



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 71, April 2009

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

CHEROKEE REMOVAL "A DARK PAGE IN U.S. HISTORY" PROGRAM ON MAY 5

The next EVHS program will be held on May 5 at the Indian Mounds. The grounds will open at 5:30 pm (free admission), with refreshments served from 6:30 until 7:00, when the program will begin.

Guests will be able to view the new waddle and daub hut, a special project by a former president of EVHS. The hut is a visual reminder of the Mounds of the Mississippian people prior to the arrival of whites.

Jeff Bishop, a past president of the Trail of Tears Association, will speak on the Indian removal in Georgia and the documentation process for finding removal forts in Georgia.

Most of his research is primary information from the Georgia Archives & letters to the governors of that era.

This program should be of special interest to EVHS members since Bartow County (then Cass County) was part of the Cherokee nation.



CEMETERY CLEANUP RESCHEDULED

The Spring Clean-Up of the Friendship Cemetery, originally scheduled for March 14, was rained out. The new date is Saturday, April 25 at 9 am. Volunteers armed with strong backs, chain saws, clippers, and trash bags are needed for several hours to pick up trash, fallen branches and clear fallen trees. The old cemetery is located north of the bridge which crosses the Etowah River north of Emerson. It was the original site of the First Presbyterian Church in 1842.

GENEALOGY CLASS

Linda Cochran, EVHS Genealogist, has scheduled a training session for beginners in the field of genealogy for the 18th of April beginning at 9 am. If you want to know how to trace your family tree, please join fellow EVHS members in learning more about one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States. Reservations may be made by calling the EVHS office at 770-606-8862.



Etowah Valley Historical Society
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REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PRESERVATION IN BARTOW COUNTY

A panel of persons well acquainted with efforts to preserve historical sites in Bartow County met at the Bartow County Library on May 3. The program was sponsored by EVHS and the library.

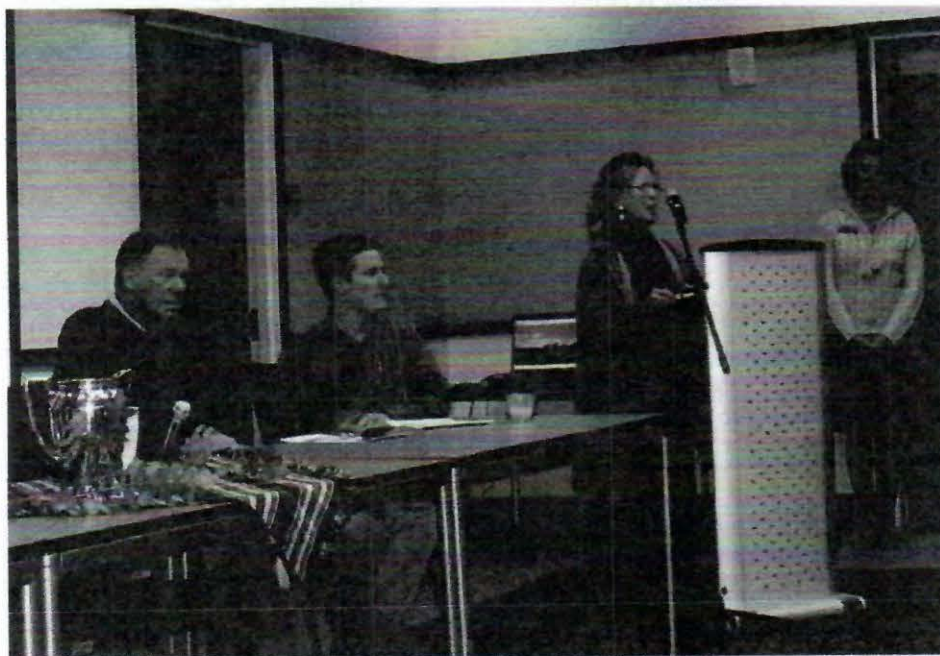
Dianne Tate, EVHS Vice President, led the panel which consisted of Trey Gaines, Guy Parmenter, Mary Norton, and J.B. Tate. Slides of historic sites in Bartow included places already lost, others that have been preserved, and some which are in danger of being lost. Panel members, all of whom are active members of EVHS, narrated the slide show. The slides covered a long history of the county including the Indian Mounds, rock walls, Cooper's Furnace, Cherokee homes, the railroad depot, Civil War sites, courthouses, churches, and old homes.

