

# 2001 Tour of Homes Hailed a Success!

Report by Masie Underwood

The 2001 "Come Harvest Our History" Tour of Homes was a great success! Thanks to the efforts of EVHS Preservation Committee Events Chairman Tricia Simmons and her group of dedicated volunteers, \$4,475 was cleared

on the tour, a biannual event for the Etowah Valley Historical Society.

"We are very grateful to our sponsors who helped make the tour so financially successful," Tricia said. This year's sponsors were Vulcan Construction, New Riverside Ochre, Phoenix Air, Rush Home, and Century Bank.

Tricia reports that, in addition to the corporate sponsors, a number of other individuals and businesses contributed to the success of the Tour of Homes. (See page 7 for all the names.)

Five homes in the Olde Town neighborhood of Cartersville were featured on this year's tour. These included the 1907 Dunn-Adams House on West Main Street; the 1946 Shropshire House on Etowah Drive; the 1907 Sproull-Reeves-Underwood House on Leake Street; the 1930 Sims-Dillen House on West Avenue; and the 1913 Connor-Cline house on Etowah Drive.



Tour chairperson Tricia Simmons was honored with a plaque for her outstanding management of the tour during the Preservation Committee's December meeting at the Governor's House in Kingston. Pictured with Tricia is committee president, John Lewis.

These homes were selected for the 2001 tour because they exemplify what can be done to modernize and enhance the interior of historic houses, while maintaining the historic integrity of the facade.

The purpose of the EVHS Tour of Homes is to promote historic awareness and to raise funds that help support EVHS programs.

The first EVHS tour of homes, a driving tour of antebellum Bartow County homes, took place in 1983. In 1994, the Preservation Committee sponsored a candlelight walking tour of downtown homes, churches and public buildings.

In 1995, there was a tour of West Avenue homes, followed by a 1997 tour of homes on West Cherokee Avenue and upper Cassville Road, and in 1999 a special Salute to Mining Tour featured the homes of mining industrialists of the last two centuries.

At the Preservation Committee's December meeting at the Governor's House in Kingston, committee chairman John Lewis presented Mrs. Simmons with a plaque of appreciation for her hard work and dedication.  $\infty$ 

## **EVHS Library Receives Private Collection**

A generous donation of over 300 books, numerous rolls of microfilm, and other research material was received by EVHS in January 2002. The gift was the private collection of Mr. Grady Golden. "We're extremely grateful for the generosity of Mr. Golden," said EVHS president Guy Parmenter. The donation includes genealogies, histories, and records from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and numerous other states, military and Native American books and records, and many other miscellaneous materials, including an automated archive of family pedigrees on compact disk. While the entire collection is too lengthy to include here, we have listed on page 6 some of the Georgia and military-related material.

Senior Editor: Guy Parmenter

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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

## Spring Water and Ingenuity Ran This Antebellum Farm

#### By Andrew Sparks

Reprinted from the Atlanta Journal, published May 5, 1957

Something about gristmills makes time stand still. Maybe it's because water power itself seems so old-fashioned in our jet and atom age. Or maybe it's because of the mealy, musty smell of a mill, a cumulative smell that began with the dust of corn meal ground and baked and eaten a century ago. That smell somehow is a link to the past and to all the people fed by a hundred years of cornmeal.

You can find gristmills all over the state, most of them close to an active stream that is perfect for wading and picnics. Some of them continue to produce delicious water-ground meal. Some are abandoned to the memories and the dust of their past.

One of the most fabulous of Georgia's early mills is Mosteller's, five miles east of Adairsville at Cedar Spring. This bold spring, which boils out of an underground limestone cavern, has worked at many things besides grinding meal and flour. The spring powered a whole antebellum industrial center. It sawed wood, carded wool, wove cloth, built furniture. It was the energy back of one of Georgia's most self-sufficient old plantations.

Mosteller's, even today, is a fine example of what a self-contained Southern farm was like—one which produced practically everything it needed except coffee and tea, buttons and needles and maybe white sugar. The water wheels are silent and still at Mosteller's now, but the old buildings tell a dramatic story of the past.

