



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 63, April 2007

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## EVHS MEMBERSHIP INVITED TO PICNIC AT SPRING BANK

The membership of the Etowah Historical Society will hold a meeting at historic Spring Bank on Saturday evening, May 19, at 5pm. A barbeque is being planned. More details will be announced later concerning prices, reservations, etc.

Spring Bank was the home of Rev. Charles Wallace Howard, who purchased 800 acres of land north of Kingston in the late 1830's. Mr. Howard was a noted scholar, clergyman, speaker, and writer. He married the former Susan Jett Thomas of New Orleans, the daughter of General Jett Thomas, a veteran of the War of 1812. The couple had thirteen children.

In 1852 he opened a select school at his home in Spring Bank. During the Civil War he served as a Captain of Company I, 63rd Georgia Regiment. He died December 25, 1876 and is buried in the family cemetery at Spring Bank.

The home was destroyed about 30 years ago, but the family cemetery has survived. One of the Howards buried there is Frances Thomas Howard, author of *In and Out of the Lines*. In addition to the Howards, the cemetery also contains the grave of Everett D. B. Fabrina Julio (1843-1879). Julio was a French-trained artist who is best known for the large painting (10 ft by 71/2 ft) entitled "The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson, on the Eve of the Battle of Chancellorsville." Julio died of tuberculosis in Kingston.



*The second largest white oak in the state of Georgia grows at Spring Bank. The tree is estimated to be between 260 and 310 years old with a circumference of 19.3 feet and reaching 105 feet in height. The total crown spread is 101 feet.*



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

Joanne Smith

#### Directors

Ed Hill  
Linda Cochran  
Carl Etheridge  
Trey Gaines  
Guy Parmenter  
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

# HISTORIC GARDEN SURVEY UPDATE

On Thursday, March 15, 20 members of the Historic Garden Survey Group met at the home of Mary and Bob Norton. Staci Carton-Sullivan, Director of the Cherokee Garden Library and Mary Ann Eady, Manager of the Technical Services Unit with the Department of Natural Resources, were the guest speakers.

Staci and Mary Ann started the meeting with an overview of the Historic Landscape Initiative sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia. The group was in agreement that we have a wonderful opportunity to document historic garden sites in Bartow County and create a centralized data base for future generations. The gardens at Valley View and Barnsley are the only Bartow County ones documented at the Center for the Study of Southern Garden History at the Atlanta History Center.

After reviewing the necessary steps to be taken and reviewing the various sites in Bartow County, seventeen gardens were selected and members assigned to begin the survey. Persons interested in helping with this project may contact Mary Norton at 770-607-9359 or email her at [vvb@bellsouth.net](mailto:vvb@bellsouth.net).

## REBECCA FELTON RECALLED

A Louise Stamen, author of a book on Cartersville's own, Rebecca Felton, spoke to an appreciative audience recently at Stile's Auditorium in a program sponsored by EVHS. The local chapter of AAUW, who had changed their meeting date in order to hear Mrs. Stamen, was in attendance to learn more about the lady who was the best known woman in the history of Bartow County. Rebecca had a long and distinguished career as an advocate for women's rights. She was an honors graduate of her college, an author, columnist for an Atlanta newspaper, editor of a Cartersville paper, and was honored when she was the first female to be seated as a United States Senator. In her speech to the United States Senate, she stated: "When the women of this country come and sit with you, though there may be very few in the next few years, I pledge that you will get ability, you will get integrity of purpose, and you will get unstinted usefulness." Mrs. Felton (1835-1930) is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Cartersville.



*J.B. Tate, program chairman; Ed Hill, EVHS president; and A. Louise Stamen, guest speaker, discuss the book which had been presented to her by EVHS.*

---

## IN MEMORIUM

---

Richard Jackson

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT NOMINEES

---

Since 2001, the Etowah Valley Historical Society has presented the EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award to an individual who, over a period of at least twenty years, best represents the mission of the society of "promoting and enhancing the awareness of preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County". The honoree need not be a member of EVHS and may be either male or female. The award may be given posthumously.

