Etowah Chief Installed at Indian Mounds

EVHS is proud to have partnered with other contributors to make the iconic chief sculpture a reality. Members who attended the Jim Langford encore of the Hernando DeSoto lecture in November 2019 were treated to a sneak peak of the sculpture.

Barry Henderson, a local Bartow artist and EVHS member, began the “Etowah Chief” project about 2 1/2 years ago. He did an extensive research regarding the Mississippian Indians, reading about their culture and collecting the necessary information about their lives through the existing artifacts at the museum. Barry received excellent help and advice from Jim Langford and Adam King, both very respected in their knowledge of the Indian history in our region. Once the sculpture was completed it took almost two years to get the approvals of the Creek Indian Nation in Oklahoma, their archaeologists and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Barry says it was quite an experience and he greatly appreciates the support of the community and all those who have helped raise awareness of our local history through the arts.
SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events for EVHS

TBA – Train Wrecks of Bartow County postponed, date and location to be announced.
TBA – Annual Membership Dinner postponed, date and location to be announced.
Fall 2020 – Pine Log Exhibit Project, Reinhardt University
December 4, 2020 – Christmas Dinner TBD

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.evhsonline.org/membership

Don’t be Blind, Deaf, or Dumb

1. Wash hands frequently
2. Cover face
3. Social distance
EVHS joined with the Army Corps of Engineers, Red Top Mountain State Park Rangers and Friends of Red Top to pay tribute to the annual Battle of Allatoona Pass. On October 5, 1864 Union forces fiercely defended the Western and Atlantic Railroad pass in the Allatoona community. Over 1500 casualties on both sides were suffered in Bartow’s bloodiest Civil War battle. Re-enactors staged drills, pitched camp and demonstrated cannon firing over two days. EVHS extends a hearty word of thanks to all that made this event possible and to remember the horrors that war can bring.
More Photos of The Battle of Allatoona Pass Remembered
EVHS Awards Scholarship

Pictured below are Debbie Head and Diane Mooney presenting Abigail Guerrero a $1500.00 EVHS Scholarship made possible by the highly successful cookbook project, *Come Back to the Table*. Abigail is a Cass High School graduate and plans to attend Kennesaw State University majoring in nursing. Her two sisters (all three triplets) plan to also attend KSU together fall 2020. The cookbook committee consisted of: Susan Tumlin, Debbie Head, Patsy Headrick, Diane Mooney, Luanne Tumlin, Judy Kilgore, Mary Norton, Cherie Parker, Mina Harper and Joanne Branton. The scholarship will be managed by the Etowah Scholarship Foundation, Congratulations Abigail!

Bartow Author’s Corner
Native American Cave Burials

Joel Sneed (Master Spelunker and EVHS member) has contributed a rare article to the Bartow Author’s Corner documenting Native American Cave Burials found in Bartow County. Pictured below is an excavation at Little Beaver Cave in Bartow County. You can read all about Bartow burial caves by visiting the EVHS website, clicking to the Author’s Corner and scrolling to the Native American collection.

New articles Published
October 2019 - September 30, 2020

We encourage you to visit the collection of articles and read the new submissions.

*Walnut Grove and the Young Family*, Jennifer Billingsley
*Patriotism and Place*, Matthew Gramling
*Cartersville’s COVID Chronicles*, Debbie Head
*Rap Dixon - Negro League Baseball*, Nicholas Sullivan
*COVID 19 Not Bartow’s First Social Distancing Epidemic*, Joe Head
*Native American Cave Burials*, Joel Sneed
*Spirits of Pine Log Mountain*, Dr. Donna Little
*The Vinnie Cabin*, India Daniel
*Train Wrecks of Bartow County*, Joe Head
Spirits of Pine Log Mountain Exhibit
By Dr. Donna Coffee Little

