



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

Volume 82, April 2012

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KINGSTON REMEMBERS

April 12 1862 is the first day that a Civil War conflict came to Kingston, Georgia. This conflict was in the form of Andrew's Raid, now referred to as the Great Locomotive Chase. The running confrontation between Andrew's raiders and the workers of the W & A Railroad went from Big Shanty to north of Ringgold. The one hour and five minutes of this confrontation, when Andrew's Raiders were stalled in Kingston, had a major impact on the outcome of the raid.

In Kingston City Hall on April 12, 2012, at 11:00am, the Bartow County Commissioner and the Mayor of Kingston will issue a proclamation to honor one of those workers, Uriah Stephens, who was the W & A Railroad's Kingston station master in 1862.

At 1:30 pm, a marker dedicated to Uriah Stephens will be unveiled by the Kingston Woman's History Club and Etowah Valley Historical Society. This dedication service will be held at the Kingston Woman's History Club Museum.

The great great-granddaughter of Uriah Stephens, Mrs. Betty Johnson, from Sarasota, Florida, and her daughter, Jena, will be guests for the day.

Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served after the service.



Kingston, Georgia



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LOCAL ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO EVHS MEMBERS

April 12 - Atlanta Bus Tour from Kennesaw to Ringgold Tracing the Great Locomotive Chase.

April 12 - Kingston, 11:00 am Favorite Son proclamation for Uriah Stephens, At City Hall. KWHC, EVHS
1:30 pm Dedication of Marker, Kingston Woman's History Club, EVHS

April 14 - Steeple Chase At Kingston Downs.

April 14 - Confederate Memorial Day Service at Cassville Cemetery, at 9:00 am, sponsored by the Stiles Aiken Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Joe Head EVHS VP will speak about Uriah Stephens.

April 14 - Torchlight tour of Etowah Indian Mounds 7 pm to 10 pm sponsored by Georgia state Parks.

April 21 - Confederate Memorial Day Service at Stiles Auditorium, Cartersville, starts at 11:00 am, sponsored by the United Daughters of Confederacy. Robert James will speak about Civil War Prison Camps.

April 21 & 22 - Red Top Mountain State Park at Allatoona Pass, Harper Harris will speak about the Great Locomotive Chase. Program is 10:00 am to noon each day. The Log Cabin at Red top Mountain will host Reinactors camped in the front yard.

April 22 - Kingston Woman's History Club will hold the 148th continuous Confederate Memorial Day Service at Kingston United Methodist Church at 2:30 pm. State Representative Katie Dempsey will be the Keynote Speaker.

April 28 - Booth Museum & Bartow History Museum will Host Civil War Day at the Booth Museum.

June 9 - Bartow County Bus Tour covering the Heart of the Chase. Details to follow.

June 21 - Book signing and lecture by Lamar Harris on his book, TAYLORSVILLE SCHOOL, 1900-1966, to be held at the Emmie Nelson Library in Euharlee. The Euharlee Museum will open at 5:00 pm with the library program starting at 6:30 pm.

October 6th & 7th - Anniversary of the Battle of Altoona Pass

October 12th - EVHS Annual meeting at Grand Oaks 6:30 pm

November 3rd & 4th Tour of homes " In and Around Main" Details to follow.

THE PLANTATION SYSTEM IN THE ETOWAH VALLEY

On March 6, 2012 Father Phillip Scott, a noted Historian, spoke to a meeting hosted by EVHS and The Bartow History Museum about the plantation system in the Etowah Valley. Father Scott is working on a book about the plantation system in the Etowah Valley.

The meeting began at 6:30 with refreshments supplied by EVHS and a meet and greet with Father Scott. Wayne Rice, EVHS Board member, introduced his childhood playmate and lifelong friend, Father Phillip Scott. Father Scott was born in Bartow County, he specializes in the history of the southern states and has published extensively on subjects in this study area. Father Scott, or Dr Scott, has a very impressive resumé of accomplishments as an educator with numerous degrees from multiple institutions.

The large, standing room only, crowd at the Bartow History Museum was not disappointed with the lecture. Father Scott spent over an hour giving details and interesting side notes about the plantation system in Cass, now Bartow, County, raising several questions about the life and workings of the plantations.

