



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 39, September 2001

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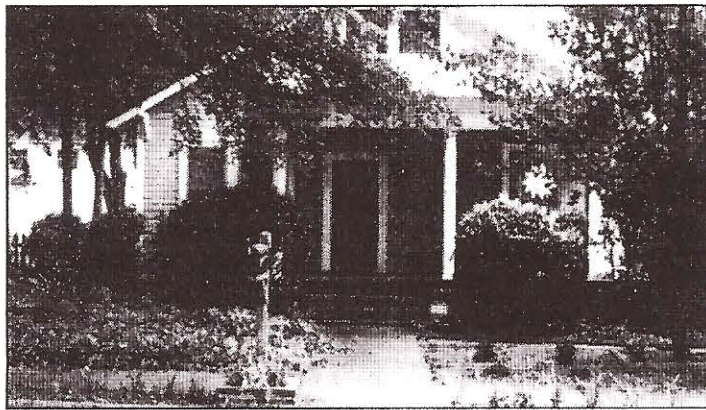
## "Come Harvest Our History"

### The Cottage Charm of a Historic Neighborhood Beckons Visitors to the Etowah Valley Historical Society's 2001 Tour of Historic Homes

*Photos by Masie Underwood*

By Masie Underwood

EVHS Preservation Committee Publicity Chairman



*The Sims-Dillen House on West Avenue is one of five Olde Town neighborhood homes featured on this year's Tour of Historic Homes, scheduled for the first weekend in November. The Craftsman Style bungalow was built in the late 1920s or early '30s, and is owned by artists Bob and Alison Dillen.*

*Inside the Dillen home are many displays of fine art, such as this relief, which hangs on the chimney of a fireplace discovered behind a wall during renovation.*

Historic preservation has been in the news in Bartow County in the past several months, especially with the Cartersville City Council adopting a new historic preservation ordinance. Presently, the council is accepting applications from residents who would like to serve on the preservation commission that will oversee the process of establishing preservation guidelines. A similar ordinance was denied on the second vote when it came before the council back in 1989.

"The difference in '89 and 2000 was education and awareness by the preservation committee and members of EVHS," said Dianne Tate, who is a member of the city council as well as the EVHS Preservation Committee, and was instrumental in establishing the preservation ordinance.

In conjunction with this focus on preservation, five homes will be featured on the 2001 "Come Harvest Our History" tour, sponsored by EVHS.

The featured homes range in construction from the early 1900s to the 1940s and are located in the Olde Town neighborhood of downtown Cartersville.

"By acknowledging what our streets and homes mean to Cartersville and Bartow County, we have increased the awareness of saving and revitalizing older sections in all of our towns in Bartow County," Dianne said. "To bring to the forefront what can be done with older homes through preserving the facades, EVHS has selected for its biannual tour of homes, residences in areas automatically eligible, by survey, for inclusion in a historic district. These homes feature historic charm coupled with modern conveniences, and show how historic facades can be maintained, while changing the interior to meet modern taste."

Featured on this year's tour are the Dunn-Adams House, circa 1907; the Sproull-Reeves-Underwood House, circa 1907; the Connor-Cline House, circa 1913; the Sims-Dillen House, circa 1930; and Shropshire House, circa 1946.

### Thank You to Our 2001 Tour of Historic Homes Sponsors

New Riverside Ochre      Vulcan Materials  
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*(See Tour of Homes, continued on page 6)*





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*The EVHS office and research facilities are located in the 1903 courthouse at*

*115 West Cherokee Avenue in downtown Cartersville.*

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## From the Editors

As a teacher and a historian, I have the sometimes unpleasant task of telling my students that some of the best-known stories of American history never happened. Most of us know that George Washington didn't chop down a cherry tree (a myth first perpetuated by Parson Weems, an early Washington biographer), but we like the story and accept it as a parable of sorts of our first president's honesty. It's important for us to know that our country was founded by men of such sterling character that they would face their fathers' wrath and certain punishment rather than tell a lie.

American history is full of such stories.

We know that Puritans were dour, serious people who lived, in H.L. Mencken's words, with "the haunting fear that someone, somewhere might be having fun." But the truth is that Puritans weren't really all that "puritanical"; they listened to secular music, wore bright clothes, and even enjoyed rum and—heaven help us!—sex.

We celebrate the anniversary of our national independence on the Fourth of July, but it was two days before that the Continental Congress approved Richard Henry Lee's resolution "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." We ought to celebrate the Second of July.