When we went up one fine day recently, we drove the four-lane highway, US 41, past Marietta and Cartersville to Adairsville and stopped at a drugstore to ask the way from there. Adairsville, which turns its back to the highway and the steady stream of tourist traffic, has a tree-shaded main street that fronts the railroad track. Inside the cool, dark drugstore we learned that the man to see about Mosteller's was George Gaines, whose office is around the corner. His father, the late M.P. Gaines, bought the plantation 20 years ago, and it is still owned by his estate.

George quickly volunteered to ride out to the mill with us.

"We hear a lot about diversified farming today," he said. "Well, Mosteller's was diversified 100 years ago. B.C. Yates, down at the Kennesaw Battlefield Park, has a wartime map of the plantation, drawn in 1864, and the map even shows a distillery. The Mosteller family had owned the place almost exactly 100 years when my father bought it in 1937. The mill was operated until six or eight years ago and I suppose I can say it sent me to college. I graduated from the University in 1941. In those days the farm wasn't very productive, but the mill earned around \$150 a month."

Five miles from the highway we crossed a bridge over the creek fed by Cedar Spring. Downstream were the ruins of the old sawmill, the planing mill and the wool carding mill. On the other side of the bridge we saw the gristmill and a cluster of houses and barns.

"Let's go to the spring first," George said. "Almost everybody around here comes to the spring for picnics, church dinners on the ground and family reunions. For years churches in the area held baptizing services down at the millpond. The Mostellers never minded if people used the spring and Dad never did either. In my mother's courting days, what every young fellow did was get his daddy's buggy and ride out to the spring with his girl."

"We built this rock wall around the spring in 1937," he said, after we had parked the car and walked over to look at the spring. So much water boils up that it is literally a creek leaping full grown from the earth. George estimated that it produces a million gallons of water a day even in the driest weather. Tremendous oaks tower overhead and beneath them dogwoods bloomed, and violets and trilliums.

"We cut the pines here three or four years ago," he said, "and calculated from their growth rings that they were around 150 years old."

They were young saplings when the corn and wheat mill was built 99 years ago this summer. George showed us the hand-lettered cornerstone, a rock set into the blue lime-

stone foundation and inscribed, "Aug 3, 1858, K.M. and F.F. Dilbeck." The Dilbecks must have been the millwrights.

At the back of the building, water from the spring runs through the sluice and pours in a sparkling cascade over the 14-foot water wheel. But the wheel doesn't turn and the stones inside don't grind. Up front, grass grows under the shed where wagons once lined up to unload their grain. George unlocked the big Dutch door, divided across the middle so the miller had to open only the top half when bags of grain were handed in. Just inside the door there's still a sign that reads, "Keep hands off the mills and eyes on the miller." The miller has long since gone.

"This is one of the few mills left with wooden cogs," George said as we climbed down into the damp basement. Overhead we could see the drive shaft that comes through the wall to turn enormous wheels of the mill, intricately meshed together with wooden cogs like the works of a giant clock.

All the things in the threestory mill—the bins and flour boxes, the casing around the millstones, the desks, the flour elevators—are handmade of heart pine. The wood has aged to a warm brown color, dusted with white, and the detail shows it was worked by skilled craftsmen who knew wood.

Outside, you can see antebellum farm buildings in every direction. Besides the corn and wheat mill, there are four residences ranging in size from the miller's cottage to the big house with four front doors, four other various smokehouses and office, and a big brick kettle where hogs were dressed and syrup was made. Downstream and across the road

you can see the ruins of the water-powered sawmill and planing mill, the lumber dry house, the wool carding mill which has been almost completely torn down, and the site of a cobbler's shop. In places, this early farm-grown industrial center looks as if it had been struck by the fury of a tornado, but it was only the quiet tornado of time, the relentless destruction of a century.

In the sawmill, stored up near the ceiling of the first floor, are the beds of two old Conestoga wagons which brought the first pioneer Mostellers here about the time the last Indians were moving out. Those wagons, with boatshaped bodies that made streams easier to ford, are the same kind of prairie schooners that crossed the Western plains, and played a major part in spreading American civilization. The two wagons hanging from the rafters at Mosteller's are weathered gray souvenirs of that American pilgrimage.