Charles Pecchio told the appreciative audience of his efforts to restore downtown Kingston. Under his leadership and at his expense, several buildings in downtown Kingston, including the old Kingston Hotel, are undergoing extensive renovation. When his efforts have been completed, Kingston will have additional museums and restaurants.

Margaret Knight told of Etowah Heights, a historic home which burned during the later part of the 20th century and of her home, Malbone.

Mary Norton presented slides on Valley View and told of the efforts to preserve this pre-civil war plantation home located along the Etowah River.

The members of the panel answered questions from the audience concerning the various locations shown in the slide presentation.



J.B. Tate, Trey Gaines, Mary Norton, and moderator, Dianne Tate, present the program "Preservation in Bartow County".

COMMISSIONER RECEIVES COPIES OF ORAL HISTORY

Trey Gaines, co-chairman of the Oral History committee of the Etowah Valley Historical Society and EVHS President, Ed Hill, recently presented Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown with copies of oral histories collected by the society.

Seventeen tapes have been produced thus far, with more being scheduled for completion during the present year.

Members of the committee include: Co-chairmen, Genie Certain and Trey Gaines, Mina Harper, Sally Tonsmeire, Trish Simmons, Carolyn Parmenter, Cheryl Kennedy, Earnestine Young-Jones, Mary Norton, and Ed Hill.

The Oral History project is an outgrowth of the Historic Inventory project which was chaired by Mary Norton. Interviews finished thus far include: Mary Ellen Taff, Jodie Hill, Warren Akin, Robert Benham, Woodrow Bradley, Margaret Bridges, Helen Calhoun, Thomas Champion, Jimmy Dellinger, Lillie May Hill, Matthew Hill, Horace Howard, Adele Howell, Martha Mullinax, Carolyn Parmenter, Jere White, and Martha White.

Members are encouraged to nominate persons for an interview or donate a taped interview. Please contact Genie at 770-383-3533 or Trey at 770-382-3818.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Cartersville Women's Club

Donna Clayton

Lenore DeMarco

Warren & Becky Gaylord

Anne Henson

William Murphy, Jr.

Nathan Thompson

Noren & Reece Vermer

NEW MICROFILM MACHINE APPROVED FOR EVHS OFFICE

The EVHS Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new microfilm machine at their monthly meeting on March 10. The machine being replaced had been acquired used 13 years ago and was in need of parts which were no longer being produced.

EVHS currently has 270 rolls of microfilm which can be used on the new machine and another older machine to view old newspapers and other records.

Bob Redwine is handling details of the purchase.

IN MEMORIUM

Virginia Cole

Carl Smith

Editor's note: The following is from a series of articles written by Thomas Spencer in 1949 and was printed in the June 30, 1949 issue of the Tribune.

DID SHERMAN BURN ALL OF CARTERSVILLE? HERE'S CHAPTER ONE OF DISPUTED STORY

*"The Erwin Home"
by Thomas Spencer*

I have received more than a dozen letters and have been asked more than a dozen times, "Did General Sherman burn Cartersville?" and "Did Sherman burn every building in Cartersville, except two?" The Tribune has been asked the same thing.

And the answer is an emphatic NO.

Federals did burn the depot and such buildings as would be of use to the Confederates. Federals occupied Cartersville from late afternoon of May 20, 1864 until November 12, 1864. Sherman sent his last message over the telegraph wire at Cartersville. His message being to General Thomas of Nashville. His telegraph operator received a message from Thomas for Sherman and as Sherman finished acknowledgment of that message, some Federals, in burning a bridge, caused the wires to be severed.

One Federal officer—who passed through Cartersville—noted in his diary that "one building was just before he arrived at Cartersville." Another Federal, on the spot, said nothing of any burning. The question arose after one of our able historians made the statement that, "Sherman burned every building in Cartersville—except "TWO"! The historian was in error—and not well informed on the subject.

At the request of many of the readers of this column, I am going to start a series that has to do with Cartersville, and some of the war-time still standing. There are more than TWO.

Today we visit the old Erwin home on Tennessee Street. This house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Vaughn. This house is more than a hundred years old. Here the Federals used part of the home as quarters for the officers. The cavalry used the front lawn as a place to feed their horses. There is little doubt that some prominent Federal officers were quartered here. The Confederates had little opportunity to use the home.

Back of the Erwin home stood the Williams home—also a wartime house. This house stood until a few years ago—when it was burned. I saw the Williams home during one of my early visits to Cartersville. The Williams home was built by Alfred Williams, grandfather of Mr. Francis J. Vaughn, and Mrs. Caz White who now reside in Cartersville. Mr. Williams was probably the first merchant to open a store in Cartersville.

