



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



Volume 40, November 2001

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

EVHS Elects 2001-2002

Board of Directors & Officers

Three new directors were elected for the 2001-2002 year during the annual business meeting on October 6, 2001. Recommendations were received by the nominating committee, which included Tish Johnson and Diane Mooney, and was chaired by Ed Hill.

Retiring from the board are Robert Wilson, Wayne Rice, and Mary Siniard. New board members include David Parker, Joanne Smith, and Michael Garland. Board member Wilma Cantrell has resigned due to illness, and her place will be filled at a later date.

On October 9th, the new board met to elect officers. This year's officers are: President Guy Parmenter, Vice President David Parker, Recording Secretary Bob Redwine, and Correspondence Secretary Joanne Smith. Effective January 2002, Michael Garland will be the new Treasurer. ☺



CLAYTON-MOONEY HOUSE GETS HISTORIC MARKER

Diane Mooney was presented with a historic marker for her home during the EVHS annual business meeting. The gift from EVHS was to thank Diane and her husband Dennis for their years of dedication and service to the preservation of the Allatoona Pass Battlefield. The marker was placed just in time for the encampment and monument dedication ceremonies held October 13 & 14. Built in the 1830's, the house was used as a hospital for wounded Union and Confederate soldiers during the Battle of Allatoona, and still bears bloodstains and bullet holes as evidence of the horrific fighting. The home was originally built by John Clayton and is currently the private home and Dennis and Diane. ☺

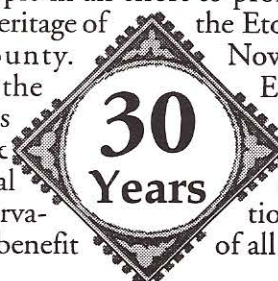


Guest Speakers Share Heritage

At the EVHS annual meeting, president Guy Parmenter welcomed guest speakers (l-r) Martha Mulinix of the Kingston Women's History Club; Dr. Susie Wheeler of the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center; Susanne Brock of the Stilesboro Improvement Club; Carol Adams of the Adairsville Historical Society; and Lisa Ellis of the Cassville Heritage Association. The slate of multi-speakers was intended to raise awareness of the many diverse historical organizations operating in Bartow County. For more about the annual meeting, see page 4.

Congratulations EVHS!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of EVHS, which was founded in 1972 by a handful of people in an effort to promote and preserve the history and heritage of the Etowah Valley region of Bartow County. Now consisting of over 600 members, the Etowah Valley Historical Society has become an integral part of the community, increasing historical awareness and aiding in the preservation of local historic resources for the benefit of all residents. ☺





Founded 1972

Officers

President
Guy Parmenter
Vice President
David Parker
Recording Secretary
Bob Redwine
Correspondence Secretary
Joanne Smith
Treasurer
Robert Wilson

Directors

Guy Parmenter, Chairman
Bob Redwine
Tish Johnson
Pat Mansfield
Ed Hill
Joanne Smith
David Parker
Michael Garland

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

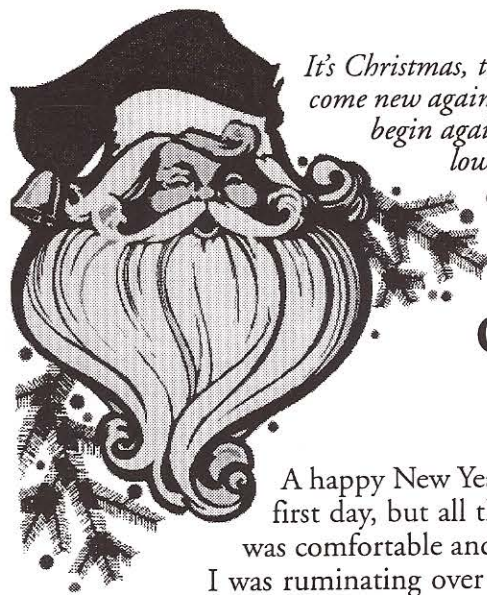
The EVHS office and research facilities are located in the 1903 courthouse 115 West Cherokee Avenue in downtown Cartersville.

