



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 123, July 2025

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## EVHS's Spring Gala at Glen Cove



Members of EVHS enjoyed a beautiful evening at The Gardens at Glen Cove on April 28, hosted by Lewis & Susan Tumlin. 60 + individuals sipped on refreshing drinks as they sauntered along the curving paths thru the gardens.



*Isn't Deb Royer just the bomb?!*



*The flowers were simply outstanding*



*Joel & Becky Rowe, just a chillin'!*





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## OFFICERS

### *Co-Presidents*

Dianne Tate  
Joanne Smith Pugh

### *Vice President*

Mark Matthews

### *Secretary*

Myra Ramsey

### *Treasurer*

Steve Ward

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025

Myra Ramsey  
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2026

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2027

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## ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Retired Supreme Court Justice  
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Guy Parmenter  
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# Inside...

- Spring Gala at Glen Cove - page 1
- What's Happening at ITV - page 3
- History Quiz - page 3
- Northwest Georgia News - page 4
- Patron's Shindig - page 5
- The "other" Gov Harris - pages 6 -7
- History Quiz Answer - page 7

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Here is a list of our sister (neighboring) History Societies here in NW Georgia we are collaborating with and supporting.

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

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Upcoming Events for EVHS

**July 19** - *Tour of SaltPeter Cave \*Members only*

**Sept tba** - *"Gold" Courthouse Tour*

**Oct 3-5** - *Battle of Allatoona Reenactment*

**Oct 10** - *Annual Meeting at ITV*

**Dec tba** - *an Afternoon at Malbone Christmas Event*

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## IN MEMORY

*Robert "Bob" Neel*

## 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

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## Workdays at “In The Valley”

*by Ted Porter*

Monthly since January and weekly before the big Patron Shindig, Volunteers drove to Pine Log and gave of their time and talents to accomplish a myriad of tasks needed at In The Valley.

Plantings this year of 21 ornamental trees & bushes & 20 perennials; Weeding & Trimming. Repairs & Painting of buildings. Brush removal. Trail maintenance & development, esp around the pond (our newest project).

Interested in getting outside & enjoying the beauty of ITV? Sign up, join the fun and have lunch on us & with us!



*Keith Bailey, Joel Rowe & Steve Ward replaced and stained deteriorated fascia board.*



*Sami Wilson and Becky Rowe were gardeners extraordinaire!*



*ITV now has a new solar powered entrance gate!  
\* thank you, patrons!*



*Dave Elvers the youngest 90 ever, always on the job, helping out! Here he is clearing the pond.*



*And then there is the youngest, 13 yr old Jackson helping Ted Porter paint & install trail markers!*

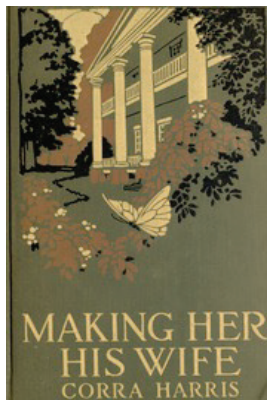


*Another “surprise” discovered in January?  
- an old rock garden. Re-sodded as a Veranda.*



What is the significance of this book written by Corra Harris: *Making Her His Wife* (1918)?

\* answer, pg 5





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## Two Governor Harrises in Bartow County?

*by Ted Porter*

Well, well, well. So, we know Corra Harris, and we know Bartow's own favorite son, Governor Joe Frank Harris, but who's ever heard of Governor Nat Harris? The story begins with a caller to the EVHS office recently, inquiring about this "other" Harris that had ties with Pine Log. But no one was aware of this, so a bit of research tells a fascinating story.

Nathaniel Edwin Harris was born in Washington County (Jonesboro), Tennessee, on Jan. 21, 1846, and he was one of 11 children. His hierarchy included a Revolutionary War soldier, several Tennessee state senators and governors. His father was a physician, a well-respected Methodist pastor and orator. "Nat" attended Old Martin Academy in Jonesboro in 1859 at the age of 14. To follow, he continued his Latin, Greek, and Math studies at Boone Creek Academy under the famous Professor Lampson.

When the Civil War broke out, east Tennessee was split, as was his own family. Because his father was an ardent Southern sympathizer, he supported the Confederacy. Nat enlisted in the Confederate Army in May of 1862, and began serving with the "Kirby Smith Rifles." He served throughout the conflict from Chattanooga to Knoxville to Gettysburg to General Early's invasion of Maryland and Washington DC, while attached to the 16th Virginia Cavalry. When he returned home in 1865, he found his family suffering from the hostility of post-war Union sympathizers and bushwhackers. Though it broke his father's heart to leave his beloved east Tennessee, Nat's father moved to Kingston, Georgia, to homestead, which was three miles above his nephews who were also refugees from Virginia. Nat stayed in Washington County to try and clear his father's name, but the post-war vendettas continued, and Nat had to live in a "lime-sink" to avoid the same fate as other former Rebels. Finally, in November of 1865, Nat made the 10-day trip with his mother and 10 siblings to Georgia, arriving at the new home his father had rented in Pine Log. They hadn't any more arrived when the family informed him that his father was dying in Kingston. They rode 15 miles from Pine Log to Kingston to his cousins, Mark and James Harris. Three days later, on the 6th of November, his father died.



