



ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 107, March 2020

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

The Sound of Africa takes EVHS to Church *The Black History Celebration Choir*

On Thursday February 6, EVHS celebrated Black History month with a spiritual experience of The Sound of Africa. The concert filled the First Presbyterian Church to capacity with 200 attendees who enjoyed a combination of dance, readings and authentic black music that had everyone moving. The performance was a rich celebration of powerful voices that filled everyone with joy and appreciation of black gospel and culture. Conductor Ahmad Hall led the Black History Celebration Choir with natural charisma touching everyone in the sanctuary. Following the concert the performance became the talk of Cartersville on Facebook and attendees were asking for an encore next year. A special thanks to EVHS Board members Mina Harper and Becky Champion for their tireless work to bring this event to our community.





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SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events for EVHS

March 21, 2020 – *Ladd's Mountain Hike*

May 3, 2020 – *Bartow County Quiz Bowl*, Sam Jones United Methodist Church Celebration Hall 2:00 PM

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

November 7 & 8 – *Tour of Homes*, Historic Downtown Cartersville

October 9, 2020 – *Annual Membership Dinner*

Fall 2020 – *Pine Log Exhibit Project*, Reinhardt University

December 4, 2020 – *Christmas Dinner*



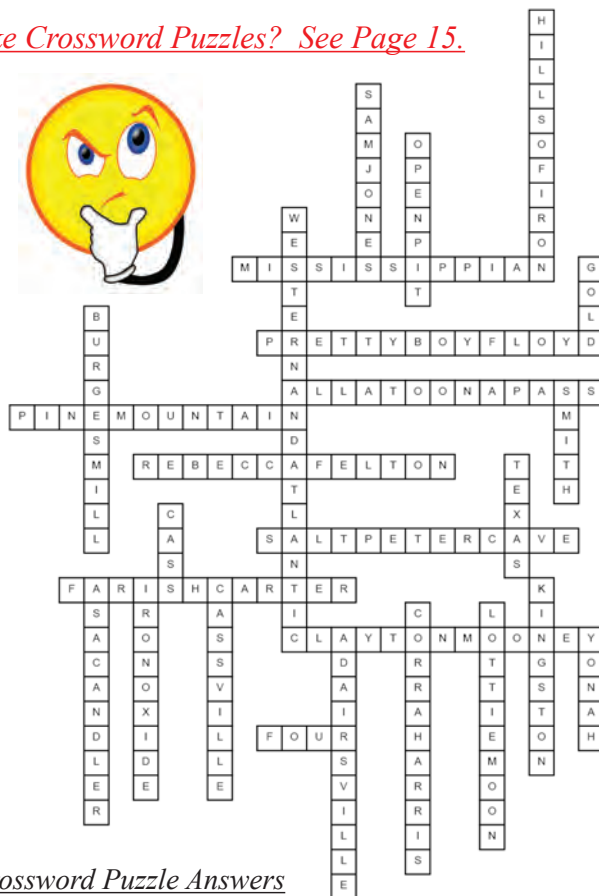
Rolling dues are due

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 getting online.

PO Box 1886 Cartersville GA 30120

www.evhsonline.org/membership

Like Crossword Puzzles? See Page 15.



Crossword Puzzle Answers

EVHS COMMITTEES

Allatoona Pass Battlefield

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Hall explains that he has planned an experience of black culture. Black culture consists of the traditions of African Americans who, although born with varied skin tones of brown, identify as black. Black symbolizes affirmation. The black culture originates from diverse peoples of African origin, of diverse languages, and religions including Christianity which had been practiced in northern Africa since the second century. These diverse cultures had in common their loss of national identity, a common history in slavery, a natural ability for rhythm, movement and song as well as the art of cooking. The quilt exhibit accompanying the reception which followed the concert was provided by the Josie Hardy Family.







