



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County*

Volume 122, March 2025

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## EVHS 2024 Christmas Party



The annual Christmas Bash was held this year, at the Savoy Automobile Museum. Complete with a tour of the exhibitions, the entourage enjoyed a sundry of finger foods, dancing, and surprise gifts for the occasion.



Vandy White enjoys her "prize" car



While Sarah Craighead & Rick Shireman and Susan & Lewis Tumlin enjoy the tour of cars



Memorabilia from EVHS was on display



The band played on for Dianne Tate & Diane Mooney!



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

### 2025

Myra Ramsey  
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Diane Mooney

### 2026

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Ted Porter  
Joanne Smith Pugh  
Dianne Tate

### 2027

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Judy Kilgore  
Mark Matthews

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Retired Supreme Court Justice  
Robert Benham  
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Guy Parmenter  
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This is a list of our sister (neighboring) History Societies here in NW Georgia we are collaborating with and support.

Save Acworth History  
Adairsville Depot History Museum  
Bartow History Museum  
Cassville Historical Society  
Cherokee County History Center  
Euharlee History Museum  
Funk Heritage Center  
Gordon County History Society  
Paulding County Historical Society  
Rockmart History Museum  
Rome Area History Center  
Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center

## SAVE THE DATE

### Upcoming Events for EVHS

**April 26** - Tumlin Garden Party

**May 30** - Patron Wine & Cheese party at "ITV"

**May 31** - Public Open House at "ITV"

**July 19** - Tour of SaltPeter Cave

Note: Some dates are subject to change.

## IN MEMORY

Gulie Quantrano - a member of the Stiles family,  
pioneers of Bartow County  
Beverly Head Moore - Secretary & President of Corra  
Harris Garden Club  
Joe Tilley - An EVHS Oral History honoree

## EVHS COMMITTEES

### *Allatoona Pass Battlefield*

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

### *"ITV" Committee*

Co-Chaired by  
Steve Ward  
Ted Porter

### *Social Media*

Chaired by  
Judy Kilgore

### *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



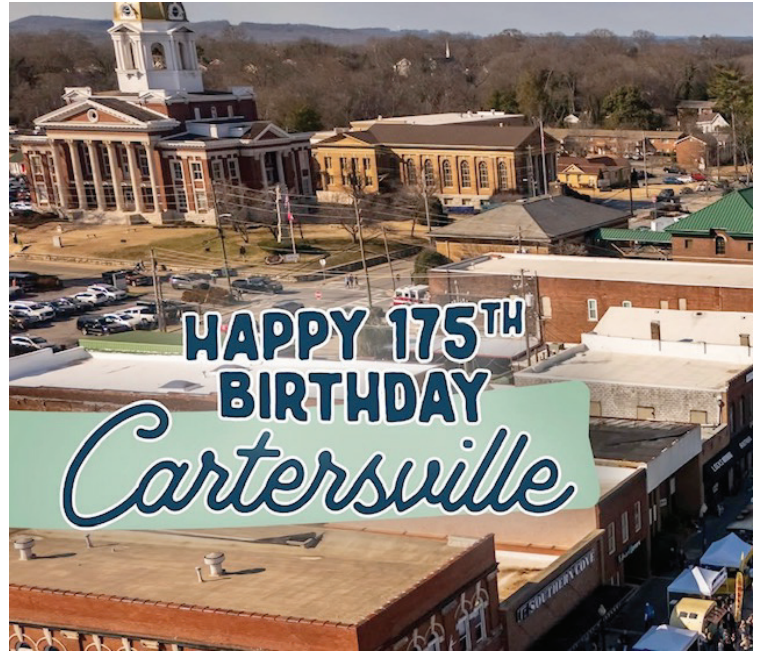
# Cartersville's 175th Birthday

by Dianne Tate

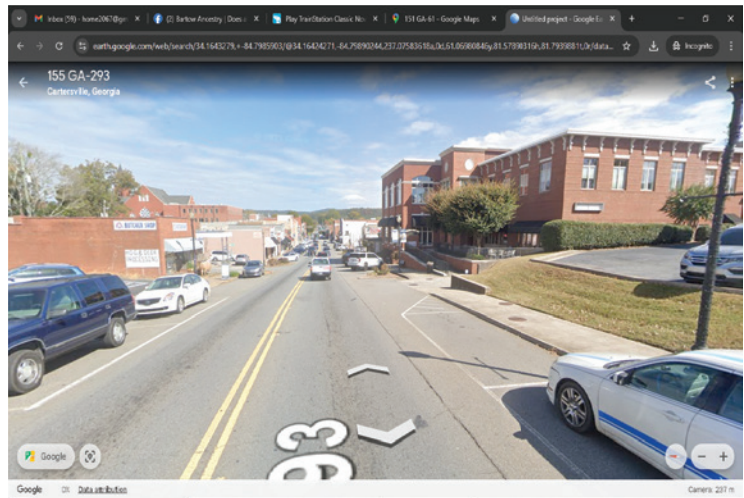
It was a beautiful February Saturday in Cartersville when downtown became alive with music, food vendors, departmental displays and a great children's area for play. A big crowd gathered to celebrate Cartersville's 175th birthday.

