

ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1993

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, Georgia 30120

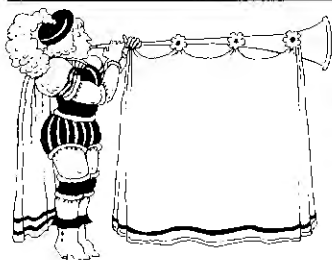
INTRODUCING YOUR NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



Officers (left to right) -Rosemary Clabo, Recording Secretary; Lance Barry, Vice President; Larry Gregory, President; Susan Taylor, Corresponding Secretary; Denise Conner, Treasurer.



Directors (left to right) - J. B. Tate, Diane Mooney, Michele Rodgers, Board Chairman Guy Parmenter, Linda Trentham, DiAnne Monroe. (Not Pictured - Emily Champion).



**HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!**

The Cemetery Book is here and available at Roselawn. Act now and get your copy for the pre-publication price of \$25.00. After December 10th, the price will be \$30.00. Books can be ordered by mail from The Society. Add \$3.00 per copy for postage and handling. These would make great Christmas gifts.

Congratulations and thanks to Mary Siniard, Chairperson, for a job well done. Linda Trentham and Lisa Ellis deserve our thanks also along with many others.

"Bartow County, Georgia (Formerly Cass) Cemeteries, Volume I" is now a reality...

Let the celebration begin!

WANTED NEW MEMBERS

Your Board of Directors has set a goal of 250 new members for 1994. DiAnne Monroe has been named Membership Chairperson. Solicitation by mail, broadened media coverage, and continued speaking engagements are all planned. You can help your society by asking a friend to join. Just imagine, if we all signed up one new member...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have the fine edition of the newsletter, January of this year, with Colonel Bogle's fascinating story about Father Sherman and how his party stayed at Overlook, Great Grandfather's house.

Not only that, but right there on the front page Lucy Cunyus Mulcahy is mentioned... she was our beloved next door neighbor in Atlanta.

I'm wondering about the availability and cost of extra issues...our family would love them.

This edition was forwarded to me by old friend Grady Golden.

Shanton Granger, New York, NY

My name is Lucy Word. Your organization recently did a piece on old mills in your area. You made a trip to Rogers Mill in Cartersville and interviewed my father, Bradley Word and his two brothers for your program. There was a wonderful article in your newsletter on the mill and I would very much like a copy of that article if possible. If you could please send me a copy I would be happy to pay the cost of the newsletter plus postage. I would also like to tell you how much I enjoyed the videotape copy of the program. I found it very interesting, educational and enjoyable. It really brought back some wonderful memories.

Lucy Word, Birmingham, AL

I received a newsletter published by your society from Mr. Jackson B. Harris of Rome, Georgia dated May 1993, containing an article on "The Oaks" and the "Kingston Methodist Church". I was so thrilled because both places mean so much to me. I am the great granddaughter of Dr. Crampton Smith Harris, nephew of Dr. Alexander Harris. Dr. C. S. Harris was a Rev. and a Dr. in the Confederate Army serving under Nathan Bedford Forrest. His father was Michael Harrison Harris that also resided for a while in the Oaks and is buried in or near Kingston, (I believe in the Connesena Cemetery), and he was also a preacher and a doctor there and in Virginia.

Dr. Crampton Smith's wife was Jenny Bradford and she came from Pine Log where her relatives stayed and I think they all felt it necessary to become preachers. At any rate, I have a lot of ties in that area and hope to get up that way next year.

I did enjoy your articles and if you know of any Harris relatives, I would like to correspond with them. One of my grandmothers was Diane McDonough. I don't know many Harris' still living and I would appreciate it if I could locate more.

Lucille Wells
3912 London Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76118

Note: A copy of Lucille Wells letter has been sent to Mrs. Robert M. White. Mr. White was a cousin of Mrs. Wells.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEEDED!!!

In an effort to promote awareness of old communities in Bartow County that are no longer found on present day maps, DiAnne Monroe would like members who are interested in contributing information to contact her. Any attempt to print a complete list is too lengthy for this newsletter, but examples would certainly include Ligon, Calico Valley, Rowland Springs, Ford and Corbin. Contact DiAnne by mail at 5901 Highway 20, N.E., Cartersville, Georgia 30120.

ROSELAWN



Picture taken from "Thunder-Bolts", by Sam P. Jones. House before it was reduced in size and hoisted to become the second floor of the mansion we see today.

Reprinted with permission of the Tribune News. Originally printed in their June 17, 1929 edition under the title of "Roselawn, Beautiful Local Home, Has Many Traditions of Yesterday."

