

# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 1994

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, Georgia 30120

## HAMILTON HOUSE IS DUPLICATE OF FAMED MEXICAN HACIENDA

Editors Note: This article was taken from The Atlanta Journal & Constitution, and was originally published in their March 31, 1957 edition. It was written by the late Mrs. A. B. Howard. The Hamilton House was also known by many other names such as Thistledale, the Hamilton-Fitten-Gaines home and Annianna. The old house was allowed to deteriorate and was subsequently razed about 1990.

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The story of the Hamilton House, with its deer park and private race track, seems lost in the limbo of time. However, tradition and a little imagination make it possible to reconstruct a picture of a gracious, even sumptuous, background for members of the Hamilton family.

Little is recorded about the Charles Hamilton who fought in the Mexican War, who was captured by General Antonio Dopez de Santa Anna and held as prisoner in the general's home. Hamilton so admired the hacienda of the magnetic "Mexican Napoleon" that, on his return to Georgia, he brought with him plans to duplicate it for his home amid the pines and oaks of North Georgia.

Built around 1850 of hand fashioned brick on a slight eminence just north of Adairsville, the house has eight rooms 22 by 22 feet on the main floor with a wide hall down the center, a three-room basement and a second

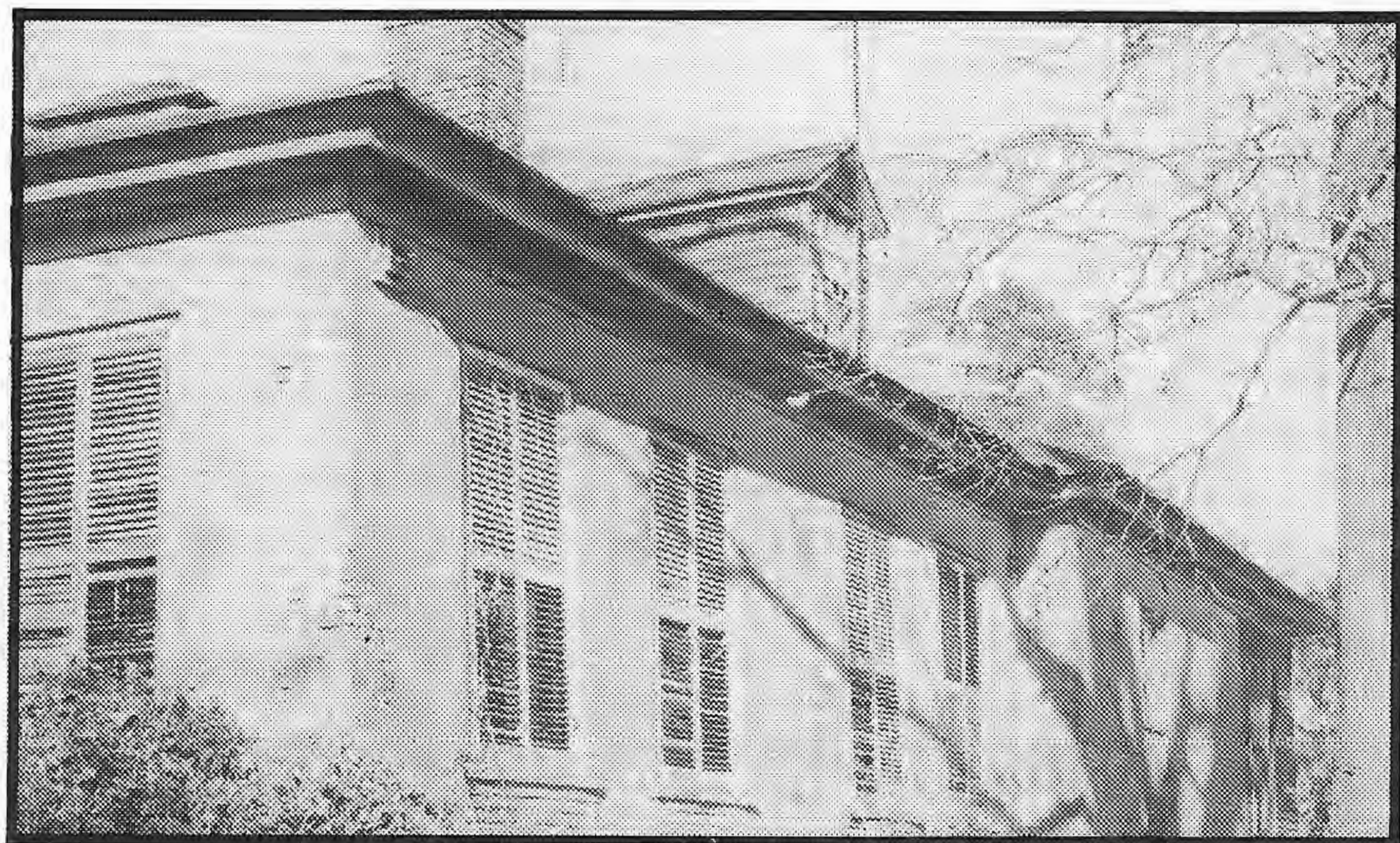


*Hamilton House as seen in the 1980's. Photo courtesy of Michael Garland.*

floor. All walls are of brick 18" thick making the window and door casements deep and wide and showing to advantage the paneling which matches the paneling below the dado in the two front drawingrooms.

The ceiling of the main drawingroom was beautifully executed in deep plaster fresco with the center design radiating from the chandelier with a border of acanthus leaves forming the crown molding. The wide board floors are still sound in the front portion of the house and the paneled doors are wide and tall.

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*Photo courtesy of Michael Garland.*

The passage of time has had small effect on the fluted Tuscan columns of the front porch but the cracks are widening in the brick walls. It was recalled by some elderly citizens that the Charleston earthquake caused the brick walls to develop small fissures which are now becoming dangerously large.

