



Lives & Times

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G. B. Williams Park Dedicated

Saturday, April 24, 2004 was a warm sunny day in Smyrna. It was a perfect day for the dedication of the park that is within rock-throwing distance of the little building that housed G. B.'s Place – a fast food and convenience store that was started in Smyrna in 1937 and continued for 40 years until 1974.

Family members, friends and acquaintances, elected officials from the City of Smyrna and Cobb County governments and an U. S. Congressman was on hand.

The spot selected by the City of Smyrna for honoring G. B. Williams is the site of the former Southland Ice Company plant on Roswell Street. That building, which had last been used as a plastic factory and a plant for charging aerosol cans was demolished about two years ago.

City Councilmen Bill Scoggins and Pete Wood provided personal comments of their association with G. B. Williams and his family over a period of years. Congressman Phil Gingrey also made remarks but the most moving tribute to G.B. came from his own grandson. Chad Williams, who gave a brief history of his grandfather's personal life and philosophy as well as



L to r Councilman Pete Wood, Chad Williams, G.B.'s grandson, and Councilman Bill Scoggins at the podium

his keen sense of business that brought him from his humble beginnings to a leader in his community, a large land owner, and a popular citizen whose easy going manner and friendliness brought him many friends during the time he was in business and afterwards.

See Chad's complete remarks reproduced beginning on page 32. G. B. Williams died Monday, July 8, 2002.

Welcome New Member

Albert & Mary Brawner Rambo
Chowning Place
Marietta, GA 30064

Mrs. Rambo lived in the Taylor/Brawner House with her parents until the late 1940's when she married. She provided the society with a number of family photos and personal information about the house, which will be extremely helpful, when the restoration gets underway.

Dean & Bonnie Byers
Wynridge Dr.
Smyrna, GA 30080

Dean is looking forward to heading up the restoration of the Taylor/Brawner House project as soon as all the legalities of the property transfer can be worked out.

It's good to have these new members in the Society

In Memoriam
Jo Atkins
6-23-1933 – 5-11-2004

Sympathy is extended to the family of Jo Atkins who died recently after a long illness. The family membership in the Smyrna Historical Society goes back to the very beginning as a charter member.

Services were held at Carmichael Funeral Home in Smyrna and burial was

in Georgia Memorial. She is survived by

her husband of 42 years, one daughter Paige Post of Marietta and son Chip Atkins of Smyrna, sisters Jeanette Blue of Kennesaw and Shirley Gill of Powder Springs and brothers Shelby Ellerbee and Jimmy Ellerbee of Thomaston.

Sympathy To

Society members Bobby and Thelma Motter in the death of their daughter in law Vicki **Davis Motter**, 8-8-1959 – May 30, 2004.

Services were held at the West Cobb Funeral Home with interment in the Cheatham Hill Memorial Park.

Mrs. Motter was survived by her husband Robert Paul Motter of Dallas; daughter Jessica Lynn Motter of Dallas, mother Mrs. Mildred E. Davis of Marietta, and a brother William Joe Davis of Marietta.

Congratulations To

Charter Society members **Ed and Teresa Camp** on the marriage of their oldest daughter **Emily Elizabeth** to **James Maxwell Manor** on June 12, 2004.

The wedding ceremony was at Smyrna First Baptist Church with Rev. Steve Kimmel officiating.

Emmett and Jane Yancey Charter Society members celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary June 1, 2004, and Charter Society members and Museum Volunteers **Bobbie and Tarver Shirley** celebrated theirs June 4.

(continued next page)

Congratulations To

Melvin and Mary Ruth Holleman, Society members since 1999 will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 26, 2004. Melvin has been volunteering at the Smyrna Museum every Wednesday since 1999 except the first Wednesday in each month.

