

EST. 1979

# EAST POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SPRING 2013

### President's Note

As we turn the corner into the new year 2013, we look back at our accomplishments in 2012. First, I want to say "thank you" to our dedicated group of board members and volunteer staff whose unselfish efforts have made all of our achievements possible.

On August 10, 2012 the City of East Point celebrated its 125th Anniversary of incorporation as a city. We were honored the City asked us to assist in the Celebration by hosting an open house at the museum on the evening of August 10th. In conjunction with this event we created and published a full color brochure of East Point Historical Sites in the downtown area.

Our online presence is expanding with our website and our Facebook page. For those with access to Ancestry.com we have created an "East Point Family Tree" that builds on the genealogy of pioneer East Point families.

We continue to assist those families seeking information on burials at Hillcrest Cemetery. We are in the developmental stages of creating a program to assist East Point residents in researching the history of their homes. We are adding three new members to our board of directors for 2013, Teresa Harrison, Perry Bennett and Julie Morgan. Each of these people brings unique talents and abilities to our board which will compliment and strengthen us.

— Charles Strickland, EPHS President

### Quarterly Membership Meeting

Through our quarterly membership meetings we endeavor to have speakers who can bring us both historic and current insight into things relative to East Point and the surrounding area.

**Our next meeting is Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 3:00 PM at the East Point Avenue Methodist Church (Nellie's Chapel).**

Our speaker, Mr. Adville B. Montgomery, is a recently retired career employee with the CSX Railroad. The A & WP (Atlanta & West Point Railroad) became a part of the CSX system. The A & WP was the railroad that "built" East Point. Mr. Montgomery will share with us information on railroading in the Atlanta and East Point area.

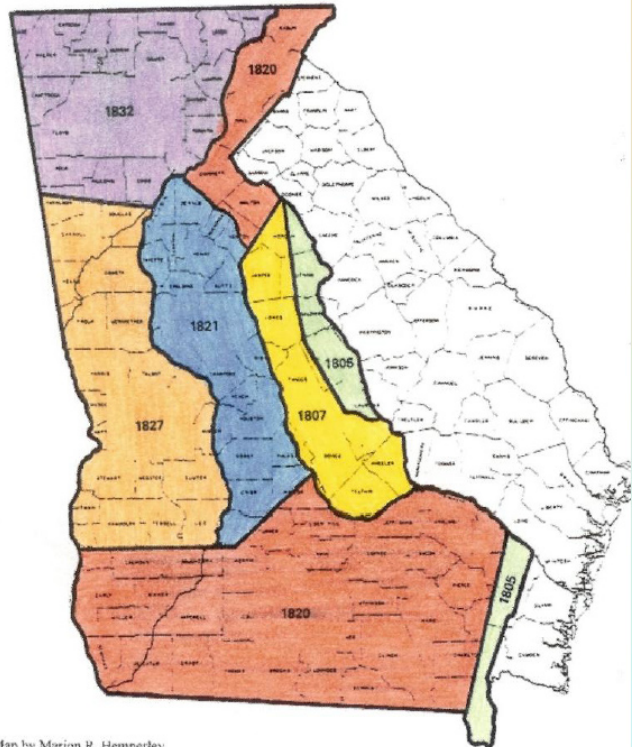
This will also be our annual meeting when the slate of officers and directors as nominated by the present board will be presented for approval by the general membership.

Please join us.

### East Point, GA — Formerly of Henry County

As soon as Chief William McIntosh and other Creek Nation chiefs signed the Treaty of Indian Springs, January 8, 1821, the East Point area became an official part of Georgia. While the state claimed territory all the way to the Mississippi River, which included most of Alabama and Mississippi, most of the area was occupied by Native Americans—Creek or Muscogee, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw and others. The Creeks had already conceded a strip of their land in the previous year northwest of this new territory plus the lower quarter of the state.

This new strip was half as long as the state and 3.5 times longer than it was wide. The land soon was divided into five new counties by the Georgia Land Lottery Act of 1821: Dooly, Fayette, Henry, Houston and Monroe.



Map by Marion R. Hemperley

So, if you were in East Point on May 15, 1821, you would have been in the new Henry County named for the Virginia patriot and then governor, Patrick Henry.

Very soon the new counties were surveyed and ready for the lottery. Yes, our current lottery is not the first one. This one was four of eight between 1805 and 1833. The dates of the fourth drawing: November 7, 1821-December 12, 1821. For 50 cents they would get the chance to win 202.5 acres of land.

## ... Formerly of Henry County (Continued)

There were requirements: three years residency, age 18 for bachelors. Widows of men killed in action during the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or Indian Wars could get two tickets, as well as orphans of such deceased veterans, and men with wife and children. No one who had won before could play in any subsequent lottery.

There were two wheels, one filled with the names of the hopefuls and the other had the county and plot. A ticket from each was joined to make a winning pair, or the plot ticket was blank. Then upon paying \$19 for title of the property, the new owner had a pig in a poke in most cases. Many people couldn't afford the charge, so either never claimed it or sold it sight unseen to someone else.

This was the way our Henry County was carved up. But the settling took a little longer because for some people it took the entire allotted time to claim the plot and then make the trip out to the property with intentions to build their homes.

No other state used a lottery system to distribute land. The state of Georgia held lotteries eight times between 1805 and 1833 to distribute land given up or stolen.

