

# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 105, June 2019

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## EVHS Saltpeter Cave Tour



*Photo by Linda and Keith Pye*





Etowah Valley Historical Society  
 115 West Cherokee Avenue  
 Cartersville, Georgia 30120  
 Phone: 770-606-8862  
 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 15, 2019** – *Tilley Mill Picnic*, Euharlee, Georgia, 4:00 PM  
 Members only event.

**October 5 - 6, 2019** – *Allatoona Pass*. Open to the public.

**October 11, 2019** – *Annual Membership Dinner*, Grand Oaks. 6:00 PM reception. Members only event.

**November 14, 2019** – *When the World Came Crashing Down, DeSoto's Expedition (Part 1 Encore)* Jim Langford, Cartersville Library  
 6:00 PM Reception. 6:30 PM Program Open to the public.

**December 6, 2019** – *Christmas Dinner*, Rose Lawn. 6:00 PM Arrival  
 Note: Some dates are subject to change.



### 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)



Some EVHS events are funded in part by the Cartersville - Bartow County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Thank you for your support.

<http://visitcartersvillega.org>

### EVHS COMMITTEES

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*African American History Initiative*  
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# A Taste of Africa

The African American History Initiative of EVHS presented A Taste of Africa, February 26th, 2019 at Stiles Auditorium to honor Black History Month. The evening included dinner, music, lecture, exhibits and attendance by an overflow crowd including black dignitaries representing major segments of the community. Alexis Carter Callahan, the first black author to publish in Authors' Corner of EVHS, using audio visual aids, informed on the influence of the African cook on the cuisine of the southern U.S., the Caribbean and Brazil, key regions of the African diaspora. Chef Abshul Ellis prepared many ethnic dishes from these areas of the world. Jane McElreath, Esq. exhibited African art from her private collection. The Bartow History Museum recorded and displayed quilts brought for documentation and exhibited a trunk show of African art from the BHM collection. AAHI Chair, Mina Harper, and program Co-Chair, Becky Champion, thank the many talented and dedicated volunteers.

Black History 2020 will feature Sound, the African influence on music.

Anyone wanting to join this committee, contact Mina Harper: 256-505-7544 or [jdonharp@aol.com](mailto:jdonharp@aol.com). Black writers are needed to narrate the black history of Bartow County. Please refer them to Mina Harper.



*Alexis Carter addresses attendees at the Taste of Africa*



*Chef Abshul Ellis comments on some of the foods*



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## Ladd's Mountain Hike 2019

For the fifth consecutive year, EVHS members enjoyed a mountain top experience Saturday, March 23 as they once again reached the summit of Ladd's Mountain. Participants saw the Etowah Valley view from the cliff side of Ladd's Mountain and heard Scot Keith lecture about the history of mining and the Native Americans who once occupied the mountain and stone ceremonial structure. The event was recorded by drone coverage, compliments of Mark Godfrey and made available on the EVHS Facebook page.



*EVHS at the top!*



*Joanne and Jim Pugh with Bartow County EMT Fireman TJ Maddox and Andrew Haygood*





*Joe Head speaks with drone operator Mark Godfrey*



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## A. O. Granger Lecture

Ed Carlton, Great Grandson of A. O. Granger treated over 120 EVHS members and guests to an inside family look at the storied 1880's Granger Home. Granger was General William T. Sherman's secretary and rose to his post because of his high quality penmanship. As an obscure fact of history, it was learned that Granger's penmanship was initially used to draft the first two versions of the terms of surrender to be used at Appomattox. However, the final version came from Washington.

When Union forces occupied Cartersville during 1864, regiments camped at various locations including what became known as Granger Hill. Following the Civil War, A. O. Granger returned to Cartersville and purchased the property where he camped and built the legendary Overlook home. Little known to locals is the forgotten story that General Sherman visited Granger for several weeks under an alias name (Mr. Smith) to conduct research for his book. A farewell party was announced by the Grangers to properly introduce General Sherman, but no one attended!



