



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 94, December 2015

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

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J. B. TATE INTRODUCES - "SKETCHES OF BARTOW COUNTY" NEW RELEASE HOT OFF THE PRESS

J. B. Tate, Professor Emeritus of Kennesaw State University, is a past president of the Etowah Valley Historical Society, recipient of EVHS' coveted Lifetime Achievement Award, member of the Georgia Trail of Tears Board, appointed to the National Trail of Tears Council, local historian and superb story teller. J. B. weaves an intriguing and detailed journey of Bartow County's transition from millions of years ago as the face of the earth shifted, creating a landscape that made such a unique area.

He has compiled a lifetime of research and passion for history in an organized, in-depth historical timeline. J. B. draws from over 40 years of personal files and research as he narrates how a county in Northwest Georgia and her people developed, survived, and evolved. He offers a detailed view of industry and natural resources encompassing the Mound Builders, the Native Americans and the early frontier trailblazers who settled in what was then Cass County. Additionally, he defines cherished plantations, antebellum homes, and communities of Bartow County, Georgia.

Sketches of Bartow County reveals the courage, loves, losses, sacrifices, families, friendships and loyalties that will stay with the readers long after they turn the last page. This area has been occupied by people for over 10,000 years – what a History!!!!!!

Sketches of Bartow County



COMPILED BY J. B. TATE



Jodeen Brown's amazing artwork graces the cover and many of the inside pages with a visual visit to some of Bartow's magnificent sites. Plans for book signings are being finalized with dates and locations to be announced. A book signing is being scheduled to be held in January 2016 at the 1854 Depot in historic downtown Cartersville in conjunction with the Cartersville Downtown Development authority. Check our web site and facebook pages for details as they are finalized. You may also call EVHS office at 770-606-8862 to reserve your copy.

Proceeds from Sketches of Bartow County will go to Etowah Valley Historical Society. J. B. states "I am proud of the Etowah Valley Historical Society and their consistent efforts to protect our heritage in Bartow County. The proceeds from Sketches of Bartow County will hopefully assist in the society's many projects."



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SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR EVHS

Bartow Scholars Quiz Bowl – May 15, 2017
Oral History Event at Valley View – September 2016 (Exact date to be announced)
Allatoona Pass – October 1-2, 2016
Annual Membership Event at Grand Oaks – October 7, 2016
Tour of Homes – November 5-6, 2016
Christmas at Rose Lawn – December 2, 2016

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DEAR DEPARTED MEMBERS

Martha White
Norma Jackson Tidwell
Vickie Crowley Pettit

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Donald & Marie Cario
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EVHS LAUNCHES NEW WEB FACE LOOK



Members who visit the EVHS web site will find a new look and more features available for the new year.

According to Joe Head, EVHS VP, the former website had become outdated and not responsive to upgraded internet software services. We were experiencing frequent broken links, connectivity issues, slower speeds, inability to post photos or retain galleries and navigation inconsistencies among browser servers. Joe Head assembled a web page design "Swat Committee" consisting of Sandy Lusk, Mina Harper, Debbie Head and worked for about three months to recreate the site.

Working with our web page designer, Mr. Scott Cooper we have moved to a new software product web Theme that recovers our functionality and adds the ability to offer new services. The new web site has restored our former features and added a few extra features.

Perhaps among others the most exciting upgrade is a new feature to offer local authors a venue to post articles or research about Bartow County history. The link is called, Research Archives located at the bottom of the home page. This innovation is a fresh service to our public. It offers local writers who may be seeking a means to share their works an alternative to publish without the expense of printing costs.

We invite you to visit the site and enjoy our new EVHS look. (www.evhsonline.org)

PRESERVATION PROFILE STILESBORO ACADEMY



In 1856, the Stilesboro community united to establish a high school which proved so successful that by 1858 a movement was underway to construct a larger building. The Stilesboro Institute (now Academy) was completed in 1859, the final touch being the Latin inscription, Deo ac Patriae" painted above the stage. To "God & Country" was the phrase that according to legend kept Union General William T. Sherman from burning the school during his May, 1864 march through Bartow County. Though the Academy is no longer a school, it remains intact and is owned by The Stilesboro Improvement Club.

The lettered Latin inscription "Deo Ac Patriac" MDCCCLIX (To God and Country - 1859.) This was painted by an Englishman in 1859 when the structure was originally built - it has never been repainted.



CAN YOU DIG IT

On Sunday, September 13th, the Etowah Valley Historical Society (EVHS) held a barbecue picnic and lectures on the Dabbs' Dig site and adjacent land. Afterwards, to cross the field to the Dabbs' Dig site, EVHS members, along with the lecturers, loaded onto hay wagons provided by the Etowah Indian Mounds, operated by state parks personnel Steve Hadley and Keith Bailey to visit the excavation at the Dabbs' site. While there, Dr. Powis entertained questions and gave a brief explanation of what he has found out from the site and what his students are doing there. This event highlighted the local archeological digs that are focusing on two investigations: prehistoric American Indian presence and pre Civil War plantation life.