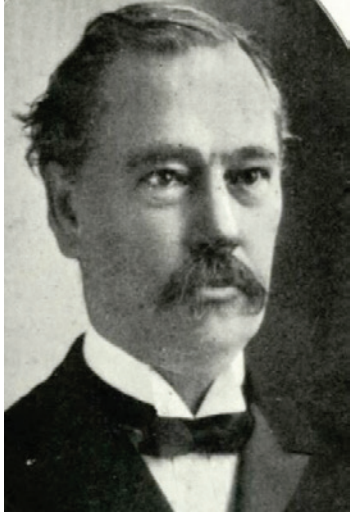
*Conneseena Baptist Church*

Nat and his family turned to farming on the former property of a Mr. Gibbon's 900 acres in Pine Log, which they called "Forest Lodge." In 1867, he decided he needed to continue his studies, leaving the farm to be run by his 17-yr old brother. Though he had no resources, he was befriended by Alexander Stephens, former Vice President of the Confederacy, who helped fund his college studies.

In his autobiography, Harris states, "Dr. William H. Felton, who at that time was accounted the most eloquent speaker in Bartow County, in fact, in our part of the State. He was a graduate of the University and agreed to aid me both in review and in going forward with my Latin and Greek studies. I rode from our home at Pine Log to his house, a distance of some eight or ten miles, twice a week and recited to him. His teaching proved to be a great advantage, and without doubt made my entrance into the University certain. He charged me nothing for this help. The doctor seemed to take considerable interest in my career and his good wife, Mrs. Felton, who has since achieved a distinction second to no woman in the American Union, gave me much advice from which I profited throughout all my career. She continued to write to me after I had entered college, and I record here my thanks to her for the help that she and her great husband rendered to me at this time. I think I may say that Dr. Felton continued his friendship with me until the last day of his life. When the monument was dedicated to him in Cartersville I made one of the principal addresses on that momentous occasion."

After graduating from the University of Georgia with his A.B. degree in 1870, Harris moved to Sparta, taught school and practiced law before moving to Macon, where he spent the next 27 years in private practice. In 1882, he ran for political office and served in the General Assembly. In 1885, with a desire to emphasize continuing education, he sponsored a bill to start the Georgia School of Technology.

In October of 1885, Georgia appropriated \$65,000 to build Georgia School of Technology in Atlanta, and Harris was the Chair of its Trustees from that point until his death. Harris served as a state Senator in 1894 and Judge of the Macon Circuit Court until 1914 when he ran for Governor. Harris served as Governor from 1915 to 1917, and he was the last Confederate veteran and last Governor to be born outside of the state. His notable accomplishments were the passing of Prohibition, the (attempted) prosecution of the lynchers of Leo Frank, and his support of compulsory education. He was ex-officio member of the Trustees of the University of Georgia and a trustee of Vanderbilt and Wesleyan Universities. One of the last entries in former Governor Harris's 562 page, 1925 autobiography was this "telling" account that specifically ties him to Pine Log, Bartow County, in more ways than one!



"Living in Pine Log, about four miles from the homestead that was occupied by my mother and her family after my father's death, is a lady who has become celebrated as a writer throughout the whole country. Her name is Mrs. Corra Harris. I call her cousin but her husband, I suppose, was in fact not related to me. I met her by accident one day at the Georgian Terrace in Atlanta, and after some conversation she invited me to visit her home. I told her I would be delighted to do so if I could be allowed to go to the old place where I lived with my mother in the first years after the war. She assured me I should do- so and she arranged to meet me in Cartersville, as she had business there from time to time, and fixed the day when I should come.

I went up accordingly and she met me with her chauffeur and automobile. In going to her home she turned out a short distance from the main road and carried me to the homestead, where my mother and the children had lived. It was the first time I had seen it since the Fall of 1868 and I could not put on paper if I were to try the feelings that crowded upon me, when I looked on the old white house, where we found a refuge after the death of my father near Kingston, Georgia. The fifty-five years that had passed had obliterated the land marks that I would have recognized. Yet the house seemed natural, when I went inside of it, and the rooms were just as I remembered them. It gave me the heart-ache and I went on to the home of my friend.

Her house occupies an elevated position, in fact is on the top of a ridge overlooking a large stream that runs toward the south. It is an ideal place for a poet's residence. It is located near the place where her husband died. Mrs. Harris showed me her study and the chair in which she sat to write her stories and other contributions to literature. It stands in the yard, some distance from the main house. While she talked to me she would grow eloquent at times and smiles would play upon her face, then she would drop into a cynical mood without warning and her face take on a hard and stony look. I recognized her genius at once and rejoiced that I had become acquainted with her before I died. I took dinner with her and in the afternoon she carried me back to Cartersville, some twelve miles distant, where I boarded the train for Atlanta, rejoicing, on the way that I had seen one person of my name who by her genius, her untiring energy and splendid diction, had made a fame for herself that had gone to the utmost limits of the nation."

