



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



Volume 51, September 2003

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

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Come Harvest Our History

2003 Tour of Historic Homes

November 1 & 2

By Masie Underwood

The biannual EVHS "Come Harvest Our History" Tour of Historic Homes is just around the corner, and members of the EVHS Preservation Committee are already at work making plans for the event that not only helps raise funds for EVHS projects, but also brings awareness to what is being done in Cartersville and Bartow County to preserve this rich heritage for future generations.

This year's "Come Harvest Our History" is planned for November 1 & 2, and, as always, will begin at the gold-domed 1903 Bartow County Courthouse, where shuttle buses will pick up tour participants. Hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

This year's tour is special in that it coincides with the 100th anniversary of the gold-domed courthouse, which is in the process of undergoing a facelift and will be open to the public for the tour. In honor of this historic milestone, the Preservation Committee has selected four homes that were constructed in the same period as the courthouse.

Also in conjunction with the courthouse anniversary, the Cartersville Downtown Development Authority has planned its annual Christmas Open House, "Home for the Holidays," for Saturday, November 1st. This year's DDA annual Cartersville Christmas ornament features a likeness of the courthouse. It will be on sale both days in the lobby of the courthouse, where tickets to the tour of homes will also be available.

Three of the homes featured on this year's tour are all closely tied together through the Adair family, one of Bartow County's pioneer families that contributed much to the growth of the community. These homes are all situated on West Avenue, once known as Rowland Street. When tour goers visit these homes, they will learn more about this historic area as well as these interesting structures and the Adair family.

The property on which the Adair-Kinsel House, the Warde-McLeod House, and the Chitwood-Goolsby-McEver House are located was once prime farmland that



Above: The Adair-Kinsel House, also known as the Frances Adair House, was built by Dr. Robert E. and Lula Mahan Adair about 1908.

Below: Two doors down from the Adair-Kinsel House is the Chitwood-Goolsby-McEver House, built circa 1907.



included several hundred acres owned by John and Sally Holland Leake, for whom Leake Street is named.

In 1908, the Kinsel property was purchased for \$1,200 by Sally Lula Mahan Adair, who with her husband Dr. Robert Adair built the existing house on the land. The Adairs had two children; William Stewart died at a young

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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

Preservation of Downtown Continues



This historic home at 217 South Erwin Street was recently purchased by EVHS member Ron Goss, who intends to restore it to its original charm for use as office space. The home was built in 1898 by Col. Matthew R. Stansell, who owned a brick yard on the south side of West Avenue.

the oldest home on the block, built in 1898 by brickyard owner Col. Matthew R. Stansell. The previous owner hoped to sell the property as a vacant lot, but Ron thought he saw something in the architecture of the house that suggested it was older than anyone suspected and just might be worth saving.

"Can I pick 'em, or what?" Ron said, when the deeds were researched and he learned just how old the house was. "I thought it was an 1890s structure." Ron's restoration of the homes takes advantage of the existing zoning and extends the downtown business district to what used to be, 100 years ago, the city limits.

Occupancy downtown is currently almost at 100%, quite a turnaround from just a few years ago. Many believe this is due to the restoration boom that has recently been taking place. And that restoration effort got a boost earlier this year when the EVHS Preservation Committee began researching the historic buildings and erecting Heritage Signs (historic markers) so building owners, business owners, and downtown shoppers could experience the full measure of downtown's historic charm. The history has been researched and the signs are up on about fifteen buildings. 15 down, about 85 to go!

"It's an enormous task," said John Lewis, chairman of the Preservation Committee, and owner of a few downtown buildings himself. "We've gotten a start on it, anyway."

Even with all those buildings downtown, there is still plenty of room for growth, as the new construction on West Main (across from Noble Street) can attest. And with a couple of loft apartments already in place, and more planned, downtown appears to be growing upward as well.

Well, he's at it again. After restoring a number of buildings in the heart of Cartersville's downtown (including the Bradley Building), Ron Goss has purchased three properties on South Erwin Street that will soon benefit from his magical touch.

The properties, located between Leake Street and West Avenue, until recently were occupied as residences. Following restoration, they will be leased out as office space. Two of the three have already been assigned tenants.

The oldest of the three properties is also



The Heritage Sign for the Lewis building, where Main Street Bookstore now is, acknowledges not just the historic building, but the many businesses that called it home for the last 123 years!