After the lecture Father Scott spoke with old friends as well as answered questions concerning his lecture. If you missed this program put, listening to Father Scott, on the list of things you need to do the next time he is in town. For more pictures join EVHS on Facebook.





URIAH STEPHENS

*Lest We Forget
an Honorable Mention*



By Joe F. Head

April 12, 1861 marked the beginning of the American Civil War when a Confederate battery opened fire upon Union forces quartered at Fort Sumter in the Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Coincidentally, one year later to the day on April 12, 1862 the Civil War entered Bartow County for the first time and birthed a legendary story that lives today.

The Great Locomotive Chase was simply a bold Yankee spy raid to infiltrate Rebel lines deep into north Georgia. Some 20 men led by James Andrews armed with a scheme to hijack a train at Big Shanty and race north with the objective to burn bridges, cut telegraph wires and tear up track along the lifeline of the Confederacy. This deed was in hopes of disrupting communications and transportation, therefore disabling the ability of Rebel reinforcements reaching Chattanooga and giving Union General Ormsby Mitchel and his forces time to take Chattanooga. This coordinated event, if successful, would likely have shortened the war considerably in favor of the Union.

As a result, this event would produce a score of Union spies who were destined to become national heroes by receiving the first Congressional Medals of Honor. Collaterally, this episode introduced a number of others who would eventually enjoy unsung hero status in the many books that followed the epic story. However, one lesser known figure has perhaps been overlooked and not given his due... Uriah Stephens. He was the old depot agent who was on duty the morning the Great Locomotive Chase arrived in Kingston, Georgia.

Uriah Stephens was a misunderstood figure in the Great Locomotive Chase and was depicted as a disagreeable sort who opposed James Andrews and his raiders. Stephens questioned Andrews and his tale giving him alleged authority to run the famed locomotive engine, **The General**, north to aid Confederate General Beauregard at Corinth, Mississippi. Many books were inspired about this bold attempt to steal a locomotive with the mission to destroy tracks and burn bridges between Marietta and Chattanooga. In most works some mention is made of Uriah Stephens and his role as the defiant switch keeper who resisted Andrews, but little else is known about the single voice that openly objected to the entire situation.

After the close of the war, former Union Raider William Pittenger was the first to write a book about the Great Chase. He titled his initial work, **The Daring and the Suffering**, which devoted more attention to the time he and his compatriots were prisoners of war in Confederate prisons. He dealt with their treatment, conditions, escape attempts, and executions. Following its publication, the public became more fascinated with the Chase story and wanted more details. As a result, some twenty years later, Pittenger returned to Georgia and retraced the actual Chase route interviewing witnesses in great detail.

His revised work focused on the adventure of the hijacked train and was titled, **The Great Locomotive Chase**. It is not clear if he actually interviewed Uriah Stephens, but his salty description of Stephens remained the same. Hence, all subsequent authors have followed suit and colored Stephens as a meddling old man whose words and presence were dismissed.

Upon a deeper investigation of his life, we might consider Stephens as more savvy than depicted. His knowledge of the Western & Atlantic RR operations, train schedule, motive personnel, RR policy and sharp intuition should not have been taken lightly. Indeed Stephens' nature was known to be more grumpy than congenial, but he knew on that day all was not right with **The General**. In fact, his later career reveals that he became a very successful land dealer and businessman in Bartow County.

As the story unfolds it becomes one of those rare events in American history that causes us to be torn between the north and south. Do we cheer for the Raiders' mission success or for the Southern pursuers recovering their train? In many ways this was really a struggle between Federal Raiders and W&A RR employees. History eventually rewards the Raiders (with exception of Andrews and a few others) with national respect and conferring the very first Congressional Medals of Honor. However, **The General's** crew (William Fuller, Jeff Cain and Anthony Murphy) relentlessly pursued the hijacked General for 87 miles, much of it on foot and was revered by Southerners as treasured patriots. Subsequently, readers of today face the same north-south dilemma among the many books and movies that followed.

