

## MAIN ENTRANCE

The main entrance to the Museum is an arch about seven feet high made of cement and sand. At the top of the arch is a wreath of roses encircling a marble with the date, 1894, chiseled on it--the date the Pope home was established. Above the wreath is an imposing bust of Martha Berry. The front gate is the head of an old iron bed. From the arch to the porch is a concrete walk covered above with wisteria and hedged with a coping about two feet high which is partially covered with ivy.

**MARATHA BERRY.** One of the greatest women in Georgia, who has furthered education and molded the character of the young people of our state. She is a great philanthropist who has given underprivileged men and women the opportunity to have a college education.

(Outside on the right of the entrance gate) From left to right: The Mother Queen, The Mother Laborer, The British Nurse, The Soldier of World War, II, and The American Nurse. On the slab are the names of the boys of Grady County who died in battle during World War, II.

(Outside on the left of the entrance gate) General Eisenhower and General MacArthur. "Strong in the strength of the Lord we fight in the People's cause, and never stop until that cause is won."

Writers of the Constitution of Georgia, 1943-44. Mrs. Forester's son was a member of this commission, which re-wrote the State Constitution.

To the Women of America, who by their industry and service have helped preserve our way of life.

## THE LEFT GARDEN

**SOLDIER BOY.** A monument to the soldiers of World War, I. The entire structure is eleven feet high. The soldier is five feet, four inches tall. In his right hand is a scabbard belonging to a sword which was a family heirloom of the Pope family, made in 1776. The sword is buried in a pedestal upon which the soldier's left hand rests. In front of the pedestal is a marble slab, "April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918," the dates of America's participation in the war. Just under the soldier's feet, is another slab with "In Honor of Our Soldier Boys" on it. In explaining how she came to make Soldier Boy, Mrs. Forester said, "I saw in the paper that a civi club in Atlanta was going to erect a monument to the boys who so bravely fought in the war. They had to buy the land upon which the monument was to be erected and pay some one to do the sculpturing. I thought it a beautiful idea. Then the thought came to me that I had the land here and wouldn't have to buy it, and I wanted to build something for our boys here, too."

This is the first permanent statue which she made.

PRAYING FOR YOU---and PEACE.

## THE RIGHT GARDEN

**RED CROSS NURSE.** A RED CROSS NURSE is standing near a small monument from which, with her left hand has lifted a veil revealing a marble slab bearing the names of every boy from Grady County killed in action in World War, I. At the corner there is a bust of a Red Cross Nurse, in honor of a Miss Jenkins who was killed in a hospital on the Marne, during that war.

**THE GOLD STAR MOTHER.** She is in the attitude of sorrow, as are all the mothers of lost sons in service.

**THE STONE-AGE MAN.** A perhistoric character who is bogged down in mire and leading his blind wife---yet is smiling eternally.

**QUEEN MARIE OF RUMANIA.** When this lady made her first visit to America, she had never had her hair bobbed, but in less than two months she looked like one of us, by cutting her hair.

**MOZAIC LOVESEAT.** A chair made of cement with various sizes, shapes, and colors of glass embedded in the cement.

## THE PORCH

RUTH BRYAN OWENS, our first woman ambassador to Denmark.

UNCUS, THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS. Unlike most Indians, Uncus wears a pleasant smile. Mrs. Forester's husband, in criticizing him, said to her, "You have never seen an Indian smile and you have made him smile." Well," she replied, "if I can't have a good-looking Indian, I'll not have one at all." Uncus' hair is black as night and is braided and falls over his shoulders; his headdress is of tiny shells and the feathers in his hair are steel--the blades to a discarded farm implement. On a belt which he wears are words of warning, written in Latin-- "Hunc tu caveto"--Beware of Him. In explanation of the words of warning, Mrs. Forester would say, "Although I have loyalty for the Indian, and in a way have a great amount of respect for them, I have always been afraid of them. They were the first Americans and this was their home, and we took it from them."

"Uncus did more for the white people, was more loyal to them than all other Indians. To me, he, the last of the Mohicans, was the greatest of all Indians and that is why I chose him for my model."

The beads he is wearing were made from the backbone of rattlesnakes. Mrs. Forester made these beads herself.

GODDESS OF THE SEA. She is sticking out her tongue to show the indifference that water has for human life--its power and its destruction.

GRANDMA. This is a bust of Mrs. Forester's mother-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowman Pope, at the age of 56. She is wearing a little old-fashioned bonnet with tiny curls peeping out all across her forehead. "Grandma" is molded across the front of the bonnet.

In Honor of Mother-in-law and Daughter-in-law.

SCARLETT O'HARA, the mistress of Tara, who was fearless and selfish in her ambitions.