Attendees learned that Granger became a wealthy entrepreneur, particularly in the mining industry. He also was an amateur astronomer and installed the largest telescope and observatory in the southeastern United States. After his death the telescope was sold to a traveling circus that eventually sold it to the University of Texas in Austin. The observatory was relocated to Agnes Scott College in Atlanta.



The lecture reflected on Granger's genealogy, features of the house, ownership and some legends and myths surrounding the home. Current and past owners, Dr. Don Evans and Don Evans, Jr with wives Connie and Francios were also present to answer questions. EVHS is grateful to Sue Carlton for making this topic a reality.

It is touted that Tex Owen who wrote "Cattle Call," sung by Eddie Arnold, once rented a room at the Granger home. For additional information on the Granger Home see a previous EVHS newsletter article published February 2000, pages 4 and 5. To access this issue visit the EVHS website and click on the "Get Involved" tab and then click Newsletter Archives link Vol.33, 2000.



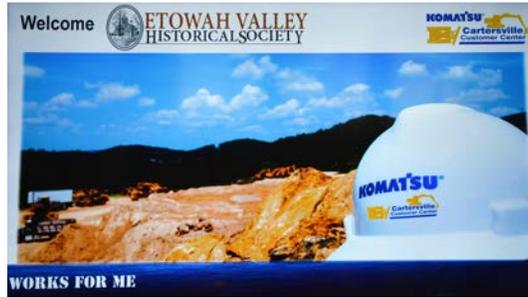
# Tunnel Mining Unearthed in Bartow County

With standing room only, EVHS added a new chapter to mining history at its March 5 lecture when it introduced the former practice of Tunnel Mining in Bartow County. Tunnel and bank cut mining were the origin of mining between 1840 and 1930. Stan Bearden and Joe Head teamed a joint presentation at forgotten tunnel mining industry

Stan Bearden reviewed the mining and how pioneers once located. His remarks and rare time long ago when Bartow was explained how modern mining and tunnels that have long been

Approximately 116 people attended the lecture that was open to the public. Attendees enjoyed a state of the art facility and generous hospitality from the Komatsu special events staff with EVHS also providing a tasty reception.

Joe Head introduced the topic and revealed that tunnel mining was the early origin and method that miners used for nearly a century. Joe spoke of his article on the subject and research that also revealed many tunnel mining tragedies during the golden era of Bartow mining. See the Bartow Author's Corner for the full article.



Stan Bearden and Joe Head tag Komatsu America that showcased a that once thrived in Bartow County. natural geology that inspired early recognized where ore deposits were photos were clear evidence of a dotted by tunnel mine activity. Stan continues to uncover mining shafts abandoned.



This is the "aka" Rev. Sam Jones Ochre Tunnel Mine.



# EVHS Goes Spelunking

On May 17, 18 and 19 EVHS explored the legendary Saltpeter Cave once again. Following our postponed October 2018 event, Joel spectacular caving than pleased attendees. the Rome, Georgia volunteers, EVHS members enjoyed only. Six tours were held tours were designed to 12 or more. This proved bonding experience with Family Friendly Events Participants departed and were shuttled to the EVHS spelunkers heard Joel Sneed, enjoyed refreshments, personally explored the chambers using ropes, gloves, flashlights and complimentary hard hats sponsored by Komatsu America. The tour took approximately 1:15 to complete.



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## C C **Four Straight Wins for Cass Middle**



EVHS hosted the fifth annual Bartow History Scholar Quiz Bowl on Sunday, May 5th at the Sam Jones United Memorial Methodist Church. For the fourth consecutive year Cass Middle took home first place honors. Adairsville Middle took second place with Cartersville taking home third. Approximately 150 attended the event. Officials commented that this competition was clearly the most competitive year of the event's five year history. Students came to play and were keenly responsive to questions. Following the event everyone enjoyed an ice cream reception. EVHS wishes to thank our Quiz Bowl Sponsors.



