

ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 99, June - July 2017

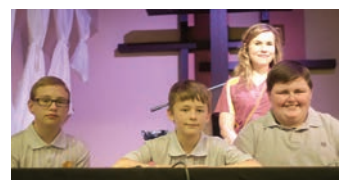
P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

Cass Middle School Makes History



EVHS held its third History Quiz Bowl Sunday May 7 at Sam Jones United Methodist Church. Cass Middle won its second back to back championship and now holds county bragging rights for the coming year. Cartersville Middle won second place and Adairsville took third place with the attendance award going to Cartersville. Approximately 150 attended the event. A reception was held at Grand Oaks following the event. *(more photos page 7)*





Etowah Valley Historical Society
115 West Cherokee Avenue
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
Email: evhs@evhsonline.org
Website: www.evhsonline.org

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Dianne Tate
Joanne Smith Pugh

Vice President

Joe Head

Secretary

Mina Harper

Treasurer

Larry Posey

DIRECTORS

19

Guy Parmenter
Larry Posey
Joe Head

18

Mina Harper
Wayne Rice
Sally Tonsmeire

17

Joanne Smith Pugh
Dianne Tate
Becky Champion

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Supreme Court Justice
Robert Benham
Linda Cochran
Michael Garland
Debbie Head
Mary Norton
Bob Redwine
J B Tate

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events for EVHS

October 13, 2017 – Annual Membership Dinner at 6:00 PM
at Grand Oaks (Members only)

October 21, 2017 – Sugar Hill Hike, (October 28 rain make up date). Mining ruins and abandoned community. Register on line or call office at 770.606.8862. (Members only)

November 2, 2017 – “When the World Came Crashing Down”, part II, Jim Langford follows up his March 2016 lecture with “The Post-Desoto Apocalypse in Northwest Georgia”. Gold Dome 1903 Court Room. (Open to the public)

December 1, 2017 – Annual Christmas Dinner at 6:00 PM
at Roselawn (Members only)

Note: Some dates are subject to change.

More events are being scheduled for 2017. Keep an eye out here in our next newsletter or visit the website at www.evhsonline.org for event updates.



Rolling dues are due

EVHS reminds members that dues are now due according to the anniversary month that you joined. Notices are being mailed out or emailed to individuals. If you have received a notice and not yet renewed, please do so now by mailing your check or going online.

PO Box 1886 Cartersville GA 30120

www.evhsonline.org/membership

Give a book for a special occasion

Members are encouraged to consider the collection of books we have at the EVHS office for special gifts. J. B. Tate's recent *Sketches of Bartow County* has been a popular item this past year. Also others such as *In and Out of the Lines*, *The General – The Great Locomotive Dispute*, *Allatoona Pass: A Needless Effusion of Blood*, *Mattie Lee Price – The Georgia Wonder*, and many more. You may purchase online or go by the office.



EVHS COMMITTEES

Allatoona Pass Battlefield
Chaired by
Guy Parmenter

Bartow History Scholars
Chaired by
Joe Head

Courthouse Office
Chaired by
Linda Cochran

Facebook
Chaired by
Debbie Head

Genealogy Research
Chaired by
Linda Cochran

Historic Awareness Signs
Chaired by
Dianne Tate

Historical Inventory
Co-Chaired by
Mary Norton
Michael Garland

Newsletter
Co-Chaired by
Joe Head
Jeffrey Williams

Oral History
Co-Chaired by
Judy Kilgore
Tina Shadden

Photography
Co-Chaired by
Victor Mulinix
Margaret Mathison
Tony Ross

Preservation
Chaired by
John Lewis

Research
Chaired by
Linda Cochran

Tour of Homes
Chaired by
The Preservation
Committee

Website
Co-Chaired by
Joanne Smith Pugh
Joe Head
Larry Posey



After a decade of being closed to the public, EVHS hosted a return to the historic Corra Harris property known as "In The Valley" located in Pine Log/Rydal, Georgia.

Between 85 to 90 attendees enjoyed a reception, self-guided tour of the grounds, fellowship, box dinner, and lecture about a recently discovered and unknown collection of letters written by Corra Harris.