Property owner, Andy Dabbs, comments, "In 2012, I attended a presentation by Carl Etheridge at the Etowah Mounds. I introduced myself to Carl, and in the course of our conversation I mentioned to him that I owned a piece of property where I had surface collected numerous artifacts over a period of decades. When I expressed a desire to have an archaeologist look at my collection and the field where I found them, Carl put me in touch with Dr. Terry Powis. After meeting with Dr. Powis, I agreed to his request to conduct a field school on the site. I saw Joe Head several weeks after the start of the field school and Joe expressed interest in what Dr. Powis was doing. Joe and his wife, Debbie, visited, at which time they suggested that I allow EVHS to do a program. Joe made a proposal to the EVHS Board and expressed it as the "Dabbs' Dig" project."

At the September 13th EVHS event, Dr. Powis states, "It was in 2012 that they decided to contact me to investigate the site. The site proved to be productive containing cultural evidence, such as projectile points and pottery shards, used by Native Americans from the Mississippian time period (AD 1000-1550). The newly discovered site, which lays at the edge of a field full of cotton, was named the Dabbs' Site after the landowner."

Dr. Powis adds, "For the last 4 years KSU has held their annual archaeology field school, which helps train KSU students on how to properly work in the field of archaeology. The field school has helped many KSU students further their careers in archaeology after

graduation, and students have been able to help uncover the mysteries that surround this site. The in depth study offered to them due to the advantage of the field school, attracts the brightest students to KSU from outside the southeast area. The landowners recognize the value of uncovering new information and interpreting it for posterity. The collaboration between them and KSU makes the endeavor possible; the development of knowledge through the research being done adds to our understanding of humankind. Many cultural features, including refuse and storage pits, have been uncovered and show that Native Americans did live in the area thousands of years ago. With further

research, we have been able to discover what foods these prehistoric peoples were harvesting and eating as well as what tools they were using. Many projectile points, lithic tools like knives and hammer stones, pieces of pottery have been found at the site."

In addition, Dr. Powis explains, "During this current field season Patrick Severts, who teaches students about the importance of metal detecting in archaeology, gave a class to KSU archaeology students so they could earn certification. This class focused on metal detection and plantation life, a more recent historical period. The class has uncovered many historic artifacts, such as nails, horseshoes, glassware, and pottery shards. This metal detecting class prompted one KSU student, Zachary Smith, to pursue further research in attempting to locate slave dwellings and other aspects of plantation life before the Civil War. At the EVHS dinner on September 13th, Zach presented his findings.

One other student, Lindsey Goff, also presented on her research, which is focused on the Dabbs' Site. Lindsey has been excavating at the Dabbs' Site since she attended the KSU field school in 2013. As staff on our current field school, Lindsey is earning credit for a research course that focuses on photogrammetry. Photogrammetry is a technique used by archaeologists that allows us to take pictures of an artifact or a feature (like a building) and stitch them together to create one single image. Using computer software, the images can be made into a 3D model. Lindsey hopes to create 3D images of the Dabbs' Site and of her work in general."

Ms. Goff commented on the evening. In her words, she states, "The catered dinner was simply delicious, and the weather was beautiful. This event was an amazing chance to help educate the public about archaeology, and a chance to meet wonderful people. Guests felt welcomed and a part of the EVHS, and we are excited to be able to share the amazing history of the Dabbs Site." Zach Smith related his thoughts on the evening saying, "Getting to meet with many great people who were all so passionate about history and about what Dr. Powis and I are doing nearby was amazing. I very rarely get to meet with groups of people who are passionate about a subject and it was an incredible experience getting to talk with each and every person I talked with on Sunday."

Dr. Powis reiterates, "It was a highlight of my year to give a talk to members of the EVHS about my ongoing research into the prehistory of Bartow County, and to enjoy the company and conversation with so many like-minded folks who are dedicated to the education and preservation of the heritage of this county."

Dr. Powis looks to the future with this further information on his ongoing work with archeology students: "In addition to the Dabbs' site the students will be able to take part in surveying and testing portions of adjoining properties. The overall goal of the KSU archaeology field school is to use background resources and archaeological methods to help interpret life on the sites studied which includes pre-Civil War life in the area.

The students have already finished shovel testing and will now have a training day with metal detection. Metal detection is not often taught to students and very few professional archaeologists are proficient enough to manage this task. Mr. Patrick Severts, an archaeologist with more than 25 years of field experience, half of which was spent metal detecting in his military studies, will be their instructor. From these two survey methods the students will be able to better isolate locations to start their excavations."

