

# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 103, October 2018

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## Adairsville's Society Hill 2018 Tour of Homes November 3 and 4



The Etowah Valley Historical Society and Sans Souci Women's Club partner to host this tour of Adairsville's Society Hill Historic District. Tour six spectacular Victorian homes in Georgia's first city to be listed in its entirety on the National Register of Historic Places.

Guests will be welcomed into to a genteel and gracious city with historian docents and homeowners sharing personal stories and historic knowledge. The tour begins at the Sans Souci Clubhouse, 101 Railroad Street, Adairsville, where ample free parking is available and live music will also be enjoyed. Shuttle vans will provide transportation to and from the homes or guests may walk the grand tree-lined streets. Please note that parking will not be available along the tour route.

*(continued on page 4)*



Etowah Valley Historical Society  
115 West Cherokee Avenue  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120  
Email: [evhs@evhsonline.org](mailto:evhs@evhsonline.org)  
Website: [www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Upcoming Events for EVHS

**September 20, 2018** – Genetics Lecture, Stiles Auditorium at 6:30 PM

**October 6 - 7, 2018** – Allatoona Pass

**October 12, 2018** – EVHS Annual Dinner at Grand Oaks (Members only)

**October 20 - 21, 2018** – Saltpeter Cave

**November 3 - 4, 2018** – EVHS Tour of Homes in Adairsville's Society Hill

**December 7, 2018** – Annual Christmas Dinner at 6:00 PM at Roselawn (Members only)

Note: Some dates are subject to change.

Keep an eye out here in our next newsletter or visit the website at [www.evhsonline.org](http://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](http://www.evhsonline.org/membership)

### “EVHS is taking calls again!”

After nearly six months without reliable phone service we are back on line. Call 770 606 8862 and speak to a volunteer or leave a message. Also we are issuing an all call for office volunteers. If you have 3 hours to spare per month we invite you to consider covering the EVHS office. Call to let us know of your interest.



### Come Back to the Table: Tastes of Etowah Valley



Order your cookbooks online before November 5, 2018 to receive a discounted price.

<http://evhsonline.org/getcooking>

### In Remembrance of our Dearly Departed Members

Laura “Lolly” Cochran-White  
Joel McDonald Adams

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EVHS is excited to announce that several more articles are now uploaded to the Bartow Author's Corner on our web page. Listed below are two previews of the four new articles. Also added "A Typology Analysis of Lithic Artifacts Recovered from a Middle Woodland Site in North Georgia (Lower Dig) – William Heflin" and "Memories of a Beloved Locomotive and the Man Who Drove it, by David Ibata." Please visit the EVHS web site at [evhsonline.org](http://evhsonline.org) and click the Bartow Author's Corner to read these and other articles.

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## Bartow's Tunnel Mining Era