Down Douthit's Ferry Road

The following is an article published in The Standard and Express under the headline "Rural Observations" on June 20, 1872. Douthit's Ferry Road is located near Cartersville Middle School, and in 1872 was miles from town. Given the recent growth of development in this area, the editors thought you might enjoy this virtual carriage tour of the drive to the river with its scenes of rural life 131 years ago.

On Thursday of last week we rode out into the country to view the farms and crops of some of our agricultural friends, and enjoyed our excursion exceedingly well.

As we passed down the Douthitt's ferry road, our attention was first attracted by the fine crops of corn, cotton and wheat of our friend Capt. M. L. Pritchett. We decided that his cotton, taken as a whole, was the best that we had seen. It was thinned to a stand, had been well cultivated, was of uniform size, and gave promise of a large crop. His wheat also was good and the reaper was cutting it down after the best style of the art. How delightful to behold the golden grain, invariably and inseparably associated as it is with good eating. After crossing the river, we passed through Douthitt's and Quarles' farms and found them in good order, and with good crops upon them. As we passed Quarles', we saw the largest herd of young asses we ever beheld—that is of that variety. What a vast amount of braying will there be at that place, when they all turn loose!



The historic Douthit House was built before the Civil War by James and William Douthit, and until a few years ago sat on a hill at the corner of Indian Mounds Road and Douthit Bridge Road (also known as Douthit's Ferry Road). The house overlooked the Etowah River, on the other side of which was the Douthit farm.

Our next observations were made on the splendid farm of our kind and esteemed friend, Mrs. Field. She has about three hundred acres in cultivation, and to behold the sea of waving crops growing on those fertile lands reminds me of Egypt, whither the sons of Jacob went for corn. Here we gathered some specimens of wheat which we think equals any we ever saw. The grains are large, plump and firm. We saw on the farm what we never saw before—a water-melon field. There were four acres planted in vines, and the prospect was fine for a good crop. We suggest that a branch railroad be run in that direction, in order that those melons may be brought to town when they get ripe.

We found our clever young friend, Richard, following the plow as it turned the mellow soil, and we thought he displayed good sense in selecting an occupation so pleasant, so noble and independent. "Dick" has a nice crop of his own, and "while sluggards sleep, will have corn to sell and keep;" and not only will he have corn, but cotton and wheat too in abundance. If more young men would go to farming it would be better for them and the country too.

Returning homeward by way of Tumlin's mills, we passed our friend Capt. Dobbs' beautiful farm, and found his crops flourishing under his skillful management; and our friend Napoleon Tumlin has a good crop on his convenient and excellent farm.

Crossing the river we noticed that Col. Tumlin had harvested his fine wheat near the mill, and by putting them close together there seems to be room enough for the shocks to stand on the ground.

Capt. Puckett, Dr. Leake, Dr. Trotter and others have fine crops in the vicinity of town, and prospect is favorable for our people to have "plenty and to spare."



An 1865 Civil War Map locates the Douthit and Quarles (spelled differently) farms on the Etowah River near the old Douthit Bridge.

An Evening at the History Center

Membership Meeting

June 24, 2003

On Thursday evening, June 24, the Bartow History Center sponsored an Open House for EVHS members to view the preserved contents of the 1903 courthouse cornerstone and relive the experience of that exciting day, on January 12, 2003, when the cornerstone was opened. Of the hundreds of people who attended the cornerstone opening, many of whom were EVHS members, only a handful attended the Open House, which began in the Encore Room. Guest speakers for the evening were EVHS president David Parker, who helped open the cornerstone, and Trey Gaines, who is in charge of the collection.

David began the evening by recalling how the courthouse centennial celebration came to include the opening of the cornerstone with this passing thought: "Wouldn't it be cool?" Committee members took the idea to the commissioner's office, where Commissioner Brown and his staff concurred it was a great idea.

"We knew where the cornerstone was, and we knew there was a time capsule," David said. "We even knew what was in the time capsule because we had an item by item list." What David and the committee members didn't know was where in the cornerstone the time capsule was. Was it directly behind the cornerstone? Resting above? Just underneath? Was the cornerstone a decorative façade that could be removed, or was it solid? "It was a monster of a task just figuring out where the time capsule was," David told the audience.

The solution to locating the time capsule came in the form of a third generation Italian stone mason named Charlie Iamonico, owner of Chip Off The Old Block Masons in Acworth. Iamonico worked with Swanson Custom Services, who was contracted by EVHS for the job. Iamonico and his team carefully removed bricks directly above the cornerstone one by one, layer by layer, looking for any hint of an opening or container. Nothing was immediately obvious, and the team was "just about to pull up stakes, and move to another location," according to David, when Iamonico announced, "I see something." Having displayed, for hours, a wonderful sense of humor about the daunting task he had undertaken, it was hard to take the smiling mason seriously, but he was very serious and, as it turned out, he was right.

