



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 68, July 2008

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 11

EVHS member, Ray Thacker, will host the annual meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society at his establishment, Grand Oaks.

The annual meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society has been scheduled for the 2nd Saturday in October. The meeting is usually held on the first Saturday in October, but the bylaws were changed to allow the meeting to be held either the first or second Saturday to avoid conflicts which were arising between the annual meeting and the observance of the anniversary of the Battle of Allatoona Pass.

The election of three members will take place at the annual meeting along with the President's annual report to the members and the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to an individual who, over a period of at least twenty years, has best represented and achieved the society's mission of promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County.

The election of officers will take place the following Tuesday at the first board meeting of the Society's new year, which will begin October 1. This year's meeting of membership, which is usually held on the lawn of the historic gold-domed courthouse, will be moved to Grand Oaks due to the repairs under way on the courthouse.



DATING HISTORIC HOMES SEPTEMBER 16 AT LIBRARY

Maryellen Higgenbotham, curator of the William Root House Museum in Marietta, Georgia and adjunct professor at Georgia State University, will speak on dating historic homes by analyzing the paint layers and colors, the wallpaper and nails. Higgenbotham presented a scholarly paper, "Walking Through Georgia Painting, Plain and Fancy" at the fourth annual Henry D. Green Symposium of the Decorative Arts held at the Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia. This was included in the book published by the University of Georgia Press entitled, "Precedings From the Second Symposium of the Decorative Arts, Georgia Inside and Out". Another of her papers is entitled, "Bits and Pieces, Paper and Pattern: Researching Wallpaper in Nineteenth Century Vernacular".

The program is co-sponsored by the Cartersville Public Library and the Etowah Valley Historical Society and will begin at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 16 at the Library. There will be time for questions to be asked. Light refreshments will be served. The event is open to the public at no charge.



Etowah Valley Historical Society
115 West Cherokee Avenue
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Email: evhs@evhsonline.org
Website: www.evhsonline.org

Officers

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MONUMENTS ORDERED

Gary Wehner, EVHS monument chairman, has announced that the Illinois and Iowa monuments have been ordered and will be dedicated on Saturday, October 4 at 11 am during the anniversary of the Battle which will be held at Allatoona Pass on October 4 and 5. Mark Willard is in charge of fund raising for the Iowa monument. EVHS member, Tom Gaard, is in charge of raising funds for the Illinois monument and has also raised much of the funds for the Iowa monument.

All donations have been deposited in special EVHS accounts. Donations have been received from descendents of soldiers who fought in the battle, libraries, veteran's organizations, genealogical groups, historical societies, Civil War Roundtables and from other individuals who have an interest in history. Donations are still being accepted by EVHS for the monuments. Donors should mark on their checks the name of the state monument which the check is for.

Six Illinois regiments and one Iowa regiment took part in the Battle of Allatoona Pass which had one of the highest casualty rates of any Civil War confrontation. Although the Battle was relatively short, 1603 participants were killed, wounded or missing in action. The casualty rate of 30% was 1% short of the rate at the Battle of Gettysburg, which lasted 3 days.

The new monuments will join those of Missouri, Texas and Mississippi in the Memorial Park at Allatoona Pass.

CHEROKEE NATION

Jeff Stancil, site superintendent of the Chief Vann house historical site, spoke to an appreciative audience at the Library on April 15. Jeff spoke on the Cherokee Nation in Georgia, centering on the life of Chief Vann.

The event was sponsored by the Etowah Valley Historical Society and the Cartersville Library.

PICNIC AT COOPER'S FURNACE

A picnic for EVHS members and guests was held on June 27. Talks were given on both the furnace and on the village of Etowah which is now under the Allatoona Dam and the waters of Allatoona Lake.

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three members of the Board of Directors of the Etowah Valley Historical Society will be elected for three year terms at the annual dinner scheduled for the evening of October 11 at the lovely Grand Oaks. Nominees should be paid-up members of EVHS who are willing to take an active part in EVHS activities including attending the monthly meetings and serving on committees.

Members who are completing their terms are Mina Harper, Ed Hill and Sally Tonsmiere. Names for consideration should be turned in to the office prior to August 12.

