



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 77, October 2010

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS

In May of 1864, the Union and Confederate armies battled across North Georgia and when they had reached Bartow County (then Cass), General Philip Sheridan, Commander of the Union Armies, gave his forces a three day rest. After resting, they left behind an occupying force while the main body of the union army headed towards Atlanta. Sherman had been in northern Georgia in the 1850's and recognized the possibilities of Allatoona. He ordered his chief engineer to build fortifications and warehouses there. The Star Fort (still standing) and the Eastern Redoubt (also still standing) and Rowan's Redoubt (which has been destroyed) were built with connecting trenches.

In the Fall of 1864, the Confederate Army began its ill-fated campaign to lure the Yankees out of Atlanta and began to burn bridges and tear up the railroad tracks between Atlanta and Chattonooga. They were busy tearing up the railroad tracks at Big Shanty when, on the morning of October 4, 1864, General Samuel French received orders to proceed to Allatoona.

French arrived at Allatoona about 11p.m. on the night of October 4 and deployed his artillery on a small hill about 1200 yards south of the Pass and deployed his forces to attack from the West, North, and the East. French had no way to know that Sherman had ordered General John Corse to reinforce Allatoona from Rome or the 7th Illinois regiment was equipped with Henry repeating rifles that could fire up to 15 rounds per minutes while the government issued musket, used by both sides, could fire only up 3 rounds per minute.

About 6a.m. the artillery began firing and about 10:20 a.m., after a demand for surrender went unanswered, the Confederates began their attack.

At 3p.m. General French, his soldiers short of ammunition and water, and having been informed that Union reinforcements were on their way, ordered his troops to withdraw. In the few short hours of the battle, 1603 of the participants were either killed, wounded, or missing.

Once a much publicized location, the battlefield was long neglected, until the Etowah Valley Historical Society approached the Corp of Engineers in 1995 and asked for permission to renovate the battlefield. The underbrush was cleared, the trails were laid out and signs were put up. The battlefield was maintained by EVHS until 2007 when it was turned over to Red Top Mountain State park who has continued to improve the battlefield.

To honor the anniversary of the event, Red Top and EVHS will hold an open house at the battlefield on Saturday, October 2, and Sunday, October 3. Georgia reenactors will set up camp on the evening of the 1st and the Park will open at 9a.m. on the 2nd. Visitors can enjoy rifle demonstrations and take guided tours of the battlefield. Visitors are asked to park at the Marina and ride the free shuttle bus of the battlefield. All events are free and open to the public.



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)

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## ANNUAL DINNER OCTOBER 8TH AT GRAND OAKS

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The annual dinner meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society will be held on Friday, October 8, at the elegant Grand Oaks on Main Street. EVHS member, Ray Thacker, has promised a memorable evening. After dinner, members will hear the report of the Nominating Committee, elect new board members and receive a report from the EVHS president.

Highlight of the evening will be the awarding of the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to an individual who over a period of not less than 20 years has represented the society's mission of promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County. Past winners include: Mary Ellen Taff, Martha Mullinax, Lizette Entwistle, Dr. Susie Wheeler, Emily Feaster Champion, J.B. Tate, Guy Parmenter and Jodie Hill.

Tickets for the event will be only \$15 and reservations should be made by calling the EVHS office in the gold-domed courthouse at 770-606-8862. **Deadline for reservations at 2p.m., Wednesday, October 6.** Members are reminded that EVHS must pay for all reservations made. Dues can be paid at the dinner.

## MONUMENT DEDICATION

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On Saturday, Oct. 9, a monument to those soldiers from Minnesota who participated in the battle of Allatoona Pass will be dedicated. The monument will be placed in the memorial area at the Allatoona Battlefield.

It will join the monuments of Alabama, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi and Texas. Time of the dedication will be 1p.m.

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## CORA HARRIS EVENT POSTPONED

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the planned event had to be postponed. It is hoped that we will be able to visit the site in the Spring.