The time capsule rested just behind and level with the top of the cornerstone. What should have been an open cavity above it had been filled with limestone mortar. The capsule, which eventually proved to be a tin box partially rotted away, was left untouched and the limestone chipped away in preparation for the centennial celebration when



Trey Gaines, director of programming and archives at the Bartow History Center, and David Parker, EVHS president, reflected on the opening of the cornerstone and the preservation of the 100 year old artifacts during a meeting at an Open House at the History Center.

the items would be removed. "We didn't want folks to have to wait for hours on the big day," David said. "We wanted to make it accessible so the event would move quickly."

"It was one of the neatest experiences of my life, standing up there on the scaffolding with Michele Rodgers," David said enthusiastically. "We knew what to expect, but we didn't know what condition it was in."

The condition of the items turned out to be "disappointing." A cold wind caught the first thing out of the box—a crumbling, tightly rolled newspaper—and sent scraps of the hundred-year-old paper wafting through the air like snowflakes. As difficult as it had been for workers to reach the time capsule, weather had easily reached it, probably from day one, and spent the next hundred years working its ugly magic. Books, Confederate notes, and coins didn't fare any better. Nonetheless, the items are exciting to view, with many items easily legible.

"We wanted something spectacular to show folks," David said. "We hoped for something extra, some surprise." What they found, and David pulled out of the cornerstone, was a tiny slip of paper with a child's handwriting that said "Kate Smith, April 24, 1902." Maybe not spectacular, but certainly a surprise. David speculates that on the day the cornerstone was laid, the little girl, about 10 or 11 years old, got caught up in the excitement of the event, and begged (or nagged) her parents until they finally gave her a piece of paper on which to write her name and the date. "It was beautiful, legible, not at all muddy," David remembered. "Kate Smith was just a little girl, but her note showed that the courthouse didn't belong just to the judges and lawyers that gathered that day, but to all the

people of Bartow County, even the children.”

David has since looked for Kate Smith in the 1900 census, but was unable to find her. He told the audience that he thought she might be related to Robert and Eugene Smith, the contractors who built the courthouse. But one audience member suggested a cobbler by the name of Bud Smith, who is known to have had a daughter named Kate.

The romanticism of opening the cornerstone was immediately followed by the practical consideration of how to preserve and display the time capsule items, a task that fell on the shoulders of the History Center's director of programming and archives, Trey Gaines.

“Imagine a hundred years of extreme temperatures, heat, cold, humidity, rain,” Trey began his talk. “All of these had taken a toll on the items.”

Following David's and Michele's excavation of the cornerstone, Trey had climbed the scaffolding himself to take photos, clean out the box, and make sure all the items had been retrieved. Thank goodness he did; he found a couple of small coins, buried in dust, that had been overlooked. The dust was most likely mortar dust, created when Iamonico, the mason, opened the cornerstone prior to the celebration. Most of the tin box that held the items had rotted away, and though Iamonico covered the box with plastic after he found it, a lot of dust still managed to find its way in. A lot of dust!

“My jacket was covered in dust,” Trey said, “but it was cool and very neat to touch that part of history.” But the dust didn't stop there, as Trey explained. “Cleaning was tedious. The items were all very dusty, and we had to use small brushes to clean them.” There was so much dust, in fact, that, along with the display of items that evening, was a Ziplock bag of dust containing bits of newspaper and other “stuff” that remains to be sifted through.

But enough about the dust.

“When we inventoried, we found most of the items—most of the coins and some of the currency,” Trey said. He had especially looked forward to seeing those. The coins had undergone oxidation and corrosion, but many are still recognizable. Trey had also looked forward to seeing the Masonic apron, which he hoped would be more decorative and elaborate. “It wasn't,” he shrugged, but, along with the coins and currency, it is one of the main items in the Center's display.

Taking the preservation of the items one step further, early on the Center hired local conservator, Rene Stein. “We gave her several bundles of papers and coins to see if she could conserve the items,” Trey said. “When she dehumidified the

newspapers, allowing them to be unfolded, more coins fell out.” Despite the dry and brittle condition of the newspapers, they were in surprisingly good shape and are legible—in places. Trey credits their preserved state to the more durable type of paper and ink used back then.

