Record Setting Membership Surge

EVHS Welcomes Over 130 Brand-New First-Time Members

Simeta & Matthew Avery
Robbie Bagby & Rachel Cook
Libby Bell
Meg & Michael Bolton
Derek & Paige Boyd
Lewis & Beth Bramlett
Jo Ann & Eddie Branton
John Brooke
Kim Brown
Rachel & Tony Burt
Darin & Jennifer Capes
Daneilla Chappell
Kellen Cloud
Scott Cooper
Anne Coultas
Catherine Creamer
John & Diana Cremers
Al & Lynne Cunningham
Shane & Jennifer Davis
Eric Dias
Bill & Patty Eagar
Inman & Carolyn Fairchild
Nancy Floyd
Dan Floyd
Steve & Wanda Gray
Jake Gresham
William Hamrick
Debbie Hatfield

Meredith Head
Charles Head
Tracy Heath
Ted & Gail Henry
Susan & Howard Hinesley
Tommy & Lynn Hudson
Bradford & Pam Hughes
Cheryl Hyde
Eloise Jackson
Frank & Faye Johnson
Emma Johnson
Hoyt Jolly
Scott Keith
George Kroe
Shanna Latimer
Tabitha Lovell
Staci & Weston Lusk
Ellen Lussier
Mark & Jennifer Matthews
Lori McAllister
Lori & Carson McCravy
Sara Miller
Clay Mooney
Dianne & Thomas Myers
Phillip Myers
Luz Navarrete
Patrick & Bree Nelson
Gale & Ernie Palmer

William Phillips
Jonathan Price
William & Linda Pye
Megan Ratts
Samantha Ratts
Lillie Read
Cindy & Dane Ritcheson
David & Meta Robertson
William & Marina Robertson
Samuel & Stacy Sabaka
Diane & Michael Sakmar
Joel & Sharon Sneed
Gregory Steffes
Judy & Ron Tanner
Michael & Justine Tidwell
Donovan & Carrie Tucker
Vicki & Michael Tutterow
Mary Vaughn
James Ware
Martha Wellsandt
Lara & Ken West
Andrew White
Cindy Williams
Stela & John Williams
Judith & Ted Wilson
Richard Wright
Robert & Dannie Wright
Rick & Kim Wynn
SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR EVHS

May 15, 2016 – Bartow History Scholar Middle School Quiz Bowl at Sam Jones Methodist Church Family Fellowship Hall. 2:00 to 5:00pm. Open to the public.
Fall 2016 – Stamp Creek Furnace Hike. Members only.
October 1-2, 2016 – Allatoona Pass Battlefield. Open to the public.
October 7, 2016 – Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner at Grand Oaks.
October 8, 2016 – Oral History Fund Raiser at Valley View
November 5 and 6, 2016 – Tour of Homes features homes on West Avenue. Check back for ticket information. Open to the public.
December 2, 2016 – Annual Christmas and Holiday Member Dinner at Roselawn

Check back for all 2016 event updates and more

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DEAR DEPARTED MEMBERS

Betty Pierce

Longtime friend and EVHS supporter

IN MEMORY OF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT JODIE HILL

Mr. Jodie L. Hill, 96, of Marietta, Georgia passed away peacefully of natural causes in his home on Saturday Evening, February 20th, 2016.

Mr. Hill was a WWII Veteran, Battle of Normandy Beach, 4 Medals of Honor with 1 being A Purple Heart, he earned title of Sharp Shooter as well. He was a member of the Etowah Valley Historical Society & 2009 Lifetime Achievement Recipient Jodie Purchased The Chief Pine Log Homestead in Bartow Co. Ga. The property was later acquired by writer, Cora Harris which later named "The Valley". Mr. Hill took pride in restoring "The Valley" to its original pristine condition. This restoration earned its name on the National Historical Registry. This accomplishment earned him the honor of July 21, 2009 being deemed "Jodie L Hill" day in Bartow County. He then donated the Registered Historical Home Site to Kennesaw State University, who recognized him with an Honorary Doctorate.
May is National Historic Preservation Month, a time when people across America celebrate their history, culture, and special places. Sponsored annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation since 1973, it is designed to raise awareness about the power historic preservation has to protect and enhance our historic communities.

