



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



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Phone: 770-606-8862

## Oak Hill Tour Attracts Small Enthusiastic Crowd

It may not be the first place you think of when discussing historic sites in Bartow County, but Oak Hill Cemetery is one of the county's oldest, with not just one story to tell, but a multitude, recalling who we are, where we came from, and where we are going.

"The City on a Hill," Oak Hill, is the final resting place of thousands of people who called this county home. They were merchants and farmers, lawmakers and politicians, famous and forgotten folk, who built the homes we live in, the streets we drive on, and the downtown we cherish.

Historians and EVHS members David and Chantal Parker have been researching the inhabitants of Oak Hill for the last five years, hoping to glean insight into their lives and to share their stories with others. The couple first led a tour of the cemetery in May 2000, during the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's Ramble through Bartow County. The tour was "mildly successful," attracting a handful of cemetery enthusiasts, but it went well enough that the Parkers hoped another tour might be in their future.

That opportunity came on May 17 this year, when David and Chantal led what may be the first in an annual



*EVHS president David Parker led the tour of Oak Hill on May 17, 2003. Here he tells the story of D.B. Freeman, the youngest Confederate soldier and former editor of the local newspaper.*

series of Oak Hill Tours.

"It would be something different every time," David said. "We wouldn't necessarily focus on just the famous or well known people."

"We have streets and homes named after people no one's ever heard of," Chantal added. "Those are the people we want to introduce to the community. Theirs are the stories we want to tell."

*See Oak Hill, continued on page 4*



## Grab Your Spurs & Stetsons, We're Calling All Cowboys

Beverly Moore will be the guest speaker at the next EVHS membership meeting, August 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bartow County Library on Main Street in Cartersville. Beverly, an EVHS member, is a collector of cowboy movie memorabilia, whose collection includes hundreds of photographs and movie posters, toys, lunchboxes, and original 16 millimeter movies. Beverly will speak about the industry and her experiences meeting Hollywood cowboys.

*Cowboy movie fan Beverly Moore (right, inset) has been collecting cowboy movie memorabilia for most of her life. That's her and Roy Rogers in the framed photo to her right. Beverly's collection will be on display at the Bartow County Library during the August EVHS membership meeting.*



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The EVHS office and research facilities  
are located in the 1903 courthouse at  
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# These Happy Few, This Band of Sisters The Cherokee Club of Cartersville

By Chantal Parker

History is full of men. Very few women enter into the history books as having contributed to the progress of the nation, the state, or even our own Bartow County.

But as domestic as we may paint our female predecessors, they weren't all tied to the kitchen with apron strings. Some of them managed to escape through the back door in pursuit of something, anything, that might enrich their lives and improve their quality of life.

Enter the Cherokee Club of Cartersville.

The Cherokee Club was an organization of women—young, old, married, single—who banded together, at first, perhaps, for female companionship, but later, in 1895, as a progressive task force to be reckoned with.

Their earliest meetings were held in a room above Young Brothers Pharmacy, where they sipped tea and discussed poetry and literature. Early newspaper accounts of the club's activities suggest it was more than a "kitten club," but fail to give it any serious mention, often reporting that it was a "cute," "sweet," and "charming" thing that the ladies of the town now had something to do with their spare time.

At least twice in Cartersville's history, a few men in the town had tried to establish a public library. Both attempts (in the mid-1870s and the mid-1880s) failed miserably. For all their hype about Cartersville being a "cultured and sophisticated town," the male pillars of the community hesitated investing in a "repository for books."

Well, what the men of the town failed to do in two decades, the women managed to pull off within just a few years of organizing.

Bringing their own books from home, the ladies of the Cherokee Club began a library that was at first open only to members. As their ranks grew, so did their library, and in the late 1890s, they moved out of the room over Young Brothers and took up residence in two rooms on Erwin Street, in the building behind the Stein's Building (where Moon River Cafe is now located).

The "Library and Restroom" (not a bathroom, but a lounge) was open to all

women in the community who might "seek refuge from the heat of the day" or relax with a good book. It was a first for the city—a public place where only women were allowed entrance!

Women's clubs were all the rage at this time, a national phenomenon that helped bring women out of the dark ages under the guise of "civic duty." Clubs would take up projects to "ornament and beautify" their towns and cities. This often meant creating parks and gardens (greenspace) in downtown areas to soften the look of business and commerce, and make it more attractive to train passengers who might look out the window while stopped at the depot.

