



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 79, July 2011

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

KINGSTON PICNIC!

Please save the date, Friday August 12th, 2011 6:00 pm

EVHS is delighted to invite you to a picnic dinner and tour of Kingston, Georgia

Please join us for a full evening!

We will meet at the Kingston Station Depot Cafe on the corner for a picnic dinner catered by Kingston's own Governor's House.

The evening's events will include:

Welcome from Mayor Dexter Jones

Kingston presentation by Charlie Pecchio

Tour of Jeanette Perkins Graves Home

Tour of DeSoto Hotel (Outside Only)

Tour of Y and the Station Manager's Home

We will end our evening at the Kingston Museum managed by the Kingston Womens History Club (KWHC) where refreshments will be served.

EVHS wishes to give a very big thank you to Mayor Jones, Charlie and Cathy Pecchio, Joan Mannis from the Governor's House, Jeanette Perkins-Graves, and the KWHC for all their help and support!

Please call the EVHS office for reservations 770-606-8862

Cost will be \$10.00, RSVP by August 10th.

Please wear comfortable clothes for walking. There will be cars available for those who do not wish to walk.

Enclosed please find two wonderful articles on Kingston.



Etowah Valley Historical Society
115 West Cherokee Avenue
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
Email: evhs@evhsonline.org
Website: www.evhsonline.org

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FROM THE HISTORY OF BARTOW COUNTY;
FORMERLY CASS, p. 25 - 27

KINGSTON

Compiled by Miss Leila Darden

Before vandalism destroyed its forest, Kingston was beautifully situated with forests forming a background and two streams - Two Run and Connesena - names in honor of Indian chiefs, marking its distant boundaries.

It was named in honor of Judge John Pendleton King, of Augusta, a noted lawyer, a personal friend of LaFayette, U. S. senator and Georgia senator, and a railroad financier.

It had a reputation of being very wicked, but by 1852 was reported as "improving in morals".

Prior to the building of the railroad, the stage coach route passed through the town and the hotels and the spring there were well patronized.

In December, 1849, the Memphis Branch railroad from Kingston to Rome, GA., was opened for business, and this made Kingston an important point as distributor on the W & A and in connection with transportation on the Coosa river. There was a large stone depot on the railroad.

Kingston was also a cotton market and summer resort. There were 40 business houses - and most of them were on the west side of the railroad; four churches; four hotels - one was owned and managed by the widow of Dr. Mark Johnston (b. May 4, 1801, d. Dec. 11, 1851); one by Thomas R. Couche (b. Mar 31, 1827, d. Aug. 19, 1873); one by Mrs. Millie Huston and one by a Mr. McCrary. The site of the Johnston hotel is the present home of Irby Sheats and on the adjoining lot was the Wayside Home during the Civil War. The population in 1849 was 100.

During the Civil War, Kingston was a supply and hospital center, due to its location on the railroad, and was headquarters for the Federal army from May to November 1864. Most of the houses were destroyed during this time.

In 1866, Kingston was offered by a committee, with Mark A. Hardin as chairman, as an eligible site for the Georgia Orphans Home.

It was incorporated in 1869*, with a town council composed of L. M. Gillam, T. F. Towers, C. N. Mayson, T. R. Couche and M. McMurry.

Though it has been a place "where you change cars", Kingston has honored the past and can proudly claim over 250 unknown soldiers buried in the town cemetery.

PHOTOS OF KINGSTON



Kingston cannon and well



Kingston, Bank, Masonic Hall



The Thomas Van Buren Hargis house, Kingston, Bartow County, Georgia. Sherman's Headquarters, May 19-23, 1864.

Kingston Hargis House



Kingston Desoto Hotel



View of Kingston 1864, Photo published in The South Besieged, Vol. C, Doubleday, 1983



Kingston Railroad Street

KINGSTON TELL TALES OUT OF PAST BUT PREDICTIONS OF FUTURE NOT NEW

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission of the Bartow Herald. This article was originally printed on May 23, 1963.



