



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

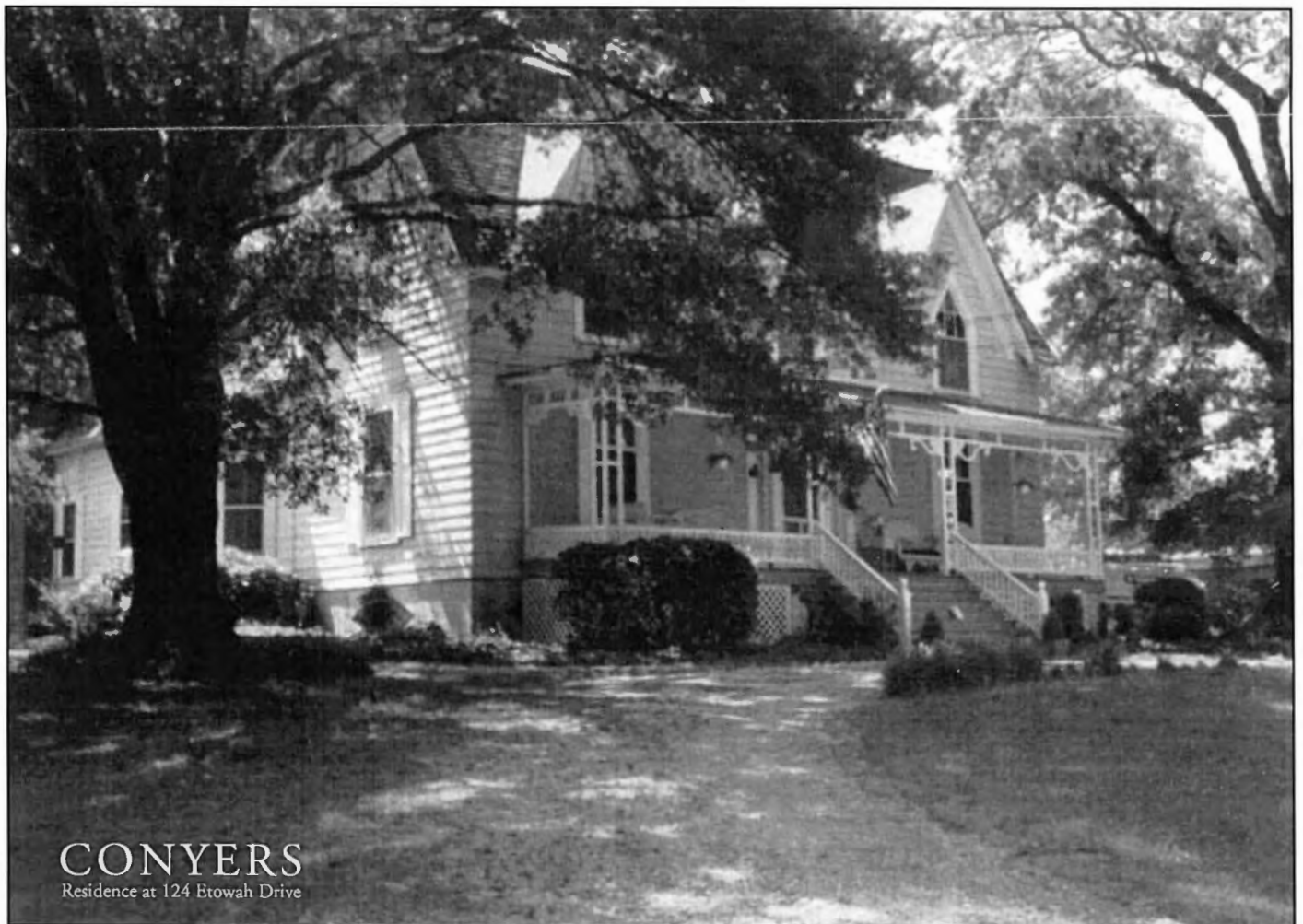
Volume 60, July 2006

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## AUGUST 12th MEETING SCHEDULED FOR CONYERS RESIDENCE

The August dinner meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society will be held at the Conyers residence at 124 Etowah Drive. This historic home was built in 1872 on a site which stretched to the Etowah river and was used primarily to grow cotton. In the 1890's the property was purchased by John Simmons Leake, great great, great grandfather of the present resident, and has been occupied by members of his family since that time. Presently, Sonny and his father, John, reside in the family home.