A park in downtown Cartersville, of which the Friendship Plaza is the latest incarnation, was constructed at the turn of the century and long maintained by the ladies of the Cherokee Club. An eyesore in the center of town, the strip of land on the west side of the railroad, from Church to Cherokee, was transformed by club members into an oasis of green, with shade trees, flowers, a trickling fountain, a bandstand, and seating for the weary. It was the club's pride and joy.

Funds for its creation were raised with teas, bake sales, a bazaar, and, no doubt, with what money could be squeezed from the generosity of their spouses. The Western & Atlantic later donated iron benches for the park when they refurbished the depot.

Other "improvements" made by the club during their 30-plus years in existence included a petition to close downtown stores at 6 p.m., a petition to close all businesses on Sundays, and another to close the movie house on Sundays, each undertaken successfully. They also built another park on the east side of the railroad, and continued to rebuild the west-side park as the city continually reclaimed, then abandoned, the area.

In its annual report in November 1901, the Cherokee Club gave notice that it intended to erect a library building that would also serve as a clubhouse. Oscar Peebles and Arthur (A.O.) Granger, whose wives served as club presidents not only of the local club,

*See Sisters, continued on page 5*

# Weinman Mineral Museum Hosts Dinner Meeting May 24, 2003

Guests to the EVHS May membership meeting enjoyed a free tour of the Weinman Mineral Museum, dinner in the picnic pavilion, and a talk by museum director Jose Santamaria. Santamaria came to Bartow County about 6 years ago with a background in art, but an interest in just about everything there is to know about the county's rich mining and mineral heritage. Sharing that knowledge with EVHS members, Santamaria proved to be as entertaining a speaker as the society has ever known.

As Santamaria tells it, millions of years ago, the Etowah Valley was a shallow sea that experienced earthquakes and volcanic activity. The sea has since receded, the volcanos have sputtered out, and the earthquakes have quieted, but, "there is still a lot of active geology in the area."

A good example of "active geology" is that infamous Georgia clay. What? You think it's just always been here? Nope. Weathering creates clay—the constant weathering of feldspar, an aluminosilicate made up of calcium, sodium, or potassium, that makes up more than 50% of the earth's crust. Mixed with iron oxides, weathered feldspar becomes red clay; mixed with sulfers, it becomes yellow clay. Cleaned of all its impurities, it becomes "white kaolin," or china clay.

## Mining and Mineral Highlights

- Ladd's Mountain was mined for lime, which was used in cement. Bartow's mining of limestone contributed greatly to the war effort in the 1940s. The last shipment of lime left the county in 1959.

- The first aluminum made in the U.S. was made with bauxite mined from Bartow and Floyd counties. At one time, a bauxite mine near Kingston was the only aluminum mining site in the U.S.

- The oldest rock in Georgia is a granite formation formed 1.1 billion years ago at the Vulcan Quarry in Bartow County. It is currently being mined by Vulcan Materials as aggregate to build roads. (It takes 85,000 tons of rock to make one mile of road!)

- Bartow has an earthquake fault, once very active, known as the Cartersville Fault. Unlike the San Andreas fault in California, the Cartersville Fault cannot be seen due to weathering and erosion.

- A gold belt running between Bartow and Lumpkin was split by the once active Cartersville Fault. Most of the gold in the county was located around Pumpkinvine Creek, and was mined until 1929. The majority of Bartow's remaining gold deposits are now located under Lake Allatoona.

- Next time your doctor prescribes a barium milkshake,



*EVHS members enjoyed a complimentary tour of the Weinman Mineral Museum during the May meeting. Pictured left to right are Louise Rogers, Norma Tidwell, Tish Johnson, Carolyn Parmenter, and Lelia Johnson.*

raise your glass in a toast to Bartow County for mining the barite you're about to ingest. Barite is also used for, among other things, strengthening shoe foam. Yuck!

- Ochre and barite deposits in the county were brought up from the interior of the earth in volcanic vents active billions of years ago. Ochre is used for coloring items such as paint products, makeup, clothes, and dog food. Ochre is still mined today by New Riverside Ochre.

- Manganese is associated with, and usually found near iron, and was mined in Bartow County until 1950. Manganese from Bartow contributed to the U.S. stockpile during the Cold War.

- Bartow County has six caves: Anthony's Cave, Busch Cave, Chert Chasm, Ladds Lime Cave, Yarborough Cave, and the Kingston Saltpeter Cave, which Santamaria tells us is "the ugliest cave you'll ever see." Nonetheless, this and other county caves are popular hangouts for spelunkers. (Dellinger Lake's disappearing trick a few years ago was the result of the lake's water leaking into an underground cave!)

