



# *The* CCHS *Newsletter*

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

MARCH 2015

## John Bell to Speak at March 17th Meeting

John Bell has an in-depth knowledge of baseball history in West Georgia and the South. He has been a baseball fan since early childhood, in his words, “spending many nights watching the Atlanta Braves stink up the place during the rotten years of the mid to late 1970s.” Fortunately for baseball in Georgia, those days were followed by better times on occasion. Today baseball thrives on all levels from Little League to High School to College to Professional and John will share his take on it all.

He has written three books: *Shoeless Summer*, *PICKLE IT!*, and *Georgia Class-D Minor League Baseball Encyclopedia*. In addition to writing about baseball, John has done baseball commentary on radio and has served as the public address announcer for the Carrollton High School Trojans baseball team since 2009.

He was born in Americus, Georgia in 1969 and lived there until 1995. He graduated from Americus High School in 1987 and earned his B.S. in Political Science with a minor in History from Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus in 1993.

He moved to Carrollton in 1996. He and his wife, Virginia Williams Bell, have two sons, Jacob and Andrew, and one daughter, Evelyn.

**Tuesday, March 17th, at 6:30 PM at Stallings Community Center Lions Parks Room**

*Light Refreshments will be served.*

*The public is cordially invited.*

## Time to Renew Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2015, please see the enclosed Application Form or visit the CCHS Web-site at <http://www.carrollcountyhistory.org>

## A Sketch of the Life of James Martin Hamrick 1902 Carrollton, Georgia

— Continued from February 2015 CCHS Newsletter —

### Chapter IX

About 1891, after losing heavily on cotton, it grieved me. Still I thought there was a living for all if we would strive in the right way; so I went into the cattle business and bought and fed thousands of head, and in the meantime, I made my little farm so that it would produce a bale of cotton to the acre, dealing at the same time in cottonseed hulls and meal.

I have made it a point in life, as much as my means would allow, to help build up the county and paid \$500 in to the Griffin and Carrollton Railroad and \$300 toward our school building, which is an honor to our town. In doing this, I only did my duty as we should all strive to leave monuments for our children; yet I regret that I have not been able to do more and been of more service to my county and society. In looking over my past life, I see many places where I could make improvements, but too late, though in the future I expect to guard against some missteps that the mantle of charity will be thrown around all my shortcomings. I find by past experience that when we do our duty religiously or temporally towards our fellow man, we can lie down at night with a clear conscience. My family has been my pride, and I feel that I have done all that I could for them, and they have likewise been kind to me; and with all my failures, I feel that I have cast a few mites that will be gathered up in days to come.

For the past 40 years I have been a lover of sacred music and have traveled hundreds of miles to attend our conventions, and at my present age, it fills my soul with love to sing God's praises; and if a man were to pass my house with a sacred harp under his arm, he can return, eat my ham and sweetened coffee, and slumber on my best bed. Last year I attended 20 conventions and annual singings, cutting a great through, especially at meal-time; and today I have no regret at being thrown with music talent, and the best I ever heard led by ladies was by Misses Lola White, Ora Morgan, Gardner, Smith and others. And after my time, I hope my musical friends will hold a memorial singing in memory of me.

Farming has been pleasant with me, and I have followed it all my life up to 1897 and raised a large family, mostly boys, and they have worked hard; and my experience is, if you want to make useful men, learn them to pull the bell cord, and not boasting, I am proud to see my 8 sons doing as well as they are, and I hope to see them make the best of citizens and be of great use to the state, I have only 1 with me and my 2 faithful daughters of whom I have no complaint I will speak in my next.

### Chapter X

In commencing this article, comes the saddest part of my life, In 1897 my wife that had attended me through prosperity and adversity for 34 years became afflicted. For 18 months she was attended by Dr. L Roberds and Dr. Powell, and everything was done for her relief possible. She bore her affliction with Christian fortitude. In February, before she died in September, she had the family called in and bade us farewell, saying she could see a bright world where she would soon be at rest with thousands of saints dressed in white robes.

