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GEORGIA

Fall / 2016

Vol. 1 No. 1

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of Carroll, Douglas and Haralson counties*



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Douglasville, Georgia

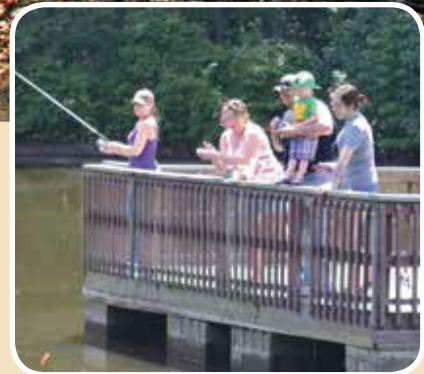


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Visit WEST GEORGIA

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WELCOME TO WEST GEORGIA!

Maybe you've passed through west Georgia before. Perhaps you've already heard the names of our towns. But have you ever wondered what was here?

This is the first issue of a new magazine that's devoted to helping people explore and discover everything that west Georgia has to offer.

West Georgia is part of the metro Atlanta area, but thankfully apart from the dense traffic and heavy crowds. The counties of Carroll, Douglas and Haralson are a welcome refuge from the hectic pace of modern life, yet are just cosmopolitan enough for even the most sophisticated palate.

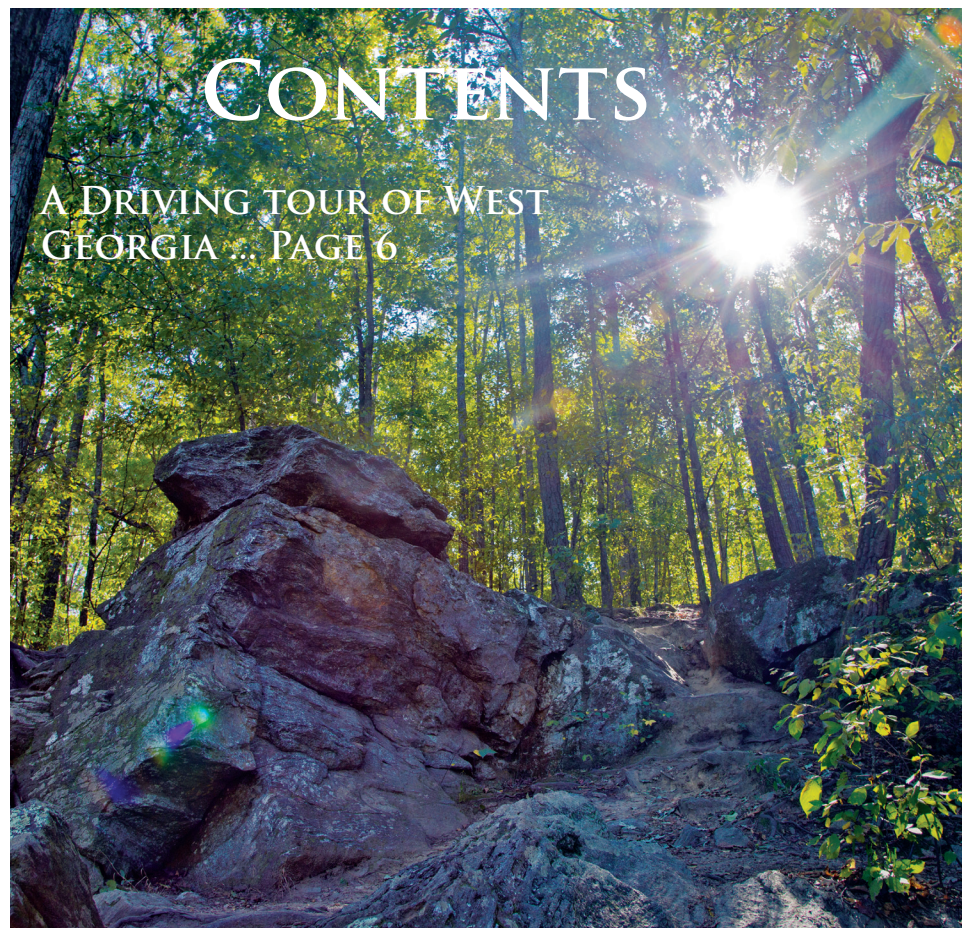
Pardon us for boasting, but we think west Georgia is one of the most beautiful parts of the state. And once you get off the Interstate and start exploring, we are pretty sure that you will agree.

That's what this first issue of Visit West Georgia is all about. Whatever brings you to our community, we encourage you to get out and explore.

We begin by offering you a driving tour through the historic sites that are spread across the region. Long before there was a United States, this area was on the border of the Creek and Cherokee nations. After the Civil War it became an important textile and rail center. More recently it has become a modern-day boom town of industry, commerce and technology.

Our tour takes you to all the historic sites across our three counties, with side trips to other destinations. And we point out all the great places to eat and shop which set our region apart.

We're sure that once you've seen what's here, you'll want to return often.



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A Driving Tour Acr

Discover history, culture and hidden gems as you travel the roads of Carroll, Douglas and Haralson counties!

When most people travel for business or shopping, they tend to stay on the big highways and stick to the big commercial centers. That's too bad, because the best way to discover a place is to get off the beaten track.