By the time students finish my class, they must wonder if anything they had been taught before is actually true. H.L. Mencken, the Baltimore journalist who wrote that wonderfully quotable statement about the Puritans, made his living debunking our most cherished national legends. "Something which everybody accepts as the gospel truth," he said, "is inevitably wrong." (Mencken himself was sometimes wrong, as with his mischaracterization of the Puritans.)

These national myths have their local counterparts, stories that have been told and retold so many times that they become "true," whether or not they really happened. A good example is the traditional story of the origins of Cartersville. According to Lucy Cunyus's history of Bartow County, the town was named for Farish Carter, one of the wealthiest landowners and businessmen in the state. While visiting a friend in Birmingham, a small community near present-day Emerson, Carter "jestingly suggested that he change the name of Birmingham to Cartersville." His friend declined, but pointed to a small but growing settlement to the north and said that maybe the people there would adopt Carter's name. They did, "and Cartersville became the name of the town."

There are two problems with this story. First, it might not be true. A recent study by a Kennesaw State University student turned up several variations of the story, some with significant differences, and at least one plausible alternative for the origin of Cartersville's name. (See "Cartersville: The Stories Behind the Name," EVHS Newsletter, Vol. 31, 1999.)

A second problem is that a number of people have misread Lucy Cunyus's story to say that Birmingham itself became Cartersville. The story has been repeated so many times that it must be true—it shows up on no less than four local web sites, including the one for the Cartersville city schools—and yet we know that is wrong: Birmingham existed for a number of years after Cartersville was established a few miles up the road.

There's a simple lesson here: Just because everybody knows something to be true doesn't mean it is true. (Maybe Mencken was right after all!)

We've all heard the story of Pine Log, the respected Cherokee chief for whom the community of Pine Log in Bartow County is named. He built the cabin that became the home of novelist Corra Harris, living there until his forced removal on the Trail of Tears in 1838. The story has a long tradition, having been told and retold for generations, so it must be true, right?

In this issue, we are pleased to present an article from the files of EVHS member Michael Garland that offers an alternative to the traditional story of how Pine Log came to be named. Is it true? It certainly sounds plausible, though it lacks the romantic overtones of local lore. As with all articles that appear in the newsletter, the editors invite our readers to respond to this essay.

David B. Parker



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# PINE LOG'S MYSTERY REVEALED?

AN EMORY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WRITING IN 1963 REVEALS THE SURPRISING  
18TH CENTURY ORIGINS OF THE COMMUNITY'S OFT-DISPUTED NAME

*Editor's note: The following is one of a series of articles published in the Georgia Mineral Newsletter under the title "Short Studies of Georgia Place Names." The author, Dr. John H. Goff, Professor Emeritus of Business Administration at Emory University, began the series in the 1954 Summer issue of GMN (Vol VII, No. 2). "Pine Log" was originally published in the 1963 Spring-Summer issue of GMN (Vol. XVI, Nos. 1-2), and is reprinted here in its entirety, with minor editing. The article was submitted by Michael Giarland.*

## Pine Log Creek; Pine Log Mountain; (and the Former Cherokee Town of Pine Log in Bartow County)

By Dr. John H. Goff

Pine Log Creek is the central theme of this sketch but for locational reasons it is best to begin the discussion with Pine Log Mountain. This eminence extends from Beasley Gap on Ga. 140 in western Cherokee County southwestward into neighboring Bartow. Some two miles west of its lower tip, lying parallel and to the eastward of US 411, there is a lesser rise known as Little Pine Log Mountain. The larger formation, with an altitude of some 2300 feet above sea level, is the most southerly, relatively high mountain in Georgia. It is considerably higher than that of such prominent mid-state elevations as Stone Mountain in DeKalb, Kennesaw and Lost Mountain in Cobb, Tally Mountain in Haralson, or Pine Mountain in the central western part of the State. But in contrast to the latter places, Pine Log Mountain is not particularly well-known to the public. It stands much above its immediate surroundings but the ridges, hills, and small mountains about its base so effectively screen the Pine Log it is difficult to secure a good nearby view of it from most of the roads that pass through that section.

There are other Pine Log creeks in Georgia, but the waterway involved here is a considerable stream that arises at the northeast edge of Pine Log Mountain and flows northwestward across parts of Cherokee, Bartow, and Gordon counties to unite with Salacoa Creek, thence to join the Coosawattee River in the last county named. The waterway is unusual in that it has two upper tributaries named Little Pine Log Creek. One of these (which is also called Sugar Hill Creek) commences at the southern end of the mountain, in the saddle between it and Little Pine Log Mountain, and reaches the main stream just below the bridge on US 411. The other Little Pine Log Creek arises in east central Bartow and joins the big Pine Log to the southeast of Sonoraville in Gordon County. This last tributary flows on a winding course

through a hilly region, but at one place located to the northwestward of the present community of Pine Log just west of US 411, the margins widen to form a lovely little valley. Here was the former home of Corra Harris, the novelist.

