

Battle...from Page 1A

1861,” said Tatham. “The Civil War began on the 12th of April in 1861.

“Their unit was assigned to Stonewall Jackson’s 2nd Corp, Army of Northern Virginia.

“John Tatham was killed in the Battle of Mechanicsville. They enlisted together and this was their great adventure.

“I’ve often wondered if my grandfather was standing beside his brother when he was killed. Did he hold his brother in his arms – what was his reaction?”

Thomas was one of Tatham’s great-great grandfathers on his father’s side, along with Rufus Hall who enlisted with the Confederacy in Franklin, North Carolina, in 1862. Hall served in the 6th North Carolina Calvary during the time of the battle.

“Jacob Newton Gibson, my second great grandfather, enlisted in the 6th Georgia Calvary,” said Tatham. “He was from Towns County. He enlisted as a private in 1862 and his enlistment said three years or the war, meaning the duration of the war.”

Gibson, an ancestor from Tatham’s mother’s side, happened to be enlisted in the exact same company, during the same time, for the same duration as Tatham’s other grandfather on his mother’s side, James



Historical Society members enjoy an evening of storytelling on Monday, Sept. 12.

Hampton Sims.

The two men both lived in Towns County, raised their children within miles of one another and enlisted into the Confederacy around the same time in 1862.

Tatham went on to explain the conditions of the battle, what he had gathered from what letters he was able to recover from his grandfathers, as well as information he found during research.

The eyewitness accounts and paintings Tatham found revealed just a glimpse of what

his four grandfathers possibly saw that September day in 1863.

“At different points throughout the battle, my grandfathers could have been in clear eyesight of one another,” said Tatham. “They didn’t even know what would happen or how their children would come into play.

“I can’t help but think about...if any one of them hadn’t survived this battle, I wouldn’t be standing before you today.”

Watch out for the Devil’s Walking Stick: dangerous beauty

Jennifer Cordier,
Plant Preservation Committee

Last August, as I was driving down Gum Log Road in Union County, GA, I spotted a grove of small trees growing in a ditch along the road bank. My attention was drawn to the trees because they were in full bloom and many insects were swarming among the tiny flowers which made up their large white panicles. Always curious about the native plants that live in our mountains, I grabbed up my field guide and discovered that I was looking at the Devil’s Walking Stick! I was familiar with this plant as I had seen its spiky stems on earlier hikes, but I had never seen it in full bloom – what a treat!

Aralia spinosa, member of the Ginseng family, has several common names which include Devil’s Walking Stick, Hercules Club, Angelica Tree, Toothache Tree and Prickly Elder. It is found naturally occurring in eastern North America from New York and Pennsylvania south to Florida and west to southwestern Iowa and western Texas. It grows in rich woods and alluvial soils and can be found at the edges of streams and in thickets. Some plant species associated with the Devil’s Walking Stick include Black Cherry, Eastern



The Devil’s Walking Stick trunk shows bark, leaf scars and spines

Hop Hornbeam, Red Maple, Persimmon and Sassafras.

This small tree ranges in height from 6 feet to 30 feet. The main stem and leaf stalks contain many sharp spines. (Don’t grab the Devil’s Walking Stick while hiking through the woods!) Its leaves are large (up to 6 feet long) and are twice divided. From July to September large umbels of tiny white flowers cover the tops of the trees in showy white panicles, which produce juicy black berries after flowering. Insects harvest the pollen and nectar from the flowers and many different birds as well as black bear feast on the berries.

In folk tradition, fresh bark was decocted into a strong emetic and a tincture of berries was used for toothaches and rheumatic pain. The root of the plant was poulticed for boils,

skin eruptions and swelling. This plant is now seldom used for medicinal purposes. Handling roots may cause dermatitis and large amounts of berries are poisonous.

The Devil’s Walking Stick is just one of the many amazing plant species which live in our mountain ecology. Each plant is unique and plays an important role in the intricate web of life that surrounds us. Keep an eye out for this beauty!

For more information about our native plants and projects of the Preservation Committee, contact Jennifer Cordier; ivylog@windstream.net) or Clare Johnston (706-745-2655, Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center) or visit www.gmrec.uga.edu and click on Community Council and then Preservation Committee. NT(Sep21,Z12)CA

Budget Blinds sponsors Dancing with North Georgia Stars

Budget Blinds owners, Rick and DeDe Siefken, are proud to be sponsors of Enotah CASA’s first Dancing with North Georgia Stars -Towns & Union Counties event on November 5th at Union County Schools Fine Arts Center. This event will showcase local celebrities and their pro/semi-pro partner in a dancing extravaganza to raise funds to help CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) provide citizen volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in our local community. CASA advocates served over 110 children in Towns and Union Counties last year.

Come enjoy the dancing and entertainment at the show and then join the celebration at the after party Gala at North Georgia Technical College



Budget Blinds sponsors Enotah CASA fund raiser

where you’ll meet the winners and dance to your favorite songs. The gala will feature music, dancing, a bar, refreshments and moonshine tastings by Granddaddy Mimm’s Distillery. Buy your tickets today to support your favorite couple; purchase either online at www.dancingwithnorthgeorgiastars.com or locally from the dancers, from United Community Bank in Blairsville and Hiawassee or at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce. To learn more about how you can become a volunteer or to make a donation visit www.enotah-casa.com or call (706) 864-0300. NT(Sep21,Z18)gg

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Water Board meeting

Towns County Water & Sewerage Authority is located at 1224 Jack Dayton Circle in Young Harris. Our office hours are 8 AM - 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday. Our emergency phone number for after hours is 706-379-3622. The Towns County Water Authority Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. If you would like to be put on the agenda, please give us a call at 706-896-4372 or email us at tcws@windstream.net with your request.

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CBs & Ham Radio Swap Meet

A CBs & Ham Radio Swap Meet will be held Saturday, October 1st at North Georgia Tech, Senior Pavilion, 8 a.m. - ? No admission. Anyone is welcome to sell or trade any items related to CBs or Ham Radios. Tailgaters welcome. Free coffee & soft drinks. For more info call 706-745-0021 or 706-745-1013 or 706-897-5499. NT(Sep21,Z2)CA