Family Research – Need Help

Beth Livingston is researching the family of Zachariah Rogers 1839 in SC. Wife Isabella White 1846 in SC. Their children: Emma E. Rogers 1866, Margaret B. 1870, Grady (Tipton) 1868, Malcolm no birth date, Etta M 1876, Clyde 1882, Lillian C. 1872, Mamie 1878, Carl 1885 and Cora Virginia Rogers October 18, 1874. In 1870 the family was in Fulton County census and in 1880 in Cobb County census. I haven't been able to locate them in 1900 and beyond.

The other family is Robert W. Davis born 1868 who married Cora Virginia Rogers (above) in 1894. In 1900 their family was in the Cobb County census. Their children were Homer Edward 1896, Robert Boyd 1904, Catherine Virginia 1907, Grace Elizabeth 1897, Robert Guy 1900, Lois Rebecca 1902 and Francis Isobel 1913. I have found this family in the 1910 & 1920 Fulton County census.

If you have any information on any of these people respond to Beth Livingston at RLIVINGSTON@triad.rr.com

Fleming Family Research

I have been doing some family history research and have discovered that my Great-Great Grandfather is Elijah Harvey Fleming and that he is buried at the Old Smyrna Cemetery. I have been trying to find some information about my Great Grandfather, James Scott Fleming, son of Elijah and have run into a dead end. I was wondering if you might have any information in your files about when and where James was born and when and where he died. My Mother told me that she thinks he went to Florida during the Civil War to distill salt for the Confederacy.

Also, if you have any information about Elijah Harvey Fleming and are willing to send it to me, I will be glad to reimburse you any costs to copy and mail it.

Thanks,

Scott Broome

105 Twin Creek Court

Columbia, SC 29212

Home email – broomel@mindspring.com

Editor's Note: Elijah Fleming has a historical marker in Smyrna Memorial cemetery as the first marked burial.

Taylor/Brawner House Update

The city of Smyrna is working out final details and legalities on the property transfer and other items but official notification should be coming shortly. Some of the other buildings may be saved and put to use also.

(Continued from Page 34) and he made sure the GB Williams Park was to be a lasting and fitting tribute to Grandfather. Unfortunately we don't have any chilidogs or milk shakes for you, but I do want to thank each and every one of you for taking the time out of your day to pay tribute to this remarkable man, G. B. Williams. Thank you, and God Bless. Written 4-6-2004, Delivered 4-24-2004

Visiting The Past

150 Years Ago

May 20, 1854 the church at Maloney's Spring met in conference: 1st invited visiting Brethren to seats with us. 2nd opened a door for the reception of members and received Brother David Nix by letter from Baldrock Church, Newton County, ga. 3rd called for acknowledgements: None. 4th Enquired for references none 5th Enquired for matters of dealing in gospel order. 6th Called for general business did in conference by order of the church.

Isaac R. Teat, Modr.

Mason M. Ragsdale, CLK

140 Years Ago

May 14, 1864: After divine services the church met in conference and first invited visiting brethren to seats with us. & 2nd opened the door of the church for the reception of members and received Brother John Moore as a deacon, and sister Margaret H. Moore, his wife on confession of faith and from churches which are members of the Little River Association. Then called for items of business and finding all in order, closed in the usual manner.

Beaton Daniel, Modr.

T. H. Moore, Clk.

Addition to the minutes of 5-14-1864

After the meeting in May and before the next meeting the armies fell back upon this section of the country and most of the members of the church, together with the pastor, took refuge in other sections of the country and so remained until the next Spring when in the providence of God, we were again permitted to return to our homes and although most of us had lost our worldly goods and property, yet we feel that we have abundant reasons to thank the Lord that it is no worse. The first conference meeting after our return was July 15, 1865 as the next minutes will show. Thos. H. Moore, Clk.

Note: The above note refers to the War Between the States. The actual Battle of Smyrna Campground took place on July 4, 1864. After the war was over, the only building left in the downtown area of Smyrna was the Boy's Academy building which later became the Presbyterian Church, Smyrna Elementary and High School and the Nelms Masonic Lodge. The building was demolished 90 years later in 1954.