CONYERS  
Residence at 124 Etowah Drive



Etowah Valley Historical Society  
115 West Cherokee Avenue  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120  
Email: [evhs@evhsonline.org](mailto:evhs@evhsonline.org)  
Website: [www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

#### Officers

##### President

Ed Hill

##### Treasurer

Trey Gaines

##### Recording Secretary

Linda Cochran

##### Corresponding Secretary

Michael Garland

#### Directors

Ed Hill  
Linda Cochran  
Carl Etheridge  
Trey Gaines  
Eleanor Linn  
Mary Norton  
Bob Redwine  
Dianne Tate  
Sally Tonsmiere

#### Office Manager

Linda Trentham

#### Inventory

Mary Norton

#### Program Director

J. B. Tate

#### Preservation

John Lewis

#### Membership Chairman

Dianne Tate

## EVHS MEMBER HONORS ILLINOIS SOLDIERS AT PASS

Tom Gaard paid tribute to his great grandfather, Jefferson Moses, and his fellow soldiers of the 93rd Illinois with his recent generous donation to the Illinois monument fund which is raising funds to place a monument at Allatoona Pass.

Tom believes that since about one half of the Federal troops engaged in the battle were from Illinois it seems fitting that the next monument should represent that state.

Information on Pvt. Jefferson Moses, including a photo, his enlistment and discharge papers, obituary, his diary with entries about the battle at Allatoona Pass, and copy of a letter written from Allatoona after the battle, can be found at [www.ioweb.com/civilwar](http://www.ioweb.com/civilwar).

Donations to the Illinois monument should be sent to Etowah Valley Historical Society, P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, Georgia 30120.

## EVHS MEMBERS TOUR McELREATH VILLAGE

Saturday evening, May 6th, EVHS members enjoyed dinner at the home of James and Jane McElreath and toured the 1930 era village that they have constructed on their property. Work on the buildings was begun in 1996 and continues today. Four buildings have been completed and a large collection of items are ready for the occupation of the next facility.

James distributed a printed description of many of his artifacts which covered a wide range of time, from Indian items that were found on the farm to bubble gum cigars advertising the two Bushes, Al Gore and Hillary Clinton. Among the older items are fleams (blood-letting instruments) dating back to circa 1789, straight razors circa 1800, and an English razor, circa 1820.

The majority of the items collected were those that would have been found in a general store, barber shop, diner, or tobacco shop of 70 years ago including cash registers, bubble gum machines, thread cabinets, medicines, tobacco products, soft drink products, etc...



The Tall Pine diner is one of four buildings in the 1930s village being constructed by Jane and James McElreath on their property on Old Alabama Road.

# EVHS LIBRARY HOUSES INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

The entire 20 volume collection of historic sites in Bartow County is now available to the public thru the offices of the Etowah Valley Historical Society. The inventory was spear headed by EVHS and involved 45 volunteers who spent more than 1600 hours, to date, collecting the information.

Mary Norton, Inventory Chairman, is in the process of furnishing all of the communities who were involved in the inventory with their own copy of their inventory. Plans are to place all of the information on a computer which will be available in the EVHS offices in the gold-domed courthouse.



Office volunteers met at the EVHS offices to familiarize themselves with the twenty binders containing information on the inventory of the historic sites of Bartow County.

The following persons attended the 1st of two training sessions: Lois Hill, Bob Redwine, Eleanor Linn, Mary Norton, Inventory Chairman: Carolyn Parmenter, DiAnne Monroe and Marian Fisk.

