Preserving Friendship

Work began in earnest at the Friendship Cemetery on February 16, 2002, as members of EVHS donned their heavy work clothes to cut trees and remove brush from one of the county’s oldest eternal resting places. The project would benefit with the addition of extra hands, and volunteers are encouraged to contact any of the above members. Pictured left to right are president Guy Parmenter, Pat Mansfield, David Parker, Ed Hill, and Cemetery Preservation Committee chair Carl Etheridge. For more information about the Friendship Cemetery project, see the article on page 2.

Online? Get Really Cyber!
Join the EVHS Email List

Online Members are invited to send us their email addresses to receive early announcements of meetings and special events.

“We’re still working out the details,” said the webmaster for EVHS Online, Chantel Parker. “We want to be able to assure users of their privacy, and that their emails won’t be used by others or for anything other than their intended purpose.”

If you would like to receive EVHS announcements via email, send your name and email address to announcements@evhs.online.org with the word “subscribe” in the subject field.

No Ordinary Life
William Augustus Chunn

History is often best seen through the eyes of the average ordinary citizen,” wrote Alexa Claremont, introducing a research paper for a history class at Emory University in 1998. The subject of her paper was Cassville’s William Augustus Chunn in the Civil War. “William Chunn was an ordinary man who just happened to live in an extraordinary time in history,” she wrote. “Had fate not intervened in the way that it did, he most likely would have lived his life as the privileged son of a well-off farmer in a thriving small city in Georgia, married to the daughter of a prominent judge, and perhaps even practicing law. History intervened, however, and Will found himself far from home, experiencing privations he could never have imagined, and growing and maturing more in four years than many men do in a lifetime.”

Alexa’s paper, written for a class taught by Professor James L. Roark, a leading historian of the nineteenth-century South, was based largely on the unpublished Chunn family correspondence, especially between Chunn and his wife Delilah (Lila), housed at Emory University.

In this issue of the EVHS Newsletter, we are proud to present Alexa’s paper as our feature article. We’ve condensed it and removed the footnotes, but readers will still be able to see Alexa’s achievement. The entire original paper, about twice as long as the version presented here, is available in the files at the EVHS office.


“Cassville Before the War”
Presented by Local Historian
Jim Rongers
Membership Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2001
7:00 p.m. at the Bartow County Library
Main Street, Cartersville
Friendship-Puckett Cemetery Preservation Project Underway

Report by Guy Parmenter

We are all about preserving Bartow County's rich history! And that is exactly why the Board of Directors voted unanimously to undertake this massive project. Restoration of the old Friendship-Puckett cemetery has been the number one requested project by EVHS members over the past several years.

Located at the intersection of Highway 293 and River Road, this cemetery lies at the southern entrance to Cartersville, along the old Dixie Highway. The historic route is being heavily promoted for both local and regional tourism.

I once read that the pride in any community can best be judged by the way a community's dead are cared for. Enough said, it is time to act.

Little is known about this old cemetery, and time and neglect have taken their toll. Some 250-plus residents can be found there, buried between the 1840s and the 1960s. If only they could talk and describe their distant pasts. However, as this project unfolds, new and valuable information about the cemetery and its residents should come to light.

The Friendship-Puckett cemetery owes its beginning to the Friendship Presbyterian Church which was founded on this site February 26, 1843 by the Rev. Charles Wallace Howard of "Springbank" fame. A local farmer, Arnold Milner, donated the land and, along with two of his sons, his wife, and a Mrs. Woods, were the first members. The church building itself was only a small platform with handmade pulpit and benches, and has long since disappeared from the site.

Some ten years later, in 1853, the Friendship Presbyterian church congregation moved to a new site in Cartersville, retaining the same name until April 1887 when it was changed to First Presbyterian.

The Puckett portion of the cemetery's name is due to Edmund Douglas Puckett, a neighbor of the Milners, who owned some 1700 acres along the Etowah River. Many of his descendants are buried there.

Recently, on March 23, 2002, members of the First Presbyterian Church joined members of EVHS for a morning of clearing trees and brush from the cemetery. Many hands made for light work, and the volunteers were greatly appreciated.