The old "Stokely and Williams - New Store" was a "before the war" structure, and this building was standing after 1900. Part of that building was used to build some of the stores that still stand in Cartersville. A rare and very valuable photo of this store, one taken before the war, and one afterward, has been copied for use in this column. This due to the kindness of Mr. Vaughn. These pictures - rather dim with age - will

appear in this column, if at all possible to reproduce the same.

In those hellish days of 1864, Mrs. Elizabeth Lang lived in the Erwin home. Mrs. Lang had moved into the Erwin home because it was thought she would be safer there than on the plantation where she lived. She brought along two fine daughters and two faithful servants. Tradition—and the truth has it—that Mrs. Lang was the "tallest" woman in Cartersville. Red headed - and full of fire and Southern patriotism. Straight as an arrow—and not always gentle to the Federal invaders. She was the grandmother of your fine Bartow citizen Mrs. Tom Simpson. She had much to do with the fact that the Erwin-Milner-Dewessee-Vaughn home was not burned.

The Erwin home stands this day. The Williams home stood until a few years ago, as did the old "Stokely and Williams-New Store." In articles to follow I will tell you of homes that stand today—that stood during the War Between the States. There are more than TWO of those structures still standing.

I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn, Mr. Simpson, and others for part of the information contained in this article. I have drawn freely on my notes dealing with the Federal and Confederate armies, and their movements in Bartow; several volumes of the Official Records; the two diaries of Federal soldiers; newspapers of the sixties; personal interviews; Federal and Confederate reports - which number in the hundreds; and many sources for other information.

I want to thank those dozens who have asked for this article; and to those who wrote from Florida, Texas, and Tennessee, for their interest in their "old home county," and their requests for this article - and the articles to follow. It has ever been the policy of this humble would be "historian" to avoid the use of local names as much as possible. However, I think the use of names in the Cartersville "burning" articles will meet with the approval of all.

Editor's note: As of press time the other articles in this series had not been located. If they are located they will be printed in a later issue.

REBECCA FELTON

The following article on Rebecca Felton, of Cartersville, the first woman to be seated as a United States Senator was printed in The Atlanta Georgian in 1927.

Mrs. Felton To Leave Home

This City Will Always Be Her Home, She Tells Reporter For Georgian - Will Be 92 Next June

*By William Voight
In Atlanta Georgian*

"Grandma" Felton, the Rebecca Latimer Felton who was the only woman ever to carry the portfolio of a United States Senator, is going to move.

She is all alone, her children are not living, and the family that occupied the portion of the old house she does not has moved away.

Militant and aggressive through a life that now approaches the ninety second year, "Grandma" Felton has

not relaxed one whit from the independence of thought and action that mark her as an outstanding figure in the history of America, but she knows that she is not as strong as she used to be and she'd rather live in a house that contains other occupants.

"The old woman knows she hasn't got much longer to stay here," she said Monday with a Georgian reporter, who came to bask in her sunny smile and to kneel in humbleness of spirit before the wealth her strong, retentive mind reflects.

"I'll be 92 on my next birthday, June 10" she continued, "and I know that it isn't in reason to expect the good Lord to let me stay much longer. If I don't find the right people this week, I'll move out. No, I won't leave Cartersville. I'll stay here with some of the relatives that remain, perhaps."

Enscorced in a chair that collectors of antiques would rave about and give their last nickel to possess, Mrs. Felton recounted at length some of her experiences during the years when the South was young.

Ever and anon she would spring lightly from her chair to lay ready hands on a valued paper to exhibit some of her treasures.

One of these was a guitar given her by her father in 1851. Inlaid with mother-of-pearl and exquisitely made, the guitar was brought by stage from Charleston. At the time it cost \$27 in gold, but is worth infinitely more than that merely because of its rarity. The instrument's tonal qualities have not altered.

From a rosewood chest of pre-Revolutionary design and make (which was obtained at Charleston before '76 for \$5), she drew sheaves of papers containing her writings, writings that will go to the University of Georgia as a gift to the state.

Nearby was a small table bearing the Senate manual, Congressional directory and other paraphernalia embossed with her name, given to her in 1922 when she went to Washington to represent Georgia as junior Senator, succeeding the late Thomas W. Hardwick. Adorning the wall is the scroll signed by former governor and Secretary of State appointing her to the office "until a successor shall have been duly elected."

The subject to the Indian mounds now being excavated in the vicinity of Cartersville.