Speeding modernistic life of the present generation is fain to regard with lightness old traditions, treasured by those who made it possible. Our pioneers of yesterday revel in the memories...of the era when the Southland was in its glory of great plantations, somber, lazy quietness, fine horses and gowns of silky sheerness.

Time astride the great white stallion galloping toward the brink of eternity has changed all of this. But today, unostentatiously there stands many memorials to that era of the South that is becoming a void, and inexcusable vacuum in the minds of those who cavort in places where precious tradition was made.

More than five decades ago, 32 years after this section had been purchased from the Cherokee Indians, there was built by J. H. Gilreath in Cartersville a three room pine structure of materials of staunch quality. That primitive home was to become one of the city's most historic, traditional and beautiful spots.

Nature lover, agriculturist, progressive citizen, Mr. Gilreath surrounded his little cottage with small oak trees that now tower skyward, waving their branches as though in communication with another world.

As time passed on the home was sold. Successive owners added rooms to make it more spacious and the

little home in the center of the oak grove became an almost squatty mansion. It is said that county records show the place sold to John W. Akin some time during the latter part of the nineteenth century. It was sold by him in 1870 to Sam Jones, one of the nation's best known evangelists.

Mr. Jones enlarged the building, finally deciding to reduce the size of the original portion and have it hoisted and a beautiful brick structure erected beneath. About thirty years ago the job was completed. Where once had stood a pioneer hut there was a magnificent Southern residence. Of attractive cream brick with artistically rounded corners, it was a true picturesque model of the old Dixie palatial domicile.

For many years Mr. Jones lived in the home. It was he who erected the old smokehouse, the great pump and most sumptuous barn, all most integral parts of the estates of yesterday.

March 14, 1927, the Sam Jones home was returned to the kith and kin by which it was built. Fifty seven years ago Miss Serena Dillard Monford alighted from a carriage in front of the estate. Lightly tripping along the walk leading to the piazza, she was introduced to a Southern gentleman of the traditional courtesy and manners of his native hearth.

Prompted by the song of the wind being wafted thru the trees, the somberness of the atmosphere, the inviting nooks and corners that appeared at frequent intervals about the estate, romance quivered in the hearts of the young people. Under the beams of a moon that trickled thru the heavy laden branches of the oak trees, a man-wooing went. In 1874 the couple were married.

But the pleasures of the enticing scene of their romance were no more. The home had been sold. Through the years they saw it change, saw it become famous and they loved to talk of the times when, as youngsters, they had loved under the protecting shadows of the little bungalow.

But tradition is too precious a thing to lose. In 1927 the home was purchased by the late E. D. Cole, husband of a daughter of the woman who had lost her heart and won that of another. Mrs. Cole, vivacious, interesting, was thrilled over the prospect of living at the scene where her mother and father had met. She took great pride in the residence. Many rose bushes and shrubs were planted

Continued on Following Page

and the estate was named "Roselawn," for the fragrant roses that were growing on its grounds.

Now "Roselawn" is one of the most attractive homes in the city. Surrounded by the aged oak trees, more than 200 rose bushes, a grape-arbor and a pecan grove and many other plants, it is vibrant, almost living, throbbing in the interest of its traditional past.

The interior of "Roselawn" is most beautiful. Each of its sixteen rooms is attractively furnished and furniture that circles the fireplaces of the pioneer palatial structure reminds one of the days when Cartersville was in its infancy, was making the history in which it now revels.

Submitted by DiAnne Smith Monroe

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When this article was written in June of 1929, George Holton and Serena Munford Gilreath were living. They had celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1924 at the Munford home place. E. D. Cole had died in May of 1928, in his early fifties.

J. H. Gilreath was one of three Gilreaths to marry Munford sisters. He married Elizabeth, George married Serena, and Nancy Munford married Patrick Gilreath.

Many thanks to E. Dargan Cole, III who gave the copy of the newspaper article to me originally and to Charles Hurley who allowed me to read it on microfilm at the Tribune. Gilreaths and Munfords are listed as early settlers of this area in the History of Bartow County.

DiAnne Smith Monroe

BOARD MEETING

Our Officers and Directors met at the Red Top Mountain Lodge on Wednesday evening, November 3rd, for this year's planning session. Members examined each current activity of the Society, looking for ways to enhance each. New ideas were presented and many will be implemented during this fiscal year.

Current projects include historic awareness signs, historic districts, cemetery records book, Crossroads television show, republishing "A History of Old Cassville, 1833-1864, Joe Frank Harris exhibit, Vaughan Cabin, newsletter, membership meetings and increased membership.