Ancient boxwoods border the front walk of this once majestic estate, and evidences of a beautiful formal garden are seen in the cedar-bordered plot flanking the house on the north. A hedge of fragrant purple lilacs once enclosed the garden and flagstones traced the walks among the brick bordered flower beds of sweet williams, violets, valley lilies, verbena and other best-loved perennials and annuals. Descendants of the original deep purple and white irises, snowdrops, blue and pink hyacinths, daffodils and blue bottles are still star-scattered on the grass, and several original flowering shrubs sent forth their brilliant banners of hope each spring. Where peacocks once spread their jeweled plumage across the lawn, pigs now root for succulent rhizome or bulbs.

The original brick paving is almost intact in the quadrangle off the back steps from the main floor and the entrance to the wine cellar and storage rooms of the basement. Brick walks lead to the smokehouse and toward the site of the carriage house. Only a few great



*Front prior to being razed. Photo by Michael Garland*

cedars remain of the thickly wooded area beyond the circling driveway.

During the War Between the States the mansion was taken over by the Federal Army and used for a hospital for a brief time, thus escaping the torch of a general whose name shall live in infamy.



*Inside photo prior to being razed. Photo courtesy of Michael Garland.*

Following The War, Col. John Fitten bought the Hamilton estate and established the Annianna Institute for Boys, converting the upper floor for teaching. A stage was built in the center of the floor and the alcoves with benches around the walls were probably used for study. The boarding students had their sleeping quarters in the large bedrooms on the main floor and the local day students including Baylis Lewis, Mart King, Henry Scott, Hiram Yarbrough, James R. Gray, later editor of The Atlanta Journal, and his sister, Miss Jo Gray, Genie Bradley and Minnie Gholston attended classes in the large room upstairs where some of their names can still be seen penciled on the walls.

Many distinguished visitors were entertained by Colonel and Mrs. Fitten, their daughters and sons. Relatives and talented artists were honored at dinners and evening parties assembling friends from Adairsville and nearby Cartersville, Calhoun, Rome and Dalton. Col. Fitten sponsored and encouraged a "literary society" which often held its meetings there. An item from The Courant-American (published in Cartersville) of the late 1870's describes a gala soiree honoring a Charleston lady and her beautiful daughter, the later called "a sweet singer of the South," and listing as a member of the society Alex Graham, who went to Oklahoma to make his fortune and become Adairsville's benefactor.