Past winners have been Mary Ellen Taff, Martha Mullinix, Lizette Entwisle, Dr. Susi Wheeler, and Emily Chapman. The winner will be announced at the annual meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society on the first Saturday in October. Nominations should be in writing and must be received by the board of directors before their May meeting, which will be held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, May 8. They should be mailed to:

Board of Directors  
Etowah Valley Historical Society  
Post Office Box 1886  
Cartersville, Georgia  
30120

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

---

Kevin & Diane Affolder

Larry Brown

Nathan Thompson

## INFORMATION SOUGHT

---

Dr. Richard Coffman of North Carolina, is writing a book on "The Johnson Rangers", more formally known as Co. B, of the Phillips Georgia Legion. The Rangers were from this area and Dr. Coffman would like to know the first name of Johnson. The name may be Lindsay Johnson, an early Cass resident. Lindsay's son, Abda, commanded the 40th Georgia regiment during the Civil War. Any information on the regiment will be appreciated.

Richard Coffman, 9001 Salford Court,  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

## HILLS OF IRON

---

Guy Parmenter and Ed Hill represented EVHS at the Hills of Iron program by acting as guides at Coopers Furnace. The cold blast furnace was erected in 1857 and was one of two producing iron for the Etowah Manufacturing and Mining Company. It was called River Furnace and the other (no longer in existence) was the Etowah Furnace. The manufacturing area also included a rolling mill, nail factory, a cooperage, a railroad turntable, and a flour mill. The town of Etowah once had a population of 1200, with most residents working in manufacturing. The town had a hotel, school, boarding houses, a church, post office, and at least one tavern. The town was supplying the Confederate Army and when the Union Army came into the area, Sherman ordered it destroyed. Much of the remains are now under the waters of Allatoona Dam.

---

# STILESBORO ACADEMY INFORMATION LOCATED AMONG HAND-WRITTEN PAPERS

---

*Margaret Knight, a charter member of EVHS and descendant of Robert Stiles recently donated some old papers to EVHS. Among those papers was the attached article about the Stilesboro Academy. The article was written about 1920 and printed in the Oct. 19th, 1972 Cartersville Daily Tribune News.*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Frequently we feel that there is too much taken for granted about historical landmarks and sites, as indicated by how well received were our Centennial issues of the news. Now through the efforts of two former residents of Bartow County and Mrs. Gordon Powell of Cartersville, we have an opportunity to spotlight yet another historical landmark: Stilesboro Institute (Academy), Mrs. Claire McGinnis Aiken and Mrs. Wilma McGinnis Smith, both of Brunswick, found the following article recently while going through some papers of their mother, Mrs. Bertia Duke McGinnis. The article, sent to Mrs. Powell, was handwritten and undated, but recalls much of the historical value of this famous landmark, and is being printed in the interest of bringing our readers a brief look at the Bartow County of yesterday.)

Standing on a commanding eminence, overlooking the valley of the Etowah River, and the surrounding fertile countryside, is a very imposing building, Stilesboro Institute. Set back some three miles from the beautiful, flowing Etowah, this grand, magnificent, old building has no equal- no rival- in its appointments; its architecture is English in design even to severity. Standing about it, the beholder sees in the outlines of its form a simplicity of architecture pleasing to the eye: this old building lends itself more to the element of grandeur than to the beautiful. One, who has a soul for such things, can but be pleased with the prospect it affords.

Resting on its cite, one hundred twenty feet one way and ninety feet the other, and towering high many feet, this building affords space under its roof for two schoolrooms forty by forty. These rooms are situated on each side of an auditorium chapel, forty by sixty feet. The ceiling, in all these parts, is twenty feet from the floor. Nothing about this building is little. The double entrance doors are fourteen feet high or more. The windows are in the same magnificent proportion, affording space for very many panes of window glass. The finishings around the doors are on correct lines, giving a facade effect full of grandeur to the one who appreciates such things. The corners of this building are ornamented by semicolumns inset. These semicolumns have a Capital finish in Doric style, all of which- column and capital- give an effect of grandeur unsurpassed any where. The gables and friezes present the same effect in their finishings- chaste simplicity in design but grand withal.

One stands outside or goes inside to behold this building for the simple reason that it is grand and magnificent. Here on this hill, this building stands apart to itself, weather-beaten and worn by its sixty-one years of existence. The paint almost gone, the roof decayed to a degree sad to think about, and yet, for all these long sixty-one years, this school has housed the children and youths of the community when they assemble each year to seek knowledge gotten from books and other things. Its school bell will soon be ringing again for another school year. The children will soon assemble between its friendly walls, the parents will send them there, both little thinking what a treasure they have in this building, because they have always had it as a matter of course. The importance of preserving this building does not seem to concern very many in its surrounding community.

