As EVHS prepares to celebrate its 50th Golden Anniversary, it has grown from a humble beginning of just over two dozen charter members in 1972 to over 1000 members in January 2022. The strength of our fellowship has been motivated by a keen interest in local history, ambitious programming, member engagement and desire to preserve and educate our citizens about the heritage of Bartow County.

ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1972 – 2022, Part 1

By Guy Parmenter

Welcome to the first of a three-part series exploring the history of our Society during this 50th anniversary year. Look for part two and three in upcoming newsletters.

The Etowah Valley Historical Society (EVHS) was founded September 30, 1972 at Valley View and originally named the Etowah Valley Commission for the Preservation of Historical Sites. Robert Stiles suggested the name change and it was approved at a meeting on October 13, 1973 at the Ryals-Davis home.

Vernon C. Ayers
Helen S. Ayers
Rena McCormick Beazley
Ora Vincent Branson
Ella Milner Cummings
Jefferson Lee Davis
Eloine Green Davis
Jane Norton Finger
Richard D. Hark
Clarence Willis Ivey
Barbara David Ivey
Betty Joyce Jolly
Margaret Stiles Knight
Doris H. McCormick

Louise Young Milner
Annie Nelson
Emmie G. Nelson
Robert Fouche Norton
Helen Goodwin Norton
Robert Fouche Norton, Jr.
Nancy Ligon Phillips
Harry Joseph Pugliese
Ellen Currier Pugliese
Robert Mackay Stiles
Susan McGowan Stiles
Mittie F. Taylor
Lewis Henry Tumlin, Jr

The purpose of the Society was initially to preserve historical sites in the Etowah Valley area for future generations. Subsequently the Society’s first project was to establish boundaries for an Etowah Valley Historic District partnering with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Coosa Valley Area Planning and Development Commission. After several years of hard work, the Etowah Valley District was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 30, 1975. It included approximately 40,000 acres and is recognized as one of the largest Districts on the National Register. On May 22, 1976, EVHS and the citizens of Euharlee celebrated the completed restoration of the Euharlee Militia District Courthouse. This project was initiated by the Society and greatly supported by the Euharlee