If you want a break from the traffic and stress of business, there's no better cure than going out on a ramble of exploration. Whether your interests run to local history, or recreation and sightseeing – or if you just want a fun place for a family trip – west Georgia offers something for everyone.

So let's take a driving tour through the three counties of this region: **Douglas, Carroll** and **Haralson** counties. We'll start out from that great family destination, **Six Flags Over Georgia**, and head west, then south and back home again.

Along the way, you'll see that there's a lot to be found once you get away from the Interstate.

STORY BY KEN DENNEY

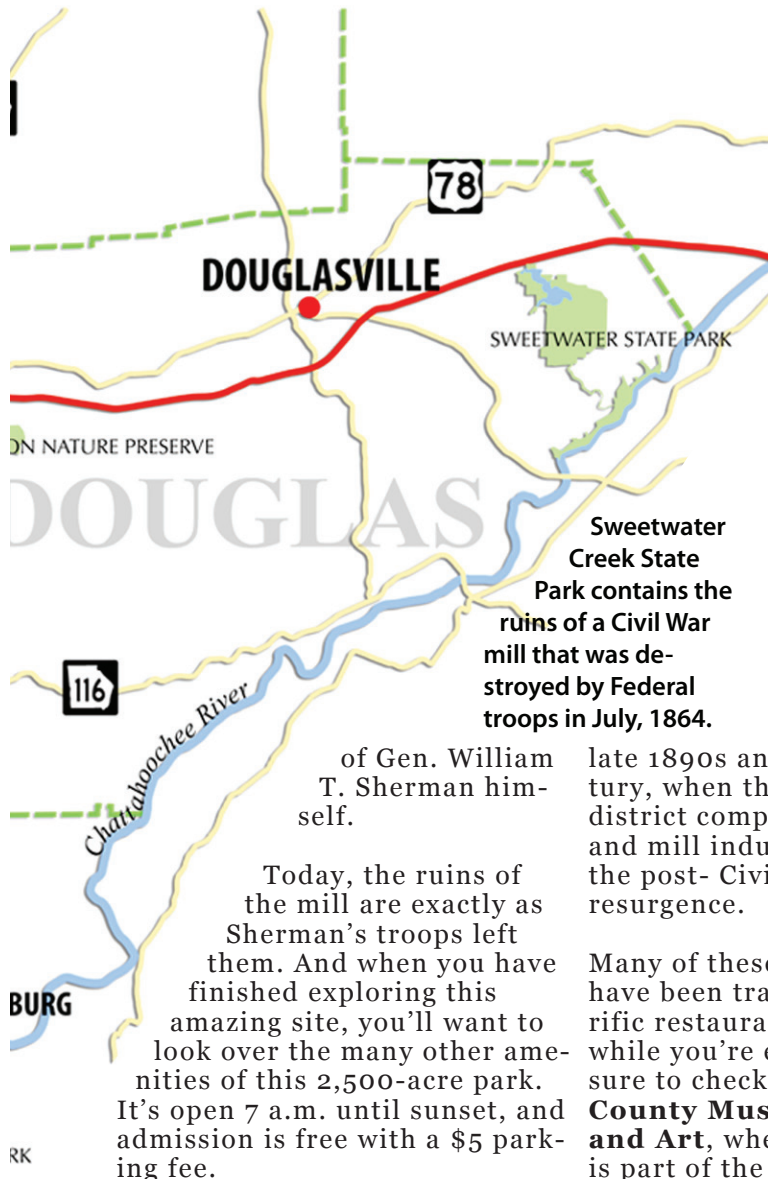


Douglas County

Heading west on Interstate 20 from the Six Flags Over Georgia theme park, you'll want to hop off on Exit 44 and head over to our first stop, **Sweetwater Creek State Park**.

In this pristine natural setting, located just outside Atlanta, is one of the state's few remaining relics of the Civil War. In July, 1864, the area around the park was a large mill complex turning out goods for the Confederate armies – that is, until Federal troops came and destroyed the place. Those who worked there, mostly women, were sent north on orders

ross West Georgia



of Gen. William T. Sherman himself.

Today, the ruins of the mill are exactly as Sherman's troops left them. And when you have finished exploring this amazing site, you'll want to look over the many other amenities of this 2,500-acre park. It's open 7 a.m. until sunset, and admission is free with a \$5 parking fee.

Now, let's get back on the Interstate and continue west for a short distance to Exit 36. Turn north along Chapel Hill Road and drive into the historic town of **Douglasville**, the seat of **Douglas County**.

While Douglasville itself is a large, bustling metro community, downtown the picture is a little different. Here you'll see many store buildings that harken back to the

late 1890s and early 20th century, when the town's commercial district complemented a cotton and mill industry and was part of the post-Civil War "New South" resurgence.

Many of these historic buildings have been transformed into terrific restaurants and shops, but while you're exploring those be sure to check out the **Douglas County Museum of History and Art**, where the building itself is part of the exhibit!

The museum is housed in the old Douglas County Courthouse and is one of the few remaining examples of the architectural style known as International, which flourished from the 1920s to the 1930s. The building was saved from demolition and now houses rotating exhibits of local history, a period that stretches back to when the county was an important site for Creek Nation. Admission is free,

and the museum is open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Continuing our tour, we're going to leave the Interstate behind and continue west along U.S. Highway 78. It's easy to find; the highway serves as Douglasville's **Broad Street**. This roadway is an important part of west Georgia history, and you'll note that it parallels the railroad linking many of the region's towns.