FAMILY TREE-CLIMBERS

The EVHS Family Tree Climbers have resumed their meetings. The group is meeting the 4th Saturday of each month in the Etowah Valley Historical Society offices at the gold-domed 1903 courthouse. Time of the meetings will be from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Members will have access to the library, internet, the microfilm and the microfiche machines. Those who wish to put their information on the family tree maker program will be able to do so and will be shown how to compile a book from the database.

If you are interested in genealogy or just want to find out about your grandparent's life, you can use the Tree-Climbers as a way of meeting and working together on research problems. Everyone is welcome to join Linda Cochran, EVHS genealogist, and the Tree-Climbers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Warren Dodd

Gail Henry

Brian & Heather Seifert

Beth Tilley

OFFICE REMAINS OPEN DURING RENOVATIONS

The Etowah Valley Historical Society offices remain open in spite of the repairs to the 1903 gold-domed courthouse. Part of the parking lot will be lost for another six months, but the office will remain open during the hours of 1:30 to 4:30 Tuesday - Friday and on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 1 until 5.

Our volunteers are on hand to assist you in your research. Members receive a 10% discount on all book sales.

Our phone number is 770-606-8862. Book prices are also available on our web site at www.evhsonline.org.

IN MEMORIUM

Gary Webb

The following article was printed in the Tribune on November 11, 1927. Although much has been made about this relationship between General Sherman and a local woman, it appears to have been more of a story of unrequited love than a great romance.

THE ROMANCE OF ETOWAH HEIGHTS THAT TOUCHED SHERMAN'S HEART

*On His March to the Sea He Spared the Historic Mansion Because He Had Loved the Proud
Southern Girl Who Reigned Under Its Roof With the Grace and Majesty of a Queen.*

(Editor's Note: In a recent issue of the Tribune-News, the story of the winning of a handsome cup by the Cartersville Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, was told. This story, which won the cup, was written by Mrs. Walter W. Davis, and it is published in full below.)

Although there have been, at various times, stories written of the romance of Etowah Heights, for the first time a picture of the heroine of this episode is published. Through the courtesy of the daughter of Mrs. Shelman, a photograph was made from an old daguerreotype taken of their mother in her early girlhood.

The history of the old mansion at Etowah Heights was so closely interwoven with that of Bartow County that when the news came, Etowah Heights is burning down, there was sadness in the home of every citizen of the county.

After the old home with its contents had been destroyed, the gentle ladies, who had been sheltered all their lives in its ancestral walls, gathered up the few fragments saved from the holocaust and came to Cartersville to make their home. There were few among the citizens who had not, at one time or another, been recipients of the hospitality of the Shelman home, and they felt themselves honored in the presence of these daughters of Old South, who had lost their home and an almost priceless collection of family relics.

It is a significant fact that loss of home and personal possessions was secondary to the loss of library and mementos. There was a collection of scrapbooks dating as far back as 1836. Files of papers, a storehouse of Georgia history, fed the flames, and family portraits and rare old mahogany furniture handed down from colonial days were licked up in the relentless fire.

It is a singular coincidence that the home, which was left by Sherman as a tribute to the power of association should, fifty years later, meet the fate of the homes which fell before him on the famous "march to the sea."

This story, which has been handed down from generation to generation, has lost none of its romantic interest.

Reports had come out of the South of the charm and beauty of Miss Stovall and when she arrived at West Point, she was the belle of the ball, just as she was the "bright, particular star" of all such occasions in her native city, Augusta, Georgia. In after years, she loved to dwell on the delights of that evening, and the grandeur of the ball dress made in New York for the occasion, and the coiffure arranged by the New York hairdressers, and which, for the fear of disarranging, the fair Cecilia suffered the loss of a night's sleep.

The young Southern beauty at once became a reigning belle. Among those who lost their hearts to her charms were two of the most prominent of the cadets, Joseph Hooker, afterwards "Fighting Joe" of the Civil War, and W.T. Sherman, who hitherto had been known as a "Ladies Man." It is not recorded how Miss Stovall disposed of Hooker, though, in the language of the present day, she "turned him down", but her reply to



Sherman is historical; "Your eyes are so cold and cruel. How you would crush an enemy. I pity the man who becomes your foe."

The infatuated young cadet pressed his suit with all the eloquence and impetuosity which characterized his future achievements.