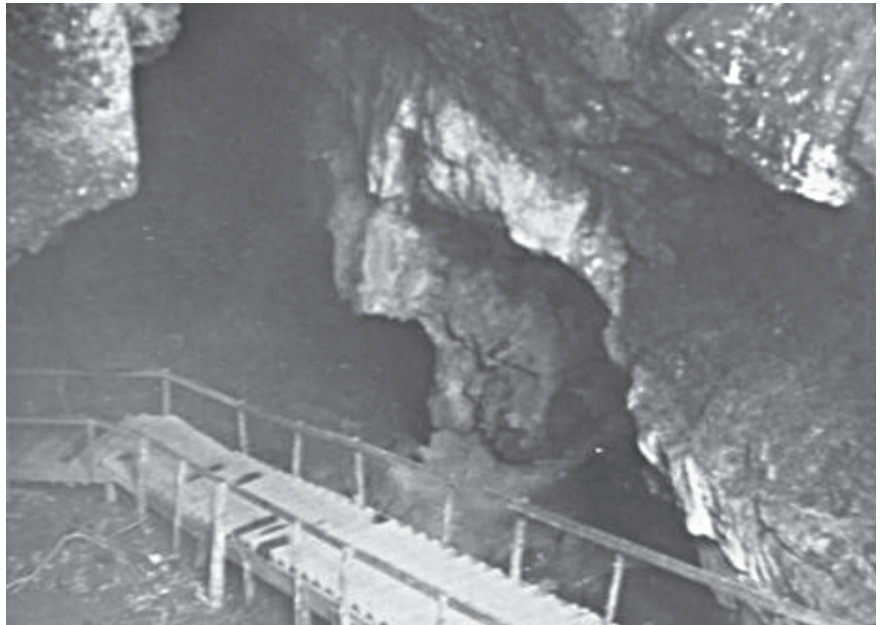


Long before open pit mining in Bartow County, ores were extracted by a method known as shaft or tunnel mining. Most people of today are unaware of a primitive time when mining was done by hand using picks, shovels, mules, carts and all done with back-breaking labor. Recently, Stan Bearden and Joe Head completed an article regarding multiple finds by New Riverside Ochre (NRO) of sites where former mining shafts once existed. The tunnel mining occupation was dangerous and suffered many casualties as reflected in this article. Research indicated that shaft mining was practiced until about 1920 when heavy equipment introduced the ability to move massive amounts of earth from the surface creating large pits allowing trucks and excavators to be gradually driven into to the hole to load ore or expand the pit. As technology improved NRO, returned to former mining sites to reach deeper deposits and in so doing unearthed forgotten tunnels and mines long forgotten. Until now these discoveries have been confidential and were disclosed on a limited basis. This article is perhaps the first documentation of such activity and reveals a colorful story never told until now.

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## Nitrate Mining in Bartow County

Joel Sneed submits a fresh work on Saltpeter Cave with expanded history regarding the use by Cherokee Indians and the varied names by which it has been known. He briefly describes how gun powder was made in the 1860s and its use by the Confederacy. He mentions recently uncovered Civil War letters from Union soldiers writing about seeing the cave and General Sherman's official report also referencing the powder works.





# TOUR OF HOMES

Presented by Etowah Valley Historical Society with Sans Souci Women's Club



ETOWAH VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Adairsville's Society Hill

### when

Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 10am to 4pm

Sunday, November 4, 2018 from 12pm to 4pm

### tickets

You may pre-order tickets online at [evhsonline.org](http://evhsonline.org)

Tickets are also available at Sans Souci Clubhouse  
101 Railroad Street, Adairsville, Georgia.

Individual \$15/person

Groups of 10 or more \$12/person

### the tour

The Etowah Valley Historical Society and  
Sans Souci Women's Club host this tour of  
**Adairsville's Society Hill Historic District.**

Tour six spectacular Victorian homes in Georgia's  
first city to be listed in its entirety on the National  
Register of Historic Places. Guests will be welcomed  
into to a genteel and gracious city with historian  
docents and homeowners sharing personal stories  
and historic knowledge.

The tour begins at the Sans Souci Clubhouse,  
101 Railroad Street, Adairsville, where ample free  
parking is available and live music will also be  
enjoyed. Shuttle vans will provide transportation  
to and from the homes or guests may walk the  
grand tree-lined streets. *Please note that Park  
Street will be closed to traffic the day of the event.*



123 Park St  
**McCollum Manor (1905)**

This Greek Revival home was built by John Schmitz  
at a cost of \$3,200 for Robert McCollum, owner of  
the town hardware store. McCollum helped bring  
the first telephone service to Adairsville. During the  
1960s and early 1970s this house was known as  
"The Teacherage," because it consisted of several  
apartments rented out to local teachers.



110 Park Street  
**The Alexander-Dodd House (1890)**

This gorgeous Victorian home features some of  
the original exterior paint colors that were revealed  
during renovations by the current owners. W.J  
Alexander purchased the land from J.M. Veach for  
\$150 on May 2, 1890. It sold in 1925 for \$2500.



112 Park St  
**The Brogdon-Holder House (1890)**

This Victorian home, along with 110 Park  
Street was an "order package home," delivered  
via the nearby train station. The homes were  
ordered pre-cut and assembled on site. These  
pre-date Sears catalog order package homes.



117 Park St  
**Abramson-Antonio House (1890)**

Abraham Abramson and his wife Sallie were  
Russian emigrants who pushed a cart around  
town selling cooking pots and sewing goods.  
The small building behind the house was built  
as a studio for Sallie for her china painting.



118 Park St  
**Bishop-Bradley House (1905)**

This house was built by John Schmitz at a  
cost of \$2,175. It features movable inside  
shutters and pocket doors and is the only  
house in town with a "widow's walk."

### BONUS! *The Boyhood Home of Pretty Boy Floyd*

Located on Railroad Street near the Sans Souci Clubhouse, the Floyd-Earwood  
Home was the childhood home of Charles Arthur Floyd (1904-1934), who made a  
name for himself in just thirty short years as a bank robber and gangster during the  
Great Depression. Charles became known as Pretty Boy Floyd, a name he  
reportedly despised. Just three months before his death, Floyd was also named  
Public Enemy No. 1. The home later served as a Baptist Parsonage.

