

DeKalb History Center

Historic DeKalb Courthouse  
101 East Court Square  
Decatur GA 30030

Phone: 404-373-1088  
Fax: 404-373-8287  
www.dekalbhistory.org



DEKALB  
HISTORY  
CENTER

Business Supporters

Guardian  
**A.S. Turner & Sons, Inc.**

Historian  
**Avalon Catering      Fox Bros. Catering**  
**City of Decatur      Gotta Have It Catering**  
**Endive Fine Catering**

Preservationist  
**Bold Catering & Design      Decide DeKalb      Phenomenal Food by**  
**Decatur Downtown      Epps Aviation      Chef Holly**  
**Development Authority      McCurdy & Candler, LLC      Simply Sated**  
**Sun in My Belly**

Contributor  
**Emory/Betty Willis      Meridian Property Group**  
**Fox Legal, LLC      New South Associates, Inc.**  
**Leadership DeKalb**

These business members support the History Center at the Contributor Level or above. For information call 404-373-1088, ext. 1003.

Times of DeKalb

Winter  
2025

The Forgotten Town of Constitution, Georgia

By Marissa Howard, Programs & Membership Coordinator

On South Moreland Avenue, south of East Atlanta Village, lies the ghost hamlet of Constitution, Georgia. This place is a label on the map, but no city exists. This part of DeKalb is a bit of a no man’s land for DeKalbians. The land surrounding the four-lane highway of Moreland is filled with trucking businesses, landfills, and Georgia Department of Correction Detention Centers. However, you should be familiar with the area. It is home to the Starlight Drive-In, the South River Forest preserve, and the controversial Cop City project. But why is Constitution on the map?

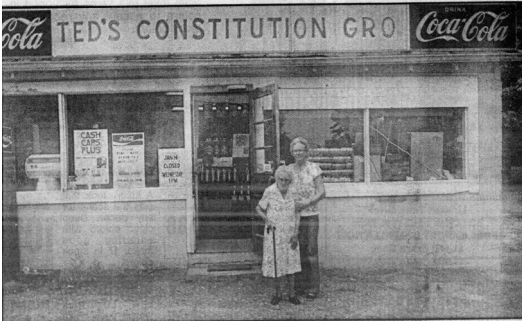
Constitution was formally organized in 1911 as a response to the organization of a Black Cemetery, Chestnut Hill. *The following is taken verbatim from the Atlanta Journal and lays out the entire history.*

**GREATER CONSTITUTION OPPOSED TO CEMETERY**

Jan 9, 1911, *Atlanta Journal*

“The Town of Constitution – 200 people, a depot, and several dwelling houses on the Southern railway, eight miles south of Atlanta – has been incorporated, and now boasts a mayor, a recorder and five councilmen, to say nothing of a Greater Constitution stretching out a mile in each direction from the depot.

This Memphis-like spreading out was not done primarily with the idea of having the town figure in the 1920s census, but to forestall the activity of a negro cemetery association which has 70-odd acres in Greater Constitution. The active heads of this association – the Chestnut Hill Cemetery association – are David T. Howard and L. L. Lee, negro undertakers. When their intention to sell cemetery lots became known, several white property



Constitution: DeKalb’s Lost Hamlet

Atlanta Journal, August 6, 1981. Article written by Scott Thurston.

owners brought action for an injunction, but their petition was denied by Judge Pendleton of the superior court on the ground that a cemetery per se was not a nuisance, so long as its owners complied with proper burial regulations.

The property owners followed the example of Peachtree Road who had been menaced with a cemetery and became incorporated. The first act of the mayor and council was to pass an ordinance prohibiting the use for burying purposes of any part of the corporate territory except that already set aside for white and negro burial grounds...” ✦

Read the full article by visiting <https://dekalbhistory.org/dekalb-history-center-blog/> or by scanning the QR code:



Inside  
this  
issue

Black History  
Month  
Celebration,  
pg. 2

Upcoming  
Programs, pg. 3

2024  
Membership  
Report, pg. 4-7

# Black History Month Celebration



Join the DeKalb History Center for our 17th Annual Black History Month Celebration. This year’s program highlights the diversity of the Caribbean diaspora in the metro area by showcasing unique aspects of Caribbean culture such as food, film, and music.

