

# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 98, April 2017

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## EVHS partners with Emerson's LakePoint Station to preserve Bartow history.



EVHS co-president Dianne Tate welcomes guests on Tuesday, March 7 to Emerson's LakePoint Station and the Bartow Iron Works Mining lecture. The event hosted a standing room crowd of over 100 attendees to learn about the former mining property now being occupied by LakePoint Sporting Community. Stan Bearden, David Archer, Bill Popham and Joe Head presented information about the mining heritage of the area revealing how the area was settled, key personalities, ores mined, location of the former Bartow Iron Works Furnace, railroad spurs and how it was once a company mining town. The former community of Bartow involved up to 2000 acres and saw multiple companies that once operated in the footprint of what is now the sporting community. Neal Freeman, founder of LakePoint updated the audience on the sporting development and coming features. Attendees enjoyed St. Angelo's pizza, beverages and Mogli Yogli yogurt. Joe Head updated how LakePoint Station partnered with EVHS to add an educational element to its entertainment attractions to teach and preserve Bartow history. *(Continued page 3)*





Etowah Valley Historical Society  
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Cartersville, Georgia 30120

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Website: [www.evhsonline.org](http://www.evhsonline.org)

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Upcoming Events for EVHS

**April 30, 2017** - Kingston Woman's History Club - 2:30 PM  
at the Kingston United Methodist Church to honor  
Soldiers of the Civil War. The Woman's Club was the  
inspiration for what is now celebrated as Memorial Day

**May 7, 2017** – Bartow History Scholar Middle School Quiz  
Bowl, held at 2:00 PM at Sam Jones Celebration Hall  
Family Life Center

**June 3, 2017** – Corra Harris Program Saturday at 6:00 PM at  
the Rydal property home. Bring your own chair.  
(Members only)

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

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

More events are being scheduled for 2017. 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

## 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

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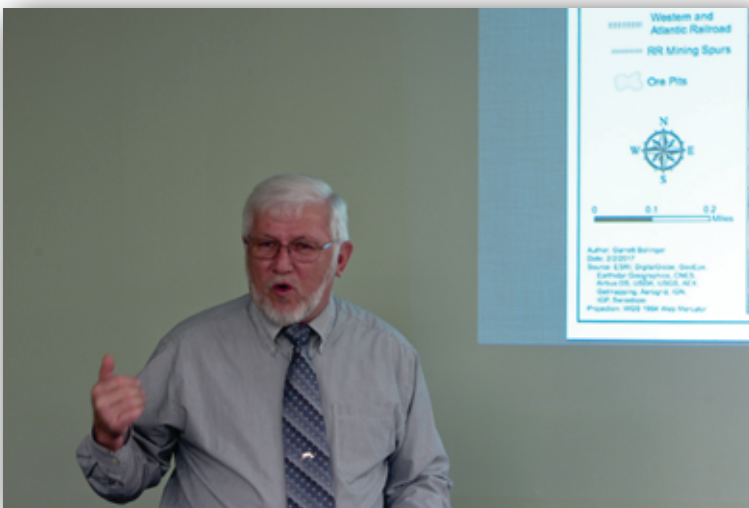
*Website*  
Co-Chaired by  
Joanne Smith Pugh  
Joe Head  
Larry Posey



In the past five years EVHS has made a concerted effort to develop ways to preserve Bartow history while appealing to our youth. Examples include our award winning middle school Bartow History Scholar Program, History Quiz Bowl and the Family Friendly Field Trip Series.

The most recent addition has been the collaboration between LakePoint Station and EVHS. Neal Freeman, LakePoint Sports founder invited EVHS to become a player in adding an educational feature by including Bartow history factoids and images within entertainment attractions at the Station. These features permit EVHS to showcase history as both entertainment and educational content designed to highlight our county history with value added “kid-friendly” appeal. Each factoid plaque and mounted photo sports the EVHS logo in the lower corner of each frame.

Attractions are themed according to Bartow Railroad facts and Mining facts. Miner Jim, namesake for Jim Dellinger, tells the mining story and Track Facts are factoids about Bartow railroads delivered by Locomotive Lizzie.