Visit EVHS online at www.evhsonline.org

Email evhs@evhsonline.org

A Voice from Christmas Past

It's Christmas, that wonderful time of year when all things old become new again and thoughts turn to a new year and the chance to begin again. As a gift to our readers, the editors offer the following article written at the turn of the last century by our own Bill Arp, and extend to you warm holiday wishes. Happy Holidays y'all!



Christmas on the Farm

By Bill Arp

A happy New Year to you and your readers. I don't mean just the first day, but all the year round. I wish from my heart everybody was comfortable and contented and everybody lived in peace.

I was ruminating over that kind of millennium which would come if there were no bad folks—no lazy folks, no envy, nor spite, nor revenge, no bad passions—but everybody took things easy and tried to make all around them happy. I wasn't thinking about a religious millennium, for I have known people to make mighty good, honorable citizens who didn't have any religion to spare, and some who had a power of it on Sunday but was a jugglin' with the devil all the rest of the week. I was thinking about that class of folks who give us no trouble and was always willing to tote fair. The law wasn't made for them. I was thinking about the half a million of dollars it costs to run the State government for a year and the half a million more it costs to run the counties and the courts. If everybody was clever and kind we could save most all of it and in a few years everybody would have enough to be comfortable and to educate their children.

The laws are made for bad people only, and bad people cost us about all the surplus that's made. I know folks all around me who never violate a law or impose on their neighbors or have a law suit, and it seems to me they ought not to be taxed like people who are always a fussin' around the courthouse and taking up the time of juries and witnesses. There ought to be some way to reward good citizens who give us no trouble or expense, and to make folks who love strife and contention pay the expenses of it.

But I started out wishin' for a happy New Year to everybody, and my opinion is that we can all make it happy if we try. Let's try. Let's turn over a new leaf. Let's have a Christmas all the year long. Let's keep the family hearth always bright and pleasant. Fussin' and frettin' don't pay. Solomon says it's like water droppin' on a rock—it will wear away a stone. The home of an unhappy discordant family is no home at all. It ain't even a decent purgatory. The children won't stay there any longer than possible. They will emigrate and I don't blame 'em.

We've had a power of fun at my house the last few days. Mrs. Arp said she was going to town. She had a little passel of money hid away—nobody knew how much or where she got it, but sometimes when my loose change is laying around or left in my pocket, I've noticed that it disappears very mysteriously. It took about two hours to arrange herself for the expedition and she left us on a mission of peace on earth and good will to her children.

"Now, William, you know the Christmas tree is to be put up in the hall. You have very good taste about such things and I know I can trust you without any directions.... Put it on that large square box in the smoke house and fasten it well to the bottom, and put the top on the box for a table, and the girls will cover it nicely with some curtain calico. But I will not direct you, for I know you can fix it all right.... There are most too many limbs on the tree. There is a lot of pop corn already threaded and you can arrange them in festoons all over the tree, and the oranges that Dick sent us from Florida are locked up in the pantry. Thread them with a large needle and tie them all about on the limbs. The little wax candles and the tins to fasten them are in the drawer of my bureau. I've had them for

several years and we will light up the tree tonight. The milk is ready to churn, you know. Set the jar in the large tin bucket before you churn. It will save messing the floor. There are two turkeys in the coop—take the fattest one—you can tell by holding them up in your hands. Ralph will help about the turkey. If you think one turkey will not be enough you had better kill a couple of chickens to go with it. I do hope all the children will be here, but I am afraid they won't. It does look like we might get together once a year anyhow. Now do attend to the turkey just as nice as you can, and leave the butter for me to work over when I get back. The front yard ought to be swept and the back yard is an awful mess. But I will just leave everything to you.... Keep the hall doors locked, for the children mustn't see the tree until Santa Claus comes. That mistletoe must be put over the parlor pictures. Hunt up a few more eggs if you can find them. Don't disturb the mince pies in the closet—never mind about that either, for I've got the key in my pocket."

