



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 37, May 2001

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

Special "Hills of Iron" Edition



*Issued on the Occasion of the Etowah Valley Historical Society and
Red Top Mountain State Park's Hills of Iron Celebration
May 12, 2001*

Family Tree Climbers Sponsor Guest Speakers

Paulding County Genealogy and the Bartow County Library System Topics of Discussion



Jeanette Cochran

Paulding County genealogist and founder of the Dallas, Georgia Genealogy Society, Jeanette Cochran was the guest speaker at the March 8th meeting of the Family Tree Climbers.

Ms. Cochran's primary discussion centered on the Cockerham/Cockran/Cockram/Cochran lineage. She also has done extensive research on the Turner, Ellsberry, Dureham, and Tripcony lines. Accompanying Mrs. Cochran was her daughter Jan Tripcony and friend Daniel Moore. The

guests were introduced by Family Tree Climbers chairperson Wilma Cantrell.

On April 12th, Lee Howington, Director of the Bartow County Library System, joined the Family Tree Climbers for an informal discussion of the system's history and plans

for future expansion.

The three libraries that make up the system are Cartersville, Euahlee, and Adairsville. A strategic 5-year plan seeks to improve facilities, materials, and staff, and calls for state-of-the-art technology.

Lee Howington, a former public school teacher in Birmingham Alabama, is a 1971 graduate of Birmingham Southern College, and received his Masters of Library Science at Florida State University in 1978. He came to Bartow County in 1984 as Director of the Bartow County Library System.

The next meeting of the Family Tree Climbers will be a planning session scheduled for May 10th at 7 p.m. in the EVHS office. All EVHS members are encouraged to attend. ☺



Lee Howington



Founded 1972

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

Tour of Homes

Tricia Simmons

Linda Denham

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

Cherokee Historian Don Shadburn Visits EVHS

Membership Meeting April 19, 2001

Don L. Shadburn, Cherokee historian and author, was the guest speaker at a joint meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society and Friends of the Bartow County Library Thursday, April 19, at the library's main branch in Cartersville. This was the second joint meeting of the two organizations.

Shadburn is recognized as a leading authority on Georgia families of Cherokee descent and presently serves as a consultant to the Georgia Chapter of the National Trail of Tears Association. In addition to numerous articles, Shadburn is the author of seven books (two in production) documenting Forsyth County and Cherokee history and genealogy, including *Unhallowed Intrusion*, which won the first Lilla Mills Hawes Award presented by the Georgia Historical Society, and *Crimson and Sabres*, the county's first Confederate history.

Friends President Patti Holiday welcomed EVHS and FOL members to the meeting, and EVHS President Guy Parmenter introduced Mr. Shadburn.

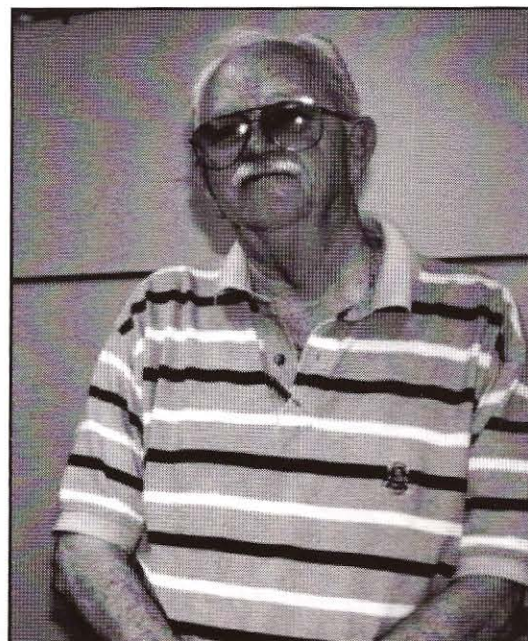
Shadburn, a retired middle school science teacher, began his writing career with a focus on Forsyth County history. "I envisioned a volume of work covering Forsyth County's early pioneers, Cherokees, and the eleven Cherokee counties created from the Cherokee territory in 1832 and 1833," Shadburn told the group. However, the wealth of material Shadburn collected early on presented difficulties, in that it refused to be confined to a single volume.

Pioneer History of Forsyth County, Georgia, published in 1980, was followed in 1989 by *Cherokee Planters in Georgia, 1832-1838*, the only published work which treats the Cherokee people as "Indian countrymen" who lived on Georgia's final frontier prior to their removal in 1838 on a grassroots, county-by-county basis. The two volumes constitute the first in Shadburn's Pioneer-Cherokee Heritage Series, which includes *Unhallowed Intrusion: A History of Cherokee Families in Forsyth County, Georgia* (1993), *Crimson and Sabres: A Confederate Record of Forsyth County, Georgia* (1997), *Blood Kin: Pioneer Chronicles of Upper Georgia Centered in Forsyth County, Georgia* (1999), and *Cherokee Kindred in Georgia* and *The Cottonpatch Chronicles* (currently in production).

"There has always been a lot of emphasis on the removal of the Cherokees and the Trail of Tears," Shadburn said. "But the real tragedy was their loss of homes and improvements, and their subjugation to Georgia law, which took place in the decade preceding the removal, 1828 to 1838."

Shadburn followed up his lecture with a question and answer session which included discussion of Chief Pine Log of Bartow County (Shadburn said he found no records about this legendary individual), James Vann of the Chief Vann House above New Echota (who, in the Cherokee fashion, had more than one wife), and the North Carolina Cherokees (contrary to popular belief, they were not the remnants of Cherokees who escaped removal, but were a separate community of Cherokees protected from removal because they lived on white-owned private land).

Shadburn's lecture reminds us that local history often involves going outside the boundaries of a specific area in order to understand the larger picture and the context of that local history in a regional and national setting. ☺



Don Shadburn

The Etowah Valley Historical Society and Red Top Mountain State Park Present

HILLS OF IRON

A DAY-LONG EVENT CELEBRATING
THE IRON INDUSTRY IN BARTOW COUNTY

**The celebration of the iron industry
in Bartow County is the celebration of those
early pioneers who looked beyond the natural beauty
of the Etowah Valley, recognized the great abundance
of natural resources and mineral wealth, and attempted
to develop those resources in an effort to bring Georgia
into the age of industrialization.**

The Etowah Valley, which runs through Bartow County, has long been known for its great wealth of iron ore and other rich mineral deposits. Prior to the Civil War, at least nine iron furnaces operated at one time or another in the county. These small charcoal furnaces had a capacity varying from two to four tons per day, with ore supplied from ore banks in their immediate vicinity or harvested from the surface of cultivated fields. Today, the remains of five of these furnaces can still be seen along the banks of Stamp Creek and the Etowah River, where the heaviest deposits of iron ore existed.

The superiority of Bartow County's minerals was demonstrated at the Atlanta Exposition in 1889 when private exhibits took fourteen medals and premiums, including fullest and best display of minerals of any state and county, and the fullest and best display of iron ore. "There can be no doubt that, as to the quality of iron ore and manganese, Bartow excels all other counties of Georgia," a correspondent for Cartersville's *Courant American* wrote. "Still, it is somewhat of a shame that while she had six [sic] furnaces before the war ... she now has not a single one." The writer also noted the lack of extensive mining efforts, citing small "farming" operations and only one large operative mining works—the Dade Iron Company, owned by former governor, then senator, Joseph Emerson Brown, which operated the Iron Belt Railroad from Sugar Hill to Rogers Station.

The iron industry in Bartow County, which began with the arrival of Jacob Stroup in 1836 and reached its peak in the 1850s, abruptly ended with the physical and

economic upheaval caused by the Civil War in general and the destruction of Mark Cooper's Etowah Ironworks in particular. The majority of the smaller operations had produced iron for Etowah's rolling mill and were dependent upon its financial well being.

But the war brought only a swifter and more dramatic end to the industry, which had never been able to secure the solid financial backing necessary for further development, and the success of Etowah was never matched after the war. Some furnaces were put back into operation in the decade following the war, but they were isolated and operated only briefly. A national financial panic in the 1870s sealed the iron industry's fate in Bartow County.

Mining operations continued into the 20th century, but at a declining rate. Today, iron mining is concentrated in the rich ore fields closer to the manufacturing areas of Birmingham, Pennsylvania, and the Great Lakes, where the proximity of furnace and ore cuts down on transportation costs.

There is still plenty of iron ore left in the area. According to Bartow County geologist Stan Bearden, "For every ton that was removed, there are still two or three tons in the ground."

