



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 92, June 2015

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## BARTOW HISTORY SCHOLARS INAUGURAL QUIZ BOWL DECLARES WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Woodland Middle School was crowned champion of the first Bartow History Scholars (BHS) Quiz Bowl at the Clarence Brown Conference Center on May 17, 2015. Nearly 200 attendees gathered in Carter Hall to cheer on their favorite team in the introductory event sponsored by the Etowah Valley Historical Society featuring eighth graders from five middle schools in Bartow County: Adairsville, Cartersville, Cass, South Central and Woodland Middle Schools.

The teams, consisting of four to five active members and up to two alternates from each school, competed in three 20 minute rounds of questions from local WBHF radio personality Alan Sanders, who emceed the contest and acted as reader. The students answered questions on Bartow County history from topics such as Native American, African American, Military Activity, Industry and Business, Politics/Community/People, Early Pioneers, Bartow County Resources and Geography. The questions were prepared by EVHS historians and were all part of the curriculum studied during the school year from EVHS web site dedicated to Bartow History Scholars.

At the close of the final round, Woodland was the clear winner but there was a tie for second place. The competitive nature and excitement entered the match as Adairsville Middle and Cass Middle battled it out for second place. A sudden death round resulted to break the tie, with Cass sweeping the questions and winning the second place position.



*Bartow History Scholars from Adairsville, Cass, Cartersville, South Central and Woodland Middle Schools battle it out to determine who knows about Bartow history and who will be the 2015 Quiz Bowl Winner.*



*Quiz Bowl Program  
highlighting Bartow History  
Scholars, coaches and Sponsors  
of 2015 Quiz Bowl*

**“THE MORE  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT THE  
PAST THE  
BETTER PREPARED  
YOU ARE FOR  
THE FUTURE”**

**Theodore Roosevelt**

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## CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

**150  
CIVIL WAR  
ANNIVERSARY**



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115 West Cherokee Avenue  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

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## OFFICERS

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Dianne Tate  
Joanne Smith Pugh

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## ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *Supreme Court Justice*

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Linda Cochran  
Michael Garland  
Debbie Head  
J B Tate

## LOCAL ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO EVHS MEMBERS

September 13, 2015 - Summer Picnic and Exploration of Dabbs  
Archeological Dig, 6:00

October 3 and 4, 2015 – Battle of Allatoona Pass Re-enactment

October 9, 2015 – Annual Dinner at Grand Oaks, 6:30

December 4, 2015 – Christmas Dinner at Roselawn, 6:30

Check back for updates and more upcoming events in 2015!

## SAVE THE DATE

Join Etowah Valley Historical Society for a summer picnic and  
visit to Dabbs Native American Dig Site

September 13, 2015 – 6:00 pm, Walnut Grove

6:00 pm - Lecture and reception at Ann Cummings (Walnut  
Grove) and optional visit to a newly discovered Native American  
occupational site being conducted by Kennesaw State University  
Archeology students.

Call EVHS office for information and rsvp 770-606-8862

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ronnie Burt

Neal and Beth Freeman

Pamela Holt

Nettie Holt

Zachary Hulsey

Ballard and Nancy Mauldin

Elizabeth Nelson

Theresa Robinson

Michael Rogers

Iris and Benjamin Stein

Trent Tibbits

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

The following EVHS member has passed on during  
the past year. Her attendance, experience,  
participation and concern for our history will be sorely  
missed.

Candance "Candy" Antonio

## EVHS COMMITTEES

### *Allatoona Pass Battlefield*

Chaired by  
Guy Parmenter

### *Bartow History Scholars*

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The Preservation  
Committee

### *Website*

Co-Chaired by  
Joanne Smith Pugh  
Joe Head  
Larry Posey

## NORTON FAMILY'S "VALLEY VIEW" AND BARTOW HISTORY SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARDS FROM GEORGIA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

THE GEORGIA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
HONOR VALLEY VIEW AND THE NORTON FAMILY WITH AN  
EXCELLENCE IN STEWARDSHIP AWARD.