EVHS and Reinhardt University Prepare for Exhibit

Reinhardt University students and instructor, Dr. Donna Coffee Little examine personal letters of Corra Harris. EVHS is partnering with Reinhardt on a grant from the Humanities for the Public Good sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges. The exhibit is entitled, "Spirits on Pine Log Mountain: Forgotten Voices Speak." The focus will be on forgotten women writers of the region; Corra Mae Harris, Frances Elizabeth Adair, Rosa Pendleton Chiles and a special inclusion on the African American writer Toni Morrison. Additional attention will be on the mountain culture including convict camps, moonshine, forgotten towns such as Sugar Hill, Salacoa, Lost Town and the former CCC camp. The exhibit will open at the Reinhardt campus in April of 2020 and move to EVHS in October. Dr. Little is seeking any local documents or artifacts relating to the topic. If you have any information, please contact: dlc@reinhardt.edu



Up Close and Personal at the Adairsville Depot

Friends Roxann Luttner and Carol Babst, EVHS members, traveled from Maryland and Tennessee to learn the story of the Great Locomotive Chase. Joe Head served as host and tour guide. Roxann's late husband, Paul, was an EVHS Corporate member and a hardcore fan of the historic General. His hobby was building a diorama of the chase route featuring the action that took place in Bartow County. Both were guests of EVHS at the Rose Lawn Christmas dinner.



Langford Revisits De Soto

Back by popular demand, Jim Langford presented an encore presentation of Hernando De Soto's expedition to northwest Georgia. Opening remarks were a welcome by Co-President Dianne Tate, a greeting by County Commissioner Steve Taylor and a program introduction by Joe Head.

Prior to the lecture, a special recognition was extended to EVHS member Mr. Mike Bearden for his recent award for being named as the "2019 Man of the Year" by the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation. This award was given for his leadership in directing the Great Allatoona Lake Clean Up initiative since 2007.



Jim once again treated attendees to an outstanding lecture about Hernando De Soto's trek through Bartow County and the Coosa Kingdom. Speaking to a capacity audience of 130 at the Cartersville library, Jim shared vivid details about the first Spanish exploration to north America in the early 1540's. His research revealed that the troop consisted of between 600 - 700 explorers, and the political complexities that motivated the expedition. His description revealed that 300 pigs were brought as a food supply, use of military dogs, clergy, investors and skilled craftsman were included to aid in the journey. Jim contrasted from both perspectives how the Native Americans vs Europeans reacted to first encounters and the shock of comprehending the presence of different cultures. De Soto learned how the political Mississippian structure operated and how he could take advantage of it to exploit his needs. Attendees heard how the Coosa royalty lived and how De Soto's brutal treatment was used to gain cooperation in order to seek riches and resources. This lecture made a poignant statement that Bartow County was a documented part of our country's early exploration.

As an added feature, Mr. Barry Henderson, local artist, shared his recent sculpture entitled, Etowah Chief. This 4 feet bronze sculpture is a meticulously crafted piece that captures a well researched image of how a Mississippian chief may have appeared at the time De Soto explored this area.



Attendees were left with a quest for more and were eager to ask questions. A suggestion was made to perhaps offer this topic again, but in a seminar format so the entire story can be presented as a whole and allow for interaction. EVHS will look into such a program for late 2020 or early 2021.



Attendees enjoyed a spread of baked delights prepared by EVHS member Barbara Autry and a festive arrangement of decorations directed by Mina Harper and company. The recorded lecture is posted on the EVHS website.



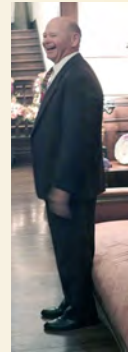
EVHS Enjoys a Festive Christmas Evening

The annual Christmas event was especially festive for EVHS at its traditional dinner held at Rose Lawn on Friday December 6. A capacity attendance of 70 enjoyed photos with Santa, Grand Oaks catering, music by the Steven Lee Band, dancing and fellowship among its members. Co-Presidents Dianne Tate and Joanne Pugh welcomed guests, recognized members visiting from Maryland, updated Society efforts on Giving Tuesday and recognized EVHS member Mike Bearden for being named Man of the Year for the Lake Allatoona Clean-up Project by the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation.





