



# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 117, June 2023

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862

## Cass Middle takes 6th consecutive Quiz Bowl Championship

The 2023 EVHS Bartow County History Quiz Bowl was once again captured by Cass Middle School. Three schools, Cass Middle, Adairsville Middle and Cartersville Middle competed for the county bragging rights. Cass Middle made an impressive showing with more than a 50 point margin. Cartersville took second place with Adairsville taking third. (Woodland and Red Top did not participate this year) Teams answered a combination of photo questions and verbal questions during a three round competition.

Dianne Tate and Joanne Smith welcomed the attendees. Joe Head, who created and produced the event, also served as emcee. Alan Sanders served as Question Reader; Guy Parmenter, Diane Mooney, Trey Gaines served as Judges; Debbie Head, Ted Porter, Barbara Autry were Score Keepers; Chris Burno managed the buzzer and was time keeper and Meredith Bruno served as team manager host.



Approximately 100 people attended the event with all enjoying a Coconuts ice cream treat following the program.



*EVHS Board Members prepare Quiz Bowl Goody Bags*



Etowah Valley Historical Society  
116 West Cherokee Avenue  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

Phone: 770-606-8862  
Email: [evhs@evhsonline.org](mailto:evhs@evhsonline.org)  
Website: [www.evhsociety.org](http://www.evhsociety.org)

## OFFICERS

### Co-Presidents

Dianne Tate  
Joanne Smith Pugh

### Vice President

Joe Head

### Secretary

Myra Ramsey

### Treasurer

Steve Ward

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2023

Becky Champion  
Joe Head  
Diane Mooney  
Joanne Smith Pugh  
Dianne Tate

### 2024

Judy Kilgore  
Mark Matthews  
Brandon Bryson

### 2025

Myra Ramsey  
Steve Ward

## ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Retired Supreme Court Justice  
Robert Benham  
Michael Garland  
Debbie Head  
Mary Norton  
Guy Parmenter  
Larry Posey

# SAVE THE DATE

## Upcoming Events for EVHS

**TBD** – *Ladd's Mountain Hike*. Members only.

**TBD** – *Native American Dig Lecture/Tour*. Walnut Grove.

**August 1, 2 & 10, 2023** – *Allatoona Dam Tours*. Members only.

**October 7 & 8, 2023** – *Allatoona Pass*.

**October 13, 2023** – *Annual Meeting*. "In The Valley." Members only.

**December 1, 2023** – *Annual Christmas Banquet*.

Note: Some dates are subject to change.

*Your membership renewal date is now printed  
in the address field on the back of this newsletter!*

## Don't forget to renew your dues

E V H S reminds members that dues are renewable according to the anniversary month that you joined. Notices to renew are now sent out via email and hardcopy letter to your postal address. You may renew on line or mail a check to the office at PO Box 1886. EVHS remains a most affordable and outstanding value.



Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Club/Organization	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$150

## In Memoriam

Gene Camp

## EVHS COMMITTEES

### Allatoona Pass Battlefield

Co-Chaired by  
Guy Parmenter  
Joanne S. Pugh  
Diane Mooney

### Bartow History Scholars

Chaired by  
Joe Head

### Social Media

Chaired by  
Debbie Head

### Historic Awareness Signs

Chaired by  
Dianne Tate

### Historical Inventory

Co-Chaired by  
Mary Norton  
Michael Garland

### Newsletter

Co-Chaired by  
Joe Head  
Jeffrey Williams

### Oral History

Co-Chaired by  
Susan Tumlin  
Judy Kilgore

### Photography

Co-Chaired by  
Joe Head  
Jeffrey Williams

### Preservation

Chaired by  
John Lewis

### Geospatial (digital maps)

Co-Chaired by  
Tim Poe  
Monique Autry

### Tour of Homes

Chaired by  
The Preservation  
Committee

### IT Committee

Co-Chaired by  
Joe Head  
Tim Poe

### African American History Initiative

Co-Chaired by  
Becky Champion  
Alexis Carter - Callahan





Among other recipients, Cartersville Service League awarded a \$1000 grant to support the annual Quiz Bowl competition. Lizzi Galland, President and Heather Jackson, Grant Chair presented the award to Joe Head on March 28th at a morning coffee reception at the Cartersville County Club.



