



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 106, October 2019

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## Parks Allatoona

Michael Bearden

*This article is an update on a conservation initiative that EVHS member Mike Bearden has been working on for many years. The objective of the project is intended to link a network of wilderness trails that will preserve the environment, feature historic sites and improve the quality of nature awareness. The project has recently received endorsement of several local civic organizations, Bartow County Government and sponsorship of the Lake Allatoona Association.*

“Parks Allatoona:” Bartow County has a distinctly unique opportunity to create a regionally significant conservation park. The footprint concept would provide ready access to impressive environmental features, a long-forgotten wilderness setting and its historical story...by way of a newly established linked recreation trail system.

The mission of the proposed Parks Allatoona concept is to provide improved Bartow County quality of life and environmental awareness through easy access to a significant wilderness corridor for “nature bathing” and historical learning experiences. The means for this vision will be to open up access to primarily undeveloped federally owned properties. The most important aspect of the concept is that it



*Stamp Creek*



*Stamp Creek*

would capitalize on the extensive publically owned mountainous and wilderness stream corridor that exists within our midst from I-75 east almost to the Cherokee County line. Public access points would be from Wilderness Camp Road, Mckaskey Creek Road, SR 20 Spur Road, Bartow Beach Road, SR 20, and Stamp Creek Road. The resulting Parks Allatoona would be a beautiful 6500+ acre natural corridor stretching north and east from the City of Cartersville's Pine Mountain Recreation Area, to nearby Bartow County's Gatewood Park, then along the lake's north shoreline to bypass Mckaskey creek campground, to reach Bartow County's Wilderness Shoals property, then north within Stamp Creek's rushing stream corridor.

The envisioned concept would feature oftentimes challenging terrain within the Blue Ridge Mountains encompassing the Allatoona Mountain Range, miles of picturesque Lake Allatoona shorelines, the pristine Stamp Creek trout stream corridor, and an impressive concentration of long-forgotten Historical Sites and Ruins. This footprint includes vistas overlooking the once thriving town of Etowah, Stroup and Lewis Ore Furnaces locations, and the ruins of the long ago abandoned

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Upcoming Events for EVHS

**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

**February 6, 2020** – *Sound of Africa Program* - The African-American History Initiative Committee of EVHS will host a choir performance at the First Presbyterian Church, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, to celebrate the historical musical contributions of our African-American ancestors. Tickets will be \$10.00. Registration site will be open soon so look for information.

**March, 2020 TBA** – *Ladd's Mountain Hike*

**June 18, 2020** – *Train Wrecks of Bartow County*, Cartersville Library  
6:00 PM

**October, 2020 TBA** – *Annual Dinner*

**December, 2020 TBA** – *Christmas Dinner*

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.evhsnline.org/membership](http://www.evhsnline.org/membership)

## In Memory Of

Larry Pritchard

Paul Luttner

Susan Alexander

Victor Mulnix

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Jones Wagon Factory. Parks Allatoona would incorporate, a network of 50+ miles of trails providing easy and convenient public access for multiple nature hikes ranging from 1 to 7 mile segments. These trail segments would link 20 targeted focal points within its boundary; this almost wildernessfeeling area is, according to the State EPD, at the edge of an area



*Iron Furnace at Allatoona*

“known as one of the richest centers of biodiversity in the eastern United States”, ...within the southern reaches of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

- Eight existing public Lakeside Recreation and Public Use Sites located along the lake’s north shore, surrounded by the southernmost reach of the Appalachian Blue Ridge Mountains.
- Six different and inaccessible natural significant areas, including Scenic Stamp Creek - an unspoiled trout stream, the whitewater scenery of Wilderness Shoals, Pine Mountain and its spectacular overlook, and several enchanting lake boundary Creek Inflow Meadows.
- At least six significant wilderness setting Historical Frontier Sites where the County’s sustainable industrial economy was birthed in the 1830's - thriving into the 1860's.

The proposed formative Parks Allatoona management structure for the “branding” of Parks Allatoona is a collaborative joint venture led by Bartow County and to include the Corps of Engineers, city/county administration/management, GA DNR facilitation, and Lake Allatoona Association and other engaged local private non-profit community volunteer support.