The celebration of the iron industry in Bartow County is the celebration of those early pioneers who looked beyond the natural beauty of the Etowah Valley, recognized the great abundance of natural resources and mineral wealth, and attempted to develop those resources in an effort to bring Georgia into the age of industrialization. &D

Jacob & Moses Stroup

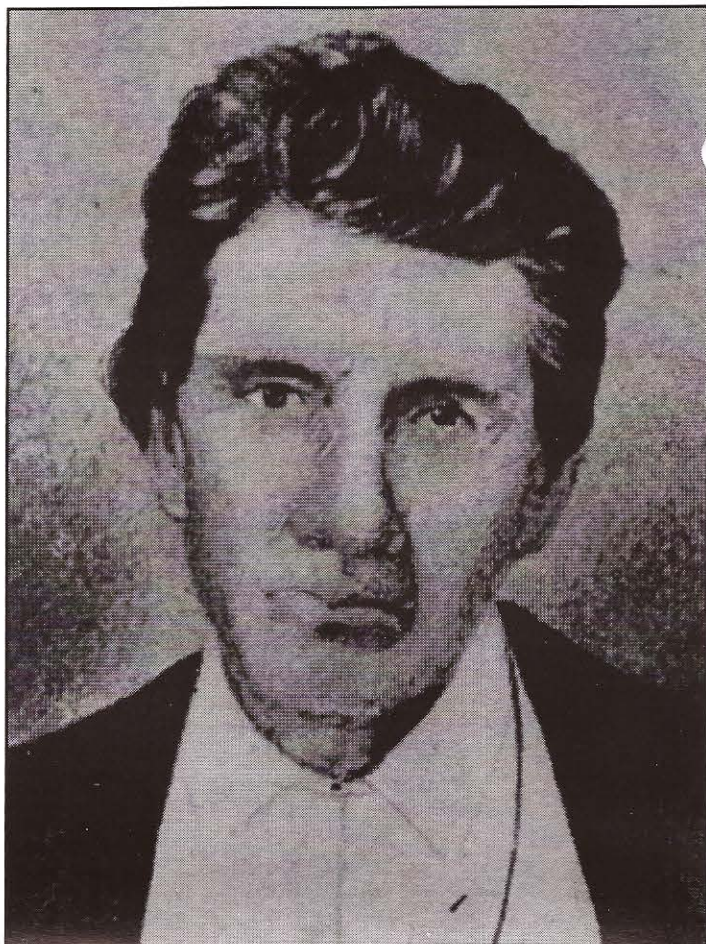
Pioneer Furnace Builders and Ironmasters of the South

By the early nineteenth century, at least three iron enterprises were in operation in Georgia, in Warren, Elbert, and Chatham counties. These early ventures were joined in the 1830s by two other furnaces, one in Habersham County and one in Cass County, both built by one ironmaster, Jacob Stroup.

A pioneer furnace builder and ironmaster, Jacob Stroup was an important figure in the establishment of early iron works in South Carolina. Born in Lincoln County in 1771, Stroup was trained in the manufacture of iron by his father Adam and his grandfather, also named Jacob. Adam Stroup, an ironmaster and gunsmith, was a second-generation American, the grandson of Mathias Stroup, who immigrated to Maryland, then Pennsylvania, from the coal and iron-rich Ruhr Valley in Germany. During the American Revolution, Adam and his father Jacob sided with the Colonies in the disastrous Battle of Camden, a loss blamed on the British army's use of bayonets, a weapon supposedly unknown in the Carolinas. The elder Jacob was captured and taken to Sullivan's Island but later escaped by swimming ashore, while Adam eluded capture and returned to his farm and forge in Lincoln County, where he and son Jacob spent several weeks, working day and night, repairing and forging new rifles in an attempt to rearm the militia. The Stroups are thought to have been one of only a few families in the area who could craft a gun's firing mechanism and, reportedly, manufacture gunpowder. In an ingenious display of ironmastery, Adam is said to have welded kitchen knives to muskets for homemade bayonets.

By 1815 the younger Jacob was an ironmaster in his own right, and partnered with Lincoln County native Edward Fewell to build a furnace on King's Creek in the York District of South Carolina. They paid \$2000 for the land, which included iron ore beds, a grist mill, and a saw mill. Stroup built and operated the forge; Fewell built and ran the furnace. A glimpse of Stroup's character is witnessed in an agreement between Fewell and Stroup dated 1815 that states "neither of us will ever retail ardent spirits or suffer it will be done on said premises." (Many years later, according to his son Jacob Decatur Stroup, Jacob Stroup would own "the best tavern" in the Cartersville area, said to be a favorite of General Winfield "Old Fuss and Feathers" Scott.)

Fewell's death and subsequent damage caused by a flood closed the King's Creek operation, which was sold at sheriff's sale. Undaunted by the reversal of his fortune, Jacob Stroup married Fewell's widow and constructed a new ironworks in the same vicinity, which he sold in 1825 to a



Moses Stroup, the third child of Jacob Stroup and his first wife Elizabeth Dellinger, was born in 1794 in Hoyles Creek, Lincoln County, North Carolina. Photo courtesy of the Etowah Valley Historical Society

group of New York investors for \$12,235. He then began construction of the Cherokee Iron Works nearby, on the east bank of the Broad River. The 3500 acre Cherokee works became a true early "iron plantation," with a furnace, forge, blacksmith shop, grist and saw mills, ore deposits, limestone fields, timber land, and houses for slaves and free workers. In 1830, Stroup sold the Cherokee Iron Works to a group of investors for \$17,000 and in 1832 moved to Habersham County, Georgia.

Jacob Stroup was definitely part of the formative phase of South Carolina's iron industry, which reached its peak in the 1840s. One source states that he sold his South Carolina interests to a Colonel Nesbit before embarking to Georgia. Colonel Nesbit was a stockholder in the Nesbitt Iron Manufacturing Company, chartered in 1835. Investors in the company included a veritable list of who's who in the state at that time. While Jacob was not directly associated with the company, his son Moses was a stockholder. Moreover, it was Nesbit and Moses Stroup who were responsible for setting up what was to be the preeminent iron works of South Carolina. Both men toured the North in the fall of 1837 looking for workmen, up-to-date tools of

the trade, and technological information. The outcome of the tour was a contract between the stockholders and Moses Stroup allowing Moses to construct a foundry, a blacksmith shop, a forge, and a rolling mill. During Moses Stroup's tenure, the Nesbitt Iron Manufacturing Company grew into the largest iron works in South Carolina.

Jacob Stroup's first charcoal furnace in Georgia was constructed on the Seque River, three miles below Clarksville, soon after his arrival in the state. The furnace was accompanied by a bloomery forge at the same location, also built by Stroup. Possibly motivated by the opening up of the notoriously mineral-rich northwest corner of Georgia, in 1836, only four years after its establishment, Jacob sold his Habersham County furnace and forge and moved to Cass County. Within a year he had constructed the first blast furnace in the area. The original furnace was situated on Stamp Creek, just north of present day Wilderness Camp Marina. In 1838 Stroup built a bloomery forge about a hundred yards above the furnace. The Stamp Creek forge, which produced hollowware and castings, was later replaced by a forge closer to the furnace. A grist mill and a saw mill were also part of the original Jacob Stroup iron works complex.

Moses Stroup arrived in Cass County in the early 1840s, and within a year bought out his father's interests in the Stamp Creek operations and began to enlarge the complex, adding other furnaces, a flour mill, and a rolling mill. There were only two rolling mills established in Georgia at that time: Stroup's mill on Stamp Creek and the Gate City rolling mill in Fulton County. Stroup's construction of a rolling mill becomes more significant when the national figures for rolling mills are cited. In 1856 there were only twelve rolling mills located in the South; the total for the country was 144.

It appears that the technological expertise needed to construct the mill probably emanated from Moses's experience with the Nesbitt ironworks in South Carolina. It is interesting that in the Stamp Creek and Nesbitt operations Jacob acted as the initiator and builder of the complexes, whereas Moses brought each up-to-date technologically. For Jacob Stroup, technological best practice was to establish a furnace and forge operation accompanied with perhaps a sawmill and grist mill. This pattern typified the pioneer period of

ironmaking in the Southeast. These complexes were geared to satisfy local economic needs rather than producing for an outside market.

Moses Stroup, on the other hand, was more intent upon developing iron production rather than diversifying, although he still catered to local needs by adding a flour mill. In South Carolina his major contribution to the

Nesbitt firm had been the construction of a rolling mill, foundry, and blacksmith shop. This pattern was repeated at Stamp Creek, where he added furnaces and a rolling mill to the core operation his father had established. The outcome of this endeavor was a change in the scale of the operation and at the same time a change in the

desired market. The products of the Stamp Creek complex now aimed at reaching a regional, if not a national market. This transformation occurred with the aid of Mark Anthony Cooper, who became Moses Stroup's partner in 1842. An 1845 ledger of the company shows that they were making castings for iron products such as pitchers,

fire irons, fire dogs, and oven lids, with markets extending from Dalton to Atlanta. Unable to meet his share of debts incurred in connection with the expansion, Moses Stroup sold his share of the company and left for Alabama in 1849, where he established the Round Mountain iron works.

In 1842 Jacob Stroup traveled to Alabama where he supervised construction of the Cane Creek Furnace. In 1844 at age 73, he returned to Bartow County and built another furnace on the bank of Allatoona Creek, once located where the supports of Bethany Bridge now stand. In 1846 a bloomery forge was built, probably by Jacob, near the furnace. That same year, on November 8, Jacob Stroup died while still operating the furnace, and is buried alongside his wife Sarah in the Goodson-Tidwell Cemetery (also known as the Goodson-Rogers Cemetery), formerly known as the Furnace Graveyard. The cemetery is

located near the Jacob Stroup home place and his original Etowah iron works on Stamp Creek. Numerous burials there are marked with native rocks and iron works presumably made at a local furnace. ☞

Compiled from "Ore, Water, Stone, and Wood: Historical and Architectural Investigations of Donaldson's Iron Furnace, Cherokee County, Georgia"; "Phase II Archaeological Testing and Mapping at Allatoona Lake, Georgia"; and "Jacob Stroup Family History & Genealogy."

It is interesting that in the Stamp Creek and Nesbitt operations Jacob acted as the initiator and builder of the complexes, whereas Moses brought each up-to-date technologically.