Someone has lived here for over 10,000 years so it comes as little surprise that we celebrate our history - indeed the many layers of history in this place. The little hamlet Birmingham near the Etowah River was settled in the 1830s. It relocated about a mile north as the W & A railroad tracks were laid and changed its name after Col. Farish Carter, a frequent visitor from Carter's Quarters (Murray County). It was incorporated as Cartersville in February of 1850 and became the new county seat in 1867, after the Civil War, due to its active location on the railroad and major roads.

Since incorporation Cartersville has enjoyed steady growth, an important stop along ole Dixie Highway and of course, eventually, Interstate 75. Our beautiful city has changed with paved streets, streetlights, thriving businesses, historic districts become a destination city - a museum city! Congratulations Cartersville on your 175th birthday - Col. Carter would be very proud.



Then



Now

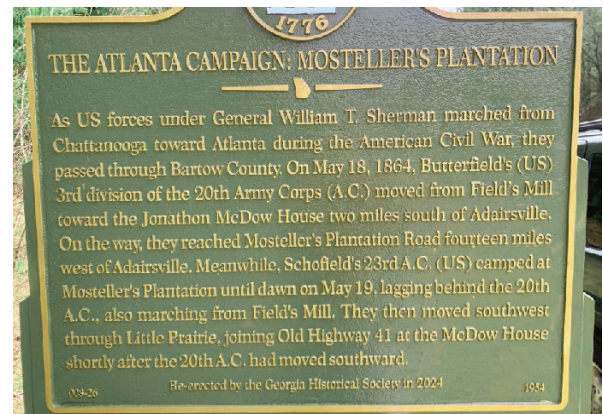
## Re-Newed Georgia Historical Marker (History Mystery)

After many years of absence, the Georgia Historical Society has redone/recast the marker denoting the location of the famous Mosteller Mill on Hwy 140 outside of Adairsville.



Ok ...the Mystery Question for this issue is:  
What is/are the mistakes on this marker?

*\* Answer on page 7*





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## January Workdays at “ITV” and Accomplishments

Grounds work continues year-round on a monthly basis, maintaining and restoring grounds. Thanks to a group of 8-15 volunteers who cut, carry, rake, dig, water, clean, build, and re-build.



*Terry Alters, Mike Ward, Steve Ward and others clearing brush (again) from Corra's Garden  
(This area is being readied for wildflower seeding this Spring)*



*Steve Ward et al, winching logs from behind cabin  
(This area being cleared and Corra's veranda re-built)*



*Cedar wood being recycled by Joel Rowe et al*



*New Stonemason (Terry Alters) at work!*



*Sign placed on Mt Pleasant Rd. while on grounds*



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# An Evening with Arthur Carter

by Ted Porter

It was the evening of Tuesday, March 4th and the Cartersville Library was flowing over. Why? To hear a discussion with a patriarch of Bartow County: Arthur “Junior” Carter. Brought up on Mission Rd, Mr. Carter noted he had been a farmer all his life, as well as being a Lockheed retiree, who was honored as a member (and ultimately chaired) of the Georgia Forestry Commission at Gov. Joe Frank’s request, along with being the oldest member of Alexander UMC, and a founding member of New Frontiers (thenewfrontierinc.org). And, and ... what a legacy!