Jordan Gentry, Kennesaw State University intern, presented her senior research capstone paper on findings about a very private side of Corra Harris. The letters reveal insights on Harris' personal family issues, business matters and personal struggles regarding the proper role for women. Her public image as a writer contrasted keenly compared to what she privately shared in these letters relating to women as head of household, voting rights, marriage, children and career ambitions. Corra advocated in these private letters that women should enjoy greater rights and not be delegated to predetermined traditional roles. However, her writings more often depicted traditional roles, images and stories that fit the times in which she lived.

Some sixteen letters and legal files were shared from the archives of Akin and Tate attorneys. These documents and artifacts have been housed at the in the Akin Law Firm since the 1920's. Paul Akin served as Corra Harris' attorney and financial advisor. An examination of these letters disclosed that Corra Harris had a very close and personal relationship with Mrs. Joy Akin and often confided very private issues to both Mrs. Akin and Paul Akin depending on the topic.

(more photos page 6)



The Tabernacle and Female College

Fading Monuments to the Legacy of Reverend Sam P. Jones

By: Joe F. Head



Among Bartow County's many legends stands Rev. Sam Jones who is perhaps the greatest homegrown celebrity Cartersville has ever produced. Also long forgotten are two monuments to his memory, the Tabernacle and Female Academy.

No other individual or event can match the throngs of people who were drawn to Cartersville to hear his blistering sermons. For twenty years prior to his death Sam Jones drew as many as 6000 people per day to his revivals and over 20,000 people over a two - week period. With the exception of a one - night state championship football game no other event or person has drawn such crowds. Often called the Billy Graham of the 1890's, Jones was the nearest thing to a major league voice that the south ever had to that time.

His sermons and national evangelistic reach are legendary. Sam Jones vigorously preached from Cartersville to California to Chicago and Boston. He made a religious imprint across the nation for over two decades and was a highly sought after speaker. As an example of his popularity, many don't know that Nashville's Ryman Auditorium was built for him to hold his revivals and following his death, it became the mother church for Grand Ole Opry.

However, the epicenter of his service and preaching was here at his now forgotten Tabernacle. Once located on West Main and Lee Street where the current day Cartersville/Bartow County Library stands today was an old style camp meeting site and what appeared as an open air picnic pavilion. Here thousands of people came annually to hear the gospel. The choir rostrum was upgraded to hold 1200 singers.



Photo Courtesy of Bartow History Museum

Few people realize that the Tabernacle was laid out on a 10 acre site and was established under a private board of trustees. On that same tract of land a small parcel was quickly deeded over to a separate board to establish the Sam Jones Female College. Sam Jones paid for the construction of the Tabernacle out of his own pocket, but not so with the Female College. The college faced what was then Market Street (now Cherokee) next to the former Cherokee Elementary School (now County Extension Office) and Lee Street. It is also known (aka) as the Sam Jones College, Sam Jones Female Academy and Sam Jones Female Seminary.

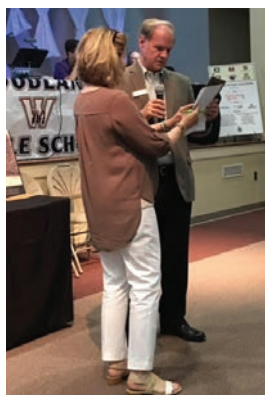


Sam Jones Female College and First Cartersville High School

The Female College did not enjoy the same success as did the Tabernacle, but did become the City of Cartersville's first public high school. Also, contrary to some innocent local belief, the Tabernacle nor College was ever under the authority of the Sam Jones Memorial United Methodist Church.

The story of Rev. Sam Jones has been well told over the past century. However, his Tabernacle and Female College were rarely cited and have not been covered nor understood regarding origin, operations, management and what became of these facilities. *(continued page 8)*





THE ATLANTA GEORGIAN AND NEWS.

BIBLE CONFERENCE AT JONES TABERNACLE



SAM JONES' TABERNACLE.
Where great Bible conference will be held during this month.