Jacob Stroup died in 1846 and is buried in the old Furnace Cemetery, near where his homeplace used to be. A furnace-shaped marker was erected behind his original headstone by Stroup's great-great-grandson, John R. Jackson. Photo by Chantal Parker

From the EVHS Archives

An Eyewitness Account of Rogers Furnace in Operation

Written for *The Cartersville Express*,
printed May 29, 1878

I visited today the Iron Furnace of Rogers & Co., and after examining every thing as critically as I could, I interviewed Mr. Robert L. Rogers, the originator and one of the largest proprietors of the enterprise. The task was a difficult one on account of Bob's known modesty and reticence, but I succeeded in drawing out the following facts: Last summer, after the laying by of the crops, he came to the conclusion that the management of a six hundred acre farm, and a set of lime kilns, a saw mill, a railroad wood & water station, a water power for ginning cotton and grinding corn, two steam engines, and the general superintendence of the church in his neighborhood, and other things "too numerous to mention," all did not keep him busy, and with a horror of idleness, he looked about for something to occupy his spare moments.

The large amount of iron ore lying loose and useless upon the surface of his fields, attracted his attention, and stimulated the idea of making the rubbish of some value.

Before he went to work to build a furnace, he thought carefully on the subject, and to use his own language, he "made pig iron in his head before he struck the first blow."

He commenced work on the first of September, 1872, and finished the structure in exactly two months.

The sand stone was quarried from the same hill in which the furnace is built, and 100,000 brick made and burned on the spot.

The foundation of the furnace rests upon a solid limestone rock. It measures, at its base, 32 feet, 17 feet at the top, and is 35 feet high. The boshes are nine feet across. It is arched for three layers, but only two are now used. The other buildings are a large coal house, with a covered bridge leading to the top of the furnace, an engine house, an iron house, a large stone building, stable and barn, and ten houses for operatives.

The engine is 75 horse power, and was made at Champlain, N.Y. The two boilers are 40 feet long and 3 feet in diameter. They were made at the People's Works in Philadelphia—They are so fixed that one or both of them can be used for making steam. The heat is supplied by burning gas, brought by a flue from the top of the furnace, and conducted under each boiler. Attached to the engine is a blowing cylinder, on an improved pattern, which generates any quantity of blast.

(See *Rogers Furnace*, continued on page 9)

Curtin Furnace Remembered Forty Years After Its Demise

Written for *The News and Courier*,
printed March 24, 1910

Perhaps for the sake of the present generation, I should enter more into details as to the location and history of the above furnace. It was located where Mr. Will Foster's barn now stands, on the east side of Pettit's creek, two miles north of Cartersville, and when in operation was surrounded by large mule barns, blacksmith shops, stores, offices, and quite a number of small houses or shacks for its employees and was quite a busy place when in blast.

About 1871 or 1872 it was operated by a Mr. Curtin [sic], a brother of former Governor [Andrew Greg] Curtin [sic], of Pennsylvania, and Col. Lewis Tumlin. It has now been extinct for nearly forty years, with nothing to indicate its former existence except the store house and the old water race-way on the side of the hill on opposite side of creek from Charles Jones mill, running to the old dam of the Jones Mill. Mr. Jones also now owns this old dam site.

The writer learned quite recently that more than one man who at an early date rose to distinction worked at or for this furnace. Col. Sim Munford is said to have pulled the bell cord over a four mule team hauling iron ore from his father's place to the furnace and "Billie" Ginn broke lime rock with a hammer to "flux the furnace." Sam Jones, Sim Munford, Billie and Luke Ginn and many others of our best citizens worked hard and did real dirty work at this old furnace, because they needed the money and needed it bad too, at that time, so soon after the war.

A Mr. Funk built the furnace and its bellows were operated by water power until the war when two large boilers were put in to increase the capacity to about ten tons of pig iron per day. During the war much hollowware was also molded here for use in the army and other purposes.

An uncle of Judge Thomas W. Milner is said to have operated this furnace just before the war. Hiram Williams and perhaps others operated this furnace during its existence, but it like many other of the glorious old institutions and glorious old men of the glorious old golden past linger with many of us and are enmeshed in our hearts along with the sacred memories of our boyhood home, when we were around mothers' knees when times were hard and war clouds covered the skies and hearts were leaded but brave—when Dixie and the old Rebel Yell were the music of our Southland—her men brave and unselfish heroes, her women the wonder of the world. ☺

In addition to an extensive research and genealogy library, the Etowah Valley Historical Society maintains a large archive of Bartow County newspapers dating back to the 1840s, which may be viewed on microfilm in our office. Our office and research facilities are located in the historic 1903 gold-domed courthouse in downtown Cartersville. The facilities are open to EVHS members and the public. We're open M-F 1:30-4:30 p.m. and Sat 1-4 p.m. For more information about EVHS, call 770-606-8862, or visit our website at www.evhsonline.org

Iron Furnaces in Bartow County's Etowah Valley

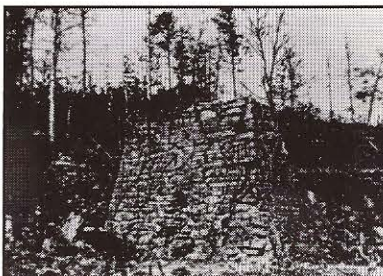
See Map on pages 6 & 7

Etowah Furnace #1 1837

Jacob Stroup built this, the first furnace in Cass County, in 1837. It was a small furnace, and was replaced with a larger one in 1844. In 1850 it was razed.

Etowah Furnace #2 1844

This furnace, constructed in 1844 by Moses Stroup and Mark Cooper, replaced the Old Etowah furnace constructed by Jacob Stroup in 1837. It measured 8 feet across the bosh and 30 feet high. In 1856, the furnace produced 780 tons in a 44-week period (17.7 tons/week). All of the pig iron produced at the furnace was used by the company's rolling mill, while the other products (scrap iron, castings, and hollow-ware) were sold in local markets.



Allatoona Furnace 1844

The Allatoona Furnace was the second furnace to be built within the Etowah Valley by Jacob Stroup. Constructed in 1844, the furnace was owned by T.F. Moore and D.R. Thomas of Allatoona in 1859. The furnace measured 7 feet across the bosh by 30 feet high. In 1855 a hot blast was added, increasing the temperature of the blast to 300 degrees. Castings produced were sold locally and at Dalton and Atlanta. Pig iron was marketed at Augusta, Macon, Atlanta, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. In 1854, the furnace produced 500 tons in a 30 week period (16.7 tons/week).

Lewis's Furnace 1847

Dr. J.W. Lewis of Cartersville, Superintendent of the W&A Railroad and co-owner of Pool's Furnace, constructed this furnace in 1847. The furnace measured 7.5 feet across the bosh and 26 feet high. In 1854, it reportedly produced 450 tons in 35 weeks (12.9 tons/week). The pigs produced went to the Etowah Rolling Mill, while the castings were distributed locally.



Diamond Furnace Circa 1850s

Diamond Furnace was originally operated by William Henry Stiles, whose home, Etowah Cliffs, was located near the community of Stilesboro, which was named in his honor. The furnace was taken over by William P. Ward in the 1870s.



Union Furnace / Ford's Fire Eater 1852

Owned by D.S. and A.M. Ford, this furnace was constructed in

1852, and measured 7.5 feet across the bosh and 30 feet high. It produced 536 tons of pig iron in 23 weeks (23.3 tons/week). The pigs produced were sold primarily to the Etowah Rolling Mill.



Milner's Furnace / Curtin Furnace 1852

Also known as the Cartersville furnace, this establishment was owned by the heirs of Henry and Arnold Milner, but was built by a Mr. Funk. Constructed in 1852, the furnace measured 7.5 feet across the bosh and 32 feet high. In 1855, it produced an estimated 300 tons in 13 weeks (23.1 tons/week). The bellows were operated by water power until the Civil War, when two large boilers were put in to increase production to about 10 tons of pig iron per day. During the war hollow-ware was molded for use by the army. In the 1870s, the furnace was operated by Lewis Tumlin, T.J. Lyon, and M.R. Curtin, the brother of Pennsylvania governor Andrew Greg Curtin. Before his rise to fame, evangelist Sam Jones worked at this furnace.

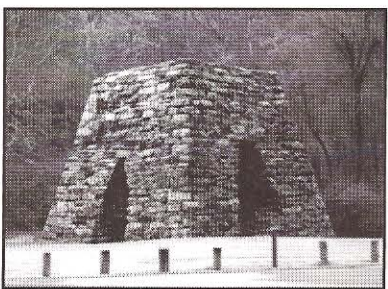
Pool's Furnace 1855

B.G. Pool was an owner (with partner J.W. Lewis) and manager. The furnace was built in 1855, and measured 8 feet across the bosh and 30 feet high. Its pig iron was sold to the Etowah Rolling Mill, as well as to markets in Columbus, Macon, and Nashville. In 1855, the furnace produced an estimated 40 tons in 2 weeks (20 tons/week).



River Furnace / Cooper Furnace 1857

This cold blast charcoal smelting furnace, owned by the Etowah Manufacturing and Mining Company, is the most pristine example of a still existing furnace in Bartow County. Within a few years of its construction, it was capable of producing nine tons of first quality pig iron per day, at a net profit of seven dollars per ton.



Bartow Furnace Circa 1862

The Bartow Furnace Company comprised an area of 1000 acres. It was promoted before the Civil War by I.D. McDaniels and in the 1870s was operated by Hugh McNeil of Chattanooga. The first ore bank was opened here in 1862, and was mined, more or less continuously until 1885.

