

DeKalb History Center

Historic DeKalb Courthouse
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CENTER

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Times of DeKalb

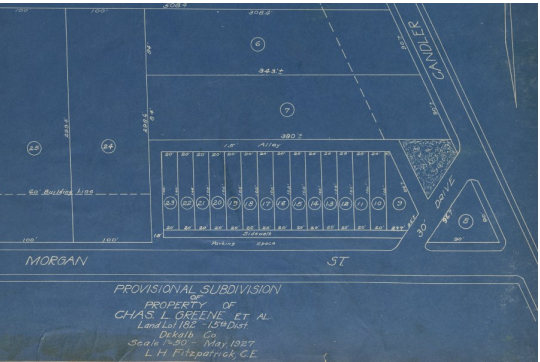
Fall
2024

Plat Maps

By Marissa Howard, Programs & Membership Coordinator

Our recently digitized plat map collection can offer you countless hours of entertainment and the history of a neighborhood or street. A Plat map shows legal property ownership. It may include boundary markers and structures on the property.

Our newly digitized collection has plat maps created between 1912 and 1936 to show prospective buyers the boundaries of new lots. Many of these large parcels were owned by one person and were being subdivided. Some of these subdivisions came to fruition, while others were never created. Even if some of these subdivisions were not created you can still see hints of the proposed development in alleyways and unique street designs. The following are some great finds that show the anticipated development of subdivisions around the intersection of Memorial Drive and Candler Road.



In this image you can see a proposed development of land owned by Charles L. Greene in 1927 on Morgan Street (renamed Alston Drive). The lots in the 1927 map are tiny - only 20 x 100 and include an alley and parking spaces out front. My best guess is that these were anticipated to be apartment walkups

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Meri Lewis, DHC volunteer, posing for the camera. Photo by Chloe Ravina.

Disco Sneaker Ball

This year's silent auction fundraiser was held on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

The theme was Disco Sneaker Ball and attendees dressed to impress in their grooviest 1970s attire and impressive sneakers. The decor featured an endless number of disco balls, jewel-toned velvet linens, and bright colored flowers. DJ Scott Morris spun records featuring all

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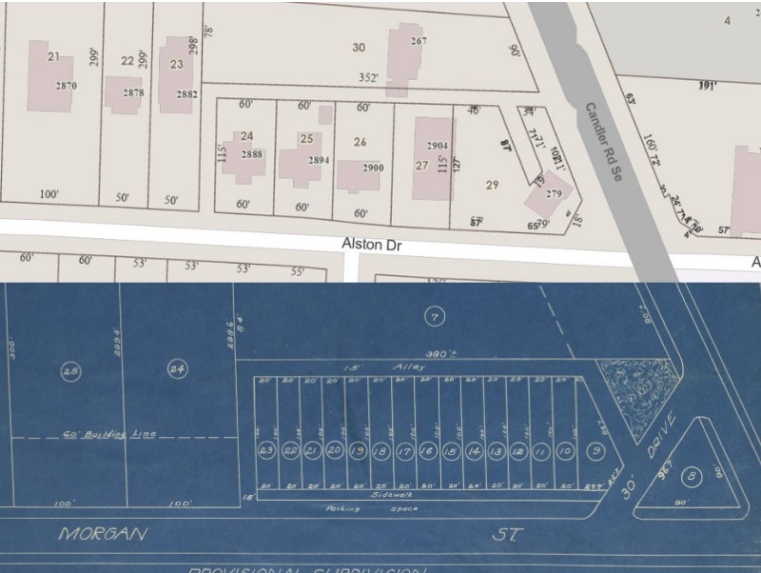
Plat Maps continued

similar to those built just a year later down the street across from East Lake Golf Club. Even today, remnants of this can still be found on a parcel map.

You can search your own neighborhood or street by scanning the QR code. Then type your street into the search bar. Don't limit yourself to your street, also try searching other streets in your area.



We are grateful for the grant that we received in 2023 from The Digital Library of Georgia and the University of Georgia for them to digitize the 10 books containing these plat maps. ✦



Book 8, Page 150, DeKalb County plat map books, years 1912-1936, DeKalb History Center (Decatur, Ga.)