*Adairsville Middle School*



*Cass Middle School*



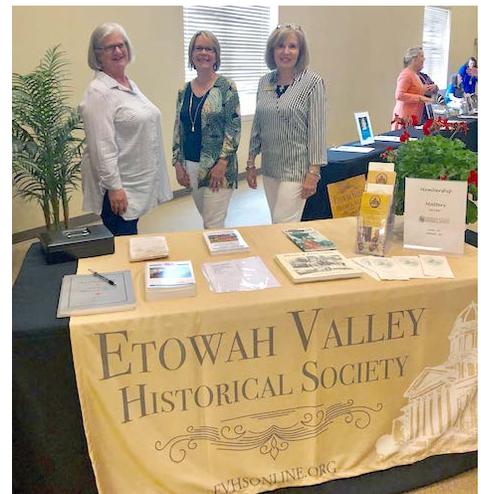
*Cartersville Middle School*



*Woodland Middle School*



*South Central Middle School*

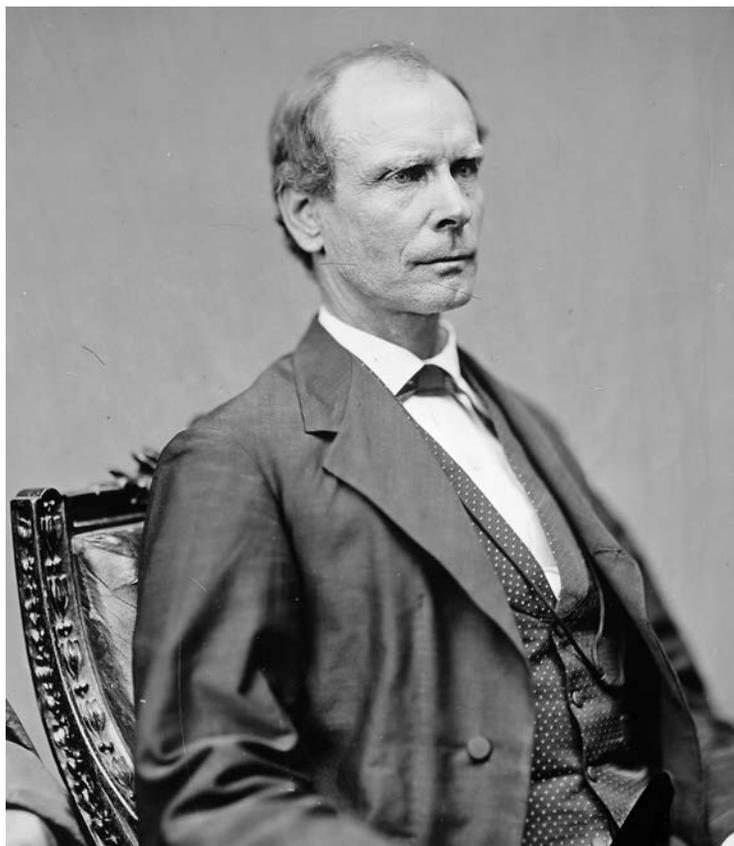


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## Amos T. Ackerman

### Champion of Justice and Equality

On March 28, 2019, Amos Tappan Akerman became the eighth influential citizen of Bartow County to be honored by the State of Georgia through the Georgia Historical Marker Program established in 1951. Mr. Akerman was well deserving of this memorial, not only as a man of national prominence but as a man of integrity, honesty, and a defender of human rights. His pro civil rights stance in the post-Civil War south has finally been recognized publically by the State and community he called home.



Amos was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on February 23, 1821. He began his education in the local school in Portsmouth before transferring to Phillip's Exeter Academy in 1836. Amos would then attend Dartmouth College and after graduating in 1842, moved to Murfreesboro, N. C., where he opened a school and taught for ten months. Within two years, he moved to Richmond County, Georgia to teach the children of John Whitehead and those of his brother. In 1845, John Berrien and his family visited the Whitehead home. Berrien was a former U. S. Senator from Georgia, a former Judge and a former U. S. Attorney General in President Andrew Jackson's cabinet. Berrien was so impressed with Amos that he persuaded Amos to move to Savannah in late 1846 to teach the Berrien children. John Berrien was a highly successful lawyer in Savannah and proved a qualified teacher for Amos Akerman, who began his study of the law under him. After about two years, Amos traveled to Peoria, Illinois where his sister Celia Rugg lived. For six months he studied in the law office of A. O. and Al L. Merriman. The frigid northern climate did not suit Amos, so he returned to the south, settling in Clarksville, Georgia. Amos purchased the summer home of John Berrien there

