

# Times of DeKalb



## Memorial Drive: A History

*by Marissa Howard*

In grappling with DeKalb's remembrances of the Confederacy, communities have removed statues (the Confederate monument in downtown Decatur), renamed roads (Confederate Avenue), and remained unsure about a granite carving of Lee, Jackson, and Davis, which is far too large to store in a museum.



### But why have we not considered Memorial Drive?

It is a 15-mile road flanked by two jails that begins at Georgia's gleaming gold "Capitol of Dixie" dome and ends at Stone Mountain's Confederate Hall.

Is Memorial Drive nothing more than the road's destination or is it a driving route of Confederate memory? Do you know the history of this memorial or is it a monument hiding in plain sight?

*Where did it all begin for Memorial Drive?*

[Read more](#)

## Moving Forward, Looking Back

by Jennifer Blomqvist

I have many memories as a child growing up in Stone Mountain. One of my earliest memories is being in the car, riding through town and seeing, on either side of Main Street, people in white robes and pointy white hats, waving papers and signs in the air.



*Stone Mountain High School Parade, 1989.*



*Early postcard of Stone Mountain, 1854.*

I remember being completely terrified. Fast forward several years and I'm a teenager, "cruising" around Stone Mountain Park with my friends and playing putt-putt. I also worked at the park for a time. Those were happy, care-free days! I was unaware of the history and the impact of the carving on the mountain and the confederate flags around the park. It would be years later that I would learn the disturbing truths of those things and how they related to the white robes I saw as a girl.

Some things have not changed, but some things have and are changing. Fast forward again to November 2019 and the city of Stone Mountain votes to rename Venable Street. It is now named for Eva Jewell Greene and Mamie Ella Lane (Eva Mamie Lane), a mother-daughter duo considered pillars of Shermantown, the historically African American community in Stone Mountain. Fast forward once more to 2020 and the Stone Mountain Action Coalition is working with the Stone Mountain Memorial Association "to make the park and its surroundings and exhibits more welcoming, inclusive, and historically accurate." We look forward to what comes next! New memories to be added...

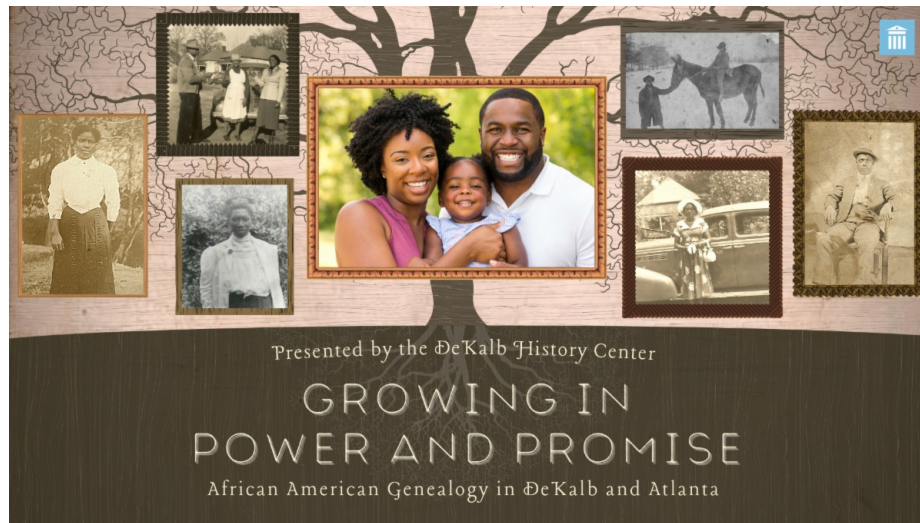
Further reading:

*Dorsey, Allison (2004). To Build Our Lives Together: Community formation in Black Atlanta, 1875–1906. University of Georgia Press.*

Freeman, David B. (1997). *The History of Stone Mountain.* Mercer University Press.

<https://stonemountainaction.org/>

## Upcoming Events



**FEB 11 – 13th Annual Black History Month Celebration**

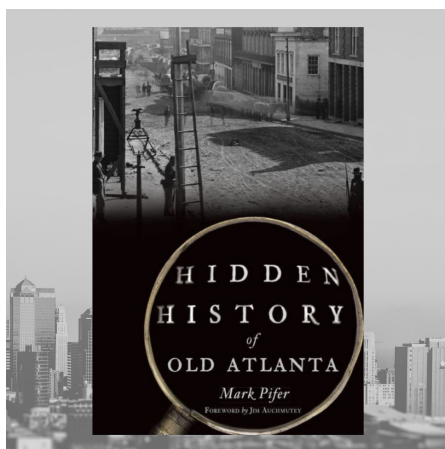
**11:00 am – 12:30 pm, LIVE via Zoom**

**\*\*Ticket sales for live event will close at 9:00 am on 2/11\*\***

The video recording of the event will be available for ticket holders on Friday, February 12th.

The celebration will center around the power of African American genealogy. The program will start with a musical selection that will set the celebratory mood. Then, presenters will engage the audience with interactive genealogy presentations, and breakout sessions, including riveting stories about some of DeKalb and Atlanta's oldest African American families. To learn more or to purchase your ticket, please click [here](#).

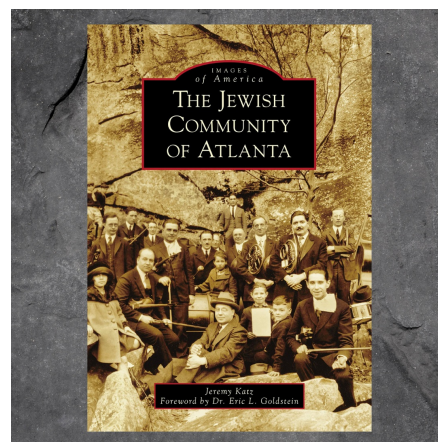
Full Event  
Program



**MAR 3**

Virtual Book Talk: Hidden History of  
Old Atlanta

FREE



**MAR 17**

Virtual Book Talk: The Jewish  
Community of Atlanta

FREE



Zoom links for book talks are available on our [website](#) closer to the specific event date.

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## Membership

Click [here](#) to view the **Membership Report and End of Year Donations** for 2020/2021.



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Thank you Members for supporting us in 2020!

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## In Memoriam

Joseph "Joe" Augustine Sams Bond

Claire Walters Johnson

Memorial donations have also been received from Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., for:

Oscar "OZ" Adams

Anne C. Estes

Joseph M. Lee, III

Albert Martin

Frank D. Nix

Dorothy Rozier

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