She gave directions as to her watch and other jewelry to her three daughters, her pocketbook and some other presents to me, and said that she would know my father and mother who had gone before; but her parents who died when she was quite young she did not think she would know. In a few weeks, she began to improve, and I called her attention to the conversation, With a smile on her face, she said that she saw the bright world before her. Then she had a long conversation with me and selected the text she wanted her funeral preached from by

Bro. W.W. Roop, and for her six eldest sons to act as pallbearers, and to place her body in a lot at our cemetery, all of which was carried out. Friends, let me say that that was the most trying scene of my life and to my children that so faithfully attended her--especially my daughter Leila, who waited on her day and night, without tire or complaint. Others who brought her nourishment, I'll never forget, Mesdames Pritchett, Malone, Velvin, Ayers, and my sister, Mrs. W.B. Candler being with her when she died. May the God of Heaven bless you all (my youngest daughter was nearly deaf at the time and could not wait on her mother). After all that could be done, on the 5th of Sept., 1898, her spirit took its flight to that Celestial City. Thus a good wife and mother is no more.

We lived a happy life together for 34 years, and I find by past experience that the longer a man and wife lives together the more they become attached to each other. No pen can describe the feelings that I had in my cripple condition and old age to be left alone with my two little boys and two faithful daughters. We commenced to keep house the best we could with sad hearts. I rented my farm out for the next year to George Luther, as fine a man as ever walked the earth, and I never will forget his noble wife for kindness to my daughters--she was almost a mother to them. I almost gave up as I had been bereaved so often of good companions and thought I would remain single the rest of my life; but knowing my children would soon leave me, in about six months I began to look around for another companion; but when a man gets old, he can't get around like a boy.

## Chapter XI

In 1899, after remaining single 14 months, I met a nice lady, Miss Nannie Barnes, in Chambers Co., Ala.: and we were married 13th of October by Rev. E.C. Smith on Friday, and that is an unlucky day. I advise friends not to marry or go to see a lady on Friday as luck has been against me ever since. Nearly everything I undertake I fail to prosper. I must hasten to close with this chapter as I have worried the public long enough, but let me bring up a few things that have been left out as there is a difference of opinion about the frost in 1849. Some say April; others, May. Friends, it was April as the month came in on Sunday. The 15th was the 3rd Sunday; and Mrs. M.A. McWhorter, who is still living, was baptized at Macedonia Church that day, and snow fell in the afternoon. Some think that because wheat was heading, it was May, but you must remember that seasons were earlier then than now. Then we would sow wheat in October, plant corn in February, cotton in March, and cut wheat in May.

In closing this article, my mind runs back to my boyhood days at Sand Hill; and very few of the old landmark are now living; and they are A.J. Aderhold, S.C. Dickson, C.J. Barton, J.A. Blair, J.M. Hyde, J.T. Reddingfield, and T. M. Kelley, men of my age that bore the sufferings of war through shot and shell. Our ranks have been thinned out, and today they rest beyond the river. I often think that God has been merciful to me by sparing my almost unprofitable life as I can see so many that have been called. Yet, He knowest best, and we should be submissive. I know that according to nature, I must soon meet my God and give account for my stewardship here, and I desire that my body be placed in a neat coffin and buried on my lot in Villa Rica cemetery by the side of the mother of my children.

In closing this chapter, a tear steals down my cheek to think of the neglected opportunities. Still I give God the praise for all blessings, and I hope by chance this may fall into the hands of my friends and companions, children, and grandchildren and that they may gather some good from it.

The remainder of my life I expect to spend here and hope to live it peacefully and quietly out as there is hope for a tree cut to the ground sprouting out. I know that I have been scattering in my remarks; yet, I was to hasten on, and now I want to read the life of someone else as a few more years at best I must bid you all farewell to enter that Celestial City where there will be no cripples, no pain or sorrow. May God bless you all.