which he had visited often while in his employment and began farming while continuing to study law. On October 8, 1850, Amos petitioned Judge James Jackson of the Superior Court of the Western circuit of Georgia for the purpose of being allowed to practice law. After an examination, he was granted that authority.

In January of 1856, Amos moved to Elberton, Georgia where he would enter into partnership with Robert Hester. According to Amos, "In a short time the business of the firm became enough to employ all my time, and I have ever since led the life of a busy country lawyer". In the presidential election of 1860, won by Lincoln, Amos supported the Constitutional candidate, John Bell of Tennessee. Bell's views of conservatism, a vigorous defense of the Union, plus his opposition to expanding slavery into the new territories was very much like that of Amos Akerman. As the secessionist movement swept across the south, Akerman opposed Georgia's involvement. Amos wrote, "I reluctantly adhered to the Confederate cause. I was a Union man"..... "Viewing the Confederate government as practically established in the South, I gave it my allegiance though with great distrust of its peculiar principles". Amos did join Company H of the third Georgia Calvary of the State Guard as a private on August 22, 1863. He later served in the quartermaster department, being ordinance officer in the regiment of Colonel Robert Toombs. Captain Amos Akerman later became assistant quartermaster of the militia division of General Gustavas Smith. His military service ended at Augusta, Georgia in April, 1865, being furloughed indefinitely by Georgia Governor Joseph Emerson Brown. Following the War, Akerman was elected one of 166 delegates to Georgia's Constitutional Convention. Amos

would become one of the principal leaders of this convention which began on December 9, 1867 in Atlanta and continued until March, 1868. Later in 1868, Amos, as a Republican, became a Grant elector in the former General's first race for President. For his devotion to the victorious campaign, Grant appointed Akerman to the position of United States District Attorney for Georgia effective December, 1869. Amos's chief concern as District Attorney was violation of the Civil Rights act of 1866. He saw too often the rights of former slaves trampled on by many, including State government. Republicans, needing a strong southern voice in Washington, obtained the appointment of Akerman as Attorney General of the United States in June, 1870, a position recently vacated. His duties were expanded by Congress to include supervision of the newly formed Justice Department. Within the Department, Akerman created an investigative unit which was the forerunner of the FBI. Akerman was a firm believer in the law and was sworn to hold everyone in compliance, especially in the south where violence against former slaves was ever increasing. Klan activity in the south, especially in the Carolinas, resulted in new federal laws designed to enforce the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the U. S. Constitution. These Force Acts authorized the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, suppression of disturbance by force and heavy penalties on terrorist organizations. Amos Akerman found himself caught in a political inferno between Northerners who were growing tired of the whole Reconstruction issue and Southerners, many in his own party, who refused to accept total equality. However Amos did not waiver, continuing the fight. Over half the cases prosecuted by Akerman's lawyers were won. The end of his career as Attorney General came when the Pacific railroads became dissatisfied with a ruling he made in regard to a subsidy in public land, in which the Attorney General said their charter did not authorize. Massive political influence won out. At the request of Grant under heavy political pressure, Akerman resigned his post on January 10, 1872.

