



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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JOE DABNEY TO SPEAK IN CARTERSVILLE JULY 15

Joe Dabney, retired journalist and nationally acclaimed author, will present his new book, *The Food, Folklore And Art Of Low Country Cooking* on July 15th, 2010 at the Cartersville Public Library in a program beginning at 6:30 pm. Some of the recipes traditional to the area that spans North Carolina to southern Georgia will be served at 6:30 pm. with Dabney's lecture to begin at 7:00 pm. After the program, he will sign books for sale. At present, all of Dabney's books are available at the Bartow History Museum and sales of the newly published one are brisk.

Dabney's book is jumping off the shelf with good reason, as there is something in it for everyone. It is "a celebration of the foods, history, and romance handed down from England, Africa, the Caribbean, France, Germany and Scotland." It is an engaging compendium of research which records and documents from primary and secondary sources the origin of dishes and drinks, the recipes, the stories surrounding them and the culture they represent. There are interviews with cooks, photos of their food preparation, as well as excerpts from historic cookbooks and family records.

Let's look at one of the ethnic groups represented, the Germans. Were they not all about kraut, pickled beets and boiled pigs knuckles? From Dabney's book, it looks like they had an affinity for brew and made by simple recipes as well. No elaborate wine equipment is mentioned, although he relates that in the early 1700s when the Germans came into the US through Savannah, every farm had a still. Including the typical sausages, the book reports that they established a food tradition based in the ancient cooking from the Lower Rhine area of southern Germany. Family table staples seem to have been stews and dumplings with cakes being a part of their established reputation.

Local Cartersvillian, Sally Bond Tonsmiere, a native of Savannah, is pictured in Dabney's book. She talks about her brother's shrimping and her own crabbing when they were children. Apparently the collection site was within walking distance from their home, and the endeavor an intrigue that took them out of their mother's sight for hours without her so much as worrying. Of course, their mother was enthusiastic about preparing the fruits of her children's labor. Tonsmiere's recipe for benne seed salad, her Aunt Fanny's baked squash, her Aunt Dot's Savannah style curried butter beans and her mother Sarah Pierpont Bond's Savannah Trifle are all in the book.

Up the coast from Savannah is Beaufort, South Carolina. A suburb, Frogmore on St. Helene Island, is the site of the invention of Frogmore Stew by Richard Gay in 1966. Dabney pictures Gay along with a large tray of the stew which later came to be known as "Low Country Boil".

Dabney and his wife live in Atlanta but he secluded himself in Euharlee while researching and writing this latest book. He has a fondness for Bartow County as his first job as a journalist was for Cartersville's Tribune News. He's a graduate of Berry College, going there on the GI Bill after returning from World War II. He served on the Etowah Valley Historical Society Board between publishing the last two of five books: *Smokehouse Ham, Spoon Bread & Scuppernong Wine, The Food, Floklre And Art Of Southern Appalachian Cooking* and the current book, *The Food, Folklore, And Art Of Low Country Cooking*. *Spoon Bread* won the James Beard Cookbook of the Year Award, a national honor, and together they celebrate the influence of our ethnic backgrounds in family cooking throughout Georgia.

Dabney's last talk in Cartersville was a lift to the spirits of his listeners being insightful, intriguing, inspiring, reflecting a timeless personality. It is said of the World War II generation that they comprise America's greatest generation. Dabney's optimism and character attest to the truth of this assessment.

Co-sponsors of the talk and book signing, Cartersville Public Library and the Etowah Valley Historical Society, are grateful to Dabney for his recognition of the need for this book, for his determination in researching the subject and organizing the material, for his dedication to producing an important resource for posterity.

The public is invited to attend at no charge.





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VALLEY VIEW WELCOMES RECORD CROWD

Submitted by Mina Harper

Valley View, the pre Civil War plantation home of the Norton family, welcomed 231 visitors to tour the house and grounds on Saturday, June 12th, 2010. Thirty Etowah Valley Historical Society volunteers enjoyed working together in preparation for the event and as docents to inform the public as they viewed details of each area. Proceeds benefit the Etowah Valley Historical Society.

