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The Crescent Chronicle
Quarterly Newsletter of the
Cherokee County Historical Society

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Upcoming Events:

2011 Historic Preservation Awards Banquet

Friday, March 25, 2011

7:00 pm

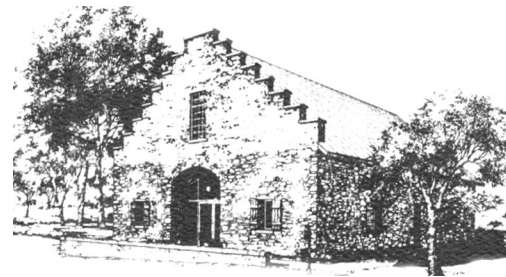
Northside Cherokee Conference Center

1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton

Tickets are \$20 with a cash bar



Join us to celebrate historic preservation in Cherokee County. Our featured speaker will be Robert B. Williams, Senior Curator of the Bentley Rare Book Gallery and Assistant Vice President for Library Systems, Emeritus, at Kennesaw State University. Williams has a keen eye for rare and collectable books which he has nurtured over his career beginning with



the
Crescent

Cherokee County

Historical Society

established 1975

Volume XII, Issue 1 February 2011

OUR MISSION:

The Cherokee County Historical Society is dedicated to historic

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NEXT ISSUE:

May 2011

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Cherokee County History Museum

By Stefanie Joyner and Meghan Griffin

We are pleased to announce that after many months of work by volunteers and staff, the new History Museum and Visitors Center is open in the historic marble courthouse in downtown Canton. The museum showcases historic photographs and artifacts from the Historical Society's collection. The museum is one of the first to utilize iPad computers to engage the public and enhance the visitor experience. These iPads currently contain presentations about archaeology, the Trail of Tears, Canton Cotton Mills, famous Cherokee County residents, gold mining and moonshining. We will be adding more, so please stop in often!

The museum also features the stories of real-life Cherokee County residents from 1838 to 1930. These figures include Little Fourkiller, a 10 year old Native American boy; William Grisham, one of Canton's first town commissioners; Clara Bedell, an 18 year old Canton and Waleska resident in 1902;



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Schatt & Morgan Cutlery and the Georgia Connection

By David A. Clark, Guest Columnist
Excerpt from February 2011 *Knife World*

A small news item in the February 17, 1893 "*Cherokee Advance*," a Canton, Georgia weekly newspaper noted:

A Whistle Factory

Canton comes to the front this week with a whistle factory, owned and operated solely and alone by Jay Rudasill, with John Richards, Tom Turk, and Charlie Holden as whistle turners.

Jay is quite an adept with a pocket knife and can whittle out of wood almost any kind of toy or build out of other material almost anything from a steam engine to a jumping jack, but Jay's latest employment is in building whistles for amusement and profit. He builds little whistles and big whistles, course whistles and fine whistles, whistles that make a noise like a steamboat or sing a song similar to the blue jay, mocking bird or turtle dove, the turkey gobbler, sea fowl or little wren, the male donkey or braying Texas pony.

Canton is singularly fortunate in getting the first whistle factory ever established in Georgia, but somehow or other Jay's nearest neighbors do not seem to appreciate the noise that is kept up pretty constantly by intending buyers trying the whistles. However all are glad Jay has started the industry and hope he may richly succeed."

Just a month earlier on January 20, 1893 in the same newspaper, Jay Rudasill reported on his previous year's confection business:

"My trade is very good. I sell only for cash and so I am not troubled with collections. I think the people are in a prosperous condition generally."

Rudasill was 17 years old at the time. I have found no record of success or failure of the Whistle Factory; but, as you will read below, the confection business was successful as were other businesses in which Jay was involved. He was a budding entrepreneur. Rudasill family history remembers that he completed the eighth grade in school, which was common at the time, then went on in the world to make his mark.

This article is about Jay Rudasill and his involvement with the Schatt & Morgan Cutlery Company (S&M) of Titusville, Pennsylvania.

John W. Schatt and Charles B. Morgan started their cutlery business in New York City in 1895 as an import company named the New York Cutlery Company.

The New York Cutlery Company prospered [and] in 1902 they relocated to a new and larger facility in Titusville, Pennsylvania. The company...changed the name from the New York Cutlery Company to the Schatt & Morgan Cutlery Company. John W. Schatt was its President, Charles B. Morgan Vice President, and Jessie V. Crouch Secretary/Treasurer and plant superintendent.

