

EVHS Celebrates 2023 Christmas at Grand Oaks!



The Grand Ballroom overflows ...

Deck the Halls, Y'all!

... Into the auxiliary Dining Room

It's always a treat to visit Ray Thacker and Grand Oaks at Christmas! Grand Oaks was beautifully decorated, and our members were able to tour all floors. The house looks amazing at Holiday time. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner, with a note of prayer by Rev. Louis Tonsmeire. We heard thanks from our Co-Presidents, recognized our newest lifetime achievement award winners, Bob and Mary Norton, and had an update on a very successful Giving Tuesday from Debbie Head. It was a lovely evening, enjoyed & savored by 68 EVHS members.

Thanks to Ray and staff for treating us so well!



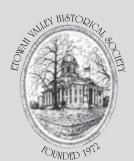
Dianne Tate & Joanne Smith



Dinner is served!



Myra Ramsey & Judy Kilgore



Etowah Valley Historical Society 115 West Cherokee Avenue Cartersville, Georgia 30120 Phone: 770-606-8862 Email: evhs@evhsonline.org Website: www.evhsonline.org

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents Dianne Tate Joanne Smith Pugh Vice President Mark Matthews Corresponding Secretary Myra Ramsey Treasurer Steve Ward

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024 Judy Kilgore Mark Matthews

2025 Myra Ramsey Steve Ward Diane Mooney

2026 Becky Champion Ted Porter Joanne Smith Pugh Dianne Tate

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Retired Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham Michael Garland Debbie Head Mary Norton Guy Parmenter Larry Posey

SAVE THE DATE Upcoming Events for EVHS

March 10 - The Kings of Covered Bridges" 33 Covered Bridge Rd, Euharlee, GA 2:00 PM.

April 13 - Ladd's Mountain Hike. Members only. 10:00 AM Rain date April 20.

May 23 - Navajo Code Talkers. 6:00 PM Cartersville Library. Reception and lecture. Special guests, Bartow County Veterans.

September TBD - Home Tour.

October TBD - Annual Meeting at "ITV." December TBD - EVHS Christmas Party.

Note: Some dates are subject to change.

EVHS welcomes a new Corporate Member: Cartersville Bicycle Service & Supply 5 South Public Square - Cartersville

Don't forget to renew your dues

E V H S are renewable anniversary joined. Notices sent out via hardcopy postal may renew on to the office at PO remains most а outstanding value.

Individual

Club/Organization

Family

Patron

Corporate

reminds members that dues according to the month that you to renew are now email and letter to your address. You line or mail a check Box 1886. EVHS affordable and

\$20
\$30
\$50
\$100
\$150

In Memoriam

Phillip E. Myers Richard McClurg

EVHS COMMITTEES

Allatoona Pass Battlefield Co-Chaired by Guy Parmenter Joanne S. Pugh Diane Mooney

"ITV" Committee Co-Chaired by Joe Head Steve Ward Ted Porter

Social Media Chaired by Debbie Head

Historic Awareness Signs Chaired by Dianne Tate

Historical Inventory Co-Chaired by Mary Norton Michael Garland

Newsletter Co-Chaired by Ted Porter Jeffrey Williams

Oral History Co-Chaired by Susan Tumlin Judy Kilgore

Photography Co-Chaired by Ted Porter Jeffrey Williams

Preservation Chaired by John Lewis

Geospatial (digital maps) Co-Chaired by Tim Poe Monique Autry Clouse

Tour of Homes Chaired by The Preservation Committee

African American History Initiative Co-Chaired by Becky Champion Alexis Carter - Callahan

"In The Valley" Workday 2024!

by Ted Porter & Steve Ward

Well, Winter is basically over, so its time to get back to Corra Harris's Estate and continue the quest of Cabin Rehab and Grounds Development. So, on Saturday, Feb 24th, 12+ EVHS Volunteers donated their time between 10000 & 1400 hrs to get "ITV" ready for 2024. It was a beautiful to work inside & out & accomplish some tasks, so ... for your enjoyment!



Windows Covering Team: Randall Cobb, Tom Cole & Steve Ward



Brush removal crew up top by Kent Porter et al.



Ted Porter ridding the pond of trees!



A lil Fox hunting on the grounds



Bluebird houses x 3 have been erected



Porter) Son-in-Laws planting Daylilies





A lil Pink Dogwood planting





Dave Elvers et al load brush pulled up by pond

Lunch is served! Provided by EVHS & Volunteers

Three major projects were accomplished: Sunroom windows were temporarily sealed until we can raise \$17K for their replacement. The Cabins were cleaned after a long Winter's nap. And 3 of the 6-7 piles of brush cut during the Winter were carted off to the County Dump. Although other projects were completed in December & January. Getting there!