Those in attendance toured, visited with friends and neighbors in the beautiful setting, enjoyed light refreshments and toured some more. The smoke house and original kitchen in its own building were open for viewing for the first time. The boxwood garden under restoration on the east lawn and the seedling beds from the original stock supplying it drew much attention. Flowers from the property were arranged in large bouquets of magnolia, hydrangea, gardenia and daylilies to grace the entrances and dining room. The evidence of enemy occupation lent a sober reminder of the human toll in war. Flower beds and ferns, groomed shrubs and lawns, Confederate reenactors, shade trees and lounging on the porches with a cold lemonade made the hot day a memorable experience.

It has always been the wish of the owning family that Valley View be maintain as close to its original state as possible. Guests are transported in time by the environment to the early 1840s. EVHS thanks the many volunteers and the Norton family for their contribution of time, money and labor to make possible the opening for this event.



Loretta Milin and Barbara Jackson, volunteers with EVHS, offer refreshments at the tour of Valley View.



Marilyn Divine and Victor Mulinix, volunteers with the Etowah Valley Historical Society, work as docent and photographer for the event. They stand on the front porch which overlooks the parterre garden.

ETOWAH INDIAN MOUNDS MUSEUM

OPENS FOR PROGRAM ON "THE METHODISTS & THE CHEROKEE."

The Etowah Indian Mounds Museum, which has lost personnel and has reduced viewing hours due to severe budget cuts, opened on Tuesday night, April 20th, welcoming a crowd of 40 plus to hear speaker Michael Wren. The Etowah Valley Historical Society cosponsored the event. EVHS President, Ed Hill, presided over the program; site director Steve Hadley welcomed visitors and J.B. Tate, EVHS program chairman, introduced the speaker. Red Top Mountain State Park director James Hamilton was on site to welcome all those present and attend the program. EVHS Public Relations Chairman, Mina Harper, served refreshments before the program which included foods made from ingredients native to the area surrounding the mounds: hominy in chicken stew with peppers, poke salad.

Wren's thesis was to dispute the image of the Indian as a "noble savage" who was coerced by settlers to convert to Christianity. Focusing his attention on North Alabama and Georgia during the late 1700s and early 1800s, Wren presented a picture of cooperation between the pioneers and Indians. His conclusions were supported by letters and newspaper accounts claiming the Indians built camp grounds and meeting halls in preparation for upcoming religious services shared by Indians and settlers. He showed reproductions of engravings that recorded events in which large gatherings of Indians were at camp meetings, some led by Indian ministers. He explained that the Cherokee looked to the Methodist church as a source of schooling. There were elders among the Indians who had awaited the coming of a people to teach them, so many were receptive for this reason. Wren showed evidence of intermarriage with no objection mentioned in the reports.

EVHS thanks the parks service for accommodating this special program.



Marty Mulinix and Bonnie Floyd, docents at Valley View, greet visitors in the main entrance next to the massive staircase.



Mary Norton and husband, Dr. Bob Norton, welcome tour guests to Valley View on June 12, 2010.



Lena Jackson and Confederate re-enactors enjoy the day at Valley View.



Georgia Fox welcomes visitors to Valley View in "Edith's parlor" on June 12th., 2010.

THE KINGSTON RAILROAD "Y"

An interesting historical site is located in Kingston. It is called the Railroad "Y." Kingston citizens are well aware of its significance since many residents still remember the Rome Railroad and others earned their living working in the railroad industry associated with the railroad industry. Fortunately, Kingston City officials and residents have managed to preserve the old rail beds that made up the "Y."

Without their vigilance and protection from the ravages of time, this historical example of early railroad technology will become a lost memory.

As the old saying goes "If you forget your past, you will have no future worth remembering."

SUMMARY

The Railroad "Y" (or wye in North American railroad terminology) is a triangular shaped arrangement of tracks with a switch at each corner. With a sufficiently long track leading away from each corner, a train of any length can be turned. Turning is required especially for early directional railroad steam locomotives having a dedicated tail end car such as a caboose.

