

History of Barrington Hall

In 1838, Barrington King moved his family from coastal Georgia, to the newly formed colony of Roswell in the rolling, wooded hills of north Georgia. There he was instrumental in the development of the fledgling community and in founding the successful textile mills of the Roswell Manufacturing Company. Their new home, Barrington Hall, has remained largely unchanged since its completion in 1842.

In the summer and fall of 1864, Roswell was occupied by Union Troops. According to family tradition, Union General Kennar Gerrard briefly occupied Barrington Hall. The King family fled Roswell prior to the occupation and returned after the war to rebuild their lives. Unfortunately, soon after their return, Barrington King was injured by his horse and died a few days later.

Lineage

Barrington King and his wife, Catharine, had twelve children. Six of his sons served in the Confederate Army; two were killed, and three were wounded. Of his three daughters, only one lived to be an adult. His daughter Eva married Rev. William E. Baker in the parlor of Barrington Hall in 1856. The Bakers settled in Staunton, VA where they lived until 1883, when they returned to Barrington Hall to care for the elderly and widowed Mrs. Barrington King. The Bakers purchased Barrington Hall when Mrs. Barrington King passed away in 1887.

The Bakers had seven children and many grandchildren who visited often and filled Barrington Hall with love and laughter. "Grandma" Eva Baker lived in Barrington Hall until her death in 1923. The home was purchased in 1929 by her two beloved granddaughters, Evelyn and Katharine Simpson.

Neither Miss Evelyn nor Miss Katharine ever married; they dedicated their lives to ensuring the preservation of Barrington Hall. Miss Evelyn died in 1960 and Miss Katharine lived in Barrington Hall until her death in 1995.

Ownership of the house then passed to Miss Lois Simpson. Miss Lois had been a close friend of Miss Katharine and was legally adopted by her in 1977. In 2002, Miss Lois sold the house to her close friend, Sarah Winner. Sarah created a living trust to allow Miss Lois to live at Barrington Hall the remainder of her life. Ms. Winner began meticulously restoring the house for Miss Lois, but six months later in 2003 Miss Lois passed away. In 2005, Barrington Hall won the restoration project of the year by the Georgia Trust of Historic Preservation. Sarah Winner then sold Barrington Hall to the City of Roswell in 2005 so that it could be shared with the community.

Legacy

In 2005, Barrington Hall was purchased by the City of Roswell with the intention of opening it to the public for the first time in the site's history. Interpreting the lives of the

three primary generations of residents (Kings, Bakers, and Simpsons) is the focus along with many educational and community programs. The seven acres of park like grounds feature the only antebellum garden in the Metro Atlanta area that is open to the public.

Along with the Archibald Smith Plantation Home and Bulloch Hall, Barrington Hall stands today full of the early memories of Roswell and the families who laid the foundation for it to become the community it is today.