Commissioner Steve Taylor, County Administrator Peter Olsen and scores of supportive local citizens have heartily endorsed the concept as mapped in the adjoining sketch. Some time ago, the Commissioner, on behalf of the County’s Greenspace Committee formally presented the concept plan to the US Corps of Engineers for their consideration/approval. Your active support and involvement in this exciting proposal is welcomed and needed to move it to a Bartow County reality; stay tuned!

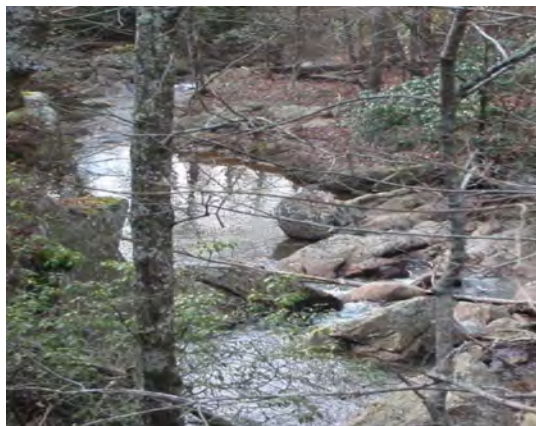


*Stamp Creek*

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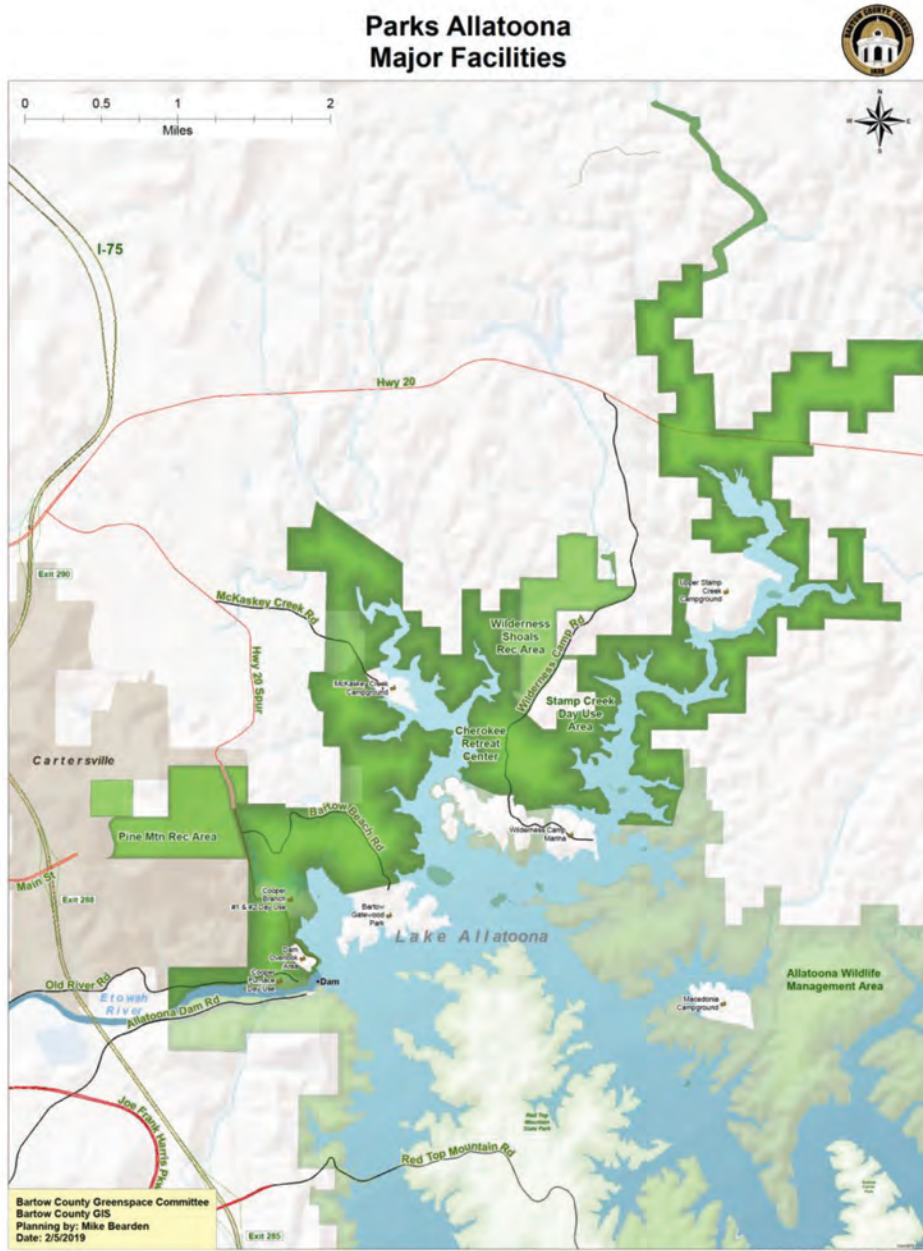
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Stamp Creek