Entering Carroll County

Driving along this winding road, you'll soon cross over the border into **Carroll County** and enter the town of **Villa Rica**.

Here's another fast-growing city, working hard to preserve its history and heritage. And there's a lot of history here. The town's name – "Rich City" in Spanish – relates to its early history as a gold-mining

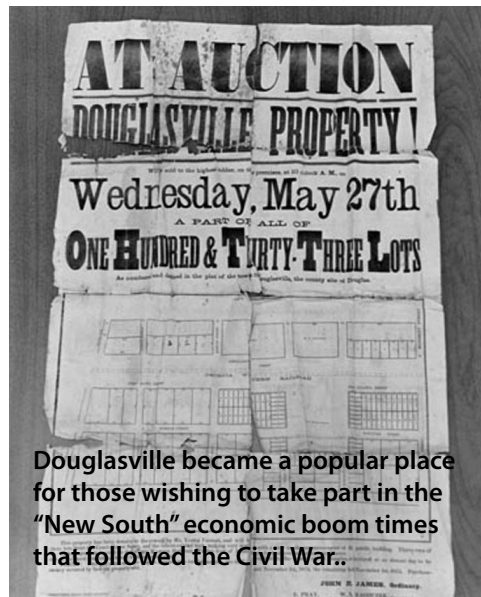
town. In fact, the nation's first "gold rush" in the 19th century wasn't in California – it was here, in west Georgia.

Exploring the shops and restaurants downtown, you'll see markers denoting other historic events as well. A **natural gas explosion** in 1957 killed 12 people and leveled a row of buildings on **Montgomery Street**. In 1961, a group of **Freedom Riders** arrived at the old bus station; their last peaceful stop before meeting violence while challenging segregation. And **Thomas Dorsey**, a famed composer of gospel songs – including "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" grew up here, and **Mt. Prospect Baptist Church** preserves his legacy.

After exploring downtown, you'll want to head up Highway 61 (the Dallas Highway) and turn right onto Stockmar Road to discover the **Pine Mountain Gold Museum**. Here's a chance to experience the past and provide some fun for the whole family. Visitors have a chance to actually pan for gold and look over some fascinating exhibits of how gold mining was done in the early 19th century. And children will love the petting zoo and other exhibits outside – not to mention taking a ride on the **Pine Mountain Scenic Railroad** that circles the park. It's open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children under five get in free; all others pay \$4. There are additional fees for gold panning and the train.

Now let's return to **Villa Rica**. This might be a good chance to stop in and try some of the restaurants downtown, like the Olive Tree or the **Chat & Choo** restaurants, located in the reconstructed **Berry Pharmacy Building**. If you're lucky, there may also be something to see and do at the **Mill Amphitheater** downtown, scene of many concerts and festivals throughout the year.

Working our way back to US Highway 78, we'll now continue heading west. As you leave the area of **Villa Rica**, you'll notice a pleasant mix of commercial and residential properties, as well as long expanses of greenery and trees. As urban growth has spread along the



Douglasville became a popular place for those wishing to take part in the "New South" economic boom times that followed the Civil War..

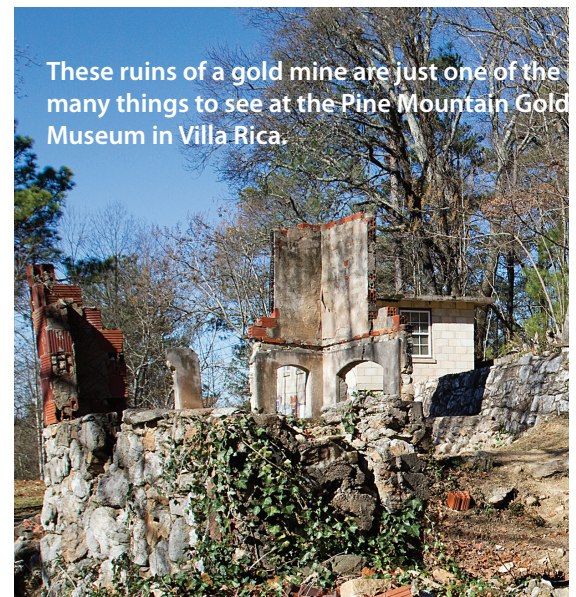
interstate, this section of road has remained much as it has over the past few decades, which makes this a nice, relaxing drive.

As you reach the town of **Temple**, and the intersection with Georgia State Route 113, you have a choice.

You can turn north here to explore this small community, established in 1882 when the railroad was first built through this section of west Georgia. Or, to explore Carroll County's link to Hollywood glamour, you can turn south and take a short, 10-minute detour down Ga. 113 to Old Center Point Road, then west to **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church** and the gravesite of Academy Award-winning actress **Susan Hayward**.

This may seem an odd place to find an Oscar© recipient, but Hayward fell in love with Carroll County about the same time she met and married a Carrollton resident named **F. Eaton Chalkley**. Hayward (1917-1975) was one of Hollywood's most successful actresses, but she moved here from California in 1959, and for the next few years she and Chalkley lived happily on an estate near here. They even donated the land on which the church sits. When Chalkley died suddenly in 1966, she left and never returned, except to be buried beside Chalkley in this peaceful, west Georgia setting.

