



EST. 1979

EAST POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER 2011

Utoy Cemetery Achieves Historic Status

Utoy Primitive Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist Church in present Fulton County, was constituted August 15, 1824, in a log house just west of the present church, which is now located at the corner of Venetian Drive (originally Utoy Road) and Cahaba Drive, in Southwest Atlanta. The church was moved to its present location in the summer of 1828.

In 1864, the Utoy church served as a military field hospital for captured Union and wounded Confederate soldiers. The primary surgeon was Dr. Joshua Gilbert who was assisted by Miss Sarah Hendon as a nurse, and other volunteers from the area. Both Dr. Gilbert and Miss Hendon are buried in the Utoy Cemetery with DAR and UDC memorial recognition.

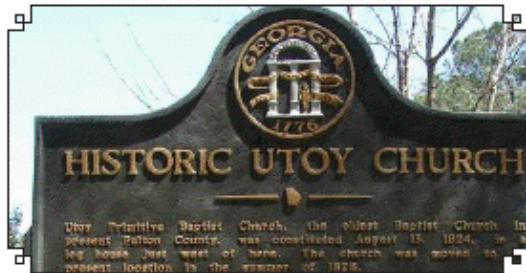
There are 23 unknown Confederate soldiers, from Gen. S.D. Lee's Corps of Bate's Division, buried at the Utoy Cemetery. These were among the 35 Confederate casualties of the Battle of Utoy Creek, who died from wounds treated at the Utoy Church field hospital. One additional known casualty of this conflict and eleven (11) known other Confederate veterans are also buried at Utoy.

The Georgia Historical Commission has placed a marker near the corner of Venetian Dr. and Cahaba Drive in SW Atlanta signifying the importance of the Utoy Church and cemetery. The DAR and the UDC have marked and improved both Revolutionary and Civil War graves.

On June 10th, Utoy Cemetery was included in the Georgia Register of Historic Places and will soon be included in the National Register of Historic Places. This will raise the status of this important early Atlanta landmark, intimately associated with the Civil War Battle of Utoy Creek, to its proper and well-deserved National prominence and recognition.



Photo courtesy of the Utoy Cemetery Association



EPHS Quarterly Membership Meeting

Date:	Sunday, August 28th, 2011
Time:	3:00 p.m.
Place:	United Methodist Church 2792 East Point Street, East Point - across from City Hall
Agenda	Malcom McDuffie, Vice President of the Utoy Cemetery Association will speak regarding the significance of Utoy Cemetery and the effort it took to get Utoy Cemetery on the Georgia Register of Historic Places

President's Note

Well, here we are, poised on the brink of fall again. So much has happened in the past year; i.e., the retirement of Mr. & Mrs. Gunnin, Ora Jean's illness, and the most tragic passing of Steven Bramlett and others.

For a moment or two, we had to step back and catch our breath, and we stumbled a bit, but the EPHS is even stronger with a transfusion of energy and creativity in the acquisition of new board members who are pro-active in so many areas including the expansion and development of the newsletter, EPHS website, Facebook page and general correspondence.

These new folks are definitely bridging the gap created by the absence of the Gunnins and the loss of Steven. And we are so very happy to have Mr. Ken Whitehead on board as our new Curator. He brings a lot to the table at a time when it's needed most. For a historical society, we are definitely focusing a lot on the present and the future.

A metamorphosis is taking place and we are about to bloom once again, and with God's help, the future looks bright. I am proud to have served as president for this august organization for the past three and a half years. My best to you all.

—Walter Griffin,

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East Point Historical Society

Summer 2011 Est. 1979

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2792 East Point Street, East Point - across from City Hall Agenda Malcom McDuffie, Vice President of the

Utoy Cemetery Association will speak regarding the significance of Utoy Cemetery and the effort it took to get Utoy Cemetery on the Georgia Register of Historic Places

A Warm Welcome to Our New Curator

Ken Whitehead is an amateur genealogist and self-styled "history nut". He has a BBA degree in accounting from Kennesaw State College. He is married to East Point native and Russell High graduate, Jean Callahan.