### *Etowah Village*



*Jones Buggy Factory*



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# Tinsley Park

Guy Parmenter

## Cartersville's First Park and Golf Course

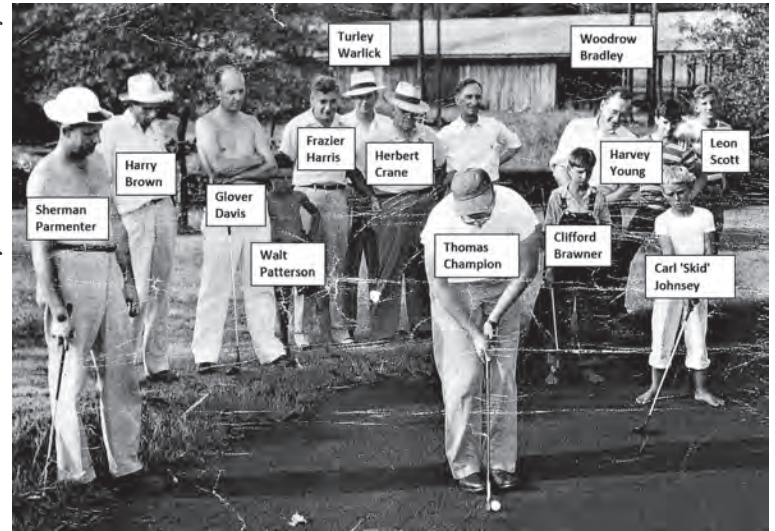
*The following article was published in The Tribune-News, June 27, 1929, under the title "Local Golf Course Has Important and Noticeable Niche in Sportdom". As wheels of progress turned their cycles towards greater industry and business for Cartersville and Bartow County, they made an extra revelation in order that sports and recreation might be included in the assets of which this section is justly proud. Bitten by the "golf bug" that seems to have been rampant in the nation a few years ago, a number of Cartersville enthusiasts in 1925 combined to form the Cartersville Golf Club which started off with 20 charter members. Since established the club has risen to be one of the most popular organizations in the vicinity and now ranks on par with all other civic groups of the community. In 1925 there was no course in*

*"Cartersville, but the club members, determined to have one, secured the loan of propriety from the city and developed it. Nine holes were completed that year, but the roughs and greens were almost inseparable and alike. However, Rome was not built in a day and neither was a golf course. As time passed, the members sought to improve the course that had been so ably designed by H. R. Womelsdorf. No change has been made in his plan, but from time to time the course has been so improved that it has been claimed by many to be one of the best in North Georgia. Fuzzy Woodruff, sports writer for the Atlanta Journal, after a pleasant round in which he swung not so many times, pronounced his opinion that the course was splendid.*

*Today [1929] the nine hole course covers 30 acres and has a par of 34, which has been broken several times, notably by L. O. Bishop, the club champ and A. G. White, Jr., both of whom have journeyed around in 32. The club now has 60 members. It is distinctive that the local course has been honored with three holes in one all of which to the layman is nothing but so much Chinese. But to the follower of the little white sphere, it is but his highest ambition and to the club it's a thing that comes but once in a lifetime and to the skilled wearer of the knickers and sox it's nothing more than a pleasant mishap caused by the hand of kind fate. J. H. Calhoun was first president of the club. He was followed by O. T. Peebles and W. J. Weinman who now heads the organization. T. J. Champion is a director and one of the outstanding members, having been partly responsible for the great progress made. END of TRIBUNE-NEWS ARTICLE.*