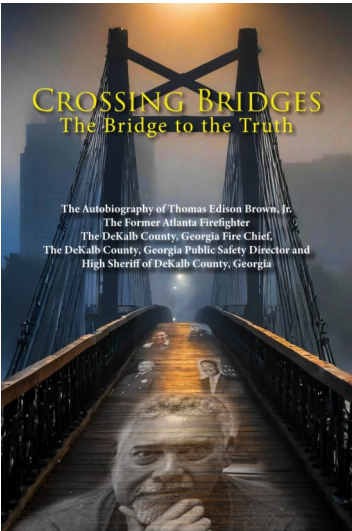
What's New in the Archives

The Digital Library of Georgia digitized our collection of early 20th century DeKalb County plat maps. These map books are extremely fragile. The digitization process allowed for access without any further damage to the books. You can scan the QR code here or visit dlg.usg.edu/collection/dhc_dcpm



These paper materials are available to see in the archives:

- ◆ Former DeKalb County High Sheriff, DeKalb Fire Chief, and DeKalb Public Safety Director Thomas E. Brown, Jr., was here in August to donate some of his badges, his fire chief helmet, and his autobiography, *Crossing Bridges: The Bridge to the Truth*.
- ◆ DHC supporter Yvette Gunn donated some genealogy books from her family, surname of Rector and others, from the Shermantown area in Stone Mountain.
- ◆ DHC supporter Karna Candler donated materials, including antique tools from her father, as well as archival materials from Scott Candler, Sr., and Scott Candler, Jr.



Crossing Bridges, Thomas E. Brown, Jr., book.

We received two photos of Superior Court judges from 1988 and 1991 from the Office of the Court Administrator at the 4th Judicial Administrative District office. DHC supporter Clarence Seeliger is pictured, along with other judges. ✦

Visiting the archives is free and open to anyone. The only requirement is to make an appointment, which you can do by visiting our website dekalbhistory.org or by calling 404-373-1088 ext. 1005.

Black History Month Celebration 2025



Photo by Dean Hesse.

Love Letters to the Caribbean

February 27, 2025

This year's program will center around the diversity of the Caribbean diaspora in the metro Atlanta area.

Sponsorships are available now. Contact Melissa Carlson at 404-373-1088, extension 1001 for more information.

In Memoriam
Dawn Stewart Massey

Join * Renew * Give

We hope you enjoyed the fall 2024 issue of Times of DeKalb. Please consider making a financial contribution through joining, rejoining, or a one time donation. Your generous contribution to the DeKalb History Center will provide you with a year-long membership that includes our quarterly journal to keep you informed on all our activities. We hope that you will join our team by either renewing your membership or joining as a first-time supporter.



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Upcoming Programs



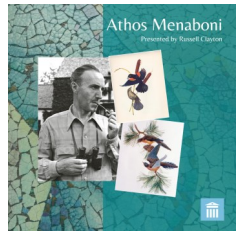
November 9

Workshop: Autumn Vintage Teas & Treats

10:00—11:30 am

Celebrate heirloom garden wisdom, vintage baking memories, and historic knowledge presented in a “Friendship Tea Party” setting.

DHC Members \$35 / Non-members \$45



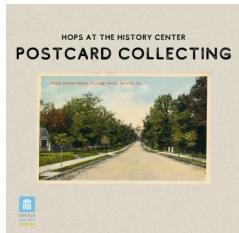
November 12

Hops at the History Center: Athos Menaboni

6:30—7:30 pm

Join Russell Clayton for his presentation on Athos Menaboni (1895-1990), one of Georgia’s most prominent artists.

DHC Members \$5 / Non-members \$10



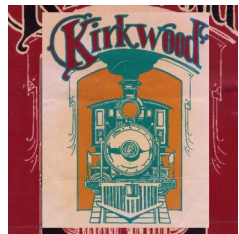
November 14

Hops at the History Center: Postcard Collecting with GA Postcard Club

6:30—7:30 pm

Kenneth H. Thomas’ presentation will discuss the history of postcards, the different types of cards people collect, and how they can enhance the history of your community, your genealogy, and your travels.

DHC Members \$5 / Non-members \$10



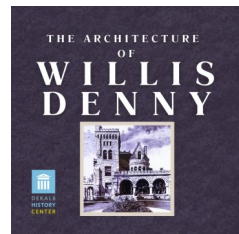
December 3, December 4

Archives Showcase: Kirkwood

10:00 am—6:30 pm, 10:00 am—4:00 pm

Join us in the archives for a showcase featuring items related to Kirkwood.