**Recent Patron Members (March - April)**

Dan Bennett

Roxann Luttner

Kay Borden

Shirley Perry

Annette Cockrill

Terry & Myra Ramsey

Billy & Jessica Fleetwood

David & Denise Ronn

Terry & Judy Forbes

Kyle & Karen Russell

James & Linda Hamilton

Rick & Sarah Craighead Shireman

Brad & Pam Hughes

Dr. Andy & Chris Tripp

Frankie & Kelly Johnson

Dr. Jake & Lauren Tripp

Ed & Ellen Lussier Kinsel

Emily & Bruce Wassell





# EVHS Celebrates Women's History Month

## Dicksie Bandy

EVHS celebrated Women's History Month on March 16 at the Cartersville Library. Susan Gilmore treated 65 attendees to a lecture on Bartow native, Dicksie Bradley Bandy and her Chenille Legacy. Susan is the great niece of Dicksie Bandy and shared family history with many surprising facts about how Dicksie played a major role in introducing the Chenille business. Susan detailed how Dicksie organized a cottage industry between the 1920's to the 1950's using the hand sewing skills of local women by farming out work to families for extra money. Susan described how the mountain women of Bartow would create their spread or textile products using a tufted technique and sold them to tourists along the old Dixie Highway known as Peacock Alley. Later the tufted chenille technique became so successful that it was integrated by the carpet industry. Susan remarked that a chenille spread even made its way into one of the scenes of **Gone With the Wind**.

At one time Dicksie was the most wealthy person in Bartow County and owned the Braban Hotel among other properties. Dicksie had an innate marketing talent and knew how to pitch her product to New York buyers including Macy's. She provided employment to men and women as the business grew. Her operation expanded to eventually building the largest spread house in the nation here in Cartersville. Later in her career Dicksie became the official Ambassador to the Cherokee Nation and led a campaign to restore a prominent monument to the

Cherokee culture in Georgia. She was inducted into the Georgia Women of Achievement Hall of Fame in 1993.

Susan's presentation was well researched and supported by authentic family facts and artifacts displayed during the lecture. Without a doubt, Dixie Bandy was one of Bartow's most entrepreneurial women who needs to be recognized as a significant contributor to Bartow's history.



*Dicksie Bradley Bandy*



---

## EVHS Celebrates Black History Month

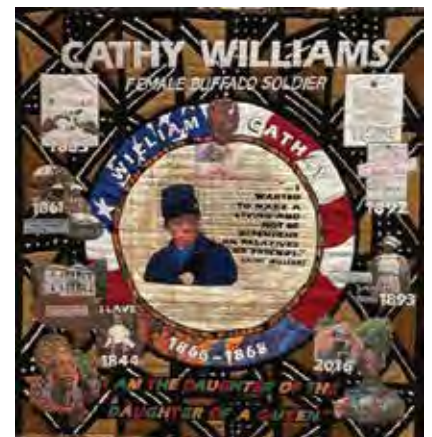
EVHS collaborated with the Booth Western Art Museum on March 2 with an exclusive tour led by Tiffany Hughes. The exhibit entitled, "Black Pioneers: Legacy in the American West" featured fifty pieces and was attended by 45 EVHS members. The exhibit was a gallery of colorful handmade quilts, textures and themes that illustrated Black History from across the nation. Many works were of Black Americans in western settings including a female Buffalo Soldier.



*Carolyn Crump, Quilt Artist*



*Alita Aldrige, Quilt Artist*



*Georgia Williams, Quilt Artist*

---

## Memorial Marker Installed to honor J. B. Tate

Sam Smith Park: Through private donations, a memorial tree was recently planted to honor the memory of JB Tate. JB served as a past president of our society and served as an advisor to the Board of Directors for many years. He was the 2007 recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award. He was extremely active with both the state and national Trail of Tears organization and did extensive research on local Ft Means. JB was a Professor Emeritus of Kennesaw state University having taught history there for over 42 years. As a nod to his research at Spring bank, which has one of the largest oaks in the state, EVHS chose a beautiful oak tree as the memorial tree. JB's tree/marker is #158 and is located on the back rise looking west.