Ted Porter uncovers more hidden wall at Corra's Garden

Giving Tuesday 2023

A Record-Breaking Success with over \$14,400 Contributed!

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that Giving Tuesday - Nov. 28, 2023- was an significant success for your Etowah Valley Historical Society (EVHS), with a remarkable \$14,450 raised in support of our cherished historic property, "In the Valley." Our matching sponsor, Nida Financial Group, provided a donation to match the first \$,1500 given.

As a member of the EVHS community, your generous contributions played a pivotal role in making this achievement possible, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing enthusiasm and commitment to preserving our shared history. The highlights of Giving Tuesday along with the impressive \$14,450 raised, include the involvement of 82 devoted members and friends who hold Bartow County close to their hearts, and the continued support for the essential cultural, educational, and historic services provided by EVHS.

Giving Tuesday, observed annually on the heels of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, is a global day dedicated to charitable giving. For small nonprofits like ours, it represents an invaluable opportunity to garner support from the community and make a significant impact on our preservation and

restoration efforts.

The funds raised on Giving Tuesday 2023 will be instrumental in advancing our mission to preserve, restore, and share the rich history represented by the "In the Valley", the Corra Harris property.

Over the past year, thanks to your continued support, we've made substantial progress. A new roof has been installed on the back half of the main cabin, eliminating 17 leaks that plagued the house. Dangerous trees have been safely removed, a parking area developed for future events, over 300 plants installed, and extensive cleaning undertaken to maintain the property's historical integrity.

Additionally, we've established an impressive historic tool display



around the windmill and inside the 1914 barn, featuring a restored tractor among other noteworthy projects. While these accomplishments are commendable, there is still much work to be done, making the success of Giving Tuesday all the more meaningful for the EVHS.

The outstanding results of Giving Tuesday would not have been possible without the leadership and vision of long-time EVHS Board advisor and member, Debbie Head. She has led Giving Tuesday campaigns for over 5 years and was thrilled with the outcome of the campaign this year. The table below reflects 4 years of Giving Tuesday historical growth (excludes 2020 when EVHS did not participate).

GIVING TUESDAY SUMMARY 2019 -2023 (*NO GIVING TUESDAY IN 2020)					
Sources	2019*	2021*	2022	2023	Growth from 2019-2023
Matching Funds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$500
Contributions	\$4,317	\$7,915	\$11,820	\$14,450	\$8,633
Total Gross Received	\$5,317	\$8,915	\$13,320	\$14,450	\$9,133

Steve Ward (Treasurer & Board member) and Myra Ramsey (Corresponding Secretary & Board member) along with Joe & Debbie Head actively helped the campaign by writing thank you notes to our donors expressing sincere appreciation for their donations. Office volunteer Jeff Williams graciously, stuffed, sealed, and stamped many letters as part of the project.

Now, looking ahead, we want to share with you our plans for utilizing the funds raised. The immediate focus is on restoring the windows in the sunroom of the main cabin. If you've visited the property, you may have noticed the deteriorating condition of the windows, with gaps, rotting frames, and missing panes. The restoration of these windows is crucial to eliminating pest infestations, dampness, and potential water damage.



other initiatives made possible by your generosity.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Etowah Valley Historical Society.

To provide transparency on how your contributions will be utilized, we estimate that approximately \$17,000 will be required to replace/restore 8 windows and address exterior sashing and siding damage resulting from the window issues.

Your support has already made a significant impact, and we are grateful for your continued partnership as we work together to safeguard and celebrate the history of Bartow County.

As the restoration takes place this spring and summer, "ITV" will begin accepting rental reservations for limited-size events that will use the campus for community or civic meetings, reunions, small weddings, or other social events. Details to rent will be available soon.

We look forward to sharing more updates on the progress of the sunroom window restoration project and



EVHS Annual Board Retreat – Jan 27, 2024

Board Members discuss plans for 2024 at Joanne Smith's home

Special Recognition of our Exemplary EVHS Members

by Dianne Tate and Ted Porter

Our own Patty and Steve Ward were Honored with Volunteer of the Year Award from the Georgia Association of Museums at its annual meeting in Athens. Representing their volunteer efforts at the Euharlee Welcome Center & History Museum, this award also reflects the work that Steve does as the EVHS Treasurer & as the "Fix-it-Guy" at "ITV." As well, Patty's chipped in whenever & wherever needed, including Workdays at "ITV." Well deserved, Steve & Patty!