Some people say that the Mostellers were Pennsylvania Dutch who went South instead of West, bringing skills and industries and good farming practices with them. But Lucy Cunyus, in "The History of Bartow County," printed in 1933, said they came from Carolina. She wrote that Berryman F. Mosteller, born in Greenville County, S.C. in 1825, migrated to Georgia with his German-born father in 1836 and bought the property at Cedar Spring in 1838. It was Berryman who built the first old-fashioned sash-sawmill and his son A.J. Mosteller, who built and mod-

ernized the sawmill in 1910. The wool carder, which began operation in the sixties, continued until 1905 when cheap store-bought cloth had eliminated weaving at home. The Mostellers made furniture until the end of the century, according to B.C. Yates at Kennesaw.

"The Mosteller Mills were an early example of mass production," said Mr. Yates. "The simple sash-sawmill ought to be restored—a lot of the parts are there yet, and the old corn and wheat mill should be saved. A place like that is part of our heritage of pioneer ingenuity. Man came into the wilderness with an ax, a few small chisels and saws loaded in wagons and created tools, buildings and civilization. That day is so far gone that people can hardly realize it ever existed. That's the story Mosteller's has to tell."

Wilbur Kurtz, the Atlanta historian, says that his interest in the place is that it was one of the stopping points for

Sherman's Army coming south from Resaca on the way to Atlanta.

"Cox's Division of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Corps stayed at Mosteller's all night," he said "While the troops were there, Gen. George W. Schofield got rid of a general—Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah. Judah had mishandled his part in the Battle of Resaca. The troops were dissatisfied and Schofield wrote Sherman that he'd have to get rid of him. The correspondence was dated at Mosteller Mills. Judah later was military governor in Marietta."

"Thirteen years ago, in October, 1944, Walt Disney sent a woman to Georgia to do research for his movie 'The Song of the South.' One of the places I showed her was Mosteller's. I wanted her to see it because it's more nearly a *see Mosteller's Mill, continued on page 7* 

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The water wheel at Mosteller's Mill



Jodeen Blazer Brown (left) with guests Martha and Jerry Blazer



(L-R) Tricia Simmons, Emily Champion, Masie Underwood, Linda Parmenter, & Sandy Howell



Tom Barnes with guest Monica Taylor



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Kim & Craig Coombs

(Left) Carl ぐ Helen Smith





The Kennesaw Singers



Joe Head (left) has been responsible for bringing musical talent to the annual Christmas gala for more than eight years. With Joe is EVHS president Guy Parmenter (center) and vice-president David Parker.

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Ed & Lois Hill



Helen & Tom Maher



James Hamilton and Guy Parmenter share smiles over the award given to Red Top Mountain State Park for its Hills of Iron program, co-sponsored by EVHS.

# Hills of Iron Receives Award

### EVHS & Red Top Share the Success

The Hills of Iron program, sponsored last May by EVHS and Red Top Mountain State Park, recently received an award from the Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites Service for "Most Innovative Special Program at a Park." Red Top Superintendant James Hamilton was all smiles, and full of praise for EVHS, as he announced the award and showed off the plaque at the January membership meeting.

"It was such a unique program," James told the group, stressing that much of the success of the program was due to the co-sponsorship of EVHS. "We couldn't have done it without you."

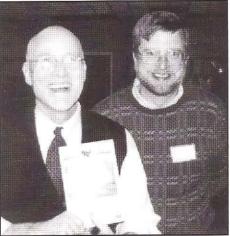
Red Top Mountain and EVHS have scheduled Hills of Iron 2002 for April 27th this year. Tours of iron mines, a display, and a working iron furnace will again feature prominently in the day-long celebration.

For more information about Hills of Iron 2001, visit the EVHS website at www.evhsonline.org and click on "Projects." @

## A Walk Through 19th Century American Architecture Membership Meeting January 17, 2002

Architectural historian Dr. Fred W. McCaleb was guest speaker for the first EVHS meeting of the new year. "I grew up in the 19th century," McCaleb told the group, explaining his upbringing in historic Columbus, Mississipi, which boasts over 500 National Register and National Landmark listings, and accounts for his interest in historic architecture.