The Etowah Valley Historical Society has partnered with Reinhardt University to create an online and physical exhibit on the history of Pine Log Mountain. The exhibit, funded by a $10,000 grant from the Council of Independent Colleges, tells the history of the mountain from the removal of the Cherokee to the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Reinhardt Professor Dr. Donna Little used a team of student interns to do the research and prepare the exhibit materials. Reinhardt Professor Dr. Pam Wilson, working with her Web Design Class, created the digital exhibit, which can be found at www.pinelogmountainhistory.com. Reinhardt’s Director of the Funk Heritage Center, Jeff Bishop, is working with a group of Museum Studies interns to open the physical exhibit this fall at the Funk. The exhibit will be at Reinhardt until late spring 2021, when it will move to the Etowah Valley Historical Society.

EVHS is loaning to Reinhardt some of the Corra Harris letters in its collection. This summer, Dr. Little and Reinhardt student intern Abigail Merchant cleaned and curated the letter collection, which is now available for scholars and community members to use.

The exhibit begins with the names of the Cherokee who lived near Pine Log Mountain along Pine Log Creek, Stamp Creek and Shoal Creek. It documents some of the first settlers to live on and around the mountain, including the Reinhardts and the settlers in Salacoa Valley. In addition to Harris’ writing about the Pine Log area, the exhibit also draws upon the work of Frances Elizabeth Adair, who wrote about the Salacoa settlers in her book A Little Leaven, and the work of Rosa Pendleton Chiles, who wrote about early Pine Log inhabitants in Down Among the Crackers.

The moonshine industry was a big part of Pine Log’s history, and the exhibit explores the moonshine operation on and around Pine Log. Additionally, the mining industry is a major part of the mountain’s history, and the exhibit explores the mining from the first early iron furnaces through the Sugar Hill mines that were worked by convict laborers from the 1870s until 1909.

The exhibit also explores the Civil War scouts, spies and skirmishes around the mountain, and culminates with the Civilian Conservation Corps camp that built the fire tower and all of the roads on the mountain from 1838-1941. Additionally, the exhibit unfolds the Pine Log roots of the great African-American writer Toni Morrison, whose father George Wofford descended from the black Woffords who lived near the mountain.

We invite you to explore the digital exhibit and to keep an eye out for the opening of the physical exhibit at Reinhardt this fall and at EVHS next spring. To view the interactive online exhibit visit the Bartow Author’s Corner and click Spirits of Pine Log Mountain.
EVHS Members Talk Up History

As an alternative to suspended group meetings resulting from COVID 19, EVHS has launched a new on-line "Members Speak" video series featuring local personalities who present short topics on Bartow history. In addition to graphical email updates, these new bi-weekly videos contain embedded “member video spots" or mini lectures ranging from 3 to 10 minutes. These video link segments showcase a knowledgable EVHS member speaking on any one of Bartow's historic events, properties, coming programs or notable celebrities of yesteryear. This platform offers our membership a fresh method to participate and be engaged in telling the stories of Bartow county. It encourages peer interaction from our viewing audience(s) and promotes using our EVHS website resources.

If you would like to share a "Members Speak History Moment,” please contact Joe Head at: jfhead68@bellsouth.net.
Pox and Pig Iron: A Public Health Crisis in Antebellum Bartow County

By Matthew Gramling

For three months in the spring of 1849, pestilence and panic gripped antebellum Bartow County. Smallpox had broken out at the Etowah Iron Works and threatened to spread throughout the entire county unless swift action was taken to contain its spread. News of the outbreak spread rapidly throughout the state triggering a wave of public fear which caused trade and travel throughout upper Georgia to come to a grinding halt. To meet this growing threat, municipal officials took decisive action by holding public meetings throughout the county in order to enact effective measures to prevent the disease from spreading to their communities. The sick were quarantined, temporary hospitals were established, weekly infections reports were published, and a vaccination campaign was vigorously promoted among the populace. The 1849 Smallpox Panic represents one of the first public health crises in the history of Bartow County. As such, it provides profound insight into the science and practice of southern medicine in antebellum Bartow and nineteenth-century Georgia generally. Moreover, the Panic provides an invaluable demonstration of the ways in which Bartow County residents have confronted and coped with the outbreak of infectious disease in their communities.

