



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 66, January 2008

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

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## J.B. TATE RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

J.B. Tate was declared the recipient of the fifth annual Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society held on Saturday, October 6 at the historic gold-domed courthouse. The award is given annually to an individual who, over a period of at least 20 years, best achieves and represents the society's mission of "promoting and enhancing awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County." Previous winners have been Mary Ellen Taff, Martha Mullinix, Lizette Entwistle, Dr. Susie Wheeler, and Emily Champion.

Tate is a past president of EVHS who is now serving the society as program chairman. He is an associate professor of History at Kennesaw State University. He has long been active with the Trail of Tears and is currently serving as an advisor to the board of directors for the Georgia Trail of Tears organization.

Tate was the individual largely responsible for the inclusion of the Spring Bank plantation in Bartow County's greenspace program. The 37 acre site, located just north of Kingston, was the home of the Howard family. The home burned in 1974 but remnants of the rock retaining wall and mill still exist as well as the family cemetery and spring. He was also active in the preservation of both the Allatoona battlefield and the Friendship Cemetery.



*Lifetime Achievement Award Winners Emily Champion, J.B. Tate and Martha Mullinix following the ceremony.*



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## DEDICATION OF MISSISSIPPI MONUMENT

Richard Harrison was the speaker at the dedication of the monument honoring those soldiers from the state of Mississippi who fought at the battle of Allatoona Pass. Richard, who designed the monument, also paid the cost of having it constructed. He at one time lived in the state of Mississippi, is retired from Kennesaw State Park, maintains his love for history and is an active re-enactor.



*Mississippi monument at Allatoona Pass.*

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Gary Wehner, EVHS's Monument chairman. Gary has led the efforts to have monuments for all 11 states that were represented in the battle. The Mississippi monument joins those of Texas and Missouri in the Memorial Park located just inside the entrance to the battlefield.

The dedication was held on Sunday morning, October 7, as part of the events honoring the 143rd anniversary of the original October 5th, 1864 battle. EVHS president, Ed Hill, presented Richard with a plaque for his efforts in preserving Bartow County History.

The Etowah Valley Historical Society continues to raise funds for those participating states who are not represented at the battlefield. It is hoped that two more monuments (Illinois and Iowa) will be dedicated next year.

## MOUNTAIN MEN AND SPIRITS REVISITED

Joe Dabney, local author, will be the speaker at the Etowah Valley Historical Society meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 22 at 7pm at the Bartow Library. Joe has received honors for at least two of the three books which he has published. Currently, he has one book at the publisher and is working on another.

His first book, *Mountain Spirits*, was described by TIME Magazine as a splendid and sometimes hilarious history of the Southern Appalachian moonshine culture. He was interviewed by Gene Shalit on the Today show. He has been honored by the Book of the Month Club, the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi, the Mark Twain Journal, and the James Beard Foundation.

Joe graduated from Berry and began his long newspaper career in Cartersville. He continued in the writing and publishing business in Atlanta, Gainesville, Florence, North Carolina; and with Lockheed in Marietta. He serves on the board of EVHS.

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# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF HOMES

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The Etowah Valley Historical Society's biennial tour of homes was very successful again this year. This year's Tour of Historic Homes spotlighted five homes located in Olde Town and included homes on South Bartow Street, West Avenue, and South Avenue. Homeowners who opened their homes for visitation were Kay and Rocky Ponders, Mary Kay and Rodger Hitt, Becky and Charles Cowan, Al and Ginger Garrard, and Kristen and Floyd Braid.

The tour is operated by the preservation committee of EVHS, which is headed by John Lewis, who was very ably assisted this year by Genie Certain, Mazie Underwood, Dianne Tate, Susan Alexander, Lorena Pal, and Emily Champion.

The Tour requires effort from a larger group of volunteers than does most of the EVHS projects. This year EVHS members worked as ticket sellers, tour hosts and hostesses, courthouse tour guides, and office volunteers.

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## TURNOVER OF ALLATOONA PASS

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After 12 years of service by the Etowah Valley Historical Society, the operation of the Allatoona Pass Battlefield was officially turned over to the Red Top Mountain State Park on Saturday, October 6, 2007. The battlefield will continue to be under the ownership of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

EVHS and the Corps of Engineers had signed an agreement on the seventeenth of February, 1995, and EVHS has cleared the area, built trails, erected signs, and maintained the battleground's condition for visiting by the public. EVHS will continue to be active in operation of the Pass by serving with Red Top officials as representatives on an advisory group which will monitor activities. The society will also partner with Red Top in the annual observance of the anniversary of the battle fought there in 1864.

