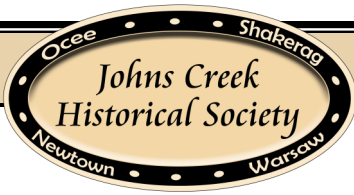


Johns Creek Historical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization  
11877 Douglas Rd, Ste 102-295  
Johns Creek, GA 30005  
[www.johnscreekhistory.org](http://www.johnscreekhistory.org)    [info@johnscreekhistory.org](mailto:info@johnscreekhistory.org)



## OUR MISSION

*To research, preserve and promote interest in the history of Johns Creek and collaborate with the city and other related organizations in these endeavors.*

## ABOUT US

The Johns Creek Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization operated by community volunteers and open to all interested in local history.

Our focus is discovering, preserving, and sharing the history of the land and earlier inhabitants of the area that is now the City of Johns Creek, Georgia.

*We're New!*

*2017 was our first year as an incorporated nonprofit.*

### Historical Society Founded by

Joan Compton, leader in numerous nonprofits and a community researcher of local history.

Claudette Lopez, past Heritage Director at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center with an education in historical collection management.

### Incorporation

In January, 2017, the Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit in the state of Georgia.

### 501(c)3 Status

The Historical Society received 501(c)3 status in August, 2017 and is classified as a public charity by the IRS.



**MEETINGS** *A chance to learn and share local history*

As a new group in its first year, meetings tended to be casual, often without a scheduled speaker. Meetings were a chance to hear about history related activities in the Johns Creek area, share discoveries in local history, listen to memories of long-time residents, and network with others interested in discovering the past.

Meetings were held in the Summerour House at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center and were open to the public.



Members sharing history discovered

**MAR** **Resources for Researching Local History.**

**1** This was the first official meeting as the Johns Creek Historical Society. Dozens of local history books and maps were displayed and the wide variety of physical and online resources available for historical research were discussed.



Listening to Millie Medlock Moore's stories

**MAY** **History Sharing Roundtable**

**3** We shared research discoveries and listened to Millie Medlock Moore relate stories and memories of the area in earlier times.

**SEP** **Where We Go From Here**

**6** This meeting was a chance to catch everyone up on the large number of collaborations, recognitions, and opportunities developing for the Historical Society. We all discussed ideas for future activities, programs, and needs of the organization.

**OCT** **Boyhood Memories**

**4** Jack Morton, Jim Spruell and Tim Spruell related boyhood memories of growing up in the area when it was still a rural farming community.



Meeting with Jack Morton, Tim Spruell and Jim Spruell

**NOV** **The Green Family**

**8** We met at the Summerour House to hear about the Green family, then walked the short distance to the Green Store for a tour of the building and its collection of historic items.

**DEC** **Green Books**

**6** We caught up on history related activities. Kirk Canaday brought "Green Books", published in 1936-1966, and introduced us to the need and importance of these travel guides to African-Americans travelling during segregation.



## FIELD TRIPS and other ACTIVITIES

In addition to meetings, field trips and other activities were scheduled throughout our first year to provide opportunities to join others in exploring historic sites and resources in the area.

In 2017 we made trips to local cemeteries, to an archival resource center, and had a group activity cataloging a donated collection.

**FEB** | **Tour of the Macedonia and Warsaw cemeteries**

**1** Our first field trip included exploring two cemeteries located along Medlock Bridge Road. At each we heard stories about the settlers and farm families buried there.



**MAR** | **Visit to the Mt. Zion Church and Rogers-Bell Cemetery**

**29** We met at the Mt. Zion Church for a short story about a Civil War skirmish that took place nearby then were joined at the cemetery by one of the Rogers-Bell descendants.



Gathering outside the gates of the Rogers-Bell Cemetery



Recording the Newtown Collection

**MAY** | **Sorting a Donation of Newtown Records**

**31** We learned collection management procedures while examining, identifying and recording the contents of boxes of the Susan Miller collection of Newtown park and community history items.



Touring the Roswell Archives with archivist Elaine DeNiro

**DEC** | **Visit to the Roswell Archives**

**6** We toured the Roswell Archives located in the Roswell Cultural Arts Center, visiting their research library, viewing some of their collection of documents, maps, clothing, photos, etc., and learning how they store and organize their sizable collection of physical archives.

