

Spring 2021

# The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

*Fulfill*  
**FUTURE**  
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*The Rest*  
**OF THE STORY**  
THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

**LET THERE**  
*be*  
**LIGHT**  
RESTORING GOODRUM'S LIGHTING

WATSON  BROWN  
FOUNDATION





# Contents



4

## Campus Notes

Watson-Brown Scholar Updates

9

## Alumni Spotlight

by Shannon Friedmann Hatch

12

## Goodrum House

by Barbara Hyde

16

## T.R.R. Cobb House

by Samuel N. Thomas

18

## Sticks & Stones

by Frankie L. Smith



## OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

.....R. Byron Attridge  
..... Tad Brown  
..... W. Wyche Fowler, Jr.  
..... Joab M Lesesne, Jr.  
..... John F. Woodham

# CAMPUS NOTES

---



## Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

**Luke Yelton**, Junior, Augusta University: “This was a year of major personal growth for me. During the year, I was able to significantly improve my musical skills. I spent a great amount of time practicing and learning new trumpet repertoire. I competed in the Augusta University Concerto Competition, which required me to memorize a solo piece that is to be accompanied by orchestra. I was selected as one of the winners, and in the fall, I will perform the piece with the AU Orchestra.”

“I also had the opportunity to serve my peers in the Undergraduate Senate this year. I personally secured funding for several student organizations and individual students by preparing and presenting bills before the Senate that allowed organizations to host outreach events and for students to travel and present research at conferences. At the end of this year, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, I ran a digital campaign for Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government Association and won. I am excited to serve in the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.”

“My personal life has also seen a lot happen. I moved out of my family home for the first time and had the opportunity to experience life on my own for a little bit. I fell in love with a girl who was my very best friend. We spent a lot of time together, but unfortunately, she broke up with me during the pandemic. However, it has given me the





best opportunity to understand who I am and to make a lot of self-improvement for myself. Through all of the loss of love and social distancing due to COVID-19, I have had so much time to work on my faith. I've grown closer with the One who is with me through it all, God. I am excited for the upcoming school year so that I can once again share my faith in Christ. I am so thankful to the foundation for providing the funding so that I can attend college and experience everything that I have gone through."



**Dontaevius Watts**, Senior, Clemson University: "This past year has been quite amazing! I was fortunate enough to travel to Thessaloniki, Greece this past summer to shadow surgeons of different specialties! It was my first time traveling outside the US and it was really an eye opener to see different cultures! This was such a cool experience and great medical school application boost, as well. I can't wait to travel some more!"

**Kaiwen Wang**, Sophomore, Georgia Institute of Technology: "Riding back from campus in mid-March, I think all of us in the car were in a daze. Nobody so much spoke a word, as I think it surprised all of us that the semester had ended so early for everyone. There was a certain atmosphere of uncertainty and change hanging in the air, one that everyone feels but nobody can explain why. It seemed strange that college was 25% over, and as I tallied more details up, it seemed that the first year was one of



contradictions. I met so many people, yet who would I see again? Freshman year is supposedly the most fun year of college, but it felt like Freshman year of high school again. Though I had learned so much, college only showed me how much farther I had to go."

"There were successes in the year as well. I found an on-campus job which provided me with the agency to book my own trip to China this winter to visit relatives I had not seen in a long time. I learned about hair salons that exist just for Asian people in Duluth, and it improved my style threefold. I'm writing this update from Ohio, where I'm interning this summer doing relevant engineering work. I'm also going to France and Germany in the next two semesters, one as a study abroad, and the other as a fellowship I successfully applied for this year. I'm hoping that this time abroad scratches my itch to travel so that

maybe I'll be able to settle down and start building a deeper community with the people around me on campus. The future is bright, but I have much to do in order to get there."

**Iqra Mohsin**, Junior, University of Georgia: "As a sophomore this year at the University of Georgia, I had the amazing opportunity of serving as the Vice President of an International Student Life organization called Pakistani Student Association (PSA). The purpose of PSA is to promote and celebrate the rich and vibrant culture of Pakistan through educational and cultural events. Being a Pakistani myself, I took great pride in serving my community at UGA. The best part of being on the Executive Board for me was after one of our successful events, when several members came up to me and praised the board for all of our efforts and hard-work. Moments like that make all of the hard-work so worth it! Because PSA is a part of International Student Life, I also had the opportunity to meet with the officers of various cultural organizations, have conversations about different world views, and gain perspective about the lives of people around the world and their cultures."