Now in the current year of 2019 more to this story is known and able to be shared. Across Tennessee Street, a house which is now the law firm of Archer & Lovell, overlooked the golf course and was owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Washington Brooke. Mrs. Brooke was the former Emily Jones, sister of Robert Purmedus Jones, father of Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, the most famous golfer of his time. Bobby visited his aunt on occasion, however he never found time to play the Cartersville course. He did encourage his aunt to learn the game and even left a complete set of his old clubs for her use, however, she never took up the game. A group of local golfers including Milton Fleetwood, publisher of the local paper, and Mr. and Mrs. Brooke attended an exhibition round of golf played by Bobby Jones in Canton. They hoped he would come to Cartersville and do the same, but unfortunately his time did not allow it.

The 1925 Cartersville Course was built on land occupied by the newly formed Bartow County Fair Association in 1914 which was south of Cartersville, bordered by South Erwin Street to the west, Cook Street to the north, Tennessee Street and the Railroad to the east and Old Mill Road to the south. Since 1869, the Fair had previously been located on 40 acres owned by the City of Cartersville north of town along the west side of Cassville Road from the Railroad to Pettit's Creek (site now occupied by Self Recycling). The Bartow County Fair moved to its new and current



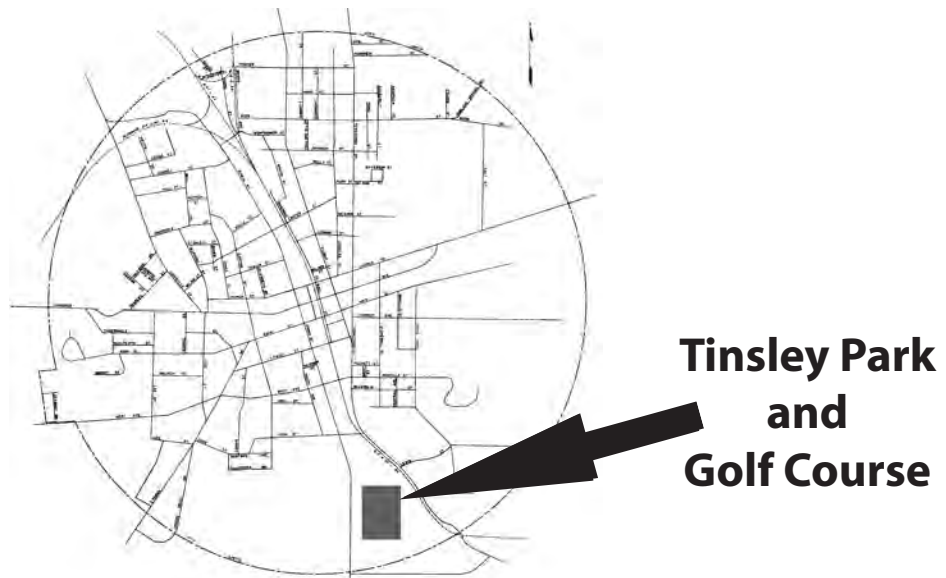


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home in Cartersville during the fall of 1948 surrounding the newly erected American Legion House and Memorial facing Martin Luther King Drive, formerly Moon Street. Originally the Legion used the site occupied now by the Market Square Shopping Center (Hobby Lobby and Big Lots) for the Fairgrounds up until 1972. Since that development, the Fair uses their remaining grounds for the annual Fair.

Cartersville High football, established in 1909, played at first on Jones Field to the west side of the old High School (formerly Sam Jones Female College fronting Cherokee Avenue/Field now paved over). Play was moved to the Fairgrounds in 1914, though no permanent stadium was ever built as the site was of multi-purpose use. The Cartersville City Council did approved seating for 500 in 1948 after the announcement of the Fair's move, however, several citizens of the time did not remember any permanent seating. Cartersville High football moved to its current home on East Church Street in 1955, bordering the new high school whose doors opened in 1952. The new stadium was named for Andy Weinman, former Cartersville coach and one of its largest supporters.

