



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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EVHS TURNS PASS DUTIES OVER TO RED TOP STATE PARK

Twelve years after signing an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take over the Battlefield at Allatoona Pass, EVHS has relinquished control to Red Top Mountain State Park. EVHS began discussions with Red Top officials several years ago and negotiations began between EVHS, Red Top, and the Corps of Engineers. Red Top will lease the property from the Corps, who will continue to own the site.

When EVHS began work at the Pass in 1995, the area had been neglected for years and was badly overgrown. Today, there is a paved parking lot and trails with informative signs that tell the story of the battle. A memorial park currently has two monuments to honor those soldiers from Missouri and Texas who participated in the battle.

Work today consists of several trips per month to clear the trails of fallen trees and branches, replace stolen or broken signs, and clean up discarded trash. Red Top, with its more abundant manpower and equipment, will be able to better perform this work.

The Etowah Valley Historical Society will serve as advisors and will continue to work with Red Top in conducting the annual observance of the Battle of Allatoona Pass, which is held the first weekend of October. EVHS will continue to raise funds towards the erection of monuments in the memorial park. Currently donations are being received towards Illinois and Iowa monuments.

An official ceremony is to be held in conjunction with the annual observance of the battle.

2007 TOUR OF HOMES SCHEDULED

The EVHS Preservation Committee is making plans for the 2007 Tour of Homes. This year's tour is planned for the weekend of November 3 and 4. Committee members include John Lewis, Emily Champion, Genie Certain, Susan Alexander, Dianne Tate, Lorena Pal, and Masie Underwood.

This year's tour will spotlight five homes in Cartersville's first historic district, Olde Town, and is designed to show what can be done to preserve the historic integrity of our older houses. Houses on the tour are the home of Rocky and Kay Ponders on Bartow Street, Floyd and Kristen Braid on South Avenue, Charles and Becky Cowan on West Avenue, Ginger and Hal Gerrard on South Avenue, and Mary Kay and Roger Hitt on West Avenue.

Sponsors for the tour include New Riverside Ochre, Century Bank, White, Choate and Watkins, Shaw Hankins Insurance, and Phoenix Air.

The committee plans to invite the homeowners to a morning tea, so they can get to know each other and discuss any questions that they may have regarding the tour with the committee.

A number of opportunities to assist with the tour are available including serving as a host or hostess at the homes, putting up signs the days of the tour, assisting tour goers on and off the tour buses that will leave the gold-domed courthouse at regular intervals both days, and running various errands as needed during the weekend. If you would like to help, call Dianne Tate at 770-386-7944, or the EVHS office at 770-606-8862 and leave a message.



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EVHS MEMBERS ENJOY VISIT TO SPRINGBANK

Nearly 70 members and guests had an enjoyable trip, complete with a box lunch on Saturday, May 19 at the site of the pre Civil War home of Rev. Charles Wallace Howard. The property is now owned by Bartow County and is maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

J.B. Tate spoke to the group and conducted a tour of the property. J.B., a past president of the Etowah Valley Historical Society, is probably the one individual most responsible for saving this property for future generations to enjoy.



The tour group views the 2nd largest white oak tree in the state of Georgia.



J.B. Tate speaks to the group at the Howard family cemetery. Members shown included Sally Tonsmiere and Ariel Conlin.

ELECTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

The election of directors will be held at the annual meeting on Saturday evening, October 6. Completing their three-year terms will be Dianne Tate and Linda Cochran. Carl Etheridge will be completing a one-year term. After five years of very active service, Mary Norton will not be completing the final year of this term.

Nominations for the four openings must be received in the EVHS office no later than the 26th of August. Nominees should be paid up members of the Etowah Valley Historical Society that are willing to attend monthly board meetings and take an active part in EVHS activities, including serving on committees.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

For the past few years, the Etowah Valley Historical Society, under the direction of Mary Norton, has been instrumental in an inventory of historical sites in Bartow County. As the project progressed many saw the need to also compile an oral history of Bartow County. For nearly a year, the Oral History Committee, under the direction of Trey Gaines and Genie Certain, has been hard at work preserving the histories of Bartow County citizens. To date, Mary Ellen Taff, Lily Mae Hill, Woodrow Bradley, Warren Akin, and Jimmy Dellinger have been interviewed and many others have been identified as individuals with important stories to tell. The recorded interview and transcripts will be available in the EVHS library, as well as with organizations around the county for research purposes.

Other members of the committee are Linda Cochran, Joe Dabney, Ed Hill, Carolyn Parmenter, Mary Norton, J.B. Tate, and Sally Tonsmiere. Anyone interested in serving on the committee can contact any committee member.

