

# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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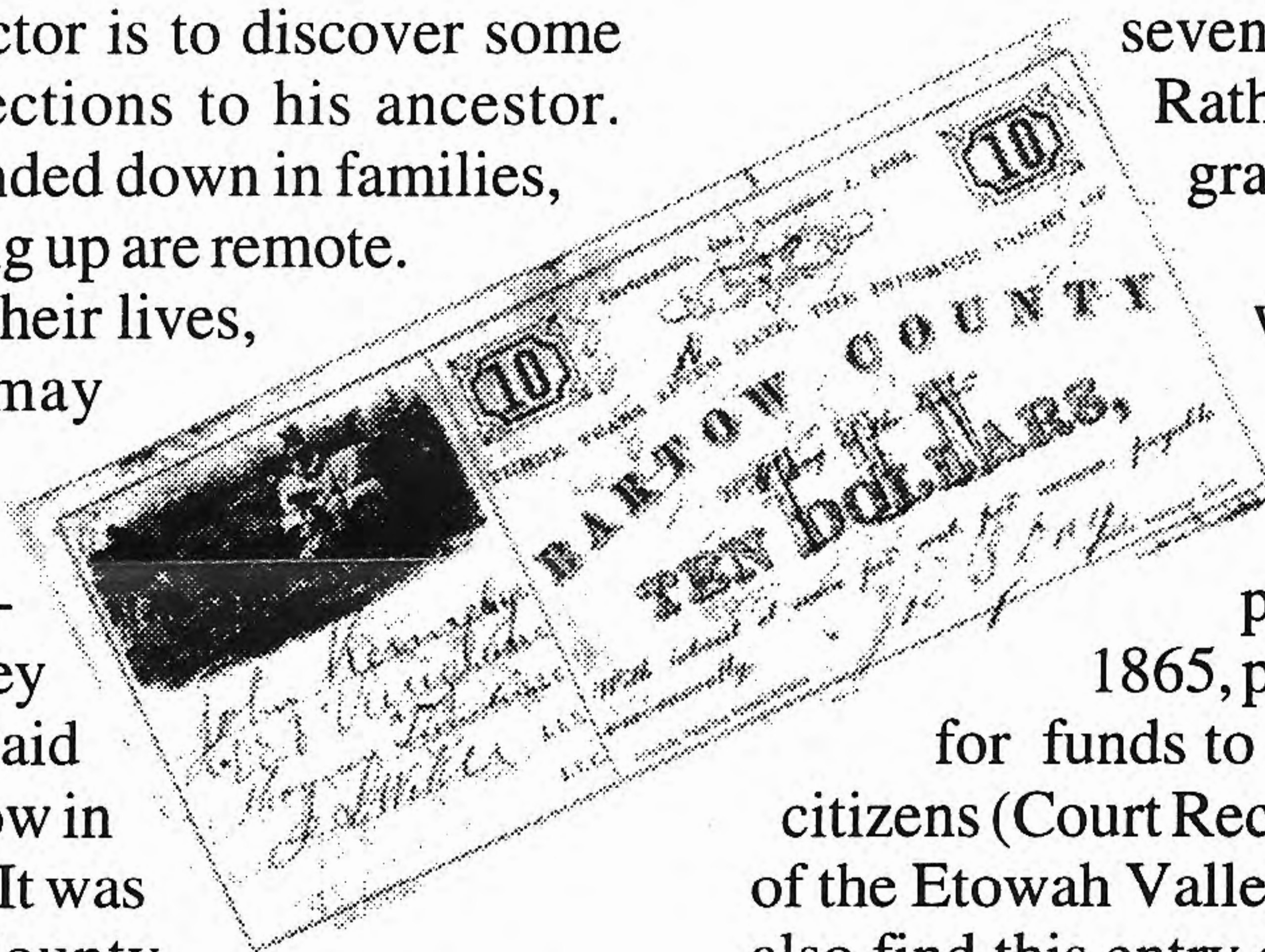
P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, Georgia 30120, Phone (770) 606-8862

## THE BARTOW COUNTY BOND ISSUE OF 1866

By John H. Cobb, Jr.

The dream of every collector is to discover some artifact with traceable connections to his ancestor. Outside of heirloom pieces handed down in families, the odds of a chance find turning up are remote. Yet, the more we learn about their lives, the more productively we may search. And sometimes, it just drops into our laps.

On a Saturday afternoon I received a call from a paper money dealer in South Carolina, who said he'd located something in a show in Florida that might interest me. It was a bond, issued by Bartow County, Georgia, in 1866, and only the second example known to this professional in over twenty years of national trade. What had caught his eye was, among the



seven signatures on the note, my name! Rather, that of John H. Cobb, my great-grandfather.

In the dark days following the lost war for Southern Independence, Bartow County lay destitute. Cassville was in ruins and people were starving. The Inferior Court, presiding at Cartersville since late 1865, petitioned Governor Charles Jenkins for funds to buy corn for the poor and helpless citizens (Court Record, p.41). In this journal, now part of the Etowah Valley Historical Society collection, we also find this entry on page 18:

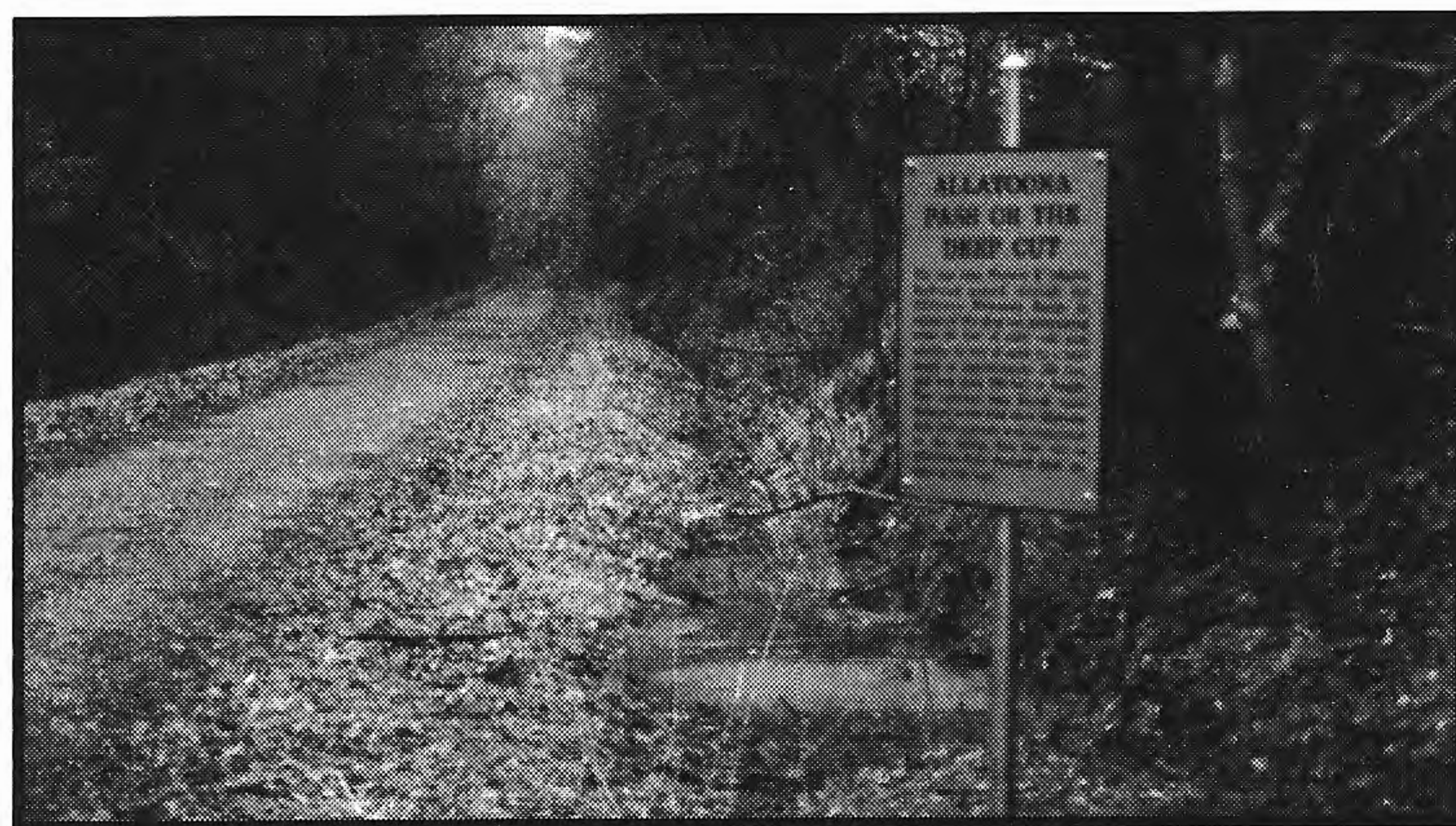
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## NEW SIGNS AT ALLATOONA BATTLEFIELD

We have eleven new trail signs in place on the Allatoona Battlefield. Many more are being planned. Thanks to all the following who have donated materials:

Frederick Knight-Knight Forest Products; Eddie Kincannon-A A R Welding; Morris Gentry-Cartersville Fence Co.; Ronnie Turner-U. S. Industrial Supply; Doyle Sheffield-Action Rent All.

Thanks also to Bill Scaife who provided the historical wording for the signs and Warren Gaylord who procured all the materials necessary to assemble and to place the signs. Charles Warlick donated his time to assemble the signs and help place them. Guy Parmenter, Bill Scaife, Ed Hill, Diane Mooney, Clay Mooney, and Michael Garland assisted in the placement of the signs.





*Cartersville, Bartow County, GA  
January 8th 1866*

*To the General Assembly of Georgia*

*We the Justices of the Inferior Court of said county respectfully ask your body to authorize us to raise money by the issue and sale of County Bonds to be received in payment of county taxes. We ask this because there are now no county funds on hand, and we have no courthouse or jail and cannot pay the jail fees or do anything toward holding courts or execute the laws in our county without money. There is not a single safe jail in the Cherokee Judicial Circuit, and if we cannot raise money in some way before the regular time for the collection of taxes, the criminal laws cannot be executed. We ask this enactment, believing it is the best that can be done under the circumstances. Respectfully Submitted, J. L. Wikle, J.I.C.; John Kennedy, J.I.C. and D. A. Vaughan, J.I.C.*

This appeal was introduced into the State House on 24th January, 1866 by Rep. Nathan Howard. Authorization was granted by legislative act under Title IX, Sec. 1, No. 50:

*2. Sec. I. Be it enacted, that the Justices of the Inferior Court of the County of Bartow are hereby authorized and empowered to issue and negotiate County bonds to an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars, the proceeds of which, when sold, shall be applied to such County purpose as the said Court may deem just and proper, to pay jurors, to build bridges, and defray such other County expenses as may be necessary; Provided, however, that such bonds shall not be issued for a longer period than five years; And Provided, further, that such County tax shall be levied from year to year, after the expiration of this year, as will pay off and extinguish said bonds, and the interest thereon, by the time they mature and fall due. All laws militating are hereby repealed. Approved 12th March, 1866.*

Lucy Cunyus (Mulcahy) tells us that "during this time, court was held in the second story of a building on the corner of Main Street and East Public Square..." (p. 118). Her account of the political struggle to move the seat of government from Cassville to Cartersville makes it clear that the raising of money for a new jail and courthouse was pivotal in the election of January, 1867, which made the de facto move official.