All this time I was meekly attentive, and put down every command with a pencil. She got off at last with the two little chaps, and as she disappeared over the hill I heard her voice a partin' injunction, but didn't know what she said. It didn't matter no how, for I never had such a hard day's work in my life, and then didn't quite get through cleaning up the backyard. I churned that jar of milk for two hours, and it foamed over the top several times. If I hadn't remembered seeing her pour hot water in the bucket the butter never would have come.

Well, she interviewed old Santa, and came back late in the day loaded with mysterious bundles, and nary a thing for herself. But she was not forgotten, for I had hid away a splendid hair brush and comb in a silk lined case, and the girls had knit some contraptions to keep her warm. She appreciated my work and my devotion, and gave me a generous slice of mince pie and some custard. It seems to me she loves me all the better as I get older and more humble.

The frolic is over but the memory of it lingers with us like sweet perfume. Everybody was happy. It always did seem to me that ours was the noisiest, liveliest, and most restless set that ever stumped a toe or fell into the branch. They went through the measles, and whoopin' cough, and chicken pox, and I don't know how many more things, without stoppin' to see what was the matter. A long time

ago it was my opinion that I could regulate 'em and raise 'em up accordin' to science, but I didn't find that amount of co-operation which was necessary to make a fair experiment. On the contrary, I found myself regulated, besides being from time to time reminded by their maternal ancestor that the children were hers, and to this day she always speaks of 'em as "my children." Well, that's a fact; her title is mighty good to 'em, I know, and on reflection I don't remember to have heard any dispute about who was the mother of a child.

Well, we can sing the same old song—how the little folks have lived on tip-toe for many days waiting for Santa Claus, and how that humble parlor was dressed in cedar and mistletoe, and the big back log put on, and the little stockings hung by the mantle, and everything got ready for the kind old gentleman. How that blue-eyed daughter played deputy to him, and was the keeper of everybody's secret; and shutting herself up in the parlor, arranged everything to her notion. How that, when supper was over, one of the boys slipped up the ladder to the top of the house with his cornet and tooted a few merry notes as the signal that Santa Claus had arrived. Then came the infantile squall, and the youthful yell, and the Arpian shriek, and all rushed in wild commotion to the festive hall. Then came the joyful surprises, all mixed up with smiles and sunbeams, and exclamations and interjections. Tumultuous gladness gleamed and glistened all around, and the big bucket of family joy ran over. But everybody knows how it is himself, and don't hanker after a history of other people's frolics.

Well, the old year has buried its dead, and brought forth its living to take their places. And the time is at hand when everybody is going to open a new set of books, and turn over a new leaf, and pass a few resolutions to be kept about three weeks. That's all right. Keep 'em as long as you can, but don't repent of this year's sins too much at once. Don't get too much religion at a revival, for by and by the snow will be gone, and the spring will open and the birds begin to sing and the flowers to bloom and man's conceit and independence come back to him and make him forget the winter and his promises, and strut around like he was running the whole machine. "But it's all right, judge, all right," as neighbor Cobe says. "If a man is good according to his capacity he can't be any gooder." ☺



EVHS Annual Business Meeting & Awards Presentation

October 6, 2001

The Etowah Valley Historical Society held its annual membership meeting on October 6, 2001 at the organization's headquarters in the 1903 courthouse.

President Guy Parmenter presided over the meeting, which began with the announcement that the meeting marked the beginning of EVHS's 30th year! A recap of the last twelve months revealed that EVHS has been active and busy as ever, hosting meetings and sponsoring numerous community events, including Hills of Iron in May and the Monument Dedication at Allatoona Pass in October. "We've developed good relationships with Red Top, the Corps of Engineers, Friends of the Library, and many

others, as we open our doors to help other organizations with money, manpower, and more," Guy reported.

Singled out for their hard work over the last year were the Family Tree Climbers, chaired by Wilma Cantrell and Linda Cochran; Allatoona Project committee members Ed Hill, Diane Mooney, and Carl Etheridge; and the Preservation Committee and Dianne Tate, whose ten-year effort led to the City of Cartersville's adoption of a historic preservation ordinance in May 2001. Thomas and Emily Champion were recognized for their many years of work on the Historic Awareness Sign Program. Guy also thanked the many volunteers who keep the office open, and announced that more volunteers are needed to keep the doors open and possibly even expand the current office hours.