McCaleb's slide-show tour presented architectural styles dating from the 1780s to the 1880s, including Georgian, Federal, Spanish, French, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and the Exotic Movement, which incorporated oriental and moorish design elements. Numerous famous and notso-famous homes were featured, in-



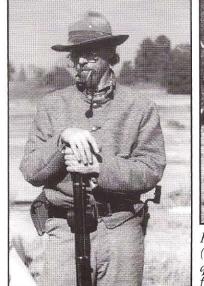
Dr. Fred McCaleb with EVHS vice-president David Parker

cluding the Stephen Decatur house in Washington, D.C., Mount Vernon and Monticello, the Owens-Thomas House in Savannah, and the Fulton Mansion in Texas.

Dr. McCaleb was presented with a copy of *In and Out of the Lines* in appreciation for his visit.  $\infty$ 

## Battle of Atlanta Reenactment

Representitives from both the Allatoona and Pickets Mill Battlefields were excited to split the proceeds derived from ticket sales to the interpretive area of the Battle of Atlanta reenactment held near Conyers, Georgia on November 3rd & 4th. Representing the Allatoona Battlefield, of course, was EVHS, which received \$474 to be used toward our preservation efforts at Allatoona. Many thanks to Jim Butler of the Salt River Rifles, who coordinated the interpretive events. ∞





Reenactors flee the coop with stolen chickens (above), while a Confederate soldier (left) grabs a quick smoke, presumably out of ear-shot of the foraging Yankees.

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### Selected Georgia & Military Records Now in the EVHS Library

#### Georgia Histories & Records

•Index to Probate Records of Colonial Georgia 1733-1778 •Colonial Georgia Marriage Record from 1760-1810 •Index to the Headright and Bounty Grants of Georgia 1756-1909 •Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia 1785-1809 •Georgia Goes to the Polls: Highlights of the Presidential Campaigns 1789-1864 •Index to Georgia Poor-School and Academy Records 1826-1850 •Cities, Towns and Communities of Georgia Between 1847-1962 •The 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery of Georgia •The 1832 Gold Lottery of Georgia •The Land Lottery of Georgia and Other Missing Names of Winners in the Georgia Land Lotteries •A Researcher's Library of Georgia History, Genealogy and Records Sources, Vol I & II •The Georgia Black Book: More Morbid, Macabre, and Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value, Vol I & II •30,638 Burials in Georgia •Georgia Genealogy and Local History, a Bibliograph •World War I Draft Registrations, Georgia, Metro Atlanta Area Index, Gwinnett Co. •Index to Georgia's 1867-1868 Returns of Qualified Voters and Registration Oath Books (White) •Georgia Marriages 1811 Through 1820 •Georgians Past: Special Files of Georgia Settlers and Citizens: Subjects and Counties 1733-1970s •The Early Settlers of Georgia •Abstracts of Georgia Colonial Conveyance, Book G-I •Index to Georgia Wills •Georgia Intestate Records •1850 Georgia Mortality Schedules or Census The History of Georgia and the Georgia People 1732-1860 •Historical Collections of Georgia •Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Atlanta Historical Society •Abstracts of Colonial Georgia: Book J, 1755-1762 •A List of Early Settlers of Georgia •Some Georgia County Records, Vol III, IV, V, VI, VII, IX •Gordon County, Georgia Newspaper Clippings, Vol I, II, III & IV (1870 through 1890) •Columbus, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Columbus Enquirer) 1838-1840, Vol III •Marriages, Deaths, and etc. from the Butler (Georgia) Herald, 1897-1910