It's much more than saving old buildings! Historic preservation champions and protects places that tell the stories of our past. It enhances our sense of community and brings us closer together: saving the places where we take our children to school, buy our groceries, and stop for coffee - preserving the stories of ancient cultures found in landmarks and landscapes we visit - protecting the memories of people, places, and events honored in our national monuments.

In honor of Preservation Month, why not give some thought to the things that make your community unique. Like human beings, communities also have unique “signatures” or what I’ve come to think of as “signature elements.” Our community’s signature is rooted in its unique history, people, arts, architecture, heritage, natural resources, culture, commerce, agriculture, industry, and institutions. The endlessly varying combinations of these diverse elements mean that no two places are exactly alike.

Historic preservation is also about getting involved in saving these monuments, landscapes, and neighborhoods. It doesn’t have to be complicated – it can be fun! There are many ways you can get involved in historic preservation and save places that matter in your life. The important part is that you recognize the places that are meaningful to you, and to our nation’s heritage, and that they deserve to be around for future generations.

In our ongoing journey to highlight some of the preserved historic sites of Bartow County, we stroll down Main Street in historic downtown Cartersville to look at a gem located at 21 East Main. Although not officially documented as to the exact date of this building, we take a look at this historic structure and step back to yesteryear to see what has taken place behind these doors. In 2013 the renovation included exposing the magnificent brick interior walls, installing heart pine flooring and discovering a “hidden hatch” in the foundation.

From 1937 – 1965 Cowan Motors resided at this location and you can still see the concrete ramps used to drive the automobiles into the showroom. Carpets by Gregory, a retail institution in downtown, moved into 21 East Main in 1965 and became a fixture in the community until 2013. The beauty of Cartersville Florist graced the building until Mary Ann Henry opened Cartersville Artisan Studio in December of 2015. If you have not had the opportunity to visit this circa 1870’s structure, stop in and admire not only the art but the building that showcases a history of transformation but still preserves the building’s character.

Owner Mary Ann Henry demonstrates her artistic talents in her downtown studio.
Dr. Jim Langford gave a stellar lecture in his presentation "When the World Came Crashing Down" at an event at the Cartersville Public Library on Thursday evening, March 10th. He kept the standing room only crowd at the edge of their seats with his information on DeSoto's visit to the Etowah Valley in 1540.

Recently the City of Cartersville, Chemical Products Corporation, and LakePoint Sports joined forces to repurpose and relocate a forgotten CSX caboose that had been standing in the Chemical Products Corporation yard since the early 1990's. The City of Cartersville was agreeable in releasing the caboose that had been donated by CSX to the City for use at LakePoint Station.

The Etowah Valley Historical Society played a key role in initially connecting all parties to make this collaboration happen.

LakePoint Sports will soon be opening a Family Entertainment Center to visitors using the recreational complex. The Center will be known as LakePoint Station and carry a theme of Barrow History focusing on the railroad and mining while providing a variety of entertainment options, including railroad and mining-themed mini golf courses, a Clip 'N Climb innovative climbing concept, a "Dark Ride" (similar to Disney's Buzz Lightyear attraction), as well as many other fun activities.

LakePoint Sports has been very community minded with preserving county history and formed a history advisory committee to help incorporate history elements. LakePoint Station plans call for actual decommissioned railroad and mining equipment to be included in the design.
EVHS WEB SITE CONTINUES TO Evolve

EVHS is pleased to announce the continuing evolution of our web site for 2016. The need to update the site was necessary to remain current with internet technologies and to make the site more robust. The site was designed by webmaster, Scott Cooper and guided by an EVHS committee consisting of Joe Head, Sandy Lusk, Mina Harper and Debbie Head.

One of the many added features of evhsonline.org is the addition of Bartow Authors. This link is provided by EVHS as a venue for local authors to publish their research or articles about Bartow County. Works should be submitted in Microsoft Word format, contain references or source documentation, properly titled and must be approved by the EVHS Research and Archives Committee.