In an effort to raise awareness of other historical organizations operating in Bartow County, five guest speakers from various societies and clubs were invited to speak about their groups and their own efforts to preserve history and the county's quality of life. Each speaker received a contribution of \$250 from EVHS on behalf of their organizations.

Martha Mulinix, with the **Kingston Women's History Club**, thanked EVHS for its years of assistance: "You don't know some of the things you've done for us," Martha said, citing EVHS's contributions of speakers and volunteers, its shared membership, and its second printing of the publication *We Remember Kingston*. The organization, founded in 1900, sponsors the oldest continuing observance of Confederate Memorial Day every April, operates a Civil War and heritage museum, and relies on a Fall pancake supper for fundraising. The museum is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and otherwise by appointment. Currently, it is attempting to enlarge its research resources. For more information about the Kingston Women's History Club call the museum at 770-336-5540.

Cassville Heritage Association president Lisa Ellis spoke about her organization's many efforts to keep Cassville history alive and to preserve the Cassville Cemetery, which had been neglected for many years prior to the organization's intervention, and is now one of five designated Confederate Cemeteries in Georgia. The association's big fund-raiser, an annual author's luncheon in August, pays for the upkeep of the cemetery and "Luminaries in the Park," the annual observance of Cassville's destruction by fire at the hands of Union forces in November 1864. The organization also observes Confederate Memorial Day with ceremonies in April. For more information about the Cassville Heritage Association, contact Lisa Ellis through EVHS.

"We're about doing good," said Dr. Susie Wheeler of the **Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center**, established in 1982 to preserve the history and culture of Bartow County's African-Americans. The organization also seeks to preserve Noble Hill, the first Rosenwald school built in



Feasting on Fellowship

Dining in historic structures, great food, and entertaining speakers aren't the only reasons members attend the many dinner meetings hosted by EVHS throughout the year. These wonderfully relaxed gatherings are also an opportunity to enjoy the conversation and fellowship of others who call Bartow County home. If you haven't attended a dinner meeting recently, we hope you will make plans to attend at least one in the coming year. They're always a lot of fun, and the cost is nominal, just \$12 to enjoy a catered meal and the company of friends.

Northwest Georgia, in 1923, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The school is now a museum, and is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Center offers a Summer heritage program for youths, and offers fellowship in an annual Labor Day picnic. Their big fund-raiser is a Fall fish fry, which helps defray costs. For more information about the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center, call them at 770-382-3392.

Speaking on behalf of the **Adairsville Historical Society** was Carol Adams, who has been with the society since its beginning as a city-appointed body assigned to research the history of Adairsville in 1984. Their early efforts resulted in the documentation of 150-plus homes and stores on 160 acres that was successfully nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987; it was the first city to be listed in its entirety. The organization works with the city to maintain growth, prepares articles about local history for press release, sponsors a middle school essay contest, houses a collection of oral histories, and recently designed and is currently selling medallion plaques for placement on historic homes and shops. They also maintain Poplar Springs Cemetery and offer a self-guided walking tour for visitors to the city. For more information about the Adairsville Historical Society, contact them through the City of Adairsville.

Susanne Brock represented the **Stilesboro Improvement Club**, which watches over the "small, small community" of Stilesboro. Established in 1912 to promote the then booming town and to work for community improvement, the organization has since focused its goals on preserving the classically-styled Stilesboro Academy, built in 1859. Their big fund-raiser is an annual chrysanthemum show, held the first Friday in November, which offers lunch with an original menu dating back to the 1950's; proceeds go toward the restoration and repair of the academy. Currently, the club is raising funds for a new roof. Fellowship is offered annually in the traditional May Picnic begun in 1859. For more information about the Stilesboro Improvement Club, e-mail Ann Mascia at cuknchik@email.msn.com.

