

DEKALB HISTORY CENTER OPENS BENJAMIN SWANTON HOUSE FOR TOUR AND LECTURE

On March 29 at 2 p.m. the DeKalb History Center will host a living history tour of the Benjamin Swanton House (720 West Trinity Place, Decatur) followed by a lecture given by local historian Dr. George Coletti. The program, which is sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council, is free and open to the public. Please RSVP at 404-373-1088 ext 20 or by email at goldemund@dekalbhistory.org.

The 2 p.m. tour includes a visit to the cabin of Zenith Twilley, a free African-American woman who lived in DeKalb county in the 1850s and 1860s. Learn about her life and daily struggles working as a weaver, seamstress and washer-woman. Also meet Benjamin Swanton, who welcomes you into the oldest home in DeKalb County (circa 1825) where you learn about the early industries in the area and why people settled here.  Owners of a tannery, brickyard, blacksmith shop, and grist mill, the Swantons were entrepreneurs whose daily lives were full of activity. Also meet Mary Gay, who worked tirelessly during the Civil War to support Southern troops. Her diary, “Life in Dixie During the War” is a vivid account of the war years and Battle of Atlanta.

At 3 p.m., George Coletti, local historian and author of Stone Mountain: the Granite Sentinel, will talk about DeKalb county during the Civil War. He will address how the Battle of Atlanta began in DeKalb County in 1864, who the main people involved were and how the citizens of the county coped with the war in general and then the war in their county.

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