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Norton were recently honored with the EVHS Lifetime Achievement award. The Norton family provided the location for the organization of the society which has served as a beautiful setting for many EVHS events over the years. In fact, the 50th society anniversary was held at Valley View.

Mary and Bob are recognized for their work in heritage farms, land trusts and the Georgia Trust. Their interest in preserving iconic community landmarks is inspirational and noted by many. The Etowah Valley Historical Society recognizes Mary, an EVHS advisor, and Bob with our highest honor. Congratulations and thanks to the Nortons.

What can we say about the Head family: husband, wife & daughter (Meredith) all? Joe has devoted 20+ years toward the EVHS. Vice-President for 14 years this go-round, he helped lead the computerization of the databases, implemented the EVHS Website & Webpage, delivered countless lectures all around the county, mentored interns from colleges, steered the assembly of the Great Locomotive Chase diorama thru Bartow County. He initiated and was master of ceremonies for the Bartow Scholar program for the last 5+ years, he was Editor of the newsletter. What else? Well, of course, he helped transition the Corra Harris estate back to EVHS, driving every week x 1-2 years to Rydal to evaluate & care for this campus & its 7 buildings, especially his favorite ... the barn!

Likewise, Debbie jumped right in there not only as advisor to the Board but working all along, maintaining the social media (FB) page, overseeing the successful Giving Tuesday fundraising program amongst so many other things, including back-up gardener at "ITV!" The Heads are "retiring" from the Board (but not EVHS), going to enjoy some well-deserved R & R. We will miss their devotion, their hard work toward this end. We thank them and wish them a grand Bon Voyage ...on their River trip!



Patty & Steve Ward



Mary & Bob Norton



Debbie & Joe Head

2023 Giving Tuesday Raises \$14,450 & Other "ITV" Donations

In memory of Jodie Hill

In memory of my friend, J.B. Tate

In memory of Fannie W. Rowland & Tennie Jones

by Debbie Head Acknowledging the Kind Supporters of "In the Valley" & EVHS, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the generous supporters of "In the Valley" and EVHS. Your contributions have made a significant difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

\$1500

Nida Financial Group - Matching Sponsor Tommy Barnes & Derek Keeney

\$1000 - \$1500+

Gary & Thonya Boston Steve & Wanda Gray Joe & Debbie Head * Kent Porter * Terry & Myra Ramsey Steve & Patty Ward*

\$500 - \$999

\$200 - \$499

5499		
Connie Evans		
Wesley Harris		
Ed and Ellen Lussier Kinsel		
Ted & Laurie Porter*		
Ray Thacker	In memory of Huber & Eva Thacker	
Scott and Lora Warner		

\$150 - \$199

David Cline	
Faye McCord	In memory of Larry Thompson
John Sweitzer	
Dianne Tate	
01 (0	

\$100 - \$149

Stan & Merry Bearden Melissa & Rick Bell Tom & Debbie Cole Mary Helen & Ben Collier Dave & Patricia Elvers	In memory of Chuck Nida
Inman & Carolyn Fairchild	
Melissa Ferguson	
Danny & Jayne Gibbs	
Candler & Susan Ginn	In honor of Joe & Debbie Head
Lois Hill	In memory of Past President, Edward Hill
Michael Howren	
Faye & Frank Johnson	
Steve & Donna Lyle	In memory of J.B. Tate
Jerry & Margaret Mathison	-
Kip Monroe	In memory of DiAnne Smith Monroe
Marty Mulinix	In memory of Victor Mulinix

\$100 - \$149 (Cont.) Tara & Brian Nix Peter Olson Gale and Ernie Palmer Leah and Ivan Phillips Denise Ronn Mark & Dee Simonton Martha Wellsandt Bob and Penny Wiggins Richard and Jeanne Young \$25- \$99 Linda Ball Lynne Brown Chris & Meredith Bruno Brandon & Megan Bryson Randall & Gail Cobb Anne Coultas Barbara Cousins Ann Cummings Jim Edwards Mike Floyd Neal Freeman Alma Gaddis Tom Hall Mike & Gaye Haygood Cozette Hightower Joe Hollingshed Michael & Sally Horner Judy & David Howard Brad & Pam Hughes Frank & Vicki Jenkins Judy Kilgore Dianne & Tom Meyers Terrell & Andrea Parker Bill & Amy Popham Larry & Kate Posey Keith & Linda Pye Tina Shadden Regina Tatum Louis & Sally Tonsmeire Gary & Kelley Turner Louisa White **Cindy Williams** Susan Yark Pat Young

In memory of David Ronn

In honor of Joe & Debbie Head In honor of Joe & Debbie Head

In memory of long-time EVHS member, Bonnie Floyd

In memory of Skip Cummings

In honor of Joe Head & Great Chase Diorama

In memory of David L. Gaddis In memory of Kathy Hall In memory of the Haygood family

In memory of Rick Hughes

In memory of Gene Camp

In memory of J.B. Tate

In honor of Dianne Tate



In memory of Chuck Young

* Indicates actual cash donations and/or onsite expenses applied directly on the property by the individuals. They purchased needed supplies and equipment and did not request reimbursement.