In the discussion of these streams, it is interesting to note that while there are two *Little Pine Log* creeks, the main waterway is customarily not referred to as *Big Pine Log*. And too, although there is a *Little Pine Log Mountain*, the main elevation is not spoken of as *Big Pine Log Mountain* unless there is a need to differentiate between the two formations.

A noted Cherokee settlement called Pine Log Town once stood in a little valley on the upper part of the main creek. A tracing from the official map for District 23, 2nd Section of original Cherokee County based on the survey of 1832 is reproduced here to show the location of the town. The place was not far inside eastern Bartow County from the Cherokee line, on the north side of today's Ga. 140 (the old Pine Log Trail), and something over three miles to the eastward of the present-day community of Pine Log on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and Ga. 140.

The valley which Pine Log Town occupied is an attractive place with fertile fields. It is approximately a mile long and something over a half mile wide at the widest place. Except for the outlet of the creek in the northwest corner, the valley is entirely surrounded by a ring of small mountains with a backdrop of the big Pine Log to the southward. When the Cherokee Indians started moving into this section of Georgia during or immediately following the Revolution, it is easy to believe that as a mountain-loving people they were much pleased with the Pine Log site, because it no doubt reminded them of their native valleys which they had abandoned in upper South Carolina, Northeast Georgia or East Tennessee to migrate







to a crossing place on a stream. Without the original meaning from authoritative sources one could not have been sure of the matter. The English form of the name did not necessarily signify a footlog. It could have referred to a pine log or stump that marked a turning point or dividing place on a wilderness trail. Such spots were at times indicated by expressions like "Chopped Oak," "Skinned Chestnut," or "Burnt Hickory."

The site of the crossing which gave rise to the name is a matter of speculation with present information. It may have been on Pine Log Creek, near the present bridge where US 411 now crosses. An important Cherokee route known as the "Tennessee Road," or as the "Sally Hughes Trail," went over the stream at about that point.

More than likely, though, one thinks the pine log crossing was more closely connected with the site of the town than with a trail crossing located several miles away. This conclusion is implied in the close relationship of the name with the community. Since Pine Log Creek passed through the middle of the settlement, it is possible there was a footlog over the stream between the two sections of the town. The creek at the site is not very large or deep at the ordinary stage, but its upper watershed is comparatively large and steep-sided from the mountains about. In times of sudden heavy rain the stream could rise quickly and be dangerous to cross. In such periods it is easy to believe a safe footlog crossing between the two parts of the town would have been useful to the inhabitants and that this facility was provided in a felled pine log, thus giving rise to the name.

At the time Colonel Hawkins travelled past Pine Log Town, he was a newcomer to the Indian country and was not experienced in keeping his course straight. In reading his account of the journey in question, some students have concluded from the bearings given that the Colonel visited another Pine Log settlement and not the town which has been discussed in this sketch. The possible second place, so the reasoning goes, was somewhere to the westward of our Canton, on the north side of the present Allatoona Reservoir, and probably on Stamp Creek in eastern Bartow County. Hawkins's description of the trip would seem to place a Pine Log in the area mentioned, but one can be certain the place he actually visited was the Pine Log Town which has been

described. In the place he met a prominent Cherokee woman named Mrs. Gagg. Her husband was Thomas Gegg, Gagg, or Gogg, a longtime Indian countryman and trader who resided at Pine Log. On his trip in 1790, Colonel Willett met Gagg or Gogg and employed him as a guide for a period. There can be no doubt Willett visited the Pine Log on Pine Log Creek, and it seems equally clear that Hawkins went to the same place since he met Mrs. Gagg who resided there. The point is worth mentioning because there is a chance someone may be tempted to locate a Pine Log settlement that did not exist.

In the beginning, mention was made of other Pine Log creeks in Georgia. One such stream arises above Ballard Mountain in northeast Union County and flows into Clay County, North Carolina. In former years, one source reported the present Young Cane Creek of Union as a "Pine Log Creek."