Congratulations to This Year's Award Winners

pictured with president Guy Parmenter



*Chantal Parker
Newsletter & Website*



*David Parker
Newsletter*



*Carl Etheridge
Cemetery Preservation*

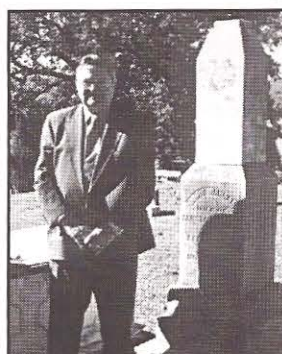


Jodie Hill, Corra Harris Home Restoration



Dianne Tate, Cartersville Preservation

Cemetery Preservation



Excavated earlier this year from their family cemetery on West Avenue, Armistead and Mary Hannah Leake and five other individuals were recently reinterred in a family plot at Oak Hill. EVHS Cemetery Preservation Committee Chair Carl Etheridge conducted the initial investigation of the cemetery and oversaw the excavation. Ceremonies commemorating the lives of the Leakes were conducted on October 26, 2001 with many descendants and invited guests present. The service was arranged by Leake descendant Robert Milam (pictured), of Rochester, Minnesota, and officiated over by Rev. Ted Smith of the First Presbyterian Church of Cartersville. The Leake Cemetery excavation was previously reported in the January 2001 edition of the EVHS Newsletter. Mr. Milam expressed great thanks to Carl and to Sonny Jackson, who also contributed to the preservation of the Leakes' graves.

Author Tom Emery Visits EVHS

Membership Meeting September 8, 2001



The Quarles-Thacker Home on Old Alabama Road was the setting for the Etowah Valley Historical Society's September membership meeting. The home was built circa 1839 by David Quarles. The rich farm setting, which includes an antebellum cabin and a well hand-dug by Indians, was marred only by the sound of heavy traffic. The home is currently owned by Mrs. Weldon (Gladys) Thacker, who was presented with a historic marker in appreciation for opening her home to the membership.

Tom Emery, author of *Richard Rowett: Thoroughbreds, Beagles, and the Civil War*, was the guest speaker for the evening. Emery, a freelance writer who hails from Rowett's hometown of Carlinville, Illinois, is a long-time enthusiast and researcher of history. He received his B.A., with degrees in business administration, accounting, and economics, from Blackburn College in 1993, and his MBA from Southern Illinois University in Edwinsville in 1995. *Richard Rowett* is Emery's first full-length book, published when he was just 26 years old, in 1997.



Hailed as the "unsung hero" of the Battle of Allatoona, Rowett served as captain of the Carlinville Invincibles, quickly rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and eventually brigadier general, and headed the Seventh Illinois Regiment. On the morning of the battle, Rowett's command, armed with Henry repeating rifles, held off repeated Confederate charges, despite heavy losses, until late in the

morning. After withstanding a hailstorm of deadly Confederate fire from two sides, Rowett's Company fell back to the Star Fort. Rowett suffered a shell wound to the leg during the retreat and was carried to the fort as Federals desperately fought to reach the shelter. Later that afternoon, he was felled when a minnie ball fractured his skull. Surgeons operated on him throughout the night in the

Clayton House, which served as a field hospital during the battle.

Historians credit Rowett's morning stand in the rifle pits, as well as the delaying action to cover the men during the retreat to the West reboabt, as critical to the successful defense of Allatoona. Rowett himself credited the Henry 16-shooters, which had been purchased individually by the soldiers, saying that without the repeating rifles, the Union forces would have been overwhelmed. Of the 299 men in the Seventh, 35 were killed, 67 were wounded, and 39 went missing, for a staggering total of 141 casualties. Years later, the wounds Rowett received at Allatoona would contribute to his death.

Following the Civil War, Rowett returned to Carlinville, where he earned renown as a breeder of thoroughbreds, including Spokane, the 1889 Kentucky Derby winner. He also bred Clydesdales and Jersey cattle, but is best remembered for introducing Beagle hounds to the United States. It is said that all modern American Beagles are descended from Rowett's original stock. "Had it not been for Richard Rowett," joked Emery, "Snoopy would have been a golden retriever."

