

Autumn 1971

ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
POST OFFICE BOX 886
CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Members:

Everyone extends sympathy to Jean and Bill Belew in the loss of their home by fire earlier this year. They have just moved into their new home and are managing to acquire replacement furnishings. We have missed them and look forward to having them resume their usual active role in our Historical Society.

An exciting news item - Reynolds House near Kingston is now occupied by Dan and Charlotte Jolly. Dan inherited this historic house from his aunt, Ora Branson. The place is an architectural gem in our Etowah Valley District, with the outside kitchen and breezeway intact. We welcome Charlotte and Dan back to Bartow County and invite them to membership in our organization.

Our first secretary, Bettie Joyce Jolly, lived in the house when this Society was organized and served us enthusiastically and well.

As we prepare to elect officers for the coming year, I want to thank each member for the support given me as I attempted to step into Mary Ruth Phillips' able shoes, following their move to Augusta.

I feel a renewed interest in the membership which followed the beginning of the familiarization of our historic properties that I instituted at Valley View two years ago, and Guy Parmenter continued during his presidency. We are so very fortunate in this Valley to have so many historic homes still in good repair with gracious owners willing to open them to us as we study the different architecture in a social atmosphere.

Sincerely,

Jimmie Davis

JULY MEETING

Our meeting was held in Barnsley Gardens-Woodlands, now being restored and scheduled to open to the public around October 1.

Our appreciation goes to Bobby McElwee, site manager, and his staff who used precious time to set up for this occasion. They welcomed us graciously and even took pictures for us to send to the newspaper.

The meeting was well attended (111 members and guests of members) and the food catered by Unique Caterers on such a hot day was delicious.

The president, Jimmie Davis, called the meeting to order in the drawing room of the mansion ruins! One could not avoid feeling a sense of history in that place as through the windowless arched openings 150-year-old boxwood were clearly visible, lushly green from all the rain this season.

Pete Gray introduced the hosts, Princess Alexandra and Prince Hubertus Fugger, who welcomed everyone graciously. Following reports, board chairman, Guy Parmenter, introduced Steve Wheaton who is the resident horticulturist for the Gardens. His address held everyone spellbound as he related some of his finds of ancient shrubs and flowers and the work leading up to the present condition of the Gardens, which nears readiness for the public opening in early October. Following adjournment and supper on the old croquet court, everyone was invited to tour the Gardens.

As they prepare for the grand opening, we offer congratulations and best wishes. Do go and visit, and take friends.

SYMPATHY

Our sincere sympathy goes out to our members, Carolyn Parmenter, Guy, Linda, Scott, Deborah, and all family members in the loss of Sherman Parmenter.

Additionally, equal sympathy goes to Anne Lewis, JoAnne, John, Prince, and all family members in the loss of Leon Lewis.

And also, equal sympathy is extended to Mary Moore, her children and all family members as they mourn the loss of Frank Moore.

We grieve with these families for these three men who have meant so much to Cartersville, Bartow County, and our organization.

PRESERVATION

We applaud Barnsley Gardens-Woodlands for their preservation efforts, not only for the buildings they have restored in the Gardens, but in moving a building there from another area.

Your president has given them encouragement. Knowing about the beautiful early log house on Old Alabama Road which was taken down last year, she called to ask if they needed an early log building. They did, and bought this one from the builder who had razed and kept it for sale. The building came from South Georgia and was brought to this County and reassembled by Nicky Beck.

This organization encourages preservation of all buildings where possible, in all areas of the State.

Possibly one of the most wonderful of all preservation efforts in the County is the bog garden set aside by the owners of Barnsley Gardens and Steve Wheaton for Joyce Mathis. For those who do not know Joyce, she is truly the "Goddess of Flowers" from this area. Her knowledge of Bartow County flora is unsurpassed.

Recognized by West Georgia College, she serves as one of their flora consultants. Her section of the Gardens will spotlight all Bartow County plants that she has located, studied, and treasured over a lifetime of this pursuit of rare plants. This is preservation at its finest.

PARKS

Perhaps you are familiar with the small park on Old Highway 41 near Cassville? It has been overgrown and desolate looking for some years. Our members, Larry Gregory and Representative Boyd Pettit, have been working with the Department of Transportation to get the area cleaned up. They have been aided by Sons of Confederate Veterans. The park is a Memorial to Confederate Veterans, and the bronze plaque spells out major battles in this area. The Veterans deeded it to the D.O.T. in 1952. We need to follow up and see that proper maintenance continues.