In the early years of Georgia when travel conditions were primitive there were numbers of Pine Log crossing places on various streams. One of these 200 years ago was on lower Briar Creek, 14 miles above the mouth, in present Screven County. This Pine Log may have been the crossing place for the noted Old River trail,

which was opened in 1736-37 at the direction of Oglethorpe to link Savannah and Augusta. The trace was the first long white man's thoroughfare of Georgia. Another prominent Pine Log was on the Ogeechee River, at Fenns Bridge, to the eastward of Sandersville, where Zachariah Fenn opened the first bridge on the upper Ogeechee, about 1784. The Pine Log crossing before the erection of the bridge was on the Chickasaw Path leading from the Oconee to the settlements of those Indians on the Savannah River, in today's lower Richmond County. And still another Pine Log was on the upper St. Marys River, upstream from the present town of Moniac in Charlton County. This crossing was on the Miccosukee Path that swerved southward around the Okefenokee swamp on its way to Traders Hill and Colerain on the St. Marys, located below Folkston and near today's bridge on US No. 1. A present-day name that seemingly perpetuates a much older designation is found in Pine Log Bridge over Yellow River in Rockdale County.

(Footnotes are available by contacting the editors at [evhs@evhsonline.org](mailto:evhs@evhsonline.org))

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### Dunn-Adams House

Eugene Smith, whose accomplishments include Grand Oaks next door and the 1903 courthouse, constructed the Dunn-Adams House on West Main Street. The home was a wedding gift from Edward Strickland to his daughter, Mary Strickland, who married Joseph Francis Dunn.

The Adamses, Joel and Diana, purchased the Queen Anne Style house in 1998 and have maintained much of its original charm while adding a modern kitchen and numerous personal touches. Although the Adamses are in the antique business in downtown Cartersville, the house is furnished with heirlooms from both sides of their family.



*Diana and Joel Adams show off the antique quilt made by Joel's great-great-grandmother. The flour bin under the quilt has been dated to the early 1900s.*

### Sproull-Reeves-Underwood House

The Sproull-Reeves-Underwood House, circa 1907, is a New South Cottage. This type of architecture was named for the turn-of-the-century period of regional economic growth and confidence and was popular between the 1890s and the 1920s. It resembles the Queen Anne Cottage, but is distinguished by its central hallway plan.



*Family portraits adorn the wall leading to the renovated attic space of the Sproull-Reeves-Underwood House, owned by Mal and Gail Underwood.*

Mal and Gail Underwood purchased the home from Kenny and Donna Reeves. Kenny Reeves designed the restoration of this home that features old woodwork and innovative touches, such as the antique glass transom taken from an old school that adorns the doorway between the dining room and the

spacious, modern kitchen.

The home is furnished with exquisite antique pieces and family memorabilia that complement the bead board ceilings and hardwood floors throughout.

The upstairs, once unused attic space, now features a charming suite that includes two bedrooms, a bathroom, landing area, and additional storage space. Old barn boards used for the ceiling were left in their original state, creating a patchwork of colors, stains, and conditions.

### Connor-Cline House

The Connor-Cline House, now the home of dentists Dr. Tinsley and Dr. Jimmy Cline, was constructed in 1913 and was once the home of Georgia's first commissioner of agriculture James J. Connor. A native of Montgomery County, Georgia, Connor married Lucy C. Ryals, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. J.G. Ryals of Bartow County in 1879. In 1881, they settled on a 900-acre plantation on Old Alabama Road near Cartersville. Connor practiced law in Cartersville for five years as the partner of Judge J.M. Neel. He represented Bartow County in the Georgia Legislature from 1902 until 1906. During his term, the Connor Bill, which established the Georgia State College of Agriculture at the University of Georgia, was passed, and Connor Hall on the university campus is named in his honor.



*Jimmy and Tinsley Cline pose with a photograph of their home's former owner, James J. Conner, Georgia's first commissioner of agriculture.*

In 1913, Connor built his home on Bridge Street (now Etowah Drive) in Cartersville. He lived in the house until his death on July 31, 1930 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

### Sims-Dillen House

Bob and Alison Dillen's front gabled bungalow on West Avenue has seen many changes since they purchased the property in 1990, and most of the restoration work has been done by Bob Dillen.

During restoration, the Dillens added touches, such as the beveled glass window over the front porch and an antique mantle taken from an old Alabama slave cabin, now featured in the living room.

The Dillens also discovered hidden treasures during their restoration process. These include the original bead board walls in the kitchen, which were hidden un-



der sheet rock, and a fireplace in the master bedroom that had been closed up and covered with sheet rock. Both of the Dillens are involved in the creative arts, and they have used their talents to add color and creativity to make their home unique and distinctive.

### Shropshire House

The Shropshire home, circa 1946, located on Etowah Drive, has been occupied by three generations of the Shropshire family, and Andrew and Amy Shropshire, the present owners, are expecting a new baby that will be the fourth generation.