Special to The Georgian.

Cartersville, Ga., Sept. 7.—For twenty-one years Rev. Sam P. Jones held an annual tabernacle meeting at Cartersville, Ga. At the last tabernacle meeting he planned for a possible conference to be conducted at the day services and evangelistic services at night. After his death the committee decided to carry out as far as possible his plans, and has arranged for a Bible conference to be held September 15 to 22. The following speakers have been secured for this year: Rev. W. E. Belderswolf, Monticello, Ind.; Rev. A. C. Dixon, D. D., Chicago; Rev. French E. Oliver, Chicago; Rev. Melvin E. Trotter, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Hamill, Nashville, Tenn.; Rev. J. A. Bowen, Winona, Miss.; Rev. Walt Holcomb, Nashville, Tenn., and others.

Music will be in charge of Messrs. Rhodeheaver and Smoot. Mrs. Annie Jones Pyron will play the piano. Arrangements will be made to furnish entertainment at reasonable prices, and the railroads will be asked to give reduced rates.

September 15—11 a. m., opening sermon by Rev. Walt Holcomb; 3 p. m., sermon by Rev. French E. Oliver; 6:30 p. m., hillside meeting, conducted by Rev. Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., evangelistic sermon by W. E. Belderswolf.

September 16—10 a. m., French E. Oliver; 11 a. m., W. E. Belderswolf; 3 p. m., French E. Oliver; 6:30 p. m., hillside meeting, Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., evangelistic services, W. E. Belderswolf.

September 17—9:30 a. m., experience meeting, conducted by J. A. Bowen; 10 a. m., sermon by W. E. Belderswolf; 11 a. m., A. C. Dixon; 3 p. m., A. C. Dixon; 6:30 p. m., W. E. Belderswolf.

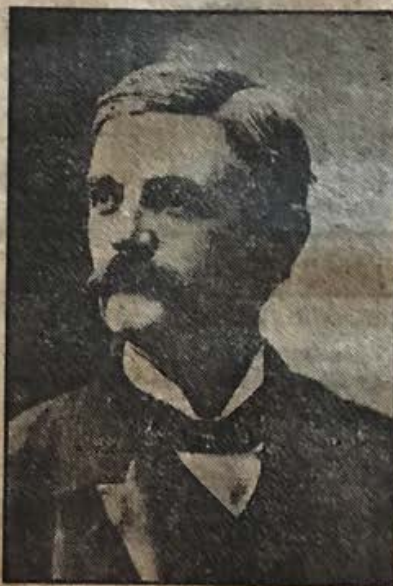
September 18—9:30 a. m., experience meeting, conducted by J. A. Bowen; 10 a. m., French E. Oliver; 11 a. m., A. C. Dixon; 3 p. m., A. C. Dixon; 6:30 p. m., Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., W. E. Belderswolf.

September 19—9:30 a. m., experience meeting, conducted by J. A. Bowen; 10 a. m., W. E. Belderswolf; 11 a. m., A. C. Dixon; 3 p. m., A. C. Dixon; 6:30 p. m., Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., W. E. Belderswolf.

September 20—9:30 a. m., experience meeting, conducted by J. A. Bowen; 10:10 a. m., French E. Oliver; 11 a. m., A. C. Dixon; 3 p. m., A. C. Dixon; 6:30 p. m., Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., W. E. Belderswolf.

September 21—9:30 a. m., experience meeting, conducted by J. A. Bowen; 10 a. m., French E. Oliver; 11 a. m., W. E. Belderswolf; 3 p. m., French E. Oliver; 6:30 p. m., Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., W. E. Belderswolf.

September 22—10 a. m., experience meet-



LATE SAM P. JONES.
Who planned the annual Bible conference just before his untimely death.

ing, J. A. Bowen; 11 a. m., French E. Oliver; 3 p. m., Walt Holcomb; 6:30 p. m., Melvin Trotter; 8 p. m., closing sermon, W. E. Belderswolf.