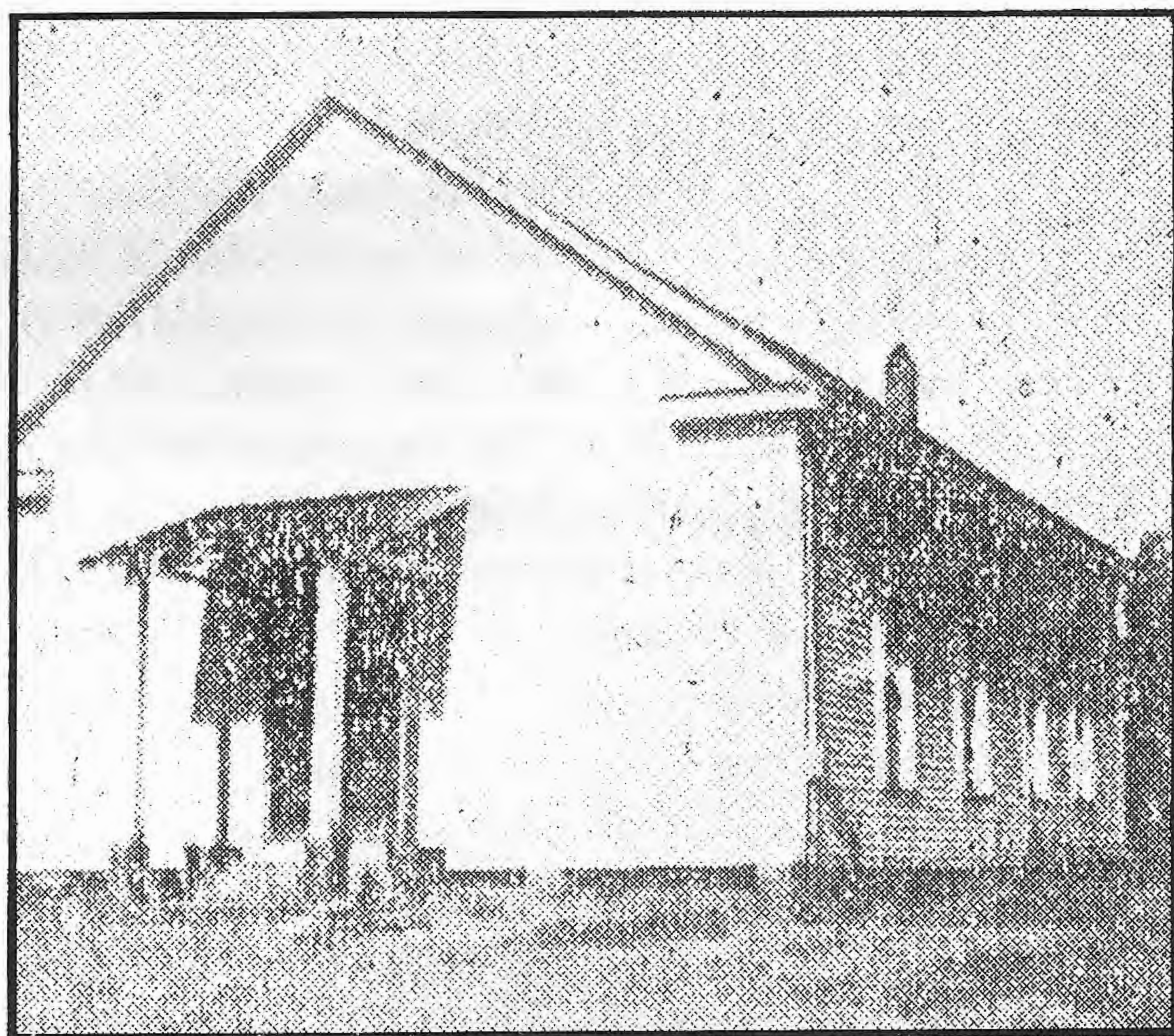
The late Lewis P. Gaines, grandfather of George Veach Gaines and Mrs. R. G. (Louise Bishop) Bradley, bought the estate and lived there until his death. The place is now the property of Claude Gaines of Atlanta. Mr. and Mrs. Red Paige now occupy the house.

# HISTORIC OOTHCALOOGA CHURCH & HAMILTON HOUSE

Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission of the Daily Tribune News, and was originally printed in their January 30, 1947 edition. This article was written by Colonel Thomas Spencer and originally titled "Historic Oothcalooga Church, Gaines Home Near Adairsville Need Marking, Spencer Says". It is a great companion article to Mrs. Howard's lead article in this newsletter. Refer also to the article titled "Oothcalooga Church" in the July, 1993 Newsletter. Note that the accepted spelling of Oothcaloga changed to Oothcalooga during this century.