Military Archeologist Patrick Severts commented, saying, "We may get lucky this year but it's a big area, and the property has many missing buildings to find. If luck is on our side we will have answers to some of our research questions this year, if not there is always next year."

Those in attendance at the EVHS event agreed, "We can dig it." It was a great night to be outside enjoying the weather, even more so for those who attended the Dabbs' Dig Site dinner, lectures by the experts and their students and the wagon ride to the excavation.

(Article written by Dr. Terry Powis and Mina Harper)



Thank you to all who worked so hard to make The Dabbs' Dig and Walnut Grove Picnic, such a huge success. It was a sold out event, the weather was perfect, the food extremely delicious, the table decor and archeological themed accessories fabulous; and the program interesting, entertaining and educational. Thanks to Joe Head, Mina Harper, Sandy Lusk, Joanne Smith Pugh, Dianne Tate, Sally Tonsmeire, Wayne Rice, Guy Parmenter, Debbie Head, Dianne Myers, Melissa Gay and many others who jumped in and helped make it such a success.



BATTLE OF ALLATOONA PASS RECOGNIZED AS "MOST INNOVATIVE HISTORIC SITE" BY GEORGIA STATE PARKS

In recognition for its candlelight tour of Allatoona Pass Battlefield, Red Top Mountain State Park captured the Most Innovative Historic Site Program Award at the recent Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites Managers Conference.

"I am ecstatic that we won the programming award," Red Top Park Manager Kelly Howington said. "A lot of this was due to Steve Hadley's hard work and planning."

As mentioned by Howington, the site paid tribute to the Battle of Allatoona Pass' sesquicentennial by offering a wide array of programming in 2014 that provided attendees a better understanding into the warfare that transpired on Oct. 5, 1864. With many of its original trench works intact, the Allatoona Pass Battlefield still bears reminders of one of the Civil War's bloodiest conflicts.

Presented by Red Top with Etowah Valley Historical Society's assistance, Battle of Allatoona Pass Remembered was held Oct. 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The annual event included a tent city with Civil War reenactors, musket and cannon firing demonstrations, and battlefield tours. The candlelight tour Oct. 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. — organized by Red Top, EVHS and the Bartow History Museum — featured reenactors performing dramatic vignettes.

"The Battle of Allatoona Pass program was a collaboration among local stakeholders, the Friends of Red Top, park staff and volunteers," said Ray Smith, assistant region manager for Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites. "They did a great job of integrating the cultural, historical and recreational aspects of the event. Plus, they presented the program in such a respectable way that honored those who passed away in the battle. That was really important to us."

The Battle of Allatoona Pass occurred nearly a month after the fall of Atlanta when the Confederate Army tried to destroy the Union's supply line, the Western & Atlantic Railroad at Allatoona Pass. The railroad was cut into the Allatoona Mountain range in the 1840s and was about 360 feet long and a maximum of 175 feet deep.



The Battle consisted of 5,301 soldiers — 2,025 Union and 3,276 Confederate — and resulted in 1,603 casualties, where men either were killed, missing or wounded. Six Confederate and five Union states participated in the battle, including Missouri, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Since taking over the site's operations about eight years ago, Red Top Mountain State Park continues to lean on the guidance of EVHS members, who had maintained the battlefield and made it more accessible for the public from the early 1990s to October 2007. Under Red Top's management, the site's hiking trails have been revamped and interpretive signs along the paths have been replaced with sturdier markers and more detailed messages.

CASSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Etowah Valley Historical Society Board voted to encourage and support the Cassville Historical Society with a \$500.00 check. Pictured are Dianne Tate, co-president of EVHS with Dale Black, president of the Cassville Society. EVHS had a successful Tour of Homes in Cassville in 2014 and recognized the dedication of the society in maintaining the Cassville cemetery and this great heritage.

LAKEPOINT SPORTS STATION GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On Thursday December 10, 2015 LakePoint Sports held a ground breaking to dedicate the new Welcome Station facility dedicated to receiving visitors to the sports facility. The station will resemble a railroad station and feature Bartow County heritage focusing on mining, railroads and Civil War history. The facility will be known as the Emerson and Stegal Station. It will house a variety of services including: an upscale coffee service, yogurt shop, pizza eatery, Clip & Climb Rock Climbing, 36 miniature holes of golf and railroad souvenir shop. Lake Point Sports has been working with local historians and the Etowah Valley Historical Society to guide theming and features.



The latest groundbreaking at LakePoint Sporting Community looks like it will take folks indoors — or at least part of the way inside. In a recent press release it is stated “LakePoint Station is being billed as “our first entertainment venue . . . LakePoint Station is set to open in June 2016. LakePoint Station will be a vital first step in providing entertainment for all of LakePoint’s visitors as well as the local community. It will also feature a laser maze, arcade, gem mining, and is perfect for birthday parties, team dinners and good old-fashioned family fun.”