"Additionally, I became involved in research this semester, which allowed me to learn more about Polymerase Chain Reactions and CHIP Assays. Sophomore year was definitely one for the books. It consisted of many all-nighters at MLC studying for Organic Chemistry, late night Taco Bell runs, Sunday afternoons spent in the botanical gardens, and fun weekends in Atlanta riding the SkyView Ferris wheel."







ABIGAIL SMITH

**Abigail Smith**, Junior, Furman University: “This has been an exciting year for me! In the Fall, I studied abroad in Jerusalem, Israel. Throughout the trip I got to see amazing archaeological and historical sites, eat amazing food, and learn and interact with the Middle Eastern cultures. I visited mosques in Istanbul, Turkey, celebrated Sukkot at the Western Wall, and even attended several Syriac, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Apostolic Liturgies. I had so many spectacular experiences it is difficult to describe.”

“One of the best was riding out into the Sea of Galilee in a little rusty boat as storm clouds gathered overhead, while reading Matthew 8. Another was the dawn service at the St. James Cathedral in the Armenian quarter in Jerusalem. I got my whole class to get up at 5:30 am for the early service, and we were able to watch as the light slowly filled the magnificent centuries-old chapel, reflecting off the gold and tiles while the Armenian choir sang unintelligible, yet beautiful praises. Yet another was a day in Jordan, when we stumbled upon a large Muslim family enjoying a picnic at the archaeological site we were visiting. With the very spirit of hospitality, they invited our entire group to join them in their brunch, sharing pita and laughs with the American strangers. I was deeply touched by such a display of kindness and generosity.”

“This semester, I was back at Furman, where I began a paid internship with the Love and Fidelity Network based out of Princeton. I am working with them, both during the Spring part-time and during the Summer full-time, to develop an online course curriculum centered on the ideas of marriage, love, and dating, called Be Somebody to Somebody. This course will hopefully be used to help



BRADLEIGH MILLS

students across the country learn about traditional values and how to defend them and live them out today. I also declared my major this semester; I am now proudly a religion major. I have yet to figure out where that will take me, but I am considering working for my PhD so I can continue to learn, research, and talk about the books and ideas that excite me.”

**Bradleigh Mills**, Junior, Wofford College: “I am currently a Biology and Spanish double major along the Pre-medicine track with the plan to attend medical school upon graduation. Over the course of the year, I have worked as a manager for the Wofford Women’s Basketball team. I have been in different organizations such as the Wofford College Gateway Scholar’s Program. This year I served on the Gateway Scholar’s Council with the responsibility of planning and organizing events for other students participating in the program.”

“Through the Gateway Scholar’s Program, I have had the opportunity to mentor a high school student through a program called iCAN Spartanburg. The mentorship program is designed to assist students in the process of applying and preparing for college. I am also a member of Wofford Women of Color and the Black Student Alliance on my campus. Through these organizations, I have been able to participate in activities that raise awareness and representation for minority students. During the first semester, I volunteered at a local elementary school in a predominantly LatinX community surrounding my college. I specifically worked with students who experienced learning challenges or language barriers.”





LILLIAN ACREE

**Lillian Acree**, Senior, Augusta University: "This past year has definitely been an interesting one. My school year started normally; I was excited for junior year after the rigorous course load of my previous year. The only "killer" class I was warned about was Advanced Cell Biology, so I went into that class kind of hesitant and expecting the worst. In reality, even though the class was a lot of work, I greatly enjoyed the content and the teaching style. A lot of my time was spent studying in Allgood Hall on campus with a good network of friends and classmates, and in my free time, I occasionally hosted movie nights at my house for these same peers. I took the MCAT at the end of the summer, and I got my score back in September, so that was a pretty exciting milestone. Additionally, I went to Garba and another social event organized by the Indian Cultural Exchange of Augusta University."

"Spring, however, was definitely not a stereotypical semester. I was fortunate that some of my classes were already online before the coronavirus pandemic caused most schools to transition to online learning. My science courses were the hardest to transition, especially anatomy lab. Granted, given the situation, I do think that it was as good as circumstances allowed. One of my favorite classes from this past semester would have been my photography class.