I became interested in S&M history when I bought a jackknife from Bruce Voyles in 2001. The tang was stamped "*Dollar Knife Corporation Atlanta.*" Bruce told me there might be a story associated with the Dollar Knife.

Turning to Goins' "*Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings*," I found that the Dollar Knife Corp. received its trademark in 1922...it was in business in the Trust Company Bank Company Building in Atlanta; and Paul W. Jones was the president.

The Rudasills had moved from North Carolina into the Hickory Flat community of Cherokee County, Georgia in 1838. Jay's father, Jonas Eli Rudasill, served in the Confederate Cavalry in the Civil War. He returned to Hickory Flat, married, and raised his family there. He was a farmer, a miller and a gold prospector. The February 27, 1894 issue of the *Atlanta Constitution* noted: "*Considerable excitement has been created here over Rudasill gold mine property.*" A 1894 Cherokee County map at the Cherokee County Historical Society shows the locations of both the Rudasill Gold mine and the grist mill near Hickory Flat.

The time between Jay leaving school after the eighth grade and the time he married is not well known to the family; however, the old issues of the *Cherokee Advance Newspaper* and the Cherokee County Deeds

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Cutlery continued from page 6

knew him and his capabilities very well -- it was quite common during this time for salesmen from differing companies to know each other for they all traveled by rail, called on the same customers, and often frequented the same hotels and restaurants. On October 27, 1911, at a Board of Directors Meeting of the Schatt & Morgan Cutlery Company, John Schatt the President, in poor health, resigned from S&M and returned to his home in Gowanda, NY. Jay Rudasill was elected to fill his place on the Board and was also elected as Vice President. He was thirty-five years old. At the same meeting Morgan was elected President. Rudasill held the position of Vice President until the death of Jessie Crouch in 1921, at which time Rudasill became President. He served as President until S&M went out of business in 1933. He never moved to Titusville but remained in Atlanta, the railroad crossroads of the south. Jule Ann remembers her grandfather as a jolly man, quick with a story or joke to tell, meeting people easily, and always positive about life in general -- all traits of a successful salesman.

Schatt & Morgan was an extremely healthy company financially and well managed in its first twenty years. It was recognized for its high quality cutlery all across North America. One has to wonder with the events of the times (WWI, new competition, the death or departure of key managers and employees, and the deep depression starting in 1929) just how a thriving cutlery company could survive in business and avoid receivership. S&M was not alone in its effort to remain solvent during the 1920s and the depression. Other renowned cutleries like Challenge, Empire, Holley, New York Knife Company, Northfield, Russell, Thomaston, and Walden Cutlery did not survive the depression either. New competition came from arms companies Remington and Winchester using their manufacturing capabilities developed for WWI to start cutlery production.

After the Bank took over the S&M's assets in 1933, C.B. Morgan, at 71 years old, was employed by Queen City Cutlery as a salesman; Jay Rudasill retired to Atlanta; James D. Murphy went to work at the Titusville Building and Loan Association, where Morgan was a Director, as secretary and remained there till 1946, when he returned to Atlanta and opened an accounting business.

News and Announcements

Oak Grove Reunion

Former students, faculty, staff, and neighbors of Oak Grove school are invited to a reunion to be held on March 27, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Oak Grove Gym. For more information about the reunion or to RSVP, please visit: www.oakgrovereunion.myevent.com or call Linda Futral at futral.linda@yahoo.com.

Lions Club

The Lions Club of Ball Ground is looking for history and photographs from the early days of their club. If you have any information or photographs that you would like to share, please contact Beth Ingram at 770.735.2258.

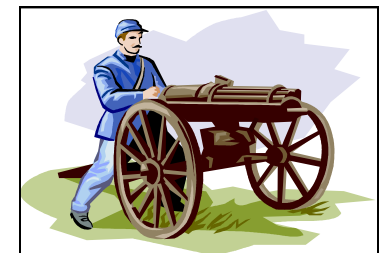
Oral Histories

The CCHS Oral History Committee will be meeting Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00pm at the Rock Barn. A number of interviews have been completed, but there are many, many, more to go! If you are interested in gathering stories, please attend the meeting or call the office at 770.345.3288.