Now, this Stilesboro Institute building has a history all its own, which now will follow:

This Stilesboro community had quite a number of well-to-do families in it, almost all farmers. Nearly all these families consisted of a father, mother, and a number of young children. So, as in those days, the big thing was to

educate these children. In 1856, the community got together and started a high school in an enlarged building some quarter of a mile east of the present building. High school proved so successful that by 1858 it was plain that a larger and better building must be furnished. The prime movers for this building were Judge W. T. Burge; D. B. Cunyus; Russel H. Cannon; William Thurman; Thomas Tumlin; W.H. Lucas; Ortney Henderson; B.F. Henderson; William Shaw; Chas. Shelman; Pleasant Baker; Peter Hammond; Thos. Brandon; Riley Milam; Wm. Davis; Joel Stone; Soloman Zant; Thompson Colbert; John Colbert; Charles Sproull; Elihu Sproull; Dr. J.C. Sims; Dr. S.F. Stephens; John Patterson; Joshua Taff; Justace F. Sproull; the Chapman brothers; D.L & R. Winggard; and others we cannot now recall.

Stilesboro Institute building was erected at a cost of five thousand dollars, and the building committee was never in debt. The cite for the building was cleared off in the latter part of 1858. This cite was then a pine thicket. The contract for the building was let to Messirs, Glazener and Clayton, contractors living at Euharlee then. Most, if not all of, the lumber was furnished by Judge W.T. Burge, who erected a sawmill up in Paulding County on Dry Creek, but a few miles away from Stilesboro. The work on this building went steadily on from its beginning to its completion in 1859, when it was so nearly done that the public exercises, or school examinations took place in it on the first week in July, 1859. This scribe remembers well the glad days when he and his desk mate, Virge Tumlin, carried the same from the old schoolhouse to the new. Just after the close of the term that year, Daniel Harrison, an Englishman, began the painting of the building. He was quite a while at it - months and months. And the last touch of paint he gave it, was the dedication - Latin phrase- "Deo ac Patriae" There it stands - Deo ac Patriae is "God and our Country." For all these long sixty and more years, this Deo ac Patriae has stood acclaiming to all the noble purpose for which this building was erected. Indeed, it is said, that General Sherman, while ordering the burning and pillaging of everything along his march through Georgia, seeing this "Deo ac Patriae" in this building bade his soldiers withhold the torch from it.

Coming up to the times of the Civil War, this writer remembers sixty or more young men and boys who went out of this hall of learning to do battle for home and country; some of whom never came back; their graves are in faraway Virginia or, maybe, Kentucky or Tennessee. Also it is recalled that the ladies of Stilesboro community used to assemble in this old building to knit and sew for our boys in the Confederate Army. These ladies knits socks and made suits of Confederate grey cloth, home woven, for our defenders. We recall that they made suits enough for one entire company, Capt. Stiles Co., 60th Ga. Regiment.

Of the teachers at this high school, this list may be made: Robt. A. West; Rev. Wm. Cunyus; Rev. Thos. A. Seals, to the Civil War, Rev J.G Ryals and a few others until the establishing of a common school system of Georgia put an end to this high school.

This old building has resounded many and oftentimes to the sounds of its celebrated Calithumpian Society. Some may say - "Well, what is this Calithumpian Society?" This society is non-descript. It never had a President nor a Secretary. But it has always been here. Ask about it. No one will tell you. Its secrets and cabalists are hid in the deep recesses of the hearts of the pupils of Stilesboro Institute. Ever member carries in his or her memory the workings of this Calithumpian Society, but none will tell of it. It may interest you to know that Henry McCormick is the oldest living member of this society. This society is there now and will live as long as girls and boys come to this building as pupils in small or large numbers.



*Stilesboro Academy in 2007*

## LOCAL CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Valley View, the beautiful home of Dr. Robert Norton and Mary Norton, a director of the Etowah Valley Historical Society, was used by the Union Army during the Civil War. According to an unsigned news article recently donated to EVHS, Union General George W. Scofield and some of his staff offices occupied the second floor and their horses occupied the first floor during a three month period. Although the quoted letter was not dated, it is believed to have been printed about 1972. The books, *White Columns of Georgia*, written by Medora Field Parkerson and first published in 1950, states that General George Schofield occupied Valley View. Lt. Colonel George Schofield was awarded the honorary title of Brevet General, probably for bravery, on January 26. In lieu of medals, the Union Army awarded the title of Brevet General to officers and, sometimes, to enlisted men. The title was honorary, so the recipients continued to be paid at their old rate.

