



# The *CCHS* Newsletter

Carroll County Historical Society

P. O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA 30112

JUNE 2015

*Carroll County Historical Society's Meeting*  
*Tuesday, June 16th at 6:30 PM*  
*Stallings Community Center Lions Parks Room*  
*Light Refreshments will be served. The public is cordially invited.*

## **Laura Frey to Speak on the Cross Plains School**

Laura Frey, Children's Specialist at West Georgia Regional Library in Villa Rica will speak at the June 16th Meeting of the Carroll County Historical Society. Laura will report on the history of the Cross Plains One Room School House and the effort to restore it. Her mother, Mrs. Sheri Hackney Taylor, and Mrs. Hazel Horsley have been dedicated to the restoration project in part in memory of Laura's grandmother, Mrs. Mary Wilson Hackney.

Laura had planned to have Mr. Frank Gilley, who attended Cross Plains, to be with her but he will not be able to come because of health problems. There may be one other living person who went to school in the one-room school. See the following article and attend our meeting to learn more about the history and restoration progress of the Cross Plains School.



Cross Plains School House is located in the rural community of Cross Plains in Carroll County, Georgia. Nathaniel Bell donated the land for the construction of the much needed school in the 1870's. The school house was listed in school district No. 15 by the Educational Survey of Carroll County published in 1918. The original two-story building with an estimated build date in the late-1800's was built on one acre of land. The first floor housed two classrooms with a lodge on the second floor. Located behind the school house was a two-room teacher's cottage. The six month school year was held for eight grades. Cross Plains averaged 28 pupils per year.

*-Continued on Page 4*

**Cross Plains One Room School**

## John Stallings Spoke at May Meeting



**John demonstrates craft turnings that duplicate the original pieces.**



**Many of the original pieces of heart pine were still in good condition.**



**Historical Society general meetings draw large crowds who are rewarded with speakers who know their subject and are eager to share it.**

## True to the Original

*by Ben L. Moon*

Historic restoration involves careful observation and meticulous attention to detail, as John Stallings demonstrated to the Carroll County Historical Society at its May 19 meeting. As part of his talk about his work in various restoration projects, he brought samples of features he duplicated to make the restoration not only true to the original, but better, by subtle incorporation of modern features and materials.

A good example of this was old-style windows with sash weights and cotton sash cords, which could break. The restorations often use stainless steel cables in place of the cotton, which brought challenges of attachment to the old frames. Stallings noted that when the old cotton sashes broke, the heavy sash weight would fall all the way to the floor inside the wall. "Windows had an access panel at the bottom side, which you could open and, with luck, might be able to reach down and retrieve the weight."

Another example of duplicating the original such that the new piece was imperceptible: the Carrollton Depot had many of its protruding, ornate rafter ends rotted, which had to be replaced. John copied the shape of the rafter ends and created replacements that looked just like the originals. The same technique was used to duplicate old turned spindles and posts, with the replacement pieces identical to the original. John creates these careful duplicates in his woodworking shop that sometimes is more like an artist's studio.

He notes that often a structure has already been changed during its history, such as a bay window that was added to the Carrollton Depot about 1911; "The original plans didn't show the window, and when we began to inspect the opening, we discovered hardware for a sliding door that had been in place during the original 1881 construction."

John makes replacement doors and windows identical to the originals. "I'm glad folks guiding the job ordered that instead of just going down to the local building supply and buying pre-fab doors." In addition to the Carrollton Depot, Stallings was involved in restoration of the Martha Monroe Building at University of West Georgia and the Swann (Old Electrical Engineering) Building at Georgia Tech. Another local project was restoration of the Shiloh Methodist Church Arbor, which had been condemned by the insurance company; he finished it in time for the Arbor's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

"I get a thrill out of figuring out how the original craftsmen built these things," he admitted. His wife, Janice, related their visit to the Biltmore House in Ashville in which John wound up giving the docent a tour of the mansion's features and how they were constructed. There's obviously about as much craft history to his work as craftsmanship. He observed that heart pine was used in many of these old structures, which has such a high pitch content that there's little room for water to intrude and start the rotting process.