*Bill Popham shares Emerson history regarding local stories and the successful relocation of the Stegall family cemetery.*



*David Archer discusses how the mining property was transferred and eventually sold to LakePoint officials in the midst of entangled circumstances.*

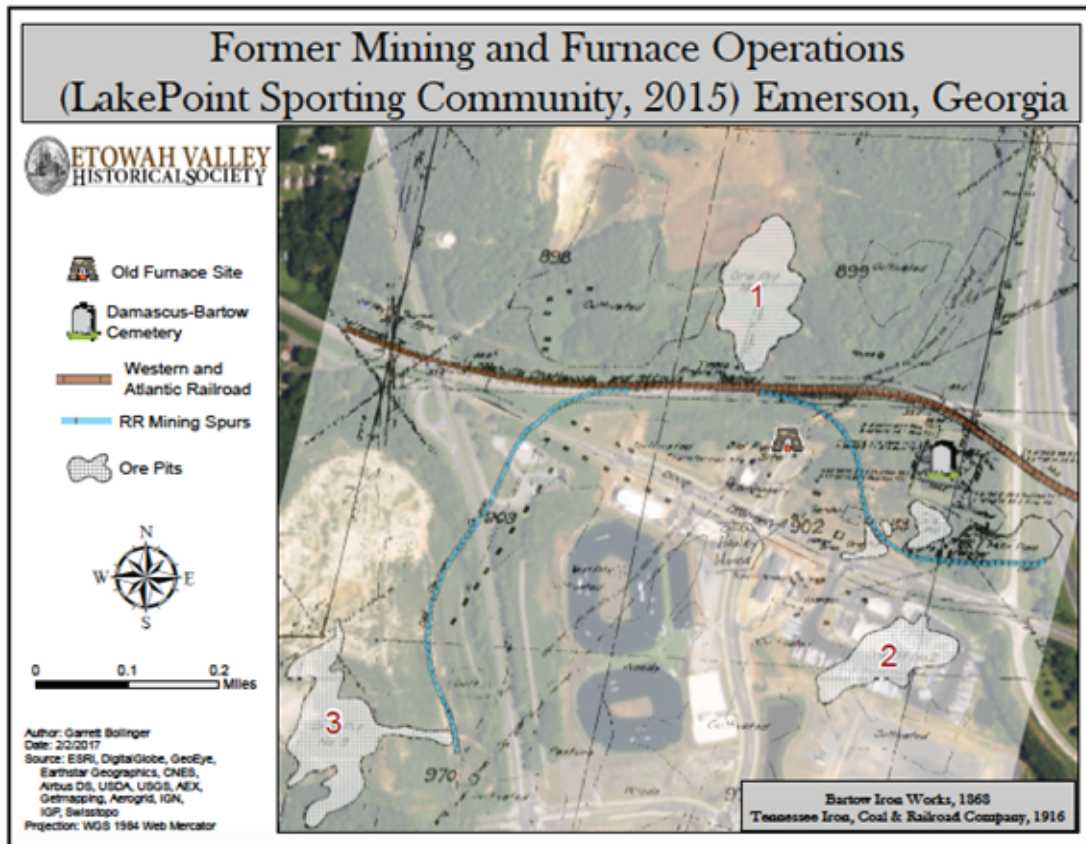


*LakePoint Station staff (L/R) Aaron Hooven, Seth Curlee and Savannah Ajaeb display signage, factoids and photos to be used among entertainment activities provided by the Etowah Valley Historical Society. Each factoid and image features the EVHS logo.*

*Richard Walters, LakePoint Station Manager discusses historic Bartow photos now on display with Robert Gilfillan Manager of Miner's Mountain. Some thirty historic photos are being mounted at the LakePoint Station facility. This photo display and Putt Putt factoids are a joint effort between EVHS and LakePoint Station to promote Bartow history.*



Dianne Tate presents KSU intern, Staci Lusk and New Riverside Ochre Manager, Stan Bearden a copy of Staci's project, "Bartow's Mining Legacy." This work contains a special tribute to 101 years of NRO Mining and a rare interview with Mr. Jim Dellinger. The work contains a list of up to 300 known mining operations that once operated in Bartow County between 1830's and 1960's.



The above is a 1916 map of the former Bartow Iron Works mining operation with a 2015 Google satellite overlay. This image illustrates how LakePoint Sports has evolved over the former mining property. Among others, points of interests include the former iron furnace location, mining pits 1, 2 and 3, Stegall Family Cemetery, ore cart tipples and RR ore spurs. Many thanks to EVHS member, Bill Popham for discovering the old map and to former KSU intern Robert Bollinger for developing and upgrading the overlay illustration.

## Bartow Author's Corner

The Bartow Author's Corner continues to attract impressive articles from local writers and others who wish to contribute fresh works to our collection. Several recent articles are scheduled to be uploaded before June. One of the new articles featured in this newsletter is entitled "The Dress" by Lisa Russell in which she tells the story of our own Rebecca Felton who inspired the story of Scarlett O'Hara's curtain dress in *Gone With The Wind*. Also new on the website find Sam Graham's special article on Oakland, the former Birdwood home of Simpson Fouche, where he operated a classical school.