But in vain he repeated, "I would ever shield and protect you."

The willful beauty only shook her head said to him, "Nay."

She returned to her Southern home, heart whole and fancy free, but more dangerous than ever to the susceptible youth of her native soil.

There in Augusta, she found a young West Point graduate in charge of the arsenal in that city. Gallant Dick Garnett succumbed at once to the charms of the Georgia belle, and she gave him her heart, and plighted her troth to him.

But alas, for the young lovers-parental objections were raised. The marriage was forbidden, and the young people were not allowed to see each other. Miss Cecilia was sent on a visit to South Carolina kinfolk for an indefinite period.

While in South Carolina she met a wealthy planter, Mr. Charles Shelman, of Cherokee, Georgia, and was wooed and won by him. This time her father interposed no obstacles, and Miss Cecilia Stovall became Mrs. Shelman, and went to live in the magnificent home built by Mr. Shelman for his young bride on the banks of the Etowah.

To the elegant furnishings of the home, the young wife brought the gifts given to her by the large and influential family connection at her marriage, and the many lovely souvenirs of her travel in Europe.

Time passed on in peace and prosperity; children came to bring joy and gladness to the spacious halls and broad acres of the Shelman home.

Then the war came, and Mr. Shelman went to the front, and when the news was brought that Sherman was marching through Georgia, the young mother with her little children hastily fled, leaving her home with the faithful old negro butler.

One day as General Sherman and his staff were riding through woods in the vicinity of Etowah Heights, a turn in the road brought them in full view of this majestic home overlooking the Etowah, with the great windows looking out calmly and serenely on the signs of devastation and desolation all around.

Through the avenue of oaks which led to the house, the horsemen rode. A grey-bearded negro man opened the door, hat in hand, stood waiting their wishes.

"Old man, who lives here?" asked Sherman.

"My mistis, suh, Mistis Cecilia Stovall Shelman, suh."

"Was she Miss Cecilia Stovall of Augusta?" asked the General, after a moment, in which the memories of other days came like a flood tide over him.

"Yas suh, yas suh, de very same, suh."

The troops which had reached the place had already begun pillaging the house, and had thrown out some of the handsome mahogany furniture, and were preparing to set fire to it, when Sherman in stern and wrathful tones ordered the men to replace everything they had removed, and placed a guard around the place to prevent further depredations.

Then he tore a leaf from his notebook and hastily scribbled the following lines, Mrs. Shelman preserved carefully, and which were among the precious relics destroyed in last winter's fire.

Mrs. Cecilia Stovall Shelman

My Dear Madam-

You once said that you pitied the man who would become my foe. My answer that I would ever shield you - and that I have done.

Forgive all else. I am but a soldier.

W.T. Sherman

(Continued from page 5)

Of the loyalty of another one of the trio of army men to this fascinating woman, what further proof could be given that he never married, General R.S. Garnett carried the image of Cecilia Stovall in his heart to the last. The news of his death on the battlefield was brought to her three weeks after that sad event.

And at the same time, came the tidings of the death of her brother, George Stovall, and of his dearest friend, Charles Norton, of Rome.

Among the papers saved from the fire, was a letter dim and yellowed with age, which is among the cherished possessions of the Misses Shelman. It was written by a friend of Mrs. Shelman's early days, and is a bit of history itself.

When the Federal army entered East Tennessee and camped in our neighborhood, it looked as one of our old negroes said, "like a blue blanket was spread over the whole face of the earth, and their presence affected not only the landscape, but our spirits also—we certainly were blue, and disheartened, and welcomed any pleasant incident that drifted by upon the hurrying tide of these evening days."

One afternoon we were sitting on the gallery, when several officers in full uniform dismounted at the gate and came up the gravel walk, their sabers clanking at every step.

We invited them in and were soon engaged in pleasant conversation. One of them turned to me suddenly as though an idea struck him, and said, "Are you acquainted in Georgia?"

"Yes," I replied, "I lived there for several years."

"My father," he continued, "lived in the city of Augusta until I was 14 years old and I have always had pleasant recollections of my boyhood home. There was a young girl in the family that lived across the street from us. I thought then and have remembered her ever since as the most angelic human being I have ever known."

"Do you remember her name?" I asked.

