

Georgia Historical Society

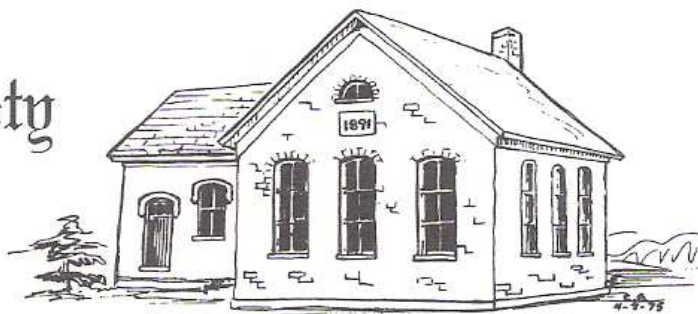
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Brick School Museum

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## Georgia Historical Society

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## FEATURE STORY—

### GEORGIA'S CEMETERIES

The Georgia Historical Society Directors provided three tours encompassing all the existing cemeteries in the town of Georgia—most of which are accessible but still others that are barely even visible. These tours were so interesting that it was thought it might be enlightening to highlight some of the detailed history and fascinating trivia surrounding many of those individuals who existed before us—and the legacies they left behind.

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### 1934 BOOK WAGON

This is a photo of one of the first book wagons (today it would be known as the "Book Mobile") - a 1930 Chevrolet with a 1934 license plate. The site of this picture was taken at the West Georgia School. The teacher is presumed to be Ruth Hodet.

*Photo courtesy of Ethan Newton, March 1, 1994*

The actual photograph, above, is located in the Georgia Library in the Georgia Historical Society collection of photographs.

## GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM REVIEW—2012 SEASON

### ► “DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER: A VERMONT FOR THE WORLD” - MAY 16th

Not once did **Helene Lang**, presenter for this program, forget that she was posing as “Dorothy Canfield Fisher” as she went through all the wonderful events and trivia of her life, even speaking as if she were Dorothy, herself. She dressed the part in a 1920’s style, displaying great photos, especially a wonderful one done by Norman Rockwell of Dorothy and a very treasured one of Dorothy’s son, Jimmy. We so benefited from references of the history of the times - the depression, the war, and all that effected Dorothy’s family life. Nothing was lost on us when Ms. Lang spoke about Dorothy’s desire to do what was right and fair to the point of personal action and sacrifice.

Most poignant was a story relating to the closeness in her friendship with her college roommate and another classmate who had a very disfiguring birthmark on her face. The roommate wanted to publish a story about a “fictional” character with a birth defect that, in all respects resembled the actual one of the poor girl’s defect. Her plea to her roommate to drop the story went on deaf ears. So, despite the consequence of losing her dear friend and roommate, Dorothy went to the publisher and asked him not to print the book because of the devastation it would cause the poor girl in its story-telling parallel. Then after a broken friendship for many, many years, it was Dorothy who initiated a reconciliation between the two of them. This happening in Dorothy’s early adulthood served only to speak volumes about Dorothy’s wonderful character and integrity of which Ms. Lang continued to give fine examples! These wonderful attributes are reflected in her writings. This program was provided by the Vermont Humanities Council of Vermont.

### ► HISTORY OF THE GEORGIA FIRE DEPARTMENT JUNE 13th

The history, as presented by **Dick McGrath**, a volunteer firefighter for more than 25 years, was a nutshell of the founding of the Georgia Fire Department (GFD) from 1952 until its present service to the residents of Georgia and the surrounding towns. The GFD has just celebrated their 60th anniversary on May 6, 2012. At the same time, Georgia Rescue celebrated its 20th anniversary with founder, Art Carroll, also a member of the Georgia Fire for 25 years.

Dick displayed wonderful slides and photos capturing the changes, experiences, and the development of the Department over the years. One story that Dick told was about the founding of the GFD in 1952 as a result of a horrendous and devastating fire that destroyed the old White Meeting House, a huge building used by the town, for meetings, church services, and school. The building had just been completely remodeled to celebrate it’s 150th year only one month before. The photos of the fire’s awful destruction were very graphic and captured the impossible task the nearby residents experienced in trying to put it out with only barrels and pails of water they gathered from their own homes! And the

presentation went on from there. It was truly engrossing and Dick left out nothing regarding the many volunteers throughout Georgia’s history who, often times, went to great lengths, even at risk to themselves to save lives and preserve structures from the kind of devastation experienced by the burning of that magnificent building and continue to do so, today. Keep in mind that all of this was and is voluntary!

The presentation was followed by a tour given by Dick Palmer, member of the Georgia Fire Department for more than 54 years. A story about his experience as such was written in our *Vol. 5, No. 1, Georgia Historical Society Newsletter, Page 7*.

Those who attended were very enlightened by what they learned about the GFD’s notable past.

### ► A TOUR OF TWO OF GEORGIA’S HISTORICAL CHURCHES—JULY 21st

The first of the two tours was of the **Georgia Methodist Church**, of which Rev. Hyung-Kyu Yi is pastor. The program was presented by **Georgia Historical Society Director, Cindy Ploof**. Cindy showed a display of some garments worn by church leaders and many items from the past, which were just beautiful in their antiquity. She also displayed some photos of the past history of this wonderful church with a slide show explaining each. The volume of Cindy’s research was impressive and thorough. There were photos of the church in its different stages of change and development, photos of the different pastors and congregation, the numerous groups and organizations within the church as it grew and lots of wonderful artifacts incredibly well kept through the years. Cindy was clad in a lovely blouse and skirt with a hat, earrings, white gloves and pin in the style of the 1950’s. The hat, pin and earrings were lent to her by Lee Carson; items that belonged to her mother.

We learned that the first church was probably built in 1848 or 1849 but that there was not much written about it except that it was torn down and replaced by the current church building in 1895. This church went through many changes from fireplaces being capped off to electricity being installed (1949) and replacing a kerosene chandelier in the main hall. There was so much and all very illuminating. We learned the history of the big round stained glass window in the front of the Church. It was placed there by children who wanted to remember their parents in a special way. It was great to discover so much about a church we pass on the Ethan Allen Highway all the time!