Early railroads built in North America have more "Y's" than railroads in other countries because early steam locomotives were much more likely to be directional than those elsewhere and builders had much more freedom and available land area to lay down tracks where they wanted.

The Railroad "Y" in Kingston, Georgia starts where the Rome Railroad tracks entered the area from the West. The entrance is identified by two concrete columns standing in the vicinity of the current intersection of Main Street and Reynold's Bridge Road. At this point, the historic integrity of the original railroad bed still exists and can be seen to divide into two spurs with one spur constructed along an arc traveling North West where it connected to the old Western and Atlantic (W&A) Railroad (the current CSX Railroad). The second spur was constructed along an arc traveling North East where it also connected to the W&A Railroad. The two spurs were further connected by a rail line approximately 100 yards south of the current CSX Railroad.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

As the State of Georgia constructed a railroad



line north from Atlanta to Chattanooga, water and refueling stations sprang up along the route, some becoming centers of commerce and hubs for distribution. Kingston, a remote and inaccessible pioneer settlement, lay along the route. At the time it was served by a stagecoach route and became a flag station on the W&A Railroad.

Business leaders in Rome, Georgia saw an opportunity and chartered the Memphis Branch Railroad and Steamboat Company (MBRSC) in 1839 with the goal of connecting steam ship commerce along the Coosa River at Rome with greater market opportunities offered by the new W&A Railroad.

The MBRSC decided to make the connection in Kingston on property owned by Mr. Davis Burroughs. This level area was an ideal site to construct a railroad "Y." In 1849, they had acquired the necessary property rights and constructed a sophisticated rail yard (the Railroad "Y") that connected the Rome rail line to the W&A Railroad. In January 1850, the MBRSC Railroad was renamed the Rome Railroad and the Railroad "Y" property came under the new owners.

From 1850 to 1862, the Railroad "Y" served as a major supply depot and distribution center. However, during the Civil War, it assumed an additional function. It gave the Confederate Army quick access to military arms and equipment manufactured in the modern machine shops of the Noble Brothers Factory and Machine Works in Rome.

After the Civil War, and during Reconstruction, the "Y" facilitated the distribution of relief supplies to refugees, displaced persons and residents in North West Georgia left destitute by the ravages of war.

Economic changes occurring in the early 1900's and continuing through the 1940's adversely impacted the

Rome Railroad and the Railroad "Y." The construction of new railroads through Rome and the improvement of road networks in North West Georgia created new avenues for the shipment of commercial goods. The "Y" became less important as a transshipment center and relied on passenger service as their main source of revenue. Finally in 1943 the Rome Railroad abandoned its railroad rights of way and sold the Railroad "Y" property to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Company (NC&StL) who used it as a railroad maintenance staging area. The "Y" property was subsequently purchased by the CSX Transportation Company. With the introduction of mechanical railway maintenance equipment in the 1950's, the area of the Railroad "Y" property became less important as a staging area and gave way to more passive activities such as picnic areas, walking trails and children's playgrounds. More recently, CSX deeded the Railroad "Y" (with certain easements) to the City of Kingston.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. Commerce: The Kingston Railroad "Y" played a significant role in the economic development of Kingston as well as the rest of Northwest Georgia.

Steamship traffic increased along the Coosa River during the 1840 to 1850 time period. (Burt Nevile, Steamboats on the Coosa River) Although many tons of agricultural and manufactured products were transported, there was no easy access to the Atlanta, Georgia and Chattanooga, Tennessee markets. Business leaders in Rome, Georgia saw an opportunity and chartered the Memphis Branch Railroad and Steamboat Company (MBRSC) in 1839 with the goal of connecting steam ship commerce along the Coosa River at Rome with greater market opportunities offered by the new W&A Railroad.

Also, around this time cotton agriculture culture began to flourish through the investment of wealthy families from South Carolina migrating into Northwest Georgia thus creating a demand for greater transportation capabilities.