*Georgia Trust Awards – Joe Head, Mary Norton and Dr. Robert Norton, Jr. receiving awards from Georgia Trust during Spring Ramble 2015 in Athens, GA*

The Norton family received an award for Stewardship for its care of Valley View, the family home in Cartersville, Ga., from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation at its 38th annual Preservation Awards ceremony held April 17 in Athens, Georgia.

Valley View was constructed in the 1840s by James Caldwell Sproull and is one of Georgia's best preserved antebellum brick homes. Originally a 2,000 acre plantation, today Valley View is a 270-acre working farm owned by direct decedents of James Sproull. Currently under the stewardship of the Norton family, Valley View has been preserved to tell the history of the property and the Sproull family.

Family history reports that Valley View was occupied by one of General Sherman's division commanders, General John Schofield, who used the front parlor as a stable with the Sproull's piano used as a feeding trough. To this day, the names of two Union soldiers who left their mark on the inside wall of an upstairs closet are still visible. Also remaining in the house are approximately a dozen pieces of walnut furniture made by a German cabinetmaker who lived with the Sproull family prior to the Civil War, and who was left in charge of Valley View in 1864 when the family took refuge in Alabama.

The Norton Family is steadfast in its commitment to the preservation of Valley View and its contents, and regularly organizes family workdays and keeps detailed records of rehabilitation work at the home and grounds. It is this sense of responsibility for a unique historic site that compels us all to give thanks to the Norton's continued commitment to preserving Valley View.

For over 35 years the Trust has recognized preservation projects and individuals in the state who have made significant contributions to the field of historic preservation. Awards are

presented on the basis of the contributions of the person or project to the community and/or state and on compliance to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Stewardship awards recognize those who have ensured the preservation of historic properties through long-term care and maintenance, stabilization, protection or continuous family ownership. This year the Trust presented one Stewardship award.



*Dr. Robert Norton, Jr., Jane Norton Finger, and Florence Norton Reigies*

Founded in 1973, The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation is one of the country's largest statewide, nonprofit preservation organizations. The Trust is committed to preserving and enhancing Georgia's communities and their diverse historic resources for the education and enjoyment of all.

### BARTOW HISTORY SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION SERVICE AWARD FROM GEORGIA TRUST

The Etowah Valley Historical Society received an award for Excellence in Preservation Service from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation at its 38th annual Preservation Awards ceremony held April 17 in Athens, Georgia.



*Joe Head & Debbie Head received Preservation Service Award for Bartow History Scholars Program from Georgia Trust dignitaries*

The Etowah Valley Historical Society was recognized for developing the Bartow History Scholars Program, an educational program that engages Bartow County youth in learning about local history.

When the Society's website needed updating in 2012, its board chose to expand the site to create an in-depth public resource for the county's history. In conjunction with this expanded historical resource, a program was developed that encouraged 8th grade history teachers to offer extra credit to students who used the website to study local history in addition to what they learned in school. The web content is organized in an engaging format, with interactive digital maps of the county that further illustrate historical topics such as Native American history, cemeteries, Civil War points of interest and African-American history. At the close of the pilot 2013-14 school year, 850 students from 5 middle schools had participated in the program, with 54 students achieving top percentile levels and recognized as Bartow History Scholars. The Society has established a Middle School Advisory Board for the program and plans to expand the program with more activities such as holding an annual History Quiz Bowl.



# BARTOW HISTORY SCHOLARS



## BARTOW HISTORY SCHOLARS INAUGURAL QUIZ BOWL *Continued from page 1*

Woodland's winning team was coached by Jody Prescott Taylor and consisted of Captain Peter Germ, Matthew Cox, Tony Hernandez and Ezra Petron. The Woodland Wildcat Scholar Team was awarded \$500 cash prize, gift bag and a trophy. The second place Cass Colonels Scholar Team, coached by Christie Barnett and Blake Fallin, was awarded \$250 cash prize, gift bag and a trophy. Scholar members were Captain Kendall Arnold, Necole Gonsahn, Hailey Jensen, Mia Jackman, C. J. McKnight and Zachary Thacker. The other three schools – Adairsville coached by Valerie Hyde, South Central coached by Mary Frankovsky and Cartersville coached by Laura Huth – were given \$100 cash prize each. Each student competing also received an EVHS custom designed medallion engraved with his or her name and a gift bag of prizes awarded from the distinguished group of patrons and merchants who participated by supporting the Quiz Bowl. Cass Middle won the award for most supporters in attendance and was awarded a \$150 bonus. The cash prizes are intended to benefit the history program from each school.