Harris, N. (1925). *Autobiography: The Story of an Old Man's Life with Reminiscences of Seventy-Five Years*. J. W. Burke.

## History Quiz Answer

- from this book, Hollywood produced Corra Harris's 1st movie : *Husbands & Wives* - in 1925! (a silent movie)



## Dues Reminder

EVHS reminds members that dues are renewable according to the anniversary month that you joined. Notices are sent out via email and letter. You may renew on-line or mail a check to PO Box 1886.

**Thank you!**

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



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## Northwest Georgia Historical News



THE  
**GEORGIA TRUST**  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Last year, we were remiss in acknowledging the honoring of two of our own Bartow County remodelings which won the Preservation Awards from the *Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation*. Rudy York is certainly a most famous citizen of Cartersville, and the old Adairsville Methodist Church has returned to its glory as Church on the Square. So with permission from *The Georgia Trust* ... here is a recap for you.

An example of an American Small House, the Rudy York House was home to World Series champion Rudy York for over 32 years. Built in 1938, the home stands as a testament to both his baseball legacy and Native American heritage. The property faced demolition threats due to area redevelopment, but proactive ownership secured its preservation. The project, guided by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, meticulously rehabilitated much of the home's exterior and interior. Exterior renovations included restoring porch arches and railings similar to those found in historic photographs and masonry repairs on the chimneys. Inside, restoration work ranged from the bathroom's tile wainscoting to hardwood flooring and kitchen refurbishment, all while updating essential systems. In addition to safeguarding York's legacy, this rehabilitation has adaptively reused the home to house an office.

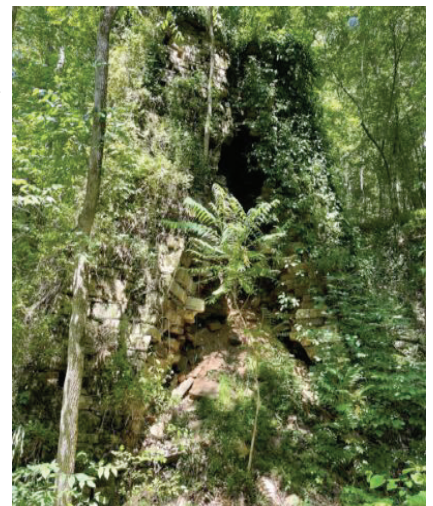


Situated on the edge of the historic downtown square, the Adairsville Church was built in 1887 by a United Methodist congregation, boasting Carpenter Gothic architecture. The church building has served as an important part of the community for over a century and this revitalization added modern conveniences that will enable greater use while maintaining its historic integrity. The project included repairing and repainting exterior siding, preserving ornate historic detailing and restoring original hardwood floors, while discreetly adding or cleverly concealing modern amenities. This endeavor not only rejuvenated the church but also invigorated community engagement through hosting local events, attracting new members and reinforcing the church's vital role in downtown Adairsville.

### Our Land Worth Saving

Pine Log Mountain, a privately owned wilderness area in Bartow County, is the site of historic resources representing three significant phases of Georgia's history: a Woodlands Era rock wall and more than two dozen burial cairns, all built by indigenous peoples, four 1840s-era stone iron furnaces used for mining before and after the Civil War; and the remains of the Sugar Hill Convict Labor Camp, where events that took place served as a catalyst for the Georgia Legislature ending its convict lease system in 1909. Remnants of complicated Southern history exist throughout Pine Log Mountain, and this space serves as a frame of reference for understanding Georgia's history.

\* The latest news? Cherokee and Bartow Counties are hoping to contribute money toward the purchase and savings of part of this pristine wilderness area.





## Patron's Shindig at ITV

On May 30th, 40-50 EVHS members, patrons and special guests were invited to a Wine-n-Cheese Party in Rydal. Though it was forecast to rain, the precipitation curtailed just in time that afternoon (twas considered a miracle!) and guests were treated to a beautiful, sunny evening at Corra Harris's place!



*Guests were welcomed by Becky Champion & Marty Mulinix*



*The cabin was freshened up by many volunteers, and the grounds were heavily landscaped for the enjoyment of our guests.*



*Awesome refreshments: Pimento sandwiches, savory meatballs, cheese sticks & fresh fruit just to name a few.*



*Guests were even chauffeured up to the cabin by Mark Matthews and Ted Porter.*



*Keith Bailey and other docents showed around guests, like Pastor Ernest Bush & Frank from New Hope Baptist Church in Rydal.*



*The Board Members were still smiling at the end of the evening!*



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