During the process of preserving and conserving the items, and even as they were being removed from the cornerstone, white gloves were worn to protect the items from finger oils; even freshly washed hands can contain oils that, over time, will stain artifacts. Items not currently on display are kept in acid-free folders and containers to help preserve them in their present condition. Items on display in the History Center are encapsulated in clear Plexiglas, a plastic-like material that contains a minor light filter. This allows visitors to view the items easily, while protecting them from curious hands and the damaging effects of light.

Trey took the opportunity during the meeting to announce the decision by the EVHS Cornerstone Committee, of which he is a member, that items removed from the cornerstone would not be returned, but would remain at the History Center. “We hope to provide a stable environment to preserve them for future generations. Even though they're deteriorated, we want them to last, and we hope they will.”

Following the meeting in the Encore Room, visitors strolled down to the History Center, where they enjoyed refreshments and a private viewing of the cornerstone items. Just for the occasion, items not usually on display were brought out, including *Akin's Lodge Manual* and *Masonic Law Digest*, written by John W. Akin, and *Lines Written on a Confederate Bill*.

Our thanks go out to the director of the History Center, Michele Rodgers, for inviting EVHS to the Open House, and to Trey Gaines for all his hard work in helping to preserve the cornerstone items, for speaking to the Society, and being such a gracious host. Thanks also to our hostesses Texas Fowler and Tina Shadden. ☺



Tina Shadden and Trey Gaines look over the cornerstone items not usually on display, but brought out during a special Open House for EVHS members.

What Is It?

It's the cap of the gold dome of the courthouse!

Restoration of the dome began this summer, shortly after the county found out about its rapidly deteriorating condition. In August, workers began removing and replacing the metal sheets of the dome, and this top piece was the first to go.

Heroes, Heavies & Sagebrush

Membership Meeting

August 7, 2003

Growing up in Cartersville, Beverly Head Moore loved to go to the movies, where, for about 25 cents, she could settle in with a bag of popcorn and a cold soda, and watch cowboys gallop across the big screen. It was an afternoon of "heroes, heavies, and sagebrush," Moore recalled, as she addressed the large gathering of cowboy movie fans who had come to hear her speak and view her extensive collection of cowboy movie memorabilia at the August EVHS meeting at the Bartow County Library.

Beverly is more than a fan of cowboy movies, she is a fanatic. As a third grader, she would dress in cowboy boots and a cowboy hat for school, and was even known to don her "six shooters." Once, when a teacher asked her to surrender her weapons, Beverly struck a classic cowboy pose and, with guns drawn, dared the teacher, "If you want them, come and get them." It was the beginning of a life-long love of everything cowboy.

Beverly attended her first cowboy movie convention in 1972 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, where she met Lash LaRue, among others. "I couldn't believe how cordial they really were," she said. "They loved to talk and tell stories about how the movies were made," sometimes to the disappointment of their fans. Accompanying convention-goers to a showing of one of his films, LaRue dispelled the magic of movies when he spoke of numerous takes, stunt doubles, and papier-mâché boulders. The "King of the Bullwhip" even confessed to lash marks that covered his body from practicing with his whip. Even more surprising to Beverly, was his recitation of a scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Another mixed bag of joy and disappointment came for Beverly one year when she visited Paramount Pictures and the set of the hit TV western *Bonanza*. The building



Cowboy movie enthusiast and memorabilia collector Beverly Moore wowed the audience at the August EVHS membership meeting with her intimate knowledge of the cowboy movie industry.

was like a big gym, Beverly explained, with the different scene sets (living room, kitchen, front porch) set up against the walls. "He (the guide) asked me if I wanted to go upstairs, and I said, sure." But to Beverly's surprise, there was no upstairs; the famous staircase dead-ended at a wall. The guide eventually explained that there was no Ponderosa, real or make believe; that indoor scenes were shot there on the set, outdoor scenes were shot at a ranch in Thousand Oaks, California, miles from Hollywood, and scenes of the Ponderosa Pines were shot at Lake Tahoe, in Nevada. "Tahoe! That killed it for me," Beverly said. Many in the audience shared her disappointment.

Interspersed with stories of the 20 to 30 conventions she has attended and the many cowboys she has met, Beverly related a lot of cowboy movie history and trivia, beginning with the original and real cowboy, Tom Mix, a former Texas Ranger who appeared in over 300 westerns during the early days of silent film.

"The 1940s brought a new revolution of cowboys," Beverly said. Among them was Gene Autry, the original singing cowboy who, in the 1930s and '40s, commanded a whopping \$2,000 per picture, his own trailer, and a private phone so he could stay in contact with his broker.