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Let's go up through Adairsville on our weekly trip to unmarked places of historic interest. Let's pass through this fine little city, go about one mile, and on your left you will see a little white church. Back of this church you will see a cemetery. Across the road, on a hill to the east, you will see a fine old Southern home. But seeing isn't all. We want to know what we see, for here we have some of the best of the grand past of Bartow County. Here we find real history.



*Circa 1882. Historic Oothcaloga Valley Baptist Church with cemetery showing in rear. Destroyed by fire in 1955.*

The little white church is called by that Indian name, Oothcalooga, and the cemetery bears the same name. The house across the road has been called the Hamilton-Fitten and the Gaines home. The house is more than 100 years old. The church would be more than 100 years old

but for the fact that it was destroyed by fire during the time old "Torch" Sherman was so busy with his fire. It was rebuilt just after the war.

*Editor's note: The church building destroyed by old "Torch" Sherman was built circa 1838 and destroyed in 1864. One source says it was burned while another states it was dismantled to make tents. Oothcalooga Church had its beginning at the Old Oothcalooga Mission built by the Moravians in 1821. The Mission was located four miles north of the present day church location in Adairsville. The congregation met there from 1835 to late 1837 or early 1838. With the removal of the Indians, the church moved to a site across the Tennessee Road (U.S. 41) from where it is today. A log structure was built but was soon outgrown. A new church building was then constructed on the present day site. This was the building destroyed by General William T. Sherman's Union Forces. The log cabin was dismantled and rebuilt as a dwelling elsewhere. It has since been destroyed. From 1864 to approximately 1871, members met in an old school building in Adairsville on the same lot where The Adairsville Baptist Church is today. From approximately 1871 to 1882, members used The Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was originally a grain storage building. The members rebuilt on the present day site in 1882. The Oothcaloga Valley Baptist Church burned September 31, 1955 after being struck by lightning. The current brick Oothcalooga Church was built soon afterwards. Suggested reading is One Vine, Two Branches, History of The Adairsville Baptist Church (nee Oothcaloga Baptist Church) 1835-1979 by Wilma Jo Gazaway Moore.*



*The log cabin on the left is believed to be the first meeting house of the Oothcaloga Church. Copy of sketch made in 1845 by Jos. R. Bratts, Esquire. Picture taken from One Vine, Two Branches.*

But-the cemetery! Here we have history. Here we have the resting place of men who helped make this a

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free nation. Here lie the bones of Major John Lewis, as well as the bones of another who served in the Revolutionary War. Both graves are well marked and are in a good state of preservation. Other noted families are represented in this humble little graveyard. Here one is on hallowed ground. Take off that hat and salute these men. Bartow County must be proud of these graves. But, Bartow must yet mark this place so the Georgian and the tourist may stop to see and to learn more of the history of this state.

Major John Lewis, who sleeps in Oothcalooga Cemetery, came to Georgia in 1836. To be exact-to Cass County-now your Bartow. Nearby is another grave, that of another, the son of a "Minute Man" sleeps. There are other graves of heroes of other wars in this historic spot. He who loves his country, and those who offered their all for our freedom, should visit Oothcalooga.

Now let's cross the road to see the Hamilton-Fitten or Gaines home. Here we have another place of historic interest. Here lived heroes of wars and men who helped make Bartow County. Here in 1864, Federal officers had their headquarters, and also here in 1864, Confederates stopped for two days. Just north of this home, on May 17, 1864, Joe Johnston's Confederates fought Sherman's Yankees. It does not go down in history as a major engagement, but as a "holding" battle, which permitted Johnston to safely withdraw to Cassville. On the slopes south of this home was fought an engagement that lasted an hour. Here "Joe" Wheeler drove back a force of Federals twice his own strength.

After Sherman had captured Atlanta, and when Hood withdrew to the north, Federals again came back to Adairsville and the Hamilton-Fitten home. Here again Federal officers lived, and many of the sick and wounded were quartered here until Sherman decided to get rid of his "unfits" and head for the sea. Also here, in 1866, John Fitten started a school. The school auditorium can still be seen in the attic of this historic home. Most of the house is of original timber and brick. Boxwood abounds in the front, and there is that glamour about the house that makes one stop and wonder of those days of yesteryear.

