



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



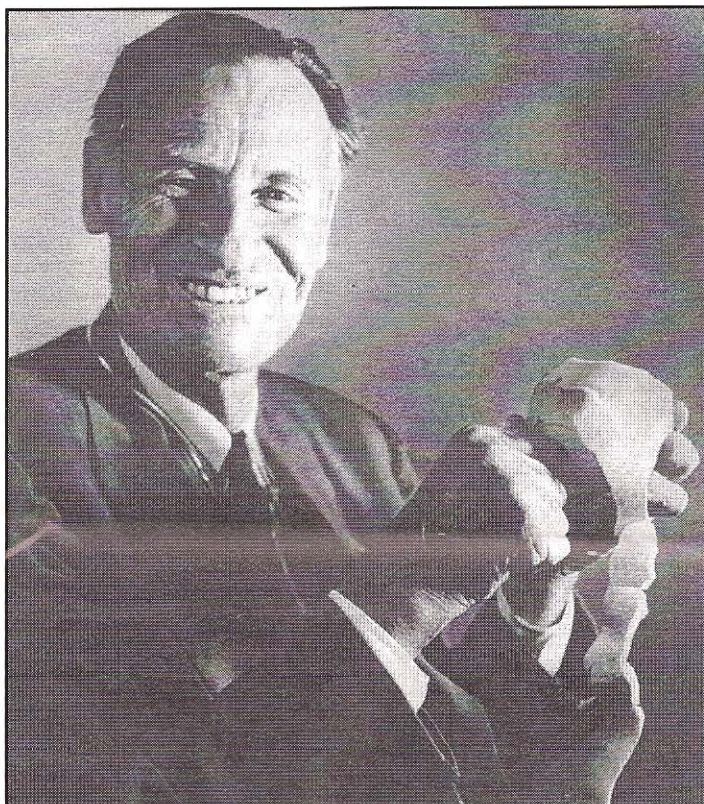
*Promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of
the heritage and traditions of Bartow County*

Volume 34, 2000

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

Special 2000 Year-End Editon



*Walter K. "Doc" Cousins. Photograph from the Journal
Constiution Magazine, September 1950.*

Doc Cousins in Taylorsville

By Mae F. Barrena

Franklin Cousins remembers carrying his daddy's black bag when he went with him on house calls. "My daddy doctored people in these parts for nearly 40 years, and all the while him on crutches. If the weather was severe, and he had to deliver a baby, people would get together and carry him packsaddle." Franklin still has those crutches and remembers that his daddy "sure got along good on 'em. Daddy would say, 'If you want to help, git your hands off me. I can do it myself.'"

Dr. Walter K. Cousins, better known as Doc, had already finished medical school when he fell out of a mulberry tree, sometime in the early 1930s, Franklin recalls. Doc broke his tailbone and couldn't walk. From then on, cold weather affected his back, so he looked for a warmer climate. He laid out a map of the United States, closed his eyes, circled his finger, and when he opened his eyes found he had landed on Georgia. He moved to Cedartown where he met and married Sarah Gladys Hardman of Commerce, granddaughter of Governor L.G. Hardman. While searching for a community to practice medicine, Doc found Taylorsville. When first seeing it, though one of the prettiest places in Bartow County, he said it looked like nothing more than a wide wet spot in the road. There were no more than 100 people living in Taylorsville at the time. "I didn't get to Cartersville but once a year; the roads were so bad," Franklin says. "The dirt roads then would have to

(See Cousins, continued on page 4)

The New Year Begins with Election of Officers & Directors

Directors for the 2000-2001 fiscal year were elected during the annual meeting on October 7, 2000. Recommendations were received by the nominating committee, chaired by Robert Wilson. Elected to complete Kathy Schubert's unexpired one-year term on the board of directors is Mary Siniard. Other new directors are Bob Redwine, Tish Johnson, and Pat Mansfield. Retiring from the board are Glenda Collier, Michael Garland, and Wilma Cantrell.

On October 10th, the new board met to elect new officers. This year's new officers are: President Guy Parmenter, Treasurer Robert Wilson, and Recording Secretary Bob Redwine.

For a current list of officers, directors, and committee chairpersons, see page 2.



Celebrate the season with friends.
Christmas at Roselawn is
Saturday, December 9th
at 7 o'clock p.m.
call for reservations
770-606-8862

**Etowah Valley
Historical Society
Officers & Directors**

Officers

President
Guy Parmenter
Treasurer
Robert Wilson
Recording Secretary
Bob Redwine

Directors

Guy Parmenter, Chairman
Bob Redwine
Tish Johnson
Pat Mansfield
Wayne Rice
Mary Siniard
Robert Wilson
Wilma Cantrell
Ed Hill

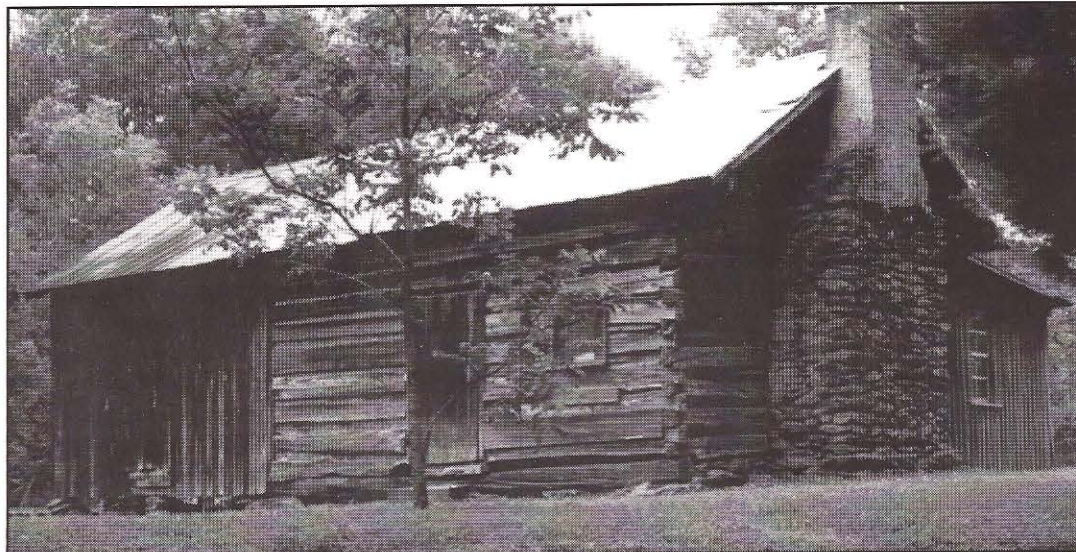
Committees & Chairpersons

Allatoona Pass
Ed Hill
Guy Parmenter
Cemetery Documentation
Mary Siniard
Cemetery Preservation
Carl Etheridge
Courthouse Office
Linda Trentham
Genealogy
Wilma Cantrell
Historic Awareness Signs
Dianne Tate
Newsletter
David Parker
Chantal Parker
Preservation
John Lewis
Research
Carolyn Parmenter
Website
Michael Garland

