Work Continues on the 1903 Courthouse

Renovation of the 1903 Bartow County courthouse was stalled earlier this year when it was discovered that 100-year-old beams supporting the dome had suffered water damage and would need replacing. The delay pushes back the completion of the renovation to late spring, and possibly even late summer.

Held up in the delay is the Society's move to its new office across the lobby. Plans for the move were being finalized in December when EVHS got word that the county had hit a bump. The EVHS directors assure us that the move will take place, and that it is only a matter of time.

When completed, the renovation of the courthouse will have not only saved the grand old structure from further decay, but preserved it in a near pristine state that can be enjoyed for another 100 years. And the addition of an elevator will make access to the historic courtroom much easier for visitors.

Martha Mulinix Honored
Kingston Historian Receives EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award

Shouts of joy, laughter, and applause greeted the announcement at the EVHS September meeting that Kingston historian Martha Mulinix was the 2003 winner of the EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award is presented annually to individuals who best represent and achieve the society's mission of "promoting and enhancing the awareness and preservation of the heritage and traditions of Bartow County" over a period of twenty or more years.

As an historian, museum curator, and educator for most of her life, Mulinix fits that description to a tee. The First Lady of Kingston is a former president of the Kingston Woman's History Club, and a life-long member. She was

See Award, continued on page 5
TOUR OF HOMES WRAPS UP
ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The 2003 Come Harvest Our History Tour of Historic Homes experienced another great year, with hundreds of visitors turning out for the two-day event to enjoy a glimpse of our historic city's intimate past.

The tour, which took place on Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2, began at the historic 1903 gold domed courthouse, where visitors were greeted by members of the EVHS Preservation Committee, which sponsors the bi-annual tour. From the courthouse, shuttle buses, furnished by Bartow Transit, ferried guests to the neighborhood of homes on West Avenue.

Preparation for the tour began in January, when selection of the houses to featured was discussed by the Preservation Committee. The four houses selected were chosen because they were all constructed in the same era as the 1903 courthouse, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003.

The houses selected were the Adair-Kinsel/Lussier House, circa 1909; Warde-McLeon House, circa 1909; the Chitwood-McEver House, circa 1907; and the Shaw-Ellen Lussier, owner of the Francis Adair House, was assisted during the tour by volunteer Rachel Lynch.

The Adair-Kinsel/Lussier House is also known as the Francis Adair House, named for the author and educator who lived there from childhood. The 1909 Queen Anne was built by Francis's father and mother, Dr. Robert Edgar Adair and Sallie Lula Mahan Adair, and features high style Victorian elements and a wrap-around porch. The interior sports 12-foot high ceilings, heart pine floors, and original molding. The house is now owned by Ed Kinsel and Ellen Lussier, who purchased it in 1992.

The Warde-McLeon House, built in 1909, is an American Four Square structure (two rooms wide and
Local artist Judy Brown McEver (left) enjoyed greeting visitors and sharing the history and stories of renovation of her home.

Susan and Brian McLeod, and Brian’s mother Sarah, were all smiles as they greeted guests to their historic home. Behind them is one of the original mantels the couple restored.

Sim and Betty Archer show off the kitchen in their cottage home, featured on the 2003 Tour of Homes.

The Shaw-Conyers-Archer House, just behind the West Avenue homes on Etowah Drive, was constructed for Levi and Clara Shaw in 1905. The cottage house features a winged and hipped roof and many decorative elements, including wide facia under the eaves, corner boards, and milled molding over the windows. The house was made into two apartments in the 1930s, and was purchased by John B. and Minnie Leake Conyers in the late 1940s. The Conyers kept the house as apartments, but cut two doors between them to create a single living space. Sim and Betty Archer purchased the home from the Conyers son Claude in 1989.

Community sponsors for this year’s tour were Phoenix Air, Bartow Paving, J. Brandon Clothiers, New Riverside Ochre, and Century Bank of Bartow County. EVHS is indebted to these sponsors for their support of local history and the Tour of Homes.