On April 14, 1866, the Inferior Court ordered the clerk to issue \$500 in bonds of \$5 and \$10 values, to be signed by the Justices and clerk, and "turn them over to John A. Erwin to sell...for the County ..." (Court Record, p. 43-44). Major Erwin had a mercantile business and his store must have been a convenient public venue. None of these bonds are known to exist.

Then on September 24, 1866, a bond sale of \$2000 was ordered for October 30, "at public outcry before the Courthouse door..." (Court Record, p. 61). But the entry for October 30 on page 68 informs that:

*The sale of County Bonds was postponed until Tuesday the 6th day of November and notice given at the door of the Courthouse...*

These bonds have a printed date of November 1, 1866. The illustrated specimen (figs. 1 & 2) is serial number 39.

The bonds measure 8.25 X 3.75 inches with black print on white stock, and curiously festive red and green overprint lettering. Of three-year maturity, they yielded 7% simple interest, payable semi-annually. Records suggest that all bonds were of \$10 denomination. The vignette at upper left depicting a cotton wagon is of uncertain origin and appeared on the back of some bogus Confederate bills (the "female riding deer" notes) which turned up during the war. It's use here was prophetic, as Bartow County was destined to become a major cotton producer.

A probable number of 200 bonds were produced by the Franklin Printing House in Atlanta. This firm had local ties, having been founded in 1857 by John H. Rice, late of Cassville. We know that the county paid \$26.75 for them. That amount was reimbursed to Justice Thomas Tumlin, who picked up the blank bonds "...at the Express office..." (Court Record, p. 69).

Signatures on the face of the bond includes Justices, John Kennedy, D(avid). A. Vaughan, Thomas Tumlin, and J(ohn). L. Wikle, and Court Clerk, Joe S. Day. The unprinted back bears pen and ink report voucher numbers 452, 368, and the following endorsement:

*Recd of /s/ John H Cobb  
Total twelve 10/100 dollars  
on this Bond  
Nov 20 1869  
/s/ J. C. Maddox*

John Humphrey Cobb was County Treasurer, serving the first of his four terms in office (1868-1871, 1894-1895, 1898-1902, 1904-1910). It is likely that he assigned the payout on all redeemed bonds; a similar endorsement is found on serial number 1, which is in a private collection in Lawrenceville, GA. The cash paid out equals face value plus \$2.10 interest. Voucher #452 corresponds to the entry found in the Treasurer's Record of 1869, which lists this bond and nine others turned in by Mr. Maddox. John C. Maddox had been a Captain, Co. G, 18th Georgia Regiment, and County Treasurer in 1866 when the bonds were sold. (Incidentally, Clerk Joe Day and John Cobb rode together in Co. B, Phillips' Legion Cavalry Battalion, Hampton's/Young Brigade, for the duration



of the late war).

It is difficult to estimate the number of these bonds held by the public. No document from 1866 relating to their actual sale has been found. In at least one instance they were used in lieu of cash for payment of a county debt. A court order dated July 7, 1868 directs:

*Ordered by the Court that the County Treasurer pay Newton J. Dobbs the sum of three hundred dollars in County bonds-payable three years after the date, with interest at the rate of seven percent per annum-payable semiannually-for the building of a bridge across Allatoona Creek where the Marietta road crosses said stream.*

Here the county opted to defer cash payment at a time when income was a problem. In 1871 they would have owed Mr. Dobbs \$363.

We do have some indirect references by which a close estimation of the issue can be made. According to the Treasurer's Record of 1869, county bonds were redeemed on voucher numbers 432 through 465, by these county citizens: Lewis Tumlin (3), B. J. Lewis (8), J. W. Curry (10), including serial number 1, Edward Harling (1), J. C. Maddox (10), J. W. Edwards (7), A. Y. Chapman (1), and Humphrey W. Cobb (J. H. Cobb's father), (1). Three suspicious entries of \$12.10 each paid to J. L. Wikle are attributed to court order, but could possibly have been on bonds. Altogether these would account for no more than 44 bonds. The Treasurer's Record also notes bonds amounting to \$400 still outstanding (see fig. 12), probably including the Dobbs obligation, which brings the total to about 84. Interest of \$21 was paid to Elliott Moon on voucher #466, implying that he still held ten of those bonds.

In conclusion, assuming an initial offering of 200 bonds (\$2000), the number of bonds sold probably did not exceed 93. For, by order of the Court, 107 bonds

were canceled and destroyed. The destruction report, signed by John A. Erwin and Thomas Tumlin on August 3, 1869, accounts for \$1070 in 7% bonds, apparently unsold (County Documents, Bartow History Center).

At any rate, we do not know if more than two have survived, making them extremely rare today. The author is seeking information on the whereabouts of any other of these bonds which may exist, and may be contacted through the Etowah Valley Historical Society.

No one was going to become rich from the modest rate of return these bonds provided. Once again, during a time of extreme hardship, Bartow Countains displayed the spirit of civic duty and leadership that has continued throughout history. Those who could afford to loan money for the sake of maintaining law and order did what they could.