New projects will include preservation of Bartow County cemeteries, establishing a speakers bureau, promoting the Civil War, organized field trips, roundtable discussions, and an art collectors series of prints. And, of course, let's not forget finding a home for the Society. More information about all of these projects will be forthcoming in future newsletters. Look for a complete list of committee chairpersons and committee members in the next newsletter. You are invited to participate with any committee. The Board is very interested in hearing from you. Contact any officer or director with your concerns or ideas.

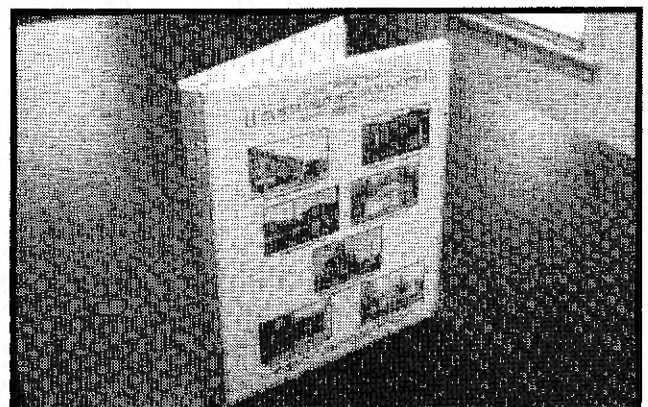
Also, please don't forget to sign up at least one new member. The additional dues will go a long way toward the funding of new projects and eventually... hopefully... a new home. And besides, being a member of the Etowah Valley Historical Society is rewarding, entertaining, educational and lots of fun!

NEWSLETTER BINDERS

Three-ring binders are now available to hold your newsletters. The cover, designed by Michele Rodgers, features Bartow County scenes from old postcards. This binder is a great way to save and display your newsletters. Back issues are available.

Binders are \$5 each and can be picked up from Susan Taylor or Guy Parmenter at Parmenter & Langford Insurance, 210 E. Main Street (382-0500).

To order your copy by mail, write P. O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120. Please include \$2.50 for mailing costs.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 2, 1993

The annual meeting of the EVHS was held October 2, 1993 at "Grand Oaks", the home of member Ray Thacker. President J. B. Tate presided over the meeting. J. B. welcomed everyone and recognized our guests. He gave a brief report of the past year's accomplishments and future goals for the coming year. He reported that our membership two years ago was 125, 1 year ago it was 200, and our present membership is 300.

The Crossroads programs have been a success with 6 programs complete, two in progress, and more planned for the future.

The Lucy Cunyus Mulcahy papers, which had been donated to the EVHS by her niece, Dorothy Ann Roth, were actually left to the State Archives in her will. Ken Thomas of the Department of Natural Resources will work with the EVHS to insure any papers pertaining to Bartow County will remain with the EVHS.

An 1800's log cabin has been donated to the EVHS and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources by Sherlin Vaughan. The cabin is to be moved to a place near Red Top Mountain Lodge and be used as part of a living history site. The EVHS is pledging \$2000 for a new cedar roof.

The cemetery book is at the printers. Mary Siniard, Lisa Ellis and Linda Trentham have done extensive research and a great job putting the book together. Five hundred copies have been ordered in advance. The R. J. Taylor Foundation has awarded a \$3,500 grant and will purchase 33 books at cost.

The newsletters have been a great success. Thanks to Susan Taylor, Guy Parmenter, Linda Parmenter and Anthia McStatts for their talents in putting the newsletter together.

Dianne Tate and the Historic Awareness Committee have worked diligently this year on the documentation of residential and commercial structures fifty years old or older. At least fifty signs are in place at this time. Many more structures are being researched with signs to be placed soon.

Guy Parmenter and Dianne Tate are speaking to various clubs and organizations about the Society and Historic Awareness Signs. Many new members have joined the Society as a result of their endeavors.

Joseph Mahan, author of "A History of Old Cassville,

1833-1864", has given EVHS permission to republish his book. The book will have a whole new look, with many additions and a new cover.

The papers and memorabilia collected by Joe Frank Harris during his term as Governor of Georgia are to be shared with the EVHS and will be housed in the Bartow History Center.

Three new members were elected to the Board of Directors to replace Margaret Ragsdale, Larry Gregory and Susan Taylor, whose three year terms had expired. The nominating committee composed of DiAnne Monroe (chairperson), Carolyn Parmenter and Rosemary Clabo, nominated J. B. Tate, Linda Trentham and Diane Mooney. Being no other nominations, Vice President Lance Barry called for a unanimous vote which was approved.

