



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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INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES AND LANDSCAPES IN BARTOW COUNTY

EUHARLEE WORK TEAM MARCH 20, 2005



*Front Row from Left to Right, Ann B. Jones, Wilma Cantrell, Kelli Thomas, Avery Holland
Back Row from Left to Right, Mary Ellen Taff, Genie Certain, JoAnn Butler Rogers, Jackie Bolen, Melissa Ferguson, Edward Lamar Wade*

The Etowah Valley Historical Society is concerned that Bartow's historic resources are becoming increasingly vulnerable to development pressures because of the county's rapid industrial and population growth. An inventory of historic sites was last completed in 1990 as one component of Bartow County's Comprehensive Plan 1991-2011.

Using the inventory completed in 1990 as a starting point, EVHS in partnership with community leaders and groups plans to inventory which of these historic sites remain, which have been destroyed and what changes have occurred to those still in existence. This will also be an opportunity to document those sites not included in the 1990 survey.

The inventory project to identify and record Bartow's rich archaeological, architectural and

landscape resources is continuing forward. Melissa Ferguson, Kathy Kareken, and Shirley Stokes are in the final weeks of documenting sites in Emerson. On March 20, 2005, community leaders from Euharlee met to begin planning how to best inventory historic sites in Euharlee and the surrounding community.

Joanne Smith will lead the team inventorying sites in Cartersville. Trey Gaines will lead the effort in Atco and Jose Santamaria will work with a team identifying mining sites in Bartow County. (Informational meetings with leaders from other communities will be held in the coming months).

If you are interested in getting involved in this important project, please contact Mary Norton at 770-607-9539, Michael Garland at 770-382-3361 ext. 120, or Joanne Smith at 770-671-2324.



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THE STEGALL FAMILY BURYING GROUND

(Excerpted from "Archaeological Survey of the Stegall Family Burying Ground"
by Carl Etheridge, 2004)

Those who have driven along Allatoona Road in Emerson within the past year, and have seen the land clearing and grading work near the I-75 Interchange have probably wondered about the small cemetery atop the knoll.



Stegall Family Burying Ground after clearing

determine if burials were present on their property. (I was already aware of the small cemetery.)

Mr. Henry Keever (deceased) had taken me there in 2002 while the area was still populated with dense undergrowth and large trees. There was one inscribed grave marker on the ground that was not readable. There was also evidence of two "above ground stone crypts". The dense undergrowth and the trash that had accumulated over the years, made it impossible to determine the extent of the cemetery at that time.



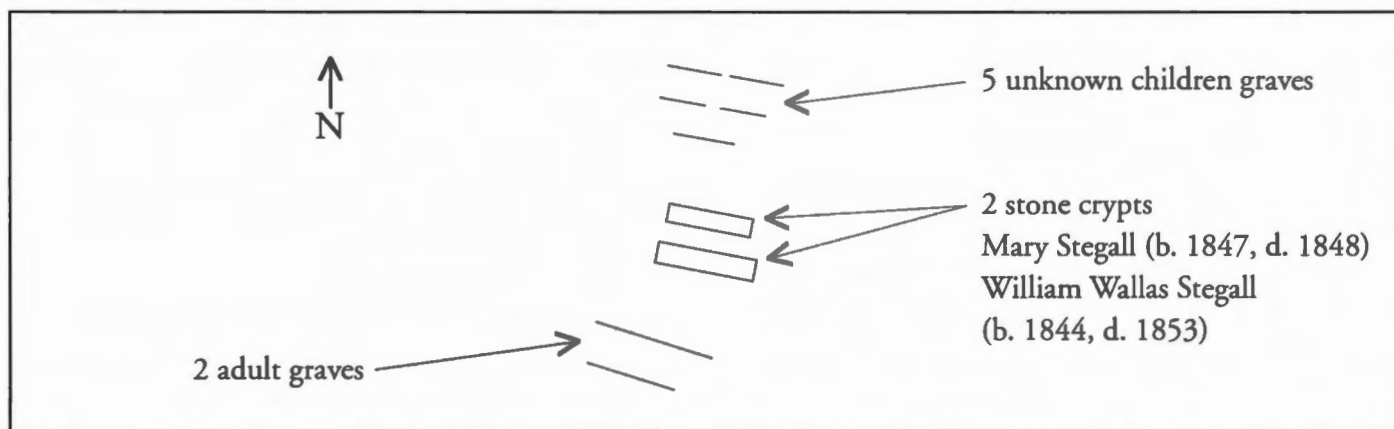
Grave Marker of William Wallas Stegall

At the beginning of the project by the landowner/developer, Blankenship & Gaskin, several persons contacted me and were concerned that the "graves of two little girls who had been killed long ago by a train on the nearby railroad tracks" would be destroyed. I had been contacted by the developer in 2003 to survey the Damascus Cemetery to

Mr. Keever and I cleaned the marker and we were able to make out three words... "William Wallas Stegall". (This person was definitely not a little girl.) Archival research indicated this person was the nine year old son of Emsley and Sarah Stegall. William died in 1853. Mr. Keever reset the marker near the larger of the two stone crypts.