Returning now to **Temple**, let's continue our westward journey along US 78. Now you'll get a



These ruins of a gold mine are just one of the many things to see at the Pine Mountain Gold Museum in Villa Rica.

chance to see some of the real scenery that this section of Carroll County offers; a welcome refuge from the speeders and traffic-clogged interstate.

Haralson County

Crossing now over the **Haralson County** line, you are now entering the town of **Bremen**. And



Bowdon Area Historical Society (BAHS) is located adjacent to Bowdon High School on the property occupied by the former Bowdon College. The Society maintains three structures on this property. The Meeting Place, formerly the second building of the Bowdon Methodist-Protestant Church, established in 1857, served as the headquarters of BAHS since its renovation in 1990 and until the completion of McDaniel Hall in the fall of 2016. The Shelnutt House Museum, a double pen dogtrot house once owned by one of the town's founders, reflects home life in the late 19th century and early 20th century. The Kent House, a shotgun design, reflects home life in the first quarter of the 20th century. The buildings are open to the public by appointment.

The mission of the Bowdon Area Historical Society is to preserve the heritage of the Bowdon area and to instill an appreciation of the past in both present and future generations. To this end, the organization sponsors Founders' Day each year during the first full weekend in August to include a parade, crafters, entertainment and living history demonstrations. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and include a covered dish meal followed by a program of local history.



the Gold



Hollywood star and glamour queen Susan Hayward made Carrollton her home in the early 1960s and is buried here.

although it was named after the port town of Bremen in Germany, residents will quickly tell you that the name of the place is pronounced Bree-man.

Before the railroad came through here, this place was called **Wolf Pen**, but a German immigrant and merchant named **Ernest G. Kramer** wanted it named after

the German city. Bremen is home to several unique places to shop, eat and lodge, but it is a highly important center of west Georgia history, because it was here that several textile plants transformed the economics of the entire area.

The West Georgia Textile Museum at 126 Hamilton Ave., serves as both a reminder of that

textile heritage and as a venue for corporate meetings, art exhibitions and other events.

While in Bremen, you may be interested in dropping by the **Mill Town Music Hall** at 1031 Alabama Ave. Not only is this one of the region's premier stages for musicians of every stripe, it is also home to a collection of awards by

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Wick's Tavern, circa 1830, in Villa Rica is the oldest commercial building in Carroll County and was a gathering place for gold miners in the early 19th century.



Marty Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives are one of the acts you might catch at Mill Town Music Hall in Bremen.

Harold Shedd, a legendary producer of many Country hits, and who was born and raised nearby.

While you are visiting **Haralson County**, be sure to be on the lookout for the many, many barbecue restaurants in the area. All the barbecue served in west Georgia is good, but Haralson County for some reason seems to have some of the best in the region, and

you'll want to come back again and again to sample every place.

Returning to US 78 and continuing west, you will cross over U.S. Highway 27. Here, you can choose to turn north and travel about five miles to take Business Route 27 west to the small town of **Buchanan**, the county seat of Haralson County.

This small, quiet town has a lot to see in your quest for history. Take for example the **Historic Courthouse**, located at 145 Courthouse Square. Built in 1892 in the Victorian style known as Queen Anne, the building is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and harkens back to the grand old days when county courthouses were grand, elegant architectural statements. The building



A 15-foot wide model of the old Lithia Hotel, built in 1890, now graces the museum. It was once considered the largest wooden structure in the South. With over 100 rooms, it contained a large ballroom, pool tables, and other amenities that attracted many visitors from the North. The well preserved guest register books show that the Vanderbilt's once visited the hotel. In the early 1900 period, this grand hotel lost its popularity and was finally closed.

The West Georgia museum of Tallapoosa was started when, in 1990, a group of citizens met to form an organization that would preserve both the history, and natural history of the West Georgia area. Once underway, a museum board was chosen by the Tallapoosa City Council, and old laundry building was donated and the rest is history.

From a 5,000 square foot building, the museum moved into new quarters in 2000, which now encompasses a 15,000 square foot facility that is a great asset to the West Georgia area.

The museum showcases our local history by having a series of mock stores that represent businesses that area: an old shoe shop, a dentist office, a barber shop, log cabin, general store, and others tell a story of the area. Antique cars, a horse and buggy, a mail wagon also add to the historical aspect of the museum.

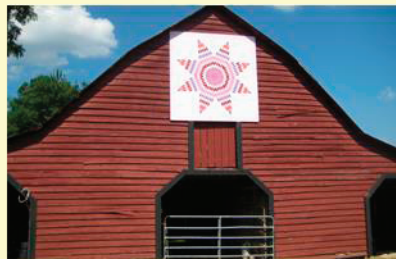
Haralson County has a varied array of flora and fauna. A 30 foot diorama features wildlife of the region, Along with a large display of dinosaurs, including a 30 foot T-Rex that thrills youngsters for miles around.

West Georgia Museum has something for everyone. It continues to command respect from all who pay a visit to this wonderful institution.