Akerman left Washington to join his family in Cartersville, where he had moved from Elberton some twelve months earlier in 1871, following a storm of controversy while still serving as U. S. Attorney General. Back in his hometown of Elberton, Georgia a local election was scheduled for December 20, 1870 which pitted a white Democrat against a former slave. Amos was so interested in the fairness of this election, he made a special trip from Washington in order to cast a ballot for the former slave. While home, he assembled a crowd of former slaves encouraging them to exercise their right to vote and attempted to lead them to the poles. His actions proved unpopular to a community inhabited by white people slow to change. Akerman's actions resulted in both he and his family becoming immediate outcasts in a community they considered home. Akerman soon reestablished his family's residence in Cartersville, home of his good friend and fellow attorney, Warren Akin. After leaving Washington, Akerman pursued his work as an attorney in Cartersville until his death on December 21, 1880 at the age of 59. Surviving were his wife of 16 years, Martha Rebecca Galloway Akerman, along with seven children ranging from a few months to 14 years. The three eldest were born in Elberton and the others in Cartersville. (For a more comprehensive article, see EVHS Newsletter Volume 24, 1997 or Bartow Authors Corner.)



Akerman marker located at 336 South Tennessee Street on the property of Archer and Lovell Law Firm and former site of Amos T. Akerman home.



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## Bartow Author's Corner

Readers will be interested to know that several more articles have been added to our Author's Corner.

### Freezer Lockers, Cooking Schools and Canning Plants

This work has discovered a period in Cartersville's history when Georgia Power introduced electricity to the community. It features research between 1900 through WWII when Cartersville saw the rise of modern conveniences. This period catered to housewives and women and was driven by the sale of electrical appliances via cooking schools, meat lockers and vegetable processing centers.

### Bartow Tunnel Mining Unearthed

Following the well attended lecture at Komatsu in February, the associated article has now been published on the topic. It includes detailed information about when Bartow practiced early Tunnel Mining methods. Photos, maps and diagrams are included to fully describe a forgotten period in Bartow mining heritage.

### Ascension Church's Beginnings: 1844 to 1907

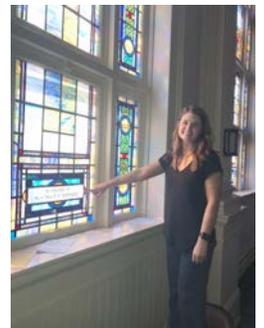
This work is a collaborative research among several church members to document the early founding of the journey of the Church of the Ascension.

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## Intern



Reinhardt University senior and Intern Paige Oglesby researches history of Sam Jones Methodist Church stained-glass windows. Some of Cartersville's most prominent families left a legacy to church and community. This work documents the families and images of each window that was dedicated to the church in 1945. Read the full article in the Bartow Author's Corner.



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## New Pioneers Celebrate

EVHS members attended an April event in honor of Arthur Carter who is the only surviving founding member of the organization. New Pioneers was founded in 1962 by eleven civic minded men for the purpose of the improvement of Bartow County. Its mission is to work for the betterment of all citizens of Bartow County, seek the election of the best qualified political candidates, work for the betterment of job opportunities for African- Americans and assist in the county-wide educational progress.

## EVHS Speaker's Bureau in Action



*Dianne Mooney and Guy Parmenter speak to the Cartersville Montessori middle school class on the Battle of Allatoona.*



*JB Tate speaks to the Bartow Leadership Class at Spring Bank.*



*Mary Norton speaks to Leadership Bartow at Valley View.*



*Joe Head leads Chamber's Bartow Leadership Class up Ladd's Mountain.*



*Joe Head presents the Great Locomotive Chase to Armuchee Middle School at LakePoint Station.*



*Joe Head speaks to Retired Men's Club about the age of Bartow Tunnel Mining.*



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## Dr. Donna Little Coffee Presents Pine Log Mountain

EVHS members joined an afternoon lecture at the Reinhardt University campus presented by Dr. Donna Little Coffee. Touted by the Dean's introduction as perhaps the largest turn out for a "Community Gathering Lecture," Dr. Coffee spoke about Pine Log Mountain history to approximately 80 attendees. Her topic addressed the regional history and pristine qualities of the mountain that rests between Bartow and Cherokee counties. Her remarks covered the Cherokee occupation and possible Trail of Tears routes, mining activity, CCC camps, lost town at Lake Arrowhead, Moonshine industry and forgotten Women authors of the area. This lecture was a preview of a grant recently received by Reinhardt to showcase the Pine Log region. EVHS is a partner in the project and will be bringing the program and exhibit to Cartersville within the next year.



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

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