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**Photo of Dick McGrath, Georgia Firefighter, making a presentation on the History of the Georgia Fire Department.**

**FEATURE STORY—Georgia's Cemeteries, Continued from Page 1...**

In all, the GHS tours encompassed about **17 cemeteries** and those were: Cooley, Crown, Davis, Evarts, Fairchild, Georgia Plain, Goodrich, Hillstown, Hope, Hubbard, Hurlbut-Waller, Hyde, Kingsbury, Loomis, Purmort, Sabin-Nye, and Torrey.

**Cemetery Tour I—August 21, 2010**

**GHS Director, Colin Conger, our central guide**, gave the list of cemeteries we would be visiting, starting with the Sabin-Nye Cemetery located on the Plain Road.



**Cindy Ploof, a Georgia Historical Society director, clad in a frock and bonnet of the period, logs in a visitor for the first cemetery tour program and presentation taking place during the 2010 season.**

**GHS Director, Sara Vester, presenter at the Sabin-Nye Cemetery**, began by stating that Reverend Alva Sabin was the first to be buried here and that this cemetery was part of the yard from his home above it—a log cabin, no longer there. He married Anna, also buried here, who had eight children. Shortly after her death in 1833, he remarried. Most of the family members are also buried here. Reverend Sabin was a man who was well known

for his incredible contribution to the community. He managed the underground railway in Georgia. When the slaves arrived, they were clothed and fed, then he transported them to St. Albans safe houses and later to Canada. By 1837 Georgia had 300 members in the Anti-slavery Society. Rev. Sabin served as the Georgia Town Representative ten times, County Senator three times, Secretary of State in 1841, and was elected into the Congress of the U.S. from 1852 to 1854. It was said that no man had accomplished so much in his lifetime.

Sara also pointed out that there are two soldiers from the Revolutionary War interred here.

**Georgia Plain Cemetery—GHS Director, Tim Hurteau**, told a fascinating story as told to him in a letter from his father. Tim's parents' home is across the street from the Plain Cemetery and while Tim was serving in the Navy, his father, Clarence (who has since passed away), wrote him an amusing story about a "conversation" he had with one of the soldiers from the Revolutionary War and buried here at the Georgia Plain Cemetery. Clarence wrote that he and Tim's mother, Norma, would take a stroll through the cemetery quite often because their three cats would follow them there and they didn't have to deal with the traffic. The letter continued this way, "I guess some of the regular occupants are getting used to our walking here and they are beginning to talk to us." Tim referred to a buried Revolutionary War veteran, a gunner in the war and in a grave near the front of the cemetery, which was considered the oldest part. His father said that they shared war stories between them. As the story went, the soldier said he was advised that he might be better served if he joined the

Navy and transferred out of the Army to avoid the drudge of constant marching and carrying the heavy rifle and artillery. He was on a boat with General George Washington, when, by accident, "George" stepped on his foot causing the soldier to jump because of the pain and almost dumped "George" into the water. It seems that "George" was unable to swim and he was so angry because he came so close to falling in, he punished this soldier by not transferring him but sending him to Ft. Ticonderoga—a place which many referred to as "Little Siberia". The soldier did not like it there at all as he was a Virginian and he found it to be terribly cold, nothing to eat but spam, and the USO never came up there. Also, the Vermonters, under Allen, carried off all the rum and the only duty he could get was guard duty. When he complained to the CEO, he was sent out to get the rum back.

Tim's father added, "Nobody got rum back from a Vermonter."

This story can actually be found in one of our Georgia Town History Books—dated 1980, Page 78.

—Fascinating—  
Discussion then proceeded relating to other grave stones in the cemetery, the historical Georgia Plain Baptist Church and the surrounding buildings relating to Georgia's wonderful history.

**Torrey Cemetery—GHS Director, David Juairé** made the presentation on this very small, fenced in cemetery located on the north side of Polly Hubbard Road. The earliest grave here was in 1813 and the latest one was in 1961. David held up some photos he took of some of the stones, saying that this cemetery was only a family one and contained stones from the Haden family and that the Dewart name came about because the family was married into the Haden family. There are eight stones and nine persons buried here. He also pointed out that most of the stones faced east and west but the corner ones were in different directions.

**Evarts Cemetery—presentation by GHS Director, Edmund Wilcox**—The Evarts family owned the whole corner of Georgia around the cemetery. The first Evart was Reuben who married into the Allen family. He was the first town clerk and the third representative for the town. The last of the family members of Evarts was Ella Evart who never married. The cemetery was in such disarray, that she decided to remove her relatives and place them in one located between St. Albans Bay and the City—the Lake Road community—where the cemetery was better cared for. Still other Evart ancestors are here. Edmund's great-great grandfather and his daughter (Edmund's great grandmother), who died at age 20, are buried here. She had one son. About 50 years ago the Georgia Grange took on the project of clearing and cleaning the stones. They tried to trace the stones, as

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**Director, Tim Hurteau is seen here with two of his grandsons, Porter (in front) and little Toby (behind Porter) as he tells the story surrounding one of the tombs at the Georgia Plain Cemetery.**

**PROGRAM REVIEW-2012—Continued from Page 3...**



**The Georgia Plain Baptist Church as it looks today.**

The **Georgia Plain Baptist Church** tour (the second of the two tours) was presented by **Colin Conger**, also a director for the Georgia Historical Society. The current pastor of the Baptist Church is Rev. Charles Kuthe. This church was built 125 years ago, and, ironically, the tour was done on the exact anniversary date of that building. In 1788, the Town of Georgia was organized.

Among the first settlers in that town were Stephen and Benjamin Holmes, brothers, who started the first Baptist Church in Georgia center. At that time the present site of the Church now standing was a vast wilderness of trees and woods. No roads or paths or homes existed there. The first Baptist Church was held at a private home in July 4, 1792. On October 21, 1793 it was formally organized at the home of Benjamin Holmes.