Free



December 3

Hops at the History Center: Willis F. Denny, Architect of Rhodes Hall and Kriegshaber House

6:30—7:30 pm

In his continuing series of lectures on Atlanta architects, Robert M. Craig will review the career of Willis Denny, illustrating his architecture in Atlanta and elsewhere in the context of his training at the architecture school at Cornell.


Free

October Programs Feature


October means cooler weather, pumpkins, and 735 students visiting the DeKalb History Center for History Quest. Each year, hundreds of students explore our Historic Complex, immersing themselves in history as they meet consequential people from the past. Students heard from Susan B. Anthony in the Swanton House and 18th-century poet Phillis Wheatley Peters in the Thomas Barber cabin. The fireplace was lit in the Biffle Cabin where Fiddlin’ Dan the Mountain Man brought Georgia History to life through folk music.

Students also met James Oglethorpe, Paul Revere, a Tuskegee Airman, an Auburn Avenue businessman, and Jim Sawgrass, a native Floridian of Muscogee Creek (Mvskoke) descent and living historian.

For nearly a decade, almost every fourth grader in the Decatur City School System has participated in this enriching program, and nearly half of the students visit from Title 1 schools. We are committed to continuing this invaluable experience for future generations of 4th and 8th graders. Thank you, volunteers, for helping this program run smoothly year after year.



LaDoris Bias Davis performing as Phillis Wheatley.




Jim Sawgrass teaching about Muscogee Creek history and culture.

Hops Program: The Winecoff Hotel Fire

Earlier this month we learned about the Winecoff Hotel Fire in downtown Atlanta, one of the deadliest fires in American history, killing 119 hotel occupants. One of the survivors was Dorothy Moen, 16, who was in town for the YMCA's Youth Legislature.

Her daughter, Janet Cox, spoke to the DeKalb History Center about her mother’s determination to survive as she jumped from the window of her 4th-floor hotel room. Dorothy spent six months recovering at Grady Hospital becoming one of Grady’s first water therapy patients. She later became a master stenographer at Fort Benning.



You can watch the full presentation on our YouTube Channel. ➦

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Disco Sneaker Ball continued

our favorite disco hits. Five of our preferred caterers served delicious bites: Fox Bros, Oakhurst Market, District Catering and Events, Sun In My Belly, and Avalon Catering. Two contests were held for Best Sneakers and Best Dressed, and offered some high stakes prizes for the winners courtesy of Odd Bird Gifts and Sole Play ATL. The night was a flurry of sparkle and shine!

We want to extend a special thank you to

- ◆ The vendors - PeachyKeen (decor), Scott Morris (DJ/MC), Rivet Events (photo booth), Chloe Ravina (photographer), Universal Joint/Moe’s & Joes and United Distributing (alcohol), A Touch of Drapery (drapery), and Ballroom Blitz (uplighting).
- ◆ Sole Play ATL for judging the sneaker and best dressed competitions.
- ◆ The exceptional volunteers who helped during the event - Meri Lewis, Elizabeth Austen, Jim Moore, Monique Brown, Sioux Henley Campbell, Paige Jennings, and Claire Lewis.
- ◆ The generous donations of over 90 local businesses.

This event would not have happened without the efforts of these amazing individuals, organizations, and businesses. This year we raised almost **\$12,000** to benefit the DeKalb History Center!

Mark your calendars for the next silent auction fundraiser coming August 2025. ✦

Photos by Chloe Ravina.



Lipstick & Fire Opening Reception

On October 3, *Lipstick & Fire* officially opened. We were honored to have DeKalb County CEO-Elect Lorraine Cochran-Johnson open the exhibit with impactful and touching remarks. In her speech she acknowledged the power women have to change the future while acknowledging the courage, determination, and grit from women changemakers of the past.

The exhibit celebrates local and national women whose achievements have advanced womankind. Lipstick & Fire features artifacts, photographs, and a thoughtful, interactive activity.

Museum Hours are Monday-Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, and Saturdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. ✦



Photos by Dean Hesse.

Thank you sponsors!



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