Parks Allatoona



Mike Bearden



Emerson's Empire Mill



New Frontier Event



Tinsley Park



Battle of Allatoona Pass



Annual Meeting



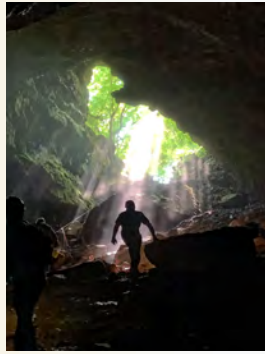
A. O. Granger Lecture



REVIEW



Saltpeter Cave Tour



EVHS Quiz Bowl



Taste of Africa

Tunnel Mining Lecture



Annual Christmas Dinner



Ladd's Mountain Hike

Amidst the Holly and Pine: Memories and the Meaning of Christmas in Bartow County

By Matthew Gramling

When one thinks of the Christmas season a host of memories tend to flood the mind. Usually we are drawn to a nostalgic remembrance of those traditions which have a particularly special place in our hearts. Each community often has its own history and traditions when it comes to celebrating Christmas and Cartersville is no exception. The historical influences that shaped the celebration of Christmas in Cartersville represent a confluence of diverse and unique traditions, which reflect the folkways of the people who lived and settled Bartow County over the centuries. More specifically, these traditions signify a dynamic blend of Cherokee, Moravian, Victorian, and African-American holiday customs.

The first celebrations of Christmas in Bartow County began during the 1820's among the Cherokee at the Moravian Oothcaloga mission station in what is now Gordon County. It is at this time we see the introduction of a familiar Yuletide tradition—the making of Christmas wreaths. Crafting Christmas wreaths was a popular Moravian holiday tradition, which reflected their German Protestant origins. These wreaths were particularly popular among the Moravians' Cherokee converts, who would receive them as gifts every Christmas season. As many as 150 Christmas wreaths would be carefully assembled by the brother and sisters of the congregation town of Salem in North Carolina for distribution among the Christian Cherokee families of Springplace and Oothcaloga missions.

After the Cherokee Removal to Oklahoma, the celebration of Christmas in Cartersville took on a different cast. With the dramatic growth of the cotton economy in the Georgia Upcountry during the 1850's, Bartow County saw a considerable increase in the plantation system. A typical plantation Christmas in the backcountry of North Georgia could be an occasion of intense social excitement and activity. With the southern gentry's admiration for English custom, a plantation Christmas often reflected the great Christmas social gatherings of the English Victorian elite. Scenes of lavish partying, feasting, playing, and even a morning (fox) hunt could be among the bustle of a plantation Christmas. It was often customary that Christmas would be celebrated at the home of the family patriarch. All members of the family would return to the estate of their fathers and grandfathers and spend up to a week in Christmas revelry.

The growth of the plantation system in Bartow County also meant the increased presence of African slaves as well as slave Christmas traditions. A typical Christmas celebration among African-American slaves often reflected and intermingled with the activities of their masters while retaining a number of distinctive customs. While slave experience of the holidays could vary widely, most often the Christmas season represented a unique time in the daily lives of slaves. Christmas often meant a reprieve from the grinding toil of plantation labor since most masters did not require their slave to work during the holidays. The length of this respite often coincided with the amount of time it took for the Christmas Yule log to burn, which in some cases took up to a week. Slaves would often take this opportunity to visit friends and kin on other plantations.

Slave celebrations of the winter holidays were frequently filled with various entertainments such as "playing ball, wrestling, running foot-races, fiddling, dancing, [feasting] and drinking whiskey." Slaveholders would often throw elaborate open-air Christmas banquets for the whole plantation. Master and slave would partake of a gastronomical scene "loaded with roasted chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigs, and maybe a wild ox, varieties of vegetables, biscuits, preserves, tarts, and pies." Drams of whiskey, bowls of eggs, and similar liquorous libations flowed freely throughout the merrymaking.

The holidays did not always mean an interlude of freedom from the toil and control of plantation life. For some slaves, Christmas provided the perfect opportunity for them to escape their bondage permanently. With slow work schedules, the relaxed discipline of the holiday, and slaveholders off visiting kin, slaves would avail themselves of the chance to obtain their liberty.

If physical freedom could not be obtained during the holidays, Christmas often provided slaves with an expectant hope, enduring perseverance, and sense of spiritual freedom through reflecting upon the gospel stories of the nativity and life of Christ. African-American Christianity provided slaves with a reservoir of symbols and meaning

from which they could draw to provide them with the strength to survive their captivity.