*The EVHS office and research
facilities are located in the
1903 courthouse at
115 West Cherokee Avenue in
downtown Cartersville.*

*Visit EVHS online at
www.evhsonline.org*

*Email
evhs@evhsonline.org*



Boston-Brooke School Remembered with Historic Marker

An historical marker erected this summer marks the site of the Boston-Brooke School, which was destroyed by fire in December 1999. The log structure was built by Frederick Auton Boston about 1848 as a neighborhood school. Boston and wife, Francis Fannie Houser Boston, came to Cass County in the 1840s. W. C. Brooke contributed significantly to the construction of the school and served as its first teacher. The school served as a community center for Stamp Creek for many years, as a meeting house, and a polling booth for local elections. During the Civil War, the school held captured Union soldiers. Today, all that remains of the school is the chimney. Boston family descendants Melissa Taylor and Stan Moseley, along with property owner Charles Twiggs and Dr. William Hagler (owner of the Boston-Hagler House), sought assistance from the Etowah Valley Historical Society in bringing lasting recognition to this historic structure, and EVHS was more than happy to participate. The site is located on the west side of Brooke Road, just south of its intersection with Stamp Creek Road. ☺

More Lost Historic Treasures

Bartow County lost three other historic structures during the year 2000. On April 4th, the Felton House on Old Tennessee Road (Hwy 411), listed on the National Register in 1979, was completely destroyed by fire. In late spring, the antebellum Douthit-Shaw home located at the corner of Douthit Ferry and Indian Mounds Road and built by James and William Douthit was razed for construction of an office facility for Legacy Farms. During the first week in October, the 1871 Sheriff's House in downtown Cartersville was razed

to make room for development of a state-of-the-art museum. ☺



Douthit-Shaw House



Felton House



Sheriff's House

EVHS Members Speak in Savannah

On November 12th, EVHS members David and Chantal Parker spoke about Oak Hill Cemetery to the Bonaventure Historical Society in Savannah. The Parkers met Bonaventure member Paul Muller in June during the Georgia Trust Ramble when they guided the tour of Oak Hill. Bonaventure Cemetery, made famous in the book and movie *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, is the burial place of such notables as poet and novelist Conrad Aiken, songwriter Johnny Mercer, statesman Henry R. Jackson, and Revolutionary leader Edward Telfair. The Bonaventure Historical Society is dedicated to the evolution and preservation of the historical significance of Bonaventure Cemetery.

Below is an excerpt of the Parkers' address.

Oak Hill Cemetery: Linking Past and Present Through Cartersville's Famous and Forgotten Folks

After relating some history of Cartersville and Oak Hill and telling of the numerous famous burials at Oak Hill, the authors concluded their lecture with the following:

But as interesting as these stories are—and I'm proud of all of them—they do not excite us nearly as much as those of the forgotten folk of Oak Hill. "Gone, but not forgotten," the tombstones say—but they are now forgotten, and Chantal and I have taken great joy in trying to recover something of their lives.

Let me tell you about one family: the Skinners. Augustus Skinner came to Cartersville from Morgan County in the 1850s with his parents, and a handful of other family members. They opened a hotel that would later be a landmark in Cartersville, as the Park Hotel, then the St. James, later the Brabun—but before that, it was simply Skinner Hotel. Either before, or shortly after the war, Gus Skinner went into business, opening a provisions store a couple blocks from his home in downtown Cartersville. Newspapers from those years are full of notices advertising Skinner's as the place to buy the freshest vegetables and the best "goobers" in town. Gus Skinner was one of Cartersville's most prominent citizens in the 1870s—with a prominent street named after him—but now he's forgotten.

We didn't know of them until we found out that the old house we bought, which was built in 1901, had been constructed around an older house that dates back to the 1850s, and had been the home of Gus and Mary Edward "Mollie" Skinner. Suddenly we wanted to find out all we could about these people. Chantal began reading the old newspapers—she found the advertisements for the store, that's how we found about Gus and Mollie. And then she read in an 1881 newspaper about Gus's death. It was a beautiful write-up that described him as a respected merchant and civic leader, a faithful member of the Methodist

church, a family man, a friend to all who knew him. It ended with a mention of his burial—in Oak Hill. That evening, after supper, we decided to go look for him. The cemetery is big, and we knew it would take several days, but we wanted to find him. We drove there, parked in the old section, started walking, and within a minute, found the family plot. "Mary E. Skinner, wife of A. A. Skinner" was the tallest marker, and the first we spotted. To the

(See Oak Hill, continued on page 14)

Decking the Halls of Stilesboro Academy



EVHS members Michael Garland and J. B. Tate (left) pose with members of the Stilesboro Improvement Club to show off the poster-size historic photos recently donated by EVHS to the Improvement Club for display in the Stilesboro Academy.

History was unveiled on November 3, 2000 as the 88th Annual Stilesboro Chrysanthemum Show was held in the historic Stilesboro Academy. The theme, "Unveiling Stilesboro History," centered on the recent acquisition by the Stilesboro Improvement Club of framed historic photographs donated by EVHS.

J. B. Tate came up with the idea of enlarging historic photographs for display in the academy, much like those currently on display in the 1903 courthouse and EVHS office. The photographs originated from private collections and depict scenes of Stilesboro and the surrounding area in its heyday. Included among them is a portrait of W. T. Sherman's lost love, Cecelia Stovall Shelman.

Proceeds from the chrysanthemum show go to restoration of the 151 year old academy, owned by the club, and listed on the National Register of Historic places in 1975. "We had about two hundred extra people this year, which means about \$1,400 more revenue," club member Ann Mascia reported. "That's a lot of paint! And until further notice, we are blaming it on the new pictures." ☺



Walter K. Cousins. Photo taken 1918.

be gone over with a scraper. And when they got real dusty the only thing that would keep the dust down for a few hours was to put oil and water on them." There were no traffic lights or running water either. "I remember Daddy telling me that they had to catch rainwater in a cistern," Franklin recalls. Doc practiced in Taylorsville for many years, then moved his practice to Rockmart. But he kept the house in Taylorsville, and from time to time would see patients there also.

Mr. Lumpkin, one of Doc's patients, owned a store. He also had the telephone switchboard in his home. Franklin recalls getting up on a stool and "cranking that thing up." When he did, Mr. Lumpkin would say, "What number do you want?" Franklin would say, "George, I want my daddy." Then he'd hear his daddy on the line.

Taylorsville had a cotton gin called Taylor's Gin. In the fall the gin ran seven days a week. Things didn't really pick up until the years of World War II. A man by the name of John Hodge opened up the mines about 6 miles north of Taylorsville and started getting iron, which they'd get ready for shipment to Birmingham.