FREE COMPLIMENTARY RECEPTION

**ETOWAH VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

In Honor of Black History

**EVHS Presents: An Evening with  
Mr. Arthur Carter, Local Legend**

- Lifelong Mission Road Farmer
- Alexander Chapel United Methodist Church, Lifelong Member
- The New Frontiers, Founding Member
- Storyteller Extraordinaire

Cartersville Library - 429 W Main Street  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
Reception: 6:00PM  
Guest Speaker: 6:30PM  
Facilitator: Calvin Cooley,  
Mayor-pro-tem  
Introduction by: Rev. Louis Tonsmeire

Register at [www.EVHSONline.org](http://www.EVHSONline.org) or 770-606-8862



*Co-Prez Joanne Smith, Arthur Carter, Co-Prez Dianne Tate & Calvin Cooley*

The standing room only audience was invited to and enjoyed a delicious spread of finger foods, desserts and liquid refreshments. Introduced by EVHS Co-President Dianne Tate to the crowd of 130+ guests, Mayor Pro-tem Calvin Cooley initiated and facilitated questions to Mr. Carter. Stories of his walking uphill both ways (!) to town. Remembrances of his teachers at Summer Hill School. Mr. Carter had the audience chuckling with his many stories, and in awe of his personal testimonies and philosophies of kindness. He finished up with questions from the audience. A delightful evening!



*Guests were registered by  
Myra Ramsey & Susan Yark*



*"And there was quite the  
spread of refreshments ..."*



*Mr. Carter with Allene & Larry Henderson*

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## SALTPETER CAVE

*It's been 4 years since EVHS offered this cave experience to its members. So, in anticipation of planning a repeat performance of a Tour of this most famous Bartow cave in July, we wanted to re-print an article published in the 90s, so that readers can get a feel for what this cave is all about. (Ted Porter)*

“Imagine walking into a quiet fog and feeling the still air become rapidly cooler with every cautious footstep taken downward into the earth's darkness. This is how it feels to enter the old Saltpeter Cave near Kingston. Some of the earliest inhabitants of the cave were the now-extinct mastodon, long-nose peccary, jaguar and giant armadillo. Fossils of these creatures have been found in the cave as well as those of close to 100 other vertebrates, including humans, dating back to the last Ice Age. When the Cherokees occupied this cave, they mined saltpeter to use as a good preservative and as medicine. Legends abound about the Saltpeter Cave, including one about the battle of the Creeks and the Cherokees. According to the story, the Cherokees were forced to retreat into the cave during a particularly vehement clash with the Creek Indians. The Creeks pursued them deep into the cave and some were never heard from again. Perhaps the mysterious sing-song humming of a woman's voice often heard in and around the cave is really the spirit of one of the lost Indians. Unaccountable footsteps have been heard inside the cave as well. It was during the War of 1812 and the U.S. Civil War that white men commercially mined saltpeter from the cave. The nitre-rich dirt from the cave's floor was boiled in large hoppers until saltpeter crystals formed. These crystals were mixed with charcoal and sulfur to make gunpowder. In excess of 1,000 pounds of saltpeter (Potassium nitrate) were extracted from the cave per day at a price as high as 75 cents per pound.

In early 1810, a murder took place at the entrance to the cave. William Reed, the second white man to own the cave and operate the saltpeter mining operation, killed a Cherokee Indian named Henry McGahee. McGahee had come to claim the cave as his own and challenged Reed to fight him for it. Reed shot and killed McGahee with his gun when McGahee came after him with an ax. The Cherokee Council pardoned Reed of the crime three months later and permitted him to resume mining. PEGGY (MARGARET) MITCHELL visited the cave in 1923 and wrote an article for The Atlanta Journal describing her experience. In her article, she recalled hearing the sound of a gushing river beneath the rock floor and described the congregation of a thousand II gibbering bats". She wrote, "The limestone walls rose sheer. ... disappearing into the darkness above". It must have been a much more beautiful sight compared to that which it has become today.

Sadly, careless trespassers have done irreparable damage to the cave. The once crystal-white walls have become sooty black from the smoke of pitch torches and campfires. Most of the bats have since found the cave uninhabitable and there is neither sound nor sign of a gushing river. Graffiti vandals have smeared their names over the walls, using fluorescent paint. Cave formations which took centuries to develop have been broken off and stolen. And, countless truckloads of beer cans and litter have been hauled away. Out of necessity, the cave had to be fenced and gated off from the general public.