Reminder that a tree was also planted previously for former EVHS President Ed Hill. Ed's tree/marker is #90 and is located near the River.

EVHS is proud to honor both these past Presidents





---

## History Hunters Rally

During March and May the largest number yet of EVHS metal detectors converged on a property near Kingston and found a variety of items. Jack and Penn Yacovett (Allen Bowen's grandchildren) found a Civil War bullet and uniform button.



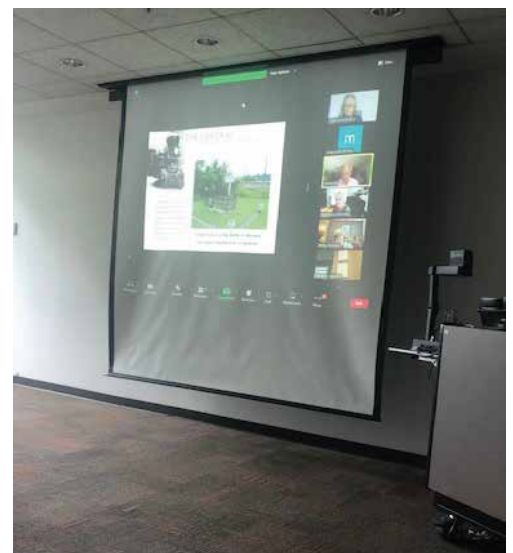
---

## Speaker's Bureau

In May Joe Head was invited to address the Retirees Association of Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College via Zoom. His topic was the litigations to return the locomotive General to the State of Georgia. Some 25 attendees viewed the presentation in person and on line.



*GSU campus/buildings at top left*



# New Cave of Historical Importance in Bartow County, Georgia

Joel M. Sneed

Etowah Valley Historical Society member Sam Graham, with an interest in anything pertaining to the history of the county, became aware of another possible name for Jolley Cave, the name used by cave explorers and as listed in the files of the Georgia Speleological Survey. In Civil War-era records a cave in Bartow County was referred to as Ravenel Cave, yet there is some uncertainty as to whether Jolley Cave and Ravenel Cave is actually the same cave. To help unravel this mystery Sam contacted Joel M. Sneed, author of Bartow County Caves: History Underground in North Georgia.

Sneed, a caver and also a member of the EVHS, had himself sought to learn more about the cave in 1981 in a visit to the holdings in the Georgia Archives. Here were located the John Riley Hopkins Family Papers, 1840-1915. Hopkins (1835-1909), a citizen of Gwinnett County at the time, was a



*Joel Sneed at Tate Cave entrance*

miner who worked at several saltpeter caves. Among these was a Ravenel Cave, Bartow County, Georgia where he worked during June, July, and early August of 1862 and kept a journal of the mining activity there.

Caver and historian, the late Marion O. Smith, in an article in *The Journal of Spelean History* (Smith, 1988), relates possible saltpeter mining activity at Jolley Cave but makes the statement, “why the Nitre Bureau used the name Ravenel for today’s Jolley (sometimes Murchison’s) Cave has never been determined.” He continues by stating that “no one of that name before the Civil War had a direct tie to Cass or Bartow County.” Graham has located proof that such was not the case.

Graham, in searching property records for the county, learned that a Trust established for one Harriett Horry Ravenel of Charleston, South Carolina, had purchased the land lot wherein Jolley Cave is located, along with several other properties, from G. W. Glenn on December 17, 1852. The Trust owned this property until it was sold to Duncan Murchison in 1881. So, if Jolley Cave was, in fact, the cave that was mined by the Confederates for saltpeter, referring to it as Ravenel Cave would have been appropriate. However, the Confederate Nitre Bureau generally shied away from using a property owner’s name and this was likely the reason that Smith hadn’t

searched property records for a Ravenel. But, was this actually the cave?