In future editions of this newsletter, we will endeavor to highlight many of the individuals and families at rest in the Friendship-Puckett Cemetery.
An Extraordinary Life
The Life of William Augustus Chunn 1840-1921

By Alexa Claremont

In early September 1861, William Augustus Chunn left his family's farm in Cassville and went to war, marching off with many of his friends and neighbors. William described his trip to Savannah for mustering in as "uneventful—save for the unusual profusion of ladies' smiles, hearty cheers, and gifts of bouquets." He also wrote that "I never saw a set of boys enjoy themselves better in my life."

William was initially commissioned a second lieutenant, but in April 1862, his regiment was disbanded and re-formed as part of the 40th Regiment of the Georgia Infantry. The loss of his original regiment meant the loss of his commission, and the second lieutenant was relegated to private. As a private, he would mix with men not of his social standing or educational background, and the accommodations would be rougher. However, perhaps he felt as his wife did, that "there is more patriotism exhibited in going as a private than as an officer."

The 40th Georgia was assigned to protect the Cumberland Gap, an important portal into unionist East Tennessee, against Yankee interlopers. When the regiment arrived in July, the battle had been raging off and on for about five months, with little progress on either side. William's letters home at first brimmed with the excitement of the action, but after a short time, the novelty of constant movement, shelling at all hours, and, as he puts it, "bivouacking on a hillside," got very tiresome. For nearly a month, his letters degenerated into almost constant complaints: the food was bad, the weather was terrible, the sleeping conditions were sub-par, and all the soldiers really wanted to do was go home and see their families.

In August, the Yankees were finally repulsed from their fortified positions at the Gap and driven back into Kentucky. As the Gap campaign ended, William's dismal tone was replaced by one of optimism.

General Kirby Smith and his troops, including the 40th Georgia, chased the retreating Yankees from the Gap into Kentucky, hoping to liberate that state from Union. At the same time, the Army of Northern Virginia was engaged in a similar campaign in Maryland. The future had never looked brighter for the prospects of the Confederacy, and spirits ran high throughout the young nation. William predicted that within a few weeks, "Kentucky and Maryland will join the nation, and peace will come to our land." His confidence was such that he wrote Lila that he might be able to travel home from Lexington through Nashville, which at the time was occupied by Federal troops.

However, the Kentucky campaign was marked by disarray on both sides. William could only write secondhand accounts of the Battle at Perryville (October 8, 1862); recently promoted to Commissary Sergeant, he spent the time safely ensconced at the supply base at Bryantsville. "Our troops are in high spirits and our generals quite confident of success," he wrote, but Smith's corps concluded the battle by retreating through the Cumberland Gap and back into Tennessee. The setbacks at Perryville and Antietam, great as they were, were hard on the southerners. Lila noted in a letter soon after the two battles: "We have had very little news of any kind—every body and every thing seems dark and gloomy."

William was granted a furlough after the Kentucky campaign, and was able to spend a month in Cassville. He rejoined his regiment, wintering outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in early December 1862. After being home for a month, the transition back into army life was hard. The Tennessee winter was unseasonably cold, and conditions for soldiers in the field were harsh. William's letters continued to show an underlying optimism. Peace might be a far distant ideal, he wrote, but "let us live with a hope that the golden time is not far distant, when these troubles will be at an end, when peace shall be returned, the blessings of liberty acknowledged, and our homes enjoyed."

William was offered command of his company at this time, but he turned it down. Seeing how the men were suffering with the cold, William noted that "by taking that position I would be subject to all the exposures, and by extension endanger my life." He told Lila that he was too concerned for his family to take such a risk, even though the commission might lead to further promotion.

Just before the Battle of Stones River, which began on Dec. 26 and led to the Confederate loss of Murfreesboro,
the 40th Georgia Infantry Regiment was transferred to Vicksburg. Sherman had started rapidly moving down the Yazoo River toward the Mississippi, and William's regiment arrived just in time to take part in the Battle of Chickasaw Bluff. As part of the Commissary department, William was ordered to the rear as soon as fighting broke out, and he watched the battle from fortifications above the bluffs. The Federal frontal assaults were soundly repulsed by the Confederate forces.