EVHS has long been looking for a way to take its membership to other organizations across the county for opportunities to learn more local history. The dinner meeting at the Weinman was the first such venture, and our heartfelt thanks go out to director Jose Santamaria and his staff for making the evening such a pleasant and enjoyable event.

The museum offers a wonderful opportunity to learn about rocks and minerals. And let's not forget the fossils! Many of the museum's items come from Bartow County, but the collection includes items from across the state and nation, including a moon rock from, well, the moon. Interactive displays include a fossil dig and panning for gems and minerals. For more information about the Weinman Mineral Museum, call them at 770-386- 0576, or visit them online at [www.weinmanmuseum.org/](http://www.weinmanmuseum.org/) ☺



## Oak Hill, continued from page 1

Below is a reprint of the article David wrote describing the Oak Hill tour for his Sunday column in the *Daily Tribune News* (May 25, 2003).

Last Saturday, I had the opportunity to lead a tour of Oak Hill Cemetery for the Etowah Valley Historical Society. I hoped to introduce folks to some of the famous and not-so-famous Cartersvillians who are buried in Oak Hill and to show some of the beauty and history of the cemetery.

We started just inside the main entrance at the grave of Katharine Munford, the young mother who was killed in 1918 saving the life of her young son when her car stalled on the railroad tracks. (I wrote about her a couple weeks ago for Mother's Day.)

Then we moved to the Feltons, William and Rebecca. William served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, but his wife, the first woman in the U.S. Senate, is better known today. At the back of the Felton plot is a monument to "Mother's Precious Children," the four she lost and buried there.

Just up the hill is the Jones family. Everyone knows Sam Jones, the South's most famous evangelist of a century ago, so I talked about Laura, his wife. In her diary, Laura wrote that Sam's fame, which took him from home so often, was the cross she had to bear. She gave up much for her husband, including (at her death) her own identity: beside the headstone for "Rev. Sam P. Jones" is Laura's, with its inscription, "Mrs. Sam P. Jones."

At the grave of David Bailey Freeman, I pointed to his monument and read his birth date: May 1, 1851. Then I said that he joined the Confederate army on May 16, 1862. Folks quickly did the math: he enlisted two weeks after his 11th birthday, hence becoming the youngest known Confederate soldier.

As we walked among the headstones, we talked about the symbols and artwork on cemetery monuments: the Bibles, the open gates, the crosses and crowns, the fingers pointing upward, and so on. The headstone of Teden Anna Wylie, who died just before her fourth birthday, is topped with a carving of her shoes and socks!

At Bill Arp's grave, I read his story about his wife's attempts to teach their daughters how to make light bread. His little granddaughter Sara died the day of his funeral, and was buried with him.

When we reached the grave of C.S.A. General P. M. B. Young, I described his experiences with his roommate at West Point, George Armstrong Custer, and told how Young's brave and dashing leadership on the battlefield led to his promotion to the rank of major general at the age of 28. We have, at Oak Hill, both the Confederacy's youngest soldier and its youngest major general.

We then walked to the oldest section of the cemetery, which began in 1838 as the graveyard for Ebenezer Methodist Church. The cemetery continued after the church moved into town in 1848 (it is now Sam Jones Methodist) and became the city cemetery in the 1870s.

In this section, dozens, maybe hundreds, of graves are now unmarked, and many stones are no longer legible. The oldest remaining identifiable marker belongs to Ephraim Sanders, who died in 1844.

Here is buried Uriah Stephens, station master of the Kingston depot in 1862 and one of the heroes of the "Great Locomotive Chase."

Here too is John Jones, Sam's father. On his deathbed in 1872, the elder Jones told his sons that he would see them soon in heaven—except for Sam, whose drunkenness had broken the heart of his old father and his young wife. Hearing this, Sam vowed to

quit, and a few weeks later he started preaching.

We visited the grave of Amos Akerman, U.S. attorney general in 1870-71. In the years after the Civil War, Akerman (predecessor of Janet Reno and John Ashcroft) did more to protect the rights of African-Americans than any other attorney general in history.

We ended the tour back at the main gate, near the ancient mulberry trees whose red berries decorate the markers of those buried underneath.