## EVHS OFFICE

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The Etowah Valley Historical Society office in the gold-domed courthouse contains much valued information on Bartow County and other counties in Georgia.

Research facilities included in the 1903 courthouse include microfilm of nineteenth and twentieth century newspapers published in Bartow County as well as the county's marriage, deed, census 1840-1920 and Civil War Pension Records, Georgia Death records on microfiche and Social Security Death Index.

The extensive library includes maps as well as volumes about Bartow County and other works by Bartow County authors. Two computers are available for use by people doing research.

## NEWSPAPER COLLECTION DONATED TO AJC

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The Atlanta History Center is the happy recipient of the Magruder Collection of old Georgia newspaper dating from the 1820's into the 1970's. The collection was started by William Grisham, a founder of Canton, who was postmaster of Canton. The collection includes some 3400 issues of 244 publications. Papers were printed on paper with a high rag content and will last much longer than papers printed today.

Historians consider the collection a great addition to Georgia history since they cover a period for which little information existed. It is hoped that they will shed more light on both the Indian removal and the early Civil War.

Local historians, J.B. Tate and Trey Gaines, both of whom are former EVHS board members, are making arrangements to view the collection.

## VALLEY VIEW A SUCCESS

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The open house at Valley View raised \$2000 for the Oral History committee. 231 visitors toured the pre-civil war home. Thirty EVHS volunteers worked at the event as docents, waitresses, etc. Valley View is the property of Robert and Mary Norton who are working diligently to preserve the home.

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*Editor's note: The Following and pictures were furnished by Dr. Upton under the condition that we acknowledge that she retains all rights to the information.*

*The Dr. Larry Posey mentioned in the article is our own EVHS treasurer.*

## AMERICAN HEROES IN FRANCE

*By Dr. Virginia Upton*

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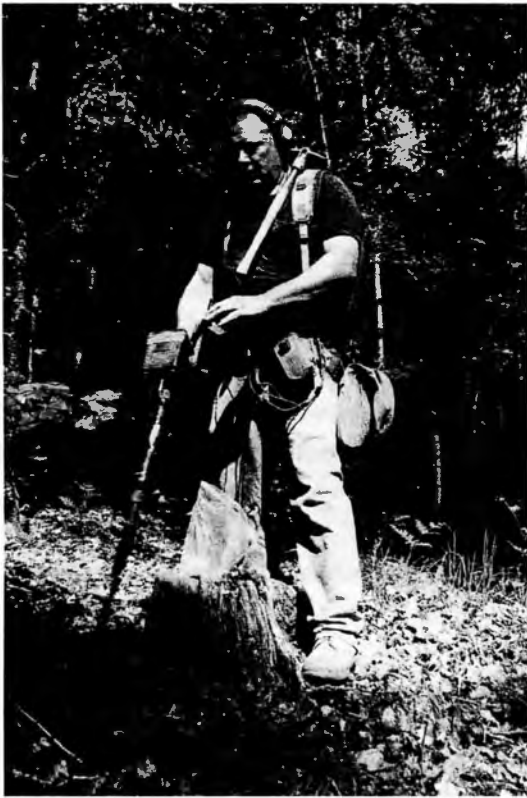
My two weeks in France doing research for my book on "The Lost Battalion", (a group of Camp Upton-trained soldiers from New York City), proved to be very educational. I have been intrigued by the story of these men from the US Army's 77th Division who became world-famous for their response to being trapped by the Germans during World War I in France's Argonne Forest.

My first week was spent in Paris attending classes in beginning French. This was done to pave the way for my second week, which was to be spent further north, closer to Verdun, in an area where little English was spoken. It was a good plan, because the French words and phrases I learned in class were then used in daily interactions with the Parisians. My daughter, who accompanied me the first week, dined daily in the sidewalk cafes, where we enjoyed the bonhomie of the neighborhood people, while they were treated to my new French vocabulary.