Thanks to the efforts of three locals members of the National Speleological Society, the cave is very slowly beginning to rejuvenate itself. In 1980, Larry Blair, Joel Sneed and James Henry formed the Kingston Saltpeter Cave Study Project. Shortly thereafter, they located a preservation foundation which would acquire the cave, plus 40 surrounding acres from the Georgia Kraft Company and sponsor their study and conservation efforts. It is their intent that the cave be partially reopened for use as a teaching laboratory once study of the cave is completed. Two hundred and forty feet down, the cave opens up onto a huge maze of bulbous rooms. The first is called the Ballroom. The Cherokees once held their Green Corn Dance ceremony here. In the 1930's three young men equipped with fiddle, harmonica and banjo held public dances in this room. They constructed steps in the entrance to the cave and built a wooden platform for dancing. For a fee of 50 cents per person, people could dance the night away in the naturally air-conditioned ballroom. The dances became so popular that people began coming from surrounding counties to participate. They could take the train up from Atlanta, get off at what was then The Cave, a whistle stop, and ride out to Saltpeter Cave by buggy. Other Rooms in the cave have such unusual names as Margaret Mitchell's Lost, Devil's Dungeon, Barbecue Room, Jug Room, Bat Room and Blair's Saltpeter Corridor. Time seems to standstill inside the cave. There is dead silence save

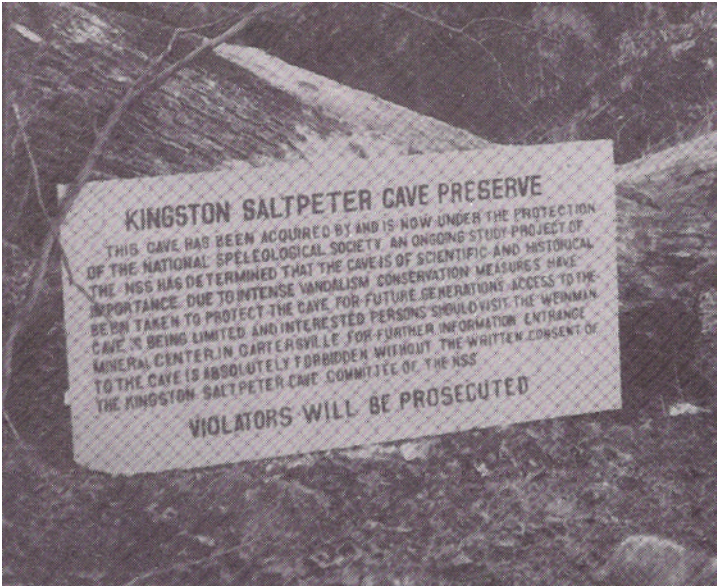


the occasional flutter of a bat. It seems at first there is little to excite the senses; unless, of course you brought your flashlight. Light exposes a world apart from what is seen above. Alien-shaped walls and rocks etched over time by water and weather seem to dodge and sway between shadow and light. Little white blind centipedes squirm in the dirt in search of decaying matter on which to feed.

Beyond the modern-day graffiti, the walls bear the beautiful script signatures of cave visitors dating as far back as 1776. The undisturbed charcoal autographs look as fresh as if they were drawn yesterday. Corning near the surface again where outside organisms and the faintest well of light float in, there grows a beautiful mushroom. Like the centipede, it is palest white and has astern that ripples and swirls about like iridescent satin ribbon. Onward and upward the air suddenly smells of life again. The warm summer evening overwhelmingly envelopes with the sweet smell of honeysuckle and the noisy chatter of birds. As Dorothy said, "There's no place like home".

The Kingston Saltpeter Cave continues to be closed to the public, but an excellent cave exhibit can be viewed at the William Weinman Mineral Center and Museum in Cartersville. To prevent destruction of this cave and others, the Georgia Cave Protection Act was put into effect in 1977. In general, it states that it is illegal to break or remove mineral formations, write on or mar the walls of a cave in any way, litter or dispose of any refuse in a cave, disturb or harm bats or other living organisms, remove or disturb artifacts or tamper with any locks, gates or other obstructions, even if entrance is gained. Present administrators of the Kingston Saltpeter Cave, Larry Blair and Joel Sneed, are compiling data on all aspects of the cave with the help of scientists and other specialists. They plan to publish a detailed book about the cave which will be available in the near future. Historic Saltpeter Cave is a well-known spot in Bartow County. Few people have explored the cave and at present, no one is allowed to do so. The author of this article received special permission to enter the cave and explore it."

By Terry Papproth Kennesaw College Paper (Nov,1992)



Now under the auspices of the National Speleological Society



One of several groups which took the dive in 2021

## History Quiz Answer

The written location is NOT 14 miles west of Adairsville, it's 5 miles east of Adairsville!

EVHS reminds members that dues are renewable according to the anniversary month that you joined. Notices to renew are now sent out via email and hardcopy letter to your postal address. You may renew on line or mail a check to the office at PO Box 1886. EVHS remains a most affordable and outstanding value.

Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Club/Organization	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$150



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## EVHS Board Retreat



*Front row, L to R: Joanne Smith, Myra Ramsey, Dianne Tate, Diane Mooney, Marty Mulinex, Becky Champion, Judy Kilgore  
Back Row: Ted Porter, Mark Meadows, Steve Ward*

The annual EVHS Board Retreat was held at Co-President Joanne Smith-Pugh's homeplace. Events for 2025 were planned, lunch was served and overall plans for membership, possible RE-involvement with our area youth and the latest accomplishments and needs of “In The Valley” were reviewed.

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### New Member of the 2025 EVHS Board

Marty Mulinex is our newest addition to the EVHS Board. A native of West Point, Ga, Marty graduated from Berry College, finishing a Master's in Library Media at GSU, retiring after 31 years from Alston & Bird as their Records & Information Director.

Since retirement, Marty has libaried at the Booth Museum and is a long-time member and Treasurer with the Kingston Woman's History Club. The whole family has been active with EVHS; her mother-in-law (Martha Mulinex) was the 2nd recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, her late husband was an EVHS photographer & newsletter writer. So ... it was inevitable!

Marty lives at the Mulinex Farm in Kingston, owned by the family since 1925 . Her son is a pilot with the Naval Reserve and daughter in law is active with the theater arts in Atlanta. Welcome Marty aboard to the EVHS Board!

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## Giving Tuesday Donors 2024

### Ladd's Mountain Level (over \$750)

Gary & Thonya Boston

Wanda & Steve Gray

### Cooper's Furnace Level (\$250-750)

Ambra & Alberta Piano

John H. Sweitzer

Kent Porter

Mitch & Jill Lowery

Joanne & Jim Pugh

H. Boyd Pettit, III

Joel & Becky Rowe

Beth Tilley

George Shropshire III

### SaltPeter Cave Level (up to \$250)

Becky Champion

Jake & Lauren Tripp

Dave & Patricia Elvers

Steve & Patty Ward

Joe & Debbie Head

Martha Wellstandt

Cozette Hightower

Louisa & James White

Judy & David Howard

Lila Champion-Silas

Judy Kilgore

Michelle Elliott

Faye McCord

Debra & Terry Faust

Deenie McKeever

Pam Godfrey

Ralph Monroe

Ellen Jones

Marty Mullinix

Anne Peace

Ernie & Gale Palmer

Keith & Linda Pye

Myra & Terry Ramsey

Sarah Snow

Lynn & Bob Reiter

Sherry Stephens

Dee & Mark Simonton

Bob & Penny Wiggins

Dianne Tate

Susan Yark

Thanks to all for continuing to support EVHS (primarily "In The Valley" estate) with your gifts. This \$8900+ allows us to repair and enhance (this year!) the buildings and grounds.

\* we installed a new, solar-powered cellular based security camera (see below).

\*\* as we speak, we have installed a power system for the Entrance gate. This simplifies access for our Caretaker, assures gate security and allows keypad entrance for guests.

\*\*\* lastly, we hope to have enough capital funds remaining to finally air-condition the cabin complex! This will provide comfort for our members, summer guests touring the home and help protect Corra's bedroom inventory from the effects of heat and humidity.



Power system installed for security gate with keypad entry



New security camera guards entrance



Example of protecting "ITV" from wild cats!



# Reflections of ... The Corra Harris Garden Club

By Ted Porter

It was 1935 when Corra Harris passed away at “In The Valley”. The property was willed to the Harris nephews with the Raines sisters living there for a number of years. The Smiths purchased the property to follow and then it was turned over by several owners until finally, it was destined to become a chicken farm in the early 1990s. At that point, a local Philanthropist, Jodie Hill, who loved this property, put in a bid for it and purchased it in 1996. He then began to restore and re-develop the property.



A few years into this huge project, Jodie Hill asked his friend, Marilee Henson, if she would help lead a Garden Club, to help in the landscaping of this property. Marilee was well respected, as she & her husband owned Lay's 5 & 10 Store in downtown Cartersville. So in April of 2000, the



Corra Harris Garden Club was formulated. next few years, the club membership grew

Officers in that first year were: Bromme, Vice President; Eddie Pascoe, Mary Siniard, Chaplain. Terms were 2 standing committees to market, to meetings. Annual dues were \$5 per

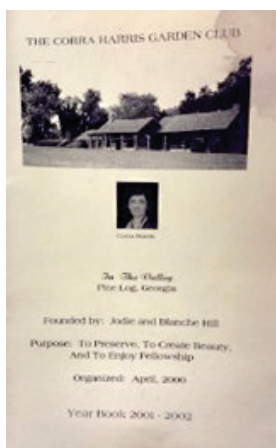
Jodie facilitated the rebuilding of era farming antiques for the estate, as well donated numerous items from her personal

and worked with the Horticultural Committee to design and plant flowers and shrubbery on the grounds. Raised gardens were built, members planted annuals and bulbs and ornamentals. They had meetings in the home, specifically the room called the “Well Room” with its cistern, where there was room for lectures and presentations. They decorated the cabin at Christmas, they had brunches and social gatherings in the Dining room and on the grounds. The members even compiled a Corra Harris Sing-A-Long songbook.