Finis

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## **Artifacts from the CCHS Archives**

**These photographs are from the Smith Studio Collection.**

Over time, there were 4 photographers located upstairs in the old "Beall Bldg." (Gallery Row Coffee Shop) on Carrollton Adamson. William C. "Bill" Smith bought out the Boynton Studios in March of 1946 and later moved to his current location. The daughter Susan Smith Ramsey, a photographer herself, is still in business across the street from the Dairy Queen in Carrollton on West Center St. and South Park St.

Please help us identify these photos items from our collection and send your answers to our Archives chairman Gwyn Chesnut at [Chesnut185@aol.com](mailto:Chesnut185@aol.com) or call 770-834-3081.

### **The Lake Carroll Dedication Ceremony**

The Carroll County Times-Georgian Newspaper recently ran a feature article in its Southern Spice Section about the shoreline lottery held to sell lots around Carrollton's new municipal lake on May 8, 1948. Later that summer Curtis Creek was dammed up to create the lake and by 1950 the City of Carrollton purchased the lake from the steering committee for just \$15,000.

Curtis Creek is named for the Henry and Nancy Curtis family who moved to Carroll County in the 1830s, sold land lot where Adamson Square is located now and built the small dog-trot house that serves now as the headquarters and archives for our Carroll County Historical Society.

The following photos show how the lake looked during construction, shortly after being developed, the dedication ceremony and ceremonial christening that took place along its shores.

Photographs of the christening are shown on the next page. If you know the people or the date of the event, please let us know.



**View of Lake Carroll in Early 1950s**



**Curtis Creek was dammed up and widened to create Lake Carroll**

## Community Gathered to Dedicate Lake Carroll

Do you remember this event?



A large crowd turned out to help dedicate the lake and hear the distinguished speakers



Unknown man?, Gov. Herman Talmadge, and Judge Robert Tisinger of *Carrollton*

## Ceremonial Christening

Can you identify these two men and the young lady?



## Message from President Dr. Jack Crews

This is a very exciting time for CCHS. Plans for the development of the Moore's Bridge historical site are progressing slowly but surely. There have been two meetings of representatives from CCHS, the local genealogical society, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Carroll County Irregulars to discuss how these societies, acting in concert, could fill an adjunct role in the development of this wonderful historical site.

In addition, we have been contacted by two individuals concerning a property that just might be available to us as a permanent home and museum. This possibility is a long shot at present but worthy of a vigorous pursuit. I hope to be able to bring you up to date at our next general meeting. . . . Hopefully all the news will be good.

Best Regards!

*Jack*

### Carroll County Genealogical Society's Spring Workshop March 28

The Carroll County Genealogical Society's Spring Workshop will be presented by J. Mark Lowe, a professional certified genealogist, author and lecturer who specializes in original records and manuscripts from the South. He will lecture on "*Land Barons or Dirt Farmers: Finding Land Transactions*," followed by a hands-on "*Beginning Land Platting Workshop*" where you will learn how to trace ancestors through property records. It will be held on **Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 am to noon at the Carroll County Veterans Building, 1790 Stripling Chapel Rd.** \$10 for Genealogical Society members and \$20 for non-members. Contact Dr. Carolyn Scherm at [ccgsa76@gmail.com](mailto:ccgsa76@gmail.com) to register.

### **CCHS BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2015**

President	Dr. Jack Crews
Vice President	Scott Eldred
Past President	Dr. Mel Steely
Secretary	Wanda Maddox
Treasurer	Meredith Barr
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Carroll County Historical Society  
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**CARROLL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2015**

**Individual Membership**  
**Family Membership**

**\$20 per year**  
**\$30 per year**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

***\* E-mail addresses are important for receiving bulletins and announcements sent out concerning the Society activities between newsletters.***

**Membership \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Paid \$** \_\_\_\_\_

***\*\* Donations to the Society will be used to fund preservation projects in Carroll County. All donations are Tax Deductible.***

**Members receive our CCHS Newsletter.**

**Mail to: Carroll County Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 1308**  
**Carrollton, Ga. 30112**

**Historical Society Contacts**

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Vice President:	Scott Eldred	770- 295-9789 or dsel65@gmail.com