ROMAN GIRL. A large urn-type vase houses the bust of a Roman Girl.

TOTEM POLE. At the base of this pole is King Tut of Egypt, the man who put a curse on humanity for invading his tomb. There are over 20 small faces representing the American mother at prayer. They are the power behind the strength of the American Home today. Three Indians are here depicted in honor of their origination of the totem pole. There are two Arab faces, one Egyptian face, and one Greek patriarch. There is a cow's head to signify the fact that the first food man consumes is milk, and it is a necessity for healthful living. There are rattlesnakes to represent "The Devil Present in Every Home."

GONE WITH THE WIND.

ARISTOTLE, a philosopher king. The genius who taught Alexander the Great, and who influences our civilization politically and economically today.

NAMES OF THE COMMITTEE CREATING GRADY COUNTY. Cut in marble are these names creating this county on August 17, 1905.

CUPID'S POND. Mrs. Forester felt strongly about the sanctity and solidity of the American Home, and the tremendously important part it plays in contributing to the strength of our whole nation. This pond is in honor of the American home. Four columns of sea shells decorate the stand, plus the bust of a mother with a baby perched upon her shoulder, a profile, and two mottoes chiseled in marble--one is "Where Cupid Dwells, Love Abides" and "For We Live By Hope and By Desire." In the center of the bowl on a little pedestal are the cupids, one standing, the other sitting with his feet just out of the water; towering above the cupids is an urn of seaweed.

FOOTPRINTS OF TIME. These five statues depict life from the young mother twenty years old, the grandmother at fifty, the great grandmother at

eventy five, "Death With A Smile, At Ninety," and Old Father Time, "The most precious thing we have."

At either end of the porch is a throne chair, with a high decorated back, straight arms, and decorated with sea shells of varied hues, shapes, and sizes. There is a table, like a library table. The glass top for this table was originally a windshield of the first car in Grady County.

A statue on each side of the entrance into the house represents a Grandmother On Either Side of the House."

#### INSIDE THE HOUSE

Mrs. W. H. Felton, the first woman Senator. Mrs. Rebecca Felton is wearing the little bonnet which she fashioned with her own 88 year old hands to wear to Washington, D. C. when she went to take her seat in the United States Senate. (There is a photograph here from which the statue was modeled.)

The room on the left as you walk in the house was called "The Cupid's Room" because Mr. Forester, a Justice of the Peace, often performed wedding ceremonies here. Mrs. Forester placed the mirror in the position in which it now hangs in relation to the rostrum, so that she might ask the bride and groom immediately before the ceremony "to look behind you and get your last look of freedom." This invariably got a laugh from the nervous couple, and set them at ease.

CLEOPATRA, The youngest queen who ever sat on a throne. She was so beautiful and enchanting, and always accomplished her ambitions. She was dissatisfied with life, however, and committed suicide by allowing a poisonous snake to bite her. She tried out the effect of a snake-bite on some of her subjects before she undertook the ordeal herself.

QUEEN OF THE ROCKS. This statue depicts a woman holding her freedom in one hand, adrift on the rocks of a dissolved marriage. Mrs. Forester felt so strongly about the sin of divorce that she fashioned this figure as a symbol of the wayward divorcee. Rocks around the base are a collection from the states of the Union.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY FUNERAL. This is a copy of a plaque sent from Italy in 1920. The men of that time wore long, flowing robes in black and white, because there were no colors. There were no flowers at the funeral, as Christ had none at His.

THE DISAPPOINTED BRIDE. The groom failed to appear at the altar. Her maid of honor is consoling her by saying how fortunate she was that he did not come now, because a man of his character would disappoint her more in later years. The candle represents a light for her path of life ever after.

#### ASHES OF LOVE.

A JAPANESE MOTHER. A book written about 1919 of a Christian Japanese mother who was a martyr was the inspiration for this statue. Since Pearl Harbor, we Americans do not appreciate the Japanese as we once did. However, there are Christians in Japan. The arch above this statue is made of faces of nine American mothers of various religious beliefs.

KAISER BILL on his knees in Georgia.

CLEMENCEAU, THE TIGER OF FRANCE. He was one of the greatest generals of the First World War. He was very loyal to the Allies. He is called the Tiger of France because of his fearlessness and power. He was buried in an upright position, as this was traditional in his family. Because of his militaristic nature, he wanted to be buried standing at attention.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN. Everything in this garden grew in the bottom of the sea, except the greenery, which grew near here, and represents the apple of today. There is a small statue of Adam and Eve and the serpent.

