

# Toccoa Record

The Toccoa Record is considered to be Toccoa's oldest business. The paper was started in 1873, one year prior to the city receiving its charter. Two men, Mr. Mills and Mr. McJunkin, founded the paper in 1873 as The Northeast Georgia Herald. In 1874, the paper was renamed as The Toccoa Herald. By the mid-1890s, the Southern Publishing Company had purchased the publication and renamed it The Toccoa Record. In 1906, Stephens County officially seceded from Habersham County, and in the same year The Toccoa Record began operations from its current location at 67 West Doyle Street. The paper has been operated out of this location since 1906.

In 1907, the paper was purchased by Edward H. Graves, who served as editor and publisher until his son, Robert W. Graves, became the owner and editor. He sold the paper in 1970 to Charles A. Hamilton. Following Hamilton's purchase of the paper, the basement was excavated for the installation of the first of four Goss press units, cutting edge technology for the publishing industry. By the late 1970s, The Toccoa Record became the first weekly newspaper in Georgia to incorporate the use of offset printing, and in 1980 it became the first to convert to an all computerized newsroom. In 1983, Community Newspapers Inc. (CNI) began publishing The Chieftain, a weekly newspaper. CNI purchased The Toccoa Record in November of 1995 and brought together the two papers. CNI currently owns The Toccoa Record, along with 28 other newspapers, and is now owned by President W. H. "Dink" NeSmith, Jr., and Chairman Tom Wood.

The Toccoa Record is housed within two commercial facades that were constructed in the Vernacular Style. These buildings were constructed in 1906. In the late 1950s, an aluminum veneer was laid on top of the old facades, making the façade appear as one building. When the concrete canopies were removed in downtown Toccoa, The Toccoa Record was the first business to renovate their façade. Once completed, the facades once again reflected the existence of two individual buildings with their original 1906 configurations.



The Toccoa Record when the canopies were still up in Downtown.



The Toccoa Record after façade renovations were complete.

## **SNAPSHOTS OF TOCCOA'S HISTORY**