## Corra Harris Lecture



Mark your calendar to attend the June 3 lecture and tour at the historic Corra Harris home at 659 Mount Pleasant Road, Rydal, GA 30171. KSU intern Jordan Gentry will lecture on a collection of never before examined personal letters written by Corra Harris to a personal friend in Cartersville. Bring your own chair. Registration online is required. (Members only)

# EVHS LADD'S M



*Back by popular demand, EVHS sponsored a second bike and lecture to the top of Ladd's Mountain on Saturday March 4. Archaeologist Scot Keith with New South Associates shared facts about the mountain and all learned how it related to the near by Leake Mounds site on Hwy 113. Approximately 65 members made the trek up the mountain and enjoyed a beautiful day, a fantastic view and learned about the ancient Native Americans who once lived in the area.*



*Patrick Nelson shows his son Colin the view from atop Ladd's*

# MOUNTAIN HIKE



*Scot Keith addresses hikers about the oval rock walls that once stood on top of Ladd's Mountain. These walls along with the Leake Mounds were dismantled in the 1930's and used as road fill to build Highway 113.*

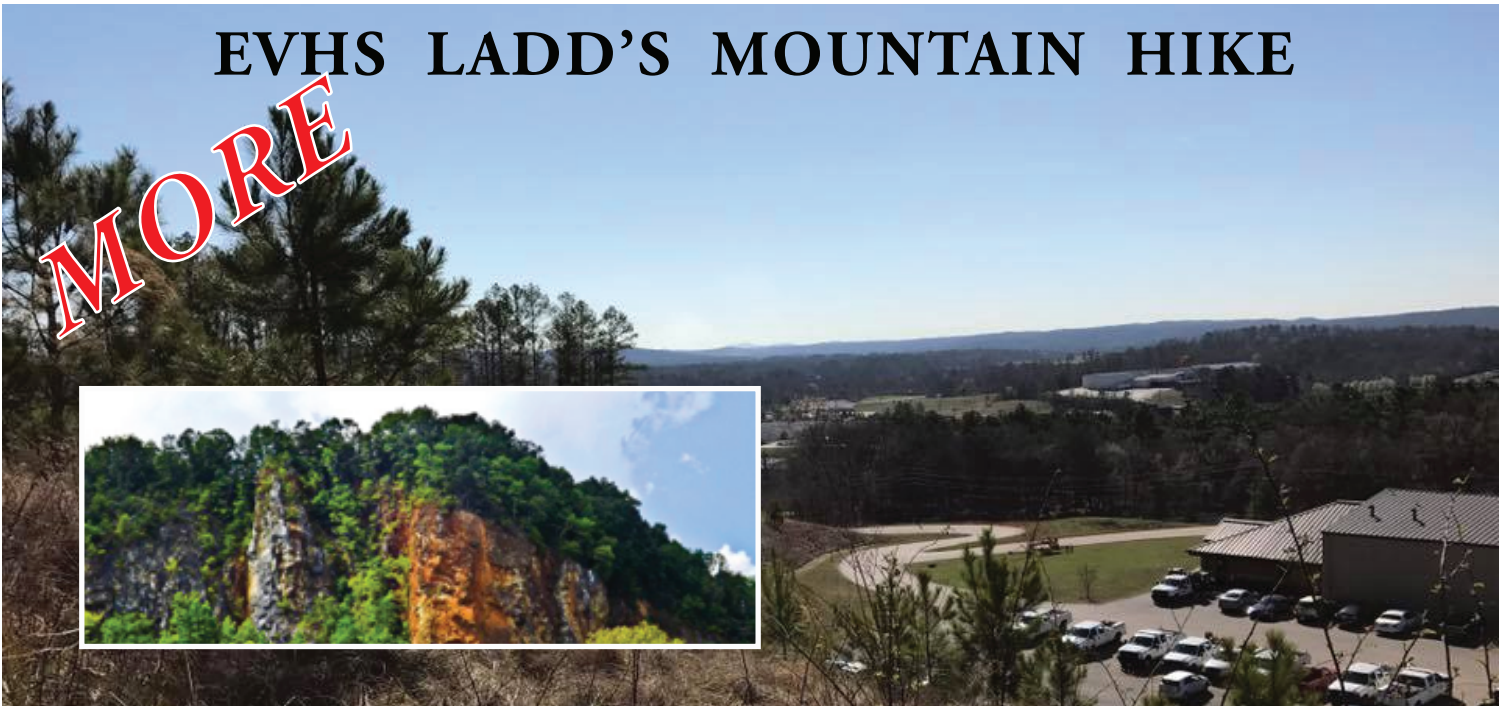


*EVHS very much appreciated having our Bartow EMS team Paramedic Chris Fergerson and AMET Jamie Peloquin present with their mountain rescue gator to ensure our safety.*