The events of the Civil War had considerable effects upon how the people of Bartow County would celebrate Christmas. The forms of Christmas traditions remained unchanged, but the onset of the war brought about a somber seriousness to usually jubilant merrymaking of the holiday. The privations of wartime and the constant flux of morale sapped the joy out of many a families' Christmas in Bartow County and throughout the South.

With the end of the war and the beginnings of Reconstruction, Christmas would gradually reclaim its former glow. And by 1868, Bartow families had returned to celebrating the holiday in its former grandeur.

By the 1880's and 90's we begin to see Christmas taking on the form of a major commercial holiday in Bartow. Newspapers begin to be filled with advertisements from local businesses announcing their Christmas wares and bidding their patrons Christmas greetings. Stores placed ads declaring their great deals on Christmas treats and cooking ingredients. Fruits, nuts, cheese, chocolate and other delicacies were available and on sale for the holidays. With the turn of the century Santa Claus begins to appear as a staple in newspaper Christmas ads in the county.

Roughly contemporary with the commercialization of Christmas in Bartow, we see a marked growth in Christmas as an occasion for formal religious philanthropy. Churches and religious figures throughout the county would undertake various charitable activities on the holiday. One popular form of charity was to throw a public Christmas dinner for various members of the community.

During the first half of the twentieth century, the Cartersville Christmases experienced considerable flux between times of holiday cheer and plenty to solemnity and discipline. The First and Second World Wars brought about another period of gravity and relative privation to Bartow Christmas celebrations. America's involvement in WWI and WWII first as a provider of war supplies to the Allies and then as an Allied combatant ushered in an era of strict rationing across the nation. Christmas also became an occasion to bolster morale and raise donations for the war effort through patriotic holiday pageants, which were often hosted by the local Red Cross chapter.

Local holiday shopping in downtown Cartersville was also an important way of showing support and commercial confidence during wartime and times of economic hardship such as the Great Depression. And with the implementation of the New Deal in 1930's, Bartow County residents' confidence in the economy would continue to grow and they would continue to exercise that confidence in their Christmas shopping.

And from the 1940's to about the early 1980's it was customary for the local paper to include a Christmas reflection or lesson by a prominent local pastor in their holiday issues. Among the most regular contributors were pastors of Gilmer Street Baptist Church such as Rev. Smith and Rev. Jesse Wright.

Also, during this time we begin to see the town decorated in ornate Christmas lights. Most notably, every December Main Street becomes illumined with lighted Christmas symbols and the Bethlehem Star is lit on smokestack of Chemical Products Corporation.

From the 1950's to the 1970's, the Christmas holiday would continue to grow as a commercial and social holiday in Cartersville. The society pages of the local paper would often be filled with reports and gossip about former residents returning home to Cartersville for Christmas. The Christmas dinners and dances of prominent Cartersville families would also be announced to the potential curiosity or envy of the local reader.

Santa Claus was also a staple of the Christmas holiday in Cartersville throughout the twentieth century. Letters to Santa from children all over the county filled columns of the holiday newspapers. They are replete with children's addresses to Santa describing their good behavior over the last year and petitions for various Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. Santa Claus would also visit disadvantaged and sick children in various places throughout the county. On Christmas of 1975, Santa



*Cartersville Christmas Parade 1984
Photo Courtesy of Bartow History Museum*

Claus visited and passed out presents to a number of sick children and the local hospital.

More recent holiday traditions which have become staples of a modern Bartow Christmas include: the Budweiser Clydesdales at the annual Cartersville Christmas parade, holiday decoration of storefronts around downtown Cartersville such as the Santa display at Young Brothers Pharmacy, and Christmas concerts at the Grand Theatre such the Atlanta Pops holiday concert.

The history of Christmas in Bartow County shimmers like tinsel with the radiant light of Yuletide traditions past and present, representing the folk and folkways of those who have called the county home and celebrated Christmas in it for the last two centuries. These traditions represent the richness and vitality of the holiday season in Bartow County and embody invaluable threads in the tapestry of its unique Christmas heritage. Accordingly, the author would like to wish the readers from across the county a...

Ulihelisdi Unadetiysgv'i! (Cherokee)

Frohe Weihnachten! (German)

Merry Christmas! (English)



*Miss Marilu Monford's Kindergarten, Circa 1950's
Photo Courtesy of Bartow History Museum*



*Christmas In Atco 1960's
Photo Courtesy of Bartow History Museum*

EVHS extends appreciation to the Bartow History Museum for sharing this article excerpt.
Visit the Bartow Author's Corner to read the full article.