Marriages and Obituaries from the Macon

Messenger 1818-1865 •Genealogical Material from Legal Notices in Early Georgia Newspapers •Clarke County (Athens) Georgia Newspaper Abstracts Vol I, 1808-1820 & Vol II, 1826-1829 •The Macon (GA) Telegraph 1833-1839 •Milledgeville, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Southern Recorder, Vols I through XII (1820-1872) •Marriages and Obituaries From Early Georgia Newspapers •Early Morgan County, Georgia, Newspapers 1842-1861 •The Macon Georgia Telegraph 1826-1832, Vol I-VII, #13, Nov. 1, 1826-Dec. 26, 1832 Marriage, Divorce, Death, and Legal Notices •Clarke County (Athens), Georgia, Newspaper Abstracts 1808-1820 •Clarke County (Athens), Georgia Newspaper Abstracts 1826-1829 •History Stories of Milledgeville and Baldwin County •Milledgeville, Georgia's Antebellum Capital •Historic Memory Hill Cemetery, Milledgeville, Georgia 1804-199 •The Dead Book Burials in the City Cemetery: Milledgeville, Georgia •Barrow County, Georgia, Cemeteries •Chattahoochee County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1854-1888 •Cherokee County Marriage Records 1841-1855 •History of Athens & Clarke County, Georgia •Cobb County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1865-1867 •DeKalb County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1842-1856 •Forsyth County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1833-1867 •History of Forsyth County, Georgia, Vol I 1832-1932 & Vol II •Bloodkin, Pioneer Chronicles of Upper Georgia Centered in Forsyth County •Franklin County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1806-1864 •Fulton County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1854 •Georgia Cemeteries, Vol I, Fulton County •Atlanta West End Directory for 1876 •Gordon County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1864-1884 •Gwinnett County Families, 1818-1968 •Gwinnett County, Georgia, Deaths 1818-1989 •Henry County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1822-1850 •Gone to Georgia: Jackson and Gwinnett Counties and Their Neighbors Jackson County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1806-1850 •Jackson County, Georgia, Deed Abstracts, Book A-D 1796-1808 •Jackson County, Georgia, Deed Abstracts, Book E-G 1808-1822

•Jackson County, Georgia, Early Court

Records 1796-1831 ·Jackson County, Georgia, Will Abstracts, Book A & B 1803-1888 •Jasper County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1808-1850 •History of Lowndes County, Georgia, 1825-1944 •Lowndes County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1870-1890 •Marion County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1844-1866 •Morgan County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1808-1865 •Muscogee County, Georgia, Marriage Records 1835-1850 •Columbus, Georgia, Lists of People 1828-1852 and Sexton's Report to 1866 Land Lottery List of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 1804 •Richmond County, Georgia, Early Marriage Records •Wilkes County Papers 1773-1833 Military Histories & Records •Special Presidential Pardons of Confederate Soldiers, Part I & II •The General Society of the War of 1812, 1976 Bicentennial Supplement to the 1972 Register •Index to Georgia Civil War Confederate Pension Files •Index to Volunteer Soldiers in Indian Wars and Disturbances 1815-1858 •Index to Volunteer Soldiers 1784-1811 •1864 Census for Re-Organizing the Georgia Militia •Revolutionary Memoirs and Muster Rolls •Index to Mexican War Pension Files •Index to Texas CSA Pension Files •Compendium of the Confederate Armies, South Carolina and Georgia •Georgia Pensioners, Vol I & II •The King's Mountain Men •Georgia Citizens and Soldiers of the American Revolution •Georgia Governor's Journals 1789-1799: County, State and Militia Officers •Virginia Revolutionary War State Pensions •Index to War of 1812 Service Records for Volunteer Soldiers for Georgia •1864 Georgia Militia Lists for Re-Organization of State Militia, Vol I, Appling County through Bibb County & Vol II, Brooks Co.-Chattachoochee Co.

Grady Golden with donation.

#### Mosteller's Mill, continued

complete antebellum plantation than anything else I know of in Georgia. She made a lot of pictures. I'm sure that the atmosphere and background was used effectively in the movie."

That day we spent at Mosteller's, George took us up to the big house to show us salt stains in the ceiling of the long front porch.

"We were always told that they hid

side meat above the ceiling when the Yankees came," he said, "and that the stains will always be there coming through the paint."