Kingston, once the cultural center of the cotton aristocracy, is now a town of ghosts that can't seem to catch the magic ring of the present that will lift her back on the right road into the future.

As Leo Aikman wrote in the September 6, 1953 Sunday edition of the Journal-Constitution, "Kingston is long on history but short on industry."

The Georgia Pipe Company in Kingston and the J. W. Martin Gin Company are the only employers in the community and combined, they only work 16 people.

The other employed, except school personnel and employees in the nine stores in town, are commuting workers to Rome, Cartersville, Calhoun, Marietta and Atlanta.

Presently, according to the 1960 census, there are 675 people living in Kingston. This is the very same number shown on the 1950 census. In 1940, Kingston had 653 residents. These figures, with the population explosion causing world-wide tensions, seem impossible when it is considered that Kingston had 1,169 residents as far back as 1852. This plus 231 slaves.

There have been more wounded soldiers in Kingston than there are citizens today. During the three years that a hospital was maintained in Kingston, some 10,000 Civil War soldiers were treated. Many of them died.

And when Stephens A. Douglas was a candidate for President of the United States, a crowd estimated at 10,000 jammed into the town to hear his address. Back in 1860, Douglas stood before this vast throng and spoke on the "Vital Issues of the Day".

It seems a cruel blow indeed that the town where the sewing machine was invented could have fared so poorly to the present time.

Kingston's claim to fame doesn't stop with the invention of the sewing machine. It was in Kingston that Dr. Francis Goulding, a Presbyterian minister and inventor of the sewing machine, wrote the best seller of his day. "The Young Marooners."

The citizens of Kingston also claim that the cement which forms the foundation of the Brooklyn Bridge was mined just north of town. Mrs. W.W. Roberts, operator of the Kingston Hotel, said the cement at the foot of the Brooklyn structure came from the National Rock Cement Plant which was opened by Dr. Charles Wallace Howard in the 1840's. This plant, located in Cement, GA. and continued to operate until about 1910.

At one time the cement plant was putting out 200 barrels per day. Walter Martin, Kingston City Clerk and owner of the Kingston gin, said that his father came to Kingston because of the cement plant's nearness.

General Sherman, in his march to the sea, made Kingston his base of operations, directing his troops from the old Hargis home. The home has since been destroyed by fire and is presently in use as a baseball field.

OLD HARGIS HOME

Kingston was named for Pendleton King of Augusta in 1856. King, a lawyer and a railroad financier, was instrumental in getting the railroad established through Kingston.

In appreciation to the city bearing his name, King gave the town a bell which now hangs in the belfry of the Methodist Church. It has rung in commemoration of the end of four wars and has sounded hundreds of alarms such as the outbreaks of fire in the town.



Just out of Kingston are two historical sites, Barnsley Gardens and Salt Peter Cave. The gardens were built in the 1850's by Godfrey Barnsley. The cave was mined for gunpowder ingredients during the Civil War.

Several experiments have been conducted to make Salt Peter Cave a tourist attraction but thus far none of them have met with financial success.

Earl W. McClesky and family presently live in the old Barnsley castle, or one wing of it. Mr. McClesky has said that he would like to restore the home to its original condition but would need financial assistance to do so.

If the state or the county would become a party to this reconstruction program, then Kingston could again be put on the map, especially the tourist map. The Barnsley estate is but a few miles from Rome and other metropolitan districts.

Perhaps now that Bartow County has been named winner in the Georgia Stay and See program, something of this nature can be done for Kingston.

There is no doubt but that the old Goulding house is the best preserved landmark in Kingston. Presently Mrs. G.C. Phillips, the widow of a Birmingham businessman, is residing in the home. Mrs. Phillips is the former Nancy Rabb Ligon and she grew up in Bartow County. At one time the Phillips owned Barnsley Gardens and acreage along the Etowah River. So she is vitally interested in the history of Kingston.