Rogers Furnace 1872

A furnace constructed at Rogers Station on the W&A Railroad was in operation during the 1870s and 1880s. Governor Joseph

(See *Furnaces*, continued on page 8)

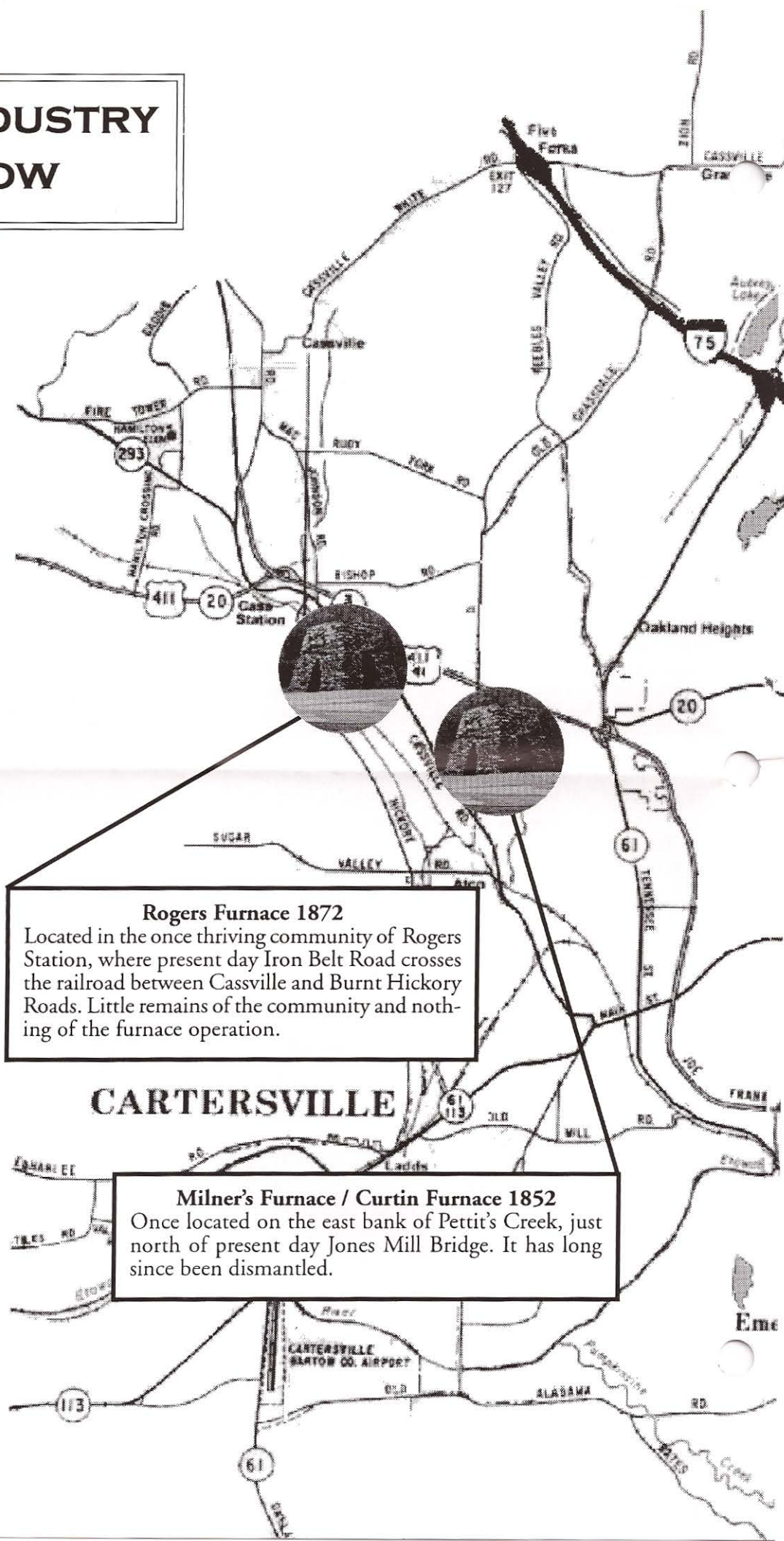
THE IRON INDUSTRY IN BARTOW

The natural environment of the Etowah Valley was recognized as having great potential for industrial development early in the settlement of Northwest Georgia. While the discovery of gold in 1829 led to this recognition, it was the abundance of other minerals that spurred its development as an industrial region.

Cass (now Bartow) County's mineral wealth was described as being the richest in Georgia. And here were all the elements necessary for iron production: ready availability of the major raw materials used in iron production (high-quality iron ore, limestone, and wood), affordable land, rivers and streams to provide water power, viable regional markets for iron, and access to markets for their products by established transportation routes.

The Etowah region was recognized both nationally and regionally as an industrial preserve ripe for development by the late 1840s. Its waterpower and mineral wealth were considered unexcelled in their abundance and strength. The heavily timbered land was skirted by rich agricultural tracts. In addition, the Western & Atlantic Railroad sliced through the valley, connecting it with regional and national markets. This nexus of factors created a wellspring of opportunity that attracted industrialists and entrepreneurs such as the Stroup family and Mark Anthony Cooper into the Etowah Valley.

The Etowah Manufacturing and Mining Company dominates any discussion of the iron industry in Bartow County, and rightfully so, because it represents the full evolution of the iron plantation in Georgia. From Jacob Stroup's first furnace at Stamp Creek to the construction of the River furnace by Cooper in the late 1850s, the Etowah Manufacturing and Mining Company for a twenty year period was the premier operation in Georgia. Yet it did not exist in isolation; a whole chain of furnaces and forges existed in the Etowah Valley, as well as a community of ironmakers. 80



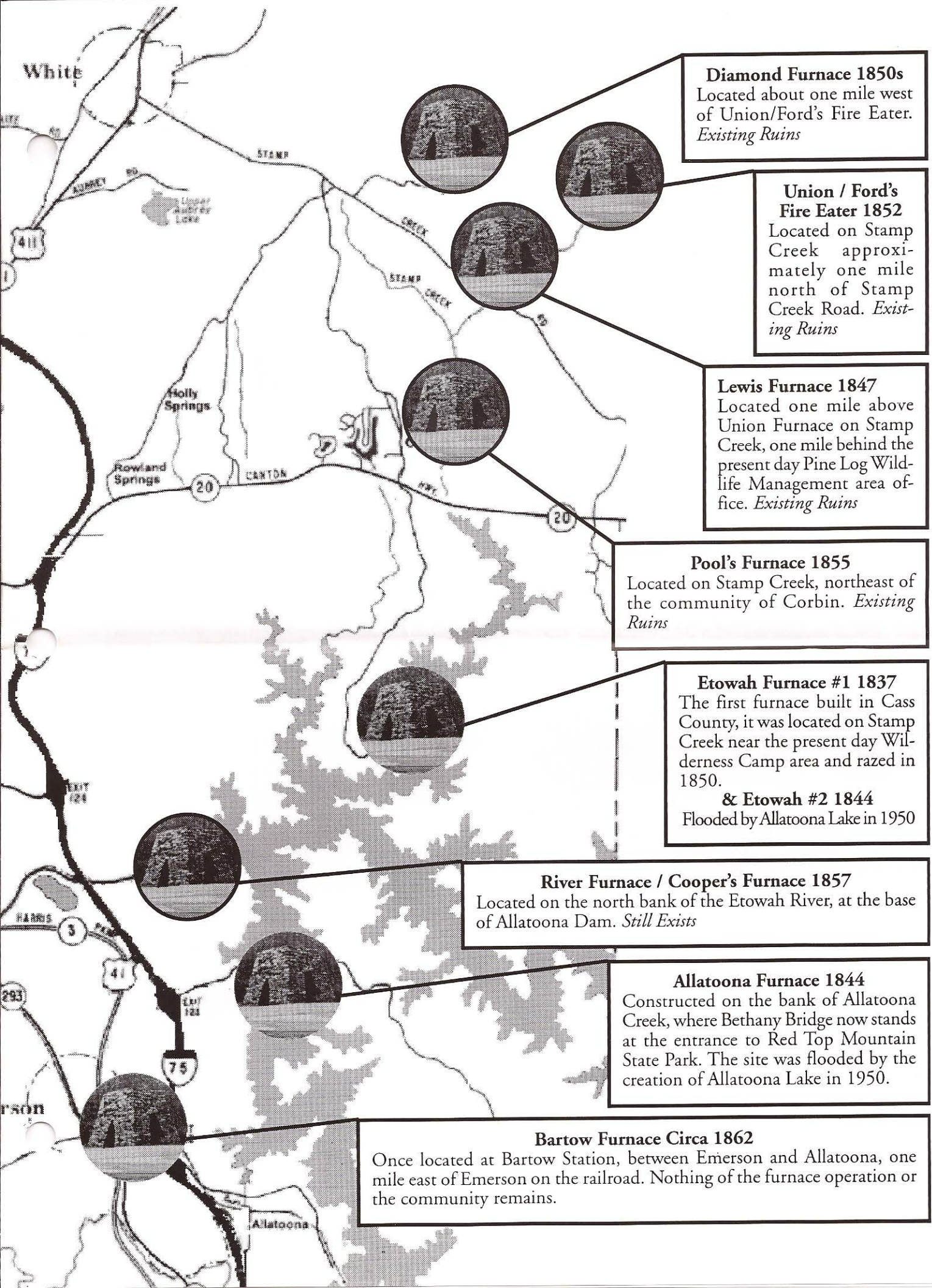
Rogers Furnace 1872

Located in the once thriving community of Rogers Station, where present day Iron Belt Road crosses the railroad between Cassville and Burnt Hickory Roads. Little remains of the community and nothing of the furnace operation.

CARTERSVILLE

Milner's Furnace / Curtin Furnace 1852

Once located on the east bank of Pettit's Creek, just north of present day Jones Mill Bridge. It has long since been dismantled.