- Actual Giving Tuesday 2023 cash donations received were \$14,450

- Net income \$13,000 (Total received less expenses)

The story behind (and ahead for) the 1903 Gold-Domed Courthouse By Dianne Tate

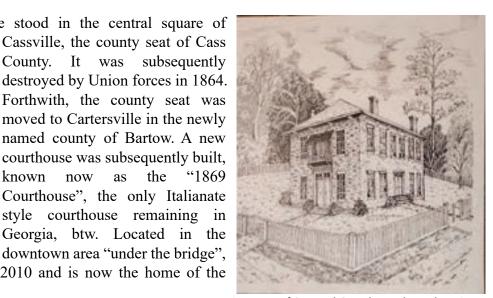
County. It was

In 1836, a two-storied courthouse stood in the central square of Cassville, the county seat of Cass



courthouse was subsequently built, "1869 the known now as Courthouse", the only Italianate style courthouse remaining in Georgia, btw. Located in the Site of the 1st County Courthouse, in Cassville downtown area "under the bridge",

it was saved & totally renovated back in 2010 and is now the home of the Bartow History Museum.





The 1869 Courthouse

disrupted its proceedings being that it was located adjacent to the RR tracks. The new courthouse, this beauty, the Gold-domed courthouse, was built in 1902.



2023 Courthouse view (note extension on left side)

Drawing of Original Courthouse by Jodeen Brown А larger, Courthouse was needed towards the late 1800s, especially because trains



Courthouse View from the early 1900s

The firm of McDonald & Company of Louisville, KY was contracted and

h i t e r Georgia-bred architect, James Wingfield Golucke, designed this new courthouse, in the Beaux-Arts style. Contractors for



The beautiful Courthouse Courtroom

the building were the local father & son builders of Robert & Eugene Smith. The building was commemorated the following year, thus the courthouse is termed the 1903 or the Gold-domed Courthouse. Visible from many locations, this beautiful Gold dome is a historic beacon to all those entering Cartersville from I-75 and for miles around.



Westside view

The vault added to the gold-domed courthouse has been

In the 1940s or 1950s, an extension was built on the west side of the courthouse to provide a vault to hold court records. *The construction supervisor estimated those dates by the brick and mortar they uncovered.

Because of (2023 - 2024)the newest (Frank along with a the decision this remove w а S January of



the current plans to expand Courthouse Moore complex) Parking Deck. was made to extension. This accomplished in 2024.

safely removed look of the



Southside view

and replacement windows ordered. The symmetrical original 1903 courthouse's exterior will allow the building to match the original photos, to return to its original configuration!

Why is the EVHS so interested in keeping members updated on this project? Well, in addition to the overall history of this beautiful building, remember that the EVHS offices are located here on the first floor. In fact, come visit and/or volunteer some time in the offices. It's quite remarkable!

Historic Building Quiz

by Bill Popham

Ok, for you Puzzlers, what is this building? It was built in the early 1900s (around 1911). Ok, ok, one more hint. It was used for important governmental functions in one area of our county. That's all you get!



* Answer on page 15 in this edition of your EVHS Newsletter!

The Veach Family(s) of Adairsville

by Ted Porter

(He) "was an honest, clean, conscientious man. He was diligent in business, shrewd and far-seeing in his financial operations, an excellent judge of men and successful in almost every business undertaking of his life. He accumulated an ample fortune and used it well. He was not stingy nor even close in his business transactions. He was always diligent and prudent, but never penurious". *-The Cartersville News, Thursday, September, 7, 1905*

Thus saith, the describer of the patriarch of the famous "Veach" family of Adairsville. James Madison Veach was born in the "valley of Virginia", August 14, 1823. As a young man, he left to seek his fortune, heading west to Illinois where he became a merchant. Seeking a milder climate, 5 years later he moved to Marietta, Ga before finally ending up in Adairsville in 1848 to start his destiny.