By sale of bonds and public subscription, the county had sufficient means to first have a log jail constructed by Vaughan & Covington in 1867, for \$1100 (from a court order, Bartow History Center). Then, "a brick courthouse, at a cost of \$20,000 was finished in 1873...the jail was erected behind it at a cost of \$15,000" (Cunyus, p.118).

The fact that Bartow County was able to fund such projects is indicative of a rapid economic recovery, even in the face of an imposed, repressive Reconstruction. The bond issue of 1866 was one instrument of that recovery.

#### ADDENDUM

In April, 1998, the author acquired the third known ten-dollar Bartow County bond, which came to light in a small collection of Georgia banknotes purchased by a dealer. It is serial number 54, and is in very fine (VF) condition, as is No. 39. The design and signatures are also similar, except for that of the bondholder. Redeemed on November 20, 1869, J. W. Edwards signed for receipt of \$12.10 on report voucher #463. The entry by that number in the Treasurer's Record corroborates this payment.

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## THANKS TO SO MANY!

We will never say it often enough, but we do greatly appreciate all the donations of books to our growing EVHS library. Since moving to the 1903 Courthouse in 1994, we have received approximately 352 books as donations. In addition, the EVHS has purchased another 39 books. These additions, added to the books we already had, total over 450 volumes. Thanks to all the following people and organizations who have so generously donated to our preservation goals: (Number of books donated follows names).

Dorothy Anne Roth, 87  
Sons of Confederate Veterans Stiles/  
Akin Camp #670, 59

Robert Casey, 34  
Wilma Cantrell, 17  
Barry Colbaugh, 14

Dianne Monroe, 13  
Guy & Linda Parmenter, 11  
Joe Mahan, 11  
J. B. & Dianne Tate, 10  
John Dent, Estate, 10  
Linda Trentham, 8

Linda Cocharan, 7  
Woodrow Bradley, 6  
Jean Cochran, 5  
Glenda Collier, 5  
Richard Nix, 5  
William R. Scaife, 4



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"Books" continued

Pete Rogers, 3  
Gelinda Nemcovsky, 2  
Carl Etheridge, 2  
Alonna C. Howell, 2  
Kip & Jim Monroe, 2  
Franklin Garrett, 2  
Scott Parmenter, 2  
Carolyn Parmenter, 2  
Louise Smith, 2  
Robert Ford, 2  
Becky Boyle, 1  
John Brooks, 1  
Martha Mercer, 1  
Darryl Starnes, 1

Rosemary Clabo, 1  
Greg Frisbee, 1  
Sue Dent Phillips, 1  
Edward Dickey, 1  
Jerry Shar, 1  
Marion Foster, 1  
James Boyle, 1  
Norma Tidwell, 1  
John & Marie Conyers, 1  
J. B. & Wilma Moore, 1  
Jere White, 1  
James Roland, 1  
Michael Garland, 1

Elizabeth Garrison, 1  
Mrs. Walter Adams, 1  
Mary Gaines, 1  
Mrs. Frances Daves, 1  
Louise Wofford, 1  
Agness Counts, 1  
Joe Myers, 1  
Grace Davis, 1  
Ralph Peterson, 1  
David Parker, 1  
James Bogle, 1  
Tom Akin, 1  
Jodeen Brown, 1



(L-R, standing) Wilma Cantrell, 17 books donated, Linda Cochran, Ann Bridges, and Lisa Ellis.



Dorothy Anne Roth (87 books donated)

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## LEGION VETERAN HONORED IN CARTERSVILLE

Descendants of William Wofford Rich, Lt. Col., CSA, gathered in Oak Hill Cemetery on November 9 to dedicate a magnificent monument to the commander of Phillips' Legion Cavalry Battalion. Dozens of Confederate flags decorating the plot snapped in a brisk, cold wind. Nonetheless, the crowd stood respectfully listening to remarks by Darryl Starnes, a great great grandson; DiAnne Monroe, immediate past President of the Etowah Valley Historical Society; Richard "Bucky" Coffman, noted author engaged in writing the Legion history and descendant of Capt. J. F. Milhollin of Company B and Alan Bowen, Commander, Georgia Division Cavalry Re-enactors. Then, to the strains of "Dixie", an honor guard of four mounted CS cavalry took position at graveside and rendered a saber salute as the monument was unveiled. The ladies placed flowers on the grave and each took a small flag from beside it. The ceremony concluded with the posting of the honor guard. A reception followed at Roselawn, historic home of Rev. Samuel P. Jones.

W. W. Rich was a Mexican war veteran and Captain

of the Cherokee Cavalry formed at Cassville Armory in January, 1861. In July this unit became Company B, Cavalry Battalion, Phillips' Legion, under Col. William Phillips. They saw service in West Virginia and coastal



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"Veteran" continued

South Carolina before joining Wade Hampton's Brigade in Virginia in late 1862. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July, commanding the battalion. Under the great cavalry Generals Stuart, Hampton, M.C. Butler, and P.M.B. Young, the unit participated in many engagements, including Brandy Station, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Trevilian Station, and Bentonville. After the war he served terms in Bartow County as Sheriff and Tax Collector.

His previous headstone indicated none of the accomplishments. Compatriot Starnes made it clear that the family was redressing an oversight with this long

neglected honor. The impressive granite gravestone features crossed cavalry sabers and lists major battles fought by Lt. Col. Rich.

This writer attended representing one of his men, First Sergeant John H. Cobb, an original member of his company in Cassville. He rode all the way to the surrender at Greensboro, North Carolina, and returned to become my great-grandfather.