Etowah Valley Historical Society members who participated in the two day celebration included Genie Certain, Linda Cochran, James Hamilton, Lois and Ed Hill, Guy Parmenter, Dianne and Dennis Mooney, Bill Scaife, Joanne Smith, Dianne and J.B. Tate, and Gary Wehner.



*Bill Scaife cuts the ribbon to open the Allatoona Pass Battlefield as part of Red Top Mountain State Park. EVHS members shown are Guy Parmenter, Ed Hill, Dianne Mooney, and Scaife.*

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*Among those from Bartow County who distinguished themselves in the fields of History and Preservation is Dr. Joseph Mahan. The following is printed with the permission of EVHS member Elizabeth Garrison, Dr. Mahan's sister.*

# REMEMBERING DR. MAHAN

*by Herbert Buffington*  
from THE ISAC REPORT

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I first met Joseph B. Mahan, Jr., when we both entered the freshman class at Reinhardt College in 1939. I lived in Canton some seven miles southeast of Waleska, Georgia, where Reinhardt was located, and Joe lived at Pine Log or Rydal, Georgia some twelve or fourteen miles west of the school. When I first sat in a class with Joe, he exhibited a keen interest in all types of historical information and the people with whom we came in contact. Some would say that a man of imagination and ideas makes a poor scientist. I learned from Joe the significance of almost every house and building in Cherokee and Bartow Counties, and the people of significance who had exerted influence in our state, who had resided in Bartow County and Cherokee County in years past. Among the places we visited were the Etowah Indian Mounds near Cartersville where he had participated in an archaeological excavation while he was a student in high school. There I met Lewis Tumlin, owner of the property where the Etowah Indian Mounds are located, and who had raised cotton and corn on the largest mound and had a mule to fall through the surface of the mound into a tunnel or room inside. Joe and I also visited the Barnsley's Gardens built by Sir Godfrey Barnsley, a shipping magnate in Savannah prior to the War between the States and met Mrs. Sailors, granddaughter of Sir Godfrey Barnsley. She had witnessed one of her two sons attacking and killing his brother over some dispute. The brother who committed the murder was tried, convicted and sentenced to prison. He was a professional prize fighter who supposedly had some type of brain injury that perhaps contributed to this sad event.

We were both on the editorial staff of the college newspaper and at times worked closely together in preparing various articles and reporting events that were of interest to the student body. Joe knew everybody, I think, and he was a very good friend of Dean William Tate of the University of Georgia (UGA), who was a native of the area where Joe was reared. Also, Joe could relate numerous stories about nearly everyone he knew, not in a derogatory manner, but in very human and interesting views having learned of something unique they said or did.

After finishing the two years at Reinhardt, I lost touch with Joe for the most part after he entered the University of Georgia and I entered law school. Our education's were interrupted by WW2. We both entered the Army and served until the war's end. Joe had a distinguished war record, being a member of the Army that invaded and ultimately defeated Hitler in Europe. During the latter battles of the war, Joe was wounded seriously and suffered a great deal the remainder of his life as a result of those battle wounds. He won many distinguished medals as a result of this heroism and bravery. Following our discharges after the war, I completed law school and then entered UGA. Joe also enrolled, and we shared a suite of rooms in a private home for our senior year. After graduation, Joe obtained a doctorate degree from the University of North Carolina. Our friendship soon renewed and again we worked together on some historical articles and explorations in North Georgia. Joe entered the teaching field at several colleges before settling down in Columbus, GA where he became well known in the fields in which he excelled including teaching, history, preservation, archaeology and making plans for the organization of what would become the Institute for the Study of American Cultures. (ISAC)

Joe had a major role in the development of Westville (a replicated pioneer town, SE of Columbus), the Confederate Naval Museum, the Columbus Museum, and other civic properties in and around Columbus, which included renovation and restoration of many of the homes and buildings in the downtown area of Columbus. At an early date I was able to visit with Joe the site of Westville and have kept abreast of its growth and contribution to American History since that time. We continued to be good friends until Joe's death. As students, we visited my parents in Canton and his parents in Pine Log. I also became acquainted with Joe's sister, Elizabeth Mahan Garrison, and brothers. Words will not suffice in describing the influence that Joe Mahan has had in my life. He was a man of the highest principles and character. There was nothing dishonest about Joe. He looked for the best characteristics in people and was able to probe into their personalities sufficiently to find the good about them.

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# EXPLAINS COUNTY'S UNKNOWN SOLDIER

*Sherman, Texas, Dec 7, 1949*

*The Weekly Tribune-News,  
Cartersville, Georgia*

Gentlemen:

In the October 20, 1949, issue of your paper, I read, with interest, the article regarding the "Unknown Hero", at Allatoona, Georgia.