In his article on the Ravenel Cave Confederate Nitre Works, Smith makes reference to a Union map that shows a “Potash Works” that he states “matches almost exactly” with the location of Jolley Cave, and then follows with the proclamation that “it is concluded that Jolley is the Confederates’ Ravenel Cave.” Another, more detailed map that Graham has located, this one a Rebel map, shows more accurately the location of the potash works, even delineating six kettles in use there. Jolley Cave is over a half-mile from the location shown for the potash works. Both of these maps are from 1864. The cave was mined in 1862 and the potash works may not have even been in use at that time. But there is a bigger problem with using the site of a potash works as justification for Jolley Cave being Ravenel Cave.

While potash is required in the saltpeter process it has other uses and the location on a map of a potash works does not mean that there is a location of nitre dirt there, cave or otherwise. In fact, no known cave that was mined for



*Julien Ravenel*



---

saltpeter has been denoted as a “potash works.” Ralph W. Donnelly, in “The Bartow County Confederate Saltpeter Works,” states that “the production of the potash became a special and separate operation of its own, and the potash in the Confederacy was usually produced at one point and shipped to the saltpeter caves for processing the cave dirt.” He further states that the locations of the caves did not necessarily coincide with the locations of the most suitable wood for the production of potash.” (Donnelly, 1970)

If the mining did, in fact, take place in Jolley Cave its location on a very steep slope above the Etowah River would have created a tremendous amount of work for the laborers at the cave. Excavated dirt would have to be transported by wheelbarrow a rather long distance to a point that was flat enough to facilitate the processing and to be near the river for the requisite water. The use of a chute to move the earth down to the base of the slope, as was done at Trout Cave, West Virginia, for example, would not have been practical here as the slope ends right at water’s edge with no space there for processing. Besides this fact, Jolley Cave has none of the usual earmarkings of a nitre cave, such as dig marks, as noted by various speleohistorians who have visited the cave.

Smith offers up some other reasons that Jolley Cave could be the elusive Ravenel, but all of them could equally pertain to another nearby cave that has not been known to the caving community until recently, Tate Cave.

At the request of Sneed when he was studying caves in Bartow County, cavers Dave Hamrick and Richard Blackburn mapped a cave on September 6, 1985. The mappers were supposedly following directions to a cave known as Ned’s Cooler but they inadvertently came to a different cave yet didn’t know it. The map for that cave became labeled as Ned’s Cooler, and appeared in Sneed’s book with that name.

In 2007, J.B. Tate took Joel and Sharon Sneed to a cave, which Joel thought was Ned’s Cooler, and he entered it briefly. This was the cave that had been mapped in 1985 but has recently been shown to not be Ned’s Cooler. This cave has now been given the name Tate Cave and reported to the Georgia Speleological Survey. The cave is presently on property owned by Barnsley Gardens, and at the time of the Civil War it was owned by one Oliver H. Prince, apparently an absentee landowner, on the land lot adjoining the Spring Bank property on the north.

The home known as Spring Bank was built in the late 1830s by Charles Wallace Howard (1811-1876) who had come to northwest Georgia on a geological survey. In 1850 Howard discovered a natural, high-quality “cement rock” on his property. The rock was analyzed by the chemist Dr. St. Julien Ravenel (1819-1882) of Charleston, South Carolina, and deemed to be of a very high quality. Howard had likely first come to know St. Julien Ravenel, who was of Huguenot ancestry, when he was called to Charleston to reorganize the old Huguenot church in 1845. Howard served there as rector until 1850. In 1851 manufacturing of the material was begun under the name Howard Hydraulic Cement by Howard and his son. One of the first uses made of it was in 1852 on the exterior of the home of St. Julien Ravenel in Charleston, the high quality of this material being extolled in the *Savannah Morning News* of July 9, 1875. Ravenel was himself involved in the lime industry, co-founding a lime works in Charleston and supplying most of the lime used by the South during the Civil War. A close relationship formed between Ravenel and Howard linking Ravenel with Cass (later Bartow) County. Shortly after the beginning of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, Howard wrote a letter on May 15 to the editors of the *Southern Confederacy* about the saltpeter operation in a cave south of Kingston perhaps being a good location for the mining of saltpeter by the Confederacy. That cave, which today is known as Kingston Saltpeter Cave, was seized by the government on June 14, 1862, renamed from Hardin’s Cave to Bartow Cave, and the works expanded, the cave becoming very important to the Confederacy. With Howard’s interest in the making of gunpowder, and



John Riley Hopkins

---

the mining of nitrates to facilitate that as shown by this letter in 1861, it makes sense that he would be looking for possibilities of mining in other caves. How natural, then, that he would examine a cave near his own property.