Taylorsville was a farming area; people made every inch of land count. Cotton was everywhere. Franklin picked

cotton for a penny a pound and it took him all day to make a dollar. There were two churches, one Baptist, one Methodist.

The nearest clinic was in Rome. Because Doc's office was in his home, the family had to live around it and the waiting room. Being on crutches made it difficult for him to reach, so things were arranged so that he could get to them easily.

Franklin still takes care of the old house where memories of his father and mother live on. He took me into the kitchen and showed me the table his father made using a coping saw; it reminded me of those ironing boards that fold out of a wall. Then he opened the door to the cupboard and took out a jar of green beans. "Why, they've got to be 25 years old," he said.

Franklin loves to sit in his great-grandfather's platform rocker and read his father's books. "The best times of my life was being around my dad," Franklin says. "He was the kind of a fella that could hold ya spellbound when he told a story. I liked listening to him. He made good facial expressions, knew when to stop at periods, and always put question and exclamation marks in the right place.

"One day I watched him talk to a drunk. The drunk was wobbling back and forth when he said to my dad, 'How ya doing Doc?' My dad said, 'Why just fine.' All the while he'd be wobbling just like the drunk. The drunk then said, 'Well, Doc, you sure are my good friend.'"

Doc had always set Saturdays aside for tonsillectomies; Franklin still has the machine he used. Patients would sit in a steel chair and Doc would inject Novocaine into their throats. Then he'd remove their tonsils. It took about fifteen minutes, and he made \$10 off that. Franklin recalls watching his father handle those instruments. "It took him a split second to put one down and pick another up. He was like a magician and at times a musician. There was a rhythm to it."

"I never will forget the time my daddy had to set his own leg. There's a man over in Rockmart right now who told me that it beat anything he'd ever seen. He was walking by my daddy's office and daddy hollered at him, telling



Franklin, with the tonsillectomy machine his father used in his practice.

him to git on up there. The man asked what was the matter and my daddy told him he broke his leg and he needed him to go into the other room and get him some newspapers. Daddy folded them up tight and wrapped them around his leg. He then told the man to call the hospital to come git him," Franklin says.

Doc's daybook, which Franklin still has, is a record of payments received. But what upset Franklin's mother most, was that her husband hardly ever got paid any money for his services. "When she'd ask, 'Are these people gonna pay for what you did for them?' Doc would say, 'Aw, honey, don't worry, we got plenty to eat,'" Franklin says. One patient couldn't pay the \$3 she owed him, so he let her wash the family's clothes. Another family owed him \$1.50 and when it came time for settling up, they paid him with three bushels of sweet potatoes. When he delivered a baby, instead of the normal \$15 fee, he got figs—1 gallon at delivery, and later \$1.50 and 2 more gallons of figs.

One day a little boy came to Doc with a fishhook stuck in his head. Doc took it out and the boy paid him a quarter. When one woman couldn't pay her \$15 delivery bill, she gave him a pig. Among the things people would offer instead of money were bushels of peanuts, vegetables, chickens, a calf, ice, and a year's subscription to the *Herald*. Sometimes he got a couple of hours work in his apple orchards.

Doc always knew the circumstances before he went out on a house call, or "doctored" someone in his office. One time there was a terrible motorcycle accident, and the injured boy was taken to Doc's office for treatment. The boy's father went to Doc, and thanked him for taking care of his boy and asked how much he owed. Doc told the man that he hadn't thought about the money; he just hoped the boy was all right. Ten years later, the man walked into Doc's office, and laid down \$200 on his desk and told Doc that he and his wife couldn't afford to pay back then, but he wanted to pay now. "Daddy told me later on that it was a lot of money. He didn't think he did that much work."

Franklin has fond memories of his father spending lots of time teaching him about local nature. "I guess that's how he knew that the soil would be good for growing apple trees. Daddy would talk about wanting to have a hobby, something to do. And so mother got him some catalogs. Stocks Brothers Orchards in Missouri was a big apple nursery. When he looked at the catalogs, he said it brought back memories of his daddy's old orchard out in Mercer County, Missouri. His fond memory of apple trees blooming is what sparked him into buying trees. He bought close to 100 trees to start with."



Franklin's childhood home in Taylorsville.

Once the trees arrived, they had to be pruned. Doc sat in his wheelchair and pruned every one, and then Franklin's mother helped get the holes dug. Doc planned and laid out the angle of the trees. They wound up with 385 trees, right in their little town of Taylorsville. For several years it was just a matter of looking after them. After 10 or 12 years they began to reap a little of the benefits and had their second bumper crop in 1950.

Mary Lane, a journalist with the *Journal Constitution*, wrote a story called, "Taylorsville Gets Happy—DOC'S TREES," which appeared in the magazine on September 10, 1950. Apple trees were Doc's pride and joy. People came from miles around to sip the sweet cider he would crank from a machine. Apple experts from the University of Georgia were frequent visitors to Dr. Cousins's orchard, wanting to learn his methods of caring for fruit trees and raising apples.

Franklin was ten years old when his father asked him to go to the store and get him a plug of tobacco (tobacco twisted to look like a pig's tail). "People chewed it because it was cheaper," Franklin says. "I knew my daddy didn't chew, and so when he told me to get him a chew, I said, 'Daddy you don't chew.' 'Never mind that; go on up there and git it.' When I came back, daddy said, 'Don't tell your mama, but go and get me one of her saucepans.' Mama was very particular about using her kitchen utensils, but we had to have something. We took that plug of tobacco and put it in that saucepan and built a fire and boiled it until it got as black as it could get. He said, 'Git me a piece of screen wire.' We screened the tobacco from the pot and stuff came out. It was nicotine. You can get it now called nicotine 40. We used it to spray our fruit trees to keep the aphids off of it. Daddy had that figured out. He was ahead of his time."

The sprayer Doc and Franklin used for the trees had a pump and looked like "a big ol' garbage can." It would hold 25 gallons of spray. Franklin had to push the sprayer around, making sure he got all the trees; it took all day. Finally, Doc bought a spraying outfit that he attached to the chassis of an old model T Ford, which made things easier. "He could drive, and all I had to do was check the pressure which would come up over the transmission part of the pump," Franklin says. "He would shift to a certain gear and it would pump the spray. That was when the war was nearly over. You couldn't get many modern things. It was probably 1947 or '48."

Doc was a good shot, so he also became the town's pig

(See Cousins, continued on page 14)

Catching Up on a Year 2000 That Flew By

To say that EVHS has been busy this year would be an understatement. Ever active, the society hosted an event almost every month. And leading up to each of those planned events were weeks and often months of preparation by committees and volunteers. Beyond their involvement in EVHS sponsored events, many individual members assisted in the City of Cartersville's Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) Celebration held in May. Here's a quick recap of this remarkable year in EVHS history. Photographs and detailed articles about some of these events can be found on the following pages.