OCTOBER MEETING

The annual meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society will be held on October 5 at 5:00 o'clock at "Malbone," home of Julia and Frederick Knight, at 214 Stiles Road (Page 50 of Historic Bartow County). Follow Euharlee Road West a mile or so and turn left on Stiles Road. Follow this to the magnificent Knight home on the right.

Dues will be payable at this meeting. Supper at \$10.00 each to follow meeting and reception. Reservations required by October 2. Please mail your check and the names of those who will attend to Laurette Smith, Treasurer, Post Office Box 886, or call Jimmie Davis (382-3410) and leave message on her machine if your time does not permit writing.

SPEAKER

Our speaker at this meeting will be Dr. Ann Ottesen, head of Shorter's Northwest Georgia Regional Studies Program. She was educated and received her degrees from New York University.

Her address will concern the Cherokee Nation. See attachment for further information on the microfilming that she and an assistant will be doing in Bartow County from September 16 through October 4.

Please bring your rare documents for her to film. This is a preservation dream, at no charge. This includes private and organizational records.

DOCUMENTS

In addition to the news release concerning document preservation, a fine letter (copy) has been given our president by Jack Jolly of Kingston. It was written by his late father, Joe T. Jolly. This family lived in the "Jolly Homestead" on Chulio Road at the time of the Civil War. Descendants of Frank Jolly continue to live there.

Letter from Joe T. Jolly to the Tribune News, March 9, 1922

March 9, 1922

To the Editor the Cartersville Tribune News:

I was a mere lad of ten years of age when Sherman came marching through Georgia. My father, L.D. Jolly, was connected with the Confederate government and was engaged in taking salt petre from the Salt Petre Cave in Kingston, Georgia when Sherman's army was nearing Bartow County. The Confederate works of the cave were abandoned and the operatives had to flee. A short time after this father secured a furlough, came home and was engaged in making sorghum syrup. In less than a week a squad of General Kilpatrick's men came to our house, and they were after food, whiskey and tobacco, and were determined to have it. Father told them he had neither whiskey or tobacco. They found a rope under the side of the house that had been used a few days before to drag off an old army horse that had been turned out of the service to die. They got it around father's neck, led him off into the woods, found a tree, and even the limb to throw the rope over. Their object was to frighten him and secure the information as to where he had liquor and tobacco hidden. They finally decided that he did not have either and let him go.

While that bunch was terrorizing father, the other part of the crowd remained at the house and robbed mother of all her tableware, all the wearing apparel that was any good, and all the provisions they could find; even took from the porch all the sweet potatoes they could well carry on horses.

Soon after this, about ten o'clock at night, a man knocked at our front door. Father was away from home; mother and children were all in bed. The man threatened to break in the door if she wouldn't open it. She asked him what he wanted. His answer was, he had orders to search the house. She asked him to wait until she could dress and get brother Frank and I up and dressed. She opened the door and in stepped a very large man dressed in Yankee uniform with a big army pistol in his hand. The search began in the room entered. When he had satisfied himself as to that room he told Mother to show him into every other room, nook and corner of the entire house. He was then satisfied there was not anyone there but mother and the children, and said he had been reliably informed that she had quite a lot of money, and had come for it, and intended to have it, or he would send our house up in smoke. She had ten dollars in greenbacks and about \$200.00 in Confederate money hidden in the backyard under a big rock. She told him, if he would spare her home, she would give him all the money she had.

How well do I remember the trip into that backyard! Brother Frank and I on the left side of mother and that scoundrel on the right side with that big army pistol in his hand. We made our way back into the house and there she gave him the last penny she had. He then said he wanted her gold. She told him she didn't have any gold. He said, "Get me

that gold or I will burn down your house." Suiting his action to his words, he picked up a chunk of fire and was in the act of putting it in the bed where three other children were sleeping. Mother sprang in front of him and begged him to let her get the children out of the bed, and, with superhuman strength, she snatched those children out onto the floor.

He doubtless was convinced she had no gold and threw the fire back into the fireplace.

I have always shuddered at the thought of taking the life of anyone, but that night it would have been my delight to have snuffed out the life of that scoundrel. Only one man was seen at our house; we learned next day there were several of them, the others kept in the background.

After they left our house they went to a neighbor's house, Joe Berry Drummond's. They put a rope around his neck and tied it to the horn of a saddle and ran the horse back and forth in front of the house until he was almost dead; they put his daughter upon the fire and burned her severely.

We read of houses being robbed and of holdups in nearly every daily paper, but, to my mind, they are as nothing compared to the crimes perpetrated upon poor, helpless, defenseless women and children, such as occurred at our home.

Joe T. Jolly