# LEWIS & CLARK BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TOUR



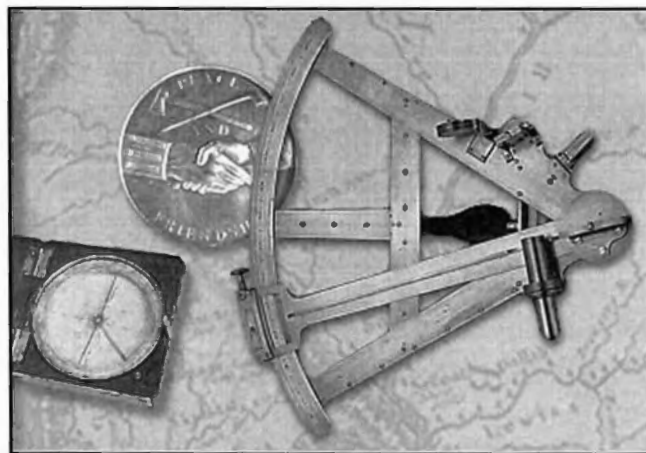
MERIWETHER  
LEWIS



WILLIAM  
CLARK

The footsteps of explorers, Lewis and Clark will be traced by historian, Dr. Brooks Ranney in tours starting in St. Louis on July 19th and September 6th. The tour will travel thru 11 states, more than 4000 miles and will last fourteen days.

For more information:  
Contact: **Rupiper Travel & Tours**  
327 Broadway, Suite 1, Yankton  
SD 57078, 605-665-1212  
888-414-4177  
ruptravl@iw.net  
www.rupipertravel.com



# GEORGIA'S NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION ALLATOONA DAM

BY WYLLY FOLK-ST. JOHN

JOURNAL MAGAZINE PHOTOS BY CAROLYN CARTER

One of the biggest tourist attractions in Georgia right now is a pile of some 275,000 cubic yards of concrete in the middle of the Etowah River, up near Cartersville.

It's the Allatoona Dam under construction (about 60 percent completed), seven miles off U.S. highway 411 - the Tennessee highway. Every Sunday this modern Pyramid draws a crowd of 2,000 to 3,000 people who like to watch men move mountains, not by faith but with machinery, and change the course of a river with a cofferdam. One recent Sunday there were between 5,000 to 6,000 visitors. Charles A. Jackson, resident engineer in charge of the project for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, says he keeps a register on the observation platform for visitors to sign. "They're going to write their names somewhere," he says cheerfully, "so it might as well be in the book." About a fourth of the visitors do sign up.

The reason the dam draws such crowds of interested spectators is not hard to understand, once you take a good look at the impressive structure. It's the enormity of everything that keeps the onlooker awestruck. When finished, the dam will contain half a million cubic yards of concrete. It'll be 200 feet high and hold back 235,263,440,000 gallons of water. Workmen, climbing the almost straight slope of its downstream side, look from the top of the next hill, like small busy ants that have somehow learned how to climb minute ladders. The contractor has 400 men at work here and the U.S. Engineers about 60.

Half the river at a time is diverted from its course to provide a dry river bed for placing the concrete. The first half of the dam is now practically finished, and the cofferdam (made of interlocking steel piling, in circles about 40 feet across, filled with clay and rock) has been placed to turn the river back into that half of the original bed. Reminds you of

Moses rolling the Red Sea back for the Children of Israel to walk across on dry land. The men and steamshovels and trucks are now taking out rock and sand from the place where the water used to be, reaching the foundations where the rest of the 25 monoliths will be placed. (A monolith is an independent section of concrete laid in five-foot-high, 40-foot-wide slabs set one on top of another from the base clear to the top.) Fourteen of these sections are already in place. But a space was left in the part of the dam that is finished, for the water to continue to pour through until the concrete is placed in the rest of the river bed.

When the whole thing is done, and the 25 monoliths are holding back those 235,263,440,000 gallons of water to make the lake 125 to 135 feet deep, Rome will be safe from disastrous floods. The dam will provide excellent flood control. The spill gates will let out only as much water as desired. During rainy seasons when there is plenty of water, enough electricity power will be generated to serve 140,000 homes on the basis of the national average of consumption. This power which will ultimately be manufactured here will belong in the province of the Department of the Interior, which will sell it, in co-operation with the Federal Power Commission - probably to the Georgia Power Company. It could conceivably result in lower rates for the consumer in this immediate area, but the main purpose of the dam is flood control; its electric power production is of secondary importance.

After the dam's completion, tourists will be allowed to climb the 256 steps inside the dam, or the steps that go for 140 feet up the face of the dam from the parking area, at the powerhouse, if they think their legs will hold out. At present, the only place for tourists is the fine observation

platform from which they can watch the whole operation going on below them. Guides are on duty seven days a week from noon to 8 p.m. to answer the public's questions. A rest room and a concession stand are also available. Or you can bring your own lunch and have a picnic while you conjure up in your mind's gargantuan eye the completed dam, with its scenic road across the top above the spillway and gates, its awesome concrete height standing firm against floods, its pleasant lake above, stocked with fish and trimmed with neat cottages around the edge, where vacationers can enjoy their man-made paradise of enormous swimming-hole and good-fishing privileges.