November 5-6, 1999

Tour of Homes Salute to Mining

The bi-annual tour, sponsored by the EVHS Preservation Committee, chaired by Jackie Voyles, kicked off with a reception and lecture by James Dellinger in the 1903 gold-domed courthouse. Homes on the tour included the Cope-Dellinger Home built in 1914 and owned by James and Judy Dellinger, and the Young-Granger-Evans Home built in 1840 and owned by Don and Connie Evans.

December 11, 1999

Christmas at Roselawn

An old-fashioned Christmas was once again enjoyed by all who attended the annual festive gathering of EVHS at the historic Victorian home of evangelist Sam Jones. Catered dining by Unique Caterers and a cappella music by the Sensations of Shorter College topped the evening.

February 15

Membership Meeting

Robert Williams, director and curator of the Bentley Rare Book Room at Kennesaw State University, shed his white gloves and allowed members a rare opportunity to touch and hold one-of-a-kind volumes from his collection, including some centuries old and some worth thousands of dollars!

February 24

Sponsored KSU Lecture

The first of four lectures sponsored by the KSU Center for Regional History & Culture, and co-sponsored by EVHS, featured Dr. Wayne Flynt, an ordained Baptist minister and Distinguished University Professor at Auburn University, speaking on KSU's campus. The lecture series, entitled "Faith of Our Fathers: That Old-Time Religion in Northwest Georgia," attempted to bring new religious scholarship to the people of Northwest Georgia, and EVHS was happy to help with the Center's mission. Dr. Flynt's lecture was entitled, "Baptising Souls and Culture: Southern Religion and Georgia Baptists."

February 27

Sponsored KSU Lecture

Dr. Kathleen Minnix, of Oxford College at Emory University, spoke on "Sam Jones, the Irreverent Reverend" to a packed house at Jones's former home, Roselawn. A reception and tour of the 1895 renovated Victorian followed, led by Jones's descendant Howell Jones.

March 16

Civil War Roundtable

Civil War historian and president of the Board of Trustees for

the Georgia Battlefields Association Charles Geiger discussed events leading up to the Atlanta Campaign, specifically events at Pickett's Mill.

March 23

Sponsored KSU Lecture

Nationally acclaimed Georgia novelist Mary Hood was the third speaker in the Center's spring lecture series, held on the KSU campus. Hood's humorous lecture, entitled "Tropic of Conscience," explored the role religion has played in the development of her fictional characters.

April 2

Sponsored KSU Lecture

The final lecture in the Center for Regional History & Culture's spring lecture series featured Corra Harris scholar Dr. Catherine Badura speaking on "Revisiting the Legacy of Corra White Harris: Religion, Church, and the Circuit Rider's Wife" in the Carriage House at Roselawn Museum. Following the reception, guests drove to Pine Log for a tour of Harris's former home, In the Valley, led by the home's owners, Jodie and Blanche Hill.

April 18

Membership Meeting

Dr. Jeff Drobney, a preservation historian formerly at Kennesaw State University, spoke on historic preservation ordinances and their benefit to communities, in preparation for the City of Cartersville's adoption of a preservation ordinance. The Preservation Committee of EVHS has worked tirelessly for ten years to establish local historic districts, and as the year 2000 comes to an end, the dream is on its way to becoming reality.

May 4

Hosted National Trail of Tears

EVHS welcomed the distinguished members of the Trail of Tears National Association to the historic Ryals-Davis home for a memorable evening of catered dining.

May 18

Civil War Roundtable

Maria Armoun visited the membership at the Bartow County Library for an entertaining discussion of Col. John Gray of Adairsville.

June 2-3

Hosted Georgia Trust Ramble

For the second time in ten years, EVHS hosted the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Ramble to Cartersville and Bartow County. Mary Norton chaired the committee that brought over 350 visitors from all over Georgia and beyond for a weekend of memorable sight-seeing in our own historic Etowah Valley.

June 17

Membership Meeting

EVHS members Jodie and Blanche Hill opened their hearts and home for a catered dinner meeting at In the Valley, the former home of Georgia novelist Corra White Harris.

August 5

EVHS Goes Online

After years of thought and planning, EVHS rocketed into cyberspace with its own website. Check it out at www.evhsonline.org

October 7

Annual Membership Meeting

An evening of catered dining, awards presentations, and guest speakers and authors Don McKee and Melissa Taylor greeted guests to the annual membership meeting of EVHS held at the historic Boston-Hagler House.

Family Tree Climbers

The genealogy Committee has met every month this year.

Trail of Tears Association Comes to Cartersville

EVHS Hosts Reception at Ryals-Davis House

April 27, 2000



Guests arriving at the Ryals-Davis home marveled at the unspoiled beauty of the landscape, much of it preserved in its natural state from before the time of the Cherokee Indian Removal in 1838.

The historic Ryals-Davis Home was the scene of a reception hosted by EVHS for the Trail of Tears Association's national convention, which came to Cartersville April 27th through the 29th. It was the second time EVHS has hosted the convention; the first was in the spring of 1992.

For centuries prior to the removal of the Cherokees in 1838, Northwest Georgia, from the Chattahoochee River north, was occupied by Indians. Their forced removal to Oklahoma by the federal government opened up the territory to white settlements.

"The Trail of Tears is a defining moment in Cherokee and American history," said Chad Smith, an attorney by trade, and principle chief of the Cherokee nation. "And the story doesn't end with the Trail of Tears. The Cherokee history is of a people who overcame special circumstances."

"There is a lot of interest in this county," said J. B. Tate, a board member of the association. "Many Native Americans lived in this area at the time of the removal."

More than 15,000 Cherokees were uprooted from their ancestral homeland in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia during the removal and forced into a grueling march to Oklahoma of more than 1,000 miles. Thousands died on the march and were buried along the way, hence its name "The Trail of Tears." Today, the Cherokee nation boasts a population of 230,000.



Jennifer Wiggins (left), formerly with the Cartersville Bartow County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Mary Siniard (right), Chairperson of the EVHS Cemetery Documentation Committee, share their thoughts about the history of the Indian removal from Northwest Georgia.



EVHS member J. B. Tate (right) is also a member on the national board of the Trail of Tears Association, representing Georgia. The association has twice brought its national convention to Cartersville, and both times was received by EVHS at the historic Ryals-Davis Home.

Georgia Trust For Historic Preservation

The Etowah Valley Historical Society was honored to once again host the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation "Ramble Through Cartersville & Bartow County." The last time the Trust toured this area was in 1990, and visitors then were still talking about that memorable weekend when they returned this year.