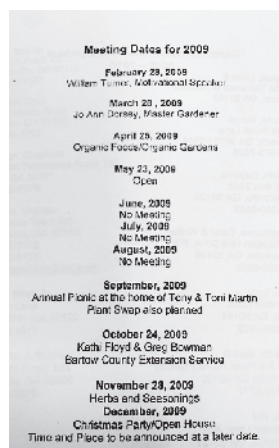


Over the to 260 members.

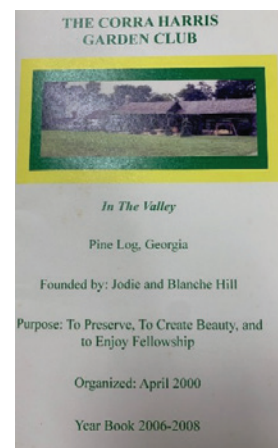
Marilee Henson, President; Billie Secretary; Rob Wilson, Treasurer; years each. There were seven publicize, to plan their monthly individual and \$7.50 per couple. buildings and accumulated many as the Windmill. Marilee collection to furnish the house



2001 Directory



Example of Monthly Meeting Agendas



2006 Directory

After Jodie Hill passed the property onto KSU in 2010, the Club's activity waned. The last known activity of the CHGC was in 2018, when remaining members donated a portrait of Corra Harris to neighboring Pine Long Elementary School.. But the last? In 2024, Genie Certain, the last Treasurer of record received a bank notice that the Garden Club still had money in its account. Genie accepted the money and donated the remainder to EVHS!





*Carol Baldwin, Beverly Moore, the P.L.E.S. rep, Francie Worley, and Bonnie Floyd presenting portrait to Pine Log*



*Flowers were planted ....*



*A portable sawmill was brought in ...*



*And there were picnics on the grounds, of course!*

## Welcome New Members

### 33 New members were added in 2024 – Welcome!

Emmy Baribault, Cartersville, GA  
 Deborah Beck, Cartersville, GA  
 Carolyn & Jimmy Brown, Cartersville, GA  
 C. Pat Gates, Dunedin, FL  
 Candace & Timothy Gerber, Dallas, GA  
 Edwina & John Groover, Cartersville, GA  
 Meleta Hansen, Adairsville, GA  
 Cozette Hightower, Cartersville, GA  
 Mike Horner, Emerson, GA  
 Robert & Bridgett Holly, Edgeworth, PA  
 John & Tom Karam, Cartersville, GA  
 Roger & Becky Lee, Waleska, GA  
 Mitch & Jill Lowery, Cartersville, GA  
 A. Scott & Terri Martin, Cartersville, GA  
 Heath & Kelli McFarland, Cartersville, GA  
 Chris Meredith, Cartersville, GA  
 Glenn & Jennifer Meritt, Cartersville, GA  
 Richard Oliver, Claremore, OK

Eileen & Matthew Ranstead, Cartersville, GA  
 Peter & Tracy Roberts, Tucker, GA  
 Joel & Becky Rowe, Rydal, GA  
 Chuck & Sandra Shiflett, White, GA  
 Anne & Frank Shimsky, Cartersville, GA  
 Bill & Sonya Smith, Cartersville, GA  
 Christie Snow, Adairsville, GA  
 Sherry Stephens, Cartersville, GA  
 Susan & Cordell Struphar, Cartersville, GA  
 Mark & Pam Sullins, Acworth, GA  
 Keith & Susan Taylr, Rydal, GA  
 Charlotte Terrill-Reed, Canton, GA  
 Shana Townsend, Kingston, GA  
 Larry Vogel, Acworth, GA  
 Darryl White, Marietta, GA  
 Shelly & Jim Williamson, Cartersville, GA  
 Chris & Ken Wills, Adairsville, GA  
 Samantha Wilson & Collin Taylor, Acworth, GA





## ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Cartersville, Georgia 30120

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www.evhsonline.org



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