John H. Cobb, Jr. (III)

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## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### February 17, 1998

The Etowah Valley Historical Society membership meeting was held Tuesday, February 17, 1998 at the Bartow County Library.

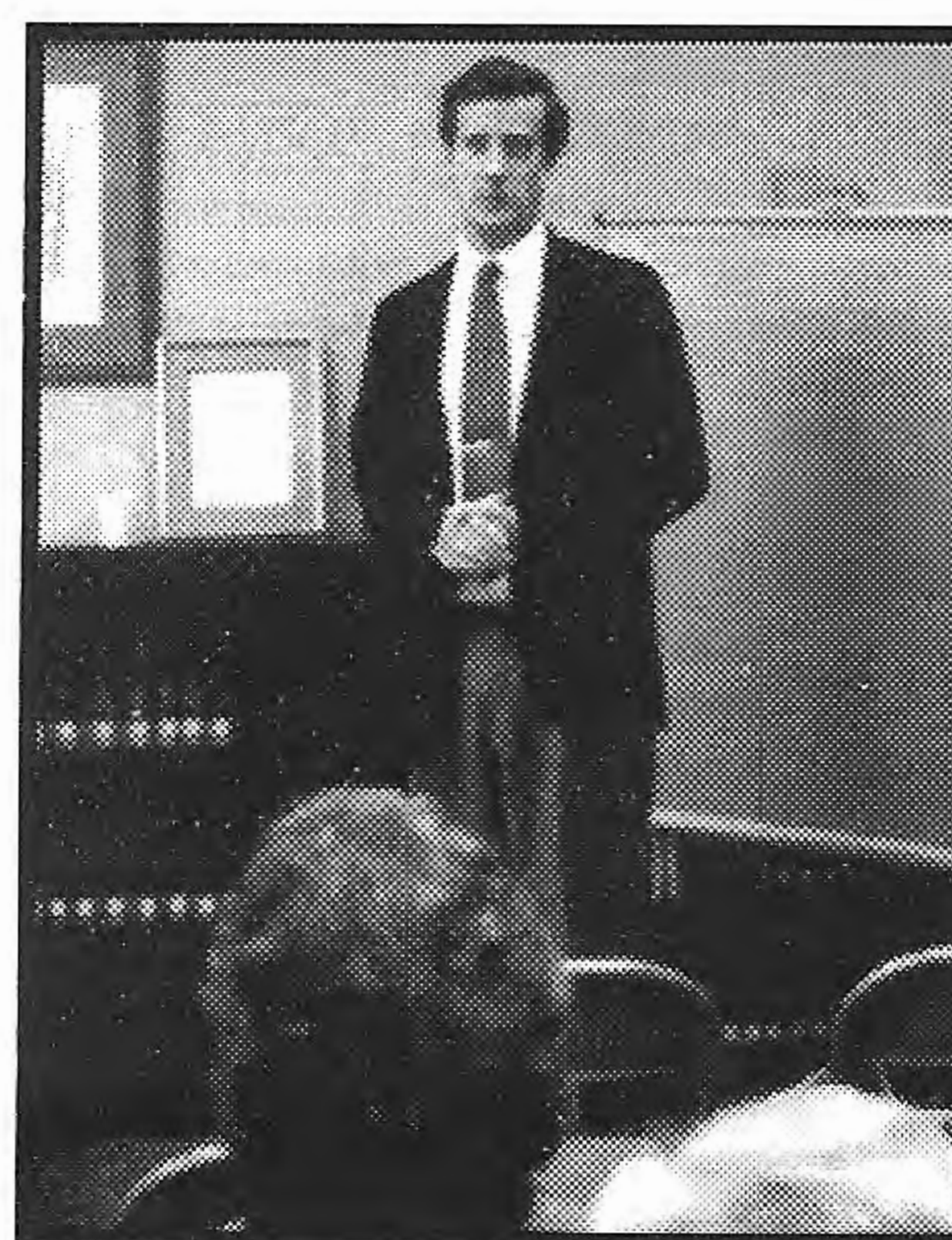
Carl Etheridge, the Society's new President for 1998, presided. Carl reminded everyone of the workshop being offered by the Georgia Historical Society, "Don't Let Them Become Extinct: Basic Collections Preservation". The workshop will be held at the Bartow County Library on Saturday, March 28, 1998 from 9:00-4:00. The registration fee is \$15 for Society members and \$20 for non-members. The fee includes lunch and resource materials. For further information or to obtain a registration form call the Georgia Society at (912)651-2125 or the Etowah Valley Historical Society at (770)606-8862.

The well attended meeting featured as its guest speaker, Dr. John Worth, an archeologist with the Fernbank Museum. He serves as the director of public education programs in archeology for Fernbank and is also active in academic research roles at Emory University. He is well recognized for his research regarding 16th & 17th century Spanish Missions in Georgia.