After the engagement, the regiment settled into camp outside the city. As Commissary Sergeant, William toured the countryside to obtain rations for his men. The job was tedious and thankless. He found the people of Mississippi opportunistic and greedy, noting that "they raised prices 200 percent after the armies arrived," and he came to the conclusion that "the people of Georgia are the warmest in the cause of their country and more generous in their nature."

By February, the Commissary department had found an abandoned house in which to conduct their business, and William took up residence with his stores, happy to no longer be living outside. His letters took on a decidedly more cheerful tone, and, except for a raging case of homesickness, he was quite content. Among his messmates was an officer from the Cassville area, and he seemed to have good company and good food. They even found "a Negro boy to cook for us, one we picked up in Mobile. He belongs to a man in Kentucky [but] the boy ran away and came out west with our army when we retreated from the state. He is a very good cook and [serves] us as well as if we had [bought] him from the owner."

Throughout his first few months encamped in Vicksburg, William's confidence grew that the conflict would soon be over. As the stalemate at Vicksburg moved into a fourth month, however, he despaired of seeing peace within the year. In April he wrote to Lila that "I am nearly out of heart of having peace this year. The only hope we have of getting peace without more fighting is that the Northern men that go out of service in May will not reenlist—this would so demoralize their army as to give us considerable advantages." Back in Cassville, the civilian population was also beginning to doubt that the end would come soon.

As General Grant's army drew nearer to Vicksburg, William realized the importance of this time in determining the future of the Confederacy. "The eyes of the whole South are no doubt now turned to Vicksburg as the battle that is to determine the fate of the Confederacy is rapidly drawing near. If we must fight, let us do it with a hearty good will determined to conquer or die." Vicksburg held out for two months, during which the family heard nothing from William. On July 4, the city and its troops were surrendered.

William's regiment was among the units captured and paroled during the fall of Vicksburg, and William was allowed to return home until September. During his stay in Cassville, Samuel Chunn died. The loss of his father made William the head of the family, and his letters home after he returned to his unit discussed the business matters and day-to-day family affairs that his father had handled before. Because of this upheaval on the home front (the Chunns were forced to take in boarders in order to support themselves), William's correspondence grew ever more despairing. "I cannot bring myself to believe that our separation is for the best," he wrote. "I always look on it as a hard lot, difficult to bear."

The 40th Georgia was speedily exchanged and put back into action near Chickamauga, where a Confederate victory buoyed southern spirits. William and the regiment were sent to forage in East Tennessee, along railroad lines that connected Chattanooga to Knoxville. For nearly a month, they moved so rapidly that William was forced to leave his baggage behind at various camps. The future looked bright. Reports at the end of October had Federal forces retreating from Chattanooga and abandoning East Tennessee, and William wrote that "the day is not far in the future when gentle peace will come to our land." But with the massing of Grant's forces at Chattanooga, William noted wearily in a letter that they were being forced to retreat and "give up all we have gained."

Once back in the Chattanooga area, William and his regiment were transferred to General Breckenridge's corps and settled in on top of Lookout Mountain. The stalemate at Chattanooga seemed to have some permanence, and William wrote that "many of the men are building winter quarters. The yankees, I am told, are also building, each party summarily making preparations for the winter." Only one week later, General Grant and his army swung around the northern end of Lookout Mountain and attacked. The resulting retreat to Dalton by the Confederates set in motion the push to Atlanta that would end with Sherman's march to the sea.

The first opportunity that William had to write after the battle, he noted that "this last defeat was very unexpected and quite disastrous." Just a few days later, the army was in disarray and dejectedly hiding at Dalton. "Every breeze brings disaster to our arms," he wrote. "Without the help of God I feel that our cause is lost." Once more, however, the Army of Tennessee rallied, and before long, William was again writing with confidence that the Confederacy would yet drive the Union invaders out of their territory. "I feel more sensibly that God is on our side," William wrote in February 1864. "I really believe the war will come to a close soon."