One enjoyable part of the well-attended Historical Society meetings is the participation of attendees such as Wilma Upchurch. She recalled that her grandfather and his brothers built many of the finer old structures in Carrollton such as the Tracy Stallings home on Bradley Street, the Ingles home on Dixie Street, the First Methodist Church, and a number of others that have been torn down to make way for "progress." She mourned the loss of such structures, built by the "Gaston Brothers" in the late 1800s and early 1900s. She has a finely tuned sense of the area's history, her family having moved to Carrollton in the 1820s.

John Stallings is typical of the knowledgeable speakers at the Carroll County Historical Society meetings; he is an honor graduate of Georgia Tech in Architecture/Building Construction, and grew up in a local family construction business founded by his grandfather. General meetings are held at the Stallings Community Center on the third Tuesday of each month except in the summer, and the public is cordially invited.

*Continued— Cross Plains One Room School*

In the mid-1920's the teachers' cottage and part of the original school house caught fire. The Building was restored to a one room school house by local residents. The Wilson family furnished much of the lumber from their mill. The last year it was used as a school was in 1936. Most students who left Cross Plains went on to school at Whitesburg.

Cross Plains School House was then turned into a voting poll for Carroll County till the mid-1960's. It was then converted to a home for Ms. Alma Beck. After the passing of Ms. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Williams took residency in the home. In the early 1990's, Mrs. Mary Wilson Hackney and Mrs. Hazel Horsley of the Cross Plains Community began an effort to restore the building from a home to the original one room schoolhouse. On the weekends throughout the 90's there were ongoing yard sales from locally donated items to help with the restoration costs. Water and electricity were run to the building as well as a new roof! The school house contains the original bell that called and dismissed the students. The building now is in the care of Trustees, CEO, Robert Wilson, CFO, Sheri Hackney Taylor and Secretary, Diane Smith. The goal of the Restoration Committee is to add the Building to The Historical Society so the rich history of this small community may be preserved for many generations to come!

## The Faces of Carrollton History have Changed



Tanner Memorial Hospital was built with help from the federal government and the Hill-Burton Act. It opened in November of 1949. This photo shows how the hospital looked in the early 1950's. Tanner has grown into a major health system and is about to make history again with the announcement that it will soon be performing open heart surgery.

***If you have any information or stories pertaining to old Tanner hospital we would like to hear from you.***

*Photos from the CCHS Smith Studio Collection*



The West Georgia National Bank Branch in this photo was located on the corner of Newnan and College Street across from the Historic Carroll County Courthouse. Before the bank, there was Ned Gable's filling station on the corner and Thaxton's Tea Room in a house next to it on College Street. Beyond the corner, you see the Carrollton Clinic where patients were treated before Tanner Memorial Hospital was built.

***Do you remember the old clinic or any of the other buildings on this corner? We would like to add your remembrances to our archives.***

*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*

<i>President:</i>	<i>Jack Crews</i>	<i>770- 834-7906</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Scott Eldred</i>	<i>770- 295-9789 or dsel65@gmail.com</i>

## Message from President Dr. Jack Crews

This has been a very busy year thus far and our hope is to make it even busier when we come back in September. The Moore's Bridge project is still ongoing and, to that end, the project planning will continue through the summer. Our Executive Board will continue to meet regularly to make sure we don't allow any loss of momentum this summer. The Moore's Bridge Project now has its Board of Directors in place (with only one vacancy left to fill).

We still have our chronic problem of no real quarters of our own.... like the boll-weevil, we're still "lookin' for a home". At least we have some prospects in that direction which we are continuing to pursue.

Meanwhile, have a GREAT summer! See you Tuesday and then again in September.

*Best Regards to all... Jack*

## 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>

All CCHS Newsletters are posted on our Web-site Archives under *Extras- Our Newsletters* beginning with November 2010.

## CCHS BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2015

President	Dr. Jack Crews
Vice President	Scott Eldred
Past President	Dr. Mel Steely
Secretary	Wanda Maddox
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