Following registration at the 1853 First Presbyterian Church, ramblers donned their sneakers for a self-guided walking tour of downtown Cartersville. One of the first stops was the North Erwin Street historic district, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The district includes the 1903 courthouse, the 1906 Sam Jones Memorial United Methodist Church (both National Register properties), the 1904 First Baptist Church, and the 1914 Post Office (now City Hall). The antebellum Field-Tumlin Home, built in 1858 and lying just outside the district, was also on the walking tour.

In downtown proper, visitors strolled through the North Wall Street Historic District, a National Register listing since 1998, which features the 1873 courthouse on the square and the 1924 Grand Theatre (both on the National Register). And, of course, a visit to the Etowah Foundation's History Center was essential to visitors desiring a deeper appreciation of Bartow County's unique history. Other historic downtown structures admired by ramblers were Young Brothers Pharmacy, featuring the first outdoor painted wall advertisement for Coca-Cola, and the 1885 Bradley Building, beautifully restored by Ron Goss. Continuing up Main Street and over to Cassville Road, the tour included the 1901 Strickland-Thacker Home, known as Grand Oaks; Roselawn Museum; the 1900 Baptist Parsonage; the 1890 Dobson Home; and the 1860 Milam-White House.

The first day of the Ramble concluded with a cocktail and candlelight dinner on the grounds of the antebellum Ryals-Davis Home. The elegantly furnished brick planta-



Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown, Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court Robert Benham, Ramble Committee Chairperson Mary Norton, and Cartersville mayor pro-tem Edsel Dean were among the speakers and those greeting guests during the welcome and orientation in the courtroom of the 1903 courthouse following a continental breakfast on Saturday morning.



Dr. Susie Wheeler welcomed guests to the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center, a Rosenthal school and the first African-American school built in Bartow County in 1923. The school was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.



Malbone, the 1866 home of Frederick and Julia Knight, was one of the many privately owned historic homes opened to ramblers. Julia related the history of the home to visitors and made herself available for questions.

tion house, built in 1853, was available for touring, and over three hundred registered guests took advantage of the opportunity to admire its interior. The privately-owned Ryals-Davis Home belonged to Judge Jefferson and Jimmie Davis during their lifetimes; their children now own it.

Many private homes were generously opened for touring during the ramble, and visitors got to see these during an organized day of touring on buses loaned by the Cartersville City school system. Among them were Walnut Grove, the former home of Confederate General P. M. B. Young built in 1839; Valley View, a Greek Revival plantation home built in 1845; Malbone, built in 1866; and the Boston-Hagler House built in 1845.

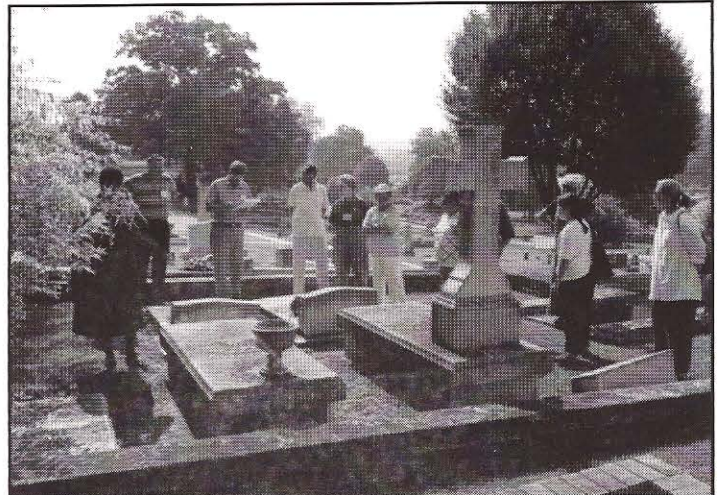
Ramble Through Cartersville & Bartow County

June 2-3, 2000

The town of Euharlee, first settled in the 1840s and incorporated in 1852, offered a charming glimpse of the past, with its circa 1800s buildings and covered bridge, built in 1886; as did the nearby Stilesboro Academey built in 1859 and the Pine Log home of Corra Harris, In the Valley.

Many other historic sites were included in the tour: Etowah Indian Mounds, Allatoona Pass, Oak Hill Cemetery, Brooke Hill, Henderson Farms, and the Hardy Potato Curing House. The pace was sometimes hard to keep up with, but the only complaint overheard was that there simply wasn't enough time to enjoy it all.

The Georgia Trust for Historical Preservation, founded in 1973 and headquartered in Atlanta, promotes an appreciation of Georgia's diverse historic resources and provides for their protection and use to preserve, enhance, and revitalize Georgia's communities. The Trust's "Ramble Through Georgia," begun in 1974, offers weekend trips twice a year to the Trust's members. For an application and



Oak Hill, established in the 1870s as Cartersville's city cemetery, was one of many public historic sites included in the Ramble. With such notable burials as William & Rebecca Felton, Sam Jones, Bill Arp, P.M.B. Young, and Amos Akerman, it's no wonder it attracted a small crowd of visitors.

information about joining the Georgia Trust, stop by the EVHS office, or call us at 770-606-8862. ☺



Around noon, ramblers met at scenic Taylor's Farm for a barbeque lunch with all the fixings catered by Big Ric's. The break gave everyone a chance to relax from the near break-neck pace of the tour, and to make new acquaintances.

Individuals & Organizations Who Contributed to the Spring Ramble

Etowah Valley Historical Society
Downtown Development Authority
Cartersville Bartow County Chamber of Commerce
Cartersville Bartow County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Local Planning Committee

Mary Norton, Chair
DeLean & Jody Brandon
Pam Coffey
Lizette Entwisle
Michael Garland
June Hudson
Cheri' Parker
Guy Parmenter
Leslie Rohland
Anne Tillman
Jennifer Wiggins
Jennifer Youree

Mrs. Mary Ellen Taff & the
Euharlee Players
Etowah Bartow Region
Contemporary Historical
Vehicle Association
Stilesboro Improvement Club

Gold Contributors

Bartow County Bank
National Bank of Commerce
Unity National Bank

Silver Contributors

Mr. & Mrs. Holmes Neel
Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Tillman, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Norton, Jr.
J. Brandon Clothier
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Jackson

In Kind Contributors

One Day Sign
Action Rent All
Three Cats and a Dog Internet
Web Design
The City of Cartersville
Bartow County and the
U.S.C.O.E.
Allatoona Lake

*Thank you to all our
contributors and volunteers!*

EVHS Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation

October 7, 2000



The Etowah Valley Historical Society held its annual meeting at the Boston-Hagler Home in the Stamp Creek community. Owned and beautifully restored by Dr. William and Gail Hagler, the Carolina-style home, known as a "double-house," was built in 1845 by Frederick Auton Boston, who came to Cass County in the 1840s. Boston also built the nearby Boston-Brooke School house, which burned in December 1999 and was recently remembered with an historic marker placed on the site of the school.