AUGUST MEETING AT INDIAN MOUNDS

When, if ever, did you have the chance to go to the top of the Indian Mounds at dusk? Saturday, August 18, EVHS will meet at the Etowah Mounds to hear a speaker and afterwards walk to the top of the ancient mounds. Mark this date on your calendar. Details will be forthcoming at a later date.

HISTORIC GARDENS INVENTORY

Staci Carlton-Sullivan, Director of the Cherokee Garden Library and Mary Ann Eaddy, Manager of the Technical Services unit, Department of Natural Resources, led the discussion at a recent meeting of the Historic Garden Work Group held at the carriage house at Rose Lawn. Members reported on their progress of having twenty gardens in Bartow County registered with the state.

A "wrap up the project" meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, at Valley View.

The following article was originally published by the Weekly Tribune News, probably in 1946. It was among the articles recently donated by Margaret Knight.

MAN FOR WHOM BARTOW WAS NAMED STRIKING FIGURE, GOOD LAWYER AS WELL AS A GALLANT FIGHTER

HISTORIC BARTOW COUNTY by Mrs. Thomas Spencer

As the old Colonel is a bit "under the weather" this week, I am going to try to pitch-in for him. Maybe, yes maybe, I am not so good a historian as the Colonel is, but I have been with him over so much of the historic South and your own Bartow County that I feel that I certainly must have some idea about the history of the South and Bartow County.

Dozens of times while with the Colonel, I have crossed and recrossed the old Etowah. Over good roads and over bad roads, over battlefields by the dozens, and study of private collections of materials that have to do with the War Between the States, until I think that I am almost qualified to think myself a "jackleg" historian.

To say that Bartow County is overflowing with historic places and with history itself is putting it mildly. There are dozens of anti-bellum homes of historic interest, roads over which crossed Armies of the Confederacy and the Union, breastworks and Indian mounds and other places. I note, as I have learned by being with the Old Colonel, that old trees are guides to old places and history. The cedar usually marks the graveyards.

I see on the Colonel's desk, dozens of photographs of lovely homes, some few of breastworks, old churches, bridges, monuments, and other places of interest. I also note picture of Colonel Francis S. Bartow, for whom your county was named. Bartow was a brigadier-general though official records record him as a colonel.

Francis Bartow was a lawyer, a member of the Georgia Legislature, a striking figure with great personal magnetism. Had he not picked the field of battle he could have ranked high in the councils of the Confederate government. His company, off from Savannah, was one of the first to reach Virginia, and the hell of war that followed.

I do not think that a sketch of Francis Bartow is amiss in the series of articles being written on Bartow, for Bartow himself was a great Georgian, a brave and fearless soldier, and a man who early in the War Between the States, gave his life for the Confederacy. It was on Sunday, July 21, 1861, that First Manassas or Bull Run was fought. Here Francis Bartow was a brave soldier, a gallant leader, and one worthy of all the praise which was bestowed upon him by General P. G. T. Beauregard.

At Bull Run, Bartow commanded the Second Brigade of the Army of the Shenandoah, and under the direct command of General Joseph E. Johnston. Only by the great heroism of men like Bartow did the Confederates win so grand a victory at Bull Run. At the time when the Confederates were driving the Federals from the field, and when victory was sure, Francis Bartow fell in death for the glorious "lost" but worthy "cause". Bartow

County gets its name from this gallant Georgian.

Federal losses at Bull Run amounted to 2,896 as against losses by the Confederates of 1,982.

JOHNSTON IN BARTOW

Joseph Eggleston Johnston, who so ably commanded with Beauregard at Manassas or Bull Run, also had much to do with the history of Bartow County. Actually, Johnston spent but a few days in Bartow. He had so wanted to bring on a major engagement at Cassville, but due to Polk and Hood, he decided to move across the Etowah and fight elsewhere.

Johnston was probably the greatest strategist of the War between the States.

Certainly he was a superior army commander as compared to brave John Bell Hood. He was born February 3, 1807, in Prince Edward County, Virginia, just a few days after the birth of Robert E. Lee. Lee and Johnston saw much active service together. They went through the Mexican War, and Johnston was wounded. Johnston was a great soldier and Lee loved him as he loved no other person.

In an article written several years ago, the Old Colonel called Joe Johnston the "hard luck" general of the Confederacy, and a great "lost" soldier in a great "lost" cause. After Manassas, Johnston, commanded at Williamsburg, at Fair Oaks or Seven Pines, and was wounded in the latter battle. This gave Lee his chance for fame and glory. Meantime, Davis and "Old Joe" had come to the "parting of the ways," which meant that Johnston was shunted off to obscure and unwanted commands.