Rowett never fully recovered from the wounds he suffered at Allatoona, and walked with a limp for the rest of his life. He died suddenly of a massive heart attack on July 13, 1887 while arguing over a \$25 grocery bill in a stable in Carlinville. His death made front page headlines in the New York Times, and across the state, mourners sang "Hold the Fort" in his honor. He is buried in a family plot in the Carlinville City Cemetery.

Emery was happy to travel from Carlinville to Bartow County by car, stopping at battlefields along the way. "I'm pleased to be here where Rowett's life began," he told members. "Allatoona was truly the defining moment in his life."

Emery's book *Richard Rowett: Thoroughbreds, Beagles, and the Civil War* may be purchased in the EVHS office or at our on-line bookstore at www.evhsonline.org.

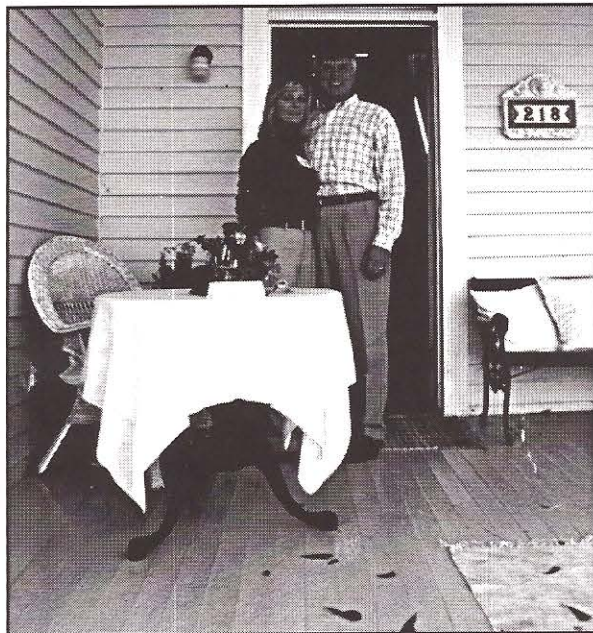
Come Harvest Our History

Tour of Historic Homes November 3 & 4, 2001



Left: Preservation Committee members Emily Champion, John Lewis, and Dianne Tate met visitors to the tour in the 1903 courthouse.

This year's tour sponsors were New Riverside Ochre, Vulcan Materials, Phoenix Air, Rush Home, and Century Bank.



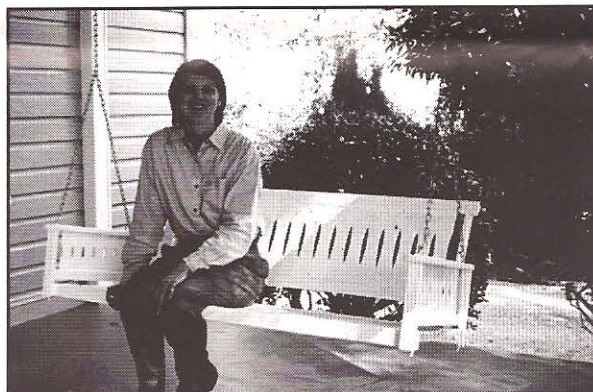
Mal and Gail Underwood kept the front door open for a warm welcome to their New South Cottage home.



Above: Tinsley Cline enlisted the help of her mother, Martha Choate, to help greet guests.

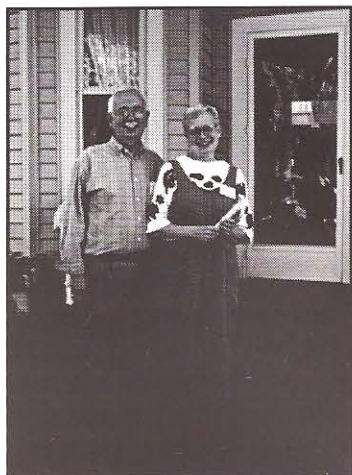


Above & Below: Vans were available to shuttle visitors to and from the 1903 courthouse.