Iron Ores in Bartow County

Of all the factors that led to Northwest Georgia's iron industry, probably none was as important as the abundant presence of high quality iron ore. In the 1840s, J. T. Hodge, a noted geologist, toured the Etowah Valley and reported that "the quantity of ore in this region is incalculable." "I have visited almost all the great iron ore deposits of the United States," Hodge said, "but have never been so impressed by any exhibit afore as by the mines of the Etowah district." Mark Anthony Cooper liked to quote a passage from *The Iron Master's Guide*: "This county alone ... has concentrated in its limits as much iron ore as all Pennsylvania together and is of superior quality."

The three main sources of iron ore in Bartow County are, in the names that the old-time miners would have used, "gray iron ore," "soft iron," and "brown iron ore." All three exist in abundance in Bartow, but only one was used extensively for iron production.

The mineralogical name of "gray iron ore" is specularite hematite. Worldwide, hematite in its various forms constitutes the most important source of iron ore. It is often reddish; in fact, its very name is from a Greek word meaning "blood-like." There is an old superstition that large deposits of hematite formed from the blood that flowed into the ground during ancient battles. Not surprisingly, given this background, many people still believe in the mineral's supposed blood-cleansing ability. Hematite stones

(See *Iron Ores*, continued on page 12)



This 1900 Geological Survey Map of Georgia shows the extent of iron ore deposits (shaded darker) in Bartow County, including the huge iron belt which runs north to south, almost through the entire length of the county. Illustration from *Iron Ores of Georgia*

(*Furnaces*, continued from page 5)

E. Brown and Robert L. Rogers were the owners. The furnace was built in 1872 with two water wheels and three engines. During its first year of operation, the furnace went from producing less than a ton of pig iron a day to 6 tons. Mining of iron ore continued after the furnace closed down in the 1870s, and in 1883, a railroad was built from Rogers Station to the Guyton Ore Bank. In 1897, the Iron Belt Railroad & Mining Company was incorporated and the road extended 14 miles to Sugar Hill. This was thought to be the longest privately-owned railroad at that time. ⌘

Compiled from "Ore, Water, Stone, and Wood: Historical and Architectural Investigations of Donaldson's Iron Furnace, Cherokee County, Georgia"

You're Invited to . . .

Attend regular lecture series with noted authors and speakers

Enjoy dinner meetings in historic and/or architecturally interesting homes...

Have a seat at the Civil War Roundtable for lectures and lively discussions of the War Between the States...

Go out on a limb with the Family Tree Climbers for lectures and opportunities to pursue genealogical studies...

Receive a bi-monthly newsletter with researched articles of local historic interest, and news and activities of the Society...

Browse through our library of books and research material on local and regional history...

Join the Etowah Valley Historical Society!

Yes! I want to become a member of EVHS. Please enter my membership as follows:

- () Individual\$20.00
- () Family\$25.00
- () Club or organization\$30.00
- () Corporate or Patron\$100 or more

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail your check (payable to EVHS) to:

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

(Rogers Furnace, continued from page 4)

The greatest curiosity to me is a siphon, which, by some scientific principle, draws water from a spring below, elevates it 22 feet, and pours it in a continuous stream into a tank from which it is carried by pipes to wherever it is needed. The two tuyers are exposed to a heat which would melt them like lead if they were not hollow, and have water pouring into and out of them unceasingly.

The whole apparatus for making the blast cost \$7,801.

The boilers, which were due in January, did not reach their destination until April, on account of an accident to the vessel. The delay was improved by getting everything ready and procuring an abundant supply of material. 35,000 bushels of coal and 600 tons of iron ore were hauled up ready for use, and arrangements made to add to it from 1,200 to 1,500 bushels of coal per day. The ores are from different mines, and are of various qualities. They will all be tested, until the best and most profitable are discovered.

The first run was made on the 13th of May, and yielded a little less than a ton. The increase from that time to this date, has been steady, and now they make three runs every 24 hours, and average about six tons—They expect, in about three months time, to make from ten to twelve tons per day.

The work goes on quietly and in order. No drinking of spirits, or swearing allowed there. The hands all know their duty, and as they are paid well, and promptly, they work faithfully.

Robert L. Rogers is the President and to his untiring energy, his unceasing watchfulness, and great business sense, the enterprise is indebted for its complete success. He planned and superintended everything, from the quarrying of the first rock, to the arranging and putting into successful operation all the intricate machinery.

Mathew Simpson, of Pennsylvania, is the general manager of the iron making department. He has made his present business a lifetime study, and is evidently master of the situation. There is no complication or entanglement connected with his business that he is not able to unravel. He came South to personally investigate the feasibility of making iron here, and the safety to capital whilst so doing. He came prepared to meet with "treason, stratagem, and spoils," as reported North by returned disappointed adventurers who, after the war, flocked here like harpies, to banquet on the bleeding carcass of the South. Men who came with empty pockets and brainless heads, to make a living without work, by politics and thieving.

Mr. Simpson has been here nearly a year, and he confesses that he has never lived in a more quiet section of country; that he has not seen even a fist fight, or heard a quarrel, since he has been here, and as he does not take any Northern papers, he does not even hear of robberies and murders. I told him, by way of explanation, that this state of peace and quiet was not general at the South.—That in every section where a good Democratic majority prevailed, he would find good order, and the laws respected, because they were enforced. In other sections, it would

always be manipulated by carpet baggers, and scalawags, and lawlessness, indolence, and idleness would prevail.

Major Tom Williams, of Atlanta, manages the coaling ground department, with his usual energy and goaheadativeness. Mr. Willie Lumpkin has proved himself a very efficient book-keeper.

Rogersville is on the Western & Atlantic Railroad, two miles above Cartersville. The clear and beautiful waters of Nancy's creek flow through its midst. The place is destined to be the manufacturing town of Bartow County. Even now, in its infancy, two water wheels, and three stationary engines are doing good work. Soon as the rolling mill is finished, a cotton Factory will be erected, giving work to hundreds. Yet there will be no rivalry between the two cities. Cartersville, with its Colleges, will be as renowned for its being the seat of learning as Rogersville with its mills, for being the home of industry. ∞

Editor's Note: History does not record what became of Roger's Station or its ironworks. As for Cartersville's dream of becoming an educational center, it never materialized.

Make Plans Now to Attend the Etowah Valley Historical Society 2001 Tour of Historic Homes



Saturday & Sunday
November 3 & 4

Come harvest our History
as we tour six homes in Cartersville's
historic Olde Town Neighborhood.
Contact the Etowah Valley Historical Society
at 770-606-8862 for more information.

*A Special Thank you to our
2001 Tour of Historic Homes Sponsors*
New Riverside Ochre Vulcan Materials
Phoenix Air Rush Home Century Bank

IRON HILL

THE IRON MINES OF IRON HILL & THE CROW BANK COMMUNITY

By Roy Queen, Interpretive Ranger, Red Top Mountain State Park

Today, visitors travel to Red Top Mountain State Park to enjoy hiking and spend time with families and friends. Over 100 years ago, however, the area that is now Red Top Mountain was an area where iron was mined and smelted.

Much has been written about the Etowah (Cooper's) Furnace and the role Mark Anthony Cooper played in the history of Bartow County. The subject of this article is the iron mines of Iron Hill, or Crow Bank, as it was known in the 1850s. In 1844, Jacob Stroup built a furnace on the west bank of Allatoona Creek, where Bethany Bridge stands at the entrance to Red Top Mountain State Park. This was known as the Allatoona Furnace, and it was here that the partnership of T.F. Moore & D.R. Thomas operated and mined iron ore from the Iron Hill area. A report from 1858 shows that the Allatoona Furnace produced 375.5 tons of iron in 22 weeks. This furnace continued operations until it was destroyed by Union troops during the Civil War.

Iron mining was resumed in the late 1800s. W.H. Renfroe & Sons operated the mines and had a wide gauge spur line connected with the Western & Atlantic Railroad at Allatoona Station. This spur extended back into the railroad cut where the iron ore was loaded into cars and shipped to the W&A. From there, the iron ore was shipped to South Pittsburg, Tennessee. Iron ore mined and shipped from Iron Hill had a high level of phosphorous, and had a high heat tolerance. This was used in the production of cast

iron stoves and wheels for railroad cars.

By 1900, a new company had taken over the iron mines. Between 1900-1914, the Etowah Iron Company brought out over 75,000 tons of iron ore from Iron Hill and the surrounding area. By this time, Iron Hill had become a thriving community with several houses, and even a Baptist church was established there in 1900. Mining continued in 1917 and 1919 through 1920. But by the 1920s, the demand for high phosphorous iron waned as much stronger steel was being produced, and the company ceased operations in 1923. As a result, the mines in Iron Hill ceased production. Iron Hill remained an active community, with the 1932 tax returns for the community showing a revenue of \$58,813.

Iron Hill gradually died off as residents began making their livings by other means, such as working in the nearby mills in Cartersville and Canton. Georgia Power Company began a land acquisition program in which local residents sold their property to Georgia Power.