The Fairgrounds became Cartersville's Municipal Park in 1920, named for T. W. Tinsley, Fair Association President who became Mayor two years later. A swimming pool followed in 1923 and the golf course in 1925. A baseball field and tennis courts were added in time. Certain citizens worked with The City of Cartersville and Chamber to expand its industrial base around 1950 and the old Fair Grounds were selected as a future industrial park. The Fair was now gone and the Golf Course was behind the times with its design and sand greens. Its tees and greens were arranged around the parks perimeter with fairways crossing in the middle which created a pedestrian obstacle especially when other activities were taking place. For those who are uneducated on the subject of sand greens, golfers putt on sand rather than grass. These were quite common in the old days as modern golf course science was in its infancy. The sand was oiled to provide a consistent putting service and to prevent weeds and erosion, however play required the use of a strait edged rake to provide a smooth surface on which to putt. The golf course, pool and tennis courts by most accounts were abandoned when the land was offered for development. Golfers in particular began playing in other surrounding communities such as Rome, Rockmart and Cave Springs. Football continued up to 1955. Tennis courts, pool and the baseball field were later moved to the land surrounding the new Cartersville High School. With the development of Dellinger Park in 1976, a new home was found for the tennis courts and pool and since that time Cartersville has steadily moved forward with recreational facilities in numerous locations to meet the needs of a growing population. The old baseball field at the high school was moved to the sports complex on Sugar Valley Road not too many years ago. The City's industrial plan paid off in 1954 with the commitment of Cartersville Undergarment as its first industry in the new industrial park. Golf did return to Cartersville in 1954 with the founding of the Cartersville Country Club. Next was Green Valley Greens, a privately owned public play course in 1969. Last was the City owned Golf Course "Royal Oaks" in 1971 which is now known as Woodland Hills and privately owned for use by both members and the public. Tinsley Park and the old Fairgrounds are now just a memory which is fading away with time. However it once brought so much joy to a growing community.





# Annual Dinner



EVHS celebrated its annual membership dinner meeting October 11 at Grand Oaks with a capacity attendance of 80 attending the banquet.

Co-presidents Joanne Pugh Smith and Dianne Tate updated the membership with a number of remarks regarding a record year of activities. Mentions included the number of visits (over 23,000) to our website, a review of programs, field trips and an overview of our budget standing. As a result of increased activities the membership was informed that the Board is recommending a change to the by-laws to increase the number of members to the Board beginning October 2020. Appreciation was extended to volunteers and new members.



Our County Commissioner Steve Taylor was invited to address the membership. He complemented the Society on its growth, programming and vitality to county preservation. Joe Head recognized Mr. Blake Fallin, Cass Middle School Quiz Bowl Coach for winning the event for four consecutive years.

Members enjoyed a delicious dinner of southern fare from pork loin, squash casserole and green beans to banana pudding and chocolate cake all prepared by Ray Thacker and the staff of Grand Oaks.





## EVHS Learns about Tilley Mill History

Once abundant in Bartow County were a dozen grist mills that dotted farming communities. Sites such as Jones Mill, Lowery Mill, Woolley Mill, Gaines Mill and others are now only a faint memory with fading evidence of a rural industry that is at risk of being fully forgotten. This program served as a reminder of one such mill and reflected upon those days of water wheels, turbines, dams, grinding stones and families who once operated these early centers of grain processing.

On Sunday, September 15, approximately 90 EVHS members visited the historic Tilley Mill (formerly Auchmutey Mill) property located near Plant Bowen. The former grist mill ruins are located on Euharlee Creek and are now owned by Joe and Betty Jane Tilley. All enjoyed walking among the shade trees, along the creek bank and learning about the historic bridge site where General Sherman crossed with 111,000 Union troops.

Members feasted on a steak dinner catered by Dot Beavers followed by a variety of delicious home made deserts crafted by EVHS member Barbara Autry. Bluegrass and country music was provided by James Satterfield. Following dinner all enjoyed a lecture about the history of Georgia BBQ presented by Jim Auchmutey whose ancestors once owned the mill property. Betty Jane Tilley closed the program with remarks about the legacy of the property and its Civil War history.