One of the articles highlighted in the new Bartow Authors section is an informative look at Asa Griggs Candler and his apprenticeship spent in Cartersville, GA. A snapshot of this article is likely to drive you to the web site to read the rest of this article and many more that have been posted:

ASA GRIGGS CANDLER (1851-1929)

Few people from Bartow County realize that the Coca Cola mogul Asa Candler has significant family roots in downtown Cartersville. Lucy Cunyus only briefly mentions in her 1932 book, History of Bartow County that Asa once apprenticed under local doctors to become a prescriptionist. However, a further investigation of this clue uncovers a submerged iceberg of information that is impressive and adds a new personality to the famous people that once lived in our community. Research reveals other Candler family members lived in Bartow, career connections, real estate and the primary reason Asa selected Cartersville to apprentice.

Read this fascinating article now posted under the Bartow Authors link found on the lower page of evhsonline.org.

The second site in the EVHS Field Trip Series, the Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve is composed of 40 acres of largely hardwood forest, underlain by a variety of wildflowers and mosses. The area is teeming with wildlife, from deer and an occasional bear to small rodents, snakes, birds and microscopic life. The Preserve is located almost entirely on and along the flanks of a large isolated dolomitic knob, providing an incredible vista in all directions. Outcroppings of the Knox series of dolomite are found, along with an array of multi-colored agates. The focal point of the Preserve is the Kingston Saltpeter Cave, and it is for the protection of this endangered natural resource that the Preserve has been established.

The most prominent was Kingston Saltpeter Cave in Bartow County. The cave was located far enough south of advancing Union forces in 1864 that, while other saltpeter operations farther north had been overtaken, Kingston survived until late May. Mined for nitrates as early as 1804, Kingston was a privately owned site at the outbreak of the Civil War but was taken over by the Confederate Nitre Bureau in order to increase production. While none of the saltpeter works are in evidence there today, records attest to the large quantity of material processed from the cave before its destruction by the Union army.

This cave has been heavily visited, and vandalized, since its saltpeter mining days. During the 1930's, it was briefly commercialized. Kingston Saltpeter Cave is probably Georgia's most historic cave. The Pleistocene fossil record and archaeological evidence alone warrant its protection and continued study.

(Sources: New Georgia Encyclopedia and caves.org)
The initial Family Friendly Field Trips were the rare opportunity to hike Ladd's Mountain and Salt Peter Cave, which are both privately owned areas not open to the general public. EVHS was very fortunate to have Patrick Nelson lead the Hike, with lecturing comments and interesting facts from experts Joel Sneed and archaeologist Scot Keith, who shared some of the exceptional historical and scientific features of both Ladd's and Salt Peter Cave.

Patrick Nelson is a noted Personal Trainer since 1998 and is passionate about helping others see the importance of health and the value of fitness. With a strong dedication to helping people live longer, healthier lives he can be seen frequently pursuing historic paths in and around Bartow County.

Joel Sneed is a noted author and Fellow and Life Member of the National Speleological Society. He is past president of the American Speleological History Association, chairs many committees and is a recipient of the Carnegie Award.

Scot Keith, Senior Archeologist at New South Associates leads all phases of archaeological investigations, including survey, testing, and data recovery. With research interests centered on the prehistoric peoples of the Southeast, he has lead the investigation of the Leake site, a large Middle Woodland ceremonial center in Bartow County.

Field Series Upcoming Events

July 30, 2016 – Rafting Through History on the Etowah. Join EVHS members on this last Saturday of July and see rare sites not visible any other way. EVHS is continuing to accept memberships now. Members only!