In 1807 the Baptist Church community met at the white meeting house. The Baptists believed that this site or land was given to it by Col. Benjamin Holmes; however, the Congregationalists believed that they already had claim to that so there was quite a stir over the years. Finally, an arrangement was made between the two churches to use the meeting house on an alternating basis. Later, the Baptist Church elected to pool their money and add a second floor to an existing school across the road from the meeting house.

There was some rather interesting methods of baptizing by immersion. One was the use of the Lamoille River during the icy cold winters. So cold was the water that the ice had to be broken up to use it. Today, in the front of the church, a baptismal tank for total immersion during baptism is used rather than going to the river for this purpose. Colin had one on display in front.

One such Baptist who was baptized here was Alvin Sabin. In the War of 1812, he was the medic. He married the first minister's daughter. Later, he, himself, became the Baptist minister and carried on his practice as such for more than 50 years. Colin went on to explain the incredible history behind this minister pointing out that the stained glass window at the back of the current church was donated in memory of him. In 1846 the church left the meeting house and erected a new church on the present site in Georgia Plain. Because the Plain was the hub of activity at the time - two stores, a grist mill, a saw mill, etc., - it was felt that it would be better to build there to help in increasing the membership. In 1849 membership was up to 123 only to drop to 50. The Civil War was deemed to be a contributing factor to the lessening of the population. The census bureau noted that the general population in Georgia dropped by 1,000 during that time. During

the Civil War, by the way, the Baptist Church passed a resolution against slavery.

In 1886, the church was totally destroyed by a fire that started in a neighboring barn. But as early as July 4th of 1887, the bell was raised in the steeple of the new replacement. On the day of the dedication, October 25, 1897, the debt for the new building was paid in full with money that was raised through private donations.

Captain George Conger (Colin's great, great grandfather), who is noted for his remarkable part in the St. Albans Raid and the attack he made on the raiders, married a lady by the name of Bliss. Before this, the Congers were members of the Methodist Church. As she was a member of the Baptist Church, Capt. Conger donated money along with many others for the new construction. In order to get more revenue for the church, a list was created with the names and pew numbers of those who paid for their own pews. Capt. Conger's pew was number 21 which he purchased in 1887 and is Colin's pew number (totally by accident, I might add), today.

In 1919 Rev. Grace Brooks was the first female pastor in the state of Vermont and she was pastor for the Georgia Baptist Church for 28 years.

Colin continued to add more information about the development and changes of the Georgia Baptist Church. Most of it was truly fascinating, to say the least. The Georgia Baptist Church, now, is nearly full to capacity with members. But he wrapped up his presentation with the most recent contribution made by the church and the surrounding community, the **Jimmy Messier Memorial Youth Center**. The labor, the materials, the furnishings—all came from the generosity of the Georgia community. The

purpose of the center is to provide the youngsters with a place of their own—to use for homework, tutoring, school projects—anything that would be useful to help the youth have a

place to go and do interesting things—at no charge. It was built at a cost of \$150,000 even though it was valued at \$300,000 and it incurred zero debt. In the new Youth Center on the left side is the new building and the right side is the old grange building (the former Georgia Plain one-room school house) with computers and equipment inside.■



**Photo of the Jimmy Messier Memorial Youth Center as it looks today, 2013**

**► OLD CEMETERY TOUR III  
AUGUST 18th**

This tour was the third and final cemetery tour to be presented. As time has been limited for each of the tours, the GHS had them broken up into three parts. The cemeteries covered on this tour were: **Georgia Plain Cemetery**,

a second look—too large to cover all in the first tour, **Crown Cemetery, Hyde Cemetery, Kingsbury Cemetery, and Loomis Cemetery.** The presenters were all directors of the Georgia Historical Society. This tour wrapped up an even more fascinating overview of the lives of those who were buried there.

#### ► OLD COUNTRY FIDDLER SEPTEMBER 19th

This program, provided by the Vermont Humanities Council, featured Adam Boyce who portrayed old time fiddler, Charles Ross Taggart, a native of Topsham, Vermont. Boyce gave wonderful and sometimes very humorous accounts of the fun musician who entertained audiences far and wide—a dream he had even as a child.

It was learned that when Charlie gave his first performance, he made a total of \$9.50—15¢ for adults; 10¢ for a child. He had to pay out \$1.00 for the hall and \$1.00 for printing of advertisements; thus, he made a whopping profit of \$7.50! When he was on tour, he might have slept in a stationary bed once or twice a month; otherwise, he was in transport. Many anecdotes relating to his personal life were told by Boyce. Charlie did marry (Edna Mitchell—1896) and have children but his work as a musician



kept him away from home a great deal. He traveled all over the U.S. for 43 years. In 1937 while performing, he suffered a stroke losing the use of his right hand. But still he kept going. Later, in 1953, his leg had to be amputated above the knee and a short time after that he died at the age of 82. The program was a wonderful glimpse into the life of a home-grown musician and entertainer from the past.

#### ► TOUR OF GHS MUSEUM AND GORDONS MILL OCTOBER 13th

The tour started at the **Brick School Museum** where the **Director, Cindy Ploof** and others of the Georgia Historical Society gave a more in-depth informational history on this one-room school house from 1891. Inside many artifacts and historical documents were displayed. If you haven't visited this building, it is believed that when you do, you will be impressed by this incredibly well-maintained and preserved structure. Inside are the original walls just as they were from its first construction. It was intriguing to imagine oneself sitting in this room at one of the displayed antique desks in this environment of learning more than a century ago! Some of those who were present at this tour gave testimony as to what they experienced while they attended class here—details such as the terrible winter cold, wood fuel demands on heating from a huge woodstove, the ingenious construction of the windows in its use of the sun to provide a natural source of light and heat. These actual tales from

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### GEORGIA HISTORY QUIZ

- Of the 4 wind turbines on Georgia Mountain, how many are located in Milton?
  - None
  - One
  - Two
- Where can you research Georgia-related genealogy?
  - The Brick School Museum
  - Georgia Elementary & Middle School
  - Georgia Public Library
- By what date must dog licenses be renewed in Georgia?
  - December 31st
  - April 1st
  - July 4th
- When will Georgia celebrate its 250th anniversary?
  - 2013
  - 2025
  - 2038
- How many births were recorded in Georgia in 2012?
  - 235
  - 123
  - 42
- What is the total student enrollment this year at Georgia Elementary & Middle School?
  - 340
  - 658
  - 892
- What was the total of the proposed 2013-14 school budget?
  - 4,534,000
  - 8,793,000
  - 12,583,000
- About what was the incredible piece of history Elmer Nye wrote in his diary? Hint - GHS Director, Kim Asch, pointed this out on one of our cemetery tours.
  - Elmer married Myra Hale
  - Lincoln's Assassination
  - Elmer witnessed the St. Albans Raid bank robbery

*(Answers in this Newsletter on Page 9)*

**PROGRAM REVIEW—Continued from Page 7...**



**This is a photo of the visitors inside the Brick School Museum as they perused the many displays in the main classroom. Note the tall windows beyond.**

those who actually attended this school brought it to life!