Ken served in the US Navy's Naval Security Group as a Cryptographic Technician in Morocco, North Africa. After the navy he worked for over forty years for Firestone/Bridgestone before retiring as the senior internal auditor for north Georgia.

Jean and Ken have lived in East Point several times over the years, as well as in seven other states and two foreign countries. They have three children, nine grandchildren and one great grandson.



Thanks to East Point Corner Tavern

The East Point Corner Tavern sponsored a *Gone with the Wind* benefit event for the EPHS on June 6, 2011. Andrea Kruse, general manager, set the mood by decorating with magnolia blossoms, moss and candles and putting mint juleps on special.

The event was well attended and after a short introduction by our president, Walter Griffin, the movie started. During the film, many attendees visited the EPHS information table and learned about the facility and contents - some for the first time. A wonderful turn out and a wonderful time.

Thanks to those that attended. Special thanks to Andrea and her hardworking staff — we raised \$151.01 for our organization!

Save the Date: Sunday, November 20th, 2011

We know that everyone looks forward to the Society's November open house. Old friends catch up and we celebrate the rich fabric of East Point's history over a communal meal crafted with care.

This year, we want to celebrate Steven Bramlett's life by dedicating a room in the museum to him. Additionally, we will be curating a special collection to put in a display case that we are purchasing with Steven's memorial fund. Please plan to join us for this very special event by honoring someone who passionately dedicated many years to preserving East Point's past.

If you would like to donate to Steven's memorial fund— which will fund the plaque and the display case or go to the many other improvements that Steven had plans for— please note it on your memo line on your donation check. The address to our P.O. box is provided in the membership form below.

More Ways to Share Our History

The EPHS is enjoying a thriving online presence. We now have over 300 members on Facebook! Our online community shares stories and photos and helps reconnect people.

Please visit our official website at www.eastpoinths.org and follow the link to our Facebook page. See you soon!



EAST POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

The daily operations of the East Point Historical Society depend upon the essential support of our members and volunteers. Your donation helps EPHS purchase and conserve artifacts relating to East Point history, supports quarterly meetings, pays for these newsletters and frankly, keeps our doors open. Members are the only recipients of this newsletter, so renew today to ensure that this newsletter is not your last.

Give a gift that will ensure that future generations will have access to East Point's history.

Thank-you for your support!

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership levels

I/we would like to join the EPHS at the following level:

☐ Individual: \$10.00/year

Corporate:

☐ Individual and spouse: \$12.50/year

☐ Under 10 employees: \$25.00/year

☐ Family: \$15.00/year

☐ 11 employees and over: \$50.00/year

☐ Student: \$5.00/year

Make checks payable and mail to: East Point Historical Society
P.O. Box 90675
East Point, GA 30364-0675

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East Point Historical Society Annual membership

Name(s): _____ **Telephone:** _____

Address:

City/State/Zip:

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable and mail to: East Point Historical Society

P.O. Box 90675 East Point, GA 30364-0675

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East Point resident, Jack Boatright

Jack Robert Boatright
October 6, 1917 - November 13, 1942

Many of East Point's sons and daughters have served their country with honor and distinction, even to the extent of the ultimate sacrifice. Jack Robert Boatright was one of those. He was the first East Point resident to die in World War II.

Jack grew up at 508 Eighth Street in East Point. His parents Robert Chesley Boatright and Mae Evelyn DeMooney raised eight children there. The family belonged to the First Baptist Church of East Point. Jack graduated from Russell High School in May, 1937 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in July, 1937. He served a four year enlistment and was honorably discharged in 1941, remaining in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He then took a job with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad as a switchman.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941 Jack re-entered the Navy on February 1, 1942. He was assigned to the USS Juneau (CL-52), a light cruiser, as Gunners Mate Second Class and Turret Captain. The USS Juneau was on duty in the South Pacific. Shortly after midnight on the morning of November 13, 1942 the USS Juneau and other ships engaged the Japanese in the Battle of Guadalcanal. After hours of fierce fighting the USS Juneau took a direct torpedo hit near its magazine and exploded, sinking almost immediately. Of the 699 Officers and Crew, 685 were lost. 4 had transferred to another ship earlier in the battle and only 10 were picked up at sea after the sinking. Also lost with Jack Boatright and the others on the USS Juneau that day were the Five Sullivan Brothers.