According to Cunyus (1933), at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 Howard immediately entered service as a Captain in the Confederate army, and remained in its service until he was paroled in May, 1865. However, the unit in which he served, the 63d Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, wasn't formed until October of 1862, so it is assumed that he didn't go on active duty until then and was likely around Spring Bank at the time the mining would have taken place.

As at many nitrate mining caves, at the start of the Civil War as well as other wars, the caves were already providing nitrates for gunpowder on a small scale, for use by the property owner and perhaps for sale. By 1862 the price for saltpeter had gone from eighty-three cents per pound to three dollars per pound. The Nitre Bureau of the Confederacy was created in April, 1862, and when the government made a plea for identification of sources of nitre, the small cave just north of Spring Bank, whether nitrates were already being mined there or not, may have answered to that plea. A test of the material would likely have been required, and what better person to do this than the chemist St. Julien Ravenel. The cave referred to by the Confederate miners as Ravenel Cave was operational in June through early August of that year, per surviving payrolls and the diary of Hopkins, so the timeline would support Tate Cave possibly being that cave.

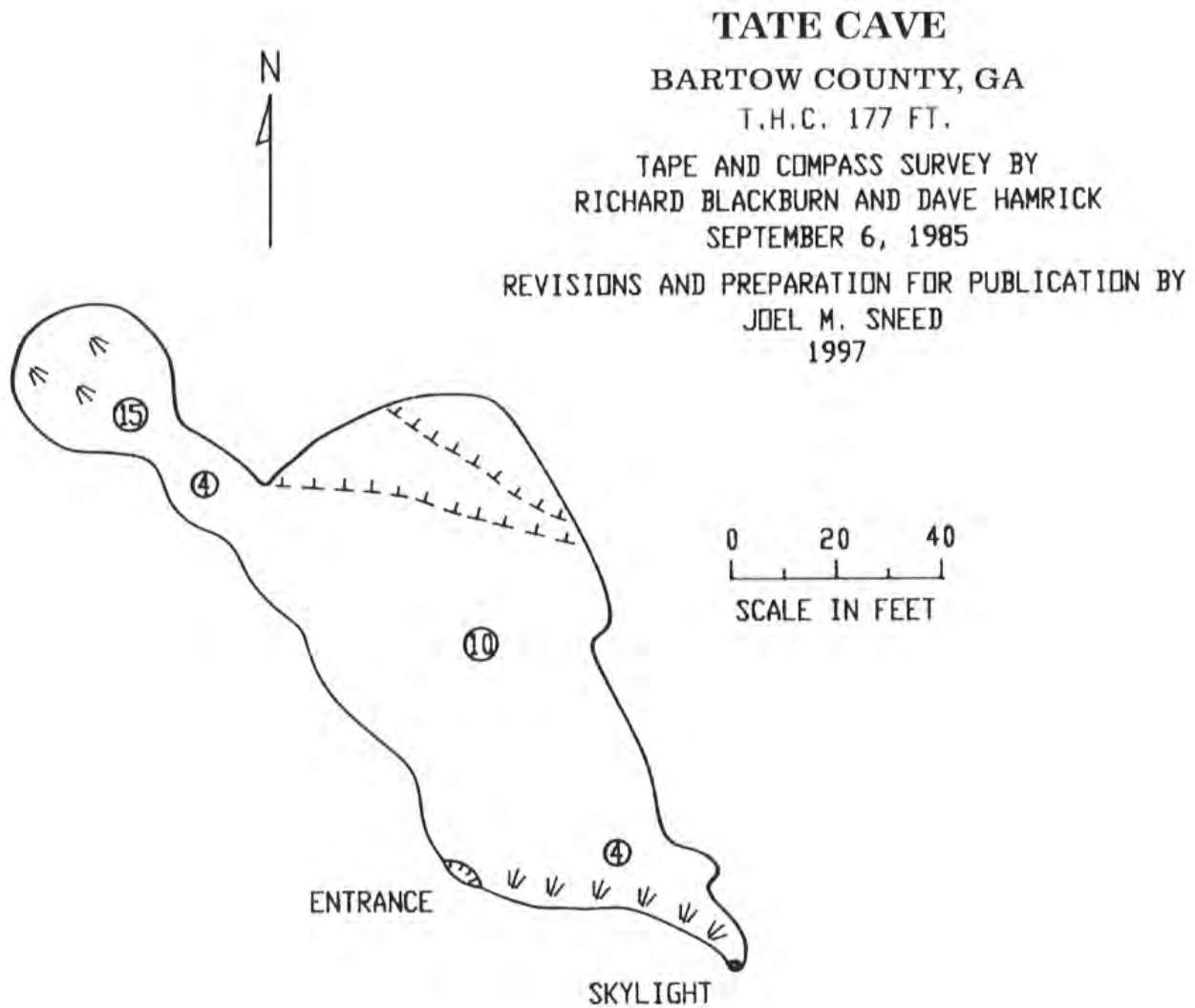
As stated by Smith (1988), the journal of miner John Riley Hopkins, which gives the name Ravenel Cave, is invaluable for providing information relative to the operation there. He states names of miners, activities in which he was involved day-by-day, and daily amounts of nitre produced. But overlooked by both Smith and Sneed was a sketch on the upper left corner of his first journal entry for Ravenel Cave (page 146). When rotated for a proper, north-upward perspective, this sketch matches with incredible accuracy the surveyed map of the cave produced in 1985 by Blackburn and Hamrick. Smith had never been to Tate Cave and would not have recognized the sketch as being that cave.