Civil War Program

The National Archives at Atlanta will present *The Civil War: America's Long Struggle* on April 16, 2011 at its Morrow, GA facility. This day-long program commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, features lectures from leading Civil War scholars and archivists, an exhibition of original 19th century newspapers chronicling the African-American experience, and an opportunity for attendees to learn more about their Civil War heirlooms.

The program, which costs \$20.00, includes lunch, is open to the public, pre-registration required. Please visit www.archives.gov/southeast/public/2011-civil-war-program.html for more information and to register.



Cutlery continued from Page 2

and Records did shed some light on Jay's business activities, which were numerous. Jay Rudasill's confection business prospered to the point that he was advertising in the *Advance* and in 1895 announced in the paper, "Having removed from my old stand to the house adjoining the Bank of Canton, I wish to announce...that I will add to my present stock of confectioneries, fruits, etc., a complete line of choice family groceries." He was almost 19 years old. That same year he added a partner and did business as Rudasill and Coggins. The next year he added men's and women's clothing to his merchandise.

In 1899 Jay invested \$200 for stock in the Canton Cotton Mill. About this same time, in addition to his business interest in Canton, Rudasill began to travel "on the road" as a salesman -- initially in the interest of the Orr Stationery Company. In 1901 there was another change and location for his retail business: "Jay Rudasill has bought the framed store and vacant lot surrounding the same where the Rudasill Bros. now have their store just east of the Coggins livery stable" noted the *Advance*.

Jay married Della Jones of the prominent Jones family of Canton, Georgia, in January 1898. He was 22 years old. They made their home in Hickory Flat but sometime after the turn of the century moved to Canton and rented the house at 341 E. Main St. This house (now restored and the offices of attorneys Thompson, Meier, & King) is thought to be one of three or four houses in Canton spared from destruction during General Sherman's "Atlanta Campaign." This same house was once owned by James R. Brown, a local attorney and brother of Joseph E. Brown, Governor of Georgia during the Civil War. Rudasill purchased the house in 1904.

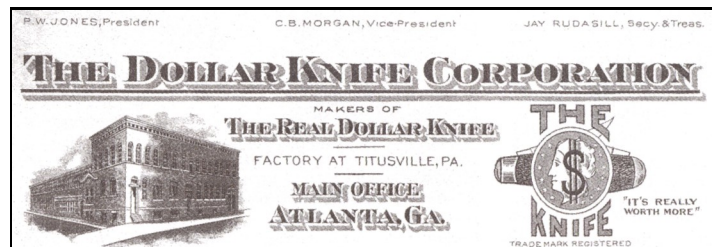
Della was the daughter of Green Jones, whose family lived next door. Green's brother, Robert Tyre Jones, Sr. (R.T.), was perhaps Canton's most notable citizen in local business and civic activities. R.T.'s first son was Robert P. Jones, Atlanta lawyer, cousin of Della Jones, and father of Robert Tyre Jones III (Bobby Jones), the famous golf professional, co-founder of Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament. R.T.'s second child was Paul Walker Jones.

Paul grew up working in his father's store, the Jones Mercantile, starting at age 14, and over time becoming its president. A quote from *The Heritage of Cherokee County Georgia 1831 - 1998*: "He was a bit of a prodigy at business. In fact, young Paul was said to be so good with figures that he could stand alongside a streaking freight train and, as soon as it had passed, immediately recite all boxcar numbers from memory." This is the Paul W. Jones who was President of the Dollar Knife Corporation and owner of its trademark.

It is not clear from the reporting in the *Cherokee Advance* if Rudasill stopped selling stationery or added a new line of goods, but in November of 1903 he was representing a northern cutlery house. Between 1903 and 1910, in addition to Georgia, he traveled to North and South Carolina, occasionally taking a trip to New York. In the February 18, 1910 issue: "Jay Rudasill left for Florida in the interest of the Case Bros. Cutlery Co." This had to be a great business decision for Case Bros., only a generation removed from the Civil War and Reconstruction, to employ a salesman from the south to develop their southern cutlery business. The Rudasill's relocated to Atlanta in August of 1911, finding that location more convenient for a man that spent most of the rest his working life "on the road." In another great business decision for both Rudasill and his new employer, he switched companies from Case Bros Cutlery Company to the Schatt & Morgan sometime between 1910 and 1911, bringing his southern customers along.