Above: Alison Dillen takes a moment to relax on the inviting front porch of her bungalow home.

Below: Visitors to the Sims-Dillen House admired the home's distinctive architecture and use of rich color.



Joel and Diana Adams were all smiles as they welcomed guests to their Victorian home on Main Street.

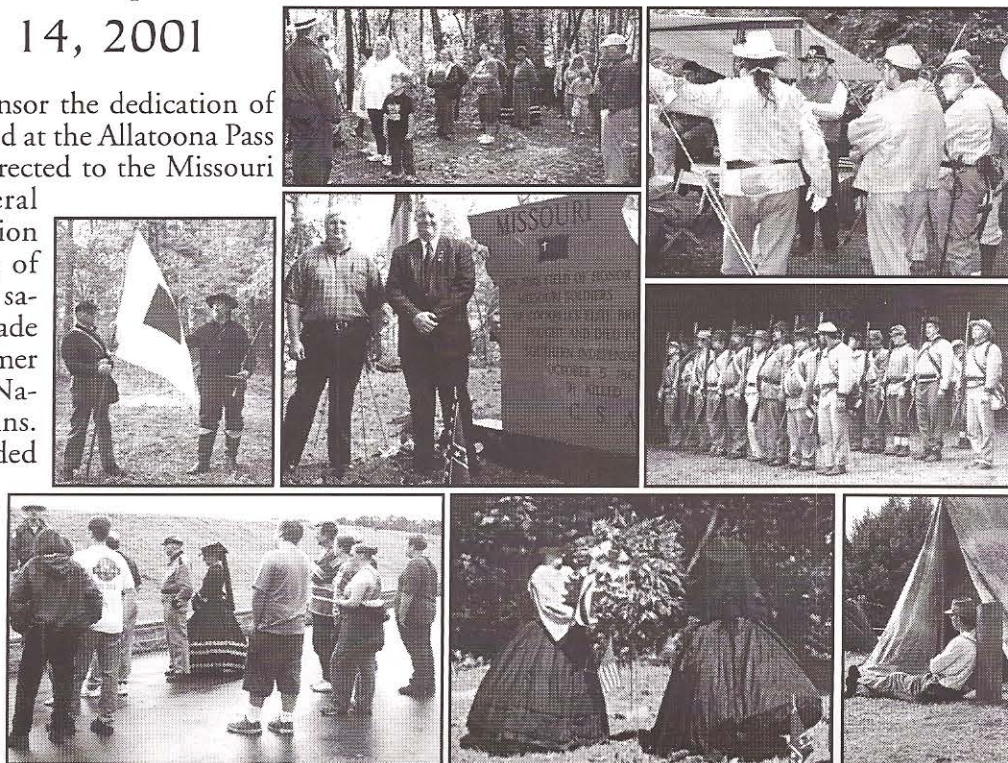


Left: Volunteers Susan Barrett (left) and Johanna Pettit served as hostesses in the Shropshire House. Owners Andrew and Amy Shropshire were unable to meet guests due to the birth of their son the week before. Congratulations to the new parents!

Allatoona Encampment & Monument Dedication

October 13 & 14, 2001

EVHS was pleased to help sponsor the dedication of the first monument to be placed at the Allatoona Pass Battlefield. The monument was erected to the Missouri Brigade, commanded by General Francis Marion Cockrell. Dedication ceremonies included the laying of wreaths and infantry and artillery salutes. Guest speakers included brigade descendants and Bob Hawkins, former commander of the Missouri and National Sons of Confederate Veterans. The weekend encampment included infantry, artillery, and signal corps demonstrations, as well as tours of the battlefield and the historic Clayton-Mooney House. Red Top Mountain State Park co-sponsored the event and conducted the field tours, which were led by superintendent James Hamilton. EVHS hosted a buffet lunch following the memorial service. Approximately 500 people participated in the event. ☺



This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Judge Jefferson Davis

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

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Christmas at Rose Lawn
7 o'clock p.m.
Saturday, December 8, 2001