"Oh, yes. I have never forgotten it. She was Cecilia Stovall, and her father was a prominent man in Augusta."

Then I replied, "She is now Mrs. Charles Shelman and was a near neighbor of mine when I lived in Cass County, Georgia. It is singular that you should have addressed your inquiries to me instead of the other ladies present, for they have never heard her name, while I knew her well."

Then followed a stream of questions about Mrs. Shelman, her appearance, her family, her circumstances, etc. which was kept up until the other officers rose to take their leave.

Captain Powell, with a charming bow, thanked me for the information I had given him, and with his pleasant memories of the southland and this ideal Southern beauty, and I never heard of him again.

To the very last, Mrs. Shelman retained that grace and charm, which won for her, admirers wherever she went.

As the years crept on she was the embodiment of a beautiful old age and enthroned as queen of the home in the mansion on the Etowah.

My last glimpse of her was about three years before her death. She was then nearly 80 years old, and sat perfectly erect in her high-backed Mahogany chair, with its rich carvings and looked as if she was the "grande dame," just stepped down for awhile from her high estate in a picture of the olden time.

I have carried ever since the memory of that day, the gracious high-bred woman, the lofty walls, from which looked down the faces of a long line of distinguished ancestry, the wide halls, with doorways of hand-carved work, the massive doors, the flower garden with its wealth of old fashioned roses and box wood borders.

All this passed away. Only the tall chimneys stand as silent witnesses of former grandeur and hospitable hearth stones.

ANNE HOPKINS DAVIS

A LETTER FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

In a letter found in the Bartow Tax records, which are currently in the EVHS office, JNO. C. HANEY, TAX COLLECTOR, BARTOW COUNTY stated on March 11, 1931: "According to our records, your Taxes for the year 1930 are unpaid. The State and County are very much in need of this Tax money and are requesting us to make settlements which we would like to do without putting you to any unnecessary cost, so we suggest that you let us have your check for at least one half (1/2) of your taxes the 15th of March and the remainder the last of March. This, I am sure, will work no hardship on you and at the same time, will be greatly appreciated by us. Thank You."

Taxes in Kingston averaged \$6.53 for 115 tax payers, while in Emerson 86 tax payers paid an average of \$6.32.

VENDORS OF MEDICINES, DRUGS, AND POISONS, ETC.

According to a register found in the EVHS office: Six persons were registered to sell medicine, drugs and poisons in 1881. Three were in Cartersville, two in Adairsville, and one in Kingston.

Seven more were added before 1891. Nine additional names were registered by 1901.

JUSTICE IN BARTOW COUNTY 1868

SEPTEMBER TERM
2nd October, 1868
THE STATE of GEORGIA
vs

JOHN A. SONG

Indictment for murder and verdict of guilty, Bartow County Superior Court. Whereupon it is considered orderly and adjudged by the court that defendant be accompanied to the jail of the county and there safely and securely kept by the Sheriff and his deputy and jailer until Friday the thirteenth of November next on which the Sheriff of Bartow County, or his deputy, take John A. Song and at some acceptable place within one mile of Cartersville in Bartow County, and between the hours of ten o'clock am and two o'clock pm of that day, execute him publicly by hanging him, the said John A. Song, by the neck until he is dead. That said Sheriff have guards sufficient to insure the strict enforcement of this judgment, and that the defendant pay the cost of execution and may the Lord have mercy on his Soul.

October 1, 1868
J.R. Panott
J.S. c.c.c.

Ask a friend to join.
EVHS needs
new members.
Even if they cannot
be active,
we need their support.

EVHS

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Etowah Valley Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1972 by 24 concerned owners of historical properties in Bartow County. Thirty six years later, the members of the Etowah Valley Historical Society still strive to attain its major objective of promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County.

Today, the Etowah Valley Historical Society celebrates the heritage of our unique area-ancient history, native America history, iron industry, and Civil War memories, all coexisting with Victorian architecture, nestled in the richness of streams and mountains.

September 16
DATING HISTORIC HOMES
Cartersville Library

Saturday & Sunday, October 4 & 5
ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS
Monument Dedication on October 4

Saturday, October 11
EVHS ANNUAL MEETING
Dinner Meeting
Grand Oaks

Friday, December 5
EVHS CHRISTMAS PARTY
Rose Lawn



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