Now, Iron Hill is situated in Red Top Mountain State Park. It serves as a reminder of days when the iron industry was king in Bartow County, and Georgia. ∞

References: "History of Bartow County, Georgia, Formerly Cass"; "An Archival Field Study of Selected Historic Cultural Resources Allatoona Lake Georgia"; Special thanks to Carl Etheridge, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

James R. Bennett

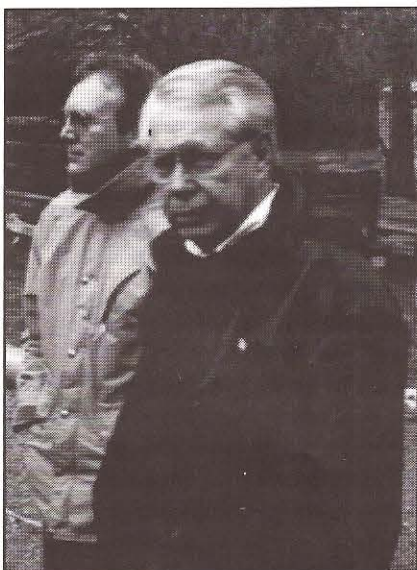
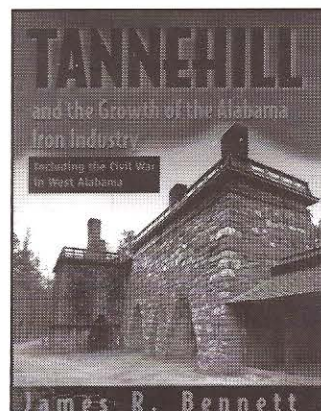
Alabama Secretary of State is Guest Speaker at Hills of Iron

James R. Bennett, Alabama's Secretary of State and author of *Tannehill and the Growth of the Alabama Iron Industry*, will be the guest speaker at Hills of Iron on May 12, 7 p.m. at the Red Top Mountain State Park Lodge. Bennett, a former senator from Birmingham and Alabama's 49th Secretary of State, was instrumental in the development of Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park into one of Alabama's top ten tourist attractions.

Tannehill ironworks, the ruins of which are well preserved, is considered the birthplace of the Birmingham district iron

industry. Beginning with a forge built by Daniel Hillman in 1830, it was later developed into a larger bloomery built by Georgia's Moses Stroup, then into three charcoal blast furnaces that made Tannehill an important center of pig iron production during the Civil War.

Bennett's important history of Tannehill and Alabama's iron industry was rewarded last year with the Alabama Historical Association's Coley Award "in recognition of excellence in a publication of Alabama history, primarily local in emphasis, over a two-year period." ∞



Alabama Secretary of State James Bennett (front) and EVHS member Michael Garland study the Tannehill ironworks at Tannehill State Historic Park in Alabama.

Mark Anthony Cooper

"The Iron Man of Georgia"

By David B. Parker

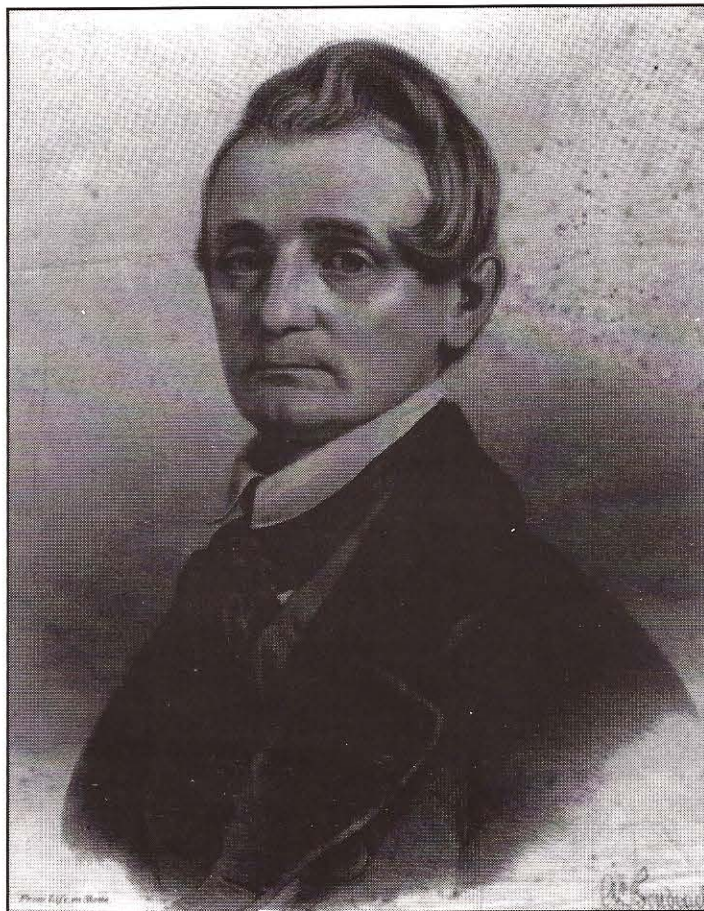
Excerpted from Cartersville Magazine, Winter 2000

Mark Anthony Cooper was born in Hancock County in 1800. As a young man he settled in Eatonton, where he practiced law, served in the state legislature, promoted railroad development, and invested in one of the earliest cotton mills in Georgia. In 1835 he moved to Columbus, opened a bank, and was elected to the U.S. Congress.

In 1843, after an unsuccessful run for the governorship, Cooper relocated once more, this time to Bartow County. For the rest of his life, Cooper tirelessly promoted the economic development of Northwest Georgia in the pages of state and national newspapers and journals. He believed that the area's extensive mineral resources, properly utilized, could bring in more wealth than King Cotton. Cooper put these ideas into practice in the mid-1840s when he established a new industrial city on the banks of the Etowah River, just behind the present location of Allatoona Dam. The city, incorporated as Etowah, soon boasted a huge blast furnace and foundry, machinery to produce rails and railroad spikes, a flour mill and two corn mills, a saw mill, shops, and warehouses—an industrial center large enough to employ 500 workers. But Etowah was more than factories; it was an entire city, with 1200 residents, a post office, a Baptist church, a schoolhouse, a store, and boarding houses. Cooper himself lived with his family in a home he called Glen Holly, a spacious and comfortable house situated on a hill overlooking the Etowah.

Cooper's industrial complex did well, but like many businesses it suffered during the economic and banking crises of the 1850s. At one point Cooper found himself having to come up with \$200,000 on short notice to satisfy a debt. Strapped for cash, Cooper turned to 38 friends and associates from across the state, and with their help, was able to satisfy the debt. By the end of the decade, with Etowah again flourishing, Cooper repaid those who had helped him, and acknowledged their generosity by building a monument in their honor. On three sides of the monument's base were the names of the 38 friends; on the fourth side, the inscription, "This monument is erected by Mark A. Cooper, proprietor at Etowah, as a grateful tribute to the friendship and liberality of those whose names are hereon inscribed, which prompted them to aid him in the prosecution and development of the interests at Etowah." The Friendship Monument, as it came to be known, stood near the iron furnace on the banks of the river. It is the only known example in the world of a monument erected by a debtor to honor his creditors.

Etowah survived the economic upheavals of the 1850s, but nothing could save it during the Civil War. In May



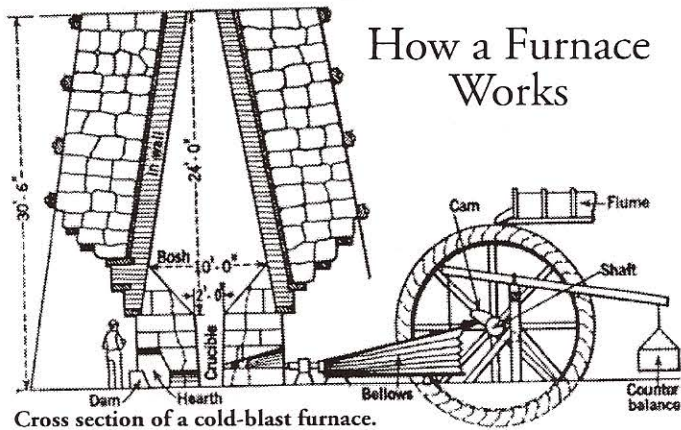
Portrait of Mark Anthony Cooper, 1843
Photo from Mark Anthony Cooper: The Iron Man of Georgia

1864, Union soldiers under the command of General William T. Sherman destroyed the village, leaving just the ruins of mills, a lone iron furnace—and the Friendship Monument. Cooper remained at Glen Holly for another twenty years, until his death in 1885, presiding over the ruins of his dreams.

In 1950, the site of the former glorious city of Etowah was flooded by the rising waters of the new Lake Allatoona. All that remained was the furnace, which has since become part of a popular recreation area. The monument had been moved in 1927 to the park behind the depot in downtown Cartersville. When the park was razed to create more parking in the 1960s, the monument was moved back to Etowah, to the Allatoona Lake Overlook and Visitors' Center. Finally, in September 2000, the monument was brought back to Cartersville, to within a few feet of where it had stood for some thirty-five years.

At a rededication ceremony of the Friendship Monument on April 28, 2001, Cooper was honored for his outstanding contributions to Bartow County and the state of Georgia by Governor Roy Barnes. Other attendees included representatives from Bartow County historical organizations, city and county dignitaries, Cooper family descendants and Cooper's biographer, the author of *Mark Anthony Cooper: The Iron Man of Georgia*, Don McKee. Ceremonies also included the rededication and renaming of the Depot Plaza to Friendship Plaza. ☺

Making Pig Iron



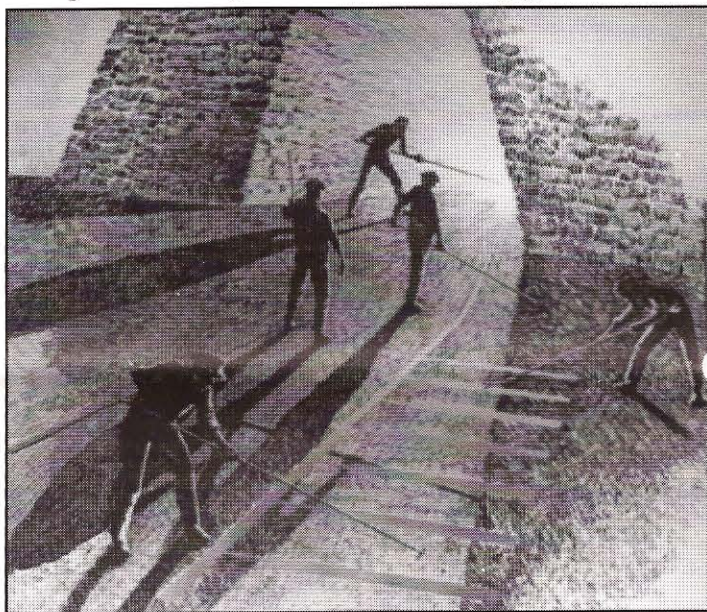
How a Furnace Works

Early American iron furnaces were relatively simple. The furnace itself was made of stone in a truncated pyramid shape. The walls were very thick, leaving a hollow cavity perhaps eight or ten feet across at the bottom, narrowing to half that size at the top. The cavity was lined with brick or some other heat-resistant material. At the widest part of the cavity was a "bosh," a huge funnel through which the molten iron would flow.