Tate Cave is situated quite well for a mining operation, albeit a small one. The land around the cave is quite flat, which would provide a good area for the vats, kettles and housing required. Water for the operation would have been obtained from Connesena Creek, some one hundred yards distant. The facilities could have been located next to the cave or anywhere between that point and the creek to best accommodate the retrieval of water. Since Hopkins had specifically noted that on some days he was working at "the water works", it can be assumed that the main part of the operation was not located right at the creek. The cave was worked only for a few weeks, probably due to the limited amount of sediment in it, producing 310 pounds of nitre.

It is this writer's feeling that the evidence provided shows that the cave known to the Confederate miners as Ravenel Cave was, indeed, the one known today as Tate Cave. As for the name of the cave, there are several reasons why it came to be known by the Confederate miners as Ravenel Cave. First, if St. Julien Ravenel was the one who had tested the deposit there, his name was certainly associated with the cave; his name may have been the only one on his report to the Nitre Bureau. Secondly, Ravenel had become quite established in the community. His relationship with Charles Wallace Howard has already been shown. He was involved with the mining activity at Cement, adjacent to Spring Bank. A trust established for his wife owned property not too far away, purchased from a local resident and farmer, Duncan Murchison. Some materials for the mining operation, and even some labor, were acquired through Murchison. And a friendship evidently developed there such that Murchison's son would name his first-born son after St. Julien Ravenel in 1895. Additionally, Ravenel had an interest in nitre production, establishing in 1862 the Cooper River Works in Charleston for the production of that material (*Yorkville Enquirer*, 11/19/1862).

I want to thank Sam Graham for being the impetus for this current work which has caused this writer to untangle the identifications of two caves. He has worked tirelessly in searching old records for this article, including much about the connection of Ravenel to the county. Sam is an incredible researcher. I wish as well to acknowledge the assistance of EVHS member Gary Boston as well as Larry O. Blair, caver and historian. Additionally, we are thankful to J.B. Tate, for whom a historically-important cave in Bartow County is now named.





## Tom Stelling Story

The morning of March 31st brought a visitor with a purpose to Allatoona Pass. I heard an unusual noise about 8 a.m. which turned out to be a generator used by historical marker restoration specialist, Mr. Tom Stelling. Tom is hired by Ga. Historical Marker division in Savannah. Mr. Stelling, his wife Deborah, and adorable boxer Banjo, travel the U. S. restoring these important markers. Thank you for your fine work and for visiting our newest museum, Savoy! Glad you found “your” Bronco.