Many of my friends do photography as a hobby, but I never really took photos on a camera before this class. It pushed me to grow creatively and pushed me outside of my comfort zone. I'm thankful for the skills that it taught me."

**Madison Brawley**, Sophomore, University of South Carolina Columbia: "While I am certain that no freshman in college has had an ordinary spring semester, I am proud to say that my freshman year has been an altogether unique experience. I have been incredibly lucky and had tons of opportunities to get involved on campus."

"I did mock trial for seven years prior to college. I'd have been remiss if I had chosen not to continue that experience into higher education. I've had the great honor of being a varsity and an A team competitor on the University of South Carolina's mock trial team. I've received three attorney awards thus far, including an award at Yale and another at the regional level. I am also interviewing to be a team captain for the 2020-21 academic year. I am beyond excited."

"While the transition to college life was a little rough, I was encouraged so much by my resident mentor. So much so that I interviewed to become an RM on campus. I had the great fortune of receiving the position. I will be a resident mentor at

Capstone for the next year."

"In essence, I have had many opportunities to further my career and to line myself up to make great connections, to establish myself as a hard worker, and to hopefully make some new friends along the way. It has been nothing if not challenging, learning to be an adult by being abruptly thrust into a brand-new lifestyle. I am so happy that I can say I have gotten the hang of it."



MADISON BRAWLEY



JOSHUA SMITH



**Joshua Smith**, Sophomore, Georgia Institute of Technology: “My first year at Georgia Tech was so interesting, especially with everything going on in the world now. I decided to continue my marching band love into college as I joined the Yellow Jacket Drumline this past fall on bass drum. Marching band was such a time-consuming activity that I had to use all of my extra time wisely, allocating it between studying, relaxing, and sleeping. Luckily, I made majority of my friends through this activity. Along with marching

band I also joined the Georgia Tech Society of Black Engineers. This has been the second opportunity to meet new people.”

“Academically I finished the school year with a 3.82 GPA and Dean’s List for the Fall and Spring Semesters. I am currently taking two summer classes online, Integral Calculus and Micro-Economics, to catch up on classes that didn’t transfer over from high school. This upcoming year I plan on continuing my marching band experience, become more active in organizations, join a fraternity, and hopefully land an internship by the end of this school year Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to receive this scholarship and thank you for contributing to my future!”

**Imani Bowen**, Sophomore, Spelman College: “My freshman year of college was everything that I could’ve imagined and more! I stepped out of my comfort zone and tried new things such as joining a mentoring program and participating in a pageant on campus! My greatest accomplishment would have to be maintaining my GPA while still balancing an enjoyable social and spiritual life. I have grown closer to God and learned more about myself throughout my freshman year and, without the Watson-Brown Family Foundation Scholarship, I may not have had this blessing! With all the good that came with college, the one thing that surprised me the most was the wide range of personalities that I have encountered! There are so many talented and goal-driven individuals. It’s inspiring to see so many others like me working hard toward their goals. I plan to start my own clothing business over the summer, while work a summer job, and take summer classes to get ahead! I am excited to grow into a well-rounded young lady as my college experience continues, and I am forever grateful for this blessing of the scholarship!”

IMANI BOWEN





# JOHNA WRIGHT



## Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT ODOM



**T**he thing about tenacity is that when it shows up, it's usually not one and done. Once you climb a mountain, the next is not only slightly less intimidating but you also know the high that awaits you at the summit. Accomplishment is exhilarating, but many achievers are driven to do the hard things simply because they know deep down they can--and they also know the hard things must be done.

*"I'm a go-getter," said Johna Wright. "I like to make change and see change in effect, see it all come to fruition."*

Johna's pursuits have taken her from Capitol Hill to (in the very

near future) Finland on a Fulbright Scholarship. She's run small-business-development workshops in Cape Town, South Africa, as a service-scholar in college, and founded ABLE Mercer, a peer-mentoring program for incoming college students with disabilities at Mercer while juggling earning her degree in psychology. Her free time is usually filled with volunteering for organizations like American Red Cross or United Way ... and if she really wants to relax, she studies the flight routes of airlines. Johna says this fascination is due to the fact that she's an "aviation geek," but with her aptitude for success, it's possible that she relates on some level to how high planes fly.

All of her achievements are remarkable, but they appear even more so because Johna is blind.