*Bartow History Scholars 2015 Quiz Bowl Champions –  
Coached by Jody Prescott Taylor*



*2nd Place Cass Middle School Bartow History Scholars team –  
Coached by Christie Barnett and Blake Fallin*

Woodland's winning Coach Jody Prescott Taylor stated she was "very excited for her team." She said "we worked very hard for this event." She noted her students had practiced once or twice a week since the end of February. I felt very proud as I watched them answer the numerous questions being asked. I was honored to know each and every one of them. To help get the students ready for the competition she and two other teachers at Woodland, Della Cunningham and Mike Gunter, worked with students after school to help them learn the material on the EVHS website. She stated that each student was given specific communities, landmarks, people, etc. to study so that not one person was focusing on the entire web site. "As we met for the first time, each team member was given a study packet from the website which consisted of approximately 150 pages. We met one to two times per week going over this material." Woodland team Captain Peter Germ said the quiz bowl "was fun and very exciting".

EVHS Vice President and founder of Bartow History Scholar Program Joe Head added "all teams' demonstrated keen ability and alertness for local history. The question format was both verbal and image recognition" Head said. With the EVHS interactive website a number of EVHS digitalized maps were utilized in the competition. Through its continuously evolving website, the Etowah Valley Historical Society has digitalized Bartow County history through its Bartow History Scholars Program and interactive map offerings. To provide these new website features, EVHS partnered with Kennesaw State



*First and second place teams received custom designed trophies  
and each student received personalized EVHS medallion*





*A grand reception for students, parents and attendees was hosted by Grand Oaks*



*We not only teach history.....we make it! Photo of Corbin School students, 1910*

University, with interns from Kennesaw State compiling hundreds of hours to provide this feature.

"In response to society members and senior citizens asking how our county history will be preserved, EVHS chose to launch the Bartow History Scholar Program" he said. In working with Kennesaw State University, a gallery of maps were implemented "This initiative is intended to be an early intervention to expose our local youth to county history using a state of the art website with interactive features to teach county history. At the conclusion of the first year, EVHS felt that a natural extension to the BHS Program would be a history quiz bowl for the county title among middle schools."

The Quiz Bowl also featured Rev. Kevin Lobello from Sam Jones Memorial United Methodist Church giving the invocation. Boy Scout Troup #15 presented the colors and the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Davis Nelson of the Bartow County School Board addressed the audience on the importance of learning local history. Quiz Bowl judges were J. B. Tate, Guy Parmenter, Michael Garland and Joe Head. EVHS Co-Presidents Joanne Smith Pugh and Diane Tate welcomed those attending, recognized distinguished guests, presented awards and gave special thanks to all of the sponsors who supported this extension of the Bartow History Scholar Program.

#### **GOLD**

**Community Foundation of Cartersville**

*(Made possible in part from the Cartersville-Bartow Community Foundation)*

**Cartersville Medical Center • Wells Fargo**

#### **SILVER**

**Century Bank • Shaw Industries • Grand Oaks**

#### **BRONZE**

**Chemical Products Corporation**

#### **PATRONS**

*Local patrons who donated prizes to the students and their coaches:*

*Academy Sports, Carmike Cinema, Chick-Fil-A, City Cellar & Loft, Swheat Market, Meg Pie, KSU, Etowah Indian Mounds, Mellow Mushroom, Coconuts, Firehouse Subs, Henry Parkman, Lara J Designs & Write Downtown.*

Co-Presidents Joanne Smith Pugh and Dianne Tate closed the 2015 Quiz Bowl competition by presenting impressive trophies to first and second place teams and honored each student from all five participating schools with a personalized engraved medallion that was custom made for the event.