The land clearing for development now made it possible to survey this cemetery. Dowsing rods (remote sensing) and a steel probe rod were used to determine the number of graves. Results indicated the presence of nine burials instead of two in this cemetery....two adults and seven children.

THE STEGALL FAMILY BURYING GROUND *(continued)*



The Stegalls were prominent people in the development of Emerson (originally Stegall Station). According to the 1850 Census, Emsley and Sarah had three children...Robert, age 8; William, age 7; and John P., age 5. However, the Stegall Family genealogy lists four children...Robert, William, John P., and Mary who was born in 1847 and died in 1848. The two stone crypts are those of Mary and William Stegall.

While Emsley owned a vast amount of property, he did not own the parcel (Land Lot 903) where the cemetery is located. This parcel of land was owned by Reuben P. Lackey, Emsley's brother-in-law. Reuben sold the land to the Bartow Iron Works Company in 1858. The Bartow Irons Works Co. in 1863 deeded a 50' x 50' parcel back to Emsley Stegall and R. P. Lackey for the "Graveyard" and the metes & bounds description references the beginning as being "from the box tomb of said Stegall's son".

Emsley Stegall died November 25, 1888 at his home near Emerson. He was 76 years old. The Stegall Family Genealogy states that he was "buried at Emerson (formerly Stegall Station) in a family plot". According to his obituary in the *Courant American Newspaper* (November 29, 1888), he was known as "Uncle Emsley" to his neighbors and close friends. "He was one of the county's best known citizens and had many friends." "Mr. Stegall was noted for his great physical powers, his firmness in whatever he believed to be right, his loyalty to his friends, and his benevolent nature." "He leaves considerable property, the accumulations of honest industry." While the obituary notes that his funeral was conducted at Stegall Chapel in Emerson, it makes no mention of where he was buried. (It is interesting to note that the *Courant American newspaper* referenced other deaths of persons who lived in the Emerson area in 1888 as being buried

in "Emerson Cemetery").

Sarah Stegall died July 1, 1897 at the age of 91. According to her obituary in the *Courant American*, July 8, 1897, Mrs. Stegall's "remains were interred beside those of her husband in the old Stegall burying ground, near where she lived." (Again, not in the Emerson Cemetery.)

A search of the Bartow County Cemetery Book did not have a listing for Emsley Stegall or Sarah Stegall in any of the cemeteries in or near Emerson, Georgia. Their son, John P. Stegall, with his wife and mother-in-law are listed as being buried in the Emerson Cemetery. There are inscribed grave markers for Emsley and Sarah Stegall next to John P., his wife Justina, and her mother, Susan Williams, in the Emerson Cemetery. However, a survey of the Emerson Cemetery plot, using Remote Sensing and Probe Rod, provided negative results for any ground disturbance or burials at the markers for Sarah or Emsley Stegall, indicating the graves are not in the Emerson Cemetery. The survey provided positive results for previous ground disturbance indicating the presence of burials at the inscribed markers for Susan Williams, Justina Stegall, and John P. Stegall. According to Mrs. Mary Siniard, Bartow Cemetery Book chairperson, it is unlikely that the person(s) recording grave marker data for the Cemetery Book would have inadvertently omitted the names of Emsley and Sarah since their markers are together in the Stegall section with their son, John P. and his wife, Justina. Mrs. Siniard believes that someone on the Emerson Cemetery committee knew that the graves were located elsewhere.

Based on the field evidence and the archival information compiled, the conclusion is that the two adult burials detected beside the stone box crypt grave of William Wallas Stegall are those of

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THE STEGALL FAMILY BURYING GROUND *(continued)*

Emsley and Sarah Stegall. They are not buried in the Emerson Cemetery, but in the "Old Stegall Family Burying Ground" as noted in the obituary for Mrs. Sarah Stegall.

The two stone box crypts located on the knoll beside Allatoona Road are not the graves of "two little girls.....", but the graves of Mary Stegall (one year old daughter) and William Wallas Stegall (nine year old son). The two adult burials are those of Emsley and Sarah Stegall. The other five children are unknown. This small cemetery is indeed the "Old Stegall Family Burying Ground".