Following Autry was Roy Rogers, Beverly's favorite cowboy and the quintessential "good guy in a white hat," who preferred to shoot the weapon out of his opponent's hand rather than kill him. "He was born in 1911 in Cincinnati, Ohio to a poor family, and was Choctaw on his daddy's side," said Beverly, who knew Rogers. Beverly told the story of how Rogers (born Leonard Franklin Slye) quit school when he was 16 or 17 to work with his father in a shoe factory, but

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Guests to the meeting enjoyed viewing Beverly's extensive collection of cowboy movie memorabilia and signing her guestbook, which asked "Who is your favorite cowboy?"

Continued from previous page

moved west during the depression, where he picked cherries. After forming a band, Rogers got a gig playing live on Roswell, New Mexico radio station from midnight to 6 a.m., where he met his first wife Arlene Wilkins. Following the death of Arlene, Rogers married his onscreen love, Dale Evans. The band would eventually become known as the Sons of the Pioneers, who crooned such western favorites as *Tumbling Tumbleweeds* and *Happy Trails*. The Sons also performed *Back in the Saddle Again*, a phenomenally successful song that continues to have a place in American culture.

"Gabby Hayes was my buddy too," Beverly laughed as she remembered the actor who found fame as a bearded, tobacco-chewing codger. "He was a natural, and a natural cut-up." Beverly recalled how Hayes would arrive on the set in an expensive suit, driving a fancy convertible, then take his teeth out and change into shabby clothes to transform into "Gabby."

Numerous other cowboys and cowgirls were discussed by Beverly during the evening. Red Rider, so called because of his red hair, was a character created by illustrator Fred Harmon, who wanted to portray how the West really was; a total of four actors played the part, but only the last one had red hair. John Wayne (The Duke) was passed around from studio to studio, appearing in various films, including *The Three Musketeers*, before his potential was finally recognized in a little western called *Stagecoach*. William Boyd, who played Hopalong Cassidy (aka Hoppy) in the 1930s and '40s, was the only movie cowboy to see into the future of television, buy the rights to all his movies, and sell them to the new media, making \$50 million in just six months!

Participation from the audience during Beverly's talk was outstanding, as members threw out the names of cowboy heroes they had grown up with, laughing and nodding at their recollection and the nostalgia they evoked. A few audience members remembered when Smiley Burnette and Lash LaRue made appearances at the Grand Theatre in Cartersville. One even said that she still had a photo of herself, at age 12, taken while posing with Burnette.

Beverly's enormous collection of cowboy movie memorabilia, amassed since childhood, numbers hundreds of pieces. Included in the large display she brought with her were children's Gene Autry and Roy Rogers guitars, Bonanza and other cowboy lunch boxes, movie posters, movie stills, and autographed photos of Beverly with the stars. Prized among her collection are her original 18 mm movies, that can fetch anywhere from \$150 to \$500 by collectors, depending on the film. But Beverly declares, "I'm hanging on to mine," and has preserved them with a special process that keeps the film from deteriorating.

Beverly is a graduate of Cartersville High School and Kennesaw College and is retired from Lockheed. She is the sister of EVHS vice president Joe Head, and is currently a docent at the Booth Western Art Museum. ☺

Tour of Homes, continued from page 1

age and daughter Frances was reared as an only child. At Lula's death on July 22, 1965, Frances received the house as part of her mother's estate. Frances left the house to her employee, Fannie Mae Brawner. The Kinsels purchased the home in 1992.

The Warde-McLeod House was built in 1909 by Gideon G. Warde, an Adair business partner who sold his home after his bride-to-be broke off their engagement. The Chitwood-Goolsby-McEver home, built in 1907, is also of great historic interest, and was at one time owned by the Adair family.

Also featured on the tour is the Shaw-Conyers-Archer House. This house, built in 1905 by Levi Shaw, has an interesting history as well, and is filled with many Archer family antiques.

Be sure to make plans to attend "Come Harvest Our History" this year and discover which of the four houses was once divided into two dwellings, and other little-known historic facts about the West Avenue area.

Tickets for the tour are \$10 and are available in advance by calling EVHS at 606-8862. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with the tour, call Masie Underwood at 770-386-8428 or Dianne Tate at 770-386-7944. ☺



*Above: The Shaw-Conyers-Archer House was built in 1905.
Below: The Warde-McLeod House was built in 1909.*



Recognize This?



Know What It Is?

Look inside for the answer.

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