The spring of 1849 marked a dramatic episode in the lives of Cass County denizens. In early March, a mysterious disease had made its appearance at the Etowah Iron Works and was generating intense public excitement among the citizens of the county. Rumors that the disease was smallpox began to circulate widely among the populace. One report from an Augusta newspaper stated that 9 cases had already occurred at the Iron Works. As such, Mark Anthony Cooper--coproprietor of the Etowah Manufacturing and Mining Company--was faced with a dilemma. To allow such reports to go unchecked would not only jeopardize the welfare of his workers, but also threaten the health of his business. Cooper responded by writing an open letter to J.W. Burke, editor of the Cassville Standard, disconfirming the rumors that the disease was smallpox. He states that while several of his children had been ill with chickenpox just six weeks prior, he can gladly say that smallpox does not exist at the Iron Works. To corroborate his report, Cooper included the medical opinion of Dr. W.H. Maltbie of Cartersville. Maltbie states that he examined three of the reported cases and of these cases he diagnosed the first as a simple case of Varicella, or chickenpox, and the latter two as being “varioloid in appearance” but lacking the hallmark characteristics of smallpox. He also states he examined several similar cases in Cartersville, which turned out only to be Varicella. Thus, according to Cooper and Maltbie, the Iron Works were smallpox free. Yet, such good news proved too good to be true. For, later in the same news brief Burke included a postscript stating that just before going to press the Standard received a communication from a reputable gentleman stating that smallpox was indeed at the Iron Works and that he heard Dr. Slaughter of Marietta convince Maltbie of his misdiagnosis. Burke closes his postscript by stating that from the sources made available to him the Standard feels compelled to inform the public that they believe it is “genuine smallpox.”

While public opinion quickly accepted the news that the disease at the Iron Works was smallpox, Cooper remained incredulous. In a series of letters to Burke published throughout the first two weeks of April, Cooper attempted to cast doubt on the validity of the new diagnosis even going as far to question the medical experience of the examining physicians. He finally relented, albeit begrudgingly, due to the weight of public sentiment and the fact that cases began to terminate fatally. Even then he only considered it a modified or mild form of smallpox.
Persuaded by Cooper’s skepticism, several prominent newspaper editors concurred with his characterization of the disease. Though as the number of cases increased and more patients succumbed to the illness, they ceased to describe it in mild terms. One fatal case deserves particular attention: Mrs. Donahoo, a young pregnant mother who was stricken with smallpox and had to deliver her child with no medical aid. Mrs. Donahoo’s husband was an Iron Works employee and when she went into labor he was suffering heavily under the effects of the disease. No medical assistance could be obtained because the fear generated by the smallpox panic had made any nurses and physicians reluctant to attend upon patients. Mrs. Donahoo successfully gave birth and appeared to be nursing well and in good health. Yet, within a week she had fallen victim to her illness.

Smallpox was a dreaded and loathsome disease to antebellum Americans. A member of the orthopoxvirus family, smallpox (or Variola) was a highly infectious disease spread through direct physical contact with the sick or through inhaling the airborne saliva droplets of an infected person. An individual infected with smallpox would experience high fever and a “distinctive, progressive skin rash,” which formed pea-sized pitted pustules in the epidermis. These pustules would crust over forming scabs, which would eventually fall off often leaving deep pockmarks in the skin. This could result in permanent disfigurement especially to the face which commonly bore the greatest number of lesions. There was also a significant chance that the infected individual could be left blind from the disease. And in both cases that was if the patient survived. The mortality rate for smallpox was about thirty percent. Thus, it was a source of great public alarm wherever it made an appearance. There are numerous anecdotes of physicians and compassionate gentlemen undertaking the care of smallpox victims being driven forth from communities by terrified and enraged townfolk. One account relates the tragic case of a smallpox-stricken Georgia wagoner, who was obstructed in his way by local residents and forced to take shelter in a barn where he lay neglected and dying without a soul to care for him. He was buried with the same concern as he was shown him in illness: the barn in which he lay dead was torched and burned down upon him by the same local denizens who had driven him thence.