## Trials and Triumphs

Johna grew up in Thomson, Georgia. The resources for visually impaired students in the rural community were next to nonexistent. “No one had any idea how to work with me,” she remembered. Even though the teachers were caring, “It was trial and error, and I wasn’t given the proper tools. I was never even taught Braille.”

Still, she excelled. In high school she joined clubs and started volunteering and mentoring. Scholastically, she shone. When it came time to choose a college, Johna toured and was accepted to several universities like Florida State and Duke but ended up visiting and choosing Mercer for its small-town vibe, dedicated academic attention, and relatable students. Reflecting on her college experience, Johna said, “I was really fortunate and truly cared for.”

Despite her many positive experiences, there were challenges and frustrations that she had to navigate due to her disability and lack of established support systems. “There were so few transitional services and it was super overwhelming,” Johna said. “But I reminded myself that I was put here for a reason and I needed to help.”

Enter ABLE Mercer. Her idea: Students with disabilities should be offered individualized accommodations, success plans, and mentors. Plus, professors should receive training on how to serve this population. It seems simple, and yet Johna’s research revealed that no other university in the U.S. had a similar program in place. “The system [prior to ABLE Mercer] was difficult and convoluted,” Johna said. “My goal was to make it easier and more accessible. It was a big success.”

It didn’t come without a ton of hard work: a “killer” proposal for grants, printing training and marketing materials, baking cookies to lure students to her information table at on-campus fairs, preparing and analyzing pre- and post-survey data, and then implementing best practices. “It was difficult, I’m not going to lie, but I saw changes on campus and it feels so good. That’s my motivation and driving force.”

## (Ful)bright Future

The Fulbright Scholarship was founded in 1946. The world, still reeling from war, looked toward intercultural understanding and education to prevent history from repeating itself yet again. Recipients are granted a year of study in a foreign country. It’s notoriously competitive ... and prestigious. “When I got the email, I cried,” Johna recalled.

Due to COVID travel restrictions, she started her graduate studies in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare through Tampere University in Finland online, but she will relocate as soon as she can. Explaining her studies, Johna said, “Different social systems affect policies. I’m interested in figuring out which ones produce the least inequalities.”

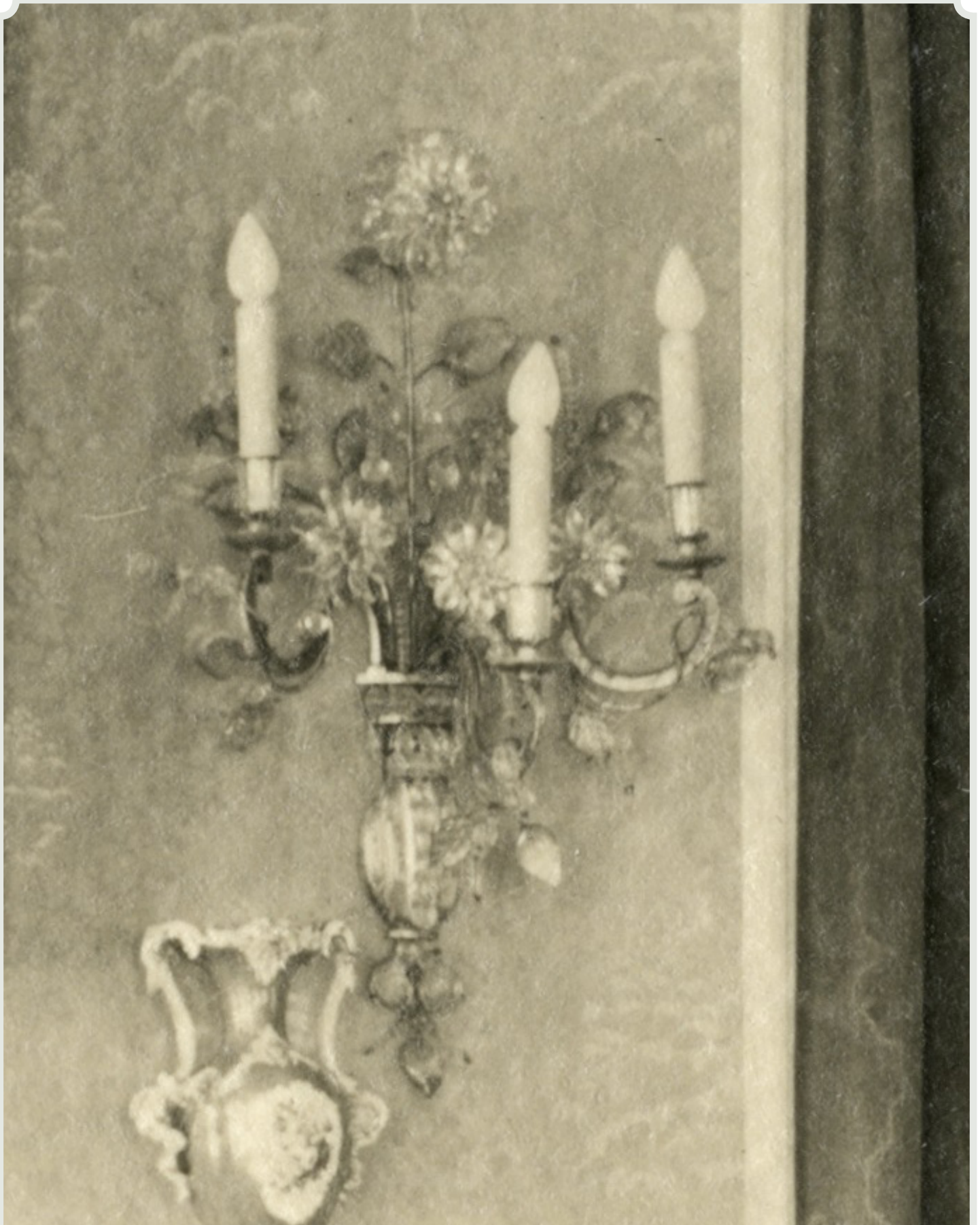
Once she gets the greenlight to go abroad, her trusted travel companions, her grandma and dog, Jango, will be in tow. “We are a family of three,” she said. One can imagine that until that day arrives, Johna will be studying the flight path from Atlanta to Helsinki. The saying goes that the sky’s the limit, although in her case, it’s just the











