

# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 886

CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA

30120

SEPTEMBER 1990

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN



Dear Members;

Our thanks go to Sally and Bill Smith for hosting the August meeting at their historic home "TRIMBLE TOE" Farm.

The beauty of the home and the history researched by their son made the meeting special in this familiarization of historic Bartow County properties as we meet in the various locations.

Accolades continue to be heaped upon our organization from around the state because of the hospitality of the Etowah Valley Historical Society members to the visitors during the "June Ramble."

And one of the nicest came to me from Greg Paxton, Executive Director of the Georgia Trust along with a check to our organization for \$2,287.05 ! !

I shall quote a part of his letter .... "Our members had a memorable weekend and continue to comment on the wealth of beautiful homes, gardens and historic sites that were opened to them. The Georgia Trust needs its membership and when an event is so well organized for them we certainly reap the benefits.

Bartow County showed the Trust what true Southern hospitality is and we are grateful to your organization for making the week-end such a success."

The above check amounts to one half of the net profit derived from the "Ramble" and is a welcome addition to our treasury.

Additionally, a check was presented to Heler Miller and me at a reception for Senator Nathan Dean and Rep. Boyd Pettit on August 28th from the State of Georgia in the amount of \$500.00 for our organization. Numerous other organizations, cities and the County were given checks in various amounts. Do take time to express thanks to Senator Dean and Rep. Boyd Pettit when you see them. Both men stay informed and are aware of the contributions of members of this Historical Society to our city and county.

Euharlee city council has passed an important preservation ordinance and are proceeding to name the committee members to activate the ordinance and further protect their town.

Our County Commissioner is proceeding with land acquisition to straighten out the dangerous curve on the south side of Euharlee.

Mr. Joe Mahan was in Bartow County recently in a meeting with Preservation planners and we asked about getting a few copies of his book "The Secret concerning Indians". The book is \$22.50 and if you will call Jimmie Davis at 382-3410 a copy will be made available for you.

We regret the fact that the Georgia Trust "Ramble" in Aiken, South Carolina is on October 5th and 6th. We will understand if our members decide to go for this rare and inside look at Historic Aiken.

Jimmie Davis

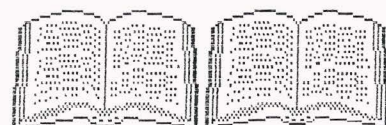
## 1850 CENSUS OF CASS NOW BARTOW COUNTY.

A LIST OF EVHS MEMBERS WHOSE SUR-NAME APPEARS IN THE BOOK,  
(AVAILABLE AT ROSELAWN, MAKE CHECK  
PAY ABLE TO EVHS, AMOUNT Of \$18.00)

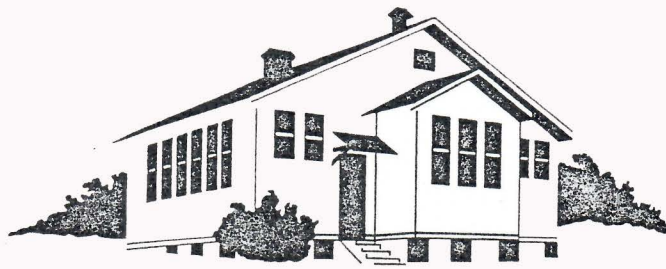
ABERNATHY, BARRETT, BEASLEY,  
BURTON, CARROLL, CHAMBERS,  
CHITWOOD, COLE, COLLINS, CONNER  
CONYERS, (CUNYERS), COOK, COX,  
GREGORY, DAVIS, DEAN, DELLINGER,  
DORSEY, GAINES, GILREATH, HARPER,  
HATCHER, HILL, HOLLAND, HOOD,  
HOWARD, HOWELL, INGRAM, JACKSON,  
JOLLY, KNIGHT, LEWIS, LOWERY,  
MANSFIELD, MARTIN, MAXWELL,  
MILLER, MUMFORD, (MUNFORD),  
RODGERS, SEWELL, SHAW, SIMPSON,  
SIMMS, SMITH, STEWART, SUMY,  
(SUMMEY), TAYLOR, TATE, TUCKER,  
WALKER, WARD, WATSON, WHEELER,  
WHITE, WILSON, WOFFORD,  
WOOTHINTON, (WORTHINGTON),  
STEGALL.