Simultaneous with the Iron Works outbreak, smallpox also made its appearance in Atlanta. A.M. Herring, a Florida merchant on a return trip from New York, had been exhibiting symptoms similar to smallpox when he had checked into the Atlanta Hotel. He was then examined by several physicians who concluded that he had indeed contracted smallpox. News of an occurrence of smallpox in Atlanta compounded the existing alarm in northwest Georgia over the Cass County outbreak and initiated a statewide wave of rumor and panic. Erroneous reports began to circulate that smallpox was simultaneously prevailing in Macon, Augusta, Griffin, Kingston, Marietta, Athens, and Rome, keeping local newspaper editors busy disconfirming such false reports. Some editors had to falsify rumors circulating in newspapers as far away as Montgomery and Boston. In Athens, alleged smallpox reports had generated considerable anxiety and apprehension among Franklin College students and their parents. As a result of this panic, travel and trade throughout the upper portion of the state came to a grinding halt especially along the route of the Western & Atlantic Railroad in northwest Georgia.
Smallpox rumors also had profoundly detrimental effects upon a city’s merchants whose businesses suffered greatly because travelers and patrons were apprehensive about visiting the city.

In order to meet the threat of contagion and assuage public excitement, city officials had to act quickly. In the case of Herring in Atlanta, he was quarantined a mile without the city at a temporary hospital. The city council also passed a series of resolutions to prevent the further spread of the disease as well as took proactive measures in case it should make an appearance. They also commissioned physicians to undertake a vaccination campaign of the populace. Other municipalities throughout the state took similar preventive steps. In Cassville, local officials held a public meeting in order to enact effective policies for keeping the disease out of the town, preventing contact with infected districts, establishing temporary hospital accommodations, and ardently promoting the vaccination of its citizens. State law mandated that the Governor was to store vaccine matter at various convenient locations throughout Georgia as well as furnish it “to the people gratis.” Thus, towns and cities across the state undertook initiatives to vaccinate their residents (both black and white) free of charge.

Boards of health were also appointed by county inferior courts throughout the state to confront the smallpox threat. These, in turn, published weekly reports providing statistics regarding rates of infection, recovery, and death. In Cass County, the inferior court established a board of health chaired by Cooper himself. Weekly reports demonstrated a considerable infection rate throughout the month of April with 10-20 new cases occurring at the Iron Works every week. By the time the spread of the disease had been arrested in early May there had been 110 total cases with the five deaths at the Iron Works and 3 cases in Cartersville. On May 18th, the Board published its final report with the physicians of the Board giving the county a clean bill of health. The concerted quarantine and vaccination efforts of the citizens of Cass and their leaders had yielded full fruition, smallpox had disappeared from the county. Shortly after, news surfaced that Atlanta was smallpox free and by the beginning of June it could be stated that the disease was present nowhere in the state. The scourge had finally run its course and for the time being the people of Cass County and upper Georgia needed not fear the ‘speckled monster.’ By the end of the summer, life had returned to a state of normalcy and merchants looked hopefully upon the prospects of good business in fall. Yet, the effects of the panic were still deeply felt by some in Cass. In his annual address before a biennial session of the Georgia General Assembly in November, Governor George W. Towns brought to the attention of the legislature the great expenditure, public anxiety, and destruction to business which a portion of the citizens of Cass County had suffered during the attack of smallpox on their communities. He also reminds them of the precedence set by previous legislatures in providing for the relief of such afflicted counties from the state treasury. From the record it appears that due to political considerations no relief was provided.