Thursday, February 27, 2025

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

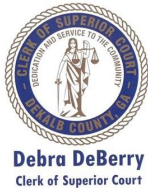
Historic DeKalb Courthouse

101 E Court Square

Decatur, GA 30030

Tickets are \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members, and both include lunch. Find out more at [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org)

## Special thanks to our Sponsors



Judge Gregory A. Adams

American Baptist Historical Society

Lyle & Kristen Davis

Caroline Freeman

It's Just Us Productions

Kelly Jordan

Michael Lehman

Norfolk Southern

Pete & Charlotte Pfeiffer

Claudia & Carl Stucke

Deborah & Harold Van Broekhoven

Stephanie Van Parys & Rob Cleveland

# Report continued

Rosita Smith  
Daniel Sobczak \*  
Sandy Still  
William Studdard  
Louise Sussin  
Doris Thomas  
Patricia Turner  
Ann VanSlyke \*  
Annette Wade  
Susan Weitman  
David Williams +

Holly Williams  
Cynthia Wittman +  
Thomas Woodward  
Betty Yaschik  
JoAnn Young

## Life Memberships

Cynthia Alford \*\*  
Linda & David Chesnut  
Robert McCurdy Davidson \*\*  
Mrs. A. Sidney Johnson \*\*

Terry Martin-Hart \*\*  
Dan Matthews \*\*  
Jenny McCurdy \*\*\*\*  
Mr. James B. Miller Jr. \*\*

## Key

+ New Members  
^ Upgraded Members  
\* Decades as a Member

## In Memoriam Wiley S. Ansley, III

## Join \* Renew \* Give

We hope you enjoyed the winter 2025 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.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Supporter Levels

___ Guardian—\$2,500	___ Contributor—\$250	___ Household—\$60
___ Historian—\$1,000	___ Sustainer/Business—\$135	___ Individual—\$35
___ Preservationist—\$500	___ Patron—\$85	___ Student/Teacher/Senior—\$30
___ One time donation		

Please mail this form with your contribution to: DeKalb History Center, 101 East Court Square, Decatur GA 30030 or call 404-373-1088 ext. 1003. Visit our website [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org) to pay online.



Membership

Individual \$35-\$64

April Andrews  
Melissa Arvay  
Linda Bell \*  
Andrea Bennett  
Jennifer & Martin Blomqvist  
Charlene Bowden +  
Charlie Candler \*  
Leslie Cook \*  
Treadwell Crown  
Jennifer Daniels  
Skyler Edwards +  
Gwendolyn Filardi \*  
Rosemary Fletcher  
Patty Giblin  
Betsy Goss \*  
Sheila Harkleroad  
Ellen Hopkins  
Laura Beth Ingle  
Megan Jarboe \*  
Michael Jarboe \*  
Neil Kahn \*  
Kathryn Kemp +  
Meredith Leahy  
Nanette Loftis  
Michelle Long Spears +  
Richard Lux  
R. McDonald +  
Carlton Mullis \*  
Virginia Murray  
David Payne  
Margaret Psaila +  
Mary Psaila +  
Marla Puziss  
James Radford \*\*\*\*  
Kelly Richardson +  
Meredith Roark  
Don Sailers  
Jeremy Scheivelhud  
Elizabeth Simpson  
Vince Smith +  
Cheryl Sullivan  
Patrick Sullivan \*  
Kathryn Wilson

Laurel Wilson \*  
Janie Yorker \*

Senior/Student/Teacher \$30

Valerie Ayer  
Jane Watt Balsley \*  
Glenda Barrett  
Paula Barrett +  
Penny Bellinger +  
Beryl Bergquist \*  
Robert Bohanan  
William & Nolia Brandt \*  
Mary Bray  
Sioux Campbell  
Janet Cope  
Nancy Corey  
Doug Cumming  
LaDoris Bias Davis  
Linda & Stephen Dorage  
Ann Dukes +  
Jina DuVernay +  
Mary-Elizabeth Ellard  
Amanda Fant-Farison +  
Anne Fayssoux \*  
Grace Finaldi  
Sandy Gamble  
Ben George  
Carolyn Gilbert  
Betty Graham +  
Yvette Gunn \*  
Joseph Haig \*  
Glenda Hamilton +  
Kathy Harmer  
Gary Hauk \*  
Barbara Haworth  
Jean Hendricks  
R. A. Henery +  
Linda Herbers  
Meri Hetep-T +  
Shea Huey  
Dora Jackson  
Susan Janke  
Vivian Jarman  
Lana Johnson  
Era Kahn