The tour then went onto **Gordons Mill Museum** located in Georgia Plain near the Mill River Falls. The treasures inside and out were recently reorganized with the help of a local boy scout, Matt Racine, and his troop as a

community project for Matt's badge as an Eagle Scout. The building was once the site of the storage portion of the Mill—1806 to 1943- (the mill building itself no longer exists). It accommodates and displays the agricultural tools and larger artifact collections of the Georgia Historical Society. The display of artifacts inside really gave the visitor a healthy perspective of the challenges and difficulties in raising livestock and crops and the work in harvesting them in the days of old! Also, visitors saw an antique stove, a horse and buggy wagon, a pleasure boat from 1908, just to name a few. The list of objects goes on and on and it was a wonderful experience to go back in time. **Colin Conger, GHS director**, who guided this portion of the tour, then led the group to the mill river - photo shown below. The entire area here was cleared of overgrowth and debris for the path leading to this site just below the Gordons Mill Museum and around the riverbed. It was a huge task but the results made it possible for all to see the river, falls, and the location of the mill, itself, more clearly. It was truly a great site to observe—especially when one tries to imagine the actual labor and production of the industry right here.■



**Just beside the upper falls are the remnants of the old mill that served the area of the Mill until the turn of the 19th century.**

**FEATURE STORY—Georgia's Cemeteries, Continued from Page 3...**

well. At that time they had a pinewood picket fence surrounding the cemetery. Sometime later, Marvin Alderman took on the fencing project of replacing the old with the new. He collected the wood boards from the old fence and piled them up right in the center of the cemetery and set them on fire. The heat from that fire was so great that it cracked a good deal of stones surrounding the fire and they all had to be patched because of the damage it caused—a daunting task.

Edmund pointed out that this cemetery is very well cared for as it has become the responsibility of the Georgia Historical Society, headed by Ed Brehaut, a volunteer, and also a GHS director.

**Hubbard Cemetery—Presentation, GHS Director, Cindy Ploof**—This cemetery was formerly known as the James Everts Cemetery, and was donated by James Everts. He gave or leased the land to the town for the purpose of using it as such. Ironically, none of the names on these headstones bears the name of Hubbard. There are 28 headstones and 32 persons buried here. Cindy personally counted at least 43 stones of which some could be footstones. The Stannard monument is the tallest.

The earliest burial was in 1795, John Evarts. She was unable to find out his relationship with James Everts but noted the difference in the spelling of their last names. Cindy was not able to find out why in her research. John died August 4, 1795, age 30 years old. At the bottom of his tombstone it reads, "Behold my friend as you pass by, where you are now, so once was I. As I am now soon you must be. Prepare for death and follow me." This could be seen at the base of some of the other stones, as well.

On the stone of James Everts, Esq., his name is spelled Everts as is his wife, Sarah's. Everywhere else, the spelling of the name is Evarts.

James was born in East Guilford, CT on May 15, 1752 and was a farmer in Sunderland, VT and in Georgia. He moved to Georgia in 1787 and served in the Revolutionary War. He was a moderator at the meeting held under Judge White in Milton, Vermont for the purpose of forming the Town of Georgia. He served as the first representative for the town of Georgia. He married Sarah Todd and had five children. He died February 9, 1821 or 1824—on the stone it is not clearly written as to which year. Jonathan T. Evarts, James and Sarah's son, died at 84 years old of cholera.

Three military veterans are buried here, but the records regarding their military history are somewhat unclear or incomplete. Everts, who fought in the Revolutionary War—Strong Dickenson who served in the War of 1812, and James F. Merritt who was a Civil War veteran as is said in the Georgia Military book. Colin Conger, our tour guide, interjected that a good many of these records were lost or compromised as a result of the burning of the old town hall (the old white meeting house).

**Davis Cemetery—GHS Director, Ed Brehaut**

Ed stated that the first burial here took place in 1811 and the last was in 1912. As of a 1962 study of the cemeteries of Georgia, this cemetery had 58 stones with 76 people buried



**This gravestone, located at the Davis Cemetery, is that of Levi Shepard who died in 1859 age 93 . Photo taken at the 2010 Cemetery Tour.**

here. But he believes that there are fewer remaining stones, now, because many of the them have sunken into the ground. He talked to several of the people regarding this cemetery and they said that at one time, the stones went all the way down to the edge of the road.

There are three Revolutionary War veterans buried here—three from the War of 1812, and one who was a Canadian rebel. The GHS makes sure to keep track of the condition of these stones and in other cemeteries

in the town. Ed says he has a crew that comes around and looks over these sites. He also pointed out that some of the locations of these cemeteries are very difficult to reach as many of them were placed on areas of farmers' lands that weren't useful for farming. ■

### **Cemetery Tour II—August 20, 2011**

The first cemetery we visited on this tour was the **Hillstown Cemetery**, presentation by **GHS Director, Sara Vester**.

This remote cemetery sits in a very wooded area, west of a private home toward Lake Champlain.

In an article from the *1971 Town History*, an inquiry was made as to who was placed in this cemetery. Elmer Bullock came up with at least one idea. He said that his grandmother, Jenny Merritt Bullock, told him that many people with the name of Hill were buried there. And Arnold Beaupre told Elmer that he learned from Gardner Rice that the name Hillstown was arrived at for the same reason—so many with the name of Hill.