Just to the north of the Hamilton-Fitten-Gaines home, not many years before this house was built, there lived the Cherokees. Cherokees, part of those first Americans, who lost their lands when not-so-good Georgians drove them to the west. Tradition tells us of

many adventures the "white" man had with these Indians, though one must credit these Indians with trying to make of their tribe a real nation, a nation that was progressing when the "white" man took over. The Cherokees had their own newspaper and laws and judges of their own. Bartow can be thankful that men of this county played little part or not much in the removal of the grand Indian, the Real First American.

On April 12, 1862, the first touch of the War between the States came to Oothcalooga, when the "General" and the crew of Yankee train-stealers passed on the W & A Railroad just west of the church to be closely followed by the Confederates. This was the first taste of war. When Chickamauga had been fought and won, train loads of wounded passed nearby going to Kingston, Marietta and Atlanta.

In the Dalton-Atlanta campaign, on May 17, 1864, part of Johnston's Confederates fought part of Sherman's armies, the engagement being in the northern tip of Bartow, just north of Oothcalooga. Johnston fell back through the town of Adairsville, followed closely by the 4th and 14th Army Corps, and the 20th Army Corp of Federals. Wheeler fought on the slopes south of the Hamilton-Fitten-Gaines home. Several skirmishes were fought west of the church. On May 19th the town was alive with Federals. Many of those wounded were cared for in the church, as well as the Hamilton-Fitten home. Wheeler charged into the town near the church and Hamilton-Fitten home several times, but was forced to withdraw in the face of overwhelming forces of Federals.

Later we will visit Adairsville, there to delve deeply into the history of a historic little city and to pick out those places of historic interest-as yet UNMARKED. When I think of these wonderful UNMARKED places, I think of a card that hangs on the walls of the office of the Kennesaw National Park, which reads, "A Nation Which Forgets Its Past Will Have No Future Worth Remembering." Think it over.

Submitted by Michael Garland

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# FOLSOM, GEORGIA, BARTOW COUNTY

## 1896-1897

Editor's Note: The following article was written by the late Mrs. Alice B. Howard. Unfortunately, we do not know when this article was written or in what publication it was first published.

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"Folsom" is a little hamlet about seven miles east of Adairsville and partly situated in Cedar Creek Valley. It has about 200 inhabitants and three stores; Adcock and Bros., Lewis and Sons and L. F. Hill. There are two physicians, Drs. Bradley and Dykes; two blacksmith shops and a first-class horse trader; two flour mills, three corn mills, a wool-carder and a sawmill. There is a Baptist church, of which Rev. A. J. Buford is pastor. The city government has adopted the silver platform at a ratio of 16 to 1. It may not be amiss to say that we have 16 pretty girls to 1 ugly one, and reversing the sexes, 16 ugly boys to one possibly handsome." The above quotation is from "Folsom Chips" in the semi-weekly news of 1896.

Folsom was named for the wife of President Cleveland. She was Frances Folsom, daughter of the President's law partner. After her father's death, she became the President's ward. It was during Cleveland's administration that a "star" mail route was established to deliver mail to Folsom. Misses Lydia and Hannah Adams received and dispensed the mail in a tiny building in the 'heart of Folsom'.

An excerpt from another column written by "The Truth Teller" March 1, 1896 reads as follows; "The people of this section have grounds to feel proud of the sixth district citizenship. Some of her sons have reached the highest pinnacle of intellectuality, some of whom remain with us and others who have gone forth to illumine other communities. Among those who are writing their names on the bright pages of fame are Kirby Anderson, a brilliant lawyer; Mr. William Stephen, once a citizen of Cartersville, now in the far west; George Hendricks, the Ordinary from the sixth district; F. M. Durham, once a citizen here; A. W. Fite, Judge of Superior Court, cradled in this district; C. B. Vincent, a neighbor; and many others."

From the November 12, 1897 edition of the semi-

weekly news; "This village continues to boom. Work on the big flour mill is rapidly pushed to completion..in a few weeks the whistle will be blown and the rollers made to grind. The next movement is the erection of a school house. Everyone interested in education is requested to meet at Folsom, Saturday to discuss the question and reach a decision whether to build the school here or near the church." "Indications point to a radical change among farmers here. They are sowing their land in wheat, which conveys the impression they are abandoning raising five cent cotton. It is well they are, for it is a great calamity to those trying to pay debts two or three years old, meet the prices and taxes and have to put up with starvation prices."