Editor's Note Spelling and punctuation in the above are reprinted exactly as they appear in the minutes of the Maloney's Spring Primitive Baptist Church.

Visiting The Past – Continued

Fifty Years Ago

May 27, 1954 C. R. Clegg, President of Young Harris College, will be the principal speaker this year at the 42nd annual anniversary celebration of the famed Log Cabin Community Sunday School June 6.

Superintendent of the Sunday school at present is Rufus Adair, Jr. Assistant Superintendents are Howard H. Hamby, George Meier, Jr. and William Barnett.

Laura Helen Jones, with flute, David C. Coalson, clarinet, and Bobby McCoy of the Osborne High Band will be the stars of the concert at the Campbell gym on Friday night.

Belmont Hills, Smyrna Elementary and Fitzhugh Lee bands will also be a part of the program

Smyrna Citizens, clubs, and businesses this past week contributed enough to purchase a television set for the new fire-police station headquarters, which held open house last week.

Mrs. Daniel W. Carman, 304 Collier Dr., Smyrna won a nation-wide “Set a Pretty Table” contest recently. Her prize was a set of eight Iroquois Casual china. She was one of four people in the country to win in the contest.

Eighty-three Campbell High Seniors Sunday will hear their Baccalaureate

sermon delivered by the Rev. L. F. Van Landingham, and on Monday evening in the new school stadium will receive their graduation diplomas.

The Pre-school PTA held its meeting Monday, May 24 at the American Legion Annex and installed the new officers.

After the old business was closed out for the ending year, with Mrs. M. A. McGee in charge, the new officers were installed. Mrs. G. C. Green officiating the ceremonies.

New officers are: Mrs. Calvin Johnson, president; Mrs. Calvin Bryan, V. P.; Mrs. George Head, Secretary; Mrs. L. Little, Treasurer.

Norman E. Sandow, 17, son of Mrs. Grace Wackerle, 118 Emory Rd., Smyrna, has completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. B. L. Walker, owner of Walker Motor Company, which is one of the sponsors of a Little League team in Smyrna, carried all his boys to see the Atlanta Crackers at Ponce de Leon Ball Park Monday night. Robert Bacon is the manager of this team.

Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Aiken of Covington announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauratine, to Fain Eliot Brannon, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Brannon of Smyrna.

Lost: Light blue Parakeet, answers to name Toby. Return to Fred and Norma

Sandwich Shop, Concord and Access Highway, phone 5 4748 Reward.

First Baptist Church will recognize the high school graduates who are members of the church in the 11:00 services on Sunday morning.

The students are: Barbara Ann Adams; Sarah Page Camp; Beverly Crawford; Nancy Duke; Shirley Foster; Herby Giles; Janice Hardage; Carlton Harris, Jr.; Gail Hiatt; Bobby Leonard; Lila Lewis; Fowler Martin; Mary Ann McClesky; Virginia Norton; Ethel Reed; J. B. Westbrook.

Joseph Alexander Chaney, 79, formerly of Smyrna, and brother of Mrs. George Farrar, Sunset Ave., passed away last week in Atlanta. Graveside services were held Sunday in the New Smyrna Cemetery with elder M.M. Morton officiating. He was a member of the Collins Spring Baptist Church at Carmichael Stop.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. (Bev) Jones announce the birth of a daughter, Mary Yvonne, on May 22 at Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta. The mother is the former Annette Carson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Carson of Spring Hill, Smyrna.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Christianson, of Kennesaw Way, are the proud parents of a daughter born last week at Kennestone Hospital.

Dickson's Shopping Center Ads: Coffee, one pound can 95 cents.

Ground Beef, 3 lbs. 1.00
Potatoes, 5 lbs. 15 cents
Eggs, 3 dozen 1.00
Pan Ready Chicken fryers, .35 lb.

Smyrna Automatic Laundry & Cleaners opens a new plant in the Terminal Building phone 5 4121.