J. B. announced that Saturday, December 4 will be the Christmas Party at Roselawn.

It was also announced the Cass/Bartow County Will Book compiled by Jean Belew is available through the Genealogy Society.

Three ring binders are now available to hold your newsletters. The cost is \$5.

Guy acknowledged all board members and officers for their outstanding performance during the past year.

Our program for the evening was a quiz on local history. Prizes were given for each correct answer. Thanks to Goodyear, the Bartow History Center & Gift Shop and Parmenter & Langford Insurance for donating prizes.

After the meeting everyone adjourned to the dining room to enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by Ray Thacker and tour his beautiful Greek Revival home.

Rosemary Clabo, Secretary



Photo by Guy Parmenter

GEORGIA'S LOST SILVER MINE

Reprinted with permission of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution. Originally printed in their August 26, 1928 edition.

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Is there a lost silver mine in Georgia?

Stories of such a mine, located in a hidden cave and containing huge chunks of the precious mineral, have been current in the northwestern section of the state since the days of the Indians.

Explorers in Saltpeter cave, a few miles from Kingston, have found, in the far recesses, bullets which seemed to contain silver, and the theory was advanced that the metal was mined in the cave or nearby.

On the other hand, Dr. S. W. McCallie, state geologist, insists that these stories are based on a myth and that there is no silver in north Georgia save the little found along with gold ore in the mountains around Dahlonega.

Old settlers of Floyd County, however, remember tales told by their fathers, who heard them from the Indians, of a rich mine located on the Etowah River, near Rome. The exact site of the alleged mine was known to a few men only, who died without disclosing their secret, and all subsequent attempts to trace it have ended in failure.

An account of how a half-breed Indian was led, blindfolded, to the mine, and of how he returned laden with abundant evidence of its resources, is given by Q. L. Williford of Madison, Georgia who heard the story from the late Captain R. M. Patillo, of Floyd County.

"Some years ago," says Mr. Williford, "I was sitting on the porch of the plantation home of Captain Patillo, on the Etowah River, near Rome, when the captain told me that he firmly believed a rich silver mine existed somewhere in northwest Georgia."

Captain Patillo said that he was reared near Marietta, but that he had an uncle named William Puckett, born about the year 1800, who lived near the spot where Cartersville is now located. Puckett told his nephew that he had often traded with the Indians before they were sent to the west and that the red men frequently paid him for his merchandise with silver ore. Puckett claimed, according to Captain Patillo, that the silver was cut off in chunks with chisels from blocks of ore. The Indians traded the silver pieces to the whites for goods, and even used the silver for making bullets, as it was difficult for

them to obtain lead.

Being anxious to find the mine, Puckett tried for several years to persuade the Indians to tell him its location, but they refused to reveal the secret to any white man. A half-breed Indian, however, whom Mr. Puckett had befriended, finally consented to help him find the mine.

Although this half-breed lived among the Indians as one of their own race, it took a year for him to persuade his friends who knew the location of the silver mine to take him there. Two members of the tribe at last consented to conduct him to the mine. The three men mounted horses and rode into the woods. But before they had progressed very far they stopped and the half-breed was blindfolded. His eyes remained covered until night, when camp was made.

Next morning the two guides again blindfolded Puckett's friend and the three rode on. When they reached the edge of a stream they dismounted and stepped into a waiting canoe. For several hours they paddled either up or down stream, the half-breed did not know which, for he was still not allowed to see. At last the boat was halted in mid-stream where the water was deep.

The guides then removed the bandage from the half-breed's eyes and pointed to a bluff on one side of the river, saying that the silver mine was under this bluff. One of the men said that he would dive under the embankment and come up in a cave beneath it, where the silver would be found, and he invited the half-breed to follow him.

The Indian dived and was lost to view. Puckett's scout followed him into the stream and came up under the bluff, as he had been told he would.

Afterwards he declared to Puckett that he saw great blocks of silver in the cave where he found himself and that he and the guide took chisels and cut off what silver the Indian would let him have. Then the guide and the half-breed again dived into the water and swam back to the canoe where the other Indian was sitting.

On the return trip the bandage was once more placed over the half-breed's eyes and was not again removed until they reached home.

The half-breed, Patillo said, gave Puckett the silver the Indian had allowed him to keep, but he was still unable to locate the mine. Puckett endeavored for many years

Continued on Following Page

to hunt it down, but gave up hope when the Indians were moved to the west. Those who knew its location went to the Happy Hunting Ground with the secret locked in their breasts.