Call 770-574-3125 for tours and information

Hours: Monday - Friday 9-4pm // Saturday 11- 3pm // Closed Sunday

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Visitharalson.org



Throughout the year, Carroll County Recreation Department offers a number of sports & camps that allow our youth to learn everything from the fundamentals of their favorite sport to what it really means to be a part of a team. Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, Track, Female Volleyball, and Gymnastics are just a handful of sports offered at CCRD. We also hold certain events throughout the year for the citizens of Carroll County such as Dances, Festivals, & Community Yard Sales. For more information, you may visit our website at www.carrollcountygarec.com or call the office: 770-830-5902.

now houses the library.

Not far away is the **Little Creek One-Room Schoolhouse**, the last remaining such structure in the county and one of the few left in the entire state.

If, instead of visiting Buchanan you decide to continue traveling west on US 78, you'll continue to follow a meandering route through fields, pastures and homes until you reach the town of **Tallapoosa**, a town that with one of the most

colorful histories of all the towns in west Georgia.

Originally known as "**Possum Snout**," the name was changed to Tallapoosa in 1860. But don't laugh at that first name; each year, on New Year's Eve, the annual "**Possum Drop**" is one of the most well-attended events held to welcome the new year, rivaling even better-known events in Atlanta and elsewhere.

SEE **TOUR/PAGE 13**

"The Clothing Center of the South:" Bremen's Apparel History

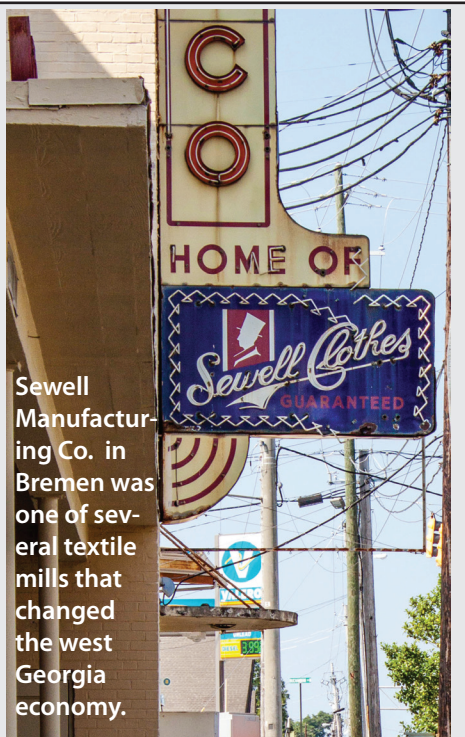
In 1882, the Haralson County town of **Bremen** didn't exist. Instead, there was a railroad village named Kramer, a stop along the Georgia Pacific railroad and named after Carrollton businessman **Ernest G. Kramer**.

When Kramer began investing in the construction of a new town at the site, he requested that it be named Bremen, for the port city in his native Germany. Within five years, another rail line, the Chattanooga, Rome and Columbus Railroad, later known as the Central of Georgia, built a line that intersected with the Georgia Pacific at Bremen, turning the town into a major depot.

The crossing of the two rail lines provided access to regional and national markets and made Bremen an attractive location. Many industries have operated in Bremen over the years, but during the 20th Century, the city gained a national reputation as "The Clothing Center of the South."

The industry changed the fortunes of entrepreneurs and employees alike, and today many west Georgia families have ancestors who worked there.

STORY BY KERI ADAMS
AND ANN MCCLEARY



Sewell Manufacturing Co. in Bremen was one of several textile mills that changed the west Georgia economy.

A clothing industry began to develop in Bremen in the late 1920s, when **Bremen Looms**, built at the site of the **Mandeville Oil** plant on South Buchanan Street, began producing men's shirts. Renamed **Bremen Mills** in 1929, the company operated through 1931. A subsidiary of **Cluett, Peabody, & Company** purchased the plant in 1933 and began manufacturing the well-known **Arrow shirt**.

Yet Bremen did not really become associated with the clothing industry until after 1928, when the **Sewell** brothers – **Roy, Robert** and **Warren** - moved their **Sewell Manufacturing Company** from Atlanta to Bremen. In 1945, Warren Sewell created his own company after "crossing the railroad tracks" to establish the

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Warren Sewell Clothing Company on Hamilton Avenue. These two companies operated their sales and marketing business in Bremen, but manufactured most of the apparel in **Bowdon** and other nearby small towns.

The Sewell businesses became very successful, and these Sewell entrepreneurs invested in new companies started by friends and family, including the **Hubbard Pants Company** (1935), the **Ray Sewell Company** (1955), and **Worley Sewell Company** (1963). Bremen quickly became recognized as a leader in all types of apparel production, but it remained best known for its high-quality tailored men's suits.

Bremen was not a textile mill village like **Mandeville Mills** in **Carrollton** or **Fullerville** in **Villa Rica**, but its business leaders took pride in investing in their community and workforce. The companies offered a variety of amenities to their workers. They also created opportunities for fellowship and for improving the life of the community.

A group known as the **Sewell Singers** performed on **WLBB**, the Carrollton radio station, and the **Sewell Gospel Quartet** played at churches throughout the region. **Mrs. (Aurelia) Phillip's Opportunity School** provided an education for local residents who wanted it, and several emerging businessmen, including Ray Sewell, Sr., took advantage of that opportunity.