If your name is listed above, and if you have not purchased this book, you are missing a bit of your ancestor's past. This book is 11 x 8-1/2, with 311 pages, listing Social Statistics Schedule of Cass County,  
Ga. 1850, Cass County Free Population,  
Cass County Mortality Schedule,  
Cass County Slave Owners Schedule.

This book was written and published by Mick Barnette, who was the EVHS guest speaker October 1989.







## Noble Hill·Wheeler Memorial Center

CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA

1923 - 1955

The Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center sits high on a hill on Joe Frank Harris Parkway, NW. in the Cassville community, It is the restored Rosenwald School that was built in 1923 the first school for black children in Bartow County School System which was built to standard specifications. A grant of \$ 750.00 from the Julius Rosenwald Fund was matched the local citizens and Bartow County Board of Education. It was a two-classroom school with an arts and craft room and two cloak rooms. The school was closed in 1955 when all schools in the county for black children were consolidated to form Bartow Elementary School in the Cassville Community which was a central location. It is now known as Hamilton Crossing. The New Hope Baptist Church, located just below the school, bought the property and several years later sold it to Bethel and Bertha Wheeler. The building was used by the Wheelers as a storage facility and for bailing paper for several years until the declining health of Bethel. The idea of restoration was advanced by Justice Robert Benham, because of his interest in the history of the area. Earlier a visit was made by Carole Merritt from the Department of Resources Preservation Unit to the site and she suggested to Dr. Susie W. Wheeler that the building had Preservation possibilities. The idea was discussed and a group of citizens approached, Mrs Bertha W. Wheeler concerning the purchase of the property. After some thought, she made it known that she would like to donate the property for restoration purposes in memory of the builder, Webster H. Wheeler and her husband, Bethel Wheeler, who assisted him. Representatives from a cross-section of the community were summoned to Mrs. Wheeler's home to discuss the proposal and to make plans for restoration. This group accepted the responsibility of restoring the school for a Black Heritage Museum. Resources taped for guidance and participation were the Department of Natural Resources, the Coosa Valley Regional Development Commission, The Bartow County Government, State Government, former students, local businesses and industry. Positive response was given by all the contacts with many volunteering their assistance. The Etowah Valley Historical Society and several clubs joined in the project effort. The school was in a deteriorating state with a front section torn away, tin off the roof, all windows out, some parts of the floors out, and rubbish throughout the building. The first task for the group of volunteers was to clean away the rubbish. This was done by digging a pit for

burning/burying, hauling away the debris that could not be burned. Most of the work was done on Saturdays and the ladies would bring refreshments like those did during the construction in 1923. There was much rejoicing when the roof was repaired and the front enclosed and much more when the windows were installed. Six years were spent, 1983 to 1989, on the restoration. Several fundraisers were held and numerous contacts made during this period. In 1987, with the assistance of the Coosa Valley representative, Richard Goodley, and the Department of Natural Resources Preservation Section the Center was placed on the National Register as a historical site. A part-time curator, Kim Livsey, was employed in the summer of 1988 and became a full-time worker in 1989. During this period artifacts, photos and documents as well as equipment and supplies were donated. All of this led to the opening of the Center to the public on December 17, 1989. Noble Hill Center has been the recipient of four grants - One from National Trust for Historic Preservation, one from the Department of Natural Resources, and two from the Georgia Humanities Council. The first grant was for interior designing, the second for preparing brochures, a handbook, and a slide show, the third as a planning grant, and the fourth was an implementation grant for permanent exhibit design. Several exhibits have been on display that focused on education, a truck farmer and his success, and social/recreation activities on the early 1900's. The most recent exhibit was a traveling one assembled by the Dallas, Texas Museum on "Black Art-Ancestral Legacy: The African Impulse in African-American Art." A most significant recognition was an award from The Georgia Trust for Historical Preservation in April, 1990 for outstanding achievement in the field of preservation. The thirteen-member board continues to advance efforts to develop the Center and to locate and tap all available resources.

Contributed by:

Susie W. Wheeler