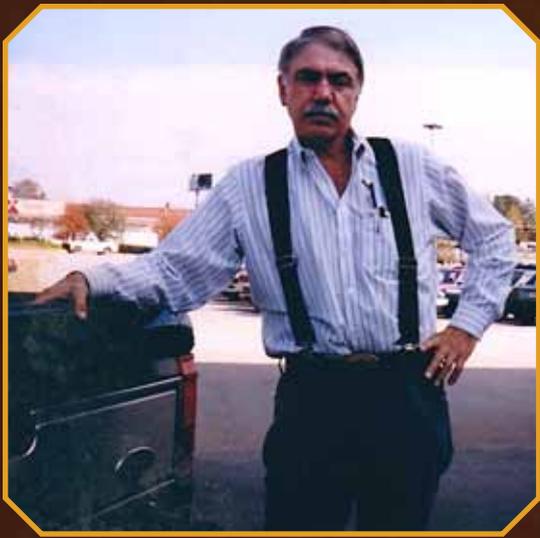


# GERALD COX, 1945-1996



Gerald Cox was born in 1945 in Atlanta, growing up in a family of Civil War historians. When he was a boy in the 1950s, Gerald spent many weekends at Uncle Quig's home in Smyrna. Quig often took Gerald to the Carmichael Plantation, currently near I-285 & Atlanta Road. With his ancient metal detector, Gerald searched the area where the Yankees battled through Smyrna to reach Atlanta in 1864. Gerald found his first Civil War relic, a lead .58-caliber bullet. After that, he was hooked. He and his family continued exploring, building a huge collection of artifacts through the years.

Gerald and Smyrna's Mayor A. Max Bacon crossed paths many times since the 1970s. Shortly before he passed on Christmas Day 1996, Gerald invited Max to the 100-year-old family home in Cartersville, Georgia. Gerald showed Max the relics one last time and asked Max to find a home for them when he was gone. He wanted the public to see an enormous slice of history.

The Cox/Armstrong display is a dedication to our heritage. It serves as a cornerstone for ongoing future donations, growing to a significant collection of Civil War history.