I hereby wish to give you my knowledge of this Unknown Soldier: A few days after the Battle of Allatoona, a body was shipped into Allatoona, via the W.&A. Railway Co. There was no record as to where he was shipped from. The body was held at the Railway Depot for two days and two nights. By this time the body was in bad state of decay. The only address used was "Allatoona, Ga."

There were four of my own first cousins, Marah Hite, Nancy Hite, Rebekah Summey and Mary Smith; one second cousin, Martha Crow, prized open the home-made box to see if the body could be identified.

The Soldier was dressed in a gray uniform. There were no means by which he could be identified. A broad-brimmed black hat was rolled up in the box with the body.

The ladies mentioned above came to my home to get maddox and shovel to dig the grave. They carried the corpse by hand sticks, through the cut, to the West end of the cut and buried him about one foot from end of the cross ties, on South side of the W&A railroad track.

About 1880, a group of surveyors came in and found the grave and having no history of the person, bought and erected the tomb stone. Immediately after the tomb was placed, my cousin, George Hanson, of Allatoona, took a picture of the grave.

I am Journey Phillip Abernathy, son of Lintford Abernathy of Bartow County, Macedonia community, Ga. I was born in Bartow County, August 6, 1858, and clearly remember the struggle through the horrors of the Civil War.

Yours very truly,  
J.P. ABERNATHY  
418 S. Montgomery

*\*\* Article provided by EVHS member Jodie Hill. Jodie's mothers name was Abernathy.  
Original sentence structure and spelling intact.*

# SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ROSELAWN

The beautifully decorated historic home of Sam Jones, world-known evangelist, was the site of the EVHS annual Christmas Party on December 1. A sit down dinner preceded entertainment by the Kelly Ferguson family. Older members agreed that this year's dinner was one of the most successful thus far.



*Part of the beautiful decorations  
at Roselawn*



*The Ferguson Family: Julie, Abby, & Kelly*



*Guy Parmenter, Carolyn Parmenter, Genie Certain*



*Martha Gray, Mina Harper, Coleen Thornton*



*Lois Hill, J.B. Tate*



*More decorations at Roselawn*

## TRENTHAM HONORED

Linda Trentham was honored at the annual Christmas Party for 12 years of service as an office volunteer and ten years as co-ordinator of volunteers. Linda was a member of the original group of office volunteers and will continue to serve as a volunteer but on a more limited schedule. Linda Cochran has taken over the duties of coordinating office volunteers.

## DATE CHANGE

For the past several years, the date of our annual Christmas Party, (the first Saturday in December) has conflicted with other events scheduled for the same evening. This has forced some of our members to have to make a decision between events. Next year, the EVHS Christmas Party will be held on the first Friday in December. As usual, the party will be held in beautiful, historic Rose Lawn.

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## PRESERVATION LICENSE PLATES APPROVED

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The Historic Preservation Committee of DNR has reached their goal of 1000 sign-ups for a license plate honoring preservation. One thousand plates were needed by December 31, 2008 in order for them to be manufactured. The goal was reached on November 30, 2007 with 1001 orders received. If you have not already ordered a plate to preserve Georgia's special places, you may do so at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org).

## DUES ARE DUE

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The EVHS fiscal year runs from October 1 until September 30. Your prompt payment for the upcoming year will help EVHS to continue in its efforts to promote and enhance the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County.

Dues are: Individual \$15, Family \$20, Club or Organization \$30, Corporate or Patron \$100.

Please send your check to Etowah Valley Historical Society, P.O.Box 1886, Cartersville, GA, 30120.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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Glenn Pirrong

Lynn Pritchett

Coleen Thornton

Thomas M. Lee

Becky Champion

Ed & Sarah Miklas

Venia Etta McJunkin

Cheryl Ingram Gould

David & Sarah Brosche

Toby & Julie Newcomb

Robert & Jean Alderman

Allison & George Nelson

Susan Stephens & Ron Mehl

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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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. There's a special need for volunteers on Saturday afternoons. This is a very important job and needs conscientious workers. We will train.

## GENEALOGY CLASSES

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There will be beginners Genealogy Classes Saturday, January 26 & Saturday, March 22, and Beginner's African American Genealogy Classes on Saturday, February 16. Classes will be from 10 am to 3 pm each day.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Tuesday, January 22  
SPEAKER, JOE DABNEY

Saturday, March 15  
HILLS OF IRON

October 4, 5  
ALLATOONA PASS ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, October 11  
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING  
Gold-domed Courthouse

Friday, December 5  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Rose Lawn



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