There is a very good possibility that Rudasill knew both Mr. Schatt and Mr. Morgan. Most likely they

Continued on page 7



Letterhead of the Dollar Knife Corporation listing P.W. Jones as President, C.B. Morgan as Vice President, and Jay Rudasill as Secretary and Treasurer. Image Courtesy of Jule Ann Martin and David Clark.



Kentucky Derby Day at the Rock Barn

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, The Kentucky Derby Day at the Rock Barn, is right around the corner! We are currently seeking committee members, silent auction donations, and sponsorships. If you are interested in helping organize the biggest party in Cherokee County, please give us a call at 770.345.3288. We have a job for everyone – from arranging flowers and set-up, to helping plan the menu, to putting together the silent auction!

If planning isn't your thing, we also need contributions to the silent auction. It could be a gift certificate, a home décor item, or even baskets that everything can go in!

Lastly our Kentucky Derby Sponsorships are a great way to get your business known in the community! The sponsors are featured in all of our advertising throughout the year and receive a special acknowledgement at the party. The levels start at \$250! Please call us today at 770.345.3288 or email sjoyner@rockbarn.org for more information!

Derby Dash - We'll start the festivities on Derby Day with the Derby Dash. If you don't feel up to running the 5K, the 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk begins at 10:00 am through downtown Canton. Come out and enjoy the spring weather, our historic downtown, and end at the new Museum & Visitors Center. For more information give us a call or visit online at www.rockbarn.org.

Museum continued from page 1

We would like to thank the museum committee for their work in making this a reality: Jennifer Bagwell, Kim Groves, Tom Krueger, Karen Smithwick, Skip Spears, Lisa Tressler, and Ken Wheeler. We owe a special note of thanks to Kim Russo and the staff of Event Wise Catering for the wonderful food and service at the grand opening reception and to our President Liza Griffin for her time and leadership. And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of our Museum sponsors: Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, City of Canton, Canton Tourism, Inc., Mark and Peggy Moore, Greene's Blueprinting, Canton Preservation, Inc., and the Downtown Development Authority of Canton. iPad sponsors include Eric, Mandi and Henry Ballinger, Bank of North Georgia, Cherokee Bank - Dennis Burnette, Cherokee Computer, and Robert and Liza Griffin.

The museum is open Wednesday to Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm and Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm. The museum is located in the Historic Marble Courthouse, at 100 North Street, Suite 140, Canton, 30114. Admission is free.

This museum is entirely staffed by volunteers - so we need you! If you have a free morning or afternoon to spend in the museum, please contact us at 770.345.3288. You do not need to be an expert on Cherokee County history and volunteers will receive training.



County and City Elected Officials join CCHS Staff and Board Members and Chamber of Commerce Board Members for the official Museum & Visitors Center Grand Opening on February 4, 2011.



Turning Back the Clock

*North Georgia Tribune
Friday, March 7, 1952*

Nine Convicts Escape Tuesday From Work Camp

Nine white men escaped Cherokee County Public Works Camp near Univeter last Tuesday night after sawing through window bars in sleeping quarters. One of the group was a life-termer. A car parked in the prison yard and owned by Shault Reece, a guard, was taken and later found in Dalton Wednesday morning. **Thursday afternoon, four of the escaped convicts had been captured and two others, it was believed, were surrounded near Lathemtown. There were 10 men who escaped instead of the nine as first reported.**

Breeden Youth Escapes Jail By Use of Blankets

Buddy Breeden, 16, broke a lock in the run-around door and escaped through a window of the Canton jail last Sunday night. He used a makeshift rope made of blankets to lower himself down the front of the courthouse from the fourth floor jail window. Breeden was sent to the training school about 1 1/2 years ago on a charge of burglary.

(Crescent Chronicle Editor's Note: The Historic Cherokee County Jail is currently open in the Historic Courthouse at 100 North Street in Canton for visitors during the week from 9-5 and on Saturdays from 10-3.)

Chicken Supper

Delicious Southern fried chicken-just like mother cooks-will be served at the Etowah School lunchroom next Friday night, March 14, at 8 o'clock. There will also be entertainment for all in the school auditorium.



The Knowles Duo (*left*), featuring Adreana Knowles, mezzo-soprano, and Paul Knowles, tenor, will be presented by the Cherokee Concert Association next Thursday evening at the Canton High School Auditorium at 8 o'clock.

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CCHS Oral History Committee
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Map Cabinets

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Mrs. Barbara Martin
Rev. Charles Walker
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