Curiosity Corner

TREASURES FROM THE FCS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

ONLINE CATALOG



Curiosity Corner is an online publication released throughout the school year, which features a primary source from the **Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum & Archives** collections. It is a complimentary, educational tool designed to explore the historical context behind each item, as well as to offer a better understanding of our local history. All content is aligned to Georgia Standards for Excellence (GSE) curriculum standards.



Scroll down to search our online catalog of past editions below.

OR

Search past editions by grade level and subject here.

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Past editions of *Curiosity Corner* have been supported by the following partners:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES Consortium Member

Georgia Humanities
Sharing stories that move us and make us

2026-2027 editions

Curiosity Corner
Treasures from the FCS Museum & Archives

October 2026: Collecting Stories: A Teaching Museum History

For 35 years, the Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum & Archives have served our teachers and students. As we move into a new space in 2026, we take a look back at our own history—and chat with some of our veteran Teaching Artists who helped build this legacy.

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Coming in November:

Neumes to Notes: American Songbooks and Sheet Music

2025-2026 2 editions

September 2025: Hadrosaur Egg and the Science of Fossils



Fossils provide scientists with a wealth of information, from evidence of ancient life to the cause of mass extinctions. It is all part of a science we know as paleontology. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* explores a collection of fossils preserved at the Teaching Museum to discover what they tell us about the history of our world, as well as our role in it.

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November 2025: The Spinning Wheel: A History of Making Fiber into Fabric

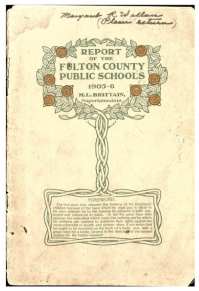


Turning fiber into fabric has become the work of machines in our modern world. But for generations, the effort put into making textiles using hand-made—and hand-powered—tools helps illustrate how this work transformed communities across the globe. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features an antique spinning wheel, on loan to the Teaching Museum from a former Fulton County teacher.

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2024-2025 1 edition

April 2025: Report of the Fulton County Public Schools, 1905-6

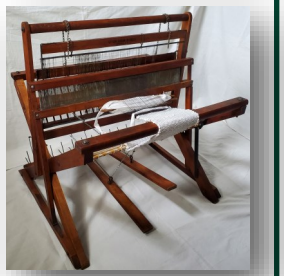


Some primary sources reflect the complexities of the time in which they were created. Such is the case with the item featured in our newest edition of *Curiosity Corner*, a Report of the Fulton County Public Schools, 1905-6. Written by Supt. ML Brittain, this document reveals both the progress of a growing district and the extreme inequality of segregation.

CLICK HERE

2023-2024 4 editions

September 2023: The Union Loom: Weaving Together Science and History



Making cloth for clothing and shelter has always been a necessity. But what happens when that process is perfected through innovations designed to make production more efficient? The answer is an evolution in textile technology that has historical connections to the modern computer. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* explores the story behind the Union Loom - from how it works to how it influenced modern inventions.

CLICK HERE

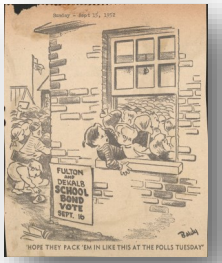
January 2024: Instructional Technology: the Cutting Edge of Education



Just as technology has continued to evolve, so too has the way we use it to teach and learn. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* explores how the evolution in technology has impacted the classroom and opened up new opportunities for students of all ages.

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March 2024: Political Cartoons: The Art of Influence



For centuries, caricaturists and political cartoonists have entertained us with their brief, often-humorous look at current events. But how much do we really stop and examine the power of the cartoon and its capacity to inspire both political and social change? This edition of *Curiosity Corner* examines this time-honored art form and its undeniable impact on our history.

CLICK HERE

May 2024: Railroad Signal Lamp: An Innovation in Communication



Some primary sources help us to fully understand the impact of scientific inventions on human history. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* examines a piece of railroad history with surprising connections to our modern world - a look at the way we communicate when our very safety depends on it.

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2022-2023 3 editions

October 2022: Marching Bands and School Spirit



The history of marching bands in the US is a long one. It traces its origins back to colonial military units, but has evolved to include halftime shows, parades and competitive performance events. In this *Curiosity Corner*, we look at the marching bands of Fulton County - where they came from and what they have become. It is a story of dedicated educators, students and alum, who have marched together through the last century.

CLICK HERE

December 2022: The Telegraph and the Communications Revolution



Some inventions come along and change the world forever. So it is with a communication device invented nearly two centuries ago. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features an electric telegraph key from the Teaching Museum technology collection to examine how humankind's methods for communicating evolved from smoke signals to text messages.