During the 1970s, when the industry peaked in Bremen, over 2,500-area residents, mostly women, worked in the city's apparel plants. Employees recalled a strong sense of community because they lived near one another, shopped at the same downtown stores, attended church and other social functions together, and even took their breaks at the same lunch counters.

Iona "Onie" Baxter, who worked for the **Sewell Manufacturing Company** for over 40 years, remembered the sense of shared community, "Even though we have worked for different companies, it was just like one big family, because people cared about what happened to each other and what happened to each company."

By the 1990s, many of the Bremen's clothing manufacturers had begun to close. Increased foreign competition and the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) contributed to the decline in prices for American-made goods. Some companies transitioned to offshore



production, others closed entirely, but a few have continued to manufacture some apparel, especially military uniforms, in the region.

Today, the Art Deco styled facade of the **Sewell Manufacturing Company**, and the fashionable turquoise sign on the former **Hubbard Slacks Company** building still exude the high fashion of the industry. The **Sewell Companies** still have their sales and marketing operations in the original Sewell Manufacturing Company on Pacific Avenue, where it operates a store on the lower level and has now begun manufacturing clothing again.

The **Warren Sewell Clothing Company** building on Hamilton Avenue has been transformed into **Sewell Mill**, a museum and community event facility, which features an interactive exhibit on the textile industry. Here, visitors and local residents can get a glimpse into the work of an apparel company salesman, view equipment used in the plants, and try on tailored suit coats still made today.

The city is developing outdoor kiosks and wayside signage that will tell the community's rich history, with funds from the **Appalachian Regional Commission**. These signs will be placed at many of the former apparel company buildings that remain along the downtown roads.

While Bremen's downtown streets are no longer filled with textile workers coming and going to work, the legacy created by those who built "the Clothing Center of the South" lives on. ♥ **VWG**



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TOUR

FROM PAGE 11

Tallapoosa began to grow in the 1880s, after the railroad arrived and a land speculator named **Ralph Spencer**. He began advertising the place in northern newspapers as a boom town, and many people from across the northeast relocated here. Unfortunately, the boom went bust – but the houses those settlers built remain as some of the finest examples of architecture that can be found in west Georgia.

And not all Spencer's plans went bust. He correctly foresaw that the land in **Haralson County** was perfect for **winemaking**. In the late 1880s, he invited some 200 **Hungarian winemaking families** to move here, and they settled north of Tallapoosa in settlements they called **Budapest, Nytria** and **Tokaj**, recalling those famous winemaking regions of Hungary.

It may seem hard to believe, but for nearly 30 years, west Georgia was one of the largest wine producing regions of the nation. But all that came to an end in 1908, when the state initiated Prohibition – nine years ahead of Eighteenth Amendment and national Prohibition. Eventually the **Hungarian colonies** died out, but the **Budapest Cemetery**, located east of Tallapoosa on Budapest Cemetery Road, remains the final resting place of those who found a lasting home here, far from their native land.

While in Tallapoosa, you'll want to visit the **Museum of Tallapoosa**, located at 185 Mann St. Here, you'll find a unique take on local history, dating all the way back to the age of dinosaurs. There are authentic replicas of old stores, including a barber shop and bank, that will take you back to an earlier time. It's open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission for adults is \$2 and \$1 admits children.

And if you'd like to see some examples of exotic animals, don't forget the **Bud Jones Taxidermy Museum**, located at 359 Georgia

Highway 120 east. Its open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon. Admission is free.


If you enjoy canoeing or kayaking, you'll have to come back to Tallapoosa to try out the **Dub Denman Canoe Trail**, a 27-mile long water course that connects to the **Alabama Canoe Trail**. There are three official launch sites, and if you don't have a suitable watercraft, **Lazy River Rentals** at 131 Doe Valley Drive will assist you.

Bowdon to Carrollton

Continuing our adventure off the beaten path, let's leave U.S. 78 and travel south along Georgia State Route 100. As we re-enter **Carroll County**, our destination now is the quiet west Georgia town of **Bowdon**, a leisurely, 20-minute drive across Interstate 20, down through some of the most scenic countryside west Georgia can offer.

Bowdon was the site of **Bowdon College**, chartered in 1856 and one of the premier educational

BUDAPEST, GEORGIA



In the late 1800's, three wine-making communities were founded in Haralson County. By 1907, the passage of the Prohibition Act in Georgia spelled the doom of our new industry. The pioneer Hungarians who became part of the Georgia soil lie in the Budapest Cemetery, many of the graves marked with names which sound foreign to these parts.

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On Thanksgiving Day in downtown Tallapoosa, business open at 2 p.m. for refreshments and shopping to usher in the holiday season.

Possum Drop 2017

December 31, 2016,

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thepossumdrop.com

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Bud Jones and his taxidermy museum in Tallapoosa.



Cats help "run" the store at Horton's Book's and Gifts in Carrollton, the state's oldest bookstore.

centers in the state before the Civil war. A historical plaque now marks the spot where this first coeducational institute in the state once stood, at the site of **Bowdon High School**, 504 West College Street.

Arriving in Bowdon, you might want to take a coffee break with a stop at **Bowdon Coffee Roasters**, 140 City Hall Ave., before heading out again – this time east along Georgia State Route 166.