The Cass County Smallpox Panic of 1849 represents one of the most dramatic and affecting episodes in the history of public health in Bartow County. It provides a superb window into the history of medicine in antebellum Georgia and a profound demonstration of the way Cass county citizens responded to the threat of deadly contagion in their midst. During Reconstruction, county officials would establish a central quarantine and treatment facility at the Bartow County Poor Farm at what is today known as Hickory Log Personal Care Home. During the current COVID19 health crisis, pondering the history of past health crises can provide Bartow residents with a moment of pause and inspiration in reflecting upon the ways in which our forebears suffered, coped, and persevered in the face of lethal contagion.

To read the entire article visit the EVHS web site Bartow Author’s Corner.
2019 - 2020 Review of Events/Programs/Social Media

As a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic, EVHS complied with local and State Health Department guidelines to suspend gatherings and public programs. Following the 2020 February Sound of Africa Concert the Society moved to on-line initiatives.

Participated in our first Giving Tuesday Campaign
Installed two new plaques at the Cartersville Depot (Asa Candler and Great Locomotive Case)
Conducted first EVHS Board Visioning Session
Sound of Africa Concert, February 6, 2020
EVHS launches “Members Speak History Moments” video spots
EVHS on line interactive Questionnaire
Fund Raiser: *Come Back to the Table* Cookbook, second edition announced September 2020
First ever EVHS Scholarship awarded via the Etowah Scholarship Foundation
Due to the weight of public sentiment and the fact that cases began to terminate, the examining physicians finally relented, albeit begrudgingly, on the validity of the new diagnosis even going as far to question the medical sources made available to him. Burke closes his postscript by stating that from the sources made available to him the Standard feels compelled to provide profound insight into the science and practice of southern medicine in antebellum Bartow and Cass Counties.

The spring of 1849 marked a dramatic episode in the lives of Cass County denizens. Smallpox had had fallen victim to her illness. For three months in the spring of 1849, pestilence and panic gripped antebellum Bartow County. Smallpox had bore the greatest number of lesions. There was also a significant chance that the infected individual could be left blind leaving deep pockmarks in the skin. This could result in permanent disfigurement especially to the face which commonly infected with smallpox would experience high fever and a “distinctive, progressive skin rash,” which formed pea-sized bore the greatest number of lesions. There was also a significant chance that the infected individual could be left blind leaving deep pockmarks in the skin. This could result in permanent disfigurement especially to the face which commonly infected with smallpox would experience high fever and a “distinctive, progressive skin rash,” which formed pea-sized

By the time the spread of the disease had been arrested in early May there had been 110 total cases with the five deaths at Cass County. The inferior court established a board of health chaired by Cooper himself. Weekly reports demonstrated a considerable infection rate throughout the month of April with 10-20 new cases occurring at the Iron Works every week. The presentation is scheduled for November 2020 and will include US Corps of Engineers, Congressmen, State dignitaries and officials from the Georgia Trail Summit Association.

Parks Allatoona Pitched

EVHS members Mike Bearden, Dr. Ed Bostick and Joe Head along with Mollie Smith Cole and Brenton Baggett prepare to pitch the case for Parks Allatoona. The October 2019 EVHS newsletter featured an article that announced an initiative to establish an expanded wilderness trail. Led by Mike Bearden’s vision and his team, the project will exceed 50 miles of hiking space in one to seven mile segments between upper Stamp Creek to south of Cartersville and eventually becoming Georgia’s AAA Trail linking the Appalachian Trail to the Silver Comet Trail. The trail footprint will allow hikers to enjoy previously restricted space contouring Lake Allatoona that includes diverse flora, vistas and long forgotten historic features including structures, stories, memorials and ruins that reveal the founding of the county. The presentation is scheduled for November 2020 and will include US Corps of Engineers, Congressmen, State dignitaries and officials from the Georgia Trail Summit Association.

Speaker’s Bureau

Need a program? EVHS Speaker’s Bureau can help!