Boston descendant Melissa Taylor spoke briefly about the history of the Boston family. Melissa is the author of *A Dash in Time: A Chronicle of the Bostons of Stamp Creek in Cass County, Georgia* and *Corbin Homesteaders: The Leachmans of This Lost Community in Cass County, Georgia*.



Billy Hagler (left) welcomes guests and members to his home, while Melissa Taylor (right) shares some history of the Boston family in Cass County.

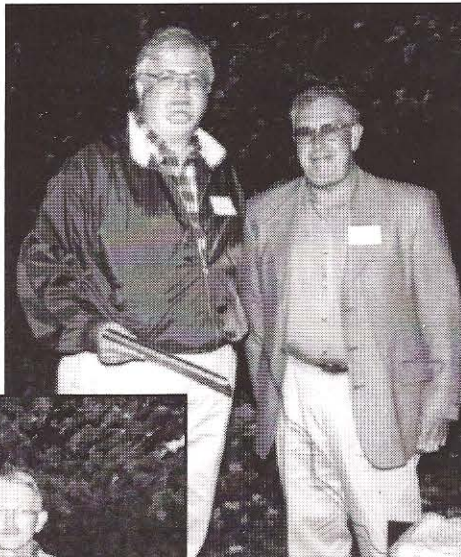


Also invited as guest speaker for the evening was Don McKee, author of *Mark Anthony Cooper, The Iron Man of Georgia*, published this year. McKee co-authored the book with Cooper descendant Mark Cooper Pope III. Society business took longer than expected, however, and McKee graciously agreed to return for a future speaking engagement with EVHS. In the meantime, copies of McKee's book are available for sale in the EVHS office, or from our online bookstore at <http://www.evhsonline.org>.



***Congratulations
To All Our
Award
Winners!***

*Shown with EVHS
President Guy
Parmenter*



*Commissioner
Clarence Brown
Bartow County
Historic Preservation*



*Chantal Parker
Website Development*

*(l-r) Clay Howell,
Andrew Parmenter,
& Harvey Howell
Boy Scout Troup
1040
Allatoona Battlefield
Preservation*



*Carl
Etheridge
EVHS
President
1997-99*



*Ed Hill
Allatoona Battlefield
Preservation*



*Linda Trentham
EVHS Office Chairperson*



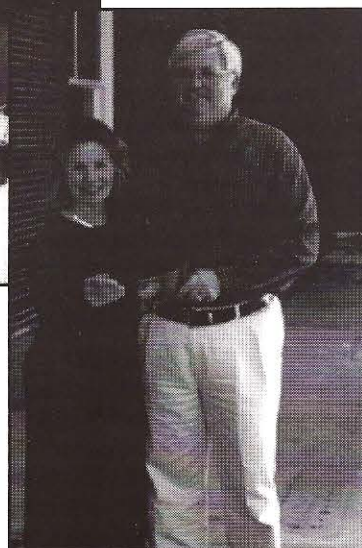
*COE Resource
Manager David
Grabensteder
Allatoona
Battlefield
Preservation*



*Jackie Voyles
1999 Tour of Homes
Chairperson*

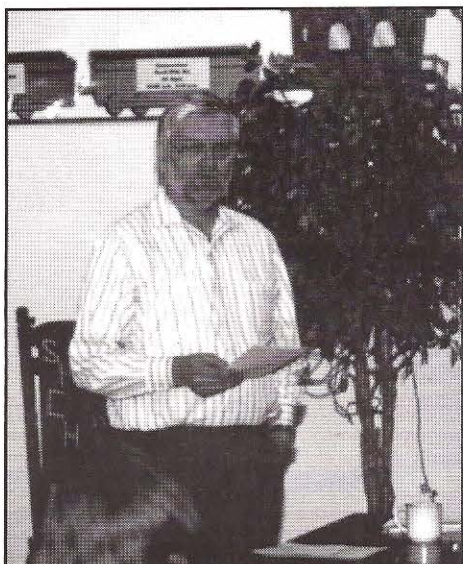


*Linda Cochran
Genealogy Committee
Organization*



*Mary Norton
2000 Georgia Trust Ramble
Chairperson*

Snapshots



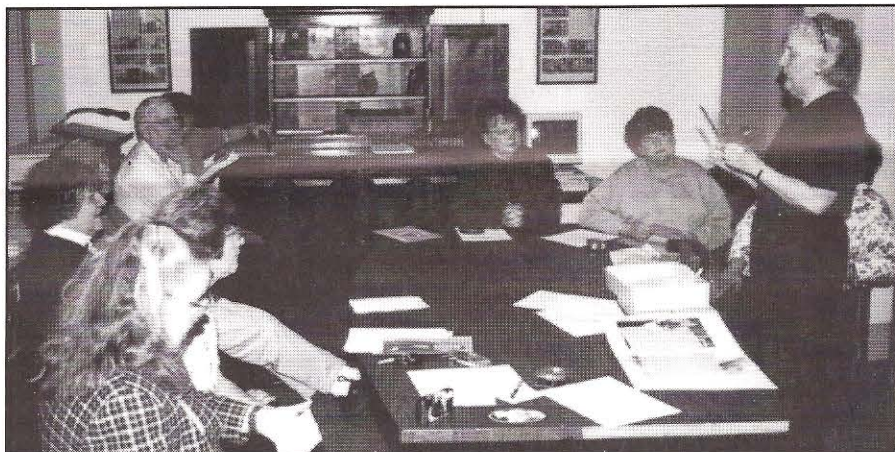
Civil War Roundtable

Bob Crowe (above) and Barry Colbaugh co-chaired the Civil War Roundtable this year, bringing such guests as Civil War historian Charles Geiger and author Maria Armoun to the attention of the community.



Allatoona Pass Battlefield

Middle-schoolers from Woodland, Calhoun (in Gordon County), and other schools throughout Bartow county recently converged on Allatoona Pass Battlefield for a two-mile race. The cross-country teams often practice on the scenic trails of the Allatoona Pass.



Family Tree Climbers

EVHS member Carolyn Parmenter (above right) was the guest speaker at the genealogy committee's October meeting. Speaking in November was Richard Greene (right), who authored a book about his Greene family history. The Family Tree Climbers meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of every month in the EVHS office. Meetings are open to the public.



Preservation

In April, preservation historian Dr. Jeff Drobney (left) spoke to members about preservation ordinances in anticipation of Cartersville's current pursuit of a local preservation ordinance.



Oak Hill

In November, David and Chantal Parker visited the Bonaventure Historical Society in Savannah, where they spoke about Oak Hill Cemetery. The Bonaventure Historical Society oversees the preservation of Bonaventure Cemetery. Pictured (l-r) are Chantal Parker, Chairman Terry Shaw, Judge William Raffle, David Parker, Program Director Laurice "Mo" Fetzer, and Treasurer Paul Muller.