In 1922, 14 year old Elmer went fishing near the mouth of the brook and thought he saw about 12 stones there. In 1978 the cemetery was so wasted away that it was feared it would be totally gone in two years' time without a fence to keep it secure. On August 15, 1979, GHS Director Peter Mallett, Clifton Preston and Tim Hurteau went there to do just that. They needed a guide to find it, though. A nearby camper, Gary Urie, told them they were way off for they thought they would find it within view of Lake Champlain. He led them up the brook within 1000' of the Georgia Shore Road. Because of its remote location, it is believed that few, if any, have visited this cemetery until our tour.

**Hurlbut-Waller Cemetery—Cindy Ploof, GHS Director presented** this tour. This is a family cemetery named so because they are the descendents of Reuben Hurlbut.

Cindy pointed out the wonderful setting of this site on the east side of the Georgia Shore Road, overlooking Lake Champlain on the west. A white picket fence borders the front and a well-constructed stone wall surrounds the other three sides of the perimeter. Reuben Hurlbut was the earliest known person buried in the area. He died in 1790 at 55.

Reuben's wife, Betsy, died August 17, 1814, at age 84.

The Hurlbut family originally came to the states in 1635.

There are 15 headstones and 18 persons buried here. Some of these stones have footstones.

Before the town of Georgia was originally established, the first town meeting

took place in 1788. In 1790, two years after the town was organized, an item appeared in the warnings to establish a burying ground. That idea, however, was rejected. Just a few months later, Reuben I. Hurlbut from Connecticut, died March 16, 1790. So the family established their own burying site for him.

Reuben had one son, Ebenezer L. Hurlbut, and seven daughters. The Hurlbuts buried here are the family of Ebenezer. In 1791 the population of Georgia was 340 but in 1800 it jumped to an astounding 1,068!

The latest burial in this cemetery was that of Lydia M. Hurlbut, who died on November 6, 1880 at age 52.

Regarding the military, the Civil War took its toll on Georgia residents as many left the security of their towns and joined the forces of the Grand Army of the Republic, marked on these gravestones with the initials "GAR". Denison and Love (Hurlbut) Waller lost two of their three children to the Civil War—Albert J. who died of Typhoid Fever, November 1, 1862, age 19, and Corp. Hiram L., who fell in battle on July 8, 1863, age 31.

The Waller daughter, Cordelia (Waller) Patterson, died November 26, 1877, age 34. The Wallers erected a very tall monument for their three children and it can be seen near the front, left, of the cemetery. Cindy went on to give the history of the land owned by the Hurlbuts.

**Goodrich Cemetery—Presenter, GHS Director Don Vickers**, provided information on still another extremely small family cemetery located on the west side of the Reynolds Road in the woods approximately 100' from the road. There are only five family members buried here—all from the family of Solomon Goodrich. Solomon died in 1834 at the age of 72 and his wife, Betsy, died in 1856 at 80 years old.

They had five children but only three of them have stones here. Their son, Calvin, was only two when he died on August 5, 1805. Daughter, Betsy M. died at the young age of two, as well, on June 25, 1818. They lost their daughter, Sally, at age 15 on November 10, 1822. What happened to the two other children, Nancy and David, where they were or how they died, is not in any records here.

**Fairchild Cemetery—Presenter, Tina Bayne**, property owner of the land where the cemetery stands. Tina said that she has lived here for over 52 years. Her husband, Jim,

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**Hurlbut-Waller Cemetery— Looking beyond the front row toward the back. Note the Cedar Trees and the stone walls.**

**FEATURE STORY—Georgia's Cemeteries, Continued**  
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made the granite sign that reads, "Fairchild Cemetery." Currently, she and her husband have been working on restructuring the low wall and replacing the top layer with new slabs of stone they got from the granite



quarry. If one were to lift the top layer of stone, they would find mistakes made on the written stones of the service men buried there.

Approximately 20 grave sites are said to be there but Tina believes that when they started working on these, they found additional pieces of stone. Also, she said that when they dig around the burial site, they are very careful because when the members of the Fairchild family died, they had no coffin in which to be placed—they just buried them.

Stephen Fairchild, Sr. was the first to settle on Oakland Station Road, the location of this cemetery. He was born September 25, 1725, and died at age 77, July 21, 1802.

Stephen, Sr. had four sons and eight daughters. All settled in the town of Georgia. Stephen Sr.'s wife, Lavinia, was born in 1746 and died in 1816, age 70. Stephen's daughter, Sarah, born in 1781, was the first girl born in Georgia. She never married and she lived to the age of 99 years. She died in 1870.

Stephen, Sr. purchased four lots. He was accompanied by his sons, Joel, Daniel, and Stephen, Jr. This particular portion of Stephen, Sr.'s land, part of which is the Fairchild Cemetery site, was given to son, Joel.

Stephen Sr. and his second son, Stephen, served in the Revolutionary War.

The first burial at this site was in 1806 and the latest was in 1845.

**Loomis Cemetery—GHS Director, Colin Conger**, presented this cemetery. He stated that there are 43 stones and 56 persons buried here. The earliest burial was November 20, 1795 and the last was December 31, 1855—Israel Joslin. Colin noted that there are six Revolutionary War veterans buried here.

This cemetery is extremely secluded. Carol Jones, who lives on the farm on which this cemetery site sits, said that you can only see the cemetery in the winter when the trees are bare and only from the interstate.

By the way, the house she lives in is actually the Loomis home.

Colin said that this site will be revisited in the next tour.

Note: It was done so on our Cemetery Tour III—2012.

**Hope Cemetery—GHS Director, Colin Conger**, was the presenter for this cemetery. The location of this site is on Route 104A, just a few miles east of Ethan Allen Highway. He stated that he was on the Cemetery Commission, and as such, he is very familiar with its background.

There are 23 Congers buried here. His great-great

grandfather, his grandfather, his mother and father, cousins—are all here.

Colin stated that in the back of the cemetery is the gravestone of Elijah Dee, one of the first settlers in the town of Georgia (winter of 1790/91), a War of 1812 veteran, and a relative of his, which means that Colin's family beginnings go back to him. Elijah died September 7, 1842.

