



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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The dome of the 1903 courthouse, viewed from Main Street

Work Continues on the 1903 Courthouse

Renovation of the 1903 Bartow County courthouse was stalled earlier this year when it was discovered that 100-year-old beams supporting the dome had suffered water damage and would need replacing. The delay pushes back the completion of the renovation to late spring, and possibly even late summer.

Held up in the delay is the Society's move to its new office across the lobby. Plans for the move were being finalized in December when EVHS got word that the county had hit a bump. The EVHS directors assure us that the move will take place, and that it is only a matter of time.

When completed, the renovation of the courthouse will have not only saved the grand old structure from further decay, but preserved it in a near pristine state that can be enjoyed for another 100 years. And the addition of an elevator will make access to the historic courtroom much easier for visitors. ☺

Martha Mulinix Honored Kingston Historian Receives EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award



Shouts of joy, laughter, and applause greeted the announcement at the EVHS September meeting that Kingston historian Martha Mulinix was the 2003 winner of the EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award is presented annually to individuals who best represent and achieve the society's mission of "promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County" over a period of twenty or more years.

As an historian, museum curator, and educator for most of her life, Mulinix fits that description to a tee. The First Lady of Kingston is a former president of the Kingston Woman's History Club, and a life-long member. She was

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TOUR OF HOMES WRAPS UP ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The 2003 *Come Harvest Our History* Tour of Historic Homes experienced another great year, with hundreds of visitors turning out for the two-day event to enjoy a glimpse of our historic city's intimate past.

The tour, which took place on Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2, began at the historic 1903 gold domed courthouse, where visitors were greeted by members of the EVHS Preservation Committee, which sponsors the bi-annual tour. From the courthouse, shuttle buses, furnished by Bartow Transit, ferried guests to the neighborhood of homes on West Avenue.

Preparation for the tour began in January, when selection of the houses to be featured was discussed by the Preservation Committee. The four houses selected were chosen because they were all constructed in the same era as the 1903 courthouse, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003.

The houses selected were the Adair-Kinsel/Lussier House, circa 1909; Warde-McLeone House, circa 1909; the Chitwood-McEver House, circa 1907; and the Shaw-Conyers-Archer House, circa 1905. All of the homes on the tour have interesting histories, and the first three homes share a common history, having been built by, or previously owned by, the Adair family.

The **Adair-Kinsel/Lussier House** is also known as the Francis Adair House, named for the author and educator who lived there from childhood. The 1909 Queen Anne was built by Francis's father and mother, Dr. Robert Edgar Adair and Sallie Lula Mahan Adair, and features high style Victorian elements and a wrap-around porch. The interior sports 12-foot high ceilings, heart pine floors, and original molding. The house is now owned by Ed Kinsel and Ellen Lussier, who purchased it in 1992.

The **Warde-McLeod House**, built in 1909, is an American Four Square structure (two rooms wide and



EVHS Preservation Committee members greeted visitors to the Tour of Homes and led tours of the courthouse and EVHS office. Pictured left to right are Susan Alexander, Masie Underwood, and chairman John Lewis. Not pictured are Lisette Entwisle and Dianne Tate.



Ellen Lussier, owner of the Francis Adair House, was assisted during the tour by volunteer Rachel Lynch.



Local artist Judy Brown McEver (left) enjoyed greeting visitors and sharing the history and stories of renovation of her home.

two rooms deep), featuring a pyramidal roof and a flat roofed wrap-around porch that has been enclosed for living space. The home was built by Gideon G. Warde, a local dry goods merchant, partnered with Robert Lee Webb and John P. Adair, the brother of Dr. Robert Adair, who lived next door. Oral history records that Warde built the house for his bride-to-be. But, alas, the engagement was broken off, and Warde sold the house to Dr. Adair and moved away. When current owners Susan and Brian McLeod bought the house in 1993, it had been converted into apartments. Renovation revealed original pocket doors behind sheet rock. A staircase salvaged from another historic home being razed nearby replaced the original missing staircase. Much of the restoration has involved removing layers of paint from original molding, a task that the McLeods have taken on themselves.