*buy tickets & find out more at* [evhsonline.org](http://evhsonline.org)



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# The Beach: A brief history of the George Washington Carver State Park

Alexis Carter-Callahan, M.A.



## Bartow Carver State Park George Washington Carver State Park

*“this is about more than color. it is about how we learn to see ourselves. it is about geography and memory.” -the river between us in Mercy by Lucille Clifton (2004)*

### Introduction

The creation of the historic George Washington Carver Park is Georgia’s stake in a nuanced and complex understanding of the African American relationship with recreation and the environment. Jim Crow era politics would leave African Americans largely excluded from access to state parks. John Loyd Atkinson Sr.’s vision for the future of black recreation in the South, however, contributed largely to the Civil Rights Movement, particularly the environmental movement. His role as the visionary and environmental architect of the park contributed to a larger conversation surrounding access to the natural environment for marginalized cultural groups. Through his efforts, black families from Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and other areas in the Mobile Basin were allowed to freely indulge in the spoils of the natural environment without restriction in an era of “separate but equal.”

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## Park Establishment

The early twentieth century brought flooding to areas throughout the United States, requiring Congress to address issues of safety and protection. In 1928, Congress responded with the Flood Control Acts. These regulations would allow the U.S. Corp of Engineers and the Federal Power Commission to conduct a series of annual feasibility studies on areas prone to flooding. These studies would aid in future construction to alleviate potential flood problems. Areas that received assistance from this program were able to experience relief from flooding through access to water, jobs, and recreation. President Roosevelt's New Deal funding would eventually reach Acworth, Georgia with the Allatoona Reservoir on the Etowah River in the Coosa River Basin project, also known as the Allatoona Dam. Three million dollars were allotted by Congress in 1941 to the "initiation and partial accomplishment of the project." World War II would create a decrease and redirection of funding from construction projects, including the Allatoona project, to relief and defense. Post WWII legislation would again see a rise in funding for flood relief. On June 15, 1946, Governor Ellis Arnall, Georgia 7th District Congressman Malcolm C. Tarver, and Lt. General Raymond A. Wheeler, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, would host a ground-breaking ceremony resulting in the launching of the four year project of building the Allatoona Dam. The Dam and surrounding acreage would span 1457 acres and see completion in 1950.

**The plan for the Allatoona Reservoir on the Etowah River in the Coosa River Basin, Georgia, for flood control and other purposes in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers in House Document Numbered 674, Seventy-sixth Congress, third session, is approved and there is hereby authorized \$3,000,000 for initiation and partial accomplishment of the project.**

Etowah River.  
Allatoona Reservoir  
Ga.

Appropriation  
authorized.

Congressional Flood Control Act, 1941

### John Loyd Atkinson Sr.

In 1941, John Loyd Atkinson Sr. purchased land to build a home in the J.A. Coursey subdivision in Fulton County. In early September, as he begin to bring in lumber to begin construction, a neighbor approached with a question:

*"I talked to Atkinson at that time. . . I happened to see some lumber on this lot, a small pile of lumber, and about three people down there at work. . . I . . . asked him what he was doing. He said he was fixing to build a house, and I says, 'The heck you are,' and he says, 'Yes,' and I turned around and walked off, and he says, 'Well, what is wrong about it?' And I said there was plenty. . ."*

This encounter would be one of many that Atkinson would face as he worked to become a homeowner in the J.A. Coursey subdivision, but also as he later navigated the southern landscape of marginality politics. Atkinson would eventually become an involved party to the Georgia Supreme Court Case, *Atkinson v. England* (1942). This case would debate the legitimacy of land being sold to a black man in a "Caucasian only" subdivision. During the time of the case, Atkinson was stalled for 2 years from developing a house on the property in the subdivision. The two years of waiting for a decision, which would be ruled unanimously in his favor, would lead to Atkinson joining the United States Air Force, serving as a Tuskegee Airman. Atkinson was not a stranger to the policies and politics of segregation.

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John Loyd Atkinson, Sr. served as the first superintendent of George Washington Carver State Park from 1950-1958. Atkinson relied heavily on his family to assist with the physical creation of the beach. Sand was carried to the area in his family pickup truck. The family spent time pouring into the sand covered shorelines of the beach. In addition, Atkinson oversaw the building of a concession stand, boat ramps, playground, beach house, clubhouse, and the home where the Atkinsons resided during the summer season while the park was open.