Friendship Plaza Gets Two EVHS Plaques



EVHS adds two additional tributes to the row of plaques at the Cartersville Depot. For some time it has been discussed that the Great Locomotive Chase and Asa Candler should be included in our city's hall of fame. Asa Candler, founder of the world's most successful soft drink, Coca Cola, once lived in Cartersville and trained to be a pharmacist on West Main at the former Gilreath and Champion Drug Store and married a Bartow resident. Additionally, Bartow is considered to be the "Heart of the Chase" during the Great Locomotive adventure having the most thrill and action. Bartow was the only county among the 5 that all four engines traversed.



Visioning 2020 Retreat

The EVHS Board convened on Saturday February 22 to consider major issues for the next decade. This was a first ever session and conducted by Chuck Nida who led the Board through a number of topics ranging from membership goals, technology and fund raising to programming, branding and what makes EVHS unique. EVHS is appreciative to McWhorter Reality for hosting the event.



Board Proposes By-Laws Change

At the October 2019 Annual Membership Meeting, Co-Presidents Dianne Tate and Joanne Pugh advised members that the scope of Society activities over the past decade has exceeded the current Board's capacity. As a result, we are recommending that the Board be increased by up to three positions. According to the current By-laws any change requires that it be announced in advance and in writing to the general membership.

Archaeologists Visit Leake Mounds Site

A magnetometer survey conducted pro-bono by Heartland Earthworks Conservancy similar to ground penetrating radar (GPR) was conducted on the north side of 113 at the Leake Mounds site Saturday and Sunday February 22 and 23. The 10 acre survey is intended to find any evidence of pits, hearths, structures or other remains on the site. EVHS and the county assisted with travel expenses related to the project. Dianne Tate and Becky Champion visit with archaeologists Scot Keith and Jarrod Burks during the survey. Results of the survey will be presented to EVHS in an article later this year.



EVHS Exceeds Giving Tuesday Goal

For the first time, EVHS participated in the National Giving Tuesday non-profit campaign on a Society wide scale. Members were invited to make a tax free donation in December 2019 to reach a goal of \$4000.00. Following expenses a net of \$5000.00 was raised. As a tribute to the 158th anniversary of the Great Locomotive Chase, donations are grouped by the names of the locomotives that participated in America's greatest railroad adventure. Thank you EVHS for your generous support. (Thanks to those who prepared the Giving Tuesday mailing.)

Giving Tuesday Donors:

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Joe & Debbie Head
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EVHS Speaker's Bureau

In December, Joe Head spoke to residents at the Fountains Assisted Living Community. His topic was the quest to locate "Etowah's Camp Foster," a former Civil War Confederate camp on the Etowah River with the objective to defend the railroad bridge. Its identity and location remains a mystery.



Joe Head addressed 25 members of the Retired Men's Club on December 18 about the railroads of Bartow County.



Try your luck with a Bartow History Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 5 During what cultural period of time were the Etowah Indian Mounds built in the Etowah Valley?
- 8 Who was the famed 1930's gangster that once lived in Adairsville as a child?
- 9 What is the name of Bartow's bloodiest Civil War Battle?
- 11 What is the highest point in Bartow County?
- 12 Who was the nation's first female Senator who was from Bartow?
- 15 Which of the 38 known caves in Bartow County is the largest?
- 16 For whom or what is Cartersville named?
- 23 What house still standing today served as a hospital during the Battle of Allatoona Pass?
- 26 How many court houses has Bartow had?

