



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



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P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

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A Historic Moment In Bartow County 1903 Courthouse Centennial & Opening of the Cornerstone

An estimated 500 visitors turned out for the centennial celebration of the 1903 Bartow County Courthouse and the opening of the courthouse cornerstone on Sunday, January 12, 2003. The date marked the 100th anniversary of the original dedication of the historic structure, and the two ceremonies had many things in common, including a curious crowd, the presence of local Masons, speeches, and a community band.

While the ceremonies at the turn of the last century were held outdoors, the weather one hundred years later was not as cooperative, and at the last moment, the ceremonies and reception were moved inside and upstairs. It was standing room only in the 200-plus seat courtroom, with the crowd spilling into the grand jury room, out into the lobby, down the staircases, and into the lower lobby.

EVHS president David Parker presided over the ceremonies, welcoming guests, introducing the many honored guests, and thanking those who helped make the day possible. Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown was the keynote speaker. Following in the footsteps of our county fathers, whose speeches were printed in the local paper, EVHS will print David's and the Commissioner's addresses in the next issue of the EVHS Newsletter, due out in March.

Following Brown's address, the Commissioner made the ceremonial first cut of the beautiful and delicious anniversary cake donated by Cartersville Kroger, which was big enough to feed almost the entire crowd. Guests were invited to remain and enjoy the music of the 20-piece Etowah Jazz Society, who generously donated their Sunday afternoon for the occasion. The extravagant reception was provided by the fifteen historical organizations and four courthouse offices who participated in the event, and included a smoked ham, prepared just for the occasion, in addition to traditional fare.

Moving downstairs and outside, Commissioner Brown again followed ceremony by cutting the red ribbon that had been stretched across the towering pillars at the front of the courthouse. The crowd then moved to the southeast corner of the building, where the cornerstone had been prepared to reveal its hundred year old secret.

See Courthouse Celebration, continued on page 3



Sgt. Larry Sage (left) and Deputy Jerome Wells, with the Bartow County Sheriff's Office, stand guard over the hundred year old artifacts retrieved from the courthouse cornerstone. Right, director of the Bartow History Center Michele Rodgers and EVHS president David Parker prepare the items for viewing. On the table, immediately in front of Sgt. Sage, is the corroded and disintegrating metal box that county fathers hoped would protect the newspapers, Confederate notes, and other items interred 100 years ago.

**The Etowah Valley Historical Society &
The Bartow History Center Present**

**The Architecture of
Bartow County
With Guest Speaker
Architectural Historian
Dr. Fred McCaleb**

**7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2003
at The Encore Room, on Wall Street
in downtown Cartersville**

Open to the Public. Refreshments will be served.



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The EVHS office and research
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Visit EVHS online at
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1903 Courthouse Centennial Celebration

Where No Man Has Gone Before Well, not in a hundred years, anyway.

One hundred years ago our county fathers, with great wisdom and foresight, thought to leave us relics from their era in the form of a time capsule sealed in the 1903 courthouse cornerstone. We know about it, we even know what is in it, because it was reported by the local newspaper at that time. What our forefathers and the newspaper failed to leave us, however, was instructions on how to retrieve the time capsule.

So it was with some trepidation that EVHS undertook preliminary work on the cornerstone prior to its opening during ceremonies on January 12th. What we discovered was that, while a lot of thought went into preparing the time capsule, not much thought was given to how we were going to get it out.

EVHS contracted with Scott Swanson, a Cartersville resident and owner of Swanson Custom Services, Inc., to tackle the delicate job. Swanson brought in third generation masons Charlie and Chipper Iamónico, with Chip Off The Old Block Masons in Acworth. The team met with EVHS president David Parker early in December to discuss methods of opening the cornerstone. Then, at 11:00 on the morning of December 21, 2002, the preliminary work on the cornerstone was begun.

A masonry saw was used to cut through the mortar between bricks lying just above



Scott Swanson uses a masonry saw to cut into the mortar between bricks lying just above the cornerstone.



Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown (right) stopped by the courthouse on Saturday, December 21st, during the preliminary work on the cornerstone. Left is Charlie Iamónico, owner of Chip Off The Old Block Masons, and contractor Scott Swanson, owner of Swanson Custom Services, Inc.

the cornerstone. By 12:00, four bricks had been removed. But instead of finding a hollow space that would have allowed access to the time capsule, the masons discovered a solid interior of mortar several inches thick. You can imagine the puzzled looks and head scratching that followed.