There are several stories surrounding the invention of the sewing machine where Mrs. Phillips now resides. The residents of Eatonton claim that the machine was invented there when Dr. Goulding resided in that town.

The place that the machine was invented has never been established but it has been generally agreed that Dr. Goulding was the inventor of a sewing machine, although Howe was the first to get a patent on such a machine.

Mrs. Phillips said that she had been told that Goulding once said he would never patent the sewing machine because it would throw too many women out of work.

In an introduction to "The Young Marooners", Joel Chandler Harris, the Uncle Remus storyteller reported that Goulding invented the machine in 1842. After which he is said to have told Harris, "Having satisfied myself about this machine, I laid it aside that I might attend to other weightier duties."

Bell Bayless, a Kingston resident, who knew the descendants of Goulding's, wrote several years ago, "...as to the sewing machine, the nieces told me that Mr. Goulding started to Washington to obtain a patent on his "contraption", but in crossing a stream during the flood waters his vehicle overturned, the model destroyed, so he came home to make another one. In the meanwhile Howe beat him to the patent."

It has been pointed out that the sewing machine was invented by three different persons in three different localities at the same time. Goulding is accredited with the southern invention. Howe with the invention in Massachusetts and another inventor in France.

But it is a known fact that Goulding was the author of the following books: The Young Marooners, Sapelo, The Woodruff Stories, Little Josephine, Confederate Soldiers Hymn Book and Frank Gordon.

Goulding was born in Liberty County in 1810...spent his childhood near Savannah and was known to have lived in Oglethorpe County, Eatonton, Kingston and Roswell. He is buried in Roswell but Mrs. Goulding and his daughter are buried in Kingston. During his stay in Kingston, he operated an exclusive school for young boys.

Kingston was incorporated in 1869 with L.M. Gilliam, T.F. Flowers C.M. Mayson, T.R. Couch and Mr. McMurray serving on the city council.

Continued on page 6

In its day, Kingston boasted of 40 businesses, houses and three hotels. Kingston was a summer resort for the Southern Aristocracy. And then the war came to bring destruction of what has never been regained.

A plaque in the Kingston Hotel reads, "The little town of Kingston responded wholeheartedly to meeting the needs which existed here in the early days after the war"...after the war these same townspeople needed a helping hand. Brig Gen William T. Wofford, under the direction of Brig. Gen Henry M. Judah supervised the distribution of food and supplies.

It can be understood if the people of Kingston have a bitter taste in their mouths when they think of the past. But if the flow of people would ever begin to come back to the place of by-gone glories, then the past would be an elixir rather than a pill.

Kingston citizens do not turn their backs on the past; instead they hold it close to their breasts. It was Kingston that the first Memorial Day observance of the Civil War dead was held. The Memorial has continued to be observed until the present day.

City Alderman and Clerk Martin have stated that presently there is no concerted effort to bring new industry into Kingston. He said that the Chamber of Commerce ceased to function in that town about 1953. But he said that he and other citizens of the town would like to get some type of industry into the town that would put it back on its feet. He pointed out that Kingston still has its railroad connecting Atlanta and Chattanooga. Kingston Mills got its start in Kingston. It moved from Kingston to Cartersville and then to White where it is now.

The town has a deep well that supplies the residents with water with a pumping capacity of 6,000 gallons per hour. Alderman Martin pointed out that the city council composed of Mayor Cliff Johnson, Joe Pratt, Floyd Baxter and Emmett Wilkie, have just completed repairs of the water lines and purchased \$800 in fire fighting equipment for use of the volunteer fire department. The fire department, composed of 10 volunteers, is headed by B.T. Abernathy.

There is no bank in Kingston, although there were two at one time. The last one closed in the 1920's when hundreds of banks failed. There is no sewage system in Kingston but there is an abundance of electricity and gas. Electricity is furnished by Georgia Power Company and gas by Southern Natural. Southern Bell Telephone has installed dial telephones in the community and they are on the same toll line with Cartersville.