Our destination now is **Carrollton**, the seat of **Carroll County** and the second largest city in the three-county area of west Georgia. It's the home of the **University of**

West Georgia and located just 18 minutes away.

In fact, coming in from the west side of town, UWG is the first place you'll see. The school was begun in 1908 as the **Fourth District Agricultural and Mechanical School**, and became **West Georgia College** in 1933. It became a university in 1996 and now enrolls over 12,000 students and offers more than 85 programs of study. It's also been home to some distinguished people. Former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** taught here for several years before entering politics.

Continuing west along 166, known locally as Maple Street, you soon arrive at **Adamson Square**, the historic center of this town, first surveyed in 1830. Once a commercial center that focused on the agricultural economy of the region, the buildings now are home to many restaurants and shops.

You're especially invited to shop at **Horton's Book & Gifts**, the state's oldest bookstore, located at 410 Adamson Square. Once you've bought a book, why not stroll across Alabama Street and enjoy a cup of coffee at **Gallery Row** at 306 Adamson Square, or just sit outside under the trees. And if

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The Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum in Carrollton is a destination for tourists from across the globe.

you're hungry, the **Corner Café** is handy at 304 Adamson, but there are other restaurants all over the Square.

Bradley Street, which runs between **Plates on the Square** restaurant (301 Adamson Square) and the **Irish Bred Pub & Grill**, (210 Adamson Square) leads to the next stop on our tour.

Bradley Street was once home to several textile mills, which helped transform the region's economy after the railroad arrived. For decades, most people were farmers whose livelihood entirely depended on how the weather treated their crops. Working at mills that transformed cotton into thread or finished goods provided a stable, reliable source of income.

The **Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum**, 306 Bradley Street, pays homage not only to that heritage, but is also a premier destination for lovers of quilts and quilting. Far from being a utilitar-

ian object to keep people warm at night, quilts can be unique and complex works of art. Tourists from around the South and even the entire world make trips to this museum to see what's on display. It's open 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays through Saturday.

While in **Carrollton**, why not check to see whether a concert or show is going to be presented at **The Amp** amphitheater, 119 Bradley Street, or what's playing at the **Carrollton Cultural Art Center**, 251 Alabama St.? There's far too many things to do and see in Carrollton that can be listed here, so you'll just have to come back for a new adventure.

McIntosh Park

As you prepare to leave **Carrollton**, you have another choice. You can continue through Carrollton to return to **Villa Rica** and Interstate 20, or you can check out another of **Carroll County's** historic locations, **McIntosh**

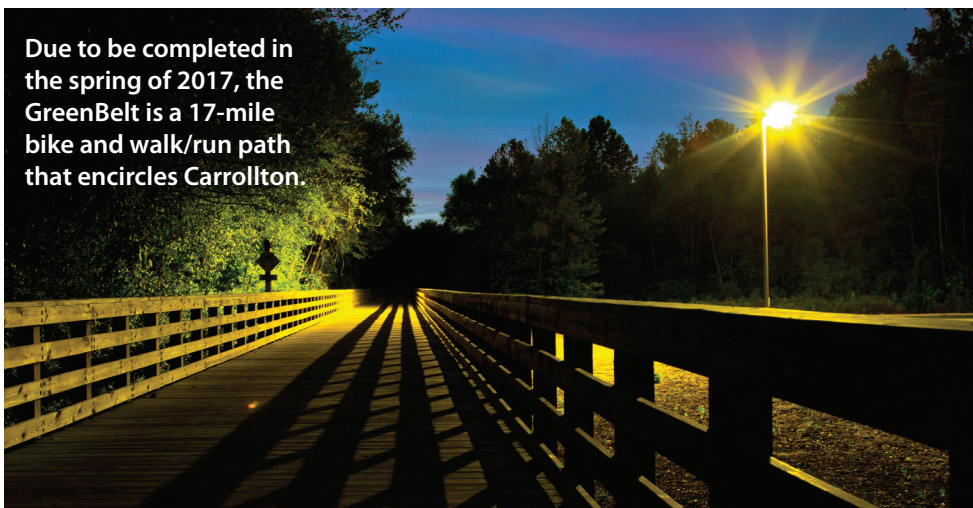
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Due to be completed in the spring of 2017, the GreenBelt is a 17-mile bike and walk/run path that encircles Carrollton.



Historic Banning Mills near Whitesburg features the world's largest and best canopy zip line.



Wines produced at the Little Vine Vineyard near the Douglas County line have won medals at prestigious competitions in New York and California.

Reserve Park, home to a Creek leader who was assassinated in 1825 for his part in ceding to the state all the land now known as Carroll County.

You can get there two different ways, one south along US Highway 27, or Alternate US 27. Traveling south down the main highway, turn left on Georgia State Route 5 at **Roopville**; if you head down

the alternate, turn right below the town of **Whitesburg**.

By the way, as you head down Alternate 27, keep an eye peeled for **Historic Banning Mills**, an adventure resort and retreat center that just happens to have the world's largest and best zip line canopy tour, as certified by Guinness World Records.

There are also 1,500 beautifully wooded woods that once surrounded a mill complex that flourished here after the Civil War. At its peak, Banning included 10 mills, including two pulp mills, a paper mill, a grist mill and a saw mill, all located within a mile of each other.