Atkinson also encouraged participation in skill attainment and leadership through outdoor activities. Boy and girl scouts troupes were regularly welcomed to the property. A segregated Girl Scouts camp was established that allowed scouts access to hiking, camping, and archery. In 1963, Atlanta's first African American's first Girl Scout troupe, District V, produced a brochure called *Camping for Me* that documented George Washington Carver Park as the location of its first official campsite.

The honorable Justice Robert Benham spent his adolescent years, ages 11-15, adding to the historical memory of the park. Benham's father, Clarence Benham, served as the second superintendent from the years 1959-1962. Justice Benham and brothers grew up swimming at the beach, and also serving as lifeguards. Herbert Kitchens would follow as superintendent, with Samuel Nathan serving as the last superintendent of the park.

The beach was as a stop on the Southern chitlin' circuit, hosting musical greats such as Ray Charles and Little Richard. Local rumors suggest that a young Otis Redding, who served in Little Richard's background band called the Upsetters, also visited the beach on the circuit. Many of the black elite families of Georgia, particularly from Atlanta, often frequented the beach. Civil Rights Leaders, Andrew Young, and the late Mrs. Coretta Scott King acknowledged that their families spent time enjoying the access to the beach. Serving as one of the South's "black meccas", George Washington Carver Park was not just a getaway for the black elite, but it also served as a recreational safe haven for the black community. Timothy Houston, Sr. described his personal experience with the beach in the *History of the Cobb County Branch of the NAACP and Civil Rights Activities in Cobb County, Georgia* interview (2009):

*"We had our own beach called George Washington Carver, it was at Red Top and it was nice. It was a real nice facility and I remember we used to sit around the porch at my moms'. We lived right up from Cherokee Street and that was the only way through, I-75 wasn't here then and that was the only way people come from Atlanta and Marietta, to get to Red Top Mountain. We would sit there on Sundays and you could count the vehicles, it would be ten or fifteen chartered buses. That is when we seen actual black people in real nice cars. They would come in their nice cars like a convoy going to the beach, going to George Washington Carver. That was every Sunday; people coming from all over. That was the only black beach in the area. You go out there and they had a huge hall, they had a kitchen and a big dance floor and then you had the beach where you would swim. It was really nice."*

The NAACP worked to push post-Brown legislation for equal access to state parks, with successes in cases in Virginia (Prince Edwards Recreation Park, 1947) and Maryland (Lonesome v. Maxwell, 1954). The 1960s introduction of integration contributed greatly to less attendance at segregated facilities, as black patrons were no longer required to travel considerable distances for access to the natural environment.. In 1975, due to budget cuts with the state of Georgia, George Washington Carver Park was released from state management to management by the Bartow County Government. The park's name was changed to Bartow Carver Park. The Cartersville-Bartow County Convention & Visitors Bureau would begin overseeing management of the park in 2017, restoring the park to its original name. Currently, the park is open for daily use and reserved for private events. Memories Day, an annual celebration, is held to commemorate the park's place in the larger context of the fight for equality, as well as to honor the memories of those that enjoyed the vision set by Atkinson over seven decades prior.

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John Loyd Atkinson Sr. and wife, Bessie Atkinson



George Washington Carver State Park Advertisement

Alexis Carter, historian and writer, contributor to the African American History Initiative of EVHS, board member of Noble Hill Wheeler Memorial Center.



## African American Quilt

*Documentation Project of Bartow County*

The independent Steering Committee of the African American Quilt Documentation Project of Bartow County transitions to a standing committee of the Etowah Valley Historical Society. Although quilt documentation will continue to be a function of the committee, the purpose will focus on the African American history and culture of Bartow County, on historic preservation and education with a probable name change. History Initiative has been suggested. A few prominent black people are in communication on the proposal. Coordination with the master plan of the African American Heritage Trail, conceived by Justice Robert Benham and implemented by Sheri Henshaw of Bartow County Government are ongoing.

For years, EVHS has had a commitment to include African American history into the collective history of Bartow County. This was accomplished in part with J.B. Tate's book, SKETCHES OF BARTOW COUNTY as well as the online study program for middle school youth, Bartow History Scholar Program founded by Joe Head. Some students of the Bartow History Scholar Program have requested more local African American history for them to study as well as African American lecturers in their classrooms on the subject. This African American history initiative attempts to satisfy their appeal for more, will bring African Americans in collaboration with EVHS and will benefit all by publishing articles for an inclusive history.

Two black writers are working on articles to publish on the EVHS website at present with a public program on genealogy planned.