It'll be some time before all this comes to pass. But Mr. Jackson thinks the dam ought to be finished by the winter of 1949. It'll cost 30 million Congress-appropriated dollars.

You can get an idea of the reason it's so expensive by going with Mr. Jackson to the concrete mixing plant, where are what he calls "the brains" of the project. Here there are marvelous machines that seem to be practically building the dam by themselves - although inspectors with rigid standards make sure the machines are functioning correctly. Automatic push-buttons control the machinery that weighs the ingredients and mixes the concrete. Conveyor belts bring in hundreds of tons a day of rock in various graduated sizes. The rock goes with the cement into the two big mixing machines. They in turn pour the mixed concrete into two huge buckets that can be swung out on a cable to the point on the dam where the concrete is dumped into forms, as needed. Two towers, called the "head tower" and the "tall tower," control the

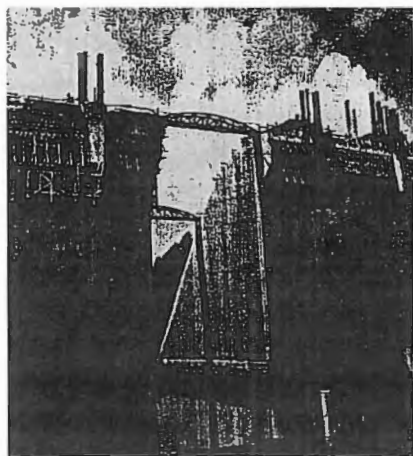
movement of the material out over the gorge and the placing of it into position.

A refrigerating plant cools the water used in mixing the concrete. Mr. Jackson explains that the engineers attempt to place the concrete at the coolest temperature within reason using water just short of ice (about 33 degrees) in order to eliminate any possibility of the concrete's cracking later. This is one reason why they place all concrete at night, when the temperature is lower. Another reason for lighting up the river at night and working two shifts is that they can thus utilize the same cableway for different operations, and shorten the time of construction. It is about a five-year project, estimates Mr. Jackson, who has built two other dams before Allatoona.

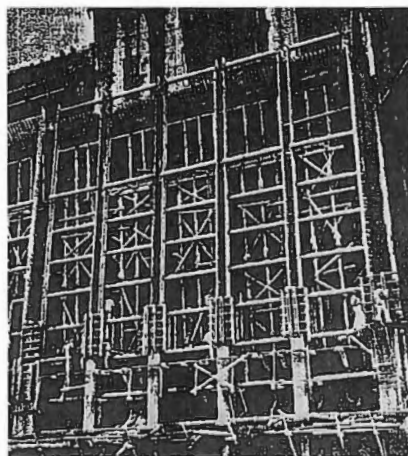
He takes you down into the working area and points out where the pump room will be, where the turbines and generators will go, and explains that such marvelous (though now commonplace) power operations as are here contemplated are the logical development from the old grist mill run by a water wheel. "It's just a matter of higher pressure and more speed," says the engineer, simplifying electricity to where even this female can understand it.

But to most females standing small and timid at the bottom of the mountain of concrete that holds back the top heavy water, the most important question is, "Does a dam like that ever break?"

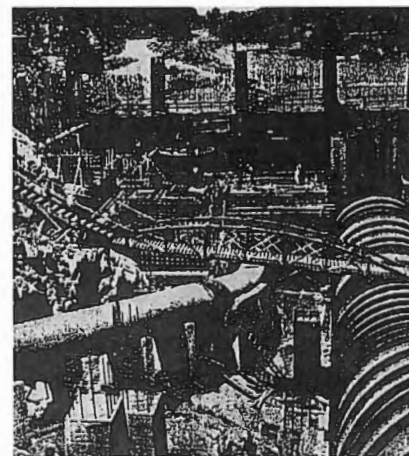
Mr. Jackson has a confident answer to that one too. "Not when the U.S. Corps of Engineers builds it."