"I was just three when the Cherokees were sent out of Georgia westward," she recalled. "I remember seeing them go by my father's house, not walking in the big road like white folks. They trod the woods beside the highway."

Another excursion into memory came when a new moving picture portraying the capture of the war engine "The General," by Captain Anderson and his men at Big Shanty, now Kennesaw, was mentioned.

"When the General was taken by Andrews, I was alone here in the house with just a few house Negroes," she said. "My husband was sent to the bridge over the Etowah to protect it from the oncoming Yankees."

"That night I loaded up a one-horse wagon with bedding for him and with a supply of food and sent it by a house Negro to him.

"That's the part," she smiled, "that I played in the war."

She told of speaking herself over the first telephone ever installed in the nation's capital - this while Dr. W. H. Felton, her husband, who died in 1909, was a Representative from Georgia.

A staunch friend of General Longstreet and of his widow, Mrs. Felton reiterated her belief that the hero of Chickamauga should have a place on Stone Mountain in memorial now being carved.

WORLD WAR

America's entrance in the World War and the deaths of many thousands of American soldiers brought warm and denunciatory words from her lips.

"It never should have been," she said. Suffering from an old ear infection, Mrs. Felton goes out into the open very little now. She remains in doors, almost exclusively unless the weather is warm and sunny.

At the close of the all-too-short interview she tripped lightly to the door and was gracious in her hospitable invitation to the intruding youngster to return.

(Rebecca Felton died on January 24, 1930 in Atlanta, aged 94. She is buried in Oakhill Cemetery in Cartersville)

TOUR OF HOMES 2009

Our Tour of Homes committee is already busy planning for the 2009 tour of historic Bartow County homes. The tour will feature Cartersville homes along Cherokee Avenue. The always popular opportunity to visit with the owners of historic properties is the main fund-raiser to support the activities of the Etowah Valley Historical Society.

The Tour of Homes will be held the first weekend of November, 2009.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Dianne Tate, program chairman, and J.B. Tate are working on several events which should be of interest to EVHS members including outdoor meetings at the Cora Harris home and in downtown Kingston to view the renovations being made there.

SMALL POX SPRING

New member, Paul Rose, is seeking any information on Small Pox Spring. The spring is located downhill of Highway 61, southwest of Wade Chapel. The spot was reportedly used by soldiers during the Civil War. Paul is not sure whether the soldiers were Union, Confederate or both. He would also like to know how the spring received its unusual name. Paul can be reached at his home by calling 770-382-9302 or via his cell phone at 770-324-3728.

HILLS OF IRON

The Hills of Iron returned to Bartow County in 2009 after being cancelled last year by a tornado. This annual event, first organized by the Etowah Valley Historical Society and Red Top Mountain State Park in 2001, has been scheduled annually since. The day-long event has won several awards and has continued to grow in popularity.

This year, EVHS again provided the speaker for the portion of the program held at the iron furnace located at Cooper's Furnace Park at the base of the Allatoona Dam. This was followed by a tour of a portion of the New Riverside Ochre Mining operations.

The all day, award-winning program closed with the pouring of iron from the miniature furnace located behind the lodge at Red Top.

ALABAMA MONUMENT

The initial funds for the erection of a monument honoring those soldiers from Alabama who participated in the Battle of Allatoona Pass were received by EVHS during February. Monuments to five of the eleven states who had soldiers in the battle have previously been placed in the memorial area of the park.

Funds from Minnesota were received earlier this year according to Gary Wehner, EVHS monument chairman, and fund-raising efforts will soon be underway in Ohio and North Carolina.

Monuments presently at Allatoona Pass represent Illinois, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS

VIRGINIA CARSON
named
PRESIDENT
OF SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

THOMAS SCOTT
named
THE KSU FOUNDATION
OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR

PRICES ARE UP!!

The total price of a sample order listed in the 1902 Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalogue for 1 book, *Modern Blacksmithing*; 1 gold-filled bracelet; 1 long range shotgun, 12 gauge, 30 inch; 10 pounds of Trade roasted coffee; and 100 bars Srites family soap was \$11.71.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 18 at 9 am
GENEALOGY CLASS
EVHS Courthouse Office

Saturday, April 25 at 9 am
CEMETERY CLEANUP
Friendship Cemetery

May 5 at 6:30 pm
TRAIL OF TEARS PROGRAM
Indian Mounds

October 3-4
ANNIVERSARY of the BATTLE of ALLATOONA PASS
Allatoona Pass

November 7
TOUR of HOMES

December 4
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Rose Lawn



Inside...

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