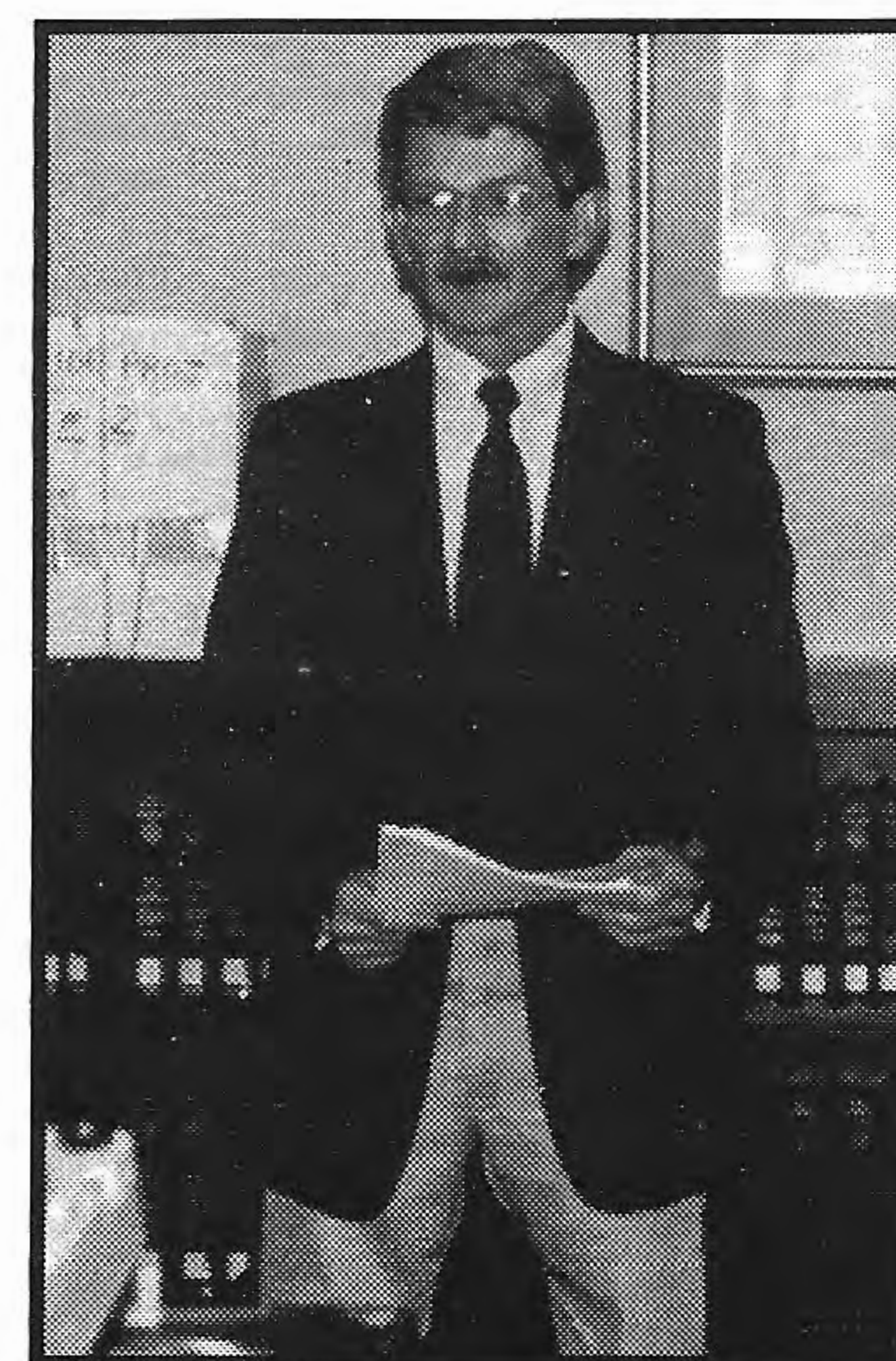
The informative talk described the influence of the Spanish explorers on the Indians in our area and the Georgia coast. DeSoto's expeditions, which lasted 4 years throughout the Southeast, were the first contacts with the pristine Chiefdom societies of the native American cultures here. These expeditions provided the first written accounts of what they found. The explorers also brought disease to these areas to such a degree that by 1600 the labor force had declined by 90% and no more mounds, such as our Etowah Mounds, were built.

Dr. Worth credited the Spanish with bringing peaches to Georgia as well as pigs. He also described the development of the coastal islands as refugees sought a safe haven from the British armed slave raiders.

This pre-Oglethorpe time is still being studied by Dr. Worth and his many observations were very informative and intriguing.



*Dr. John Worth,  
Fernbank Museum*



*Carl Etheridge,  
EVHS President/Board  
Chairman*

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## FAMILY TREE CLIMBER NEWS

The genealogy committee known as the Family Tree Climbers continues to meet on the second Sunday of each month at the Sam Jones Church Fellowship Hall. All members of the EVHS are encouraged to attend.

Over the past several months many EVHS members, have answered the call by program chairperson, Wilma Cantrell, stepping forward to provide some very interesting programs. Joe Garrison spoke at the February 8th meeting, presenting an excellent program about researching on the internet. Joe, an avid user of the internet, has done extensive genealogical research on it. He shared his expertise on the different aspects of how to find materials on the internet and what materials are on line today. In addition, Joe gave advice on how to choose which material you want to research, avoiding useless information.

The January meeting featured Melissa Taylor who spoke on the Boston line. December brought David Parker, who spoke on the subject of his book, Alias Bill Arp. November featured Lisa Ellis, who described the importance of census records in genealogical research.