But in spite of the many legends concerning deposits of silver ore in north Georgia, Dr. McCallie, state geologist, considers it very improbable that such a mine exists anywhere near Saltpeter Cave.

"Silver is nearly always found along with gold," he said, "and there is some of it in north Georgia, but it is worth very little in comparison with the gold in our mountains. When the gold is mined, the silver is separated from it and sold for its full value. But the quantities are small. Perhaps the Indians saw bits of this silver and concluded that the mineral must be stored away in a rich mine, hung with silver bars, something like the streets of El Dorado."

Georgia's best gold mine is its marble. This is the richest mineral resource of the state and last year brought \$3,000,000. There is also an abundance of gold here. Gold has already been dug from the mountains of the northeast section of the state to the value of \$20,000,000. But silver is rarely found in the state and occurs only where gold exists.

Georgia probably possesses as great a variety of minerals as any other state in the union, Dr. McCallie pointed out. Diamonds, rubies, garnets, sapphires, moonstones and even emeralds have been found here.

The gems have been discovered accidentally in most cases by people searching for gold. Although many of the stones which were thought to be valuable were undoubtedly worth less than their owners believed. Dr. McCallie says that some of the gems were precious and there are possibly others in Georgia yet undiscovered.

Diamonds have been found in Hall, White, Habersham, Banks, Lumpkin, Dawson, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Cherokee, Clayton, Bartow, Haralson, Carroll, Paulding, Cobb and Twiggs Counties.

Dr. M. F. Stevenson is said to have discovered the first diamond in Georgia. He happened upon it in 1843 while panning for gold in Hall County. The gem was discovered near the mouth of a small branch which enters Muddy Creek, about half a mile from its junction with the Chattahoochee River. The state geologist says that although the source of the stone is obscure, there is no doubt of its genuineness.

Another find was made in 1887 on the property of Daniel Light near Morrow Station, Clayton County. The stone was unearthed by a man plowing at the top of a small hill. Subsequently a shaft was sunk and a great deal of prospecting was carried on at this point, but no other valuable stones were found. Diamonds have been reported found near Gainesville and Macon.

Rabun County is known to nourish amethyst in its soil and has produced some of the most beautiful stones found in the country. Some day, according to Dr. McCallie, a very fine ruby or sapphire may be found in the Empire State, because amethysts and rubies are both corundum gems and the state is rich in corundum.

Both crystalline and non-crystalline quartz are known to be common in the state and though no emerald of value has ever been discovered among our minerals, beryl, of which emerald is a variety, is not uncommon in Georgia.

The story of Georgia's silver mine may be a myth, but her soil undoubtedly is rich with gold, marble and precious stones.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ROSELAWN



We expect another good turnout for the Christmas party to be held Saturday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. Invitations have been mailed.

CROSSROADS

J. B. Tate advises an episode titled "The Life of Corra Harris" is complete. Look for it soon on Cable Channel 4. Another show being worked on by J. B. is "Black History in Bartow County". Guy Parmenter and Michele Rodgers are working on a show about the town of Etowah. An episode will also be produced about the "Vaughan Cabin" and its restoration. CROSSROADS has a new time. Tune in on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 and Thursday mornings at 9:30.

Guy Speaks to Optimists

Thanks to Lance Barry for providing the opportunity for Guy Parmenter to address the Optimist Club on September 28th. This was the ninth speaking engagement by Guy. Dianne Tate has also participated in many of these. Both Guy and Dianne continue to enlighten Bartow Countians about the many activities of our society.

If you need a program for your club, call Guy at 382-5371 or Dianne at 386-7944.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Albert Arrington, Rome, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Barrett, Cartersville, GA
Mr. Edward E. Brumfield, Jr., Taylorsville, GA
Dr. Louis L. Burton, Cartersville, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Etheridge, Jr., Cartersville, GA
Ms. Linda A. Evans, Cartersville, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Guyton (Leoma), Macon, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hanson, Cartersville, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morgan, Cartersville, GA
Mr. & Mrs. David Parker, Marietta, GA
Mrs. Dorothy Anne Roth, Waleska, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Ashley Schubert, Cartersville, GA
Ms. Ailene Smith, Cartersville, GA
Mr. Richard V. Tate, Rome, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Ellsworth Thompson, Cartersville, GA
Mr. Frank Vaughan, Jr., Cartersville, GA
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Wade, Jr., Cartersville, GA
Mr. Dan Wheeler, Cartersville, GA

This Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of
Dr. Robert Norton and Mr. Clarence Walker.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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INSIDE:

- Lost Silver Mine
- Roselawn
- Letters to the Editor
- Society News
-and More