## INTO the COMMUNITY

### *Networking and Presentations*

As a new organization we made an effort to get out into the community to promote history , establish awareness of our mission, and advocate for historical components in new parks and history preservation in future development.

## NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

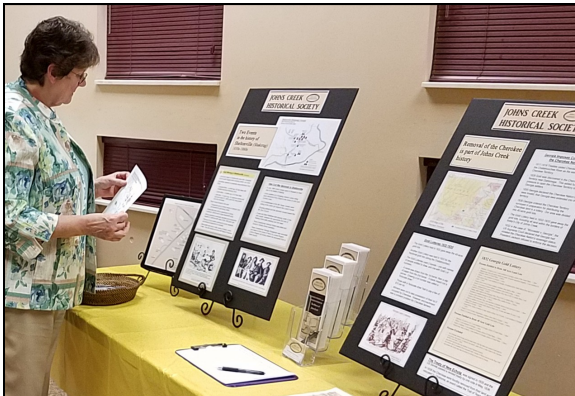
- Meeting with other historical societies, history resource centers, and local historians.
- Networking at Johns Creek Chamber Events, Cultural Arts Alliance and other community meetings.
- Discussions with elected officials and city staff.
- Attendance at City Hall meetings, park and comprehensive plan meetings.



Networking with elected officials and community leaders at a Cultural Arts Alliance of Johns Creek event

## HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation to the Johns Creek Cultural Arts Board
- Presentation to Leadership Johns Creek Class
- Presentations to neighborhood groups
- Presentation at a Macedonia Cemetery Program with Preserve Johns Creek
- Presentation of local history events to over 500 students.



Engaging and educating the public with history programs



Tim Spruell presenting a history program at Spruill-Oaks Library

## INTO the COMMUNITY

### *Partnerships and Collaboration*

We actively sought partnerships and collaborations as an effective way to learn from established history organizations, leverage our resources, build our reputation as a primary source for Johns Creek history information, and reach a wider audience.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center
- River Trail Middle School
- Spruill-Oaks Library
- Leadership Johns Creek
- Alpharetta & Old Milton Historical Society
- Cultural Arts Alliance of Johns Creek

#### Historical Fiction Project at River Trail Middle School

*"Things have been tense. Mother and Father haven't told me anything, but I'm a clever girl. There have been rumors that the world outside of Cherokee Territory, is trying to move us. . ."*

From "The Girl Who Survived", one of the local history based stories written by a River Trail MS student

### **COLLABORATIONS**

- Participation in the Johns Creek Arts Festival with the Cultural Arts Alliance.
- Participation in "Hero 4 a Day" cleanup of the Macedonia Cemetery.
- Collaboration with the Alpharetta Historical Society & Spruill Oaks Library on a history book donation and program.
- Inclusion as a Consulting Party in the Rogers Bridge DOT archaeological study.
- Collaboration with teachers at River Trail MS to provide local history information for an historical fiction writing project.
- Meetings with Johns Creek GIS department and with neighboring cities on historic site mapping projects.
- Collaboration with Autrey Mill Heritage Center and CVB on history programs and exhibits.



Joining in the cleanup of the Macedonia Cemetery



Showcasing history at the Johns Creek Arts Festival

## BUILDING a JOHNS CREEK ARCHIVES

### *Research*



A goal of the Johns Creek Historical Society is to gather in one place the records and stories of the past to create both a physical and digital archive to preserve Johns Creek's history and make the records available to the public.

## **GATHERING HISTORY INFORMATION**

*We've only just begun and have a number of challenges including Johns Creek is late in preserving its history and lacks a large base of residents rooted to this land. This will be an ongoing effort for many years, but for a young historical society, impressive progress has been made in gathering history resource materials.*

*Here's how we are approaching the task.*

### ***Making contacts with and learning from***

- Neighboring historical societies and local historians.
- Descendants of early families and those with deep roots in the area.

### ***Collecting***

- Family histories
- Documents, tapes, maps, ledgers, photos, etc.
- History books and other publications

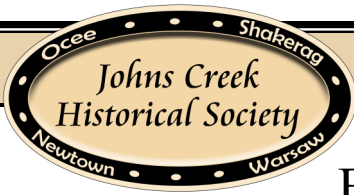


Meeting with Beverly Thompson, a descendant of the Taylor, Bell, and Rogers families.