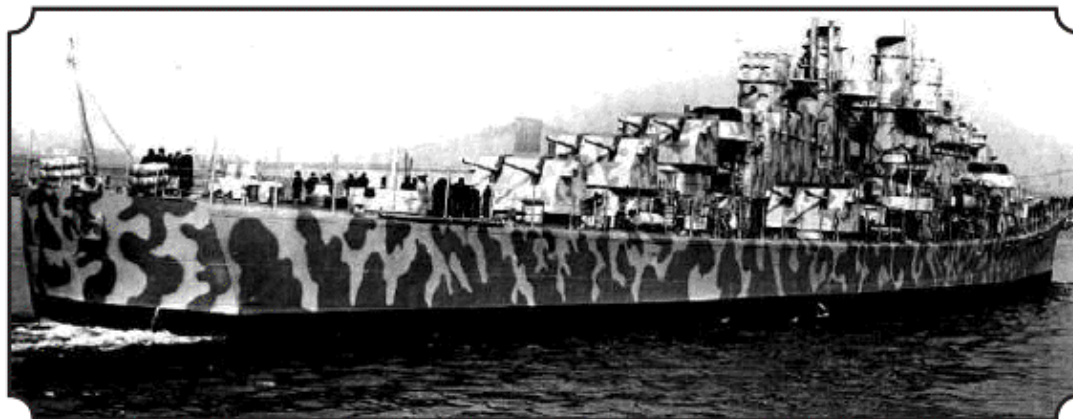
In April, 1947 the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II) chartered a unit in East Point, Georgia. It was named "Boatright-Simpson Post No. 13, East Point, GA". Named after Jack Boatright and Guerald M. Simpson (a U.S. Army casualty of WW II). Although Jack is still at sea, his memorial marker is in the family plot at Hillcrest Cemetery in East Point.

Anchors aweigh, Jack.

— Charles W. Strickland, EPHS Secretary



The Sullivan brothers on board USS Juneau (CL-52) in early 1942



The USS Juneau (CL-52) in February 1942

Jack Robert Boatright October 6, 1917 – November 13, 1942

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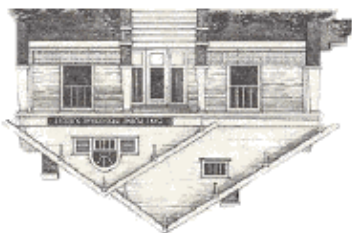
Anchors aweigh, Jack.

The Sullivan (CL-52) brothers in early on board 1942

USS Juneau

– Charles W. Strickland, EPHS Secretary

The USS Juneau (CL-52) in February 1942



**EAST POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM AND RESEARCH FACILITY**

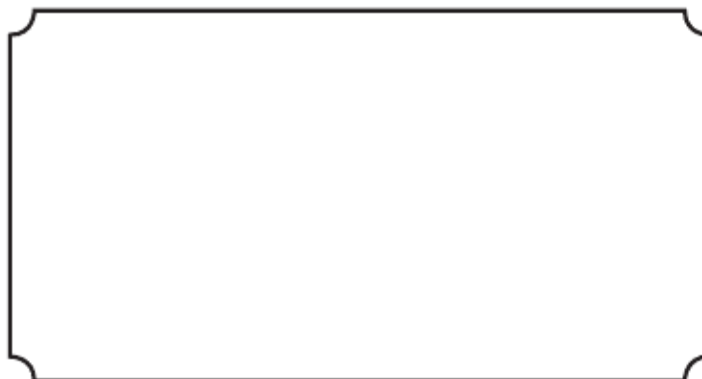
Free admission
Hours of operation:
Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

1685 Norman Berry Drive
East Point, GA 30344
404.767.4656
www.eastpoinths.org

*Bringing the Past to the
Present for the Benefit
of the Future*

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East Point, Georgia 30364-0675



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