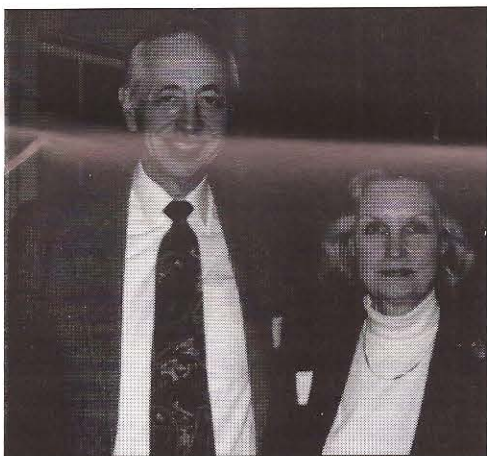
(Story on page 3)



Membership Meeting

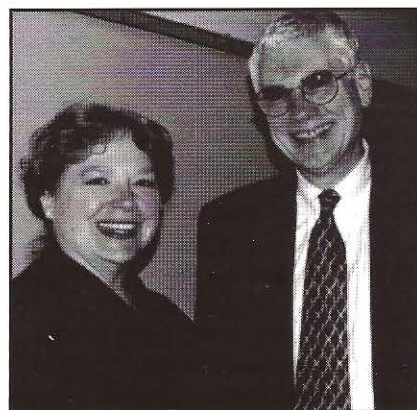
The June membership meeting was held at "In the Valley" (left), formerly the home of twentieth century author Corra Mae White Harris. EVHS members Jodie and Blanche Hill purchased the property in 1996 and have been restoring the home and 55 acres ever since. Jodie was the guest speaker for the evening. The meeting was attended by over 65 members and catered by Harold's Barbeque in Atlanta.

Earlier this year, the Hills established the Corra Harris Garden Club, which hopes to restore many original plantings and add new ones to the property and period furnishings to the home.



KSU Spring Lecture Series

Early in the year, associates from the Center for Regional History & Culture approached the Etowah Valley Historical Society about co-sponsoring their first annual spring lecture series, entitled "Faith of Our Fathers: That Old-Time Religion in Northwest Georgia." The non-profit Center was established in 1998 at Kennesaw State University with a mission to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Northwest Georgia region among area residents. EVHS was delighted to help the Center reach out to the community by advertising the four-part lecture series locally and by loaning equipment. The first lecture featured Dr. Wayne Flynt (above left, with Mrs. Flynt), author of ten books dealing with southern politics, poverty, and religion, including *Poor But Proud: Alabama's Poor Whites*, which won the Lilian Smith Prize for non-fiction in 1990. Dr. Kathleen Minnix (above center), Sam Jones scholar and author of *Laughter in the Amen Corner: The Life of Evangelist Sam Jones*, drew a large crowd to Roselawn for the second lecture in the series. Critically acclaimed and popular Georgia author Mary Hood (right, with Center associate and EVHS member Tom Scott) packed a KSU auditorium as the third speaker, and was kind enough to autograph a copy of *The New Georgia Guide* for the EVHS library; her essay "Tropic of Conscience" appears in the *Guide* as the section for Northwest Georgia. The last lecture in the series featured Corra Harris scholar Dr. Catherine Badura (above right, with Center associate and EVHS member David Parker), speaking at the Carriage House at Roselawn Museum. EVHS welcomes the Center to the community and looks forward to future project collaboration.



(Cousins, continued from page 5)

shooter. People would call him and say they needed their pig shot, and he would go. "On a Saturday morning there would be 4 or 5 families down by the ditch building a fire and getting the pots ready and all. The women would come together and cook the meal. The next week somebody else would need a pig shot and off my daddy would go. We divided a pig amongst the community."

"My daddy passed away on the 23rd day of March of 1958. After the funeral, Mama and I had to pull ourselves together." Franklin went to Rockmart where his father had done a lot of his trading to settle up with merchants. On more than one occasion, store owners told Franklin that his father didn't owe any money. Franklin was sure he did; Doc had bought his morphine, codeine, and McPharson water that he used for syphilis from Rockmart merchants. "They'd always say, 'The bill has been paid.'"

Every business in Taylorsville closed their doors for Doctor Cousins's funeral. Townsfolk mourned. Never before had Franklin seen any citizen so honored as his father was. Franklin says, "My daddy was a brave, good person. He never turned anyone away. I believe he truly kept his Hippocratic oath." ☺



Franklin Cousins in his grandfather's platform rocker.

(Oak Hill, continued from page 3)

right was a row of smaller markers, their three children who had died as infants. There were his parents, his brothers, and Mollie's mother. On the other side of Mollie was an empty space, marked only by a small footstone with the initials "AAS." We quickly realized what had happened: this man had buried his parents, his brothers, his wife, his children, and there was no one left when he died to mark his grave.

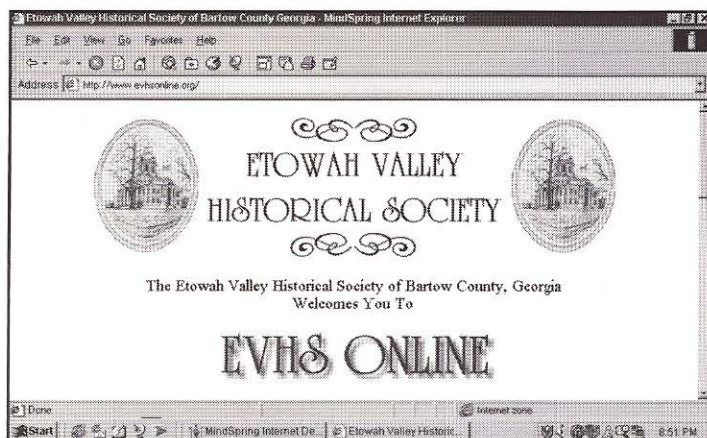
We've since learned a lot more about the Skinners, but maybe that's enough for you to understand why we would come home after visiting their graves and sit in the backyard, thinking about Mollie and Gus and their life here together—their sadness, their joys. They lived here, and died here. And maybe it's enough for you to understand why that plot is our favorite piece of ground in Oak Hill. I still enjoy stopping by Bill Arp's grave, visiting the Joneses and the Feltons, nodding to Amos Akerman and David Freeman—but our favorite place is a little up the hill, there with the Skinners.

We subtitled our talk, "Linking Past and Present." In *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, my favorite character, the "inventor," Luther Driggers, says, "My family's been here seven generations, and after that long a time I suppose it gets into your genes." Well, we haven't lived in Cartersville seven generations, and it's not in our genes. But finding the Skinners in Oak Hill, and then finding out more about them, has been one of our links to the past, something that connects us, as nothing else can, to our new home—both the house and Cartersville.