Kingston might not know what the future holds but at least one resident at nearby Barnsley Gardens prophesied the Attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mrs. Addie Baltzell Saylor was the last of her family to stay at the mansion built by her grandfather, Godfrey Barnsley. Mrs. Saylor lived until her death in the castle which fell into ruins in the midst of its marvelous, but neglected gardens of rare plants and trees from Europe and Asia.

Mrs. Saylor firmly believed in ghosts, especially her family ghosts. Tragedy did not spare Mrs. Saylor in her old age at Barnsley. Her favorite son Harry, who was, she thought going to make a fortune and rebuild the fallen house of Barnsley, was shot by his brother Preston in a moment when the brother (who had been injured by blows as a prize fighter) was not mentally responsible.

Harry fell and died in his mother's arms in the living room of the left wing at Barnsley. Thereafter, Mrs. Saylor said Harry's spirit often returned and spoke to her.

According to Col. Thomas Spencer, Mrs. Saylor told him, "Harry came last night and said for me to tell President Roosevelt that the Japs are going to attack in the Hawaiian Islands next Sunday."

Col. Spencer added, "Harry has asked his mother, she said, to wire President Roosevelt, and we discussed whether we should do that or not. But you know how far such a wire would have got - and she decided not to. Well, everybody knew there was going to be a war with the Japs. The curious thing was that she could have known WHEN the attack would be made."

"I write a column for several weekly newspapers", Col Spencer related, "and that week before the 7th, I included Mrs. Saylor's story in my column. All but one of the editors considered it so improbable that they cut it out. Then on Sunday - the attack that she had predicted came."

With that in mind, Kingston might be the place to go to find out about World War III. Or it might be a good town to capture a bit of the past.

There's one thing for sure, it'd be worth the price of a room over the weekend to stay at the Kingston Hotel and talk with Mrs. Roberts. Kingston is a good "STAY AND SEE place.

FROM THE EVHS OFFICE...

Thank you to our office volunteers!

The EVHS Board welcomes Victor Mulinix to the Board of Directors. Victor and his family have a long and generous history with our Society. We are delighted to include Victor on the Board. Victor and his wife Marty will manage the EVHS Newsletter publication. Thank you and welcome to the Mulinix's.

If you noticed boxes of books in the middle office, those books were generously donated by the Hill family in memory of our EVHS President Ed Hill. The books are part of Ed's Civil War Collection. We are in the process of making a reading room in the middle room. The books will be stamped and documented as part of Ed's collection. We are looking for two lawyer's bookcases for the room to house the collection. If you have bookcases to donate or spot a find in an antique store, please contact Joanne Smith at 404-313-9837.

We appreciate all the donations of books and documents.

We are in need of an office manager for the EVHS Office. If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding duties, please speak with a Board Member.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Rita Cox

Mark and Vicki Chatham

Douglas and Joan Jones

Karin Gregor

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues are coming up in October. If you would like to pay your dues at the August Kingston Picnic please do so. We have several members who are not current and we need your help! Please get back up to date! Remember dues are only \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families. We need your continued support! Thank you.

Did you know...The IRS is now requiring 501 (c) (3) organizations to perform a means test to determine if they continue to qualify as a non-profit organization. The test involves computation of public support and other income such as dividends and business activities as examples. In order to qualify as a non-profit organization, the means test results should be 33.5% or more. EVHS has a means test score of 97% meaning we have low overhead and minimal "business" profits. We are very proud of this number.

UPCOMING EVENTS

evhs@evhsonline
Use the above website to
keep up with the activities of the
Etowah Valley Historical Society

KINGSTON PICNIC & TOUR
Friday, August 12th, 2011

OBSERVATION OF THE BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS
Saturday & Sunday, October 1st & 2nd, 2011

GRAND OAKS
EVHS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Friday, October 7th, 2011

ROSE LAWN
EVHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
Friday, December 2nd, 2011



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

D.O. Box 1886
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
evhs@evhsonline.org
www.evhsonline.org

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