We had explored just a small part of the cemetery that day, but it was enough, I hope, to show that Oak Hill is a wonderful part of our history, a part we should preserve and appreciate. ☺





*The Mary Munford Memorial Library, built in 1903 by the Cherokee Club, was located on Public Square and Cherokee, at the rear of the present day fire station. It was the county's first public library, and served as a club house for the club.*

but of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, contributed enormously to the project. The city of Cartersville donated the land. Other large contributors were Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Sims and Emma Jones Munford. "Sim" Munford was one of the largest landowners in the county, and a pioneer in developing the county's mineral resources.

During the drive to build the library and clubhouse, the Munford's youngest daughter, Mary, not yet out of her teens, fell ill with a stomach ailment. Mary was an active club member and devoted herself to the library project. Her illness struck just as ground was being broken for the library in November 1902; she died one month after its completion, in June the next year. The loss was devastating to the Munfords, and in honor of the couple's generosity and in memory of their terrible loss, the club ladies voted to name the library the "Mary Munford Memorial Library."

It was the greatest success the Cherokee Club would ever achieve—not just a public library, but a library building, a legacy that the women of the club handed down to us, and which we continue to have in the form of the Bartow County Public Library System.

The Cherokee Club survived until at least 1927, the year of the club's last minute book. It's not known what became of the minute books, or the club. The world was a very different place three decades into the "new" century. Women were very different. How much need, or desire, could there have been for a woman's club?

But the next time you enjoy the shade of those grand old oaks in downtown Cartersville, relish an evening of jazz in the plaza, or check out a book from the library, think about the ladies of the Cherokee Club who, a hundred years ago "dreamed dreams and saw visions," and helped create a future in which we reap the benefits. ☺

## Cherokee Club A Strong Factor In City of Cartersville's Progress

By Mrs. W. W. Daves

*From The Cartersville News, October 28, 1909*

The Cherokee Club of Cartersville, Ga. was organized in 1895, joined the State Federation in 1896, the General Federation in 1899, and was chartered in 1902. Perhaps no other club in the state, certainly none in the towns of like size with Cartersville, has such a record. The Cherokee Club is one of the few clubs in the State Federation belonging to the General Federation, and one of the few owning a club home.

Organized at first as a purely literary affair, with about twenty members, "It grew, and it grew, and it grew," until now it numbers a membership of over one hundred and has become one of the potent factors in the progress of the town.

While the club was growing it was looking about for something to do, for an aimless woman is like a ship without a rudder, and there were no aimless women in our club.

The first object which presented itself for our fostering care was a public library. The nucleus of one, gathered at random by individual donations, "library teas," etc., was here, and during the administration of Mrs. J. G. Greene, she made an appeal to Carnegie for \$50. This he gave and we thanked Carnegie and Mrs. Greene, and only regretted that she had not asked for more.

We had some among us who "dreamed dreams and saw visions," and among the dreams which came true was the beautiful building which is the home of the Cherokee Club, and the Mary Munford Memorial library. Would that the lovely girl in whose honor this memorial stands could have enjoyed this full fruition of her hopes.

Perhaps it would not be amiss just at this point to call attention to the fact that the Cherokee Club is one club in the state maintaining a free public library. But "honor to whom honor is due," and it is through the generosity of Mrs. L. S. Munford, chairman of the library committee, such a thing has been made possible. During the past four years she has given nearly \$3,000 for the work of the club and library. When the club honored itself in establishing the Mary Munford Memorial library, Mrs. Munford loyally took up the work, which had been so near her daughter's heart, and since that time her hands have been ready and her purse open for all demands of the library.

One has but to step any afternoon or evening into our library reading room, with its handsome furnishings, electric lights, beautiful and harmonious colorings of walls and woodwork, well filled shelves of books, of fiction, history and reference, to realize what our town owes to the loving thought, and unselfish nature of one woman.

Another milestone to mark our onward march, was the park. Ten years ago a strip of ground bordering the

*See Cherokee Club, continued on page 8*

# Herschel Wisebram: The Voice of Radio on WBHF

## Membership Meeting

### June 19, 2003

When EVHS Vice-President of Programming Joe Head introduced Herschel Wisebram at the June membership meeting, he recalled this story: When he was a little boy, Joe used to lay in bed, long after his parents had told him to go to sleep, listening to his transistor radio (fancy, new technology way back then). Drifting off to sleep, he would listen to a familiar and comforting voice that would come to evoke home for him, and for many Bartowans. "It was the voice of Bartow County, the voice of Cartersville," Joe recalled. It was the voice of Herschel Wisebram on WBHF Radio.