*Two of the 25 concrete monoliths which will impound the great Allatoona lake.*



*This section of the downstream face of the dam is a symmetrical lace of framework and supports.*



*Below the dam. The big penstock at the right will carry water through a generator turbine.*

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# PINE LOG CHURCH

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INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE GEORGIA  
CHAPTER OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION  
PUBLICATION CONCERNING THEIR RECENT  
MEETING WHICH WAS HELD IN PINE LOG

As long ago as 1817, Methodist circuit riders were preaching to the Cherokees, in the open, in Pine Log. In 1837, the Pine Log Methodist church and campgrounds were established and in 1838, the Pine Log Methodist building was constructed by the Cherokees who remained after the Trail of Tears and the white settlers who moved into the area.

Pine Log had been the site of a large Creek town and had been visited by DeSoto.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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Russell and Daneise Archer

Ken and Bonnie Floyd

Ginger Garrard

Jessica Goode

Mina Todd Harper

Marvin and Jennie Hudson

Jody and Cheri Parker

Gary and Merriam Webb

# EVHS MAY 6, DINNER MEETING

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*Debbie and Merideth Head, Jane and James  
McElreath and Joe Head at the  
May 6th dinner meeting of EVHS*



*Serving line at May EVHS dinner meeting*

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# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Our organization is made up of busy people, most of whom must be content to support EVHS by paying their dues. Such support is vital to our organization.

However, those members who take the time to volunteer are our lifeblood. Without the efforts of those who volunteer their time and ability, the Etowah Valley Historical Society would cease to exist.

If you are one of those members who do have some spare time and would like to become a more active member, EVHS could use your help.

Our office volunteers are our contact with the public. Whether answering the telephone, selling books, or assisting with research, they perform a vital service. If you can help out for several hours per month, please contact Linda Trentham at 770-386-5633.

Do you have any computer expertise? A volunteer is needed to keep our website up to date. We are an active organization and our website needs to be updated as often as once per month. It shouldn't take long if the volunteer has the knowledge.

Do you like to get your hands dirty? Our special projects often need some physical labor. Our next such opportunity will be spreading gravel on the walking trails at Friendship Cemetery. Contact Ed Hill at 770-386-3110.

HISTORY OF OLD CARTERSVILLE  
IS AT THE PRINTERS,  
AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

## FRIENDSHIP CEMETERY TRAIL

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*J.B. Tate saws a stump at Friendship Cemetery in preparation for the spreading of gravel on the newly marked walking trail.*

## GEORGIA CIVIL WAR SITES TO BE TOURED IN FALL

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Ed Bearss, the dean of Civil War historians, and a frequent visitor to the state of Georgia, will lead a tour of Civil War sites across the state of Georgia this October 17 thru 25. The tour will include two stops in Bartow County-Cassville and Allatoona Pass, and will cover the conflicts of the period from May, 1864 to December 21, 1864.

Starting at Ringgold Gap, the trip will travel to Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Dug Gap, Resaca, Cassville, Allatoona Pass, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Sunshine Church, Griswoldsville, Macon, Milledgeville and Savannah. It will also include a visit to Beaufort, South Carolina.

More information can be obtained by contacting History America TOURS at 800-628-8542.

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## OFFICE HOURS CHANGED

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The Etowah Valley Historical Society office in the 1903 gold-domed court house is no longer open on Monday afternoons. This puts Cartersville in line with most historical society offices that maintain regular office hours. The majority of historical society offices are not open six days per week.

Mondays have had the lowest attendance of the six days in our office.

EVHS hours are 1:30 until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday and 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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August 12, 2006

Dinner meeting at Conyers

September 23, 2006

Luncheon for EVHS office volunteers

October 7, 2006

Annual meeting at gold-domed courthouse

October 7-8, 2006

Anniversary of the Battle of Allatoona Pass

December 2, 2006

Christmas Party at Rose Lawn



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Cartersville, Georgia 30120

[evhs@evhsonline.org](mailto:evhs@evhsonline.org)  
[www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

#### Inside...

1. Conyers Residence
2. Illinois Soldier Monument
3. McElreath Village
4. Lewis & Clark Bicentennial
5. EVHS Inventory
6. Allatoona Dam

Norma J. Tidwell  
118 N. Erwin Street  
Cartersville, GA 30120