"Why not have as the next thing on docket here the building of a railroad and the building of a hotel?"

Also from clippings dated 1897 and stored in a box by the late Mr. Joe Newton, father of Mrs. W. C. (Retha) Casey comes this item; "A full line of dry goods and groceries are to be found in Folsom's three stores—Lewis & Son, J. B. Adcock & Bros. and Mosteller & Scott. We have daily mail and Mr. Alley Linn says he will build an electric car line from here to Adairsville. Just a few more men like Squire Linn is what we need." Also a clipping from 1897, a few weeks later. "Everything here is peaceable and quiet. There is probably less outlawing in Folsom than any town in Georgia."

Among the weddings in the news of 1896-97; Miss Ida Littlefield married Dr. Field of Farmville at the home of the bride's father, Capt. Mike Stoner, April 1, near Adairsville. Will Burns married Miss Lizzie Stoner. Miss Della Anderson, a charming and intelligent lady married Mr. Ed. Winfrey in Rome, at the home of Mr. A. A. Adcock. Mr. Ollie Bennett married Miss Edwards. A runaway marriage occurred. The couple had made the attempt not once, but several times...love finds a way. Miss Fulton and Will Norton both of Calhoun were happily joined in wedlock by Squire Murphy, at the residence of Dr. Dykes. Mr. Jim Murphy and Miss Brown, of Calhoun were married by Rev. Mr. Buford."

During the years 1896-97, the news revealed the fact that typhoid fever was rampant in the valley. Dr. R. S.

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*Folsom, Georgia, Bartow County Continued*

Bradley and Dr. Dykes were kept busy attending patients. Dr. Dick Bradley was the brother of Adairsville's Dr. Jim Bradley, who with Dr. J. P. Bowdon was instrumental in eradicating typhoid from Adairsville when the water works system was installed.

A "Miracle" reported; "A few days ago Albert Smith, age 10 met with a horrible accident in having the threshing machine engine belonging to Mr. Chesley Whitworth and Littlefield to run over him. The engine weighed over 4000 pounds, passed over the lower part of his abdomen. It was a miracle he was not killed, no serious injuries sustained and the boy is now able to be out."

Among the community names best remembered are: Mosteller, Newton, Boulineau, Murphy, Campbell,

Dooley, Hill, Darby, Elrod, Pickard, Green, Dinning, Hill, Linn, Lewis, Burns, Adcock, Perkins, Goss, Reagan, Blalock, Anderson, Martin, Whitworth, Littlefield, Osborne, Bartown, Stephens, Adams, Dykes, Bradley, Cline, Tedder.

These items from the columns "Folsom Chips" made interesting reading for the residents of Cedar Creek Valley. They probably got their "culture" from current books, such as, "The Diary of Mrs. Kitty Trevvlyan", the books by Hugo, Dickens and others. Magazines were "The Smart Set", "Harpers" and "Peterson's Magazine". Perhaps "St. Elmo" was published about that time.

Submitted by DiAnne Smith Monroe

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**LATE BREAKING  
NEWS!**

## **REPRINT OF MAHAN'S BOOK NOW AVAILABLE**



### **A HISTORY OF OLD CASSVILLE 1833 - 1864**

**JOSEPH B. MAHAN, JR.**

Thanks to the generosity and permission of Dr. Joe Mahan, your Society has reprinted this popular book. The new edition has been revised with information not available to the author forty-five years ago when he com-

pleted his previous work. According to project Chairman, J.B. Tate, the book is encased in a handsome paperback cover and also contains pictures and maps. This 135 page book has been indexed for easier reference thanks to Patricia Simmons. Featured on the cover is the old Cassville Female College which was destroyed by Union forces in 1864. Local artist, Jodeen Brown, painted the picture from a diploma cover provided by Martha White.

Dr. Mahan was the guest of the Etowah Valley Historical Society, which hosted a reception in his honor on August 6 at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. On August 7, The Cassville Heritage Association hosted a reception at the Cassville United Methodist Church. This book is now available to the public at a cost of \$15.90 (including tax) and may be purchased at Parmenter, Langford and Watkins Insurance, 210 E. Main St., Cartersville. It is also available by mail for an additional \$3.00 postage and handling fee.