The **Chitwood-Goolsby-McEver House** was built at the turn of the last century by Robert Lee Webb, the dry goods partner of Gideon Warde. The exact date of construction is unknown. The house is nearly identical to the Warde-McLeod House, being an American Four Square with a pyramidal roof and wrap-around porch, with the addition of a front roof dormer. Inside, a front staircase leads from the wide and spacious foyer to the upstairs landing. Another set of stairs leads to the landing from the old Butler's Pantry at the rear of the house. In 1914, Dr. Robert Adair purchased the home from Webb and increased his investment 50 percent when he turned around and sold it to his brother John P. Adair that same day. Dr. Adair again came into possession of the home when his brother left it to him in his will. Life-long resident and school employee, Martha Lucinda Chitwood, purchased the house from Adair in 1947. It was then received by her sister's husband, Charles Donahoo Goolsby. The McEvers bought the house in 2002.

The **Shaw-Conyers-Archer House**, just behind the West Avenue homes on Etowah Drive, was constructed for Levi and Clara Shaw in 1905. The cottage house features



Susan and Brian McLeod, and Brian's mother Sarah, were all smiles as they greeted guests to their historic home. Behind them is one of the original mantels the couple restored.



Sim and Betty Archer show off the kitchen in their cottage home, featured on the 2003 Tour of Homes.

a winged and hipped roof and many decorative elements, including wide fascia under the eaves, corner boards, and milled molding over the windows. The house was made into two apartments in the 1930s, and was purchased by John B. and Minnie Leake Conyers in the late 1940s. The Conyers kept the house as apartments, but cut two doors between them to create a single living space. Sim and Betty Archer purchased the home from the Conyers son Claude in 1989.

Community sponsors for this year's tour were Phoenix Air, Bartow Paving, J. Brandon Clothiers, New Riverside Ochre, and Century Bank of Bartow County. EVHS is indebted to these sponsors for their support of local history and the Tour of Homes.

EVHS congratulates the members of the Preservation Committee for their hard work in securing sponsors, homeowners, and volunteers for the event. ☺

Wine, Women, and a Throng Kingston Woman's History Club Hosts EVHS

August 23, 2003

The Kingston Womens History Club hosted the September meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society at the home of Rufus and Martha Mulinex. Acres of vineyards and fruit trees on the Mulinex farm made the evening seem like an old-fashioned picnic in the country, as did the mouth-watering aroma of smoking meat and simmering Brunswick stew that greeted guests.

Chicken quarters and pork ribs were compliments of the Mulinex' son, Victor, a barbecue enthusiast who prepared the meat in a cooker he designed and built himself. The rest of the fixin's were prepared and served by members of the History Club and Victor's wife Marty, who used the opportunity to raise funds for the club's Veterans Memorial project.



Guests to the Mulinex home enjoyed strolling through the vineyards of sweet muscadine. Pictured are EVHS member Katie Mae Parker and her guests Greg and Karen Smith and daughter Tori.

Dinner was served in Rufus's air-conditioned "shop," a cavernous two-story structure (with an upstairs deck) that Victor and Rufus built for the purpose of "puttering around in." It was the perfect atmosphere for barbecue: a roughed out space, with tools lining the walls, bandana napkins, and service with a smile.

Prior to and following dinner, guests toured the vineyards that Rufus harvests for wine, and the Mulinex home, filled with Martha's hand-made quilts and historic collections. Members of the History Club served as hostesses.

Dinner was accompanied with Rufus's home-made muscadine wine, a sweet elixer, generously bestowed, that lent much to the atmosphere and the occasion.

Following the meal, EVHS president David Parker



Victor Mulinex turns the chicken in the smoker he designed and built behind his father's shop.



Rufus Mulinex's airconditioned shop was the scene of much feasting, as guests enjoyed smoked barbecue chicken and pork.

tended to the business of the society, which included the announcement of the 2003 winner of the EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award: Kingston historian, Martha Mullinex.