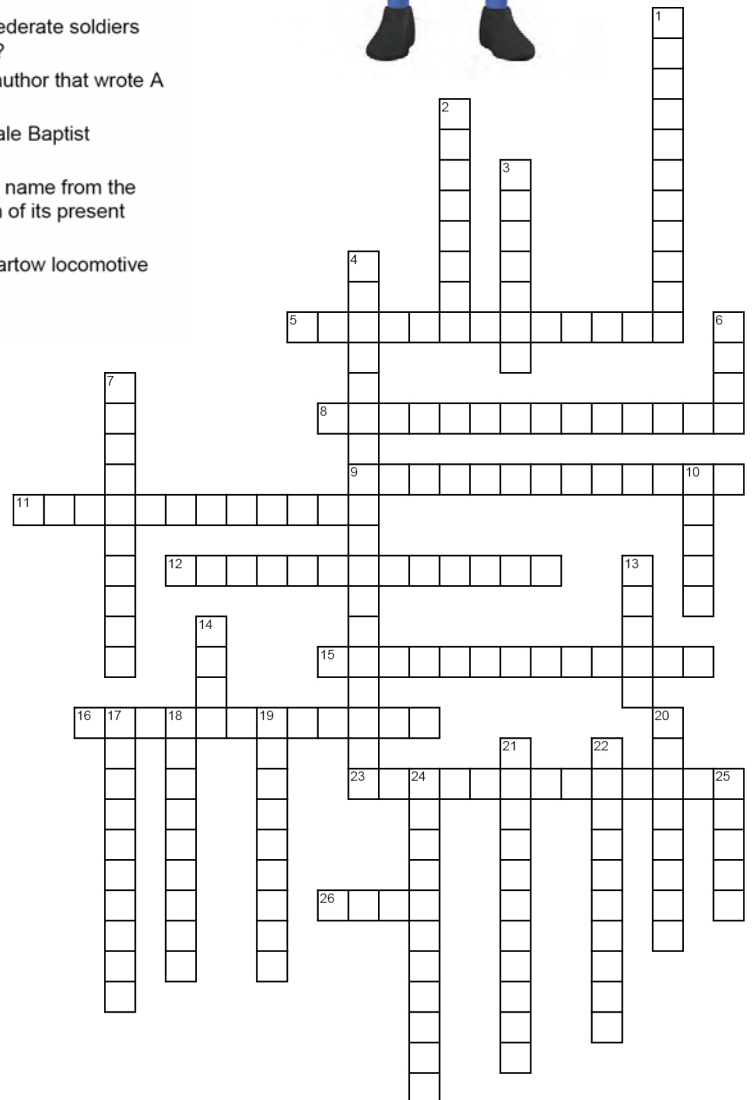
Down

- 1 Annually Bartow County has celebrated the Golden Age of iron smelting and stone furnaces. What is the name of the celebration?
- 2 For what Methodist Evangelist was the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville (Grand Ole Opry) built?
- 3 What type of mining extraction has been most often used in Bartow County ?
- 4 What is the original name of Bartow's major Railroad?
- 6 What was the first ore mined in Cass County?
- 7 Before 1852, the City of Euharlee was known by what name?
- 10 What was the name of the second Bartow engine used to chase the General?
- 13 What locomotive ran backwards to chase the General?
- 14 What was the first name of Bartow County?
- 17 What was the name of the intern who studied in Cartersville to become a prescripionist and later founded the Coca Cola Company?
- 18 The red soil in Bartow County is a result of what natural mineral?
- 19 Where was the original county seat for Bartow County?
- 20 Where did the last group of Confederate soldiers east of the Mississippi surrender?
- 21 What is the name of the Bartow author that wrote A Circuit Rider's Wife?
- 22 What is the name of the first female Baptist missionary who went to China?
- 24 What Bartow County City took its name from the early Scotch settlement just north of its present location?
- 25 What was the name of the first Bartow locomotive used to chase the General?



Print answers without spaces or punctuation.

Answers on page 2.



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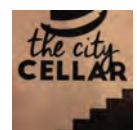


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Patron



Leslie Simmons, Attorney



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Inside...

- Sound of Africa - pages 1, 3 - 5
- EVHS and Reinhardt University Prepare for Exhibit - page 5
- Up Close and Personal at the Adairsville Depot - page 5
- Langford Revisits De Soto - page 6
- EVHS Christmas Dinner - page 7
- Year In Review - pages 8 & 9
- Meaning of Christmas in Bartow County - pages 10 - 12
- Friendship Plaza Gets Two EVHS Plaques - page 12
- Visioning 2020 Retreat - page 13
- Board Proposes By-Law Change - page 13
- Archaeologists Visit Leake Mounds Site - page 13
- EVHS Exceeds Giving Tuesday Goal - page 14
- EVHS Speaker's Bureau - page 14
- Crossword Puzzle - page 15