With the battles moving ever closer to Cassville, William was able to journey home. He surprised the family on New Years Day, 1864, and most likely made several more trips back while the army was in winter quarters at Dalton. In the Spring, however, the Army of Tennessee was forced to retreat repeatedly. Lila and Elizabeth Chunn, his wife and mother, with the children, slaves, and livestock, escaped first to Newnan, well out of the way of both armies, then to Grantsville, where Elizabeth had family. "I was never so much astonished at any thing as at our army falling back so far and so rapidly," Lila wrote. "I felt very
confident that there would be a big fight between Cartersville and Cassville."

The Confederate retreat slowed by May 1864, and the civilian population waited anxiously for good news from the front. "I can but believe that we will be successful and that we will again enjoy peace," Lila wrote. "I know that you too are confident of final success, but like many of us, you get impatient and unwilling to wait for the blessing."

The fall of Atlanta that summer was a great blow to civilian and military morale. "I have been very low spirited," William wrote to his mother. Southerners had hoped that President Lincoln would lose the election in November 1864, but that hope was dashed with Sherman's victory. "The fall of Atlanta was truly a great calamity," William said.

As Sherman marched his troops eastward, General Hood, who now commanded the Army of Tennessee, moved his soldiers west, first to Palmetto, Georgia, and then onward to Florence, Alabama, and Tupelo, Mississippi. The plan was to reclaim Middle Tennessee. But footsore and freezing, lacking supplies, ammunition, and food, Hood's army was severely defeated in the Battles of Franklin and Nashville.

The resulting loss of morale was exceeded only by the loss of men, for the once proud Army of Tennessee's ranks were decimated. William seemed to have finally lost hope; for the first time, defeat and subjugation seemed a definite possibility. On January 8, 1865, he wrote to his mother:

"How different my feelings now to what they were one month ago—then all seemed bright and I was buoyed up by the hope of the redemption of Georgia and Alabama; my soul is now depressed by our recent defeat and the almost hopelessness of our cause. The army arrived at this place [Tupelo] yesterday, worn out and greatly depressed, over 113 of them are entirely barefooted, nearly all are without a change of clothing, and some are almost devoid of clothing."

The end was nearing for the army, and the following months were marked by an unending retreat eastward. William was able to avoid the battle of Nashville, as he was searching for provisions at the time in the countryside west of the city. He and his compatriots ended up trapped behind Federal lines, and it was only by moving westward and crossing a myriad of swollen streams and rivers that they finally able to rejoin the regiment. "All had given us up for captured," he wrote to Lila, "and were greatly surprised at seeing us safe again."

By February 19, the Army of Tennessee had been pushed to Augusta. From there, it engaged in a desperate race to the mountains of North Carolina, hoping to hold out there, but to no avail. William Chunn and the Army of Tennessee surrendered to General William T. Sherman on April 27, 1865.

William returned home to continue farming and practicing law. Cassville had been burned, the countryside destroyed, and his slaves freed. Nearly everything that he would have been able to count on four years previous had changed, and his life would be forever different. ☀️

1930 Census Available
April 1st at NARA

The National Archives and Records Administration will open its doors at 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2002 to accommodate the hundreds of researchers across the U.S. eager to evaluate the 1930 general population census. Classified for seventy-two years for reasons of privacy, the new census will especially appeal to baby boomers looking for information about their grandparents' early adulthood and their parents' early childhood.

Enumerated on April 1, 1930, the census asks thirty-two questions related to place of abode (street, house number, etc.), name, relationship, home data (own or rent, value of home or monthly rent, radio set, etc.), personal description (sex, race, age, marital status, age at first marriage), education, place of birth, native language, citizenship (immigration, naturalization, etc.), occupation, employment, and veteran status (WWI, Spanish American War, Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, and the Mexican Expedition).

In addition to the census, a large number of 1930 city directories are also available (check with NARA). Georgia city directories include Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah.

A limited soundex indexing system is available and, luckily for Southeast researchers, the indexing includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia (partial: Fayette, Harrison, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh counties) and Kentucky (partial: Bell, Floyd, Harlan, Kenton, Muhlenberg, Perry, Pike counties).