CLICK HERE

February 2023: Black History Month in Fulton County Schools



In 1926, the inaugural celebration of the achievements and contributions of African Americans was established by black scholars and educators. Nearly a century later, Black History Month is celebrated through performances, programs and events across the country - and even the world. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* illustrates the way in which the students and teachers of Fulton County have celebrated this annual observance and also explores the very history of Black History Month.

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2021-2022 3 editions

Curiosity Corner
Treasures from the FCS Museum & Archives

August 2021: Olympic Pins: A 25-Year Anniversary of the Centennial Olympic Games



Olympic pins have been a fascination for athletes and fans of the games since the first Olympiad of the modern era in 1896; making it one of the most popular and enduring "sports." So when the Olympics came to Atlanta one hundred years later, pin collectors from around the world gathered in Centennial Olympic Park to gather, buy and trade these treasures. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* looks back, 25 years later, at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta - and the legacy it left behind - through the Olympic pin collection housed at the Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum.

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November 2021: A Tradition of Service: Celebrating Our Veterans



The Fulton County School System has long provided our armed forces with men and women dedicated to protecting the freedoms we cherish. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* honors our veterans by featuring stories preserved in the Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum and Archive - stories that connect the honored with those who honor them.

CLICK HERE

February 2022: Textiles of the Kuba Kingdom



Textiles have always played an essential role in the lives of people. But they also offer us a look into cultures around the world. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features textiles of the Kuba Kingdom, a confederation of several ethnic groups located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For centuries, they have produced cloth that has served as currency, identified royalty and influenced some of the most well-known western artists in history.

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2020-2021 4 editions

April 2021: World Letters: The American Travelogue for Students

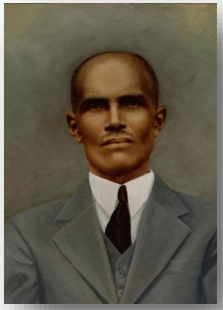
THIS EDITION IS TEMPORARILY OFFLINE



February 2021: What's In a Name: Legacies in Black Education

Have you ever wondered from where a school got its name? This edition of *Curiosity Corner* explores that very question, by looking at the schools of Fulton County, their unique histories, and the tradition of honoring those who labored so hard to establish schools for all children. In recognition of Black History Month, the Fulton County Schools Archives offers a history of Black education and educators since the days of Reconstruction.

CLICK HERE



November 2020: The Little Log Cabin: Life at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Log cabins have been celebrated in American iconography for decades. They bring to life the image of the pioneer days, a time when homes were carved out of the rural landscape. This *Curiosity Corner* takes a look at life at the turn of the century through the lens of the Teaching Museum's Model Log Cabin exhibit.

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October 2020: Decades: Yearbooks from the Fulton County Schools Archives

Throughout the years, yearbooks have been timeless reminders of our collective experience as students, teachers and staff - both inside and outside the classroom. But they are also historical artifacts that reveal a great deal about the time they were produced. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* explores the history of our communities through its collection of annuals that, over the past century, have inspired us to remember ourselves and celebrate the hard work of the students who created them.

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2019-2020 5 editions

September 2019: American Heroines: Women of World War II



More than 350,000 women served in various branches of the U.S. military during World War II, allowing more men to fight overseas. This month's *Curiosity Corner* is a salute to those who wore the uniform and whose efforts on the home front became crucial to victory at the battlefront.

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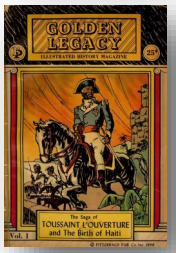
November 2019: Hmong Americans: An Immigration Story



Histories are preserved in countless different ways - from word of mouth to the stitching in cloth. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* celebrates the 20th century immigration story of the Hmong, a group of people from Southeast Asia, whose movement and experience has been collectively captured in the art of their embroidery.

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February 2020: Golden Legacy Comic Magazine: Teaching Black History



During the Civil Rights Era, publisher Bertram Fitzgerald created a series of comic books designed to teach black history to a new generation of students, at a time when it was most needed. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* recognizes Black History Month by focusing on these teaching resources - used right here in the schools of Fulton County.

CLICK HERE

March 2020: Cherokee Pottery: Yesterday and Today



As we learn about the history of the Cherokee people, we should not overlook what is a thriving culture represented in the many ways it is preserved. This *Curiosity Corner* recognizes this diverse group through their extraordinary contributions in the art of pottery.

CLICK HERE

April 2020: Terminus, Trains, and Transportation



The story of Atlanta and Fulton County is a story about transportation. In this edition of *Curiosity Corner,* see how the Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum and Archives is preserving this history through its premier model railroad exhibit in Hapeville; and learn about how transportation built an economy and continues to shape our lives.