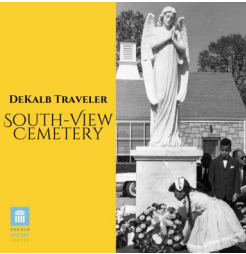
Allene Kelley +  
Edith Kelman & Bill Read \*  
Kim Killingsworth +  
Ann Kimbrough  
David Kitchens  
Lucy Larrousse  
Linda LeBron  
Margaret Lee  
Denyse Levesque  
Alison Main  
Joy Martin  
Bobbie McCrackin  
Lockey McDonald \*  
Martha McKoy +  
Betty Meek  
Fran Millans  
John & Jane Miller \*  
Pat Miller \*  
James P. Moore  
Sheila Moriarty \*  
Jennifer Murray  
Nicolet Neidlinger  
Wendy Nelson  
Claire Newbury  
Betty Noble \*  
Ad Olansky  
Anne Olson \*  
Elizabeth Olson  
Uldis Palde \*  
Leah Panther +  
Larry Pellegrini  
Mary Martha Penner  
Pamela Privette  
Pamela Pryor \*  
Christie Reed +  
Ingrid Reinhard \*  
Sheila Rotter  
Kimberly Royster  
William Sanders  
Carol Schenck  
Jessica Sengstack \*  
Shirley Silver  
Mary Smarr  
Dee Smith  
Martha Smith

Upcoming Programs



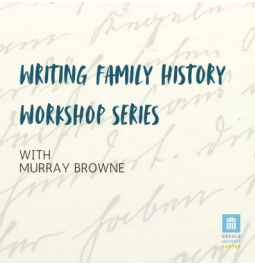
February 11  
Black History Month Harvest with the Arabia Alliance

11:00 am—5:00 pm  
Dust off the old family albums and bring in your historic photographs in the vicinity of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area.  
Free to participate



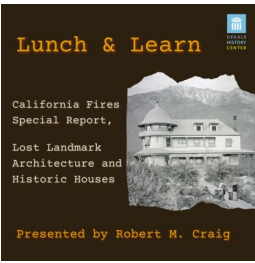
February 12  
DeKalb Traveler: South-View Cemetery

10:00 am  
Join fellow DeKalb History Center Members exploring South-View Cemetery with Winifred Hemphill, President of South-View Cemetery Association.  
FREE Patron Membership and Above  
\$5 Senior/Individual/Household Levels



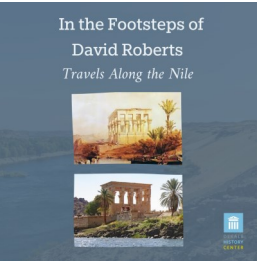
February 12  
Workshop Series: Writing Family History, Part 2

6:00—7:15 pm  
The second workshop will focus on genealogy and feature Jackie Fehrenbach sharing her experiences tracking down family members.  
Single Workshop Ticket \$15  
Remaining Two Workshops: \$20 Member / \$35 Non-member



February 25  
Lunch & Learn: California Fires Special Report, Lost Landmark Architecture and Historic Houses

12:00—1:00 pm  
Dr. Robert Craig’s series of free public lectures on architects and architecture continues with a special report on the status of Los Angeles area landmarks.  
Free to attend



March 6  
Hops at the History Center: Along the Nile with Robert Craig

6:30—8:30 pm  
Join Robert Craig for an illustrated talk on ancient Egypt and his travels in the footsteps of Scottish artist David Roberts.  
Free to attend

Executive Committee

President: Jacqui Steele  
President Elect: Scott Candler, IV  
Past President: Michael Lehman  
Treasurer: Jack Regan  
Secretary: Deborah Van Broekhoven  
At Large: Valerie Biggerstaff, Caroline Freeman

Board of Directors

Charlene S. Bowden  
Monique Brown  
Stephanie Cherry-Farmer  
Tricia Wynegar Drake  
Scott Drake  
Jackson McQuigg  
Stacy Rieke  
Dee Smith  
David Stanhope  
Angela Turk  
Lynn Watson-Powers  
Demetrice M. Williams

Trustees

Mary K. Jarboe  
Cathy Mullins  
Claudia Stucke  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
Betty Willis

