The Douglas County Community has deep roots and a vital, vibrant past. Century by century, generation by generation, Douglas County’s history expresses the ambitions and accomplishments of remarkable people. From Native Americans to early settlers, from farmers who plowed “red clay” soil to developers who built on that soil, Douglas County is full of stories and full of characters. The Douglas County Museum of History and Art makes those people and their stories come alive, presenting and protecting a unique heritage in a warm, welcoming museum that invites guests of all ages to enjoy, celebrate and learn. Our fascinating collections are offered in a way that does just that while archiving and protecting them for the next generation. Not all places have such a rich legacy. Not all places have such a great opportunity to bring the past into the present, and in that way improve a community’s future.

SOS—“save old stuff”
The Museum is still collecting artifacts of history. If you have items you would like to donate to the Museum, call 678-449-3939.

In addition to visiting the Douglas County Museum of History and Art, the Tourism and History Commission encourages you to gather your family’s history by creating an oral history. You can find a template for gathering oral history on our web site.

The Douglas County Museum of History and Art, 678-449-3939
www.DouglasCountyMuseum.com
Open: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm and Saturday, 10am-3pm
Free Admission—Donations appreciated
Reservations for large groups required

Some 15 years ago, a few civic minded citizens were able to save the Old Courthouse (completed in 1958) from demolition in preparation for creating a Douglas County History Museum. This structure is a perfect example of the rapidly disappearing International style of architecture.

While the Museum has had many visitors over the past few years, it is now ready to welcome previous visitors back and have new visitors enjoy the newly revamped Museum which offers over 200 collections including a number of mid-twentieth century rotating exhibits.

There is also a Visitor Information Center to help visitors discover other experiences in Douglas County.

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**Vansant Desk**
On January 9, 1871, Young Vansant, originally from South Carolina, an early settler and land owner in the area, signed a deed on this desk. The deed gave 40 acres to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners to be used for the County site.

![Vansant Desk Image]

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**Springer Exhibit - Early Farming**
Simon Springer moved to Douglasville in the 1940’s, wanting a better education for his 11 children. Mr. Springer sharecropped and drove a coal truck part-time to make a living. Later, he was able to purchase almost 30 acres along Doris Road where he farmed for years until 1996, when, concerned with increasing traffic, he sold his farm to Douglas County to be used for future expansion of the new Douglas County Courthouse.

![Springer Exhibit Image]

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**Lithia Springs Exhibit**
Lithia Springs, located in the eastern part of the County, was and is known for its lithium water, which was believed beneficial to the human body. The water was bottled and sold across the United States for many years and in the late 1800’s, a luxury hotel was built near the lithium water site. Many wealthy guests, including the presidents and authors visited to enjoy the benefits of the lithium water. Tragically, the hotel burned in 1912. Recently, the Museum was given four pediments believed to have been saved from the adjacent property and now offers numbered reproductions for sale.

![Lithia Springs Exhibit Image]

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**Tribute to our Military Exhibit**
Uniforms, flags, hats, currency, photos and papers make up this exhibit which strives to honor and give thanks to all who have served and who are currently serving to protect our freedom.

![Tribute to our Military Exhibit Image]

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**First Douglas County Resident to Attend West Point**
Doyle Merritt, second son of former Douglasville Mayor, Astor Merritt and Rose Merritt, was the first Douglas County resident to attend West Point Military Academy. He made the Army his career and retired in 1972 with the Rank of Lt Col.

![First Douglas County Resident to Attend West Point Image]

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**Lunch Box Collection - Over 390 lunch boxes spanning a century:**
Lunch boxes were manufactured in response to the need for American workers to eat on the job instead of traveling home for a meal and children began using metal lunch boxes prior to lunches being served in schools. The metal lunch pail/box ruled the noon break for more than 100 years, but in the 1970’s, plastic versions sidelined the metal version, leaving a host of the mini metal chests unemployed. This lunch box exhibit/collection brings back memories to us all. Enjoy!