There are approximately 350 stones here, and an estimated number of people is 600. Some people are still being found in the ground when ground probing for an open spot is done. And because of that, the probing is done with great care.

There are 52 war veterans buried here; 1 from the Revolutionary War, 11 from the War of 1812, 11 from the Civil War, 5 from World War I, 13 from World War II, 8 Korean Veterans, and 3 from the Viet Nam War. We saw flags placed next to the stones of war veterans and Colin focused on two stones, veterans of the Civil War, next to each other. He stated that their names were on the Monument at the Town Common but added that their bodies were originally in Virginia but were shipped back here to Vermont at the request of their families.

Wendell Patton Post was the only World War II veteran and was killed in a plane crash in Corpus Christie, Texas while training.

Another reference Colin made was to his great-great grandfather, Capt. George P. Conger, who is known as the great leader and hero of the St. Albans Raid, but, also, to his son, Stephen Conger, aged 16 (Colin's grandfather), who rode in the posse that captured the St. Albans Raiders. There is a

very large monument with the name "CONGER" and to the right of that is a stone that says, "George Stephen Conger" and he was the one who actually captured the St. Albans Raiders along with his father, Capt. George P.



**Visitors to Hope Cemetery are seen here as they listen to the presentation behind the burials—their histories and the locations of many interred here. This cemetery is still an active site.**

Colin stated that this cemetery is still an active one. The earliest burial was in 1808 and continues today. The only other active cemetery is the Georgia Plain Cemetery.

**Purmort Cemetery—Colin Conger, GHS Director, presenter**—This small cemetery is located on the north side of Route 104A, about 100 yards up a hill and through many trees and brush with a mowed path leading to it. It is no longer active and has 32 persons buried here, and 19 stones. 15 out of the 32 persons are Purmorts. The first Purmort buried here is John from Exeter, New Hampshire. He died January 30, 1812 at 77 years old.

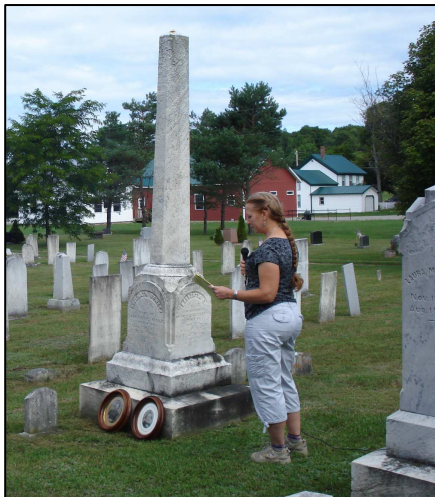
The first burial here was 1810 and the latest one was January 10, 1862, around the time of the Civil War.

Some 10 years ago, now, the cemetery was severely vandalized and, as a result, some of the stones were broken or dug up. No one has learned why this senseless destruction was carried out.■

#### Cemetery Tour III—August 18, 2012

**The Georgia Plain Cemetery**—Though we had been here on Tour I, there was so much to learn about it, the largest site of the 17 cemeteries in Georgia, that the GHS decided a return trip to this site was well worth it..

**GHS Director, Sara (Nye) Vester.** This is one of the only two *active* cemeteries in Georgia and it is the largest. Sara pointed out the cemetery stone of Alva Sabin. He was born on October 17, 1793 and died in Sycamore, IL on January 23, 1885 at the age of 91. It was in 1825 that he became pastor for the Georgia Plain Baptist Church. He was married twice and had



**GHS Director, Sara Vester is seen presenting the tomb of Hiram H. Hale during the third and final cemetery tour this past summer 2012.**

six children. His first wife, Anna, was buried in the Sabin-Nye cemetery for reasons unknown. Rev. Sabin was also the manager of an underground railroad here in Georgia. When slaves arrived, they were fed and clothed and taken to St. Albans to be transported to Canada. By 1837, Georgia had 300 members of the Anti-Slavery Society. Alva was Town Representative 10 times; he was County Senator three times; he was elected to Secretary of the State in 1841 and he was elected to the U.S. Congress from 1852 to 1854. It was said that no man accomplished more in his lifetime than the Rev. Alva Sabin.

**GHS Director, Kim Asch,** gave a presentation on the tomb of the Nye family—in particular Elmer Nye. Elmer Nye was born in 1853 in Stonington, CT. His father, Oliver, died in 1858 so the family moved on to Long Island, NY, and later from there to Providence, R.I., in 1865. Elmer kept a diary and, in this same year on April 3, 1865, he wrote, “Last night the guns commenced firing and bells were ringing about 12:00 a.m. for the surrender of General Lee.” He made another entry on April 15, 1865, “I heard the awful tidings that President Lincoln died at 20 minutes past 7 p.m. The flags have been flying at half mast all day. The secretary is still alive though

## THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR —5th ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD

**MAY 19, 2012, is presented to**  
**~ RIC NYE ~**

**Congratulations to Ric Nye** for his incredibly numerous contributions to the Georgia Community. As sponsors of this award, the Georgia Historical Society, in recognition of Ric Nye’s *overwhelming dedication and devotion* through volunteerism over the years and still continues to do so, today, is proud to bestow upon him this prestigious and great honor.

This honor is given each year at the annual Memorial Day Parade and Military Ceremony located at the Georgia Municipal Building.

very low.” Here was a personal account by a Georgia resident of a very important and historical happening—Lincoln’s assassination. Later, Elmer made his way north to live with relatives in Milton, Vermont. He moved on to Georgia where he started a farm operation and that was the beginning of the rest of the Nye family’s residence in Georgia. Elmer married Myra Hale in 1895. She was the daughter of Hiram Hale, a long-time resident of Georgia. After taking courses in religion, he was ordained a Baptist minister in 1896 and moved to E. Hubbardton in answer to a call to become pastor to the church there. Four years later he moved back to Georgia after Hiram was seriously kicked by a horse in 1990. A so-called “cure” of placing something hot on the wound was used. It was deemed that might have been the reason Hiram suffered a terrible burn and died in 1991. Before he died, though, he sold the farm to Elmer with the stipulation that he was to take care of his wife (Elmer’s mother-in-law) until she died. He did so but for 25 years he had to travel back and forth to E. Hubbardton to serve the church each weekend.