The sculpture, Pathways to Freedom: A Story in Every Stitch, unveiled in front of Cartersville City Hall is paid for and is complete except for the installation of interpretive signage and the donor plaque. Both signs are promised: interpretations by the CVB and the donor plaque in a commitment that has to be budgeted possibly in 2019.

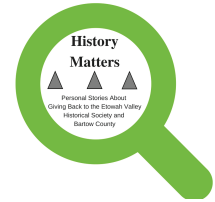


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# Sponsor Spotlight



**Chuck Nida**  
**Nida Financial Group**



A Bartow County resident and businessman for many years, Mr. Nida chose to partner with EVHS to support the education of our youth as a Gold Sponsor of the Bartow History Quiz Bowl.

When asked to be the EVHS first Sponsor Spotlight, Chuck Nida graciously agreed and shares with you his thoughts about partnering with EVHS that provides educational, cultural and historic experiences for our community.

1. Chuck, as a long-time Bartow County resident you have participated in many nonprofit fund-raising functions. What enticed/interested you to partner with the historical society this year?

*I have always enjoyed studying and reading history. However, it was after sitting down with Joe Head that I discovered the richness of our Bartow history.*

2. What have you found interesting/fascinating about EVHS that you may not have known before partnering with the society?

*First, there are the vast resources and content featured on the EVHS website. Secondly, the involvement and passion EVHS has in sharing their knowledge with our community.*

3. What do you see as benefits to you and your business because you are a sponsor for one of our most popular programs?

*As a sponsor we get to invest in a local nonprofit that is committed to our community both on a youth and adult level. In addition, as a sponsor, I get to interact at the events, share my business with them, as well as having signage on the website, newsletters, emails and at the events. Sponsoring the Quiz Bowl was a lot of fun and I am looking forward to next year's event. The benefit is twofold: 1) to help support an event that allows middle schoolers to share their knowledge of Bartow County in a competitive format and 2) the number of people who attended was amazing. As a result they see our signage as well as hear recognition from EVHS.*

4. Which EVHS events have you participated in? What did you think about the quality of the events?

*The two events that I've participated in so far are the Spring Bank picnic and the Bartow History Quiz Bowl. Actually, I was very surprised at not only the quality of the events but the number of people who participated.*

5. Why do you think preserving Bartow County history is valuable for our youth and community?

*History is important for any community or culture. To me, history is like a mine...the deeper you go, the bigger the nugget. The things you learn from history can shed abundant light for the future.*

6. Tell us about your family and hobbies.

*I have been married to Yvonne Nida for 39 years. We have four children and thirteen (yes 13) grandchildren. I enjoy fly-fishing, hiking, reading and speaking/leading Biblical studies.*



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# A Farewell Tribute to Linda Cochran



EVHS will definitely feel a loss as we see Linda transition to a new position with the City of White. She will be working part time under a grant to help establish a history center in the city hall complex.

For over 25 years Linda Cochran has made it her business to chase local ancestors and help EVHS members discover family roots. She has served as a faithful volunteer and managed the EVHS office by greeting visitors, answering the phone and assisting individuals with genealogical research and other needs with which to uncover Bartow history. For over two decades Linda was the voice and face of the EVHS office.

Upon entering the office visitors would find a hearty smile and willing soul scattling around in her electric scooter chair. She was a bottomless resource of information regarding local families and had a masterful knowledge of using Ancestry.com. She served clients from all over the United States. Additionally, Linda assisted researchers who were digging for information that might validate a historic home site, research content for articles or looking for a forgotten cemetery to find lost loved ones. She often clipped newspaper articles, made holiday crafts for the office and Board members. Her presence at any event rounded out the atmosphere and added a flavor of home - spun fun.

Linda is proud of her Native American Cherokee heritage. She often wears traditional outfits and demonstrates or conducts ceremonial ritual “ash blessings” at events and upon request for school children and adults.

EVHS is proud to have had Linda serving our membership. She became a staple in the office and a trusted “go-to” personality. We will greatly miss her and the downhome touch that she brought to the office. Linda, we wish you the best!



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## Thank You to our Cookbook Project Sponsors

for underwriting  
the EVHS Cookbook.

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**Come Back to the Table, Tastes of Etowah Valley**  
will be ready for distribution in November, 2018.

In addition to those listed above, you will find **Friends of the Cookbook** who contributed to the sponsorship of the EVHS cookbook listed on the EVHS Website. Without the help of so many, this project could not have been published.

The EVHS Cookbook Committee  
Thanks You!

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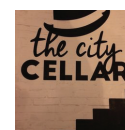
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## ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1886  
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evhs@evhsonline.org  
www.evhsonline.org

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