Headed on to McIntosh park, you'll discover that it is located less than five miles west of Whitesburg on



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Highway 5.

Chief William McIntosh was a leader of the Lower Creeks and the son of a Scotsman from Savannah. He agreed to give over this portion of Creek territory to the state, except for his own land which he held back in reserve. This angered other Creek leaders, who dispatched a squad of warriors to kill him, which they did on the grounds of this park on April 30, 1825.

The park today consists of 527 acres of beautiful woodlands, with trails and a spectacular view of the **Chattahoochee River**. At the center is a recreation of McIntosh's home and a marker for his burial site. The park is open year 'round except for major holidays, daily from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**

There is so much more to explore and experience in west Georgia – far too much to see on just one trip. There is always something happening at the **University of West Georgia**, cultural and arts

events in **Douglasville** and **Carrollton**, a rollicking music show at the **Mill Town Music Hall** in **Bremen**, or just fun golfing, canoeing or exploring all the sights in scenic **Haralson County**.

And we haven't even mentioned the wines that are being produced here – medal-winning vintages grown at local vineyards such as

the **Little Vine Vineyard** in the community of **Hulett**, or **Trilliam Vineyards** near **Bremen**.

So, plan to return one day soon; head out to one of these vineyards, meet the local folks and some of the many other visitors. You'll find that west Georgia is a place worth exploring – over and over. ♥ **VWG**

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Budget Inn Of Carrollton, 405 Columbia Dr., Carrollton. 770-832-1171

The Carroll Inn, 1485 U.S. Hwy 27 N., Carrollton. 770-832-9081

Courtyard By Marriott, Carrollton, 180 Barnes Ave. Carrollton. 678-664-5200

Crown Inn, 102 Royal Crown Court, Carrollton. 770-838-1336

Econolodge, 1202 South Park Street, Carrollton. 770-832-2611

Efficiency Lodge, 780 Bankhead Hwy., Carrollton. 770-832-7901

Great Western Inns, Carrollton, 180 Centennial Road, Carrollton. 770-214-0037

Hampton Inn, 102 South Cottage Hill Road, Carrollton. 770-838-7722

Historic Banning Mills, 205 Horseshoe Dam Road, Whitesburg. 770-834-9149

Holiday Inn Express, 104 South Cottage Hill Road, Carrollton. 770-838-0508

Quality Inn, 700 South Park Street, Carrollton. 770-834-2600

Royal Inn & Suites, 1007 N. Park St., Carrollton. 770-832-9445

Super 8, 901 US Hwy 27 South, Carrollton. 770-834-2001

Douglas

Interstate 20

Exit 34

Holiday Inn Express Atlanta West, 7101 Concourse Pkwy, Douglasville. 770-920-9228

InTown Suites, 5820 Plaza Parkway, Douglasville. 770-920-5252

La Quinta, 1000 Linnenkohl Dr., Douglasville. 770-577-3838

Lee's Motel, 9191 Hwy 5, Douglasville. 770-942-7322

Sleep Inn, 7055 Concourse Pkwy,

Douglasville. 770-920-8887

Exit 36

Hampton Inn, 6371 Douglas Blvd., Douglasville. 770-577-2110

Exit 37

America's Best Value Inn, 5481 Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 770-949-4926

Bilbo's Motel, 5964 E. Broad St., Douglasville. 770-942-1166

Comfort Inn, Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 678-504-2000

Days Inn, 5489 Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 770-949-1499

EconoLodge, 8304 Cherokee Blvd., Douglasville. 770-489-4863

FairBridge Inn Express, 8315 Cherokee Blvd. 770-949-3090

Quality Inn, 5479 Westmoreland Plaza, Douglasville. 770-949-5730

Royal Inn & Suites, 8366 Duralee Ln., Douglasville. 770-942-1036

Sunwestern Suites, 8462 Earl D. Lee Blvd., Douglasville. 770-949-8000

Exit 44

Budgetel Inn and Suites, 1270 Waterway Cir., Lithia Springs. 770-739-5990

Comfort Inn & Suites, 960 West Pointe Ct., Lithia Springs. 678-945-0945

Courtyard by Marriott, 950 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 678-945-4444

Hampton Inn Atlanta Six Flags, 999 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 770-745-9990

Holiday Inn Express Theme Park, 850 Crestmark Dr., Lithia Springs. 770-941-5384

Inn at Lithia Springs, 976 West Pointe Ct., Lithia Springs. 770-739-2800

InTown Suites, 637 Market Cir., Lithia Springs. 770-948-8331

Motel 6, 920 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 770-941-6464

Spring Hill Suites, 960 Bob Arnold Blvd., Lithia Springs. 770-819-9906

Haralson County

Interstate 20

Exit 11

Hampton Inn, 28 Price Creek Road, Bremen. 770-537-9001

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 125 Hwy 27 Bypass, Bremen. 770-537-3770

Microtel Inn & Suites, 104 Price Creek Road, Bremen. 770-537-8000

Motel 6, 35 Price Creek Road, Bremen. 770-537-4646

Bremen

Quality Inn & Suites, 1077 Alabama Ave., Bremen 770-824-5105

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, 106 King St., Bremen. 404-855-2778

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Super 8 Motel, 788 Georgia Hwy 100 South, Tallapoosa. 770-574-5575



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