Messrs. Rhodeheaver and Smoot will alternate in leading the singing and will furnish special music at each service. Dr. and Mrs. Hamill will conduct the Sunday school institute with services daily at 2 p. m. in the tabernacle.

Sunday, September 15, the opening day of the Bible conference, will be memorial day in honor of the memory of Rev. Sam P. Jones. Rev. Walt Holcomb will preach the memorial sermon at 11 o'clock. Mr. Holcomb was for years associated with the great evangelist and was with him at the time of his death.

TRIBUTE IS PAID TO MEMORY OF REV. SAM P. JONES

Nearly 6,000 People Attend
Service Sunday At Cartersville.

Special to The Georgian.

Cartersville, Ga., Sept. 18.—A crowd of more than 6,000 people gathered at the Sam Jones Tabernacle in this city yesterday to pay tribute to the memory of the great evangelist, whose death came shortly after the close of the annual meetings that were held here last year at this time.

This was the opening day of the Sam Jones Bible conference, an institution that was organized by Mr. Jones before leaving home on his last journey. The first day was placed upon the program as Memorial day in honor of the evangelist's memory. There were no rates advertised by the railroads, but it was seen as the morning trains arrived that there would be almost as many people in the city as came to the meetings during the lifetime of Mr. Jones.

Rev. Walther Holcomb.

Rev. Walt Holcomb, who was the co-worker of Mr. Jones during the last few months of the evangelist's life, and who was with him when he breathed his last in the Pullman car in Arkansas, preached the memorial sermon at 11 o'clock. Mr. Holcomb arrived from North Carolina, where he has been in attendance upon the bedside of his aged mother. His own sorrow, and that of the people who loved the memory of Sam Jones, placed them in a peculiarly sympathetic attitude toward each other, and made the people greatly receptive of the sermon delivered by the young minister.

Mr. Holcomb said, in part, of Sam Jones: "His memory remains as sweet and fragrant as the Rose of Sharon; his record as spotless as the lily of the valley, and his intellect and genius as brilliant as the bright morning star. No words of mine could do justice to the glory of a life like his, and I shall talk not of the dead, but to the living."

His text was, "Lord, him that Thou lovest is sick." The preacher drew a beautiful and forceful picture of the death and resurrection of Lazarus, and the faith of Mary and Martha. He applied an illustration of the wireless telegraph to prayer, and the inference drawn that an earnest prayer is sure to be heard by God, and is as surely answered, made a deep impression upon his audience.

Rev. French Oliver.

Rev. French E. Oliver, the noted Western evangelist, of Chicago, preached a masterful sermon at 3 o'clock. His theme was "The Shadow Life." He said, in effect, that men were known by the shadow they cast, and that the shadow of a man's life lasted for years after his death, according to what the man had accomplished during his life. He eulogized Rev. Sam Jones, and brought forth a round of spontaneous applause when he said:

"The great black shadow, with its piercing streaks of flashing lightning, that great cloud that has so recently settled over the state of Georgia, striking terror to the hearts of the liquor dealers, is but the shadow of the grand life of Sam P. Jones."

This sentiment was applauded, after which the silent chautauqua salute was given in honor of Mr. Jones' memory.

Rev. Charles N. Crittenden also spoke to a large audience at 6 o'clock, at which time he gave the people his experience in mission work, telling his story of his conversion. It was a most impressive service.

Rev. W. E. Belderswolf preached the



Before these two monuments totally fade from memory it is the intent of EVHS to gather this story and document it for the purpose of preserving a more complete story of Sam Jones. Watch for a future announcement regarding a full article addressing this project.

Victor Mulinix Photography



*EVHS member Victor Mulinix discusses his photo of historic Ladd's Mountain with Debbie Head. A collection of Victor's photography is on display at the Cartersville/Bartow Library through July. The Ladd's Mountain image was featured in J. B. Tate's recent book, *Sketches of Bartow County* and was the site of two EVHS field trips. Victor and his wife Marty both volunteer at the EVHS office and reside in Kingston where he enjoys many hobbies. He is a grill master, wood craftsman, vintner (wine maker), gardener and local historian as well as a keen photographer. Victor is a valued EVHS member having served as a board member and newsletter editor. He is always present at Society events and posts images on the EVHS Facebook page.*

Georgia Farm Bureau Celebrates Eighty Years



Recently the Georgia Farm Bureau celebrated its 80th anniversary in Cartersville, but few people realize it all began in Bartow County. In June, the Farm Bureau returned to its roots and held its annual meeting at the Clarence Brown Conference Center.