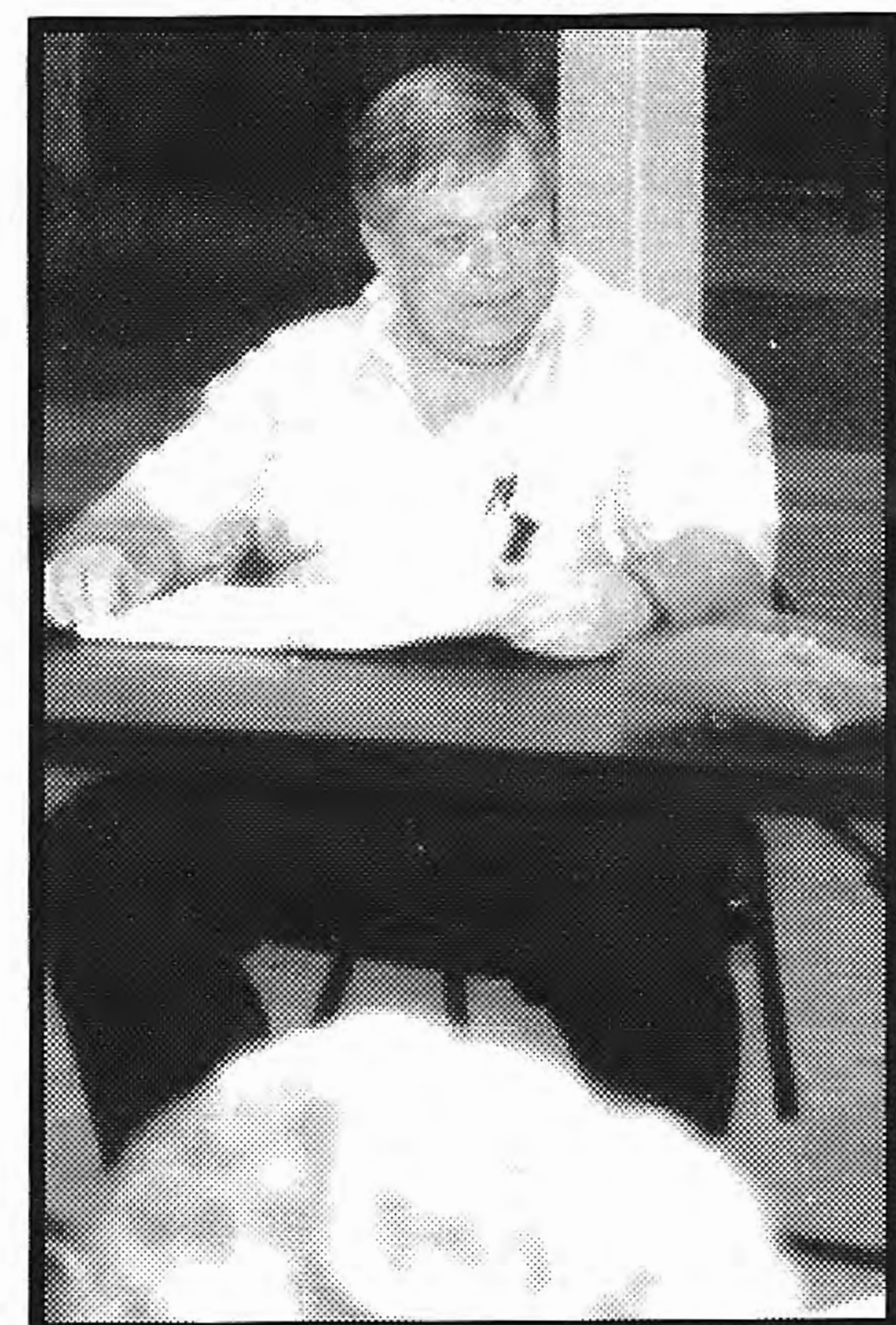
The future is very bright for this very active committee chaired by Linda Cochran. The group has created a network called Cousins to Cousins. The goal is to pair up researchers with others that are working on a common surname. This particular networking idea has taken off. It was put on the U.S. Genealogical Web with the Family Tree climbers listed as a Georgia Genealogical Group. As a result, a large amount of E-mail has been received. Many inquiries have been helped.

Another goal of the Family Tree Climbers is to obtain a family pedigree from as many EVHS members as possible. These records will be a valuable research tool for those people visiting our research facilities. Also, this group is continuing its work on a book about Bartow County marriages. This project was started last year and is an ongoing task.

Please support the Family Tree Climbers, as they are a very important part of the EVHS. Also remember. . . their meetings are open to all members of the EVHS.



*David Parker,  
Linda Cochran*



*Joe Garrison*

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## PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

By Chantal Parker

The Georgia Historical Society sponsored a workshop on Saturday, March 28th at the main branch of the Bartow County Library entitled "Don't Let Them Become Extinct: Basic Collections Preservation." Frank Wheeler, Assistant Director for GHS in Savannah and Gordon Jones, Curator of Military History at the Atlanta History Center led the all-day workshop for which twenty-eight people pre-registered. The Etowah Valley Historical Society served as hosts for this event.

The morning session, conducted by Dr. Wheeler, focused on the preservation and proper storage of manuscripts and photographs, and included discussion on the property techniques for displaying historical documents. Mr. Jones, leading the afternoon session, concentrated

on the proper hands-on treatment of artifacts and the importance of registering, securing, and insuring those objects. Addressing the concerns of institutions and individual collectors, the enlightening and entertaining workshop did much to raise the consciousness of those already preservation-minded individual in attendance.

Representing EVHS at the workshop were President and Board Chairman, Carl Etheridge; Vice President, Emily Champion; Recording Secretary, Candy Antonio, and Board members Michael Garland, and Rosemary Clabo. Attendees from the general membership included, Skip Cummings, Mary and Bob Norton, Chantal Parker, Carolyn Parmenter, Linda Parmenter and Dr. Carolyn Ward. It was an impressive turnout for EVHS, with

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Society members accounting for almost half of the workshop's enrollment. Other organizations represented included the College Park Historical Society, Bartow History Center, Kennesaw Civil War Museum, Oak Hill and The Martha Berry Museum, Polk County Historical Society and Roswell Historical Society.