At the beginning of the process, workers put a "charge," consisting of perhaps 500 pounds of iron ore, 16 bushels of charcoal, and 50 pounds of limestone, into the top of the furnace. The size of the charge depended on the size of the furnace, but the relative proportion of each ingredient remained the same. (The limestone was the "flux" that helped pull the impurities from the ore.) The charge was then burned, heated to at least 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit. To reach this high temperature, furnaces used massive air bellows (like blowing on charcoal in a barbecue grill), powered by water wheels in a nearby creek. (This is called the "cold-blast" method, because the blast of air from the bellows was not heated. More advanced furnaces used the "hot-blast" method, in which the air was heated before being forced into the furnace, creating much higher interior temperatures. Of the Etowah region furnaces, only the Allatoona was a hot-blast.) As the material

inside the furnace was reduced, workers added more charges, perhaps 40 in a twenty-four hour period. Once in action, furnaces ran continuously for six months or so. To facilitate the constant reloading of charges, furnaces were often built beside a hill. Platforms between the hill and the furnace allowed workers to roll wheelbarrows of raw materials to the top of the furnace and dump them.

As the ore melted in the furnace, it flowed through the bosh to the hearth, the lowest part of the furnace, where it was contained by a "dam stone." In its liquified state, the pure ore sank to the bottom, while the impurities, being lighter, floated to the top. Workers used long poles to draw off these impurities, which had bonded with the limestone flux to create a waste material called "slag." As the molten iron accumulated in the hearth, it was allowed to pass through the dam into a large trough excavated in sand and called a "sow." The sows fed into side troughs called "pigs." As the iron cooled, the pigs were separated from the sow, and the sow broken up into smaller pieces. Thus the name "pig iron." ☸



Illustrations courtesy of Lake Allatoona Visitors Center

(Iron Ores, continued from page 8)

are used to aid tissue regeneration, to battle stress, and to enhance personal magnetism and courage.

In Bartow, however, much of the hematite is sparkling silver gray in color, a flaky stone known as specularite. Although an iron ore, little of it was used for iron production.

What the miners would have called "soft iron" is ochre, an iron ore that is more commonly used as a coloring agent. Of the three, ochre is the only one currently mined in Bartow County—not as an ore, but as a pigment, by New Riverside Ochre Company. NRO is the oldest ochre mining and processing company in the Western hemisphere, founded in 1911 by William Satterfield and continued by the Dellinger family. It is also the only producer of chemical grade barite and the only year-round ochre mining and processing operation in the United States.

According to Cartersville geologist Stan Bearden, some

six million tons of "brown iron ore" have been produced in Bartow County. This is the ore responsible for most of the county's pig iron production. Actually "brown iron ore" is two ores, mineralogically known as goethite and limonite. Goethite was named in honor of the German poet (and amateur mineral collector) Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Outside of Bartow county, limonite is found mainly in Austria and England—believe it ore not! ☸

While you're at Hills of Iron,
don't forget to visit Vaughan Cabin,
Red Top Mountain State Park's &
the Etowah Valley Historical Society's
joint project to bring interpretive history
to Red Top Mountain.

A Hometown Special Program

Civil War Roundtable March 15, 2001

A "Hometown Special Program" of the Etowah Valley Historical Society Civil War Roundtable drew a large crowd to the Bartow County Library in Cartersville on March 15, 2001. The double-billed program featured guest speakers Dr. David B. Parker, associate professor of history at Kennesaw State University, speaking on "The Youngest Confederate Soldier," and Guy Parmenter, EVHS President and co-chair of the Allatoona Pass Battlefield Committee, speaking on "Recent Developments at Allatoona Pass."

The Youngest Confederate Soldier

David Parker's interest in the youngest Confederate soldier began a few years ago on a family trip to Roselawn, when a photograph in the museum's UDC collection caught the historian's eye. The photograph was identified as, "D.B. Freeman, Marker & Private Co. D, Sixth Ga. Cavalry, Youngest soldier of the Confederacy. Entered the army in 1862. Age 10 years."

Mrs. Parker (Chantal) recognized the name as belonging to the editor of one of the old Cartersville newspapers, and the couple agreed D.B. Freeman needed to be investigated.

The next year, David was contacted by the new owners of the house D.B. Freeman built on North Erwin Street in 1890 (a beautiful Victorian—one of two identical homes on adjoining lots). Jerry and Meredith Erickson were delighted to learn that the lot on which their home sat was sold by Bill Arp to Freeman and contacted David because of his Bill Arp connection (David is the author of *Alias Bill Arp*). The encounter reignited Parker's interest in Freeman. That was two years ago. Finally, this year, while searching the Internet, David found the genealogy website of the great-great-grandnephew of D.B. Freeman (<http://www.wintektx.com/freeman/>). Alan Freeman's website confirmed D.B.'s status as the youngest Confederate soldier, giving his birthdate as May 1, 1851, and his enlistment in the Confederate army as May 16, 1862, just two weeks after his eleventh birthday. Additional genealogy linked the Freemans to such notable historical figures as Daniel Boone, Jefferson Davis, George Washington, James Madison, and Zachary Taylor!

The wealth of information Alan Freeman shared with David was "too good not to do something with," and the two collaborated on an article about D.B. Freeman for the spring issue of *Cartersville Magazine*. They also submitted

an article written by D.B. Freeman in 1923 for publication in the EVHS Newsletter ("Some Personal War Experiences of David B. Freeman," March 2001). In addition to the lecture presented to the Civil War Roundtable, Dr. Parker spoke about Freeman at the Confederate Memorial Day Services in Cassville on April 21.

Following his lecture, Dr. Parker was presented with a copy of *Richard Rowett: Thoroughbreds, Beagles, and the Civil War* by Guy Parmenter, who then took the floor to discuss:

Recent Developments at Allatoona Pass

"Somebody had to do it. We were there. We were organized. And we could do it!" That's how Guy Parmenter, EVHS president and co-chair of the Allatoona Pass Committee, summed up EVHS's initial involvement with the historic battlefield six years ago. Today, name recognition and growing press interest in the Pass, its historical significance, and extant original earthworks make it "a real treasure for Bartow County."

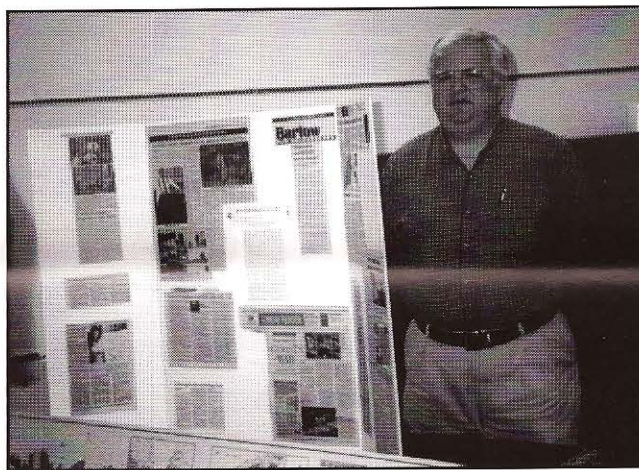
Once a favorite place for parking, picnicking, and snipe hunting, the Pass faced slow destruction through neglect and vandalism, until EVHS approached David Grabenstader, Resource Manager at Allatoona Lake, about an informal partnership to restore and preserve the 290 acres owned by the Corps. Since then, EVHS has not only cleaned up the battlefield, es-

tablished a trail system, and erected interpretive signs, but has raised local, state, and national awareness of the historical significance of this Civil War landmark through educational outreach. That school groups, hikers, and others are now able to enjoy the natural beauty and history of Allatoona is a direct result of EVHS's efforts.

Despite these improvements, a recent announcement by the Civil War Preservation Trust identified Allatoona Pass as one of the ten most endangered battlefields in the U.S. "But that's how they ring the alarm bell," Guy reported. "And it serves to place Allatoona in that elite group of battlefields" that includes Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry, and Fort Fisher.

"We've done a lot there through the years," Guy said. "We continue to develop trails and place signs. The Corps has been very generous in their donation of materials, and we've had a lot of support from the county and various

(See **Roundtable**, continued on page 4)



Guy Parmenter's presentation included a display board of articles recounting the history of Allatoona Pass.

(Roundtable, continued from page 3)

organizations.”

EVHS also received the support of the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program in 1995 in the form of a \$20,000 grant to fund a comprehensive preservation plan for Allatoona Battlefield. “With ranger presence and a museum, we have the potential for 250,000 visitors a year,” Guy said. “Compare that to the Etowah Indian Mounds, which get about 30,000.”