How many of Bartow's children, now in adulthood, could tell the same story?

Herschel Wisebram, "the Voice of Radio," has been associated with WBHF since 1952, first as an announcer and later as the station's owner. Now retired, Herschel, an EVHS member, still makes appearances on WBHF as a weekly guest of morning show host Sam Irwin. Still "tuned in" to the masses, Herschel's intimate knowledge of local history and events, charming wit, and country boy appeal keep him ever in demand, maintaining his status as a local celebrity.

One of Herschel's last "on the scene" live broadcasts was in May 2000, during Cartersville's Sesquicentennial Celebration, when he emceed "Business Back Then" in the 1873 courthouse on the square. Herschel conducted over thirty interviews of business owners, and numerous other interviews with people in attendance. His sweeps through the crowd, with microphone in hand, contributed greatly to the exciting and carnival atmosphere of the event, and it wouldn't have been the same without him.

Herschel recalled many events and many people significant to the history of WBHF, including the station's first announcer, John Hamrick, who was in attendance at the meeting. Hamrick was with the station from day one, bringing local and national news and sports into homes all across the county. "We thought we were the best," Herschel said of the station's national news coverage.

With "programs for all listeners," WBHF took to the airwaves on July 12, 1946, just days before the Democratic Primary, which gave listeners their first taste of blow-by-blow election coverage. "Election night was always a big event," Herschel said. The station also carried live coverage of Cartersville City Council meetings, beginning in the 1960s.

WBHF was founded by Ryan Frier, a South Georgia native, who had earlier come to Bartow County and founded the *Bartow Herald*, which he eventually sold to the Fleetwood family. At that time, the station was located in downtown Cartersville in the old Sam Jones building,



*Above: Radio personality Herschel Wisebram and station director Matt Santini strike a pose in front of the WBHF Wall of Awards, which includes the Georgia Association of Broadcasters "Radio Station of the Year" award (1978).*

*Below: Tour guide Matt Santini, also an EVHS member, led the tour of the station following Herschel's talk.*



where the Cartersville School of Ballet is now located. The transmitter was on West Avenue, about two miles from downtown. The station moved to the location of the transmitter in 1949, following construction of a new 1,300 square foot building.

Ryan Frier died in 1969, and Herschel purchased the station from his estate. "We continued to be the media that set the pace in the community," Herschel said. "We covered everything, ballgames, news, elections, political forums, everything."

One highlight in Herschel's career as owner, was the station's coverage of Cartersville's celebration of the nation's bicentennial in 1976. As Herschel explained it, they thought it would be a good idea to sponsor an essay contest among the schools. Little did "they" realize just how successful the contest would be. Having promised to read

*continued on next page*

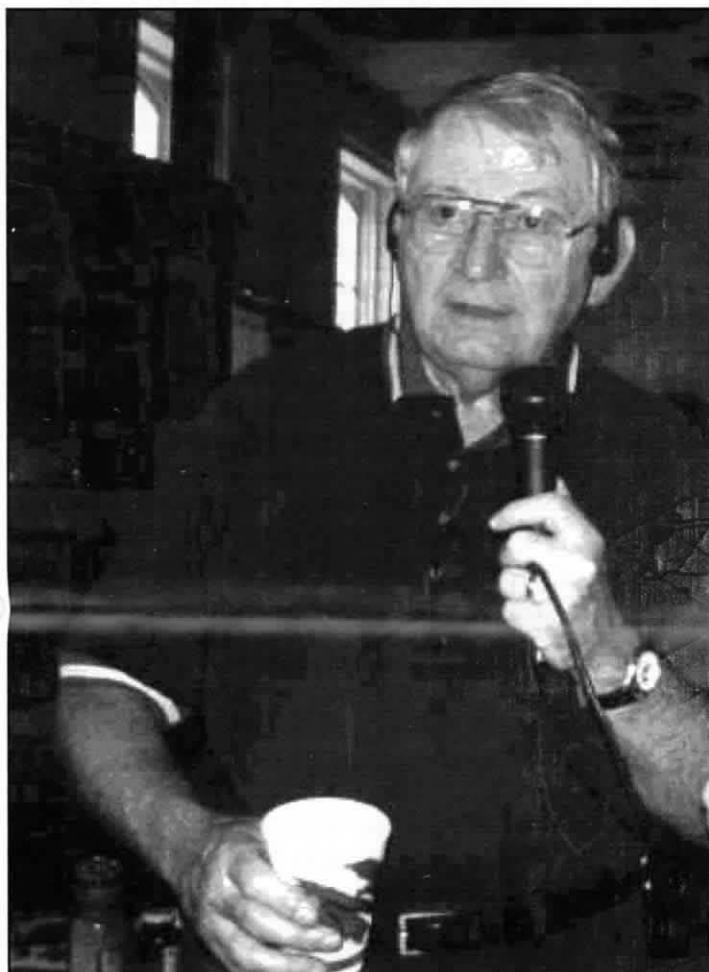


# WBHF ON AIR WEDNESDAY

"The Everyone  
Subscription To The  
Herald, The Neatly  
Everyday Radio!"