George Wheeler Schofield was a member of Company F of the 2nd Regiment, Missouri Volunteers, Light Artillery. George W., was in Georgia with Sherman, as was his brother, John M., who commanded the Army of the Ohio. John was much better known than George and is documented as being in the vicinity of Valley View. John is locally believed to have been the General Schofield who occupied Valley View.

Ill from a brain tumor, George committed suicide in 1882 at Fort Apache, Arizona. His brother, John, had a long public career including serving as Secretary of War, superintendent of West Point, and as Commanding General of the United States Army. John died at Fort Augustine in 1906 and was buried in Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

## NATIONAL REGISTRY WORKSHOP HELD

Nearly twenty people interested in learning the process of having a property registered on the National Registry of Historical Places attended a workshop held at Georgia Highlands College. Gretchen Brock from National Registry Office in Atlanta spoke on the proper procedures to follow and explained where the necessary information can be found. Laurette Smith, an EVHS member and an office volunteer in the EVHS office, told of her experiences in having her home placed on the National Registry.

Follow-up meetings are being scheduled as the members of the group seek further information and assistance.



*The Euharlee contingent at the National Registry Workshop.*

## HISTORY OF OLD CASSVILLE AVAILABLE.

Our latest printing of the book, HISTORY OF OLD CASSVILLE, is now for sale in the Etowah Valley Historical Office in the historic gold-domed courthouse. The book was out of print for some time but has been reprinted.

---

## BEGINNING GENEALOGY COURSE HELD

---

Thirteen aspiring genealogists, hoping to trace their family tree, attended a session on Genealogy for Beginners course led by Linda Cochran at the research facilities of EVHS in the historic gold-domed courthouse on a Saturday morning in February. This enthusiastic group has continued to meet at the courthouse as they continue to research their family trees.



*Linda Cochran leads the discussion of genealogy at the workshop*

## TRAIL OF TEARS TO BE EXPANDED

---

On June 1st, President Bush signed legislation to expand the current Trail of Tears to include additional routes. The bill directs the National Park Service to complete the criteria to move forward. Two major trails, as well as water routes and emigration depots, were missing from the original Trail.

## 150th ANNIVERSARY OF CIVIL WAR TO BE NOTED IN GEORGIA

---

2011 will be the 150th anniversary of the United States Civil War and plans are under way to observe the event at various sites across the state of Georgia. Representatives of various groups in the northwest section of the state have been meeting near the battlefield of Chicamauga to make plans for events from the Georgia-Tennessee line thru Bartow County as far south as Allatoona Pass. Larry Posey has represented the Etowah Valley Historical Society in the meetings thus far.

## ALLATOONA MONUMENT FUND

---

Funds for the monument at Allatoona Pass continue to be received by EVHS towards monuments honoring the Illinois and Iowa soldiers who participated in the battle at Allatoona Pass on October 4, 1864.

A recent article in the Des Moines Register which listed the Etowah Valley Historic Society and gave the society's website should stir more interest and yield additional funds.

---

## WORST PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS

---

A group of historians have released a list of some of the worst presidential decisions.

- 1 • Buchanan's failure to prevent secession
- 2 • Andrew Johnson's mismanagement of reconstruction
- 3 • Lyndon Johnson's escalation of the Vietnam War
- 5 • Richard Nixon's Watergate cover-up
- 8 • Kennedy's Bay of Pigs invasion
- 9 • Reagan's Iran-Contra affair
- 10 • Clinton's Lewinsky affair

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

May 19  
SPRING BANK PICNIC

October 6  
ANNUAL MEETING

October 6, 7  
THE BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS

December 1  
CHRISTMAS PARTY



### ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

D.O. Box 1886  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120  
[evhs@evhsonline.org](mailto:evhs@evhsonline.org)  
[www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

#### Inside...

1. Historic Garden Survey Update
2. Monument Donations for Allatoona Pass
3. Stilesboro Academy
4. Local Civil War History
6. Trail of Tears Expanded