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## Battle of Allatoona Pass Remembered



*Diane Mooney Fires Cannon*

Once again the Army Corp of Engineers, Red Top Mountain State Park Rangers, Friends of Red Top and Etowah Valley Historical Society jointly sponsored the annual Allatoona Pass Remembrance event. On October 5, 1864 Union and Confederate troops engaged in a bloody struggle for control of the W&A RR pass. Over 1500 casualties were suffered on both sides. The Georgia Division of Re-enactors staged drills, pitched camp and demonstrated cannon fire for approximately 300 attendees on Saturday October 5. EVHS extends a big thank you for all those who helped make this event possible and to remember horrors that war can bring.





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# Ascension's Birth: First Third of Life

Peggy Brown, Senior Warden

On Ascension Day of the church calendar, a breezy evening late in May, the tiny gray church with the red doors kicked off its 175th birthday celebration. Considering its humble beginnings, to have survived for this long may be a miracle.



Today the Episcopal Church of the Ascension is located on West Cherokee Avenue in Cartersville, but it began on the Etowah River. Following close behind the Native American removal and Anglican evangelism in the colonies, first Episcopal Bishop of Georgia Stephen Elliott traveled in 1844 to the Etowah to visit his friend William Henry Stiles. Savannah native, Congressman, and Ambassador to Austria, Stiles and other friends of the church encouraged Elliott to form a parish “in this most interesting country.” By June of 1845, the bishop consecrated a church near Valley View plantation and a parsonage and school on forty acres across Euharlee Road.

## Tough Times

“The 1844 church was serviced by a circuit rider ministry and subject to conditions of the time, weather and transportation as examples,” businessman and third-generation Ascensionite Guy Parmenter explains. Considering the difficulty, new settlers didn’t travel much. Stiles descendant Frederick Knight said, “The Stiles family were very devout Episcopalians and led Morning Prayer and perhaps Evening Prayer every day in their households. But they didn’t go into town often like we do.” Church attendance would likely have been affected as well.

Ascension’s rector—when one was available--often served up to four mission churches from those in Kingston, Cassville, Cartersville, Cedartown, Cave Spring, Dalton, Rome, and Calhoun. From that list, missions in Kingston, Cassville, and Cave Spring no longer exist. Both the Civil War - which devastated the mission in Cassville - and Reconstruction provided obstacles for the entire population, but especially for mission churches hanging on by a thread. Kingston’s mission was listed as dormant by 1907, and Cave Spring’s by 1938.

## Hanging in There

Ascension, however, has survived into the twenty-first century. What helped the small church endure? Partly it was the support of community leaders migrating from Savannah and elsewhere. Among others, William Henry Stiles, W.H. Stiles, Jr., his son W.H. Stiles, III, as well as his son Robert Mackay Stiles, and his daughter Margaret Stiles Knight were church leaders throughout the late 1800s, 1900s, and 2000s. And Parmenter said that his parents and grandparents, who came in 1929, “contributed heavily both in time and money to the betterment of Ascension.”

Ascension also survived sporadic clergy leadership by having the liturgy itself. Referred to by some as ritual, liturgy is the group response to and participation in the sacred, from the Greek word *liturgia* meaning the people’s work for the common good. According to the Very Reverend Mary K. Erickson, rector since 2010, liturgy is key to emphasizing “the role of the people over and above the role of the clergy. It is important to have an ordained person, but regardless . . . it is the com-



**William Henry Stiles**  
Public Servant  
and Diplomant



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munity that gathers that really matters.”

## Community Support and Growth

Another factor that helped the church survive is flexibility. In the early 1870’s, the congregation relocated to the growing town of Cartersville. They chose a “Carpenter Country Gothic” design for the building, but finances—difficult for many during Reconstruction--plagued the building project, halting construction during 1873. Nevertheless, the community of Cartersville supported Ascension with a December 1873 fundraiser, advertised in the newspaper thusly: “The Episcopal church ought to be finished. It will be an ornament to the city.” With financial help from near and far, the building was completed and consecrated in 1874. The historic sanctuary still houses the congregation today. According to Knight, “I don’t know anybody who doesn’t love that church.”