Money was extremely scarce in this part of Georgia 100 years ago, and what wealth was there was created by men's hands. By and large, George said, any old family in the section that has money today had forefathers who ran wheat mills, sawmills, or some sort of manufacturing plant like a cotton mill, cope mill or string mill. People don't make things with their hands anymore. They don't make bricks or weave cloth or hew timber. They don't even bring corn to the mill any more. The corn and wheat mill, still

straight lined and strong timbered, is doomed too, like the sash saw and the wool carder, because the need for it is gone. Biscuit mix and pancake flour from the store are too easy

The "Big House" at Mosteller's Mill

and even corn meal comes "enriched." Unless gristmills are saved as historic relics or museums, they will follow the Cherokees, the prairie schooners, the sash-sawmill and the wool carder down the road to oblivion. Time doesn't really stand still, even for gristmills. Editor's Note: The Mosteller Mill plantation is today owned by Frances Gaines, wife of the late George Gaines. Relatives now reside at the site, located on Highway 140, five miles east of Adairsville. 🗇

## Family Tree Climbers Plan Genealogy Workshops In 2002

The Family Tree Climbers announce that former chairperson Wilma Cantrell has had to resign due to serious illness. New chair Linda Cochran reports that Wilma is recuperating at home, and that the thoughts and prayers of committee members are with her.

Linda reports that the role of the Family Tree Climbers will expand this year to include genealogy workshops as well as a varied slate of speakers. "Many people have told me that they'd like to see us do some genealogy workshops,' Linda said.

The first workshop will be held on February 14th, in honor of Valentine's Day, and is entitled "Researching Marriage Records and Finding Maiden Names." Maiden names can be difficult to locate since many women, prior to the midtwentieth century, were often identified by their husband's name. Linda hopes the workshop will make the task a little easier by offering hints, helps, and techniques for identifying those elusive female ancestors.

On March 14th, the Family Tree Climbers will offer a workshop on "Ellis Island and the Search for Immigrant Ancestors." Both workshops will meet in the EVHS office in the 1903 courthouse at 6:30 p.m. ∞

> EVHS Thanks Barry Colbaugh For the Donation of a Microfiche Reader & Printer

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The Preservation Committee of EVHS Extends A Speical Thank You To These 2001 Tour of Homes Contributors

Carmen Sims Crescent Bank Chantal Parker Angel's Florist One Day Signs Bartow County Government **Bartow Transit** Action Rent All Ingles on Joe Frank Harris Parkway **Regina** Wheeler Harris Properties City of Cartersville Publix Supermarket Cartersville Magazine Flowers of Cartersville Boy Scouts of America Bartow County Library Main Street Services Inc. Cartersville Public Works Allen's Cartersville Florist Arco Ideas and Design Inc. Cartersville Mayor Sam Smith Jennings Country Treasures Florist Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown Cartersville-Bartow Co. Convention

A special thank you also to the many wonderful volunteers who gave their time & talents to aid in the success of the tour.



# Mark Your Calendar Now For These Upcoming Events

February 14, Thursday Genealogy Workshop "Researching Marriage Records & Maiden Names" 6:30 p.m. EVHS Office

February 21, Thursday Membership Meeting Guest Speaker: Dr. Randall Patton "Some History of the Shaw Family & the Carpet Industry in Bartow Co." 7:00 p.m. Bartow County Library

March 14, Thursday Genealogy Workshop "Ellis Island & the Search for Immigrant Ancestors" 6:30 p.m. EVHS Office March 21, Thursday Membership Meeting Guest Speaker: Kelly Barrow, author of Forgotten Confederates: An Anthology About Black Southerners 7:00 p.m. Bartow County Library

**April 15**, Thursday Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m. Bartow County Library

**April 27**, Saturday Hills of Iron 2002 10:00 a.m. Red Top Mtn. State Park

**May 18**, Saturday Membership Meeting & Dinner at Jody & Delean Brandon's Home 6:30 p.m.



The Family Tree Climbers meet the second Thursday of every month. Plan on joining them for informative workshops, great guest speakers, and lively

discussions of historical and genealogical interest.

Dr. Randall Patton, author of "Carpet Capital: The Rise of a New South Industry," will be the guest speaker at the EVHS

Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21st at the Bartow County Library. Copies of Dr. Patton's book will be available for purchase.



This Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Louise Simpson & Katherine H. Mahan



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

www.evhsonline.org

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