After some discussion, the team decided to cut and chip away the mortar. A lot of dust was kicked up by the saw during the procedure. Then, to everyone's surprise and delight, dust was seen escaping from a small opening on the other side of the cornerstone, indicating a hollow interior. Swanson, who handled the saw, was the first to see an exposed corner of what had not been seen in one hundred years—a metal box, the time capsule!

Work continued until enough of the mortar was cleared away to allow the removal of the box. About that time, Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown stopped by to check on the progress. We didn't open or remove the time capsule, but sealed the space back up with soft mortar and the bricks that had been removed.

It was a whole day's work, but worth it to prepare the cornerstone for the courthouse's 100th anniversary celebration. Surprisingly, with all the holiday traffic on the roads, no one stopped to question us as to who we were, or what we thought we were doing sawing up the courthouse. ☺

Courthouse Celebration, continued from page 1

Michele Rodgers, director of the Bartow History Center, and David Parker climbed the scaffolding and donned white linen gloves to gently remove the items from the cornerstone. Unfortunately, the years had not been kind, and all the items suffered some kind of damage. Paper items—newspapers, letters, manuals, and Confederate bills—were most affected, either by water leaking into the cornerstone or damage from the lime mortar used to set it in place.

One of the most intriguing items taken out of the cornerstone was a tiny slip of paper with a child's handwriting identifying the author as Kate Smith, with the date April 24, 1902, the day the time capsule was interred and the cornerstone laid. The note from Miss Smith was not included in the list of items known to have been placed in the cornerstone, and so was a surprise to find.

Once removed, the items were taken inside, to the EVHS office, where a crowd quickly gathered to view them up close. Despite their poor condition, many of the newspapers were still legible, as were some of the Confederate notes.

Guests continued to enjoy the music and reception, lingering over the tables in the downstairs lobby, where Bartow County's many historical organizations had set up displays. Overheard among the chatter of guests were memories of "growing up" in the courthouse and recollections of ancestors who had been present when the courthouse was built and who "would have loved to be here today."

By 4:30, it was all over, and another historic moment in Bartow County's illustrious life had passed. The items removed from the cornerstone have been taken to the Bartow History Center where they will be displayed throughout the year. Suggestions and donations for items from our century to be placed back into the cornerstone will be received by EVHS at a future date.

EVHS extends its heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the 1903 Courthouse Centennial Committee for an outstanding job well done. Thank you and congratulations Chantal Parker, Lois Hill, Lelia Johnson, Tish Johnson, David Parker, and Norma Tidwell. There are many others who deserve recognition, and they will be featured in a follow-up article in our next issue. ☺

More Courthouse Centennial Photos on Page 7



Left: David Parker looks on as Michele Rodgers examines the first item retrieved from the cornerstone—a "clump" of newspaper, some of which scattered like snowflakes when the wind blew.

Below: Spectators watched with anticipation as the cornerstone was opened and the contents slowly revealed. Oohs and ahhs accompanied the revelations.



Commissioner Clarence Brown cuts the ceremonial ribbon accompanied by (l-r) Adairsville Mayor Doyle Penson, Euharlee Mayor Steve Worthington, and Cartersville Mayor Mike Fields.



It was a packed courtroom, with an estimated 500 visitors turning out for the courthouse centennial celebration.

EVHS Celebrates Its Courthouse Office Volunteers



EVHS Courthouse Office Volunteers, pictured left to right are (Front row:) Rosemary Clabo, Wilma Cantrell, EVHS Office Chairperson Linda Trentham, Martha Mercer, Ellen Thomasson, Norma Tidwell, Emily Champion & Carolyn Parmenter. (Second row:) DiAnne Monroe, Ann Bridges, Laurette Smith, Pat Mansfield, Jean Cochran, Tricia Simmons & Tish Johnson. (Back row:) Ed Thomasson, Linda Cochran, Glenda Collier, Lelia Johnson, Trudy Redwine, Bob Redwine & Jerry Simmons. Not pictured are: Becky Boyle, Carol McLean, Joretta Scott & Candy Antonio.

The society celebrated some of its most outstanding members on Sunday, November 10, 2002, with a lavish luncheon at Valley View honoring their volunteerism. These are the ladies and gentlemen who keep the courthouse office open five and six afternoons a week, and whose dedication to that task allows the community greater access to the society and its research facility.

Volunteers were waited on by members of the EVHS Board of Directors, who planned and prepared the luncheon, and served as waiters.