## The Bartow Herald

20 Pages  
Today



every 30-second essay (75 words or less) they received over the radio, WBHF was flooded with over 1200 entries that tied up air space and backlogged regular programming for more than nine months.

"People were calling the station and asking us when we were going to quit with the essays and get back to the regular programming," Herschel said. "It was the darndest community service we ever did."

Much of the station's long-standing success has been due to its focus on community service, which continues to be the backbone of WBHF. But programming aimed at pleasing their diverse audience was also an early factor. Music included something for everyone—country, gospel, big band, jazz, bluegrass—and reached out to the entire community, young, old, black, white. Local productions included the comedy sketches of Betty Crane as "Mrs. Do Tell," and Daneise Archer as "Nurse Betty Pain." And scattered here and there throughout the programming, for almost half a century, was the voice of Herschel Wisebram, reassuring Bartowans of their wonderful hometown and their equally wonderful quality of life.

Retiring in 1999, Herschel sold WBHF to John Osher, owner of Prestige Cable. Osher had long been aware of the radio station's quality programming and community appeal, and had earlier struck a deal to put WBHF on the cable station's Channel 4. The arrangement remained even after Osher sold Prestige to Adelphia in 2002 (Osher kept WBHF).

The more things change, the more they remain the same, and last year WBHF returned to downtown. Now located between the Grand Theatre and the Bartow History Center on Wall Street, passersby can hear the programming piped through speakers as they sit and relax or enjoy a stroll through downtown.

EVHS was delighted to sponsor Herschel as a guest speaker. Following the meeting and a reception in the Encore Room, guests ambled down to the station, where station director Matt Santini led a tour of the facility, spoke about the day-to-day operation of the station, and proudly showed off the wall of awards won by WBHF. Our thanks to Herschel, Matt, and all the staff at WBHF Radio for making the evening so special.

*Listen to WBHF 1450 on your AM radio dial for announcements of upcoming EVHS events.* ☺



*Top: A banner headline announces the birth of radio in Bartow County. From the Bartow Herald, dated July 13, 1946.*

*Above: Herschel Wisebram reports live from the Cartersville Sesquicentennial "Business Back*

*Then" event in 2000.*

*Left: EVHS members Debbie and Merideth Head (left & center) get a close up look at how the station operates.*

*Cherokee Club, continued from page 5*

railroad, a dumping place for trash, and a paradise for loafers. Now it is a most attractive spot, enclosed with an iron fence, iron seats scattered about under trees and a fountain playing in the center.

Across the railroad, we have the East Park, which was laid out within the past year, and promises to become "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

For several years, under the auspices of the Cherokee Club a lyceum course was maintained. A number of the best attractions in the lyceum world, made their appearance in our town.

The Cherokee Club has done much along educational lines. It has given liberally to the Model School, at Cass Station, and to other enterprises under the care of the State Federation. It has also helped in the schools of Cartersville, and the county.

The Cherokee Club was the first southern club to do any practical work in domestic science. The Cooking School of last March, marked a new era in the Household Economics section of the club. The teacher of Domestic Science in the Normal School at Milledgeville was with us

for a week, and the cooking school was one of the most successful undertakings in the history of the club.

The Cherokee Club is the only one in the state with its own column in the weekly newspaper. That is a recognition on the part of the editor of the Cartersville News, of the club as a factor in the life of the town. Editor Freeman is a friend and co-worker with the women in all their efforts for the upbuilding of the town and county. ☺

**The Kingston Women's History Club  
hosts EVHS Membership Meeting**

**5:30 p.m., Saturday, August 23**

**Dinner \$12**

Proceeds and donations will benefit  
the club's memorial to Kingston veterans  
of American wars

Join us for dinner and a free tour of the  
Kingston Civil War and Heritage Museum

RSVP 770-606-8862



*This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dorothy Ann Pim Roth*



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

[www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

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