Until EVHS acquires the 1930 census for its own archives, local researchers are encouraged to visit the National Archives Regional facility at East Point. The archives are open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Tuesday evenings 4-8 p.m. Reserve your microfilm reader for four hour intervals by calling the archives at 404-763-7474. For more information, visit the NARA website at www.nara.gov. ☀️
Lizzie Gaines’s Cow

Unlike the Chunns (recorded in the feature article), Frances Elizabeth “Lizzie” Gaines remained in her Cassville home when the Federal troops came through in the Spring of 1864. In her oft-reprinted journal, Lizzie wrote of the Yankee visit to Cassville, and especially her efforts to keep her cow.

To accompany the Chunn article, and to get everyone in the mood for Jim Rongers’s talk to the society on April 15 on “Cassville before the War,” we present below selections from Lizzie Gaines’s journal:

The Yankees killed every living thing they could find: cows, calves, sheep, hogs, turkeys, chickens, etc., not because they were in need of it themselves, but to deprive us of the necessaries of life. A few cows, however, escaped with their lives, and these they penned up for their own use.

[Lizzie recovered her cow, only to have it taken again.]

The next morning... the sun shining brightly, we went on to Cartersville, passed the picket-lines without any trouble, found after inquiring around that we must first go to the Provost Marshall and undergo an examination as to our loyalty before we could do anything towards getting the cows.

When we arrived we found four other ladies on the same errand. We were seated before the judge, whose decision was law, and interrogated as follows.

The first was an old lady. He asked her if she had protection papers, or had taken the oath. She with an air of exultation replied that she had, and drew from her pocket, concealed under her dress, the precious document, which he examined. He asked her no more questions. He then proceeded to the next, with the same result, until he came to me, I happening to be last in order. This was all new to me...

He said, “Have you any protection papers?”
“No, sir,” said I.
“Have you ever been asked to take the oath?”

“I have not.”
“Have you any objections to taking it?”
“I have, sir, very serious objections.”
“What are your objections?”
“I am a Southerner by birth and principle, and would not take the oath for all the cows in the United States.”
“You are not loyal, Madam,” said he, “and cannot get your cow.”
“I am as loyal as you are,” said I.
“Yes, I see you are truly loyal to the Southern Confederacy, and I respect you for it.”
“We do not take up arms against you,” said I. “My tongue is my only weapon, and I wield it when occasion requires.”
“Yes,” said he, “I would rather have one hundred armed men, than one woman’s tongue turned loose on me.”

He seemed very angry when I first refused to swear allegiance to the United States, but when our conversation ended he was smiling very pleasantly. He made out his report of us, and sent us under guard to Captain Garfield....

I did not expect to get my cow, but thought I would go on and help any loyal friends to drive theirs home.

The old lady first named chided me severely for talking as I did. Was afraid none of them would get their cows on account of my conduct. Capt. Garfield, who had charge of the slaughter pen, was a fine portly-looking man, with a good natured face.

I was watching his countenance, saw a smile flit over his face as he looked up and asked, “Which one is Miss Gaines?”

“I am the one,” said I. “I know I am accused of disloyalty there, but I want my cow.”

“Well, you shall have her,” said he. He first told me I could get the cow, but it was contrary to orders for him to let me have the calf. I told him I would be very thankful for the cow, but we had intended to make beef of the calf, and were very much in need of the meat at that time. He then told me I could take it if I would promise to kill it as soon as I reached home. I promised, and had the calf killed.... Sent most of it around to the poor.

Hills of Iron

Coming: April 27 To Red Top Mountain

Featuring Live Furnace Demonstrations, Tours of the Iron Hill Mines, and Boat Excursions to the ruins of Glen Holly

EVHS Volume 42, March 2002
Shaw Historian Randall Patton Visits EVHS
Membership Meeting
February 21, 2002

On February 21, Randall Patton, Professor of History at Kennesaw State University, entertained members of the Etowah Valley Historical Society with a program on the Shaw family in Bartow County. Brothers Robert and J. C. "Bud" Shaw, who for years headed the world's largest carpet company, are part of a family that has been in Bartow since 1838.

