

Local historian tells history not found in other books

When the Roswell Historical Society published the Second Edition of its highly-acclaimed book, "**Roswell: A Pictorial History**", in 1994, Editor Darlene M. Walsh gave me a tough assignment. That was to summarize the town's history covering the nearly half-century period, starting with 1950.

I crammed a lot of history into the first four and a-half pages of Chapter VII, titled "1950 Toward 2000." My effort at historical recapitulation ended with these words: "No wonder people are eyeing Roswell with more than passing interest as we approach the year 2,000!"

By the way, won't that be an historical event - when the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31, 2001, ushering in a new millennium. It's just over two years away, folks.

All history, of whatever type, is recorded from the viewpoint of the beholder. Whether the "historian" chooses to stick with well-documented facts, resorts to opinion, rumors and hearsay; or, for whatever reason. One may choose to completely ignore certain people or events; or go in for such tricks in historiography as revisionism and political correctness, then he, or she, may become suspect.

To me, real history speaks for itself.

Thank goodness, before we usher in the year 2000, turning a new page in the continuing book of mankind's evolution, the

present generation of historians, particularly here in Georgia and the South, have been taking steps to "set the record straight" on one score.

That, to me, is the dearth of recorded history on our African-Americans, and Native Americans (Indians).

In the past, historians, North and South, pretty well ignored the history of our Americans of African descent, and did even worse by Native Americans. The shameful legacy of slavery, and all the stereotypes it created, is hard to shake. Ever heard of Crispus Attucks - one of the American "Patriots," who died in the Boston Massacre, on March 5, 1770?

"Little is known of Attucks, and to this day no one is certain whether he was a Negro, a mulatto, or an Indian of the Natick tribe." (The World Book Encyclopedia)

Such confusion in our recorded history is being weeded out in these days of computers, when conflicting data can be more easily reconciled to square with the facts.

And one of the new breed of historians is **Don L. Shadburn**, of Cumming, a retired school teacher now recognized as the au-

*North Fulton
Footprints*

By
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Guest Columnist



thority on early settlement of whites, and, in some instances, blacks, among the Native Americans of this area.

Don devel-

oped his first curiosity about local history when his great grandfather, Henry Shadburn, sold the first tract of land for the Lake Lanier Reservoir back in 1954. He's now completing, for December publication, "Crimson and Sabres: A Confederate Record of Forsyth County, Georgia," the fourth volume in his "The Pioneer-Cherokee Heritage" series.

This avid historian was the first recipient of the Georgia Historical Society's "The Lilla Mills Howe Award" in 1994, recognizing an outstanding regional history project. It was for Volume 3, titled "Unhallowed Intrusion: A History of Cherokee Families in Forsyth County, Georgia."

Now out of print, this 800-page volume is available in libraries of both the Alpharetta and Roswell Historical Societies, as well as area public libraries. The same for the two other volumes in his series. Volume 2, "Cherokee Planters in Georgia, 1832-1838," a 430-page tome, printed in 1989, is now in reprint. It covers 11 counties of the old Chero-

kee Nation. This includes Northwest Georgia, above the Chattahoochee River.

Since the history of this whole area is intertwined, just remember: Old Milton county was formed in 1857 from portions of Forsyth, Cherokee and Cobb counties; Forsyth and Cobb were formed in 1832 from a parts of Cherokee; Cherokee in 1830/'31 from the Cherokee Indian Territory, (an original county.)

Shadburn's first book of his popular series, "Pioneer History of Forsyth County," a 730-page epic, is now in its third printing by Humpus-Bumpus Books in Cumming. Don even contributed to another book which I consider a great resource on early history of the Roswell, Alpharetta, Cumming, Lawrenceville area, "Whites Among the Cherokees: Georgia, 1828-1838," published by Heritage Papers, P.O. Box 7776, Athens, Ga., 30604. Shadburn's address: Don L. Shadburn, P. O. Box 3121, Cumming, Ga., 30028; (770) 887-1626.

It makes me proud when each new business opens at North Point Mall, just as it intrigues me to know, thanks to the Roswell and Alpharetta historical societies, that among the Indians trading with James Dorris, not far away, back in the period 1835-1844, were Cinnolly, Tiaske, Bushyhead, Big Dave, Old Chicken, Siliwake, Tobacco Pack, Sleepyman, and Joseph and Levi Chincheeck.

Good things happen when residents make needs known

It is absurd to believe that the Atlanta Regional Commission can act responsibly, do the right thing and follow through on its less than enthusiastic efforts to clean up Atlanta's air and solve the traffic problems of the region. A commission made up of elected officials and citizen (read- developers) appointees is not and will not bite the hand that feeds their very existence. Community will and desire should drive a prop-

Letters, Faxes & E-mail

residents of the region they should serve.

One Fulton County Commissioner says that traffic projections and increases in residential vehicle miles are driving the road expansion projects the ARC is attempting to grandfather. The truth is developers need the roads bigger to move even more people

400 and 141, the developers do. And that means Barnwell will have to be widened from Old Alabama to Holcomb Bridge to connect this North-South Behemoth of a throughway, now a twinkle in the eye of one commissioner and developers. Wake up, Barnwell residents, look at the map and the

and Rep. Cynthia McKinney voice their concerns regarding the ARC's proposed interim traffic improvement plan, belated as it may be. It is equally comforting to hear Fulton County Planning Commissioner Alan Hamby say that every intersection does not have to be a retail center.

Citizens need to wrestle control of elected officials away from the Moreland Altobellies and Georgia Department of