Tables were set with fine linen, antique china, and crystal goblets, with rose and candle centerpieces and silver candelabra. The four course meal began with Fall Cream Soup, followed by a green salad with pears, gorgonzola, and toasted pecans. The main course featured Selma's Baked Chicken, accompanied by Potato Onion Casserole, fresh green beans with basil and toasted pine nuts, and cream biscuits. Dessert was a cranberry cake with caramel sauce.

The volunteers felt "special" and "pampered" with the attention lavished on them, and that is just what the board of directors had hoped for. "The courthouse volunteers are vital to the success of the society, and I just don't know what we would do without them," said president David Parker.

"Some of these ladies have been volunteers since the office opened in 1995," said Guy Parmenter, outgoing president and advisor to the board. "It's a very generous thing they do for the society, and we are very, very grateful to them." ☺



Above: An elegant atmosphere was just the beginning of the pampering received by the volunteers attending the luncheon at Valley View, the antebellum home of Robert and Mary Norton.

Below: Joe Head, Vice-President of Programming, tends bar.



History & Archeaology at the Georgia D.O.T.

Membership Meeting

November 4, 2002

They're out there protecting our history and heritage—people who make it their profession to preserve historic sites from development—and they work for the Georgia Department of Transportation!

Historian Lisa Crawford, archaeologist Terri Lotti, and their supervisor Rowe Bowen work within the DOT to ensure that guidelines set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 are adhered to when development threatens Georgia's historic resources. The act was established to "ensure that the impact of growth and development on historic properties are considered as Federal projects and programs are planned and carried out." And that's just what this team of DOT employees does.

The presentation, "Introduction to Archaeological and Historical Assessment for Compliance with Section 106 through the Georgia DOT," explained the process involved in determining eligibility for historic status and the effects development would have on historic properties, and used many Bartow County examples to illustrate their points.

To be considered a historic property, the structure or site must meet eligibility requirements for the National Register of Historic Places. Under those guidelines "it's sometimes surprising to discover what is eligible and what isn't," Crawford said, adding that she's assessed beautiful, seemingly historically intact homes that were not eligible, only to assess an "ugly little building" that met every criteria for eligibility.



Rowe Bowen, Lisa Crawford, and Terri Lotti, with the Georgia Department of Transportation, were guest speakers at the November EVHS membership meeting.

Currently, the team is working to assess property in the Hardin Bridge area, as the DOT has plans to widen the road through there. So far, a pre-Civil War home, used as a hospital during the war, and a Native American archaeological site across the road have been deemed eligible. The DOT has contacted Bartow County officials and the Etowah Valley Historical Society about the historic property, and will remain in touch with them throughout the project.

A copy of the Power Point presentation is available in printed form at the EVHS office. Members and others are welcome to view it at any time. ☺



Spring Bank White Oak

A Georgia Landmark

The giant white oak at Springbank was recently awarded landmark status by the Georgia Urban Forest Council, who placed it on the Georgia Landmark & Historic Tree Register. The award states that the tree "has been recognized because of its unique history and circumstances, and due to its significance to the history of the City of Cartersville, Bartow County, and the State of Georgia."

EVHS member J.B. Tate handled the nomination and accepted the award on behalf of the society on November 7, 2002. The second-largest white oak in the state, and estimated to be 250 to 300 years old, the tree was featured in an EVHS tour of Springbank this past September. (See *Ramble to Spring Bank*, EVHS Newsletter, Vol. 46, November 2001.) ☺



Donna & Charlie Puckett

It's the most wonderful time of the year, when EVHS members come together to celebrate the season and enjoy the company of friends. A triple bill of entertainment and a visit from old St. Nick made this year's affair even more enjoyable.

Guests received the Christmas spirit at the front door, as Santa greeted everyone with hails of "Ho! Ho! Ho!" The spirit lingered, accompanied by the beautiful piano music of Duron Davis, who played a repertoire of traditional holiday music, prior to and following dinner.

Vice President of Programming Joe Head entertained guests with the history and evolution of that most enduring symbol of the season, Santa Clause. Joe's history was illustrated with Santa figurines depicting the jolly elf through his various European and American incarnations.

Noel Parrot shared "A Cajun Night Before Christmas" with the audience, complete with an authentic Cajun accent that made the poem even more delightful.

It was a wonderful conclusion to another outstanding year of EVHS activity, as everyone said good-bye to the old year and looked forward to the new one. ☺

Christmas at Rose Lawn December 7, 2002



Santa Claus (left) paid a special visit to the society to wish EVHS members a joyous holiday season. Pictured with Santa are Noel Parrot, who recited "A Cajun Night Before Christmas" to the delight of those in attendance; and pianist Duron Davis, whose rendering of holiday favorites kept the mood festive.