The afternoon event concluded with contestants and audience members being treated to a reception at Grand Oaks. Over 100 people - quite a few first time visitors to Grand Oaks - enjoyed the hospitality, decadent food, beautiful gardens and historic home of Ray Thacker of Grand Oaks.

"Feedback has been impressive from parents and attendees, Joe Head stated. "Without question, the students enjoyed the event and showed a level of competition and willingness to participate. Overall, the event was a big success."



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## RECONSTRUCTION IN GEORGIA

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While marching east, Sherman destroyed the Georgia rail system, which was the best in the deep South at the start of the Civil War. Famine, drought and anarchy were problems that faced the people of Georgia as the war ended. As for the state government the Civil War had left it bankrupt. From 1865 until 1871 attempts would be made by the federal government to reconstruct both the state and its people. North Georgia, at best, was war torn. The near-anarchy conditions that had been contained to North Georgia spread throughout the region. Bands of Confederate soldiers roamed freely, taking what they needed (or pleased). Former slaves struggled to cope with an entirely new life. Georgians tried to make sense of a society run amok. Food shortages were widespread and the Federal overseers were corrupt.

With the Georgia heartland liberated, Sherman prepared to head north, but on January 12, 1865 he, along with Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, held a meeting with 20 or so black leaders, mostly preachers, in Savannah. This erudite group convinced the general that slaves not only understood the concept of liberty, but sought it. Special field order no. 15, issued four days later, gave 40 acres of land along the coast to any freedman for the asking.

In May, 1865, under orders of the occupying federal forces the government of Confederate Georgia was abolished. Instead United States President Andrew Johnson appointed Charles Johnson (no relation) to govern the state. Johnson, an attorney from Columbus with strong Unionist leanings, didn't really do much more than act as caretaker until the people could present a government of which the federal forces occupying the state and the national government in Washington would approve. Washington's modest (but firm) requests included:

- Repeal of the secession ordinance
- Abolition of slavery
- Repudiation of an \$18 million debt to the Confederate government
- Recognition of the federal government as supreme

In December, 1865, the state fulfilled the demands of the federal government, and shortly after the inauguration of the new popularly-elected governor Charles Jenkins, Andrew Johnson recognized the new state government. This was the end of First (or Presidential) Reconstruction.

Freedmen (the popular term for former slaves) faced a bitter world, especially from the formerly wealthy plantation owners and white political infrastructure. After the war the planter-freedman relationship was much more adversarial than the master-slave relationship before the war. Former slaves refused to work from before dawn to after dusk for the small wages they were offered. Planters wanted an ordered work force; freedmen wanted autonomy. Conflict was the result.

To help former slaves cope with their new freedom the federal

Their wide-ranging charter allowed it to be almost anything it wanted to be. While the bureau was very effective in the northern tier of southern states, in the deep South its effectiveness can be questioned. The bureau tried to monitor violence and court proceedings against blacks. It tried to promote racial equality, defending blacks and prosecuting whites. The underlying problem was one the Bureau could not correct: it was difficult for whites to conceive that freedmen actually had rights.

Land ownership was one right neither the planters nor the politicians wanted to grant the freedmen. The land promised by General Sherman in Special Order 15 was especially inflammatory to the whites. In the end less than 80,000 acres of this land ended up under black ownership. Many "owners" were evicted with the consent of the federal government after the crops were harvested in the fall of 1866. Only the freedmen whose land had been passed to them by court decree were allowed to remain.