### ***Digging through resources then***

- Digitizing and copying records.
- Compiling research into family trees, topic papers, and presentations.
- Organizing hardcopy files and notebooks.
- Beginning the long process to catalog items acquired.



Discover Johns Creek History with Us

## BUILDING a JOHNS CREEK ARCHIVES

*Accepting Donations and Finding a Home*

### DONATIONS

Although accepting donations could not be a priority in our first year, we did accept these collections, because they would not be available later.

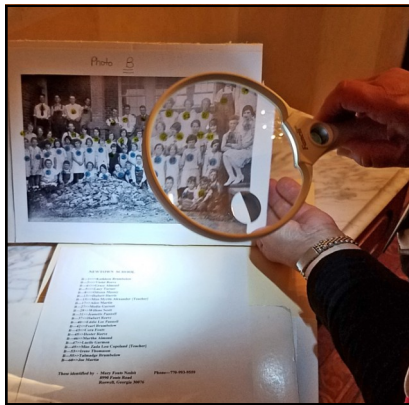
- Findley farm items
- Susan Miller's collection of Newtown park and community history

We are working to create awareness of the Johns Creek Historical Society as a place to donate family records and original artifacts to make sure existing local history assets are not moved from the area or destroyed.



Part of the collection of Newtown items donated by Susan and Dan Miller before they moved out of the area.

### NEED for STORAGE, OFFICE, and EXHIBIT SPACE

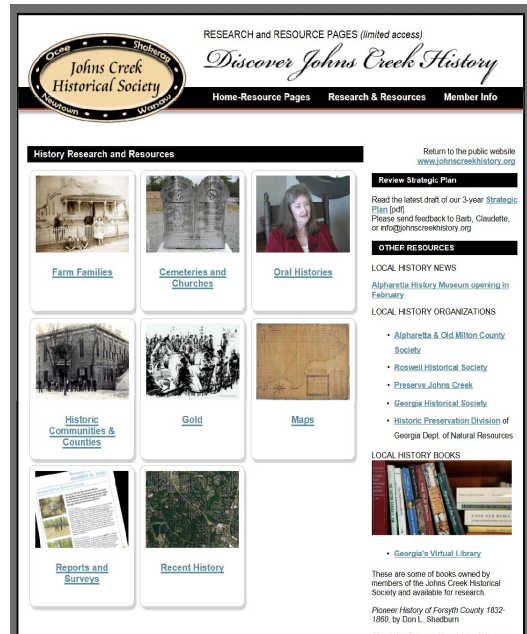


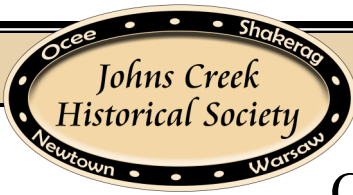
Without appropriate space, it is difficult to operate and fulfill our mission. Discussions have begun with the City of Johns Creek concerning the need for archive storage, office and exhibit space to provide a secure, environmentally controlled location for records and artifacts and to facilitate public access to local history resources.

### DIGITAL ARCHIVES

A Research and Resource section was added to our website to hold an initial online local history archives. Hundreds of additional documents, photos, recordings, and other records are being digitized in preparation for a future database to provide access online and at an eventual archive facility.

Initial website portal to online history records

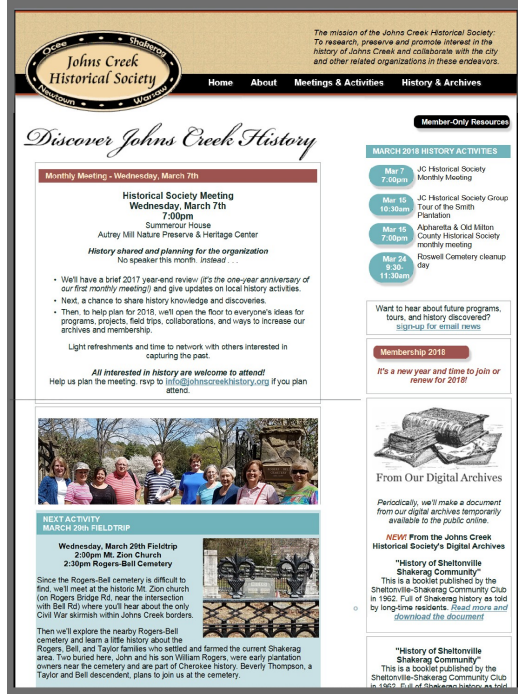




Discover Johns Creek History with Us

# COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Creating Awareness



## An Online Presence with [www.johnscreekhistory.org](http://www.johnscreekhistory.org)

A small website went live November 2016 announcing the formation of an historical society to preserve and promote the history of the area that is today's City of Johns Creek. Since then, the website has grown to promote the Historical Society's meetings, projects, and activities; accept online membership payments; advocate for local history preservation; and provide local history information and resources.

