



# *Watters District Council (WDC)*

*for*

*Historical Preservation, Inc.*

P O Box 107

Shannon GA. 30172

[www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org](http://www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org)

*"Without the Heritage of the Past, There's no Foundation for the Future"*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,

You are getting this mailout because you are an alumnus (former student) of Model School. As you probably know, Model was established in 1901 by the State of Georgia as "a model" for other state-funded schools to follow. As the school was never given a proper name, it simply became Model School. Today, our beloved school still plays the roll of a model for Georgia schools. Just look at that latest high school building! Over the last 118 years Model School, its teachers and students... and its alumni have played a major role in the development of this community's rich heritage. And for this reason, WDC wants you to be a member and participant in the organization's preservation and display of this community's history and heritage.

WDC is a non-profit, locally owned and operated corporation... home folks you might say. We've been preserving and recording local history since 1996. Floyd County's Watters District is a treasure trove of available, but yet-to-be-chronicled, historical data.

Of historical significance in the area is: the place where the Cherokee Indians held their last Council meeting before leaving out on the "Trail of Tears"... the first discovery of bauxite (aluminum ore) in America, which gave rise to the company, ALCOA ... construction of one of the world's tallest waterwheels, later moved to Berry Schools (Top L H Corner) and... Our Nation's first and oldest WWII monument... and one of Georgia's first, state supported, high schools... "Model".

The WDC normally has quarterly meetings with very interesting guest speakers. It also sponsors the annual Shannon Memorial Day ceremony, one of the best attended and most meaningful in NW Georgia. The WDC does not collect dues from its members. One becomes a member by simply making a donation... of any amount. And right now, we are soliciting both members and their donations.... not without a specific purpose, however. Erection of the Brighton Family marker has cost \$1,084.00, The WDC wall display will cost between \$2,600 and \$3,000.00. The flag lighting project will be around \$1,000.00 plus about \$400.00 per year for electricity. And, the digitizing of old pictures and documents, along with web site expenses, will be an ongoing cost of about \$1,000.00 per year. More can be learned about these projects on the picture insert, herein.

Up until this time the WDC has been able to operate on regular free-will contributions. However, we've not had any capital outlay projects until now. These onetime improvements will become a permanent enhancement to the community, its history and its heritage. Once these projects are finished, you'll only need to step into the Shannon Community center or go over to Memorial Circle to see where the money has been spent.

Please visit our web site at [www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org](http://www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org) where you will find out about the Watters District area, its heritage and its people. Come join and be a part of WDC and share in the satisfaction of helping leave a well-documented historical heritage for those who follow.

Sincerely,

*Jack Dickey*

Jack Dickey, Pres.

## **Before Berry**

This massive waterwheel was built and operated at Hermitage in the early 1900's.