Jodeen Brown, Edsel Dean, & Betty Dean

Candlelight Battlefield Tour A Huge Success

Hundreds of reenactors gathered at Conyers, Georgia the first weekend in November for Civil War activities highlighted by a Candlelight Battlefield Tour. James Wooten, Interpretive Ranger at Pickett's Mill, along with Guy Parmenter, Ed Hill and James Hamilton of the EVHS Allatoona Battlefield Committee guided visitors on the evening tour, which included stops at trenches, medical tents, camp sites and civilian

vignettes designed to interpret aspects of Civil War history.

This was the second consecutive year EVHS has been asked to participate. The candlelight tour, sponsored and coordinated by Jim Butler, of the Salt River Rifles, raised over \$1,700. Proceeds from the tour go toward the preservation of Allatoona Pass Battlefield and Pickett's Mill Battlefield sites. EVHS received \$875.50, half of the proceeds, which Guy gratefully accepted on behalf of the society. "Jim does an outstanding job, and we're very grateful to him for including EVHS and Allatoona Pass in this exciting event," said Guy.

Sponsors of the weekend event included the Georgia Regulars, 57th Georgia, Georgia State Line, Hardee Battalion, and the Southern Refugee Society. ☺

Courthouse Centennial Continued



Commissioner Clarence Brown cuts the first piece of anniversary cake, while EVHS president David Parker and EVHS member Katie Mae Parker look on. Katie Mae videoed the proceedings in the hopes of her film being selected to go into the cornerstone.



Guests stood in a long line to sign the EVHS Guest Book, which will be copied and placed in the cornerstone, as part of the day's ceremonies, at the end of the year.



(l-r) Sgt. Larry Sage and Deputy Jerome Wells carry in the tray, lined with red velvet, where the time capsule items were placed when removed from the cornerstone. The officers stood guard over the cornerstone during ceremonies and continued to safeguard them once inside.



All twenty members of the Etowah Jazz Society attended the ceremonies, entertaining guests before and after the speeches. Their presence at the centennial followed traditions of a century ago, when the Cartersville town band performed at many public functions.

"Let us preserve the courthouse in its present beauty, both in its interior and exterior, handing it down unimpaired to those who shall soon take our place here. And let us paint upon these walls, wisdom, justice, and moderation..."

—Judge Augustus M. Foute, January 12, 1903



Left: Guests enjoyed visiting the 14 historical organizations that set up tables in the downstairs lobby to display local history.

Right: A plexiglass case protected the cornerstone items from the estimated 500 curious guests who turned out for the once-in-a-century event.



EVHS Family Tree Climbers Genealogy Workshops in 2003

If you've been wondering lately who your ancestors were, or where they were, then you may want to take a class or two in how to research your family tree. Linda Cochran announces that the Family Tree Climbers will sponsor four genealogy workshops in 2003. The free workshops are open to members and the public, and all books and materials will be provided at no cost.

Are your ancestors African-American? The first class of the new year will be a two-day workshop on "African-American Genealogy for Beginners." The class will meet on Saturday, February 1 and again on Saturday, February 8. Both classes will meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will cover basic genealogy for the beginner and the use of court documents to find slave ancestors.

If you have little or no prior instruction in genealogy, you'll want to sign up for the "Genealogy for Beginners" one-day workshop on Saturday, April 5th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The class will cover everything from the first step in looking back into your ancestry to the use of local, state,

and federal documents, with plenty of helpful tips and tricks in-between.

The two-day "Native American Genealogy" workshop on Saturday, June 7 and Saturday, June 14 promises to be the most popular class, as more and more people discover, or suspect, they have Native Americans in their family tree. Both classes will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will teach some basic genealogy. The class will focus on methods for researching Cherokee ancestry, but can be applied to any native tribe.

Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, but now you're stuck in a maze of brick walls? The "Advanced Genealogy" workshop might be just what you need to root out those ancestors who seem to have disappeared into a witness protection program. The one-day class will be taught on Saturday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The workshops will be led by Linda Cochran, chairperson of the FTC and a professional genealogist with over 20 years experience. And your ancestors don't have to be from Bartow County, or even from Georgia, for you to take advantage of the workshops. The research methods taught can be applied to any family in any county in any state. For more information, or to reserve your seat in one of the workshops, call EVHS at 770-606-8862 or email us at evhs@evhsonline.org. ☺

Etowah Valley Historical Society
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