Caption goes here





# LET THERE BE LIGHT



## Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE

**H**istoric lighting, oddly enough, does not get enough play time. In fact, the only symposium lecture that addressed this topic was at the 2019 Williamsburg Art Forum. The discussion centered around how much light is historically accurate, which was a subject I had never considered. Museum world lighting is dictated by how much light is safe for both the conservation of the object and the visitor to navigate the exhibition spaces. Historic accuracy rarely plays into the equation. A cursory glance around the baseboards of Goodrum House would indicate that the 1930s was a dimly lit time period. The original lighting in the utilitarian spaces of the kitchen and bathrooms had been stripped long ago with the 1984 Decorator Showcase event, and May Goodrum had taken the majority of her lighting fixtures with her to her home on Sea Island, except for the crystal and silver dining room chandelier and two of the entry hall sconces. A few of the original table lamps saved by family members have returned

to Goodrum House, but the library wall sconces had long since disappeared, requiring lengthy auction and antique dealer searches.

We began with two 1931 black-and-white photographs of the library sconces and the knowledge that May Goodrum and her interior decorator, Edith Hills, loved expensive lighting fixtures. One pair of sconces was found at a local antiques shop in Atlanta and another closely matching pair was found in a shop in Charleston, South Carolina. When we received all four sconces, we determined the lighting was probably manufactured between 1890 to 1930. One set of sconces has the maker's mark of E.F. Caldwell & Co., a luxury lighting manufacturer based in New York between 1895 to 1959. We can trace the original two sconces in the entry hall to an E.F. Caldwell & Co. catalogue, so it was possible the original library sconces were also by the same manufacturer.

Steve Tillander of Restoration Craftsmen began the process of cleaning and repairing the lights. The metal had badly corroded





Caption goes here



Caption goes here



Caption goes here



over the years under the patina of dust and grime. After careful examination of all the sconces, the lengthy process of numbering all the crystals and beads, photographing the sconces throughout each step of the process, and deciding on a conservation plan, Steve began to remove the crystals and beads. Some beads crumbled from age and corrosion, but most of them will be returned to their original placement after a cleaning bath in MCI-51, followed by a thorough scrubbing with tiny brushes and Q-tips, and two baths in distilled water. Madison Casey, our Goodrum House intern, started on the first box of almost 200 crystals with three more boxes awaiting cleaning. While Madison is completing this process, Steve is cleaning the dirt, rust, and corrosion from the metal bases, and replacing missing pieces. Once he has completed the cleaning, we

will decide on an appropriate coating to both conserve the metal and give the sconces their age-appropriate patina.