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# EVHS LADD'S MOUNTAIN HIKE

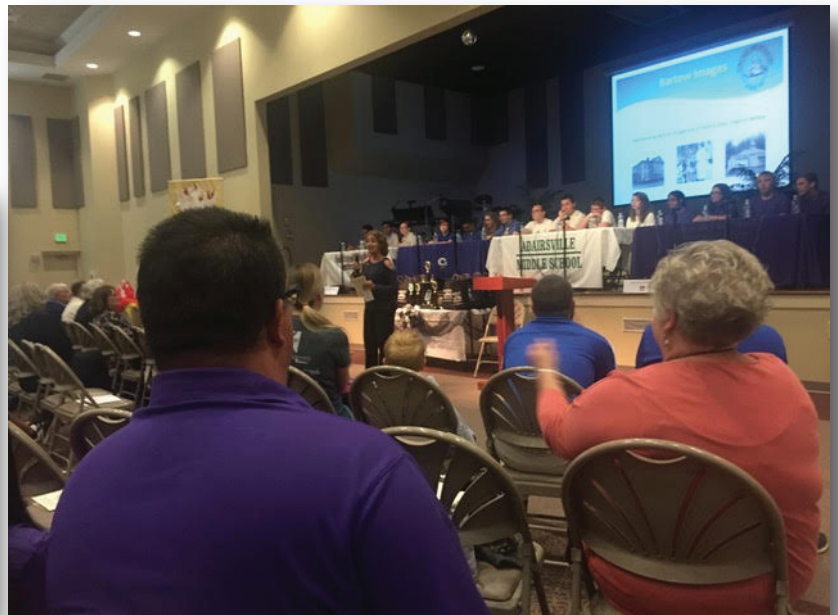
**MORE**



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## Quiz Bowl Time!

EVHS reminds members to attend the annual Middle School History Quiz Bowl on Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 in the Sam Jones Methodist Church Celebration Hall Family Life Center.





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# The Dress

Lisa M. Russell

March 28, 2017

In honor of Women's History Month and the women of Bartow County, GA

Rebecca Latimer Felton was sworn in as the first female U.S. Senator on November 21, 1922, only twenty-seven months after the 19th Amendment, which gave her the right to vote, was passed. Felton, appointed by a politically motivated governor, served only two days in the Senate. However, her political career began 40 years earlier. Mrs. William H. Felton was her husband's congressional assistant, drafting bills and writing his speeches. She gave speeches for the women's vote, prison reform and temperance. Since she often made trips to Atlanta from her Northwest Georgia home, Rebecca felt she needed a new dress. So she made one.

Today, many of Senator Felton's belongings, including "The Dress," are housed at Roselawn Museum in her hometown of Cartersville, Georgia. Roselawn Museum Director Jane Drew says that we may never know the real reason Rebecca Felton made her dress, "But I am so glad she did!" The actual dress made by Rebecca around the turn of the century is glass-protected. A sign posted above its case best tells the story of the dress:

In desperation of what to wear (still typical of women today) and not having time for a trip to Atlanta, she took her curtains from the window and dyed them black. She then made the dress, added the lace ribbons and fringed tassels, turning it into this lovely creation. It is all handmade, which she wore over a full black taffeta petticoat.

Writers often find inspiration in the lives of family, friends and even strangers to create unforgettable characters. In *Gone with the Wind*, Margaret Mitchell had Scarlett O'Hara turn green velvet curtains into a dress to impress Rhett Butler. The sign above Felton's curtain creation concludes:

This dress was the inspiration for one of her best friends, Margaret Mitchell, when writing *Gone with the Wind*. It has been told that Scarlett O'Hara was patterned after Rebecca Felton.

Mitchell's characters are her own creations, but the similarities between O'Hara and Felton are undeniable. Mitchell, a young reporter for The Atlanta Journal, would have known Rebecca Felton, since Mitchell was 22 years old when Felton was sworn in as the first female senator. Rebecca was certainly a role model for Mitchell, and possibly a friend.