The Kingston Womens History Club continues to raise funds for their Veterans Memorial project. Contributions may be made through EVHS, or by contacting any member of the club. ☺

Calling All Records

Over the years, a number of people have played important roles in the Society and perhaps held onto Society records, correspondence and the like. We are trying to make our files as complete as possible. If you have anything that should remain with the society, please bring it by the office or get in touch with EVHS president David Parker at 770-606-8494. Or email dparker @kennesaw.edu.

Library Receives Books & Goodyear Collection

The Society's library has recently acquired several new volumes that will be of interest to our members.

Daryl Starnes donated a copy of *Bill Arp, So-Called: A Side Show of the Southern Side of the War*, a collection of Charles Henry Smith's Civil War writings published in 1866.

During the war and Reconstruction years, Smith wrote a number of letters for southern newspapers, always in dialect, always giving the southern side of things, and always signed by Bill Arp. Some of these letters ridiculed the Union army after its occasional defeats; some told of Smith's experiences as a refugee with his family when Sherman marched through Georgia, others criticized draft dodgers and other southerners whose actions hurt the Confederate war effort.

Shortly after the war was over, the *Metropolitan Record*, a Democratic paper in New York with Confederate sympathies, published Arp's Civil War writings (but only after cleaning up some of the worst of the dialect writing). The Society is proud to have a copy of this rare volume.

Daryl Starnes also donated a copy of a book he himself wrote, *High Flight: The Military Career of Lt. Col. Albert Starnes, United States Air Force*. Lieutenant Colonel Starnes served with distinction in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In this book, Starnes recounts his cousin's childhood in Bartow County and his accomplishments in the Air Force. It's a moving and inspirational story, well told, and will be especially enjoyed by those who knew Albert Starnes, who died in June 2003, just before the book went to press.

Finally, David Parker donated a copy of *Carpet Capital: The Birth of a New South Industry*. This book, first published by the University of Georgia Press in 1999, begins with a brief look at the American carpet industry before World War II (written by David). The biggest and more important part of the book (written by Randall Patton) looks at the rise of Dalton as the world's "Carpet Capital." One reviewer called it "an informative and detailed study of the innovators who developed the technology and the entrepreneurs who established the tufted carpet industry in the Dalton region of northwest Georgia."

The Society is also pleased to announce that Goodyear has donated several boxes of historic material for our archives. The donation includes an almost-complete run of the Wingfoot Clan (the company newspaper) from the Cartersville Goodyear plant, which closed in October 2003, as well as from the Goodyear plant in Cedartown. Also included are Annual Reports for a number of years, union agreements, and other fascinating materials. The collection is still being processed. ☺

EVHS Annual Business Meeting & Awards

The editor apologizes for the lack of photos to accompany this article. She had a new camera that proved harder to use than she thought.

The annual meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society was held on Saturday, October 11, 2003, at the Stilesboro Academy. Following dinner, president David Parker reviewed the year for members in attendance. His remarks, slightly revised and condensed, are presented below.

On the day of this meeting a year ago, many of us were out at Allatoona Pass, helping with tours, selling books and t-shirts, basically coordinating (as EVHS has done for several years) the annual observance of the Battle of Allatoona Pass. Hundreds of people from Bartow County and Northwest Georgia, and some from even farther away, came to the Pass that weekend, many for the first time, and we were all thrilled to be a part of the event, showing off one of the county's treasures, sharing its history and beauty. I told someone that afternoon that that was the proudest I'd ever been to be associated with EVHS.

And that was true, until January 12 of this year [2003], when the Society sponsored the centennial celebration of the Bartow County gold-domed courthouse. The courtroom was packed, and another two or three hundred people stood downstairs and on the steps, as County Commissioner Clarence Brown spoke. Then everyone rushed to see the cutting of the giant birthday cake, donated
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instrumental in the collection and preservation of artifacts for the Kingston Civil War Museum, which she helped found, and the heritage museum, named in her honor.