It is tempting to speculate on the provenance of the pair of sconces found in Atlanta. They are an exact match for the ones in the photos. The antique dealer purchased them from the Buckhead estate sale of Edith Hill's granddaughter, Gala Dalton. Perhaps when May returned to live in Atlanta in the late 1960s, she called on her old cohort and friend Edith to help her furnish her apartment with the treasures they found together over the past 30 years. As she gifted a number of her decorative objets d'art and furniture to close family and friends, it's not hard to imagine her saying to Edith, "We only have room for two sconces! Why don't you take the other two home with you?"



Caption goes here



Caption goes here



Caption goes here



Caption goes here





T.R.R. COBB HOUSE



# THE REST OF THE STORY



## T.R.R. Cobb House

BY SAMUEL N. THOMAS

They say that information is knowledge. Well, in order to get information, you have to do research, and research is the foundation for any good historian.

Back in the 1970s, ABC News Radio featured news anchor, Paul Harvey, with a daily program called “The Rest of the Story.” Harvey always started his hour-long segment with a commonly known story, generally from history, that his audience was at least somewhat familiar with. Into the story he wove a few little-known tidbits that his viewers probably did not know of. He used the story as an enticing lead-in to the news and commentaries of the day. Near the end of his segment, he returned to the story he began the program with where he’d unload facts not readily known to both surprise and dumbfound his audience. In the process he might take an individual from history that folks thought of in a very negative way and by adding a few facts born of deeper research revealed that the figure was indeed a good person, but had simply gotten a bum rap for whatever reason. After showing further research into the figure in question, Harvey then ended the program with his catch phrase, “And now you know the rest of the story.”

Harvey and his catch phrase has stuck with me over my many years of researching history. Back in 2001, when I was researching for my book on General Nathan G. Evans, with Jason Silverman, I came across the general’s letters still with the family. The letters had never

been seen outside of the family relations. At the time, General Evans was thought of as a vain, arrogant alcoholic who never got along with any of his superiors and that is how history had remembered him. His letters, however, showed a completely different person than what was commonly known. Indeed, within his correspondence, he shows that he was a devoted family man who was deeply interested in the well-being of his wife, children, and extended family, as well as a fighting general who fretted over the welfare of his troops and had their respect and affection in return.

What Harvey did with his news segments was to say to his audience “don’t be too quick to judge.” What might be commonly accepted, might not be the whole story.

Sam Wineburg, in his 2001 work *Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts*, writes that, “By tying our own stories to those who have come before us, the past becomes a useful resource in our everyday life, an endless storehouse of raw materials to be shaped or bent to meet our present needs.”

History is one of the most difficult of disciplines to undertake because we don’t see what it is that we’re actually studying. We see bits and pieces, traces, of what has been left behind, much in the same way that a detective examines clues at a crime scene. For a historian, these clues are primary sources: papers, photographs, or artifacts. All pieced



together to complete the puzzle, a historical puzzle.

The process of gathering these clues is referred to as “doing history.” It’s a process that enables you to make better decisions in piecing together a puzzle, especially if the puzzle is based on actual experience.

When you were growing up and you did something that wasn’t acceptable to your parents or your teacher, you were corrected in the hopes that you wouldn’t do it again. You study history to learn from the past. Cicero, the great Roman statesman and scholar wrote, “To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of a human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

History teachers consistently wrestle with how to distill the knowledge they are required to deliver to their charges and how to discuss and present it in a factual and meaningful way. So, teachers are constantly asking themselves, “Whose stories best present the concept or idea? Whose stories will best capture the interests of students? Whose stories need to be told? How are those stories ever changing?”

Historians very seldom know all the facts. If you did not live through the event, you do not have all the facts. If you were not the individual in question, you do not have all of the facts. This is what makes the study, research, and examination of history’s resources to be a curious and fascinating exercise as we try to piece together our puzzle or tell our story.