In addition to the book on Cassville, Dr. Mahan has written the following books: The Secret, America in World History Before Columbus, North American Sun Kings, Keepers of the Flame, and Columbus, Georgia's Fall Line Trading Town. Dr. Mahan is currently the president and acting director of the Institute for the Study of American Cultures, a national research organization. It is devoted to a better understanding of the origins and cultures of Native Americans.

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# MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## June 25, 1994

The Etowah Valley Historical Society held its membership and dinner meeting Saturday, June 25, 1994 at the Euharlee Masonic Lodge. In 1903 this Lodge was organized and chartered as number 457. The construction date of the building and its original size are not known. It is located in the middle of the historic town of Euharlee.

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with President Larry Gregory presiding. Approximately 66 members and guests were in attendance. Larry invited everyone to tour the Covered Bridge, the Militia District Courthouse and Calaboose following the meeting.

Carolyn Parmenter reported on the progress of the Historic Preservation Committee. She advised that we now have two rooms at the 1903 Courthouse. The committee members have been busy cleaning old records found in the Courthouse attic. They are then stored in racks located in the new EVHS office. Members have also been sorting through the papers and collections of Lucy Cunyus which were donated to the Society. Committee members are working hard to bring back to the Courthouse as much of the original furniture as possible. A brass plaque has been placed on the door of the main room with the Society name. Volunteers are needed for the current cleanings and in the future to conduct tours of the Courthouse and to keep the office open.

Guy Parmenter reported that we now have over 400 members. He complimented DiAnne Monroe on a great job as membership chairperson. Guy asked everyone to submit names of prospective members to DiAnne. He also reported that progress is being made on the log

cabin at Red Top. Construction has begun with the site being cleared and pillars laid. If weather permits, log construction will begin within the next couple of weeks. A "CROSSROADS" program will be filmed highlighting the construction at Red Top.

Our Society is working with the Corps of Engineers locally to develop a plan for trails at Allatoona Pass. If this plan becomes reality, signs will be placed along the trails in order for visitors to learn more about the historic Civil War battle fought there on October 5, 1864.

A "CROSSROADS" program on WWII and the Homefront is now being featured on Channel 4. Thanks were expressed to all those involved. The next program will be the Great Locomotive Chase with Joe Head.