Eighty years ago a group of farmers from seven counties in northwest Georgia met at the 1903 Bartow County courthouse on June 17, 1937 at the request of Bartow County farmer Robert M. Stiles. He believed there was a need for a farmer-led organization to support Georgia agriculture. The result of this meeting was the formation of the United Georgia Farmers.

The organization that would become Georgia Farm Bureau was officially created on July 31, 1937 in Bartow County. Fifty Georgia “dirt farmers” representing 25 counties attended this first Assembly of Delegates, and one of their first orders of business was the election of Mr. Stiles as president.

Along with mining, farming was an anchor industry in Cass/Bartow County from its founding. EVHS showcased the heritage of agriculture recently by creating a digital historical farming map that features the Farm Bureau, Genetics Institute, Dairies, Cotton, Grist Mills and other farming production.

As a symbolic token to the now Macon based Bureau’s anniversary, a granite monument has been placed at the 1903 Gold Dome Court House to commemorate the founding.

EVHS Interns

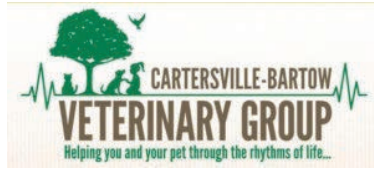


Josh Shapiro, KSU Geographic Information Sciences student works on a new interactive map for our digital gallery collection. His project is to research and illustrate the historic railroads of Bartow County. Most people do not realize Bartow has had a half dozen stand alone railroad beds that once served our county. Many of these lines have been used by multiple railroad companies.

Jordan Gentry, KSU intern works on her senior capstone project. Recently discovered in the office of attorney Morgan Akin is a collection of some 16 unknown personal letters written by Corra Harris. These letters and legal files have never been seen by the public and reveals a fresh chapter to the writer's life. Each letter has been fully transcribed and will be available for membership review or others who may wish to do further research on the legacy of Corra Harris.



Thanks To Our Corporate Sponsors



McStats' Printing
P.O. Box 640
220 E. Church Street
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-382-7525

Neel Law Firm
132 W. Chreokee Ave.
P.O. Box 458
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-382-0622

Modern Woodmen of America
34 Ash Way NE
White, GA 30103
Phone: 706-853-1552

Sixes Tavern
650 Henderson Drive
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-334-8998

Westside Animal Hospital
201 Douthitt Ferry Road
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-607-3055

Johnny On The Spot
4711 Joe Frank Harris Parkway NW
Adairsville, GA 30103
Phone: 770-382-0770

Sweitzer Engineering Inc.
114 Old Mill Road
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 678-569-4292

Lara J. Designs
12 South Erwin Street, Suite 2
Cartersville, GA 30120
Westside Animal Hospital
Phone: 678-873-2126

Gorgia Power/Southern Company
10 Massell Drive SE
Cartersville, GA 30121
Phone: 770-382-9365

Magnolia Garden Club
222 Tatum Ridge Road
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-547-3228

Peachtree Planning
111 Leake Street
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-386-6304

Martin's Garage & Wrecker Services
722 Joe Frank Harris Parkway SE
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-382-9295



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1886
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
evhs@evhsonline.org
www.evhsonline.org

Inside...

- Cass Middle School Makes History - page 1
- Upcoming Events - page 2
- In The Valley - page 3
- The Tabernacle and Female College - page 4
- More In The Valley Photos - page 6
- More Quiz Bowl Photos - page 7
- Victor Mulinix Photography - page 9
- Georgia Farm Bureau - page 10
- EVHS Interns - page 11
- Our Sponsors - page 12