As we study the Chase action one realizes that the "Heart of the Chase" actually took place in Bartow County regarding number of events, which includes the opposition offered by Stephens. It becomes clear that Bartow has not stepped forward to even extend a local tribute to the old depot agent whose historic actions aided in the delay at Kingston. Until now, Bartow County has not recognized the value of this individual and his role in the Great Locomotive Chase. In fact, Stephens a Kingston resident played a significant part in the story as it relates to the delay in Kingston and should receive some official attention.

It would seem, the coming sesquicentennial of the American Civil War and the Great Locomotive Chase anniversary provides Bartow a second chance to recover a lost opportunity. The City of Kingston now has a reason to pause and pay homage to a local citizen who was a loyal State railroad man with the grit to speak up. His courage to confront a disguised raider by refusing to surrender the switch keys unknowingly bought a few more minutes for the **General's** crew to close the gap on their quarry. Too often we remain focused on the major players and unconsciously and innocently neglect the smaller contributions of people around us who make a difference in everyday life.

The sesquicentennial offers a second chance to claim a rightful piece of this great story that belongs exclusively to Bartow County. The event and evidence clearly point to honoring Uriah Stephens and declaring that Bartow County was *The Heart of the Chase*.

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY

Confederate Memorial Day is said to be an outgrowth from the old fashioned Decoration Day held at cemeteries throughout the South. The traditional Decoration Day afforded a time to spring clean the Cemeteries and place local spring flowers on all the graves. The official Georgia holiday was created in 1874. The Ladies Aid Society's, local memorial groups, local monument groups as well as Camps of the United Confederate Veterans had held Confederate Memorial Day services.

Bartow County continues this tradition with three different groups hosting Confederate Memorial Day Services.

Cassville

On Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 9:00 am the Stiles-Akin Camp # 670 Sons of Confederate Veterans will host its 21st Annual Memorial Service in the Historical Cassville Confederate Cemetery. The Camp has conducted a Service in Cassville since 1991, honoring veterans of all wars that are buried in this Cemetery and in Bartow County.

This year the speaker will be historian Joe Head, who will talk about an unsung Hero of the Great Locomotive Chase, Uriah Stephens. April 12, 2012 will be the 150th Anniversary of the Chase.

The Service will also include a tribute to the Confederate soldiers. Flags will be placed on the graves of every Confederate soldier in the Cemetery. Cassville has 300 + unknown Confederates that are buried there. The program will end with a gun salute from Camp members and Taps being played. Camp Commander Robert Crowe and all SCV members invites everyone to attend this year's Service.





Cartersville

On April 21, 2012 at 11:00 am the United Daughters of the Confederacy will conduct a memorial service in Stiles Auditorium on School Street in Cartersville. The United Daughters of the Confederacy is the outgrowth of many local Confederate home associations and Auxiliaries to the Camps of the United Confederate Veterans that were organized after the War Between the States.

The General P. B. M. YOUNG Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized in Cartersville Georgia on January 10, 1972 and recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

On the Saturday before April 26 the Chapter will sponsor a Confederate Memorial Day Service. At this Service Confederate Veterans as well as Veterans of all wars will be honored with memorials, speeches and music. Wreaths will be placed on the Confederate Marker in Cartersville and on the grave of General Young. Robert Jones will be speaking on Civil War prisons. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Kingston

On April 22, 2012 at 2:30 pm the Kingston Woman's History Club will conduct the 148th consecutive Confederate Memorial Day Service in the Kingston United Methodist Church. The first observation was when some ladies of Kingston approached the Union commander and requested to have a grave decoration day. It was granted only if the graves of all soldiers, both Union and Confederate, would be decorated. The Kingston Woman's History Club, which was organized in 1900, has continued this tradition.

State Representative Katie Dempsey will be this year's Keynote speaker. Special Music will be provided by the Cass High School Chorus. The service will adjourn to the Confederate Cemetery where a wreath will be laid and the Carl Boyd post of the American legion will have a military gun salute. A refreshment tea will be served at the Museum after the Cemetery service.



EVHS 1972 to 2012

Forty years of service in Bartow County.

Did you read the January Newsletter, did you catch the error.

Shame on me for making the error, shame on you if you did not catch it.

Have you paid your Dues, are you a current member.

Support EVHS by attending the activities of your organization.

evhs@evhsonline
Use the above website to
keep up with the activities of the
Etowah Valley Historical Society



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