EVHS congratulates the members of the Preservation Committee for their hard work in securing sponsors, homeowners, and volunteers for the event.
The Kingston Women’s History Club hosted the September meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society at the home of Rufus and Martha Mulinex. Acres of vineyards and fruit trees on the Mulinex farm made the evening seem like an old-fashioned picnic in the country, as did the mouth-watering aroma of smoking meat and simmering Brunswick stew that greeted guests.

Chicken quarters and pork ribs were compliments of the Mulinex’ son, Victor, a barbecue enthusiast who prepared the meat in a cooker he designed and built himself. The rest of the fixin’s were prepared and served by members of the History Club and Victor’s wife Marty, who used the opportunity to raise funds for the club’s Veterans Memorial project.

Guests to the Mulinix home enjoyed strolling through the vineyards of sweet muscadine. Pictured are EVHS member Katie Mae Parker and her guests Greg and Karen Smith and daughter Tori.

Dinner was served in Rufus’s air-conditioned “shop,” a cavernous two-story structure (with an upstairs deck) that Victor and Rufus built for the purpose of “puttering around in.” It was the perfect atmosphere for barbecue: a roughed out space, with tools lining the walls, bandana napkins, and service with a smile.

Prior to and following dinner, guests toured the vineyards that Rufus harvests for wine, and the Mulinex home, filled with Martha’s hand-made quilts and historic collections. Members of the History Club served as hostesses.

Dinner was accompanied with Rufus’s home-made muscadine wine, a sweet elixer, generously bestowed, that lent much to the atmosphere and the ocassion.

Following the meal, EVHS president David Parker tended to the business of the society, which included the announcement of the 2003 winner of the EVHS Lifetime Achievement Award: Kingston historian, Martha Mulinex.

The Kingston Women’s History Club continues to raise funds for their Veterans Memorial project. Contributions may be made through EVHS, or by contacting any member of the club.

Calling All Records

Over the years, a number of people have played important roles in the Society and perhaps held onto Society records, correspondence and the like. We are trying to make our files as complete as possible. If you have anything that should remain with the society, please bring it by the office or get in touch with EVHS president David Parker at 770-606-8494. Or email dparker @kennesaw.edu.
Library Receives Books & Goodyear Collection

The Society's library has recently acquired several new volumes that will be of interest to our members. Daryl Starnes donated a copy of Bill Arp, So-called: A Side Show of the Southern Side of the War, a collection of Charles Henry Smith's Civil War writings published in 1866. During the war and Reconstruction years, Smith wrote a number of letters for southern newspapers, always in dialect, always giving the southern side of things, and always signed by Bill Arp. Some of these letters ridiculed the Union army after its occasional defeats; some told of Smith's experiences as a refugee with his family when Sherman marched through Georgia, others criticized draft dodgers and other southerners whose actions hurt the Confederate war effort.

Shortly after the war was over, the Metropolitan Record, a Democratic paper in New York with Confederate sympathies, published Arp's Civil War writings (but only after cleaning up some of the worst of the dialect writing). The Society is proud to have a copy of this rare volume.


Finally, David Parker donated a copy of Carpet Capital: The Birth of a New South Industry. This book, first published by the University of Georgia Press in 1999, begins with a brief look at the American carpet industry before World War II (written by David). The biggest and more important part of the book (written by Randall Patton) looks at the rise of Dalton as the world's 'Carpet Capital.' One reviewer called it "an informative and detailed study of the innovators who developed the technology and the entrepreneurs who established the tufted carpet industry in the Dalton region of northwest Georgia."

The Society is also pleased to announce that Goodyear has donated several boxes of historic material for our archives. The donation includes an almost-complete run of the Wingfoot Clan (the company newspaper) from the Cartersville Goodyear plant, which closed in October 2003, as well as from the Goodyear plant in Cedartown. Also included are Annual Reports for a number of years, union agreements, and other fascinating materials. The collection is still being processed.

EVHS Annual Business Meeting & Awards

The editor apologizes for the lack of photos to accompany this article. She had a new camera that proved harder to use than she thought.

The annual meeting of the Etowah Valley Historical Society was held on Saturday, October 11, 2003, at the Stilesboro Academy. Following dinner, president David Parker reviewed the year for members in attendance. His remarks, slightly revised and condensed, are presented below.