During 1866 Georgia began a "government as usual" campaign. Georgia sent former vice-president of the Confederacy Alexander Stephens and Confederate Senator (and Steven Douglas' 1860 running mate) Hershel Johnson to Washington as U. S. Senators. The state passed laws excluding blacks right to testify, eliminating their right to serve on juries, and enacting a convict-leasing program. The state also refused to ratify the 14th amendment. Clearly, Georgia remained unreconstructed. Early in 1867 Republicans in the United States Congress solidified their power and enacted strict Reconstruction laws in spite of Andrew Johnson's presidential veto. Among the demands of these "Radical Republicans" were

- Ratify the 14th Amendment
- Give black males the right to vote
- Elect a new state government (once black males had the right to vote)

In December, 1867 a most remarkable group convened in Atlanta, Georgia. Elected representatives met to create a new state constitution, in accordance with the demands of the Radical Republicans in Congress. This group was more representative of the state as a whole than any other elected body in the history of Georgia, and embodied a dramatic shift from antebellum Georgia where the port city of Savannah and the great coastal planters were the economic and political power center.

Shifting from a Savannah-centric world was more than the physical movement westward. The fire-eaters leading the state before the war (Joe Brown, Howell Cobb, Robert Toombs and others) were representative of the elitist plantation owners and businessmen. They led Georgia into war. Farmers from northern and western Georgia were generally pro-Union, although they were sympathetic with the wealthy plantation owners. Most of the others, including the black delegates, were simply against the elite establishment of plantation owners.

The Democrats felt compelled to come up with derogatory names for the upcountry crackers who had taken control of the state. "Scalawags" they called their fellow Georgians who became Republicans; "Carpetbaggers" were outsiders (normally from a northern state) who were frequently Republican. It took a good deal of courage to actively support the Republican Party in Georgia. By 1868 individual cells of the Ku Klux Klan could be considered well-organized.

In March, 1868, under the new constitution, Augustan Republican Rufus Bullock defeated Democrat John B. Gordon for the governorship. Unfortunately for Bullock, the Democrats controlled both the State House and Senate. Democrats refused to seat the elected officials who were black because the state constitution did not implicitly give them the right to hold public office.

Georgia Democrats continued to resist the impositions of the federal government. They were strongly against the black suffrage movement and refused to ratify the 14th amendment. Bullock, who governed the state during most of Congressional Reconstruction, plotted with the federal authorities to "reoccupy" the state after the Democrats refusal to ratify. July 15, 1870 saw the signing of the bill passed by the U. S. Congress to readmit Georgia's duly elected senators and representatives. Federal occupation troops were withdrawn and Democrats showed up at the polls in December to elect an overwhelming Democratic state senate and house. The politicians swore vengeance on Governor Bullock, vowing to impeach him and make him pay for the crimes of Reconstruction.

In October, 1871, with the first meeting of the Democratic house and senate looming, Bullock tendered his resignation, which was kept secret until he left the state. Benjamin Conley, as president of the senate, assumed the responsibilities of governor until the election of James Smith in January, 1872. This marked the end of Reconstruction.



**150<sup>A</sup>**  
**CIVIL WAR**  
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## SHERMAN'S SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, NO. 15

Special Field Orders, No. 15 were military orders issued during the American Civil War, on January 16, 1865, by General William Tecumseh Sherman, commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi of the United States Army. They provided for the confiscation of 400,000 acres of land along the Atlantic coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and the dividing of it into 40 acre parcels. The orders were issued following Sherman's March to the Sea. They were intended to address the immediate problem of dealing with the tens of thousands of black refugees who had joined Sherman's march in search of protection and sustenance, and "to assure the harmony of action in the area of operations". His intention was for the order to be a temporary measure to address a immediate problem, and not to grant permanent ownership of the land to the freedmen, although most of the recipients assumed otherwise.[3] General Sherman issued his orders after meeting in Savannah, Georgia with twenty ministers of the black community and with U.S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton, an abolitionist from Massachusetts who had previously organized the recruitment of black soldiers for the Union Army, was put in charge of implementing the orders.

The orders had little concrete effect, as they were revoked in the fall of that same year by President Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Abraham Lincoln after his assassination.

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*www.evhsonline.org*  
Use the above website to  
keep up with the activities of the  
Etowah Valley Historical Society



# 150<sup>#</sup> CIVIL WAR ANNIVERSARY

## COMMEMORATIVE CIVIL WAR EDITION



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