Staff

Executive Director:  
Melissa Carlson  
Archivist & Volunteer  
Coordinator:  
Jennifer Blomqvist  
Rental & Preservation  
Coordinator:  
Mallory Donaldson  
African American History  
Coordinator:  
Monica El-Amin  
Programs & Membership  
Coordinator:  
Marissa Howard  
Exhibits & Communications  
Coordinator:  
Rebecca Selem  
Building Attendant:  
DeSean Skeete

2024 End of Year Donations

Jane Watt Balsley  
Baron DeKalb Chapter, DAR  
Andrea Bennett  
Valerie Biggerstaff  
Jennifer & Martin Blomqvist  
Robert Bodimer  
Patricia & James C Bonner  
Monique Brown  
Scotty & Karna Candler  
Wayne Carey & Kay Coffman  
Fred Cavalli  
Catherine Chastain  
Robert & Joan Cooper  
Decatur Visitors Center  
Tricia & Walt Drake  
Dunwoody Women’s Club, Inc  
Francine & Richard Dykes  
Rebecca Evans  
Shelly Fine  
Mary Fink  
Fox Legal, LLC  
Caroline Freeman  
Mark & Kathie Gannon  
Leroy Gardner  
Annie & Jack Godfrey  
Jean Hendricks  
George Hickman, III  
Shea Huey  
Mary K & Jim Jarboe  
David Kitchens  
Charles Knipper  
Leo Ladefian  
Claudia Lawson  
Michael & Jennifer Leavey  
Michael Lehman  
Nanette Loftis  
Miriam Mathura

**Guardian \$2,500 +**  
A. S. Turner & Sons, Inc. \*

**Business Historian \$1,000 +**  
Avalon Catering  
City of Decatur \*\*\*  
Endive Fine Catering \*  
Fox Brothers Bar-B-Q \*  
Gotta Have It Catering

**Historian \$1,000 +**  
Scotty & Karna Candler \*\*\*\*  
Tricia & Walt Drake \*\*\*  
Sheila Lee & Jon Davies  
Allen & Beth Moye \*  
Catherine Mullins \*  
Judge Clarence & Gwen Seeliger \*\*\*\*

**Business Preservationist \$500 - \$999**  
Bold Catering & Design \*  
Decatur Downtown Development  
    Authorities  
Decide DeKalb Development Authority  
Epps Aviation \*  
Phenomenal Food by Chef Holly  
Simply Sated +  
Sun in My Belly \*

**Preservationist \$500 - \$999**  
David Stanhope  
Anne & Jim Topple \*\*  
Deborah & Harold Van Broekhoven  
Lynn Watson-Powers ^

**Business Contributor \$250 - \$499**  
New South Associates \*  
Leadership DeKalb  
Fox Legal, LLC +

**Contributor \$250 - \$499**  
Valerie Biggerstaff  
Monique Brown  
Alvin Burrell  
Wayne Carey & Kay Coffman \*  
Joyce Cohrs \*\*\*\*  
Caroline Freeman

2024 Membership Report

Leroy Gardner  
David & Joyce Howard ^  
Pam Hughes \*\*  
Michael Lehman  
Terry C. Bird & Clark Lemons \*^  
Suzanne McQuaide ^  
Jackson McQuigg  
Scott & Theresa Mitchell  
Pete & Charlotte Pfeiffer \*  
Mike & Patty Pratt  
Ginger Krawiec & Jack Regan \*\*  
Stacy & Carl Rieke +  
Tom & Lucia Sizemore \*  
Henry & Ellen Slack \*  
Jacqui & Larry Steele \*  
Carl & Claudia Stucke \*^  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. \*\*\*\*  
Marvin Morgan, Jr. & Angela Turk \*  
Betty E. Willis \*\*  
Patsy B. Woods \*

**Sustainer \$135 - \$249**  
Marianne & Tom Adams \*  
Elizabeth Allan \*\*\*\*  
Michael Ayling  
William Bahr  
Patrice Benton +  
Sylvia & Robert Bozeman  
Catherine Chastain  
Russell Clayton \*  
Lyle & Kristen Davis  
Bryan & Nancy Downs +  
Courteney & George Dusenbury  
Francine & Richard Dykes  
Katie Hendrickson  
Bill & Gue Hudson \*  
Suzahn Huffman-Donaldson \*  
Jim & Mary K. Jarboe \*  
James Knettel \*^  
Lynne & Jerry Lock \*  
Peggy Merriss \*\*\*  
Don & Barbara Murphy ^  
Vee Nelson \*\*^  
Lance & Mary Netland \*  
James & Lois Overbeck \*  
Martha Pacini