With construction of the Railroad "Y," Kingston became a major commercial center in North West Georgia. This unique terminus provided the capability needed to efficiently transship goods to and from the greater markets in Rome, Atlanta, Chattanooga, and beyond.

Work associated with the Railroad "Y" created a demand for laborers to cope with increased commercial functions, to operate the Railroad "Y"

switching yard, to maintain local sections of the rail lines, and to handle agricultural and manufactured goods. There was a surge in home, business, and warehouse construction due to all this activity.

One of the most prominent buildings connected to the Railroad "Y" and still standing is the Station Master's house. Although located outside the Railroad "Y", it is adjacent to and in close proximity to the southern spur of the Railroad "Y".

This growth is reflected in Kingston's population that grew from approximately 100 citizens around 1849 when the Railroad "Y" was constructed to 1169 residents by 1852. (History of Bartow County pp 26 and 31)

2. Transportation: Although abandoned, the still visible switching mechanism and track layout of the Railroad "Y" in Kingston, Georgia offers an excellent example of early railroad technology and construction capabilities in remote North West Georgia during the 1840's that permitted directional steam engines and their cars to turn in the opposite direction.

The Kingston "Y" was the first such switching mechanism constructed in Northwest Georgia. Several others were built, however, during later time periods and at least two have survived (e.g., one in Rome Georgia owned by the Norfolk Southern Railroad and one in Macaysville, Georgia owned by the Blue Ridge Railroad. Neither, however, is associated with historical events such as those occurring at the one in Kingston, Georgia.

3. Military: The Railroad "Y" played a major role in two historical events occurring at that location during the Civil War.

A. Andrews' Raiders

On April 12, 1862, the Andrews' Raiders under command of James A. Andrews commandeered a W&A Railroad engine, the "General," at Big Shanty, Georgia. Their destination was Chattanooga, Tennessee. The raiders knew Kingston would pose an obstacle to overcome. There was a Railroad "Y" switching station that coordinated the movement of trains from Rome, Chattanooga and Atlanta he did not expect to be delayed there. However, when they arrived at Kingston, the single main line was blocked by a southbound freight train, the "New York," and they were forced to wait an hour on a sidetrack at the Railroad "Y." This delay enabled a pursuing train, the Yonah, to nearly catch up with Andrews.

During the delay, the railroad workers at the "Y" had been very inquisitive and one even refused to switch the "General" to the main track. Things were going so bad at the "Y" that Andrews told the men hiding in a box car to be ready to fight. Finally the

New York moved south of the "Y" leaving enough room for the "General" to reenter the W&A Railroad's main line and continue North.

Shortly afterward, the pursuers arrived at the "Y" only to find their route on the main line also blocked by the "New York." Getting the pursuit train through the complex switch in the "Y" would cause an impossible delay but the mail train to Rome, the "William R. Smith," was in position on a spur in the "Y" and fired up with a full head of steam. Oliver Harbin and his crew on the "William R. Smith," including brakeman Joe Lassiter, a free black, did not hesitate to help Fuller resume the pursuit North.

B. Battle of Allatoona Pass

On October 3, 1864, Federal General Corse's units moved by train from Rome through the Railroad "Y" in Kingston to reinforce a lightly defended staging area, called Allatoona Pass, on the W&A Railroad. Sherman used Allatoona Pass as a staging area for provisions on the way to Atlanta from Chattanooga. Thanks to the "Y," this movement of troops and equipment was accomplished in a matter of hours that otherwise would have taken over a day of forced marching. The extra time allowed General Corse to improve the defenses of the lightly entrenched position.

Confederate General Hood's objective was to cut Sherman's Chattanooga supply line to Atlanta at the Allatoona Pass. He attacked two days later on October 5, 1864 and failing to dislodge General Course retreated at the end of the day.

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EVHS HONORS BARRY McLEOD

Submitted by Mina Harper

Barry McLeod, Technical Services Coordinator of the Cartersville Public Library, received a \$50.00 check for the library to honor McLeod for his contribution to the Oral History Project of the Etowah Valley Historical Society. He has catalogued three sets of the oral history DVDs and audiotapes that record interviews with beloved Bartow County citizens. These records are now available for public use in three places: the Cartersville Public Library, the Bartow History Museum and the EVHS Office located in the gold dome 1903 Bartow County Courthouse. They may be used on site, but not checked out. Eventually, they will be available for purchase.