George Edward Shropshire and his wife Eloise built this home in the 1940s during World War II. In 1965, the home was partially destroyed by fire. After Mr. Shropshire's death, Mrs. Shropshire had the home turned into two apartments. She lived in one side, while the other side was the home of her son and daughter-in-law, George and Evelyn Shropshire.

In 1969, the younger Shropshires moved into their own home, and Mrs. Shropshire's lifelong friend, Millie Henson Pierce, lived in the home with her until Ms. Shropshire's death.

The home has recently been completely renovated and is decorated with family pieces as well as pieces from Amy Shropshire's store, Rush Home, one of the sponsors of this year's tour of homes.

*(Editor's Note: Due to the Shropshires' busy schedule, we were unable to obtain photographs of the couple or their home.)*

This tour is designed to increase interest in preserving and restoring older homes and to provide shining examples of how, with a little imagination, homeowners can blend the old with the new to create a charming and comfortable atmosphere, while maintaining the historic integrity of older neighborhoods.

"Come Harvest Our History" is planned for Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Nov. 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. The tour will begin at the 1903 Bartow County Courthouse on Cherokee Avenue, where ample free parking will be provided and buses will leave at regular intervals for the tour route. Self-guided tour brochures that include a map of the tour route will be available at the courthouse, and hostesses will be in each home to show visitors around.

The tour is coordinated by the EVHS Preservation Committee. Tickets are \$10 per person and advance tickets may be purchased at the Cartersville-Bartow County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the EVHS office in the 1903 courthouse. They will also be available at the courthouse on the days of the tour.

"Come Harvest Our History" sponsors are New Riverside Ochre, Vulcan Materials, Phoenix Air, Rush Home, and Century Bank.

If you have questions about or would like to volunteer for this event, call Trish Simmons, EVHS Preservation Committee Special Events Coordinator, at 770-386-2879. ☺

## Who Uses EVHS Resources?

With hundreds of newspapers on microfilm and a growing library of Georgia county histories, it's no wonder that a majority of visitors to the Etowah Valley Historical Society's research facility are looking for genealogy. But a number of folks make use of our resources for other purposes.

Kennesaw State University students have been using EVHS resources for a number of years in conjunction with a "Local History" course. Once a semester the students and their professor meet at the EVHS office for a guided tour of the facilities led by president Guy Parmenter. Students taking this course have produced papers about Farish Carter, Laura Jones, Lundy Harris, antebellum Cassville, Noble Hill School, and many other topics of local history. Some of these papers were donated and are archived at EVHS.

Earlier this year, EVHS member and KSU graduate Lisa Crawford wrote her senior thesis on the old community of Allatoona. Her research made extensive use of census, newspapers, maps, and other materials held by the historical society.

James Bennett, author of *Tannehill and the Growth of the Alabama Iron Industry*, and Don McKee, author of *The Iron Man of Georgia: Mark Anthony Cooper*, both made use of EVHS resources in their research, and found illustrations and information unavailable anywhere else.

Most recently, KSU professor and Shaw historian Randall Patton came across an unexpected resource in our archives that he was delighted to use in an article he wrote for the summer issue of *Atlanta History* about Shaw Industries—the photograph of a young Clarence Shaw, father of Robert and J.C. "Bud" Shaw, who founded the company. The photograph was "discovered" in the 1913 Cartersville High School yearbook "Bubbles," housed in the EVHS archives. As far as anyone can determine,

it is the only copy of the yearbook available to the public. Though somewhat ragged around the edges (the 62-page book is made entirely of paper and bound with string), it offers a delightful and revealing glimpse into the past. "Only at EVHS," Dr. Patton remarked. "I couldn't have found this anywhere else." ☺



Clarence Shaw, 1913

## Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events

### **Annual Business Dinner Meeting**

6:00 p.m., Saturday, October 6 at the 1903 courthouse

### **Allatoona Pass Reenactment & Monument Dedication**

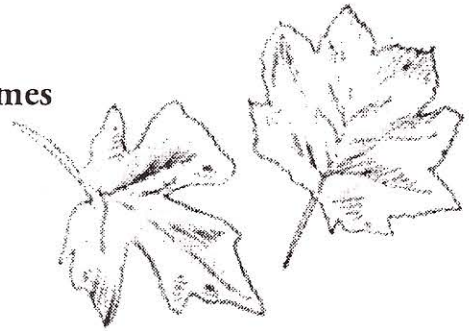
Saturday & Sunday, October 13-14

### **"Come Harvest Our History" Tour of Historic Homes**

Saturday & Sunday, November 3-4

### **Christmas at Rose Lawn**

7:00 p.m., Saturday, December 8



Etowah Valley Historical Society  
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[www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

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