Levi Shaw, their grandfather, was a merchant in Cartersville in the early twentieth century. In one of the early Cartersville High School yearbooks, Levi advertised "We retail everything but liquor and lightning rods."

Levi sent his son Clarence to Georgia Tech, where he majored in textile engineering. Clarence served in World War I, suffering an ear injury that afflicted his hearing for the rest of his life. Following the war, Clarence invested in the Florida real estate boom, with about as much success as other investors, which is to say none.

He returned to Northwest Georgia in the mid-1920s, where he became involved in the tufted textile industry, first at Westcott Hosiery Mill, then at other firms, as a dyer. By the 1940s, Clarence became interested in obtaining his own company, and he bought Star Dye, which dyed the tufted goods manufactured by other companies. This was exactly the right time, because in the 1940s, tufted textiles were beginning to expand rapidly, especially as the industry moved from toilet sets and bath robes to rugs and carpets.

After their father's death in 1958, Robert and Bud took Star Dye (renamed Star Finishing Company) and used it as a springboard to get into the manufacturing side of the tufted rug and carpet industry. The rest, as they say, is history.

Patton's talk was a sneak preview of his upcoming book on the Shaws and their role in the carpet industry, scheduled for publication next year by the University of Georgia Press. He has promised to keep us posted on the manuscript's progress.

Dr. Randall Patton was presented with a copy of In and Out of the Lines by EVHS vice president David Parker. In addition to his forthcoming Shaw history, Patton is the author of Carpet Capital: The Rise of a New South Industry. He lives in Rydal with his wife Karen and children Randall and Matthew.

Black Confederates in the Civil War
Membership Meeting
March 21, 2002

Why would blacks fight as Confederates during the Civil War? That was the topic of the March EVHS membership meeting, with guest speaker Charles Kelly Barrow. After giving several possibilities, Barrow summed up the cause of black Confederates: "freedom and independence," the same things all Confederates fought for. "They had faith in the future and knew their sacrifice was not in vain," he said.

Barrow gave numerous and surprising examples of the willingness of slaves and free blacks to enlist in and serve the Confederacy, citing personal letters and war documents. He also pointed out the sometimes overlooked multiracial and multicultural make up of the army, which included Catholics, Jews, Irish, Scotch-Irish, Hispanics, French, etc.茬, Confederates, continued on page 8
Confederates, continued from page 7

glish, Cajun, Mullatto, blacks, and—women.

Though some records in the National Archives are currently inaccessible, Barrow believes that documents exist (letters and war records) that would further support the controversial theory that thousands more blacks than is believed served in the Confederacy. And they served in every aspect, he said, in segregated units and with equal pay.

"There are more monuments for blacks who fought in the South than there are monuments in the North," Barrow said, adding, "They should all be remembered and honored for their service."

Charles Kelly Barrow attended DeKalb College and is a graduate of Shorter College, where he majored in Social Science Education. He recently completed a Master’s degree at Piedmont College in Social Studies, which he currently teaches at Flint River Academy. Barrow is a 20-year member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and in 1989 was appointed Historian-In-Chief of the SCV. Barrow is also the author of three books: The History of the Georgia Division, SCV: The First 100 Years; Forgotten Confederates: An Anthology About Black Southerners, and Black Southerners in Confederate Armies.

Evans, Cornelia

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

Confederate Memorial Day Observances
Cassville Confederate Cemetery, April 20, 2:00 p.m.
Kingston Confederate Cemetery, April 28, 2:30 p.m.

Mystery Photo Needs ID

EvHS member Lynn Smith Neal found this handsome photo of an unknown man in an Alabama bookstore. Written on the back was "Cartersville, Georgia." Lynn would be interested in finding out who he is. If you recognize the man in the photo, please contact Lynn through EVHS at evhs@evhsonline.org.

Congratulations to Mary Norton, recently appointed to the board of directors of EVHS.
Mary brings numerous skills and a passion for local history to the table, and the board is looking forward to working with her.