History of Bartow County
Selected Civil War events in Bartow County
Mining history in Bartow County
Native American history of the Etowah Valley
African American history of Bartow County
The Great Locomotive Chase in Bartow County
Iron Furnaces in Bartow County
Train Wrecks of Bartow County
Historic homes of Bartow County
Historic Railroads of Bartow County
Prominent Personalities of Bartow County
EVHS is pleased to recognize the corporate support of our community business leaders who are investing in preserving Bartow County history.

Sam and Debra Franklin
Sam Franklin Home Furnishings

Lara Jeanneret
Lara J Designs

Rick and Joan Moore
Cartersville Animal Medical Center

Rick Drews
Century Bank

Cartersville Bartow County Chamber of Commerce

Todd and Angie Edwards
Adairsville Dentistry

John Sweitzer
Sweitzer Engineering

Steve and Wanda Gray
Wanda Gray, Inc
Back By Popular Demand

The historical society is cooking again! "Sold Out" was the response heard by December 2018 regarding the highly successful EVHS Come Back to the Table Tastes of Etowah Valley cookbook.

As a by-product of COVID-19 many of our members have turned to the EVHS cookbook for fresh dishes to prepare while quarantined. As a result, many of the ladies selected recipes from the cookbook and shared images of the baked goods they prepared on social media. In doing so, they included a photo of the cookbook or mentioned it in the caption.

Coincidentally, this exposure generated a number of inquiries from the public asking how they could acquire a copy of the cookbook. As an outcome, several original Cookbook Committee members have come together to publish a second edition. The EVHS Board is underwriting the cost and proceeds will go to the general budget.

Quantities are limited. Don’t be left out this time around. Order your copy now by going on line at EVHSonline.org/getcooking.

Patrons Step Up

EVHS would like to recognize a growing number of Society members that have upgraded their memberships to Patron status. These upgraded memberships are greatly appreciated and we value your leadership.

Patron Memberships

Marsha Arrington
Linda & Robert Baker
Gary & Thonya Boston
Becky Champion
Gene & Pat Covington
Jim Doran
David & Betty Dundee
Don & Connie Evans, Sr

Candler & Susan Ginn
Joe Frank & Elizabeth Harris
Joe & Debbie Head
Bob & Mary Norton
Boyd Pettit
J.B. & Dianne Tate
Susan & Lewis Tumlin
We tip our hats to a steadfast gentleman who has watched every penny of the Etowah Valley Historical Society for over 12 years. In addition to being an invaluable EVHS board member, Larry Posey has also applied for grants, assisted with volunteer responsibilities in the office, made sure the mail was picked up, and served as the treasurer for multiple events for the society. His contributions to the board have been recognized monthly by fellow board members as an extensive accounting of our finances was presented. Larry’s consistent, calm professionalism was evident in everything he did. His reserved, conservative and silent style served as a virtue as he managed the EVHS treasury and brought reassuring confidence to the Board.

Larry also served as the board’s Kingston connection. As a Kingston city council member he helped the society identify historical sites or potential history site venues for that area. Larry loved railroad and war history and was a valued researcher in those and other areas. He is currently working with his son and others to verify the early Trail of Tears removal fort site.

Larry Posey has given so much to the society and continues to as a board member and a mentor to Mark Mathews, a treasurer in training. The society takes this opportunity to say “thank you” to Larry and Kate as he winds down on a final spread sheet presentation. Together they have greeted many members and handled the money with a gracious smile and organized check in!

Larry, many thanks again. We are so appreciative of your service as an officer and with your continued commitment to the board and EVHS!
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- Etowah Chief - page 1
- Battle of Allatoona Pass Remembered - pages 3 & 4
- Bartow Author’s Corner - page 5
- Spirits of Pine Log Mountain Exhibit - page 6
- EVHS Members Talk Up History - page 7
- Pox and Pigiron - pages 8, 9, & 10
- 2019 - 2020 Membership Snapshot - page 11
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- Back by Popular Demand - page 14
- Posey Closes the Books - page 15

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