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2018-2019 5 editions

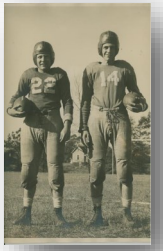
August 2018: Letter to Miss Addie Cash, 1915



Check out this teacher contract from 1915 to a Miss Addie Cash. While there are many differences between this century-old contract and teacher contracts today, one of the most striking is the restriction on marriage for "lady" teachers. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* also acknowledges a Cash family tradition--four generations have worked for Fulton County Schools.

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October 2018: Football and School Spirit



Fall brings, along with colorful leaves and cooler weather, football games and homecoming celebrations. Sports and school spirit have always been a favorite pastime in Fulton County Schools. This month's edition of *Curiosity Corner* provides a historic example—two College Park High School students ready for the game. While the exact year is unknown, based on their uniforms, this photograph is thought to be in the 1920s.

CLICK HERE

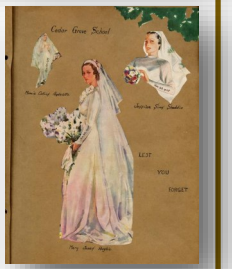
January 2019: Integration Sit-in, 1970



A series of seven images recently found in the Fulton County Schools Archives seemed to have little historical significance until an inscription found on the back of one photograph prompted more research and, in turn, answers to the who, what, when, and where of this event.

CLICK HERE

March 2019: Long v. Wells: Lest We Forget



What do a legendary civil rights judge, a pioneering U.S. Congresswoman and a former Georgia governor all have in common? Could it be that they all had an interest in a school teacher from College Park who was fighting for a right she had no intention of exercising? Find out the answer in this month's *Curiosity Corner* and discover how women in Fulton County fought for their rights in the 1930s.

CLICK HERE

May 2019: Photography and the Technology Behind It

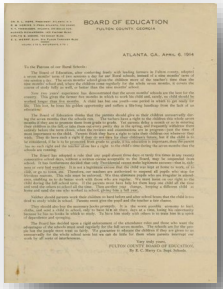


Photographs have an enormous impact and have played an important role in our lives throughout history. This month's *Curiosity Corner* looks at photography through the technology that makes it possible, by highlighting a collection that spans over a century.

CLICK HERE

2017-2018 4 editions

August 2017: Letter to Patrons of Our Rural Schools


BOARD OF EDUCATION
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
ATLANTA, GA., April, 6, 1914

In 1914, Edwin C. Merry, superintendent of Fulton County Schools, sent a letter to the patrons of rural schools outlining the parameters for a 7-month school year, underscoring the importance of education a time when it was not compulsory. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features this document and explores the challenges faced by educators, students, and families as they navigated the responsibilities between work and school.

CLICK HERE

September 2017: Eagle Cotton Gin #10, c.1880s



As a society obsessed with new technologies and inventions, we often do not consider the full impact of these inventions on the world around us. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* explores how one device—invented over two centuries ago in Georgia—dramatically changed the American economy and impacted the lives of millions across the world.

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February 2018: Alpharetta Colored School, 1952



Inside the rich history of education in Georgia is a complex story of inequality and segregation that reflected life in the South after the Civil War. This edition of *Curiosity Corner* focuses on the Alpharetta Colored School to illustrate how segregation was deeply woven into public education. It also provides evidence of how Black communities overcame racial bias and inequality through efforts in prioritizing education.

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March 2018: Civil War Surgical Kit, c.1860s



This month's *Curiosity Corner* focuses on a nineteenth-century medical kit, currently on display at the Teaching Museum North in Roswell. Kits like this one offer us a glimpse into how the sick and wounded were cared for during the Civil War and how doctors and nurses functioned both on and off the battlefield.

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2017 3 editions

March 2017: Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers

Parent and teacher associations have impacted the course of Fulton County Schools since the earliest days of the twentieth century. With state-mandated segregation of schools, the need for advocacy in support of African American students and teachers prompted the creation, in 1919, of the Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (GCCPT).

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April 2017: Duck and Cover: Civil Defense in Our Schools

For 45 years after World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a standoff known as the Cold War. Public schools, the most centralized public spaces in most communities, became the front line for federal policies and procedures known as Civil Defense. Take a look at the supplies stored in many of our schools in the event of a nuclear attack.

CLICK HERE



May 2017: Classical Architecture & Fulton County Schools

What does FCS have in common with Rich's Department Store, Spelman College, Emory University and Grady Hospital? All have buildings designed by renown architect, Phillip Shutze. Considered during his career as America's greatest living classical architect, Shutze's designs were highly sought after by public entities and private citizens alike. Take a look to see which of FCS's buildings has this honor.

CLICK HERE