Protection from light is essential in preserving historical materials, and Dr. Wheeler repeatedly stressed the importance of never displaying or storing objects next to windows or in direct sunlight, using incandescent rather than fluorescent lighting and regularly rotating displays to avoid constant exposure to light. Equally threatening to your historical treasures is exposure to dust, heat, moisture and bugs (not to mention thieving collectors). But there are steps you can take and common sense things you can do-most at little or no cost-which will help preserve your precious artifacts for generations to come.

For example, never store items in your attic or basement where excessive heat or moisture and extreme fluctuations in temperature can result in irreversible damage-you can kill mold for instance, but you'll never be rid of the stain. Wheeler and Jones both recommend a constant temperature of about 70 degrees, with a relative humidity of around 50%, and suggest storing your historical treasure in a dark closet when not on display. Avoid introducing contaminated items to your collection by making sure there are no bugs, mold or other potential hazards infecting your new acquisitions. Always display or store books vertically (larger books on their spine). Use cotton ribbon to tie up books with very loose binders and always allow adequate support for your books, documents and photographs; fit the item to its container, then fit the container to the storage box. Store breakables on bottom shelves to avoid accidentally dropping them and never store anything on the floor, in case of flooding.

Acid-free boxes, folders and envelopes offer the most protection and are more affordable when ordered in bulk; these are what the big guys use, the archivists and museum curators. But Wheeler uses these materials to store his children's art and schoolwork and other family memorabilia at home, and recommends individual use of acid-free containers as frequently as he does their institutional use. Acid-free tissue paper for storing textiles help prevent sharp creasing during storage without harming the item. (Gordon Jones further recommends taking your Civil War uniform or Grandmothers quilt out of storage once in while to reposition it in its box and change out the padding.)

Depending on what you're packing away, storage of this kind can get expensive, with boxes costing from \$5 to \$12 each, often with a minimum order. For this reason, Wheeler suggests ordering with friends or other

organizations to cut down on costs. When deciding whether or not to invest in acid-free containers, it's important to consider the historical value of the object(s) you're attempting to preserve in comparison to the cost of storage materials. If the object is significant to your history or the history of your region, then you may want to go to the extra expense. If you don't know if it's significant, find out. Take it to someone with knowledge in that area, ask your family members and friends what they know about it and ask around in the Society; EVHS has nearly six hundred members with interest and knowledge in just as many areas of history.

Whether you chose to restore your relic or preserve it in its present condition depends largely on the item itself, its condition, historic significance, the story it tells and the financial resources available for restoration. There are other considerations, however, and Gordon Jones' Seven Steps of Conservation are designed to help you make the right decision by guiding you through the thought process and supplying very basic guidelines to follow during restoration. For those faint of heart who want to restore that family heirloom but are reluctant to undertake the task, Jones' outline might be just the empowerment you need.

1. "There's No Magic Dust" You can't reverse the irreversible effects of time, environment and previous ownership. Settle for what you've got and work with it.

2. "An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure" Restoration of artifacts can be pricey, for this reason Jones suggests being conservative rather than restorative. Follow the above recommendation for preserving your objects and halting further deterioration, and never do anything to your artifact that can't be undone.

3. "Conservation verses Restoration" Conservation is the stabilization of an object to preserve it in its present condition. Restoration is the process of returning the object to like-new condition. Consider the object in your possession before you chose to restore; what is its value and significance in its present condition, and how will that change if you chose to restore it?

4. "Think Before You Act" If you decide to restore the object, make sure it's within your means; take into account the cost and time involved-then allow for extra. Set reasonable goals for yourself, and always consider your staying power and whether or not you can see the project through to its end.

5. "Don't Be Afraid To Act" Jones repeatedly emphasized the "moral obligation" of institutions to preserve the tangible reminders of our past for the education of future generations. That same obligation applies to individuals; if it's in your heart and within your power, then you are obliged, at the very least, to preserve that



object.

6. "Know When To Say When" If you've met your goals and done what you set out to do, then it's time to say "when".

7. "Keep A Record Of Everything You Do" Take plenty of before and after photos of the object and write down everything you do during the restoration process. What you do with it today can be of great importance to those attempting to continue to preserve it a hundred years from now.

Jones offered solid advice for legalizing the release of relics to organizations and urged the use of legal forms and proper registration, not only for documentation, but to prevent future dispute of ownership. As for the loaning of relics, Jones discouraged "permanent loans" that place the entire responsibility of the object in the hands of the institution, without benefit of ownership and recommended adopting a written policy agreed upon by the board and members.

The implementation of security measures to help prevent theft of, or damage to collections should also be of great concern to institutions and Jones best advice is to be aware-don't assume everyone who uses the facility is honest or will treat the objects in a collection with care and respect. For this reason, Jones recommends

visitors leave their handbags, backpacks and briefcases in a designated area outside the collection and not be allowed to carry food and drink into a collection area.

Institutions such as EVHS face many issues and concerns, and Jones addressed them all in terms of time, labor, space, money and politics, calling communication the key. By keeping the community and local government informed, working with them individually and as a whole, and by helping them see their smaller issues as they appear in the Big Picture, opportunity is created for what Jones called "Buy-In". As the community recognizes that its issues and concerns are ultimately the same as the institution, they begin to identify with that institution and eventually join with them in meeting their goals. "Buy-In" is essential if the institution is to succeed, Jones stressed; without the support of the community it remains a struggle to exist.

*This newsletter is dedicated to  
the memory of  
Mrs. Walter A. "Jackie"  
Detamore*

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Etowah Valley  
Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1886  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

## **INSIDE:**

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- Preservation Workshop
- .....and much more!