Fall 2016 – Stamp Creek Furnace Hike. Members only. (Details are being finalized for this up close and personal view of furnaces that started an industry that still goes strong today.)
In the age of Kindle, iPad and the Internet, many have predicted the end of the printed book. Even if that's the future for most readers, just the opposite is true at EVHS offices where four of the historic ledgers dating back to the 1800's have been restored. EVHS partnered with Bartow County in a project to preserve ledgers that were in the greatest demand for repair. EVHS co-president Dianne Tate and Vice President Joe Head met with Commissioner Steve Taylor to review the fragile status of a number of these archived ledger books that are housed in the 1903 Gold Dome Courthouse under the watch of EVHS. The books selected for the “face lift” were:

**RECORD OF WRITS**  
*Bartow County 1888*

**CHARTER BOOK OF BUSINESS**  
*Bartow County 1890*

**VOTER OATH REGISTRATION**  
*Bartow County 1908*

**COMMISSIONER COURT RECORD**  
*Bartow County 1910*

After exploring options in finding someone to entrust these irreplaceable books with such a delicate project, Joe Head met with Mike Grimes of TLC Bookbindery of Big Canoe, GA. Book bindery is a trade that seems lost somewhere in the pages of history but TLC owner Mike Grime exhibits a true passion for this trade. After working for Roswell Book Bindery for over 40 years, Mike semi-retired and embarked upon opening his own book bindery.

EVHS is indeed grateful to Commissioner Taylor for the opportunity to preserve those books which contain so much of recorded Bartow history. The project went from concept to reality in a short amount of time. Co-President Diane Tate states “what our Historical Society has done is remarkable in this book restoration: visitors, tourists, historians and, most importantly, our children, now have the unique opportunity to read about life in our county in a time that was and will never be again.”

If any of our EVHS members are looking to restore cherished heirloom books, such as family bibles, you may want to visit with Mike Grimes at TLC. Grimes can be reached at 706-579-1616 or dmgrimes@windstream.net.
Although Georgia has the oldest public recreation area in the nation (Indian Springs deeded to Georgia in 1825), it wasn’t until 1950 that Georgia had its first African American State Park. It is also the only State Park in Georgia to ever be named for an African American.

The History of George Washington Carver State Park is illustrative of the times. Immediately after World War II, there were no parks for blacks and segregation laws were strictly enforced in state parks for whites. John Loyd Atkinson, a Tuskegee Airman, returned from the Second World War and sought a recreational facility for African Americans. He had little luck getting permits on his own until the State Parks system stepped in. The State Parks Division leased, 1457 acres, which became Red Top Mountain State Park and 345 acres, which became George Washington Carver State Park on the newly created Lake Allatoona (1950). John Atkinson became the first Black Park Superintendent in Georgia and while there built a clubhouse/concession stand, playground, boat ramp, boat and fishing docks, swim beach with diving platform and residence. Atkinson operated the park from 1950 to 1958.

Robert Benham states that Carver became “…a black recreational Mecca and attracted visitors from throughout the southeast. Several well-known entertainers such as Ray Charles and Little Richard performed at the park…. The park also served as the summer home of the St. John’s Ski Bees, a black ski club, which was headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. The St. John’s Ski Bees was the only black water ski club in Georgia, performing each summer and drew people from throughout the southeast. They did barefoot skiing, sock takeoffs, one legged skiing and ramp jumping.” This is the lake where Rev. Andrew Young and his family learned to water ski and where Mrs. Coretta Scott King remembers her family spending many weekends at church outings.

The Bartow History Museum, EVHS, Keep Bartow Beautiful, Noble Hill Wheeler and Bartow County Parks and Recreation joined forces to host Bartow Carver Memories Day, held on February 27, 2016. This event proved to be well attended and educational for all who attended. The purpose of this event was to collect information for a possible onsite exhibit and for the creation of interpretive signage to be placed around the park, educating the public about this historically significant park.

Attendees were encouraged to bring photographs, newspaper clippings, and other documents related to the history of George Washington Carver Park or of their experiences and memories from the park. EVHS had camera crews and equipment to “Record a Memory”. EVHS sponsored “Oral Histories from Bartow Carver” with over 22 histories being recorded from residents and visitors who came to reminisce the days, with a special oral history featuring descendants of John Atkinson. The Etowah Valley Historical Society’s Oral History Project presented, for the first time available for public view, their interview with Georgia’s Chief Justice Robert Benham on his remembrances of his Bartow Carver Park years.