Diane & Henry Parkman ^  
Jan Pratt  
Ernest & Barbara Ramsay \*\*\*\*\*  
DeWitt & Claire H Rogers  
James Schweizer ^  
Ed Segraves \*  
Jamile Sims \*^  
Leah & Jeff Vaughan \*^  
Holly Vincent  
Cathy & Steve Vogel \*  
Sheridan Wright  
Michael Zakel

**Patron \$85 - \$134**  
Judge Gregory A. Adams \*  
Elizabeth Austen +  
Anita Brown  
Lee Camp +  
Mary McCall Cash \*  
Fred Cavalli  
George & Susan Coletti \*\*  
Sara & Steven Crow  
David & Suzy Crenshaw \*  
Anne Emanuel ^  
Shelly Fine  
Sara Fountain  
Mark & Kathie Gannon \*  
Jack & Barbara Gerlach \*  
Jo Giraudo \*  
Dr. Phil Roberts & Linda Graves \*^  
LeAnn & James R. Hallford \*  
Mary & Dan Hinkel \*  
Kelly Jordan \*  
Michael & Jennifer Leavey  
Mary & Dick Leslie \*  
Thomas C. McDonald +  
Ms. Adele Dieckmann McKee \*\*\*\*  
Angela McFall Patterson \*  
Jennifer & Wayne Richardson \*\*  
Lyn Rogers-Haney  
Susan Russell \*  
Lisa Schreiber +  
Elizabeth Huberta Smith \*\*\*\*^  
John & Suzanne Sumrall ^  
Carolyn Thibadeau  
Deborah & Katherine Torbush \*

Glenda Triemer  
Alan & Nancy Morris \*

**Household \$65 - \$84**  
Anne Bartolucci & Jason Graham  
Lewis Bramlett  
William & Nolia Brandt  
Murray Browne ^  
Elizabeth Burgess +  
Melissa Carlson & Timothy Patton \*  
Stephanie Cherry-Farmer & Chris Farmer  
Harry & Linder Clark  
Robert & Joan Cooper  
Robert & Carol Craig  
Debbie & Paul Cushing  
Dunwoody Women's Club \*\*  
Mary Eccard \*  
Jim & Mary Farmer ^  
John & Julie Freeman \*  
B.J. Abbott & Joseph Geierman  
Janet Grant +  
Carol & Neale Hightower  
Joe Hines +  
Edgar Jones \*  
Katharine Kennedy \*  
Karen King +  
Jim & Kellie Lambing  
Adina Langer ^  
Karen Liebert & Doug Porter  
Stephen Saunders & Linda Lurwig  
Patsy & Bill Little  
Dorothy Mears & Jay McLendon  
Robert Hotchkiss & Julie Moore \*  
David & Frances Moriarty  
Barbara & Bruce Ribner  
Jerry Semprevio \*  
Alida & Stuart Silverman \*\*\*  
Elizabeth & Stephen Standard  
Joe & Jane Stoner \*  
Seegar & Miki Swanson  
Leslie Tarvin  
Teresa Francis Tucker  
Debbie & Brad Varhol +  
Yvette & Thomas Weatherly  
Doug & Barbara Wiley \*

Thomas C McDonald  
Suzanne McQuaide  
Nancy & Alan Morris  
Clair Newbury  
Adele Northup  
Neil Norton  
Mary Margaret Oliver  
Martha Pacini  
Lola Pak  
Pete & Charlotte Pfeiffer  
Jan Pratt  
Pamela Privette  
Ginger Krawiec & Jack Regan  
Jennifer & Wayne Richardson  
Steve & Ann Rushing  
Jeremy Scheivelhud  
Judge Clarence & Gwen Seeliger  
Ed Segraves  
Jamile Sims  
Elizabeth Smith  
Kyle & Carol Smith  
Jacqui Steele  
Louise Sussin  
Cindy Tharpe  
The Brookdale Group  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
Susan Thomas  
Angela Turk &  
    Marvin Morgan, Jr.  
Chris Turner  
Deborah &  
    Harold Van Broekhoven  
Leah & Jeff Vaughan  
Angela White  
Robert & Lynda Wilson  
Betty Yaschik