

BLACK HERITAGE of NORTHWEST GEORGIA

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George Washington Carver Park

Georgia's first "Negro" State Park was created on Allatoona Lake in 1950, when John Loyd Atkinson, a Tuskegee Airman in World War II, sought a recreational facility for black Americans. He had tried unsuccessfully on his own to get permits to establish a park, but then with the creation of Allatoona Dam, Georgia State Parks leased 1,457 acres that became Red Top Mountain State Park, and an additional 345 acres to create George Washington Carver State Park. The only Georgia State Park to be named for an African American honors the renowned Tuskegee Institute botanist and inventor.

In 2017, the park returned to its original name and was renovated under new management by the Cartersville-Bartow County Convention & Visitors Bureau. The park is open for day use and is available for exclusive reservation making it an ideal site for reunions, corporate picnics, and other large gatherings.

<http://visitcartersvillega.org/gwcp/>

Nobel Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center

Originally named the Cassville Colored School, the Noble Hill School as it became known, was built in 1923 as the first standard school for Black children in the Bartow County School System. The Rosenwald Fund, established by Sears, Roebuck & Company President Julius Rosenwald for the education of Black children, contributed \$700 and the Cassville community gave \$1,300 to build the school.



In December 1989, the school opened as the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center, an African American heritage museum. Inside displays replicate the classrooms of the two-room schoolhouse, artifacts introduce daily family life of the early 1900s, and photos introduce other colored schools throughout the county.

<http://visitcartersvillega.org/gwcp/>



GeorgiaHighCountry.org

Washington W. King and the Euharlee Covered Bridge



Bridge builder Horace King is well known throughout the South for his life and work. His sons were also part of the bridge building business and had an impact in Bartow County. In 1886, Washington King and a local man named Jonathan H. Burke were contracted by Bartow County to construct a 138-foot covered bridge spanning Euharlee Creek near the Lowry Mill.

Melvinia Shields

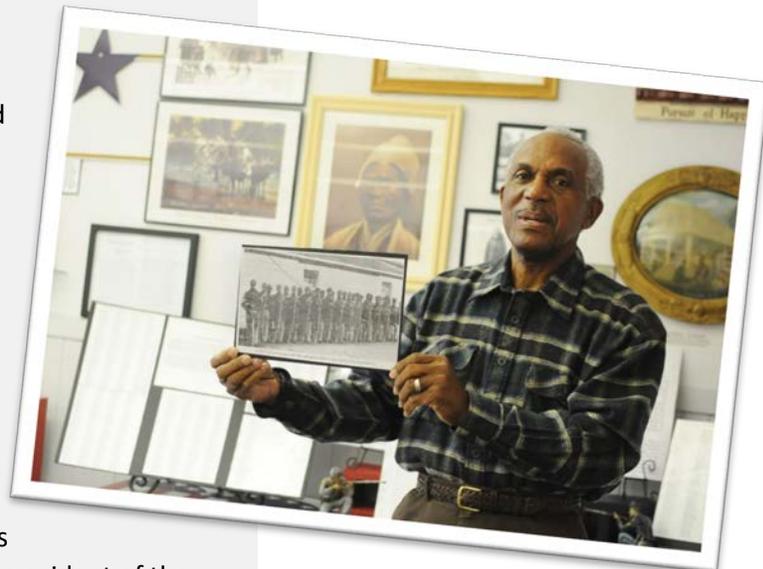
The **Great-Great-Great Grandmother of First Lady Michelle Obama** is buried in Kingston, Georgia. Upon freedom from slavery, Melvinia Shields migrated from Rex, Georgia to be near other freed slave families from her youth. In Kingston, she spent the remainder of her days in the community that knew her as "Mattie" McGruder and cared for generations of its children as a midwife.

<http://visitcartersvillega.org/gwcp/>

The Emery Center

www.emerycenter.org

The Emery Center, formerly Emery Street School, is located in Dalton, Georgia. The mission is, "to promote an awareness of African American culture and heritage while fostering an atmosphere of trust, integrity, and respect for all cultures." The school was initially constructed in 1886 to address the educational needs of African American children in Dalton and surrounding areas. In 1968, the school was integrated into the Dalton Public School System. The significant contributions of local Daltonians, such as Major Richard Robert Wright, the first President of Savannah State University, Major League Baseball Player Harry "Suitcase" Simpson, as well as Historian Levi Branham, author of "My Life and Travels," are evident of the rich and diverse history of the Dalton and Northwest Georgia area. The center's vast collection offers visitors an in-depth look at history from a local, state, national, and international perspective.



Above: Curtis Rivers shares the area's Black history during a tour of the Emery Center.

Roland Hayes

www.harrisartscenter.com/harris-arts-center/roland-hayes/

Located inside the Harris Arts Center in downtown Calhoun, the museum gives tribute to Roland Hayes, a classical singer popular during his time, especially in Europe.

Prater's Mill



Prater's Mill returns to a working grist mill during the annual country fair each Oct. in Dalton. Its colorful past is interpreted on private tours, available year-round by appointment. In May 1865, the Civil War ended and Ben Prater freed his seventeen slaves, giving several acres of land to each family. Today, these families still celebrate family reunions together and maintain the heritage of this National Register site. www.PratersMill.org

Summer Hill

After seventh grade, many African American students continued their education at Summer Hill School in Cartersville. Summer Hill was not just a school, but a community overlooking the town of Cartersville where four generations of black Americans were nurtured. The community produced Georgia's first black Supreme Court justice; a famous Motown songwriter; teachers, ministers, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals despite poverty, racism and segregation laws.

Renovated and reopened to the public, the Summer Hill Complex now has a museum. <http://summerhillhg.org>

Father of Gospel: Thomas A. Dorsey

*"Take My Hand,
Precious Lord"*



**Thomas A. Dorsey Festival
4th weekend in June**

<https://www.facebook.com/TADorseybirthplace/>