Marrying Julia Ann Echols of Chattooga County, Ga in 1859, James Madison raised a family of 5: George, Annie, Henry, Edward & Francis. A hard working & successful farmer, "Colonel" Madison (he was a Purchasing Agent for the Confederacy) started the Veach Flour Mill in 1868, which by 1881, was producing over 250 barrels of flour per day. He was an original stockholder of the Merchants' Bank and Underwriters. In addition to owning considerable farmland in

northern Bartow County, he owned several lots in downtown Chattanooga. James contributed much back to the city, including 22 acres in 1893 to establish what is now Eastside Cemetery, where many of Adairsville finest families are buried. Mr. Veach was a Mason of prominence, serving his Lodge as Master for 15 years. Though he could not be induced to accept office for many years, Mr. Veach became a Georgia State Legislator in



1892 where he distinguished himself. Because of his banking acumen, Mr. Veach was the originator of the state's Bank Bill. The value of his estate when he passed away in 1897 was estimated as being between \$500-800K (\$19M -\$38M in 2024 dollars).

James' sons George & Henry followed in their father's footsteps operating the JM Veach Flour Mill x 27 more years. Henry was "proprietor" of the Veach Flour Mill, whereas George ran the farms & businesses. When George died in 1919,





he left an estate worth \$175,000 (\$3.1M in today's money), bequeathing \$2500 each to several schools, \$500 each to the Methodist & Baptist Churches, as well as the Masonic Lodge.

George's son, James Madison ("JM") Veach was born in 1891, probably the most successful of all the Veach boys. Following his father & uncle into the civic & business world, he expanded into many facets of business. In addition to owning farmland, JM bought over 1100 acres everywhere, including land all the way into Atlanta (the area

on Cheshire Bridge which became the Tara Theater), as well as what became the intersection of Hwy 140 & the proposed highway called I-75 (for which the GDOT paid dearly for). His businesses included: the Veach Milling Company, the Veach Grocery Stores (Adairsville, Rome & Cartersville), the



Lake Marguerite



Veach Meat Market, Veach Orchards & Packing House amongst others.

"JM" married Marguerite Dyar, of another successful family of Adairsville. Though they had no children, they were prominent in Society, hosting parties and helping start the Sans Souci Club of Adairsville. JM died at the young age of 56, as a result on an auto accident in 1947. His widow ("Rete") lived for another 34 years (till 1981) and was also quite a businesswoman. She purchased land off of Hall Station Rd, dammed up a spring-fed lake which is today beautiful Lake Marguerite and built a lake home on it. *Upon her death, she bequeathed the lake &

> home to her handyman & chauffer, Bill Jarrett. Also, she donated many dollars to Piedmont



Veach Obelisk

Hospital in Atlanta, where she lived for several years. If one notes her gravestone, her birthdate is not marked, because"she didn't want anyone to know how old she was!".

Today? The ole Veach home is just north of the Methodist Church (now Church on the Square), a stone's throw from downtown & the RR tracks. Many know this home as the "Adairsville Inn", a very popular restaurant started by the

Gravestone – no birthdate! "Adairsville Inn", a very popular restaurant started by th Southerlands back in the 90s. *fyi, it has now changed hands & will soon be the new home of the Watertower Grill.



The Veach home in downtown Adairsville, aka Adairsville Inn

EVHS History Hunters by Gale Palmer

Our EVHS History Hunters have started saving history in the new year. Guy Parmenter kindly invited the group to detect his field off of Cassville Road. The site always reveals Civil War relics. Pictured are some of the group members and their finds.



Dave Cosby, Tom Francesconi, Mike Ward, Avrea Ward





Dennis Venezia and Larry Vogel



Dennis Venezia's finds include a bullet, a key, a CO2 cylinder, and nails





Larry Vogel found bullets and a button back

EVHS Hosts the Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville by Ted Porter

It was Nov 10th, when EVHS hosted the regular meeting for the Magnolia Garden Club at "In The Valley." After their administrative meeting & a sumptuous luncheon, 25+ members listened to a presentation by Joe Head on the story of Corra Harris & her home. Following the meeting, a tour of the campus was provided by Steve Ward & Ted Porter. Oh, and as a reward, members of the club donated MANY plants to be planted at the estate. * Only one problem. They didn't donate "diggers" for the project!!



Joe Head presents the story of Corra Harris

The Luncheon was terrific



Magnolia Garden Club attendees

Quiz Answer

District Militia Courthouse located in Emerson, GA. Identified by the EVHS in the 1990's as an important historic site.



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Grand Oaks

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