After Bragg's disaster in Tennessee, and when the Army of Tennessee was in terrible condition, Davis consented to put Johnston in command of what was left of a once grand army. How he remade that army into one of the greatest fighting machines of all time is well known to every reader of true history.

OUTNUMBERED

Always outnumbered by Sherman's armies, Johnston had fallen back in good order, until on May 17, 1864, he was in Bartow County. Part of the battle of Adairsville was fought in Bartow. Followed another retreat until on May, 1864, Johnston had decided on a major engagement at Cassville. Had the battle been fought, it would possibly have been a more bloody battle than was Chickamauga. It is more guesswork as to what the outcome of the battle at Cassville might have been. However, considering how superior the Confederate was as compared to a Federal, the chances are that Joe Johnston would have won a great victory. The war would have ended in Cassville.

I have been all over the roads in Bartow County over which the army under Joe Johnston, and the Federals under "Master of the Torch" Sherman. There is history under every foot of these grounds. Two mighty armies played back and forth, until the Federals were masters of the county. Like the old Colonel says, "There are dozens of real historic places in Bartow County, and those places should be properly marked." I heartily agree on this point.

Editor's Note: The "Old Colonel" referred to in the article is Mrs. Spencer's husband.

MONUMENT FUND UPDATE

Tom Gaard, an EVHS member living in Clive, Iowa, reports that a fund-raiser was held recently in the Redford American Legion Hall, Redford, Iowa. The event was headed by Margaret Morrison and raised \$1,051 towards the erection of a monument honoring the Iowa soldiers who participated in the battle at Allatoona Pass. The town of Redfield is named for Colonel James Redfield, Commander of the 39th Iowa, who was killed in the battle at the Pass.

As of June 1, 2007, \$3004 has been raised by Iowa, while Illinois has raised \$3570.

CORRECTION

Our sincere apologies to Emily Champion, the 2006 winner of the Etowah Valley Historical Society's Lifetime Achievement Award, for the misspelling of her name in our last issue.

BY-LAWS UPDATED

The by-laws of the Etowah Valley Historical Society were recently updated and will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting, held the first Saturday evening in October.

Copies of the proposed by-laws are available in the Gold-domed courthouse during regular office hours.

HISTORY UNDER SIEGE

The Civil War Preservation Trust currently lists two Georgia sites among its list of endangered Civil War Battlefields. The entrenchments around Marietta (Chattahoochee River Line) are listed among the 10 most endangered battlefields in the country.

Kennesaw Mountain is listed as one of the 10 additional at-risk sites.



The widow of Colonel James Redfield (as portrayed by Margaret Morrison) stands beside the Allatoona Pass display at the fund-raiser in Redfield, Iowa.

PRESERVATION LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE

Applications for historic preservation license plates are now available in the EVHS office in the historic gold-domed courthouse. Cost of the plates is \$25.

IN AND OUT OF THE LINES

The third EVHS printing of this local book has been received from the printer. The book is available in our courthouse office (\$20, \$18 with member's discount).

This book was originally published in 1905 and recounts the adventures of a local woman, Frances Thomas Howard, during the civil war. Mrs. Howard lived at Springbank, the site of EVHS's May program.

10% DISCOUNT

The board of directors of the Etowah Valley Historical Society has voted to award a 10% discount to all members on all purchases of books and note cards, including the new style cards.

Our office now has a variety of books for persons who have an interest in Bartow County including the newly reprinted History of Cassville.

In addition to the old note cards, we have a new improved style, which shows five historic sites in Bartow County.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Elaine Black

Phil Bridges

Virginia Carson

Richard Coffman

Donald Edwards

J. Bryan & Julie Edwards

Charles & Linda Pecchio

Annie Sendgikoski

IN MEMORIAL

Betty Nelson

Robert Wilson

Former treasurer of EVHS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can spare a few hours per month, one of the best ways to serve EVHS is to work as an office volunteer. Our office is open Tuesday thru Friday from 1:30 to 4:30 and on the first and third Saturdays from 1 to 5. This is a very important job and needs conscientious workers. We will train.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 18
ETOWAH MOUNDS

October 6
ANNUAL MEETING
Gold-domed Courthouse

October 6 & 7
THE BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS

October 18
FRONTIER WOMEN
Billy Kennedy will speak on Frontier Women

Nov 3 & 4
TOUR OF HOMES

December 1
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ROSE LAWN



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