Though the church struggled, it often prospered with changes and growth intermittently through the late 1800s. The Rev. George E. Benedict in 1892 reported 17 families and 79 individual members as well as updates of gas lights and aisle carpet. Under Rev. F.W. Ambler—also of St. Andrews in Kingston--the church built a rectory in 1900, located directly behind the church in the current parking lot.

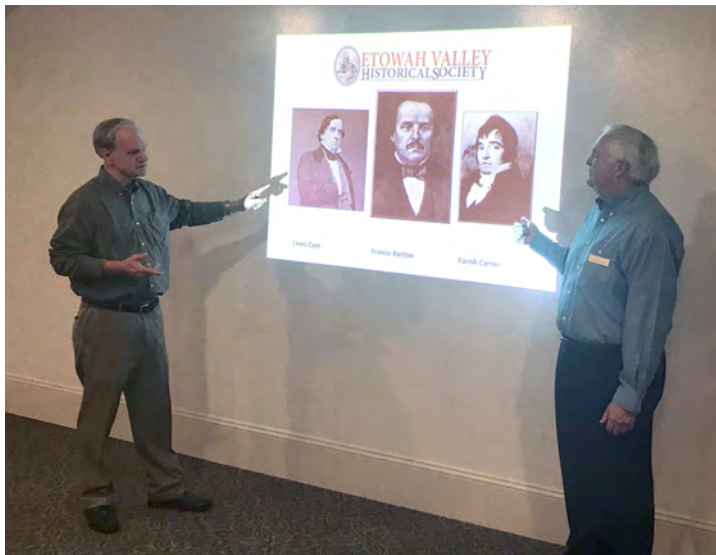
From 1868 till 1890, the Diocese of Georgia observed growth from 31 churches to 53 churches and chapels, with five missions added, according to diocesan records. By 1892 discussion began for dividing the diocese for better oversight. This finally occurred in 1907, with the creation of the Diocese of Atlanta, which spans from Columbus and Macon north, including Ascension in its territory.

From the vantage point of its 175th birthday, the tiny gray church with the red doors hardly resembles the one born in the 1800s. The struggles of the pioneer founders seem a distant dream, though the motto of the celebration ensures that Ascension retains flexibility while it remembers its roots: Honor the past, celebrate now, forge our future in Christ.

To read the full article visit the EVHS website and click on the Bartow Author’s Corner.

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## EVHS Speaker's Bureau in Action



Joe Head and Guy Parmenter present the History of Bartow County at the Grand Opening of the Fountains Assisted Living Community Saturday October 26.



Joe Head presented Train Wrecks of Bartow County to the Wednesday Rotary at the Cartersville Country Club on October 23.

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## A New Discovery and Firsts for EVHS

The following article on "Bartow's Henry Clay Smith" sets a new bar for EVHS in two regards. This article is the first to be submitted by a local student from Cartersville High School who also was a previous contestant in the Bartow History Scholar Quiz Bowl. The second is that it is the first time we have had an article written by a father-daughter team. (The discovery of Henry Clay Smith is credited to EVHS member, Mr. Sam Graham.)

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### Henry Clay Smith

Chris and Alexis Mazique

U.S. Consul to Santos, Brazil 1893-1896



*Chris and Alexis Mazique*

Henry Clay Smith (Smith) was born into slavery on January 3, 1856 in Cass (Bartow) County, Georgia. He lived with his mother, Mary Johnson a slave. He also lived with his stepfather and half-siblings. His biological father is unknown. It seems that his family was freed when he was around 6 years old most likely due to the Emancipation Proclamation. They moved from Georgia to Chattanooga, Tennessee. He and his family worked on a farm for many years. During this time, Smith had somehow received a basic education. According to the *Tennessean* in Nashville, Smith at the age of 22, entered school at Roger Williams University where he was educated.

He married Lizzie Winfield on January 1, 1884 in Haywood county, Tennessee. They had 5 children, 2 boys and 3 girls. In March of 1884, Smith was the first African-American to pass the civil service examination. On July, 22 1884, He received a civil service position as a Clerk, Class 1 in the office of the 6th Auditor of the Treasury department in Washington DC. Smith continued to further his education at Howard University. There he enrolled in a course of Law. In 1888, Smith completed the course of Law at Howard University.