– D. Gordon Draves, EPHS Vice President

## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

### East Washington Neighborhood

The East Washington Neighborhood (EWN) is one of the oldest neighborhoods in East Point. There is an enormous amount of history in East Washington.

The boundary lines for the EWN are East and West Cleveland Avenue from Main Street to Sylvan Road and south to Central Avenue.

There were other communities in the EWN known as Jungle Foot, Grabill, Oil Mill Road and the Montel Village Community. The Grabill community is where one of the oldest churches is located. Union Baptist Church, located on East Washington Avenue, was founded in 1866. The church celebrated 146 years on October 28, 2012.

Martin Luther King Sr., who was known as Daddy King and was the father of Martin Luther King Jr., accepted the call to pastor the church in 1918 and served until the early 1930s leaving to become the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. Other pastors who have served at Union Baptist Church include Reverend C.L. Daugherty and Reverend B.B. Carter. The church is pastored today by Reverend Larry Banks.

The EWN has contributed more than a few major players to the world-at-large and the world of sports. EWN was the birthplace of two famous athletes: John Davis Milner, a professional baseball player who was awarded an outstanding award for his service with the New York Mets (1971 to 1982); also, Donald Adama, who played professional basketball with the Detroit Pistons.

The first black funeral home was L. Sims Funeral Home and was located on Holcomb Avenue. The second oldest was organized March 31, 1938 on Bayard Street. The building that housed Walker's Funeral Home is still standing. It is the oldest building

in the EWN. The present funeral home in this community is the Gus Thornhill Funeral Home.

Because of the industries located in the East Washington Neighborhood, the City of East Point became the eighth largest Industrial city. These industries included: Piedmont Cotton Mill, Henry Chaney Cotton Mill, the steel plant, the Thread Shop, Hercules Power Co. and Allied Chemical Co., still located in the same spot on Central Avenue.

There are many new businesses that have been built on many historical properties. A few examples: (1) Newell Industrial set up business on the old cotton mill property, (2) Montel Home Public Housing and the South Fulton Medical Center were built where the old Grabill community was, and which was also the original location of the Union Baptist Church. The East Point Elementary School as well as East Point High School later became South Fulton High School. Black students were bused to the East Point High School from as far south as Palmetto, Fairburn and Union City.

A lesser known point of interest in EWN is the formation of the Flint River which begins near Willingham Drive and Tri-Cities Plaza. The Flint flows south into the Gulf of Mexico.

EWN was proudly chosen to be a makeover community through the Federal Urban Weed and Seed Program and the Urban Renewal program.

This program made the EWN an even better community.

– Charles Barlow, EPHS Board Member

### Visit Us Online ...

The EPHS is enjoying a thriving online presence. We now have over 400 members on Facebook! Our online community shares stories and photos and helps reconnect people.

Please visit our official website at [www.eastpoinths.org](http://www.eastpoinths.org) and follow the link to our Facebook page.



### ... or In-Person!

Learn more about East Point history and see first hand the collection of artifacts, photographs, maps and records that further illustrate East Point's history.

We are located at 1685 Norman Berry Drive, East Point, GA. Our phone number is 404-766-4656.

Our hours are as follow:  
Thursday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

# EAST POINT CENTENNIAL QUILT

## A History Lesson in Needlework

### Part Three: City Services

In 1987, members of the East Point Woman's Club stitched together a quilt to commemorate East Point's Centennial. Each of the 49 squares helps tell the story of East Point's history. The quilt is on display at the East Point Historical Society. This is the third in a series of East Point history lessons, as reflected in a sampling of the quilt's squares.

East Point's founding in 1887 led to the establishment of expanding municipal services as would be expected for any growing industrial and commercial center.

#### {1} FIRE TRUCK

A volunteer fire department was created in 1909 and in 1912 East Point's first fire truck was purchased.



#### {2} POLICE

The police department was established in 1907. Parking and speeding ordinances were created in 1921 and three stop signs were erected in 1927.



#### {3} CITY HALL

A new City Hall and City Auditorium were dedicated in 1931. The former city hall nearby on Cleveland Avenue dated from 1912.



#### {4} WATERWORKS

The first water mains were built in 1909. A reservoir and pumping structure was built and operations began in 1944 at the new plant on Headland Drive.



#### {5} RECREATION

Among East Point's earliest parks was the tennis complex built in 1926 at the site of the Cold Springs Cue Club, now the location of the East Point Historical Society. A full-time city recreation director was appointed in 1950.



#### {6} CLEAN COMMUNITY SYSTEM

This department was created in 1977 to encourage litter prevention, recycling and community beautification. It is now known as Keep East Point Beautiful and affiliated with the national Keep American Beautiful program.



## 2013 EPHS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I/we would like to renew my/our annual membership at the following membership level and help bring East Point's past to the present for the benefit of the future:

- Single, \$10
- Family, \$15
- Corporate, \$50
- Donation of any amount gratefully accepted, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**EPHS is a nonprofit organization that depends on your membership and generosity in order to operate.**  
**We welcome your contribution whether it be your time or monetary donation.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for  
your  
support!*



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, CUT IT OUT AND SEND TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS WITH YOUR CHECK BY MARCH 31:

East Point Historical Society  
P.O. Box 90675  
East Point, Georgia 30364-0675

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