This is what we, at the T.R.R. Cobb House, try to do with all of our visitors, primarily students. Too often students are taught through their textbooks to label a person, action, or event in history instead of asking the students to understand the subject. Students should be given the tools to see beyond their own experience; to expand upon what they take in from their textbooks and extend it out to see the richer human experience. This broadens the creative process in which the student, no matter the age, can see the richer human experience.

Our “memories” of how things were in years past can be comforting,



Caption goes here

and attempts at altering a narrative that has been alive for so long often makes others uncomfortable. Most people don’t like a controversial or negative story. What is controversial to us today, may not have been so within an earlier time. Whether controversial or not, however, we should be willing to tread down that treacherous path between the differing views. We must be willing to take on the ethics and responsibility of preserving the past, of telling the whole story.

We can both criticize those of the past for their flaws while also commemorating their strengths. At the T.R.R. Cobb House, we continually participate in doing history as if it were a process of discovery. We are the detectives investigating past events and individuals in the era of Thomas R.R. Cobb. But like with any great crime investigation, we build upon the facts we have readily at hand by continually trying to uncover additional bits of information.

In this search we are not alone. Over the years we have utilized the services of professionals from differing fields of history, archaeology, geography, and even law. We also rely on other professional researchers, through contracting, paid and unpaid internships with undergraduates and graduates students from numerous colleges and universities. The information we gather over time is converted into deeper understandings of the mid-nineteenth century. This additional information contributes to an ever-changing interpretation of the period and of the people involved, as well as the ever increasing world around them.

And now you know the rest of the story!



Caption goes here



Caption goes here





# THE MOTHER OF INVENTION



## Sticks & Stones

BY FRANKIE L. SMITH

Each summer Hickory Hill hosts a series of summer camps for upper elementary, middle, and high school students. The camps' themes vary, and our most recent addition to the lineup is Incredible Inventions, in which campers learn about the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century inventions that would have drastically changed the Watsons' lives.

Watson was fortunate enough to own two automobiles during his lifetime, a Chalmers and an Apperson Jackrabbit, but owning an automobile was a bit more of a gamble during his lifetime than it is today. Early automobiles were not terribly reliable, and one of Watson's cars caught on fire, while on another occasion, a trip to Fort Lauderdale turned into a comedy of errors as they repeatedly got lost and stuck in the mud on unpaved Georgia backroads. In a nod to Watson's sometimes fraught relationship with his vehicles, we have decided to highlight the many inventions that have made automobiles safer and more reliable over the years, the first of which is the humble windshield wiper.

If you have ever driven through a heavy summer thunderstorm, you owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Mary Anderson. It was, after all, Miss Anderson, who on a sightseeing trip to New York City in 1903, was so frustrated by the sleet blocking the view and progress of her trolley car, that she decided to do something about it. She subsequently invented and patented the first working "window cleaner," now commonly referred to as a windshield wiper. (It is important to note that others had the same idea but were less mechanically successful than Miss Anderson.)

Miss Anderson's design consisted of a spring-loaded arm with a rubber blade. The control for the "cleaner" was located inside the car, next to the steering wheel, and when the trolley operator engaged it, the arm would swipe debris from the window before sliding back into place. The whole mechanism was designed to be removed in the summer, as winter weather was Miss Anderson's main concern. Prior to the adoption of the window cleaner, it was quite common for trolley-car operators to periodically stop to remove ice, sleet, and snow from the windows or to leave the windows open, despite the temperature, so that their view was not obstructed.

While we do not know a great deal about Miss Anderson's personal life or personality, it is easy to imagine that a woman born in the Deep South would find such conditions intolerable. What we do know about her indicates that she was no wallflower. Not only did she invent the windshield wiper, but she owned a cattle ranch and a vineyard in California and built and managed an apartment complex in Birmingham, Alabama.

Unfortunately for Miss Anderson, many believed her invention would prove too distracting to drivers and cause greater harm than good. She attempted to market the patent, but the firm she contacted was not interested. Eventually she let the patent lapse, and, despite inventing such an important safety feature for vehicles, never made any money off of the venture. Windshield wipers similar to her design were quite common in automobiles by 1913.









310 TOM WATSON WAY | THOMSON, GA 30824-0037

[watson-brown.org](http://watson-brown.org)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
#61  
THOMSON, GA



## OUR FOUNDER

Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.