Smith eventually resigned his position as Clerk on August 1 1889. Leaving Washington, he moved back to Chattanooga to practice law and he started the newspaper, "The Agitator" releasing the first print on September 25, 1889. The following year he moved to Birmingham, Alabama where he continued to practice law and publishing "The Agitator." He also got involved in the local politics supporting the Democratic party. He eventually became the president of the Afro-American Democratic League of Alabama.

He was instrumental in aiding Congressman Turpin's campaign. In return for his assistance, Congressman Turpin introduced Smith to President Cleveland. On March 7, he wrote a letter to the Assistant Secretary of State requesting to become the Minister of Liberia.

By July 1, 1893, he was eventually assigned to the post of Consul to Santos, Brazil. Initially, Smith was praised for helping Americans conduct business. Following his appointment criticisms rose prompting him to submit his letter of resignation. Smith stated in his resignation that he planned to help another Democrat in a political campaign. His resignation was accepted and Smith returned home.

Smith moved to New York and became a Baptist Minister and was very active with the concerns of the African-American community. He worked with other religious and civil leaders to promote freedom and equality. He gave lectures in churches involving the development of the Black man as well as equality and the race problem.

Late in 1902, Smith traveled to Long Branch, New Jersey where he acted as a delegate to the "Afro-American Baptist Association". Three days later, he was found dead in the back yard of the boarding house after having supper. The cause of death was due to an affectation of the heart. He was laid to rest in White Ridge cemetery.

One of Bartow County's own, Henry Clay Smith, was a man out of slavery overcoming and achieving the extraordinary.

To read the full article visit the EVHS website and click on the Bartow Author's Corner.





## Bartow Author's Corner

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

Nitrate Mining in Bartow County  
Memories of a Beloved Locomotive  
Silent Voices of Salt Peter Cave  
Ascension Church's Beginning  
Bartow Tunnel Mining  
Sam Jones Stained Glass Windows Legacy  
Freezer Lockers, Cooking Schools and Canneries

Coming soon is a unique article and program that snapshots 175 years of Bartow County Train Wrecks from the Civil war to 2020.



### Annual Dinner More Photos





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## More EVHS Speaker's Bureau in Action



Guy Parmenter and Joe Head recently spoke at LakePoint Station to two groups of students from Cobb and Fulton County's Kids-R-Kids Summer Learning Program on the History of Mining and Furnace Industry of Bartow County.



On October 8th Mina Harper and Alexis Carter presented African American roots of Bartow County at LakePoint Station to Elm Street School of Rome, GA.





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## Former EVHS Board Member Passes

Victor Mulinix of Kingston served EVHS as a board member for nearly a decade. He was known as a gentle soul with a vast knowledge of Bartow history. His many talents benefited the Society including southern cuisine, photography, computer and woodworking skills. Victor authored a book, "In Pursuit of a Better Life," honoring his mother, Martha Mulinix, who also was an avid historian as she was the 2003 EVHS Life Time Achievement recipient and strong supporter of EVHS. He served EVHS as newsletter editor, photographer and history liaison to the Kingston community. Victor will be deeply missed by the Society.



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## Sally Tonsmeire Steps Down

With great appreciation the EVHS board accepted Sally Tonsmeire's board resignation at the August meeting. Sally has been a consistent hospitality presence for years at our society's functions. Everyone loves to be greeted by Sally's warm smile.

Sally will continue her preservation work on that committee and will assist with EVHS programs. The society will continue to also benefit from Sally's expertise on the bi-annual Tour of Homes.

Thank you Sally! Your consistent hard work and attention to detail has made us a better organization. Look for that beaming smile at the next meeting and give Sally a hug for her board service.



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## The Baptist Footprint in Bartow County

Former EVHS intern Amy Young presents her research on the influence of Baptist Churches in Bartow County. Speaking to a "Lunch and Learn" audience of about 30 attendees at the Bartow History Museum, Amy shared findings about her KSU internship project on August 21. She revealed surprising patterns, contributions and scope of Baptist Churches in Bartow and how they became anchors for county communities. Her complete work is posted on the EVHS website under the Bartow Author's Corner collection.





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## Bronze Sponsor

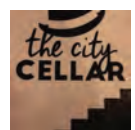


Todd Browning  
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## ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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