Little Jim and Harry Quarles are sick with measles at their home on Dunn Street. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Quarles.

40 Years Ago

May 7, 1964

One of the oldest buildings in downtown Smyrna was torn down this week to make way for a new parking lot for the Sur-Way Cleaners and Laundry at the corner of Atlanta and Spring Streets. The building was actually the third erected on the site and has been occupied by a number of business including the city's first drug store, two grocery stores, town meeting hall, Presbyterian Church, and the first gasoline pump in Smyrna.

Smyrna's Ward 2 voters will go to the polls Saturday, July 11, to elect a councilman to fill James W. Webb's unexpired term mayor and council decided Monday. Webb is getting married and moving to Hapeville.

Florence Fashions, Inc. in the Belmont Hills Shopping Center is selling out. It will mark the end of a Cobb County business established 90 years ago.

Visiting the Past (continued)

40 Years Ago

Smyrna Optimist Club has elected new officers to begin serving their term on July 1: President, Tom Mathis; Vice Presidents, Charles Dozetos and R. J. McCurry; Directors David Daniel, Terry Brogan, Ross Douglas.

Smyrna Memorial Cemetery in downtown is zoned for business. A sign near the gate to the cemetery is marked “One Way.”

Green, Corn, Cobb and Rice are names of men who have served on the Smyrna City Council in the past.

Smyrna’s First Service Station was located at the intersection of Atlanta and Spring Street. It consisted of a water pump, a drinking cup, and a watering trough. It was self-service.

Editor’s note: The previous 3 stories were noted by Dr. G. C. Green in a column in the Smyrna Herald on 5-7-1964.

The Civil Term of Cobb Superior Court scheduled to begin May 11 has been postponed because of the noise caused by repairs to the courthouse tower. The May 11 calendar has been moved forward to the week of June 15.

Courthouse Excavation Begins after the advisory board votes to start construction on the new building that will cost

\$750,000. Clerk of the Court John LeCroy moved to begin construction and Commissioner Herbert McCollum seconded the motion. Ordinary Garvis Sams cast the lone dissenting vote. Sams said, “We’ve had a number of votes on bond issues and each time the people turned them down. Now we have only eight months left in office, and I hardly see how we can compete it and there is no proper way to finance it.”

Smyrna led the county in new home construction for the first quarter of 1964, as building was concentrated chiefly in the unincorporated portions of Cobb during continuing urbanization. The city issued 38 permits totaling \$503,322.00

May 14, 1964 The newly remodeled Belmont Theater will hold its grand opening tonight at 7:30, Buren A. Eidson, manager of Martin Theaters in Cobb County, announced. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held with Smyrna Mayor George Kreeger and Miss Cobb County, Lee Ann Denmark, participating.

Airman First Class Grady H. Stokes, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Stokes has been selected Outstanding Airman of the Month in his Strategic Air Command wing at Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

May 21, 1964

Ben C. Jordan announced his candidacy today in the Cobb County Republican Primary on September 9 for the State Legislature, Bracket 3.

L. K. Levinson, owner of the Portrait Shop and Georgia School of Speechcraft, in Smyrna, will speak at the Friday meeting of the Smyrna Optimist Club at 7 a.m. at Campbell's Restaurant. He is State Speaking Champion for 1964.

An amendment to the constitution of the U.S. To permit Bible reading in public schools is said to be gaining "overwhelming" support in congress.

May 28, 1964

New Jr. Woman's Club Officers are Mrs. Don Lillie, Mrs. J. B. Floyd, Mrs. Hugh Adams, Mrs. Aubrey Graves, Mrs. John Bowie, and Mrs. Max Loftin.

Smyrna's Tax Rate for 1964 has been set at 17 mills. The city's anticipated revenue for fiscal 1964 – 65 is \$504,000. \$35,000. More than the present year.