**Continued on Page 10...**

**FEATURE STORY—Georgia's Cemeteries continued from Page 9...**

He traveled by railroad to Rutland, then from Rutland to Castleton by trolley car, and then he walked from Castleton to E. Hubbarton—seven miles. On occasion he was met in Castleton by some of his parishioners who gave him a ride. In 1916 Elmer was finally able to purchase a Model T Ford and he traveled from Georgia to E. Hubbarton when the roads were not covered with snow or mud. Elmer died in 1934.

**GHS Director, Laurie Broe**, who most know as the town clerk of Georgia, spoke about the tombstone of Cortis E. Brooks where Floyd Brooks was laid to rest. She chose to speak about Floyd because of his history as town clerk from 1929 to 1958 and as treasurer from 1936 to 1971. His wife, Verna, served as his assistant clerk and treasurer. Also, he was the state representative for Georgia during the 1930's. Interestingly, Floyd's wife is not interred here at the Georgia Plain Cemetery and no record of exactly where she has been buried has been found. Floyd's brother, Willis T. Brooks, who died at Camp Bevis during WWI, however, is at this site. **Dee McGrath, Director for the GHS** presented the histories of two individuals. One was on Fern Ballard and her son, David and the tragic accident that lead to their deaths through drowning in 1944. The other was that of Merri Zetterstrom, a well-known environmentalist and wildlife advocate. In particular, she was responsible for the rescue of the Osprey and other water fowl on Lake Arrowhead - a project for which she campaigned for more than ten years. Because of her undying and courageous efforts and devotion to the task of restoring the Osprey who were on the endangered list, Central Vermont Public Service created an award in her name, the "CVPS Environmental Award" to be given to any business or individual who contributes significantly to the cause of the environmental health and wellbeing of all. Merri passed away on January 17, 2010.

**Crown Cemetery—Don Vickers, Director for the GHS**, said that the location of this site is on the Georgia/Milton town line. The Crown family, though not the landowners here, made this their burial site. Don pointed out that there are approximately 18 plots, 14 of which held children who died under the age of 12 or 13 years. Most of these came from the same family members interred here. It is surmised that at least some of the causes of these early childhood deaths could be the usual childhood diseases, such as chicken pox, measles, diphtheria, etc., for which there was not yet any kind of immunization. In contrast to the early deaths marked here, another individual, Matilda Kempton, lived to age 90. The first burial recorded here was in 1844 and the last one was in 1899.

**Hyde Cemetery—presented by Directors David Juairé and Don Vickers.** **David**—explained that the preservation of the area of this cemetery was a project that the Georgia Historical Society took on and it involved the building and maintaining of the fence around it (to keep the cattle away) and the upkeep of the grounds. **Don**—elucidated to the fact that this was the cemetery of the landowner and was placed on the family farm. The earliest burial was that of Horacio Taylor who died in 1819 serving in the War of 1812. On his stone it reads, "Stop travelers as you pass by—as you are now, so once was I. As I am now soon you must be. Prepare for death and follow me." This poem was seen on the stones of the Evart family in the Hubbard Cemetery, as well. The last burial here was in 1971—Nancy Vicory—who was related to some of the others

buried here. All those on the tour then walked around this sheltered cemetery to read the various tombs with their special messages or epitaphs of sadness or hope for those who mourn or are just "passing through."

**Loomis Cemetery—Director David Juairé** -This cemetery is located on the Jones property on Oakland Station Road in Georgia—once known as Loomis. Though this cemetery is rather obscure from the road, many of the well-known historical family names are on the tombs; such as, Dee, Goodrich, Hale, Post, Cushman, and others. Also, many of the tombs have multiple names representing the individual family of members interred there.

In this cemetery are four war veterans: Jonah Loomis, Noah Loomis, William Post, and Joseph Stannard. David pointed out that the research on this cemetery was done extensively by Ann Rand and recorded in 1980. In her recording of these tombs, she took great pains to name the individuals in each of the burial sites, when they were born and when they died, including whose son or daughter and their ages whenever possible. 43 stones are standing here and 56 persons are buried here. The earliest burial was November 20, 1795 and the latest burial recorded by Ms. Rand was December 31, 1855.

**Kingsbury Cemetery—Presentation, Cindy Ploof, Director for the GHS.** The location of this cemetery is at the

mouth of Oakland Station Road off Route 104. The owners of the land or farm on which this cemetery is located are Steve and Helen Hibbard.

Four stones of individuals who served in the war are located here. One was from the War of 1812, another served in the Civil War—

Cindy's great-great grandfather, Myron Hickok, another in the Revolutionary War, and the fourth one was Joseph Kingsbury. The earliest burial here was in 1810 (Ann E. Kingsbury, age two, daughter of Deacon Lucas and Loley Kingsbury) and the last was in 1959, Jennie Judd, who, coincidentally, was the great-great grandmother of Cindy, herself. Cindy told a story about Jennie Judd and some her life experiences—a story that was froth with chance and coincidental paradoxes. She was married to George Clark and had one daughter, Lou. Sadly, at the young age of 37, George passed away forcing Jennie to run a farm and raise a child all alone for three years. Then she met Myron Hickok who was a Civil War veteran; as such was granted land from the government. Prior to meeting Jennie, he had married and had a daughter and son, but his marriage ended in divorce. He was living in Nebraska at the time. He decided to come back to his origins in Fairfax, VT. He returned with his son, Albert (his daughter stayed with her mother, Mary), where he met



**Director, Cindy Ploof, is seen at the Kingsbury Cemetery in the dress of her great-great grandmother's time. The hat she is wearing was loaned to her by Lee Carson and belonged to Lee's mother, Elizabeth N. Shepard.**

Jennie and they continued to farm. Though they had no children between them, Jennie's daughter, Lou and Myron's son, Albert, from their first marriages, ended up marrying each other! Lou and Albert had a son of their own and named him Roy. ■■■

This sums up the three tours but please note that this is only a snapshot. You can see so much more of the actual excursion by going to the Georgia Public Library and reviewing the three CD videos photographed and recorded by Phillip Ploof. They are truly excellent in their educational value and content.