The historical society office houses a library and accommodation for genealogical studies. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:30 -4:30 pm. and the first and third Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The books housed there are books for historical research as well as a few novels. They are histories of Georgia counties, Georgia authors, family histories, histories of other southeastern states, some tax records, old court records, old newspapers on microfilm, census records back to 1790, old Bartow County maps, a great deal of Civil War information and the oral histories.

Genealogical studies are done on computer and microfilm using the society's subscription to Ancestry.com and the microfilm records.

For several years, the Oral History Committee has recorded interviews with some of Bartow County's favorite residents. Those chosen represent all areas of the county, various socioeconomic levels, both men and women and racial diversity. Typically an interviewee is one who has been an eye witness to history, lived through different eras, seen change and development, has valuable historical perspective of general public interest. Currently there is a long list of individuals to be interviewed. Interviews are completed based on priority and funds available. Cartersville Voice and Video record interviews.

Those interested in having their own family member interviewed are encouraged to record sessions with the person and donate a copy to the Oral History Project. Genie Certain, co chair of the Oral History Project, is available for consultation and advice. Call her at 770-383-3353. Both Certain and Trey Gaines, co chairman of the Oral History Project and Director of the Bartow History Museum, along with the Cartersville Public Library invite the public to visit the site of these institutions to use the interviews on DVD and audio tape.

EVHS invites all to join as members in promoting historical awareness. Whether you are active or not, your dues influence the preservation of an environment and culture that reflect conscious appreciation of our heritage and traditions. Cartersville is a better place to live because of government awareness and restorations, individual renovations, EVHS's and the Bartow History Museum's documentation of knowledge, conservation of artifacts and personal histories. To join EVHS, call 770-606-8862 or visit the EVHS Office in the gold dome Bartow County Courthouse at 115 West Cherokee Avenue.

ALABAMA MONUMENT DEDICATED

The monument to those soldiers from Alabama who participated in the battle at Allatoona on October 5, 1864 was dedicated on May 22. The Alabama monument is the sixth monument to be placed in the memorial area at the battlefield site at Allatoona Pass. Previously monuments had been placed for Missouri, Texas, Illinois, Iowa, and Mississippi.

A monument to those soldiers from Minnesota who fought at the battle of Allatoona Pass will be dedicated at the annual observation of the battle on the first week-end in October.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Allen Bailey
Carolyn Creager
Richard Greene
Terry & Luanne Tumlin
Austin Keys - Student Member

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed in the EVHS Office in the Gold-domed Courthouse for the hours of 1:30 to 4:30 on the second, third, fourth and fifth Fridays.

Current volunteers are: Genie Certain, Lila Champion, Bill Devine, Mina Harper, Lois & Ed Hill, Ann Jones, Emily McClurg, Dianne Monroe, Bob & Trudy Redwine, Wayne Rice, Leroy & Jan Shepherd, Laurette Smith, Norma Tidwell, and Carolyn Ward.

The office volunteers play a very important part in the work of our organization. Often they are our only direct contact with the public. They provide a great service by helping visitors with assistance in historical and genealogical research.

If you would like to assist in this important work of our organization, please call Ed Hill at 770-386-3110.

IN MEMORIAM

Kathy Hall
Walter Sager

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cartersville Public Library
JOE DABNEY, SPEECH AND BOOK SIGNING
July 15 at 6:30 PM

Cora Harris House
PICNIC ON THE GROUNDS
Saturday, September 25 at 5 PM

OBSERVATION OF THE
BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS
October 2-3, 2010

Grand Oaks
EVHS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
October 8, 2010

Rose Lawn
EVHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
Friday, December 3, 2010

evhs@evhsonline
Use the above e-mail web-site to
keep up with the activities of the Etowah Valley
Historical Society

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!



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