

Lunch-and-learn event focuses on Westminster history

'It's a small town, and that makes it special. I think it'll stay small, but we'll have a little growth.'

Herron Cobb

81-year-old Westminster resident

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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WESTMINSTER — Around two dozen people gathered at the Westminster Depot for a lunch-and-learn event focused on the history of the small town on Wednesday.

As the town nears its 144th birthday on March 17, Oconee History Museum assistant curator and education specialist Jennifer Moss presented the roots

and background of Westminster's existence.

"The lunch-and-learns are for people who might want to a break from work and take their lunch and learn something at the same time," Moss said. "It's been a really big hit ... especially with the older community who brings in lunch and learns. We have more hits with that than we do with our evening program. We've had anywhere from 10 to 20 people,

to even 56 people attend. We had over 50 people in our room for our eclipse program. They've been very successful, and we'll continue to do them."

One person asked Westminster Mayor Brian Ramey after the presentation what the town's population is, and he gave a precise answer — 2,394.

Two Westminster residents

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in the crowd said they'd lived in the area for more than 80 years. Herron Cobb, 81, was one of those who spoke up.

"It's a small town, and that makes it special," Cobb said. "I think it'll stay small, but we'll have a little growth. I enjoyed the presentation and thought it was really nice."

Moss gave a presentation centered on schools, businesses and the importance of railroads during the 40-minute talk.

"Westminster is a community that's always been important here," she said. "Ever since the founding by Albert Zimmerman, it's been a very community place. Everything I've been involved with in Westminster has been very community-driven.



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Oconee History Museum assistant curator and education specialist Jennifer Moss speaks during a lunch-and-learn event at the Westminster Depot on Wednesday.

The community is very involved in the town, more so than some of the other towns I've been to. It's the people that make the dif-

ference in Westminster."

The Oconee History Museum is celebrating its 15th anniversary throughout 2019 — a celebration

the museum looks to capitalize on by holding more learning events throughout the county.

"We'll continue to do



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Westminster resident Herron Cobb, 81, enjoyed a lunch-and-learn event at the Westminster Depot on Wednesday. Cobb has lived in Westminster all his life.

this throughout the year," Moss said. "This year is the Oconee History Museum's 15th anniversary, and we're going to have more programs that will center on community. I'll be doing a program on Seneca, and there will be a Walhalla program later in the year. We have information on oconeehistorymuseum.org for all of our programs."

Moss encourages those interested on learning more about Westminster to visit the town's museum at 126 E. Main St.

"I think it's a great town, and we want to preserve its history, especially with the Oconee History Museum and the General Store Museum," she said. "Those are very important to us to continue that preservation."

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