Meanwhile, national interest in Allatoona is escalating as various groups and organizations attempt to associate themselves with the battlefield. Currently, two organizations—the Georgia Civil War Commission and the Georgia Battlefields Association—are developing two separate Civil War trail systems, both of which include Allatoona Pass. ☞

An Important Note to Those Attending Hills of Iron: Bethany Bridge is currently being painted. Although closed during the week, it is open on weekends.

Members of the EVHS Preservation Committee are already hard at work with plans for the biannual EVHS Tour of Historic Homes, “Come Harvest Our History.” This year’s tour is planned for Nov. 4 and 5 and is expected to be a great success, with homes in the Olde Town community of Cartersville being featured.

Volunteers from among the membership of EVHS are needed in order to help the tour operate smoothly. All sorts of volunteer opportunities are available. If you would like to be a part of this tour, please call Tricia Simmons at 770-386-2879.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of
John Melvin Clabo, Jr.

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

Inside ...

*A special pullout section
featuring “Hills of Iron”*

- 2... Jacob & Moses Stroup
- 5... Bartow County
Furnaces
- 6... Iron Furnace Map
- 8... Iron Ores in Bartow
County
- 10... Iron Hill
- 11... Mark Anthony Cooper
- 14... Making a Pig
- and much more...
- Family Tree Climbers
- Membership Meeting
- Civil War Roundtable

(Rogers Furnace, continued from page 4)

The greatest curiosity to me is a siphon, which, by some scientific principle, draws water from a spring below, elevates it 22 feet, and pours it in a continuous stream into a tank from which it is carried by pipes to wherever it is needed. The two tuyers are exposed to a heat which would melt them like lead if they were not hollow, and have water pouring into and out of them unceasingly.

The whole apparatus for making the blast cost \$7,801.

The boilers, which were due in January, did not reach their destination until April, on account of an accident to the vessel. The delay was improved by getting everything ready and procuring an abundant supply of material. 35,000 bushels of coal and 600 tons of iron ore were hauled up ready for use, and arrangements made to add to it from 1,200 to 1,500 bushels of coal per day. The ores are from different mines, and are of various qualities. They will all be tested, until the best and most profitable are discovered.

The first run was made on the 13th of May, and yielded a little less than a ton. The increase from that time to this date, has been steady, and now they make three runs every 24 hours, and average about six tons—They expect, in about three months time, to make from ten to twelve tons per day.

The work goes on quietly and in order. No drinking of spirits, or swearing allowed there. The hands all know their duty, and as they are paid well, and promptly, they work faithfully.

Robert L. Rogers is the President and to his untiring energy, his unceasing watchfulness, and great business sense, the enterprise is indebted for its complete success. He planned and superintended everything, from the quarrying of the first rock, to the arranging and putting into successful operation all the intricate machinery.

Mathew Simpson, of Pennsylvania, is the general manager of the iron making department. He has made his present business a lifetime study, and is evidently master of the situation. There is no complication or entanglement connected with his business that he is not able to unravel. He came South to personally investigate the feasibility of making iron here, and the safety to capital whilst so doing. He came prepared to meet with "treason, stratagem, and spoils," as reported North by returned disappointed adventurers who, after the war, flocked here like harpies, to banquet on the bleeding carcass of the South. Men who came with empty pockets and brainless heads, to make a living without work, by politics and thieving.

Mr. Simpson has been here nearly a year, and he confesses that he has never lived in a more quiet section of country; that he has not seen even a fist fight, or heard a quarrel, since he has been here, and as he does not take any Northern papers, he does not even hear of robberies and murders. I told him, by way of explanation, that this state of peace and quiet was not general at the South.—That in every section where a good Democratic majority prevailed, he would find good order, and the laws respected, because they were enforced. In other sections, it would

always be manipulated by carpet baggers, and scalawags, and lawlessness, indolence, and idleness would prevail.

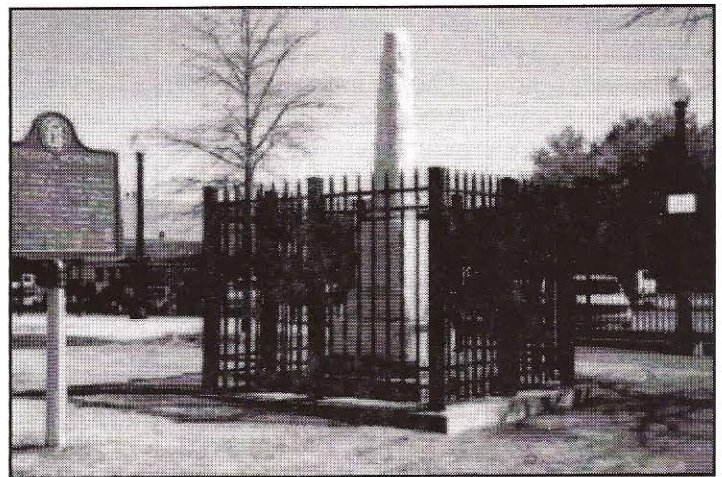
Major Tom Williams, of Atlanta, manages the coaling ground department, with his usual energy and goaheadativeness. Mr. Willie Lumpkin has proved himself a very efficient book-keeper.

Rogersville is on the Western & Atlantic Railroad, two miles above Cartersville. The clear and beautiful waters of Nancy's creek flow through its midst. The place is destined to be the manufacturing town of Bartow County. Even now, in its infancy, two water wheels, and three stationary engines are doing good work. Soon as the rolling mill is finished, a cotton factory will be erected, giving work to hundreds. Yet there will be no rivalry between the two cities. Cartersville, with its Colleges, will be as renowned for its being the seat of learning as Rogersville with its mills, for being the home of industry. ❧

Editor's Note: History does not record what became of Roger's Station or its ironworks. As for Cartersville's dream of becoming an educational center, it never materialized.

A Monumental Friendship

Mark Anthony Cooper's Legacy to Bartow County



It is the only known monument of its kind in the world—a monument erected by a creditor to his debtors. Known as the Friendship Monument, the century-and-a-half old obelisk, erected by Mark Anthony Cooper at the industrial city of Etowah in 1859, is now the centerpiece of the Friendship Plaza in the heart of downtown Cartersville. Cooper's story and the story of the monument "erected to friendship" is told on page 11.

Visit Allatoona Pass Battlefield Site of the Bloodiest Battle of the Civil War

From I-75, take Exit 283, east 1.5 miles to
Allatoona Pass Battlefield (see parking area on left).

IRON HILL

THE IRON MINES OF IRON HILL & THE CROW BANK COMMUNITY

By Roy Queen, Interpretive Ranger, Red Top Mountain State Park

Today, visitors travel to Red Top Mountain State Park to enjoy hiking and spend time with families and friends. Over 100 years ago, however, the area that is now Red Top Mountain was an area where iron was mined and smelted.

Much has been written about the Etowah (Cooper's) Furnace and the role Mark Anthony Cooper played in the history of Bartow County. The subject of this article is the iron mines of Iron Hill, or Crow Bank, as it was known in the 1850s. In 1844, Jacob Stroup built a furnace on the west bank of Allatoona Creek, where Bethany Bridge stands at the entrance to Red Top Mountain State Park. This was known as the Allatoona Furnace, and it was here that the partnership of T.F. Moore & D.R. Thomas operated and mined iron ore from the Iron Hill area. A report from 1858 shows that the Allatoona Furnace produced 375.5 tons of iron in 22 weeks. This furnace continued operations until it was destroyed by Union troops during the Civil War.

Iron mining was resumed in the late 1800s. W.H. Renfroe & Sons operated the mines and had a wide gauge spur line connected with the Western & Atlantic Railroad at Allatoona Station. This spur extended back into the railroad cut where the iron ore was loaded into cars and shipped to the W&A. From there, the iron ore was shipped to South Pittsburg, Tennessee. Iron ore mined and shipped from Iron Hill had a high level of phosphorous, and had a high

heat tolerance. This was used in the production of cast iron stoves and wheels for railroad cars.

By 1900, a new company had taken over the iron mines. Between 1900-1914, the Etowah Iron Company brought out over 75,000 tons of iron ore from Iron Hill and the surrounding area. By this time, Iron Hill had become a thriving community with several houses, and even a Baptist church was established there in 1900. Mining continued in 1917 and 1919 through 1920. But by the 1920s, the demand for high phosphorous iron waned as much stronger steel was being produced, and the company ceased operations in 1923. As a result, the mines in Iron Hill ceased production. Iron Hill remained an active community, with the 1932 tax returns for the community showing a revenue of \$58,813.

Iron Hill gradually died off as residents began making their livings by other means, such as working in the nearby mills in Cartersville and Canton. Georgia Power Company began a land acquisition program in which local residents sold their property to Georgia Power.

Now, Iron Hill is situated in Red Top Mountain State Park. It serves as a reminder of days when the iron industry was king in Bartow County, and Georgia. ❧

References: "History of Bartow County, Georgia, Formerly Cass"; "An Archival Field Study of Selected Historic Cultural Resources Allatoona Lake Georgia"; Special thanks to Carl Etheridge, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

An Award Winning Program Brings History To Life



Debuting on May 12, 2001, Hills of Iron attracted hundreds of visitors to Red Top Mountain State Park for the opportunity to witness something that hadn't been seen in public in Bartow County for over a century—iron production. The ambitious project not only succeeded in bringing the past to life, but was rewarded when the Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites awarded it the "Park Program of the Year."

Left: Hot, molten iron streams out of the cupola and into the two-handled bucket used for pouring.

Right: The molten iron is poured into metal casts, called scratch boxes, and is allowed to cool, producing cast iron molds.