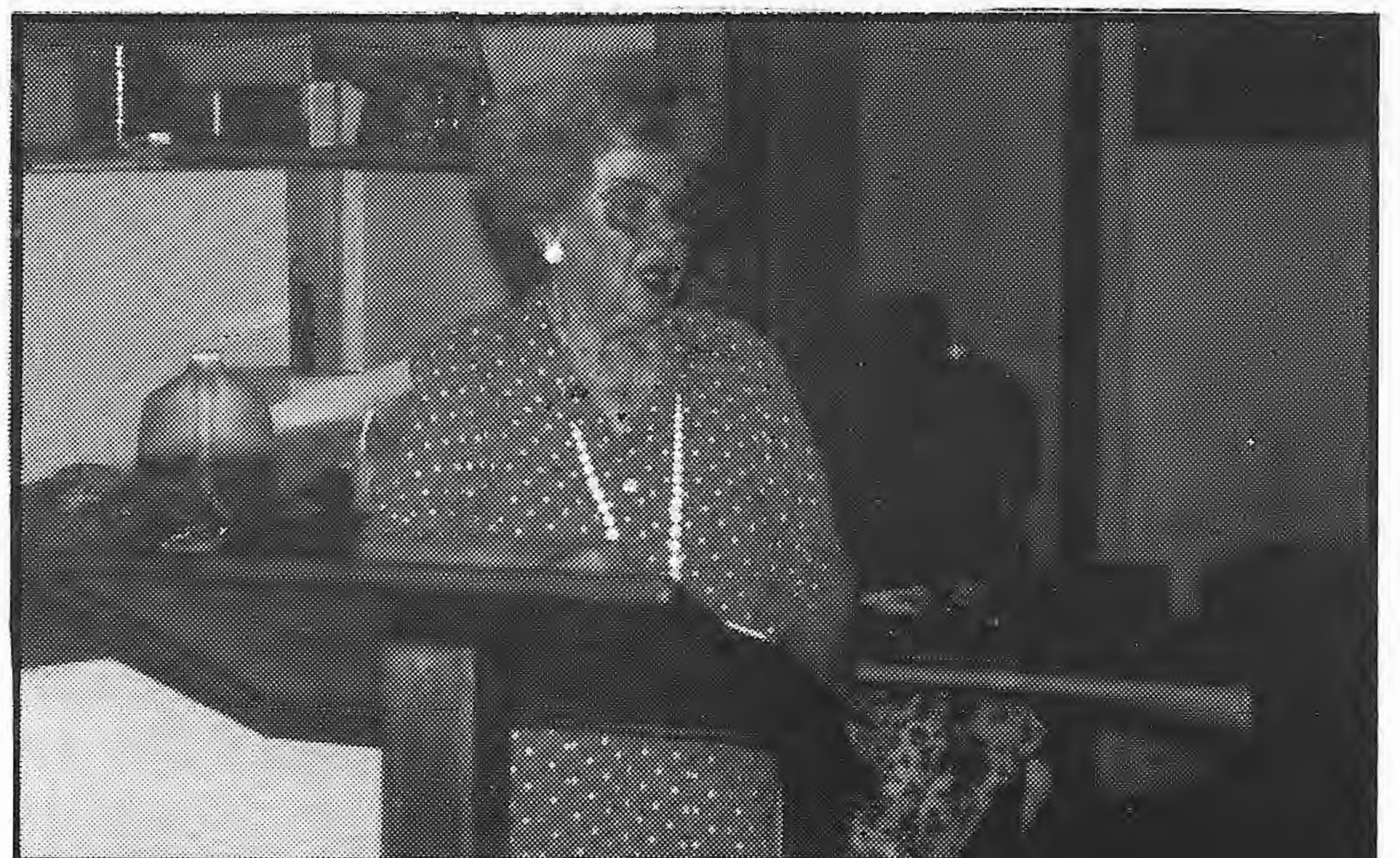
Our program was on the town of Euharlee, presented by Mary Ellen Taft and Jo Ross. Mrs. Taft told of the Euharlee History Committee's desire to preserve and protect the historical area. Mrs. Ross advised that the book, The History of Euharlee, was first inspired by the late Emmie Nelson. She went on to say that the town once housed many businesses including a courthouse, calaboose, general store, a saloon, shoe shop, cotton gin, flour and grist mill, blacksmith shop, mule market, saw mill and a cheese factory. There were also many doctors, churches, a school and a newspaper. The history of the town and its people can be found in the book The History of Euharlee that can be obtained at the Euharlee Library.

After the meeting and dinner many members toured the area, including the Covered Bridge.

Rosemary Clabo, Secretary



*Mary Ellen Taft*



*Jo Ross*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I received my copy of Bartow County, Georgia Formerly Cass Cemeteries Volume 1 and I want you to know that I am really happy with it. Already I've found a whole lot of missing dates for my family history....and I am delighted to know where these folks are buried. I wish I could thank all those folks who tramped those cemeteries gathering those names and dates. They have done a fantastic job.

My 2nd great-grandfather was Marion Thomas Hayes, the fellow who donated the land for the Hayes Cemetery near Folsom. And my 3rd great-grandfather was Zachariah Adcock. I see that you are seeking a photo of him, as a past Sheriff in 1842. I'm sorry, I don't have a photo of him. If you ever find one, please let me know. I'd love to see what he looked like!

Amelia Baum Pivernetz  
Lakewood, California

## NOTICE!

The annual meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, October 1, 1994, in accordance with the By-Laws. The exact location and time will be announced at a later date. Business will include the election of one member to the Board of Directors. The Board member whose three year term is expiring is Michelle Rodgers. A nominating committee will be appointed by Board Chairman, Guy Parmenter. Members may make their own nomination by notifying President, Larry Gregory, in writing on or before September 1, 1994.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gross, Cartersville, GA  
Mr. Thomas Gaard, Des Moines, IA  
Ms. Donna F. McCoy, Cartersville, GA  
Mrs. Brenda F. Long, Cartersville, GA  
Mr. Steven Bowie, Ontario, CA  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Shelp, New York, NY

ETOWAH VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## INSIDE:

- Hamilton House
- Oothcalooga Church
- Folsom, Georgia  
1896-1897  
...and much more!