On the day of this meeting a year ago, many of us were out at Allatoona Pass, helping with tours, selling books and t-shirts, basically coordinating (as EVHS has done for several years) the annual observance of the Battle of Allatoona Pass. Hundreds of people from Bartow County and Northwest Georgia, and some from even farther away, came to the Pass that weekend, many for the first time, and we were all thrilled to be a part of the event, showing off one of the county's treasures, sharing its history and beauty. I told someone that afternoon that that was the proudest I'd ever been to be associated with EVHS.

And that was true, until January 12 of this year [2003], when the Society sponsored the centennial celebration of the Bartow County gold-domed courthouse. The courtroom was packed, and another two or three hundred people stood downstairs and on the steps, as County Commissioner Clarence Brown spoke. Then everyone rushed to see the cutting of the giant birthday cake, donated see Business, continued on next page

Award, continued from page 1

instrumental in the collection and preservation of artifacts for the Kingston Civil War Museum, which she helped found, and the heritage museum, named in her honor. "More than most historians, Martha realizes that history is made up of flesh-and-blood people, not famous speeches, troop movements or buildings, but real people, just like us," said EVHS president David Parker.

Mulinix's interaction with the community and those who know its history has shaped her mission and prompted her a few years ago to publish "We Remember Kingston," a collection of essays recounting Kingston's past. An avid quilter, Mulinix has filled her home with handmade quilts lovingly stitched to commemorate a lifetime of Kingston living. As an educator, she taught others the art of quilting as a way of preserving heritage in the community.

While others may say they love Kingston, Mulinix has made a point of putting her work where her heart is. "She's kind of been the catalyst behind the preservation of Kingston," EVHS advisor to the board Guy Parmenter said. "She definitely keeps things going there."
by our friends at Kroger, and eat the goodies provided by
the various historical groups in the county.

The highlight of the day was the opening of the
cornerstone and the retrieval of the time capsule that had
been placed there a century earlier. Michele Rodgers, of
the Bartow History Center, and I did the final opening
(after a mason had prepared the way). It was a cold and
windy day, and as we stood on the scaffold and started
pulling out the contents of the cornerstone, the wind caught
pieces of paper that had disintegrated over the years and
sent them flying into the crowd. Many of the items survived
the century in the cornerstone, and are now on exhibit at
the Bartow History Center.

In May, we again participated in Hills of Iron, a two-
day program the Society developed with Red Top Mountain
State Park, a celebration of what was at one time a big part
of the area’s economy. The inaugural event, three years
ago, was such a success that Red Top won the Best Special
Program award from the state Department of Natural
Resources, and it continues to grow in popularity. In fact,
last year Red Top got its own furnace, so once again people
can see iron melted and poured right here in Bartow
County.

Hills of Iron, the courthouse centennial, Allatoona Pass:
these are all big things, but the Society continues to do its
regular smaller events.

In November 2002, we brought in an archaeologist,
and historian from the state Department of Transportation,
for a program on how the DOT makes decisions concerning
historical sites as it plans for new roads.

In December, we met for Christmas at Rose Lawn,
featuring “A Cajun Night before Christmas,” a discussion
from Joe Head on the history of Santa Claus, and a visit
from Old Saint Nick himself.

In January 2003, Dr. J. D. Fowler, a Civil War
historian, presented a program on Confederate General
Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Fred McCaleb joined us in February for an illustrated
talk on the history of architecture in Bartow County.

In March, we had a huge crowd for Joe Dabney, author
of Moonshine Spirits and the award-winning Smokehouse
Ham, Spoon Bread, and Scuppernong Wine. Joe’s talk traced
the history of the moonshine culture from its early days in
Pennsylvania to twentieth-century Georgia.

In April, Morgan Akin spoke on his illustrious great-
great-grandfather, Warren Akin, Confederate congressman
and founder of a law practice in Cassville in 1836 that still
exists today.

May was our first dinner meeting of the year, at the
Weinman Mineral Museum. Director Jose Santamaria
spoke on the geological history of the county and then
opened the newly-renovated museum to Society members
for a free tour.

June featured a program on the history of WBHF radio,
with Herschel Wisebram, who has been with the station
for over half a century. Also in June, the Society sponsored
a walking tour of Oak Hill cemetery.