Bartow History Museum staff and volunteers were on hand to document attendee’s memories, photograph objects, or scan photographs attendees brought. Light refreshments were provided by Keep Bartow Beautiful; some brought a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds of the park.

Performer Ahmad Hall conducted sing-alongs of period music from WWII era in honor of Tuskegee Airman and park founder John Atkinson, as well as performed music from the post-war era (1950’s – 60’s).

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SECOND ANNUAL BARTOW HISTORY QUIZ BOWL

Mark your calendar now for the BHS Quiz Bowl scheduled for Sunday May 15 to be held at the Sam Jones Methodist Church Celebration Hall.

The Bartow History Scholars Program was awarded "Excellence In Preservation Service" by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in 2015. This award winning project, developed under the leadership of EVHS Vice President Joe Head, came to life when the EVHS board chose to expand the web site to create an in-depth public resource for the county's history. In conjunction with this 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 their set curriculum. The inaugural Quiz Bowl was held in 2015 with 200 in attendance. Five middle schools have applied to compete in this year's 2016 competition.

Five Bartow Middle Schools competed for the county championship in 2015 with Woodland Middle School, coached by Jody Prescott, earning top honors. Cass Middle took second place after a sudden death shoot out with Adairsville Middle coming in third place.

Please make an effort to attend this fun event and support our local eighth graders as they demonstrate their knowledge of Bartow history. The event will be held between 2:00pm and 4:00pm with a reception to follow. You will enjoy the facial expressions, energy, freshness and learn some Bartow history in the process.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 QUIZ BOWL SPONSORS

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Newly released *Sketches of Bartow County*, compiled by local author and past EVHS President J. B. Tate, has enjoyed the spotlight at local area book signings. Eager attendees stood in line at the 1854 Depot in downtown Cartersville for the initial book signing on February 11, 2016. The 1854 Depot, the oldest operating building in downtown, was the perfect setting to unveil the book that progressively looks at the historical timeline of Bartow County. J. B. has combined a lifetime of research and passion for Bartow County in this book and has graciously donated all proceeds to the Etowah Valley Historical Society. The Bartow History Museum hosted a book signing in the 1869 Courthouse on East Church Street in downtown Cartersville on April 14th that brought more eager readers to the fascinating evolution of a community that was once Cass (now Bartow) County.

Books are available for sale at the EVHS office in the 1903 Gold Dome Courthouse, the Bartow History Museum and the Euharlee History Museum. It is indeed an in depth view of industry, natural resources, and the trail blazer frontier settlers who created the communities of Bartow.

EVHS would like to extend a special acknowledgement to Sandy Lusk for her dedication and support to J. B. Tate that made *Sketches of Bartow County* a reality.
You will not want to miss the Oral History Fundraiser that will take place on Saturday, October 8th at the historic Valley View Plantation. There will be A Taste of History with authentic foods that guests at Valley View would have enjoyed through the years since the 1840’s, along with legends of Bartow who will come alive offering attendees a glimpse into days of yesteryear.

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. Would it not have been wonderful to have had a talk with Rudy York as he described his major league baseball days, playing in the World Series numerous times with the all-time greats and returning to Cartersville? Can you imagine having a conversation with the likes of Mark Anthony Cooper, Sam P. Jones, Rebecca Latimer Felton, Bill Arp, Cora Harris and other legends of Bartow as they pass on their stories to future generations? These are physical links to the past, providing meaning to the present and continuity to the future – be a part of it by supporting the Oral Histories Project at Valley View on October 8th!

Thank You Fredrick Knight for sharing this photo of the Civil War locomotive The Texas, which was recently moved from the Cyclorama in Atlanta to the North Carolina Transportation Museum. It’s undergoing cosmetic restoration. Once it’s restored it’s to be exhibited at the Atlanta History Center.

We welcome contributions to enhance our galleries. Call 770-606-8862.

We need volunteers to help us in the EVHS office. Can you come help one afternoon per month?

Call 770-606-8862 and leave a message.
www.evhsOnline.org
Use the above website to
keep up with the activities of the
Etowah Valley Historical Society

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