There are a lot of people like us in Cartersville today—newcomers, people who didn't grow up there, people with no family there. And sometimes it's difficult for these newcomers to feel any sense of connection, to remember that they live in a community called Cartersville. After all, we listen to Atlanta radio stations and watch Atlanta TV, we read Atlanta newspapers, we think of Atlanta as our "downtown." Cartersville is just our address.... Until you go to Oak Hill and walk among the forgotten people, and you realize that, a hundred and fifty years ago, the Skinners were newcomers, too. That's why cemeteries are important, and especially those forgotten people. That's us: that's who we are, where we came from, where we'll end up.

The dash between the date of birth and the date of death on millions of headstones across this nation tells a truer history of our cities and towns, if we only take the time to explore those lives. The connections we then can make not only link us to the past, but reveal the very roots of our existence. The preservation of these cemeteries, these links to the past, is essential to understanding where we've been and where we're going. Members of the Bonaventure Historical Society already know this. Chantal and I know this. Our children know this. And it's up to us to teach the rest of the world. ☺

The Parkers are currently researching Oak Hill history, and invite readers to contact them with any stories or knowledge they may have of the cemetery and those buried there. Call 770-606-8494 or email parkerhome@mindspring.com.



EVHS Goes High-Tech

www.evhsonline.org

The Etowah Valley Historical Society has staked its claim on the Information Superhighway, and as of August 5, 2000, EVHS is online! Months of preparation by Web Committee chair Michael Garland, former president Kathy Schubert, new president Guy Parmenter, and webmaster Chantal Parker has resulted in a beautiful and functional website.

From history and information about the society, to committee news, a calendar of events, and an online bookstore, the website seeks to inform the public about the society's mission and to keep members abreast of EVHS activities. Of special interest to new members is the Projects page, which recounts many of the community projects EVHS has undertaken in the past, including the Allatoona Pass Battlefield Restoration, the Vaughan Cabin Relocation, and the bi-annual Tour of Historic Homes.

www.allatoonapassbattlefield.org

Visitors to EVHS Online will also find a link to Allatoona Pass Battlefield: The Official Website. Text and photos provided by Allatoona Pass scholar William Scaife briefly tell the story of one of the bloodiest Civil War battles ever fought and bring visitors up to date on the battlefield's restoration as a park facility. Links to a map of fortifications and articles about the unknown hero of Allatoona Pass round out the site for now, but further development is expected.

Both websites remain under development as EVHS continues to add information and resources. Committees are encouraged to submit information and updates, and volunteers are sought to transcribe data and materials for further website development. Articles published in past EVHS Newsletters, biographies, census, cemeteries, and other resources are needed. Contact Chantal Parker at 770-606-8494, or email parkerhome@mindspring.com for more information. Suggestions for improvement of our online presence in the community are always desired and greatly welcomed.

The Library Book Fund is now at \$7,000! Thank you members.

We Got Mail!

From the Georgia Chapter Trail of Tears Association... May 8, 2000

The Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your contribution to the success of our conference held in Cartersville. One hundred fifty people from nine states attended the conference. All agreed that the bar had been raised for other states to host a future conference. A memorable event such as this is impossible without people like you to provide the resources to make it happen.

Several participants from the Cherokee Nation who had never been in this area expressed appreciation for the manner in which their former land had been preserved and maintained. The reception you sponsored at the Davis-Ryals home was a highlight.

Sincerely,
Patsy Edgar
President, Georgia Chapter

From the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation... June 13, 2000

On behalf of The Georgia Trust, thank you for the Etowah Valley Historical Society's support of our Spring Ramble through Cartersville and Bartow County. The dedication and enthusiasm of local communities ensure the popularity and success of this event year after year, and your participation contributed to the overwhelming success of this spring's Ramble.

The Ramble through Cartersville and Bartow County conveyed to our members what a special place Bartow County is. Judging from the positive comments we have received, Bartow County's rich historic resources and the warm hospitality of its people created a lasting impression.

Again thank you for your endorsement of this event. We hope you will stay in touch with us, and we hope to work with the Etowah Valley Historical Society again soon.

Sincerely,
Gregory B. Paxton
President & CEO

From the Stilesboro Improvement Club... August 2, 2000

We are so delighted with the wonderful gift of blown-up, framed photos to hang in Stilesboro Academy. They do an excellent job of telling the "story" of Stilesboro to visitors and in doing so fill a much needed purpose. They also give a most appropriate and needed decoration to the walls.

This project could never have happened if not for the desire on J.B. Tate's part to be a steward to our beloved building and to him we extend an extra measure of our appreciation for a job well done.

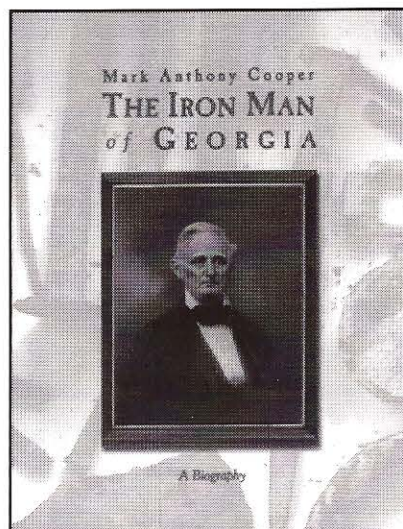
Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks and our delight that you share our passion for this unique treasure.

Ann Mascia
Stilesboro Improvement Club

EVHS Newsletter Gets New Look, Editorial Staff Additions

After seven years as editors of the EVHS Newsletter, Guy Parmenter and Susan Taylor are retiring from that position to focus their energies elsewhere within the society. Guy's experience with reporting the society news, however, makes it impossible for us to let him go completely, and so he will remain on as Senior Editor. Thanks, Guy, and thanks, Susan, for your dedication and service to the society in this capacity!

Stepping up to the helm of the newsletter is the husband and wife team of David and Chantal Parker. David is associate professor of history at Kennesaw State University and a Bill Arp scholar. Chantal is editor of *Cartersville Magazine*. Both bring writing skills and an avid interest in local history to the project, and hope our members like the new look of the newsletter.



Now on Sale
in the EVHS office

**Mark Anthony
Cooper**

**The Iron Man
of Georgia**

The history of a legendary Bartow County figure whose greatest contributions were the development of the railroad and iron industries in Georgia. Jacketed, with 90 photographs and illustrations. Hardback 280 pages \$35.00

Happy Holidays



This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of
Margaret J. Ragsdale, Mrs. Avery C. "Virginia" Holland, and Mrs. Arthur Gordon "Kathryn" Swan

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

Inside ...

- 1... Doc Cousins
- 2... Boston-Brooke School
- 4... Stilesboro Academy
- 7... Trail of Tears
- 8... Georgia Trust Ramble
- 10... EVHS Annual Meeting
- 15... EVHS Goes High-Tech
and more...