EUROPEANS COMING TO AMERICA. (Painting) Our fore-fathers, who left

castles in Europe (such as the one in the center) for unpretentious log cabins in America, now have descendants who are the richest people in the world, and have castles and skyscrapers which loom large, and tall over the antiquated mansions abroad.

NANCY HART. This is the only statue of Nancy Hart in the world. As you remember, she is the brave Georgia woman who shot and hung six British soldiers in her back yard in Hart County, Georgia during the Revolutionary War.

Gilded cherubs and flowers outline arches and doors inside the house. Upstairs there are a number of oil paintings depicting various scenes, a telephone of the type first used in Grady County, and a collection of paper money. A four poster bed, handmade of walnut trees cut from the Pope Estate is a family treasure.

In addition, there are numerous chairs, loveseats, and benches, as well as, candleabra, urns, vases, and picture frames, all made by Mrs. Forester. Every usable piece of Grady County's first car, an E.M.F., has been transformed into something. The housing forms part of a pedestal, and the seats have been neatly covered for sofas in the Cupid's Room. Also used were parts of sewing machines, peddles, wheels from machinery, parts of oil stoves, lard cans, and milinery racks.

In constructing a statue, the body was made first of cement and sand over reinforced iron shafting. The face was molded and polished last. Most of the statuary inside the house is made of Plaster of Paris. (Plaster of Paris ornaments can be cleaned by covering them with a thick layer of starch letting it dry thoroughly, and then brush. All the dust will adhere to the starch, and will come off with it.)

#### SOME NOTES ON HER PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY

We know that from the Bible everything (lots of people are not going to agree with me on this) is predestined from Christ's birth up until His resurrection. Each and every one of us is just a link in the chain of humanity. The blood in your veins is just as red as mine. Each one is put here for a purpose, and oftentimes as a child I could visualize that there were things that I wanted to do. I have always wanted to paint, and bring out visions. As I have gone down the pathway of life, I have brought out these visions of reality. Then I would have to get busy doing something worthwhile for my loved ones. As a little girl going to school, I loved my teacher and honored him above all people in the world, and he was one of the greatest inspirations to me to get to the high rung of the ladder of education which each child should have. Ignorance is the worst curse to humanity. Each should strive to do his best. No one is going to push you up the ladder, and no effort has ever been lost. It is up to us to do something in life that is worthwhile. Oftentimes as we grow older, we get threadbare, and think that life is a burden. Then we think of what God has done for us, and it gives us new life and new things to live for. He can see beauty in trees. We human beings must think that life is worthwhile when we see so much nature portrayed as God intends it to be. They take life easy as it comes, but we mortals have so many disappointments until we feel that life is not worthwhile. Then when the morning comes on a new day, we walk out and see God's handiwork as the sun rises over the hilltops. Later we see the beautiful descending sunset. Then we think back to the loved ones who have gone. That is when I get busy and think of a new picture I want to paint, or some face I want to bring out in memory of some person who has done his best, and given his life for all. I have often thought that it is our duty to each other to make life with its blessings worthwhile.

#### SHORT SKETCH OF HER LIFE By Mrs. Forester

In 1873, nearly 80 years ago, I first saw the light, not three miles from here. I inherited a love for nature forms from my mother. She was a "dreamer" of beautiful things, and taught me how to model and create small statues out of clay. She made most of her colors out of such things as poke-berries, from which you get purples and shades of pink.

When I was 21 years old, I married my school teacher, B. H. Pope. I made my first life-size statue in 1900. I was fortunate in securing an art teacher from Colorado for a short while. In 1911, my husband died and left in my care my two boys. For several years I had to forget my dreams, as they were only 12 and 14 years of age. In 1917 I built the statue honoring our soldiers. There are many other statues, over 200 in all, each one representing a special character. All this work has been a pleasure to me. This Museum is on the oldest lot of land in Grady County.

QUOTATION FROM THE BAPTIST BUILDER, Ochlochnee, Ga.  
October, 1952

"Mrs. Laura Pope Forester, an honored and beloved member of Pine Forest Church, Grady County, is one of the most remarkable women in this entire section of the state. Although now in advanced age, she still is active in the support and participation of the work of the church. She supervises her large plantation. Very unusual, unique and elaborate is a museum of statuary and interesting things produced and assembled by her near the lovely home of this fine woman. This museum and statuary, a work of real art, shows the handiwork of a most unusual woman. It is worth going many miles to see."

EXCERPT FROM ARTICLE IN MACON TELEGRAPH  
By Kate Mikel, (not dated)

In describing Mrs. Forester: "She is a gracious, friendly lady, tiny brown curls slipping from the knot worn high upon her head, cool clear complexion, light brown eyes which brightened when she talked, and a charming smile. Her voice is lovely, low yet vibrant with life and her words have a way of rippling forth."