"More than most historians, Martha realizes that history is made up of flesh-and-blood people, not famous speeches, troop movements or buildings, but real people, just like us," said EVHS president David Parker.

Mulinix's interaction with the community and those who know its history has shaped her mission and prompted her a few years ago to publish "We Remember Kingston," a collection of essays recounting Kingston's past.

An avid quilter, Mulinix has filled her home with hand-made quilts lovingly stitched to commemorate a lifetime of Kingston living. As an educator, she taught others the art of quilting as a way of preserving heritage in the community.

While others may say they love Kingston, Mulinix has made a point of putting her work where her heart is. "She's kind of been the catalyst behind the preservation of Kingston," EVHS advisor to the board Guy Parmenter said. "She definitely keeps things going there." ☺

by our friends at Kroger, and eat the goodies provided by the various historical groups in the county.

The highlight of the day was the opening of the cornerstone and the retrieval of the time capsule that had been placed there a century earlier. Michele Rodgers, of the Bartow History Center, and I did the final opening (after a mason had prepared the way). It was a cold and windy day, and as we stood on the scaffold and started pulling out the contents of the cornerstone, the wind caught pieces of paper that had disintegrated over the years and sent them flying into the crowd. Many of the items survived the century in the cornerstone, and are now on exhibit at the Bartow History Center.

In May, we again participated in Hills of Iron, a two-day program the Society developed with Red Top Mountain State Park, a celebration of what was at one time a big part of the area's economy. The inaugural event, three years ago, was such a success that Red Top won the Best Special Program award from the state Department of Natural Resources, and it continues to grow in popularity. In fact, last year Red Top got its own furnace, so once again people can see iron melted and poured right here in Bartow County.

Hills of Iron, the courthouse centennial, Allatoona Pass: these are all big things, but the Society continues to do its regular smaller events.

In November 2002, we brought in an archaeologist and historian from the state Department of Transportation, for a program on how the DOT makes decisions concerning historical sites as it plans for new roads.

In December, we met for Christmas at Rose Lawn, featuring "A Cajun Night before Christmas," a discussion from Joe Head on the history of Santa Claus, and a visit from Old Saint Nick himself.

In January 2003, Dr. J. D. Fowler, a Civil War historian, presented a program on Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Fred McCaleb joined us in February for an illustrated talk on the history of architecture in Bartow County.

In March, we had a huge crowd for Joe Dabney, author of *Moonshine Spirits* and the award-winning *Smokehouse Ham, Spoon Bread, and Scuppernong Wine*. Joe's talk traced the history of the moonshine culture from its early days in Pennsylvania to twentieth-century Georgia.

In April, Morgan Akin spoke on his illustrious great-grandfather, Warren Akin, Confederate congressman and founder of a law practice in Cassville in 1836 that still exists today.

May was our first dinner meeting of the year, at the Weinman Mineral Museum. Director Jose Santamaria spoke on the geological history of the county and then opened the newly-renovated museum to Society members for a free tour.

June featured a program on the history of WBHF radio, with Herschel Wisebram, who has been with the station for over half a century. Also in June, the Society sponsored a walking tour of Oak Hill cemetery.

In August, Beverly Moore presented a fascinating program on cowboy and western movies and television shows, featuring a number of items from her extensive collection of photographs, toys, newspaper clippings, posters, and other memorabilia. Also in August, we met for a dinner meeting at the Kingston home of Rufus and Martha Mulinix. Tours of the home, Martha's quilts, the Mulinix vineyards, and dinner prepared by Victor Mulinix and the ladies of the Kingston Woman History Club made this a very popular event. During the program, the Society honored Martha with its Lifetime Achievement award.

Last November, the Board of Directors served lunch at Valley View to our wonderful staff of office volunteers to thank them for the fine work they have done. If you've ever wondered if it was worth your while to volunteer at the office, this lunch would have convinced you.