A Cat Complaint has been signed against a Smyrna woman for creating a nuisance with her yard full of cats. Police Chief R. L. Drake. The case will come up in City Recorder's Court on Tuesday. Drake said officers counted 17 cats in the yard this week, but on past complaints as many as 40 cats have been seen in the yard.

Sam Saliba has been installed at PTA President at Belmont Hills Elementary School. Other officers are V. P. Mrs. Don Braund; Mrs. K. S. Canady, Secretary; Mrs. D. C. Brown as treasurer.

Tillman Memorial Methodist Church announced that plans have been

completed to build 8800 square feet of new Church School facilities. The two-story brick building will house 14 classrooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, office and library. The original church building, purchased in 1954 from the family of G. B. Brown, will be torn down.

Smyrna Woman's Club observed its 39th birthday with Mrs. James W. Nash and Mrs. W. B. Morton as co-hostesses. Officers installed for the meeting were: President, Mrs. David Cano; 1st. VP Mrs. Nash; 2nd Ms. Sam Harper; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Clifford King; Secretary, Mrs. May Eberhardt; Treasurer, Mrs. C. N. Davis.

June 4, 1964

Smyrna American Legion Post 160 is making plans for its annual fireworks display here July 4, Commander Harley Morris said this week. This is the second year the fire works will be at Ward Park. In the past the display has been held at Brinkley Park but the crowds got larger and larger. Ward will accommodate more people.

Faith Methodist Church held its first services in the new building on King Spring Road only five months ago. Since this time the church has continued to grow in membership. The church is happy to announce that the completion of 100-car parking facility has been made. Time of services are morning worship, 11:00 a.m.; evening worship, 8:00 p.m. and church school at 10:00 a.m. and

Visiting the Past (continued)

church school at 10:00 a.m. Youth activities begins at 6:45 on Sunday evening.

Miss Brenda Smith became the bride of Harold Smith, Jr. in a double ring ceremony April 18 at Open Bible Tabernacle in Smyrna. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Smith, Sr. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith, Sr. all of Smyrna.

Argyle PTA had its last meeting this school year last Tuesday night with D. C. Holsenbeck presiding. Mrs. Elbert Fields installed the following 1964-64 officers: Co-presidents Mr. and Mrs. Davis Holsenbeck; Vice President, Mrs. R. E. Hellman; Secretary, Mrs. W. R. Emmett; Treasurer, Bill Gilleland; Parliamentarian, James Porter.

Ann McDaniel daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McDaniel; Terry Ray Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Morris; **and** Miss Billie Joe Cox, all of Smyrna received their A. B. degrees from Shorter College, Rome on May 31.

Ann Konigsmark Johnson of Smyrna was among University of Georgia students recognized for scholastic achievements at the annual honors day program. Mrs. Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Morton of 375 Atlanta Terrace, will receive the Bachelor of Science in Education Saturday.

June 11, 1964

Rex Robert Ruff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Ruff, Sr., 334 Wills St., Smyrna, has been awarded the bachelor of arts degree by Mercer University. He was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army Reserve at the June 1 commencement exercises.

June 18, 1964

Smyrna's Teen Canteen has made an impressive record for itself during its six years of operation but most people don't know that this outstanding organization is the largest of its kind in the state. The Canteen began operation July 9, 1958 with a jukebox as its only equipment.

Three New Schools have been named for former Smyrna's Richard R. Nash and F. T. Wills and J. J. Daniel by the Cobb County Board of Education. The junior high school under construction on Ward St. will be named for the late Mr. Nash who was architect for the building. The school will open in September.

The board also announced the new senior high school to be built on the same 20 acre tract as the junior high, will bear Mr. Wills' name. He was the Cobb County School superintendent from 1933 until his death in 1944. He was the father of Zelan T. Wills, the Smyrna Postmaster.

Another Jr. High will be named for J. J. Daniell, a former resident of Smyrna and long time Cobb County Ordinary. His father, Robert Daniel was one of the founders of the Concord Woolen Mills.