At the beginning of the second week, I stood in the Argonne Forest in the ravine where the men of "The Lost Battalion" had been surrounded. Rain fell silently into the still woods. Vacant foxholes and shell-created craters, like empty eye sockets, stared blankly back at me. For five harrowing days, desperate for food, water, bandages, and bullets, these New York City men, together with their reinforcements, had been besieged, battered, bloodied, and burned, but never broken. Humbled by their courage, I felt honored to stand in the footsteps of people who had demonstrated such spirit and strength of character. Their blood, and some of their lives, had seeped into the very earth on which I stood, making it sacred ground. Though their moans and cries are quiet now, their sacrifice speaks forever.

To assist me during my second week, the very gracious Monsieur Frederic Castier, who is an advisor and public relations official for the French Controller of the Military Forces, Office of the Secretary of Defense and Veterans' Affairs, introduced me to a retired US Army NCO, Mr. Brad Posey. The French Government has issued a permit to Mr. Posey to do "battlefield archeology" in an untouched battleground on which the Americans fought in the Argonne Forest. He also requested permission to work on the site of "the Lost Battalion". Monsieur Castier and Mr. Posey generously invited me to join the team of French officers and Americans observing Mr. Posey doing his research. His work, a conflux of the disciplines of archaeology, military history, and geography, is aided by the latest technology. He uses a metal detector in conjunction with a Global Positioning System (GPS) to pinpoint for historical reference the exact location of battlefield artifacts. He is able to ascertain by the tones the detector emits which type of metal lies beneath, and thus deduce whether it is shrapnel, or an American tin, a mess kit, or a bayonet. He bags and labels the artifacts he uncovers and records their positions using his GPS. This information is then used to create maps that show the location, type, and quantity of the artifacts he found. From these maps he can formulate hypotheses as to what occurred during the battle in the area in which he is conducting his research. For example, he can speculate with a reasonable degree of certainty, by the number of used first aid tins, shrapnel, and shell casings, whether a severe firefight occurred on a particular spot.

While we were with him, one of the larger objects he unearthed just below the leaves was a live British No.28 Mark 1 Gas Grenade. It had been lying there for approximately ninety-two years. The French officials present contacted their bomb squad to remove and attempt to defuse it. If it proved impossible to defuse,



*Brad Posey operates his metal detector seeking artifacts*



*Dr. Larry Posey assist his son, Brad, with uncovering artifacts*

they would detonate it. Although the British had never fought there, the Americans, upon their arrival in France, had been trained in the British sector, and brought such British weapons with them. If the bomb squad's attempts to defuse it are successful, it will be placed in a local French museum.

Everything Mr. Posey, an average American, is doing is remarkable, most notably that, since there is no grant money available, he is financing this enormous contribution to American history with his own funds. His goal is to preserve these artifacts and information for future generations. His findings will be donated to French and American museums.

Mr. Fred Castier, Mr. Brad Posey, and his father, Dr. Larry Posey, also a retired officer from the US Army, in assisting my visits to these sites, besides making my stay a successful one, turned it into a fascinating adventure as well. Mr. Posey, his father, and brother, has generously invited me to spend my second week in France with them, and I was made to feel a welcome part of their family experience. Being with them contributed immensely to my

having a comfortable, educational, and enriching week in the Argonne.

In addition to the Poseys, the French people were most polite, and extremely helpful. Many do not speak English, or their English is as limited as my French. This was most notable in the villages outside of Verdun, where the Meuse-Argonne offensive of WWI took place. Yet, thanks to their great kindness to, and patience with, this French language-challenged American, I was able to shop in the stores, obtain directions when necessary, and conduct my research.

To learn more about Mr. Posey's battle reconstruction and battlefield preservation projects, you can contact him at: [bposey@t-online.de](mailto:bposey@t-online.de) or at Mr. Brad Posey, CMR 457 Box 2093 APO, AE 09033.