### **- OFFICERS -**

**Pres. Jack Dickey**

**V. Pres. Max McAdams**

**Sec. Jennifer Kearns**

**Treas. Donna Benson**

### **TRUSTEES**

**Pat Bailey**

**Donna Benson**

**Wayne Benson**

**Barbara Davis**

**Johnny Davis**

**Jack Dickey**

**Sylvia Johnston**

**Bunky Jones**

**Jennifer Kearns**

**Max McAdams**

**Elaine Robbins**

**Larry Robbins**

**John Rush**

**Leon Shiver**

**Jeanette Treadaway**

**Jerome Webb**

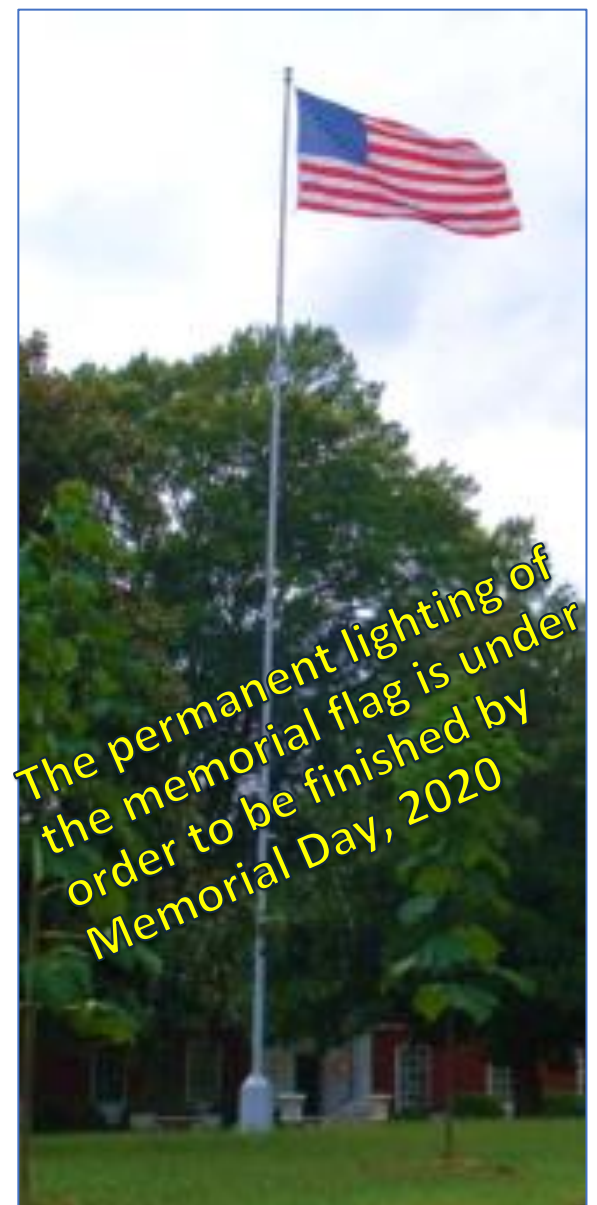


Marker now finished and  
in place as of Nov. 2019

BRIGHTON FAMILY MARKER

From the beginning of Brighton Mills, through the War Years and into the 50's the Mill's employees, their families and Model School's teachers, staff and students were all part of Mr. Morrison's "Brighton Family". The WWII monument refers to its 12 members of the "Brighton Family" who gave their lives. The marker above will be placed at the flagpole site to acknowledge both Mr. Morrison and the Brighton Heroes. For more information go to [www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org](http://www.wattersdistrictcouncil.org) and click on: "See picture of Brighton Marker and information". This project will cost \$1,084.00.

The permanent lighting of  
the memorial flag is under  
order to be finished by  
Memorial Day, 2020



MEMORIAL CIRCLE HISTORIC FLAGPOLE

This 76' flagpole was erected at Brighton Mills in the 1920's. It is considered to mark "dead center" of Shannon Georgia. But what makes this flagpole historical is that in 1946 the Nation's first monument in memory of WWII American deaths was erected beneath this flagpole. The pole was taken down and reworked in 2018, and should now be good for another hundred years.



EXISTING 4' x 8' WALL PANELS AT ENTRANCE TO SCOUT CABIN

This impressive display of 16 lineal feet of wall panels is an example of the panels to be put on the walls of the rest of the Shannon complex. Plans call for a total of 120 feet to be installed at a cost of \$25.00/ft...or a total of \$3,000.00. There will be 17 panels ranging from 4 to 19 feet in width. Sponsorships of individual panels will be offered at cost (\$25.00/ft.) on a first come basis. This project may take a couple of years to complete, but when finished should be one of the most comprehensive and informative history displays in the area... something of which to be proud.

An American flag flying over a war monument normally stays up around the clock. To do this the flag should be lighted during the dark hours. Ours is not. But it will be... once the good patriotic folks of our community step up and supply the money to install the lights and pay for the power required.



**WATTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL *for* HISTORICAL PRESERVATION, Inc.**

*"Without the Heritage of the Past, There's no Foundation for the Future"*

### Membership and Capital Project Drive

The WDC operates entirely off donations. It does not require set dues from its Members. The Organization's membership and officers consist of individuals who make a monetary or in-kind donation (of any amount) each year. So, all one needs to do to become a member is make a donation to: **"Watters District Council"**. **Mail to: P. O. Box 107, Shannon, GA 30172 (addressed envelope enclosed)**

WDC has its Annual Meeting in January. Quarterly Meetings are held at the Shannon Scout Cabin where usually the featured speaker will make a very fitting and interesting presentation on the history and/or people of the Area. We also sponsor the annual Shannon Memorial Day Event, one of the best attended and most patriotic in North Georgia. This all takes place under WDC's normal membership donations scheme. However, when we have these long-term capital projects, as we do now, we must go to "special donations" to acquire adequate funding.

For now, our "Special Projects" are those shown on the other side of this sheet... Brighton Marker, Historic Flagpole and Wall Panels. The Wall Panel Project gives you an opportunity to participate in the "WDC Special Givers" option, and have your name placed on the Special Givers Plaque at the Shannon community center as a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Donor. The following schedule will apply:

WALL PANEL PROJECT 'Special Givers Plaque'	
Platinum	\$200.00 Minimum
Gold	\$100.00 Minimum
Silver	\$75.00 Minimum
Bronze	\$50.00 Minimum
See wall panel section on reverse side for complete details.	

Any-and-all contributions will be greatly appreciated, with 'Project' donations going into long-life outlays that will be seen and appreciated for many years to come.

**WDC**