In August, Beverly Moore presented a fascinating
program on cowboy and western movies and television
shows, featuring a number of items from her extensive
collection of photographs, toys, newspaper clippings,
posters, and other memorabilia. Also in August, we met
for a dinner meeting at the Kingston home of Rufus and
Martha Mulinx. Tours of the home, Martha’s quilts, the
Mulinix vineyards, and dinner prepared by Victor Mulinx
and the ladies of the Kingston Woman History Club made
this a very popular event. During the program, the Society
honored Martha with its Lifetime Achievement award.

Last November, the Board of Directors served lunch
at Valley View to our wonderful staff of office volunteers
to thank them for the fine work they have done. If you’ve
ever wondered if it was worth your while to volunteer at
the office, this lunch would have convinced you.

This year we continued cleaning up the old Friendship
Cemetery, one of the oldest organized cemeteries in the
county. We sponsored four very well attended genealogical
workshops, under the direction of our own Linda Cochran.

In February, the Board began a program of strategic
planning for the Society. Many good ideas came out of the
session, several of which we are already beginning to
implement.

The Society’s web page allows us to reach a huge
audience. This past week I filled a book order for a woman
in Texas who had found us on the Internet. Not too long
ago, a family from Arizona, related to the Douchits from
Bartow County, got in touch with the Society through the
web and actually came here for a visit because of that.

Our office/library in the gold-domed courthouse
continues to be a useful place for researchers doing local
or family history.

In short, it has been a great year. EVHS is a wonderful
organization, and we’ve done much to be proud of. And I
appreciate the honor of being able to serve as your president
this past year.

At the conclusion of his talk, David gave special awards
to several members for their special contributions over the
year.

He began by recognizing several of our young members
who have helped with various projects, giving certificates
of appreciation to Adam Mooney, Lance Mooney, Julie
Parmenter, Katie Mae Parker, and Gentry Parker.

The following received, in addition to certificates,
canvas tote bags bearing the EVHS logo: Lois Hill, Lelia
Johnson, Tish Johnson, Norma Tidwell, and Chantal
Parker, for their work organizing the courthouse centennial;
Linda Cochran, for her promotion of genealogy; and John
Lewis, for his perservation efforts in downtown Cartersville.

For her work with the Society’s newsletter and web
page, Chantal Parker also received a baseball cap with the
EVHS logo.

Finally, David recognized the hard work that Guy
Parmenter has put into the Society, in many ways and for
many years, with an EVHS jacket.
The jolly old elf is making a habit these days of attending the EVHS annual Christmas at Rose Lawn. Laughing it up with Santa are EVHS board members Joe Head, David Parker, Joanne Smith, and Joe's beloved Debbie.

Entertainment was provided by a trio of singers from Cartersville High School. Pictured left to right are Maggie Smith, Maggie's mother Mary Smith, Casey Branch, and CHS choral director Cody Goss.

Delean Brandon, Mary Norton, Jody Brandon, and Edna & Carl Etheridge

Laurette Smith, Marian Fisk, Emily McClurg, and Beverly Moore

Scott and Beth Swanson
A Needless Effusion of Blood
Now Available

Bill Scaife’s popular history of the Battle of Allatoona Pass is once again available to the public. Last year EVHS received the rights to Allatoona Pass: A Needless Effusion of Blood, and arranged with McStart’s Printing to reproduce the handsome second edition. Softbound copies are available now in the EVHS office for $20 each. Hardbound copies are coming soon for $30. For more information, contact EVHS at 770-606-8862.

Good Bye and Good Luck

This issue of the EVHS Newsletter is the last to be edited by Chantal Parker. “Editor” doesn’t really begin to describe what Chantal has done. For three years, she wrote almost every word and took almost every picture that has appeared here. Furthermore, she has formatted each issue, giving the Newsletter a more professional and pleasant appearance. Chantal is starting on a new business venture and will no longer be able to carry on as editor extraordinaire.

Thanks, Chantal, for all you’ve done.
David Parker, President

p.s. EVHS is looking for a new newsletter editor. If interested call 770-606-8494.

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