### Top Downloads:

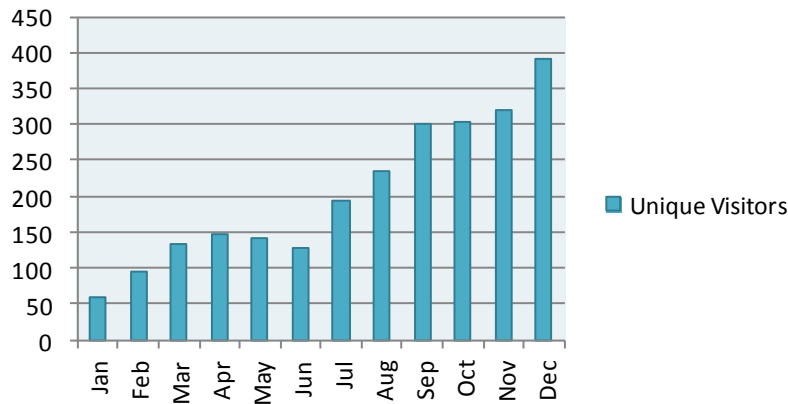
Membership forms, Sheltonville 1962 Booklet, River Trail MS historical fiction stories

### Top In-bound Links:

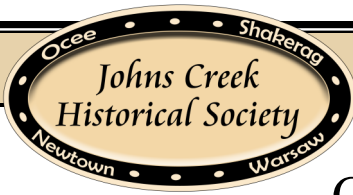
Facebook, Preserve Johns Creek, Cultural Arts Alliance of Johns Creek, Fulton County Schools

[www.johnscreekhistory.org](http://www.johnscreekhistory.org)  
website homepage

Growth of website's unique visitors in 2017



Website Stats	2017 Totals	January 2017	December 2017	Annual Increase
Unique Visitors	2,446	58	392	576%
All Visits	3,685	103	592	475%



## COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Creating Awareness

### E-News

A free MailChimp account was opened in February 2017 to communicate Historical Society upcoming meetings, activities, and local history related news.

- The first e-blast was sent to 21 contacts announcing our first monthly meeting, an upcoming field trip, and other news.
- 19 e-blasts were sent in 2017 to an increasing contact list.
- The contact list grew from sign-up's on our website plus email addresses collected at meetings, events, and community presentations.

### Community Calendars and Message Boards

To extend reach, postings of meetings, field trips, and programs were placed on

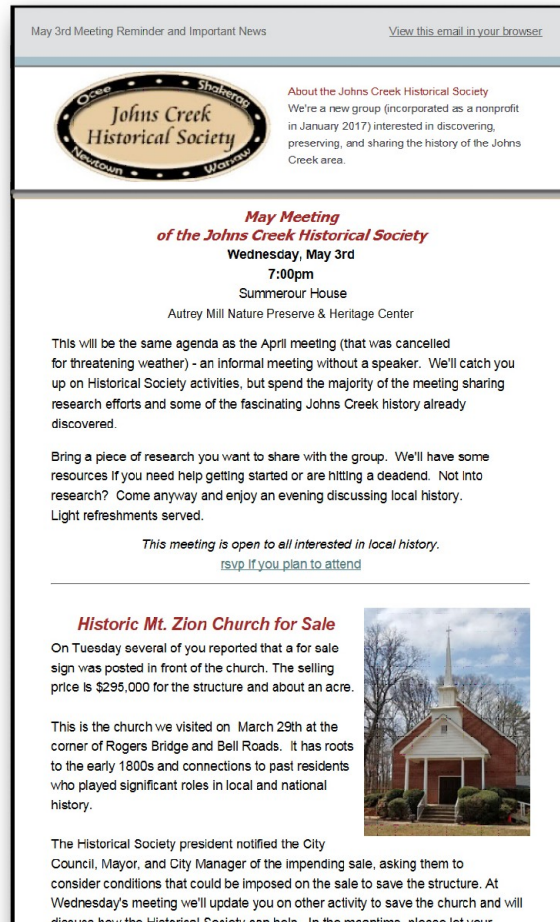
- City of Johns Creek online Calendar
- Culture Arts Alliance online Calendar
- Nextdoor message board