For those now wondering what will happen to the cemetery...it will be preserved in-place. A fence will be erected, and a marker will be installed by the developer. It is now recorded as archaeological site 9BR1049, and will no longer be covered by debris and dense undergrowth.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS ASSOCIATION VISITS BARTOW COUNTY



Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, speaks to tour group sponsored by The Georgia Battlefields Association at Allatoona Pass. *Photo by Charlie Crawford, GBA President*

Fifty-five members of the Georgia Civil War Battlefields Association spent the first week-end of March touring civil war sites in Bartow and surrounding counties.

Headquartered in Country Inn & Suites at exit 290, on Friday the group visited Rome, Armuchee,

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS ASSOCIATION *(continued)*

Adairsville, Cassville, Cooper's Furnace, and the Cartersville train station. They had dinner at the Booth Museum.

Saturday, they visited Euharlee and then spent the rest of the day in Paulding County before returning to have dinner at Grand Oaks. Sunday, they toured Allatoona Pass.

Three members of EVHS were part of the tour. Carl Etheridge spoke at Cooper's Furnace on Friday. Guy Parmenter welcomed the group to Allatoona Pass on Sunday and Bill Scaife led the battlefield tour.

HILLS OF IRON CELEBRATION



J.B. Tate speaks to some of the spectators who visited Cooper's Furnace to learn more about life in the village of Etowah, now buried under the waters of Lake Allatoona.



Miniature iron furnace, built by the Red Top Park staff, produced iron from ore collected along the banks of Lake Allatoona.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER ANCIENT VILLAGE

PUBLIC INVITED TO ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Archaeologists are uncovering a Native American Village located in a bend of the Etowah River in Cartersville, Georgia. The work is being conducted at the important Leake Site before the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) widens Highways 61 and 113. During the winter and spring of 2005, archaeologists from Southern Research, Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc. of Columbus, Georgia are excavating portions of the site that will be impacted by the proposed highway widening.

The public is invited to share in the discovery during Archaeology Day on April 16, 2005 by attending a presentation by archaeologists at Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site in Cartersville from 11 a.m. - 12 noon followed by an open house at the archaeological site on Riverside Drive from 1-5 p.m. During the open house, the public will be able to visit with archaeologists, watch them work, assist in water screening the soil and learn about what the recent discoveries tell us about the Native Americans who lived at the site from 100 B.C. - A.D. 400 during the Middle Woodland Period. There is no charge for the open house. Archaeology Day is sponsored by Southern Research, The Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site and The City of Cartersville, Georgia with funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

JERE F. WHITE

RETIRED BARTOW COUNTY JUDGE

Retired Bartow County Judge, Jere F. White, was a speaker at the EVHS meeting on March 22nd. The Judge spoke in the courtroom of the gold-domed 1903 courthouse. He spoke on the history of the courthouse and discussed some of the trials over which he presided from 1978 and 1993.



Judge Jere White with his wife, Lolly

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Saturday, April 16, 2005 11:00 A.M.
Archaeology Day Indian Mounds
- Thursday, April 21, 2005 7:00 P.M.
Jeanne Buck, a Bartow County Educator who is a writer of children's books on History will speak at the EVHS meeting at the Bartow County Library
- Saturday, May 21, 2005 6:30 P.M.
EVHS Dinner Meeting at the Indian Mounds
- Monday, May 30, 2005 11:00 A.M.
Gold-Domed Courthouse
Memorial Service and Re-dedication of Cornerstone
- Saturday, Oct. 1 or 8, 2005 6:30 P.M.
Annual EVHS Dinner Meeting at Noble Hill School
- Saturday, Nov. 4, 2005 10:00 A.M.
EVHS Tour of Homes
- Sunday, Nov. 5, 2005 12:00 Noon
EVHS Tour of Homes

Dates have not been confirmed for Joe Head speaking on Chain Gang Hill and David Parking speaking on Rebecca L. Felton or for our summer dinner meeting.

EVHS LIBRARY UPDATED

The Board of Directors recently approved the purchase of Indexes for the Georgia 1850 and 1870 census. The purchase will enable researchers to proceed much faster with their research. The 1870 census has been ordered and should be in use shortly. Our supplier is searching for a copy of the 1850 index and we should obtain one shortly.

HISTORY FOR CHILDREN

7 PM
Bartow County Library
Thursday, April 21, 2005

Jeanne Buck, a Bartow County educator who writes history books for children, will be our speaker at the April meeting of EVHS. This should be an interesting and informative program. Please fit it into your schedule.

IN MEMORY OF NORTON TUMLIN



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