This year we continued cleaning up the old Friendship Cemetery, one of the oldest organized cemeteries in the county. We sponsored four very well attended genealogical workshops, under the direction of our own Linda Cochran.

In February, the Board began a program of strategic planning for the Society. Many good ideas came out of the session, several of which we are already beginning to implement.

The Society's web page allows us to reach a huge audience. This past week I filled a book order for a woman in Texas who had found us on the Internet. Not too long ago, a family from Arizona, related to the Douthits from Bartow County, got in touch with the Society through the web and actually came here for a visit because of that.

Our office/library in the gold-domed courthouse continues to be a useful place for researchers doing local or family history.

In short, it has been a great year. EVHS is a wonderful organization, and we've done much to be proud of. And I appreciate the honor of being able to serve as your president this past year.

At the conclusion of his talk, David gave special awards to several members for their special contributions over the year.

He began by recognizing several of our young members who have helped with various projects, giving certificates of appreciation to Adam Mooney, Lance Mooney, Julie Parmenter, Katie Mae Parker, and Gentry Parker.

The following received, in addition to certificates, canvas tote bags bearing the EVHS logo: Lois Hill, Lelia Johnson, Tish Johnson, Norma Tidwell, and Chantal Parker, for their work organizing the courthouse centennial; Linda Cochran, for her promotion of genealogy; and John Lewis, for his perservation efforts in downtown Cartersville.

For her work with the Society's newsletter and web page, Chantal Parker also received a baseball cap with the EVHS logo.

Finally, David recognized the hard work that Guy Parmenter has put into the Society, in many ways and for many years, with an EVHS jacket. ☺

Christmas at Rose Lawn

Saturday, December 6, 2003



The jolly old elf is making a habit these days of attending the EVHS annual Christmas at Rose Lawn. Laughing it up with Santa are EVHS board members Joe Head, David Parker, Joanne Smith, and Joe's beloved Debbie.



Director of Rose Lawn and our hostess for the evening Jane Drew poses with board members Tish Johnson and Eleanor Linn



Randy and Debra Davis and Bob Norton



Entertainment was provided by a trio of singers from Cartersville High School. Pictured left to right are Maggie Smith, Maggie's mother Mary Smith, Casey Branch, and CHS choral director Cody Goss.



Laurette Smith, Marian Fisk, Emily McClurg, and Beverly Moore



Delean Brandon, Mary Norton, Jody Brandon, and Edna & Carl Etheridge



Scott and Beth Swanson



A Needless Effusion of Blood Now Available

Bill Scaife's popular history of the Battle of Allatoona Pass is once again available to the public. Last year EVHS received the rights to *Allatoona Pass: A Needless Effusion of Blood*, and arranged with McStart's Printing to reproduce the handsome second edition. Softbound copies are available now in the EVHS office for \$20 each. Hardbound copies are coming soon for \$30. For more information, contact EVHS at 770-606-8862.

Good Bye and Good Luck

This issue of the EVHS Newsletter is the last to be edited by Chantal Parker. "Editor" doesn't really begin to describe what Chantal has done. For three years, she wrote almost every word and took almost every picture that has appeared here. Furthermore, she has formatted each issue, giving the Newsletter a more professional and pleasant appearance. Chantal is starting on a new business venture and will no longer be able to carry on as editor extraordinaire.

Thanks, Chantal, for all you've done.
David Parker, President

p.s. EVHS is looking for a new newsletter editor. If interested call 770-606-8494.

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Office Volunteers Needed

EVHS needs your help to keep the office open. Office volunteers are needed to greet visitors and researchers, assist in helping them locate information and operate microfilm readers, and answer the phone. A training session for current and new volunteers is upcoming.

Current office hours are 1:30-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1-5 p.m. on Saturday. EVHS is always looking for opportunities to expand its office hours, and a schedule can be arranged for those interested in working morning hours.

From one or two afternoons a month to one or two a week, your contribution of time can greatly benefit our society and the community. Please consider becoming a volunteer. If interested, call David Parker at 770-606-8494.