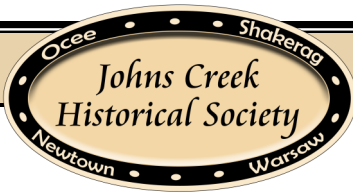
### Other Marketing Efforts

- A Logo was designed to establish branding
- A Tri-fold informational brochure and business cards were created and printed to hand out at events and during networking.
- Displays and posters were created to both promote the organization and to illustrate historic events, places, and people.

### Facebook and LinkedIn

Facebook and LinkedIn accounts were created to reserve the Johns Creek Historical Society name for future use.





## 2017 FINANCIALS

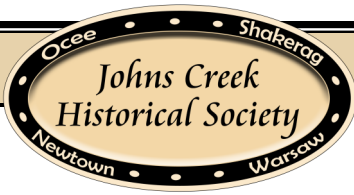
The organization did not try to raise funds in its first year, other than through memberships to cover start-up costs and minimal operational needs. Even with only small funds to handle, financial business accounts and systems were established including:

- An EIN obtained
- No-fee checking bank account opened
- PayPal nonprofit business account opened to facilitate online membership payments and donations
- Account codes created to track income and expenses

Johns Creek Historical Society, Inc.

### **2017 Statement of Operations**

Acct #	Account Name	Amount
	Balance 1/1/2017	0.00
<b>INCOME</b>		
14010	General Donations	25.00
15010	Membership Individual	1,850.00
15020	Membership Organization	250.00
	TOTAL INCOME \$	2,125.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
20000	Corporate Expenses	450.00
22000	PR/Marketing	178.52
23010	Bank Fees	18.00
23020	PayPal Fees	16.30
28000	Office Expenses	137.94
	TOTAL EXPENSES \$	800.76
	Net<Deficit>/Surplus \$	1,324.24



## 2017 FINANCIALS

As a new organization with limited financial resources, the donation of in-kind services and supplies were crucial in meeting first year goals. We expect in-kind donations to continue to support operations even as we solicit additional forms of cash income.

Johns Creek Historical Society, Inc.

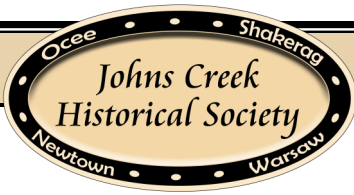
### **2017 In-Kind Expenses**

- Monthly Meeting space provided by Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center
- JC Historical Society members provided:
  - Website development and social media marketing
  - Archive supplies
  - Research books (including donation to Spruill Oaks Library)
  - Membership in local business organizations
  - Hospitality for meetings
  - Digitization and copying of documents, photos, audio and video tapes

Johns Creek Historical Society, Inc.

### **2017 Balance Sheet**

	1/1/2017	12/31/2017
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Fidelity Bank Account	-	\$ 1005.54
PayPal Account	-	\$ 318.70
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	-	<u>\$ 1324.24</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Outstanding Checks	-	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	-	\$ 0.00
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	-	\$ 1324.24
Temporarily Restricted	-	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	-	<u>\$ 1324.24</u>



## MEMBERSHIP

*Thanks to all who have become members in our new organization!*

Memberships support operations and programs. Founding and Sustainer Members' larger investment in the Historical Society covered startup expenses and created a financial base for our new organization and future projects.

### **Corporate Founding Member**

Jacqueline Bass Preservation - *specializing in historic preservation planning, research and design, and museum collection*

### **Founding Members**

Linda Austin  
Joan Compton  
Bob Gern  
Vicki Horton  
Barbara Latham  
Claudette Lopez  
Jan Mairose  
Ed Malowney

### **Sustainer Members**

Pat Miller  
Michelle Sienkiewicz

### **Members**

John Bradberry  
Kirk Canaday  
Alison Kane  
Doug Langdon  
Janice Lock  
Mary Jo Malowney  
Connie Mashburn  
Deanna Maust  
Lyn Michell  
Jess Spurling