to walk back through the history of women's clothing and discover the ways fashion can be used as a research tool when thinking about the expanding roles of women and the circumstances that influenced fashion from 1870 to 1960.

Silk & Stitch, An Exploration of Embellishment in Fashion, encourages viewers to take a closer look at women's fashion through the centuries and to discover the hidden context found within the seemingly frivolous details.



Silk & Stitch will be **closing** at the end of summer, so if you wish to see it before it's gone, please make an appointment with us by emailing selem@dekalbhistory.org or calling 404-373-1088 ext 24.

In Memorium

Joseph M. Lee, III, was an author, historian, and passionate collector of memorabilia with a focus on Augusta. For over 50 years, he collected photographs, and postcards, and eventually turned some of his collection into two books available through Arcadia Publishing. Lee was a native of Augusta, Georgia, and he worked for the DeKalb County Roads and Drainage Department for over 25 years. During his time in DeKalb, he collected DeKalb County postcards, maps, and other memorabilia that has since been donated to the DeKalb History Center. He spoke at many past DHC events and served on the Board in 1979 and 1980.



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