---

## Valley Volunteers Work at ITV

On Tuesday May 2nd approximately 16 volunteers rallied at the former home of Corra Harris to continue improvements. The group put finishing touches on cleaning up the property, building a fire pit, cleaned inside the main cabin, planting flowers, erected the downed cattle feeder, hauled off a box truck full of barn trash and moved a load of rock to the picnic area for future use. (A special thanks to Sam Franklin Furniture for loaning the box truck twice to help with property clean up)

Additionally, rear roof repairs have been installed on the back of the historic cabin.





---

# Tools, Equipment and Resources Needed at ITV

In addition to monetary donations from our membership to help restore ITV, we could use any "spare tools or equipment" you may have at home. If you can help, please contact, Joe Head at: [jfhead68@bellsouth.net](mailto:jfhead68@bellsouth.net) or Steve Ward at: [bigsteve1103@gmail.com](mailto:bigsteve1103@gmail.com)

As an example, volunteers have contributed the following:

- Gas powered generator
- Wheelbarrow
- Shop Vacuum
- Insect spray
- Small hand tools
- Parts for the tractor
- Flag stone, grass seed, gravel, plants, pavers, brick, paint



We have discovered that members/volunteers are very willing to contribute "spare tools" and materials that would be very useful at the property. The following is a "sample list" of resources that we would welcome:

- Chain saw, pole saw, limb saw, saws-all
  - Battery hand drills
    - Post hole diggers, Loppers
    - Golf Cart, Gator, ATV, truck
    - Large plastic trash cans with lids, plastic bags for property
  - Bagged mulch, Wood chips, pea gravel
  - Ball hitch trailer
  - Aluminum ladders (6, 8, 16 feet)
  - Plastic buckets, rope, bungee cords
  - Water garden hose (any length)
  - Sledge hammer or smaller size sledges
  - Pump sprayers for Round Up or insects, wasp/yellow jacket killer
  - Gas - battery powered tools (shrub trimers, saws, drills, weed eater, leaf blower, etc)
  - Hand tools of any kind (level, hammer, pliers, screw drivers, shovel, rake)
  - 1954 Ford Tractor Tires (used or new)
- (Rear size R-1, 12.4-28 on 00" rim and front size 600 - 16)





---

## Tree Amigos Donate Thousands of Dollars of Services to ITV

On a recent visit to donate wood chips at ITV, Shane Barker, owner of Tree Amigos became fascinated with the property and work EVHS volunteers are doing to restore the grounds. As a result, he generously offered to cut several dead trees and remove them from the campus. (Contact Tree Amigos at 770-676-2300 or [treeamigosoeamerica@gmail.com](mailto:treeamigosoeamerica@gmail.com))

Also volunteering with the Tree Amigos crew was Brian Bush of Legacy Land Works who assisted with his Bobcat to wrangle and dispose of massive tree trunks. (Contact 678-614-0620)





---

## Wire 2 Wire Benefit Run

On Saturday May 13, EVHS hosted a water station to benefit the Duck Dash and Advocates for Children sponsored by Big Peach Running Company and Chick-Fil-A. The event included a 5K and half marathon with over 240 runners participating. EVHS members Mark Matthews, Chris Bruno and Debbie Head served up gallons of “history water” to waves of runners.





# ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

## Inside...

- Quiz Bowl Championship - pages 1, 3 - 4
- Recent Patron Members - page 4
- Women's History Month - page 5
- Black History Month - page 6
- Memorial Marker to Honor J. B. Tate - page 14
- History Hunters - page 7
- Speaker's Bureau - page 7
- New Cave In Bartow County - pages 8 -11
- Tom Stelling Story - page 11
- Valley Volunteers Work at "ITV" - pages 12 - 14
- Wire 2 Wire Benefit Run - page 15

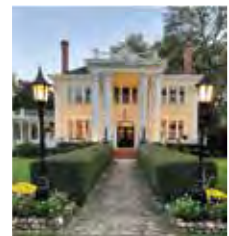


## EVHS Appreciates Our Sponsors

### Platinum Sponsor



### Gold Sponsor



**Grand Oaks**

### In-Kind Sponsors