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# SUMMER HILL HIGH PLANS CONCERT

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*Editors Note: The article below is from April 23, 1953 edition of the weekly Tribune News*

The Summer Hill High School Chorus, (colored) will appear in recital, Thursday evening, April 30, at the Douglas Street Elementary School Auditorium. Appearing before white citizens only will be the chorus of 40 voices, girls' glee club, boys' glee club, and soloists.

The performance will be given for the benefit of the Athletic Association, which lost all of its equipment in the recent gymnasium fire. The program will begin 8:00 p.m.

All white citizens are cordially invited to attend. Tickets will be on sale at various points in the city, to be announced later.

## FISCAL YEAR OF 2010- 2011 BEGINS

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EVHS operates on a fiscal year running Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, meaning that dues are payable now for the coming year. Dues make up the major part of the EVHS income. Although we receive a grant from Bartow Tourism (this amount took a major cut this year due to the economy), the Tour of Homes (held every other years), and some funds from book sales, dues income is a necessity.

Dues have been the same for as long as most of us remember. At \$15/member and \$20/family membership is a real bargain.

Please send your check to EVHS at P.O.Box 1886, Cartersville Georgia, 30120.

## LARGE CROWD HEARS DABNEY

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An appreciative audience heard Joe Dabney, a former member of the EVHS board of directors, speak at the Bartow County Library on the subject of The Food, Folklore and Art of Low County Cooking. Dabney is the author of 5 books, one of which, Spoonbread and Scuppermong Wine, won the James Beard Cookbook of the Year Award.

Prior to the meeting refreshments were served featuring recipes from the low country of North Carolina. Dabney signed copies after the meeting closed.

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## REMEMBER EVHS IN YOUR WILL

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Making a gift to the Etowah Valley Historical Society through a last will and testament is easy. Individuals should instruct their attorney to add a provision to their will naming EVHS as a beneficiary of their estate.

The following language is appropriate: I give, devise and bequeath & (insert dollar amount or % of the estate) to the Etowah Valley Historical Society (tax# 58-1368875) a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia or its successor organization. Said Trust is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are deductible under the provisions of federal income, gift and estate tax laws.

Individuals who made EVHS a beneficiary of their last will and testament are asked to provide an attorney's letter of a copy of this page from their will so EVHS can acknowledge the donor's generosity and properly plan for the future.

*editors note: the following paragraph is from an article that appeared in the Cartersville American on Tuesday, May 13, 1883 entitled*

## CARTERSVILLE, HOW IT APPEARED A THIRD OF A CENTURY AGO

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Dr. Leake, with his mother and sister, was also residing here..The doctor has practiced medicine around here until he is probably as well known as any man in the county. He had then suspended practice, but resumed it soon afterwards. He has probably treated more cases, during his long practice, than any physician in this section, andperhaps with as much success.

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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Doug Howard  
DeWitt & Nancy Massey

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## OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

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Volunteers are needed in the Etowah Valley Historical Society office in the gold-domed courthouse from 1:30-4:30 on the 3rd Friday.

Current Volunteers: Genie Certain, Lila Champion, Bill Devine, Mina Harper, Lois & Ed Hill, Emily McClurg, Dianne Monroe, Bob & Trudy Redwine, Wayne Rice, Leroy & Jan Shepherd, Laurette Smith, Norma Tidwell and Dr. 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. Two computers are available for use by people doing research.

If you would like to assist in this important work for our organization, please call Ed Hill at 770-386-311

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## IN MEMORIUM

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John Linn

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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**OBSERVATION OF THE  
BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS**

Oct. 2, 3, 2010

**Allatoona Pass  
MINNESOTA MONUMENT DEDICATION**

Saturday, Oct. 9, 1p.m.

**Grand Oaks  
EVHS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**

Friday, Oct. 8, 2010

**Rose Lawn  
EVHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Friday, Dec. 3, 2010

*evhs@evhsonline*

*Use the above website to  
keep up with the activities of the  
Etowah Valley Historical Society*



**ETOWAH VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

D.O. Box 1886  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

*evhs@evhsonline.org*  
*www.evhsonline.org*

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