ORAL HISTORY

The Etowah Valley Historical Society website can take you a step back in time with numerous Oral History interviews that promise to captivate the viewer. The Oral History project was created as a result of the Historic Inventory Project completed in 2005 by EVHS under the leadership of Mary Norton. While working on the inventory project of historic places, it was discovered that while the places had stories to tell, individuals did as well. So many people's stories are lost in time; the committee now records the stories. Over 50 interviews have been completed. Interviews may be viewed online at evhsonline.org, the EVHS office in 1903 Courthouse, Bartow History Museum and Cartersville Library.

- Listen to Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice and Bartow native Robert Benham reveal how his family came from South Carolina in the 1840's to the Benham Plantation and his journey to being the first African American to serve statewide. Hear how he reflects on growing up in Cartersville, how he married his high school sweetheart, became the first African American lawyer in Cartersville and how he will always be indebted to Bartow County and her citizens for their support.
- Hear 90+ year old Kingston resident Ruth Appling talk of her years in Kingston, how she began picking cotton as a 4-5 year old child and managed carrying a 50 lb. sack of cotton, how hard the work was, leaving home at 5:00 am each day, not being able to attend school and how she made \$1.50 per week working as a housekeeper.
- Local author and historian J.B. Tate reveals how his Oklahoma roots are now firmly planted in Bartow County history and how he cherished his adventures as a teacher/professor. He paints an amazing view of the Civil War, people, places and the numerous Bartow County treasured locations.
- Arthur Carter is intriguing in his interview of growing up on Mission Road, attending Mission School, having to wait all day for the pot belly stove warm the one room schoolhouse and walking 3 miles to get to and from school. He weaves a visual picture of how life was growing up in Cartersville and how the community has changed.

- Warren Akin divulges the amazing family history of the Akins in Cassville, Cartersville and Bartow County, discussing Warren Akin, Sr. (1811-1877). Warren Akin, Sr. was a Confederate politician who served in the Confederate States Congress during the American Civil War. In 1846 Akin argued the first five cases heard by the Georgia Supreme Court and in 1861 became Speaker of the House for the Georgia House of Representatives, as well as being an ordained Methodist Minister. Hear how this family has established one of the oldest law firms in the State.

- Bob Norton and his family take you on an in-depth expedition of Valley View with incredible details of the historic family home place, remarkable furnishings and memories of growing up among the famed boxwoods. This is like a personal open house excursion hosted by those that know how to detail the charm and experience of Valley View. This video is available to be viewed at the Gold Dome Courthouse, Bartow History Museum and Cartersville Library.

These are just a sampling of what evhsonline.org has available for viewing. Be sure to check it out – you will be glad you did!

The mission of the Oral History Committee is to preserve local history by means of audio and video recordings that will be available for historical research. Our oral histories are physical links to the past that provide meaning to the present and continuity to the future. Serving as co-chairmen are Tina Shadden and Judy Kilgore. Committee members include Mary Norton, Mina Harper, Susan Tumlin, Wayne Rice, Sally Tonsmeire and Sherri Henshaw.

Be on the lookout for more information on the upcoming event for Oral History to be held at Valley View in the fall of 2016. You do not want to miss this event!!! Committee members are hard at work to make this indeed a memorable experience and a fund raiser for more Oral History to be captured in time.

EVHS ORAL HISTORY BENEFIT AT VALLEY VIEW BEING PLANNED FOR 2016

“Official documents of history only tell part of the story of an event, community or place. By recording the stories of real people a more inclusive, diverse, and personal picture emerges about the events of history.”

The Etowah Valley Historic Society’s Oral History project journeys deep into the Etowah Valley’s vibrant past, offering the chance to relive the events that shaped the present and are influencing the future. Details are being finalized by the committee to bring history to life at a gala event to be held at historic Valley View in the fall of 2016. In order to better understand events and people of the past, historians examine many different types of primary sources. Government records, letters, photographs and artifacts are just a few examples of primary sources. Oral histories are collections of people’s memories, accounts and interpretations of the past in their own words. They are a record of an individual’s direct feelings and opinions and the events in which he or she was involved. Oral histories are obtained through interviews and are preserved on audio recordings, films, videotapes, and in written transcripts.

Stay tuned to get all the information - date, time, sponsors and more!!!! You will want to be sure to participate in this EVHS event.



IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST – BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Cartersville’s Rudy York is pictured with Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio during 1937 World Series. Who would not love to have had an in-depth conversation with Rudy York about his younger days playing at the Atco ballfield and his memorable Major League Baseball career?





Christmas at Roselawn





EVHS Annual Christmas Dinner



Thanks to Victor Mulinix for the great photos

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



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