*A book called "Cemeteries of Georgia", containing 334 pages and written on all the burials completed as of November 28, 1982, was a great aid in the research done by the GHS for this tour. This and other research material can be found at the Georgia Public Library.*



Dee McGrath is seen with Mark Hudson, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society, receiving the **Merit Award for the Georgia Historical Society (GHS)**. The award was presented under the category of Educational Outreach, and took place on Friday, November 2, 2012, during their 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums. The program, presented by the GHS, was to cover 17 existing cemeteries in Georgia with three cemetery tours—one tour in 2010, one in 2011 and the last in 2012. During the tours, the Society directors pointed out the many war heroes, tragic deaths, and the incredible longevity of some and heartrending short lives of others, as well as the many accomplishments of these past residents. The goal was to provide as much of the histories of these inhabitants as was able to be researched.

Dee McGrath is a director on the board of the GHS.

### ***Did you know..?***

***306 cases of polio were reported in Vermont during the summer of 1914—the largest outbreak in a single state. Doctors were at a loss as to how to treat the disease in those early years. The only way the town could isolate the people was by putting a sign on the house saying, "Polio—Stay Away." It was about this time that Georgia was struck. All of George and Alice Webster's four sons contracted the debilitating disease, but Kermit, the youngest, was the only one to become crippled and eventually die from it. Kermit was born in 1913 and died in 1935. Unbelievably, during his lifetime, he not only mastered riding a horse but he could play the cornet with one hand. It would not be until 1955 that Dr. Jonas Salk would develop a vaccine for polio making it uncommon for someone to acquire the disease.***

***This information was taken from Peter Mallett's "The History of Georgia, Vermont" and can be found at the Georgia Public Library.***



**- IN MEMORIAM -**

**PHILLIP J. AISTON**

**1950—2012**

**The Georgia Historical Society wishes to extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Phillip Aiston, a lifetime member of our organization. His most generous contribution and support have meant so very much and it is with true sadness that we acknowledge his passing. He has contributed so much in his lifetime to serving others and he will be remembered for such for years to come. Our organization is proud to have had him as a member.**

**The Georgia Historical Society**

**GEORGIA MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**- STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE GEORGIA ELEMEMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL, TRAVELLING DOWN RT. 7, AND ENDING AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.**

**THE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IS ON THE TOWN COMMON FOLLOWING THE PARADE.**

**JOIN US IN THE PARADE OR BE A PART OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE! EVERYONE IS WELCOME. PLEASE CALL OLIVE GILMAN AT 524-4017 OR 527-7332 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

**- IN MEMORIAM -**

**ELEANOR OVITT ADAMS WEBSTER**

**August 21, 1916—November 29, 2012**

**It is with much regret that we acknowledge the passing of Eleanor Webster, a member and loyal supporter of the Georgia Historical Society for many, many years. Eleanor's generous help with historical knowledge and encouragement have meant so very much to our organization. She will be sorely missed by us all. We wish to convey our deepest sympathy to her gracious daughter, Josephine, also a steadfast supporter and member, and to Eleanor's entire family.**



**The Georgia Historical Society**

## ANSWERS – GEORGIA HISTORY QUIZ

1. C: Although all four wind turbines sit atop Georgia Mountain, two are on the Georgia side and two are over the line in Milton.
2. C: Highly organized files holding a wealth of genealogy information are located in the Georgia history section at the rear of the library.
3. B: April 1
4. A: Like many other Vermont towns, including Fairfax and St. Albans, Georgia celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.
5. C: 42
6. B: 658
7. C: 12,583,000
8. B: Lincoln's Assassination

### HOW DID YOU DO?

- 5 Right—You read the paper.  
6 Right—You know your town.  
7 Right—You know your town very well!  
8 Right—You own the Town!  
(8 Right—You will be the next president of the GHS!)

*\*Special thanks to Kim Asch and Flora Hurteau for their contributions to this issue of the Fall/Winter Newsletter. Georgia Historical Society Newsletter Editor, Dee McGrath*

## GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Location: Georgia Municipal Building, Ethan Allen Highway—  
First Wednesday of each month from May through October (included) at 7:00 pm**

***Have you borrowed material from the Historical section of the Georgia Public Library, i.e., photos, books, files, and/or records, etc.? We have found many are missing. If you have overlooked or forgotten about taking these for your research, we would very much appreciate it if you would bring them back. Just place any of these on the top of one of the cabinets in that section and write a note saying that the item(s) is or are being returned (we don't need your name) and we'll see that it gets back to where it belongs. Thank you.***

**MEMBERSHIP FORM** Date \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Membership is **\$15.00 ANNUALLY** or **\$100.00 LIFETIME**. Please fill out the information below along with your donation and mail to: **Georgia Historical Society**, Treasurer: Laurie Broe, P.O. Box 2072, Georgia, VT, 05468. If you have any questions, please call **Colin Conger - 524-6311, Dee McGrath-893-4853, or Cindy Ploof-782-8808**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

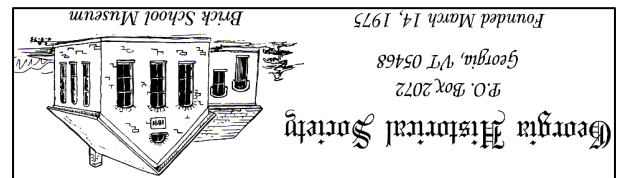
I am interested in (please check all that apply):

☐ Publicity ☐ Parades ☐ Paper Memorabilia ☐ Assisting with Genealogical Research

☐ Board of Directors ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'm able to (i.e., type, write, help in research, etc.)

☐ I'm unable to participate, but I support the Society's efforts and programs.



***WE NEED NEW MEMBERS! BETTER, YET, BECOME A  
MEMBER OF THE BOARD. WON'T YOU JOIN US AND  
BE A PART OF PROVIDING GEORGIA'S WONDERFUL  
HISTORY TO ALL.***

***(See form on reverse side for more information.)***