In her book *Scarlett Rules: When Life Gives You Green Velvet Curtains, Make a Green Velvet Dress*, Lisa Bertagnoli asks, "What is it about curtains and strong women?" In *More than Petticoats: Remarkable Georgia Women*, Sara Hines Martin says that Rebecca was warned to "avoid collisions.... She went for it headlong and full force...[and] ruffled many feathers with her aggressive behavior." I can almost hear Mammy warning Scarlett, "It just ain't right Ms. Scarlett!" as she forced her way into the business world and into the hearts of taken men.

When a young Margaret Mitchell wanted to quit school, her mother dragged her to crumbling plantations and said, "It's happened before and it will happen again. And when it does happen, everyone loses everything and everyone is equal. They all start again with nothing at all except the cunning of their brain and the strength of their hands."

Later, when asked about the theme of *Gone with the Wind*, Mitchell said, "What makes some people able to come through catastrophes and others, apparently just as able, strong and brave, go under? I only know that survivors used to call that quality 'gumption.' So I wrote about the people who had gumption and the people who did not." When Rebecca Felton returned to her war-ravaged home in 1865, sick, hungry and poor, she declared, "I will never be poor again!" Sounds like movie dialogue. (Continued page 10)

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Today, Scarlett O'Hara is better known than Rebecca Felton. History somehow overlooked Felton and her significant role in Georgia's history. A. Louise Staman, award-winning author of *Loosening Corsets: The Heroic Life of Georgia's Feisty Mrs. Felton, First Woman Senator of the United States* (Tiger Iron Press, 2006), relates how she met Mrs. Felton: I was working in the archives of the University of Georgia when I found an old picture of an ancient woman, dressed to the nines, staring straight at me – almost as if to say, 'I dare you to discover my story.' All I had was a name, Rebecca Latimer Felton. What I discovered was one of the most remarkable women in American history, and a story so turbulent and filled with drama, it seemed like fiction.

The story of Rebecca Felton is kept alive by historians and authors who celebrate her incredible memory. Like so many of the influential women in history, her story is seldom told. However, her influence in great works of art is alive and well, and her tale continues to be told by a most unusual medium: her beautiful curtain dress.

Note: Did you know that while other states have elected women senators to congress, there has never been another woman to be elected in Georgia to the US Senate?

#### Bibliography

Bertagnoli, Lisa. "Scarlett." In *Scarlett Rules: When Life Gives You Green Velvet Curtains, Make a Green Velvet Dress*. New York: Villard Books, 2013.

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Martin, Sara Hines. *Georgia's Remarkable Women: Daughters, Wives, Sisters, and Mothers Who Shaped History*. Globe Pequot Press, 2002.

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Staman, A. Louise. *Loosening Corsets: The Heroic Life of Georgia's Feisty Mrs. Felton, First Woman Senator of the United States*. Macon: Tiger Iron Press, 2006.





*In appreciation, EVHS Board Officers Dianne Tate and Joe Head present Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor with a framed print of Everett Julio's painting of Lee and Jackson, entitled, "The Last Meeting."*

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## Restoration of the First National Bank



*Above left is a July 2016 photo of the First National Bank on west Main and Erwin Streets and a current April 2017 contrast photo as restoration continues. A great deal of thanks goes to Ron Goss for his leadership in restoring this grand old lady. Plans include a private residence on the second floor with retail space on street level.*

# Volunteers are our Core



L/R, Linda Cochran, Jeff Williams, Ellen Lussier, Carolyn Bowen, Melissa Gay, Volunteer Coordinator Annette Crockrill and Laurrette Smith.

*EVHS thrives on being a volunteer organization. We wish to express thanks to our office volunteers who are the backbone for keeping the office staffed Tuesday - Friday afternoons. Beginning this past January the office is now open each Thursday from 1:30 - 4:30. We encourage members to volunteer for any number of activities or projects. EVHS needs volunteer managers for all of our endeavors ranging from Tour of Homes and Quiz Bowl to Newsletter, website, field events and more. Call the office at 770 606 8862 or visit the website to fill out the online volunteer form.*



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### Inside...

- EVHS partners with Lakepoint Station - page 1
- Upcoming Events - page 2
- Bartow Iron Works - page 4
- EVHS Ladd's Mountain Hike - page 6
- More EVHS Ladd's Mountain Hike - page 8
- History Quiz Bowl - page 8
- Bartow History Authors - page 8
- The Dress - page 9
- "The Last Meeting" Presentation - Page 11
- Restoration of the First National Bank - Page 11

### 3rd Annual History Quiz Bowl Sunday May 7

