COWETA MUSEUM TOUR

Coweta County Heritage Museum and Research Center, 92 Farmer St., Newnan. 770-683-7055 or 770-304-9111; www.africanamericanalliance.net Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment; free admission

Coweta's first Black Museum is located in a circa-1900 renovated shotgun house that exhibits African-American architecture and provides a repository for African-American artifacts and records. Adjacent to the museum on the site is the Farmer Street Cemetery, which may be the largest slave cemetery in the South. In addition, the museum serves as a genealogy workroom for African-American research. Acting Museum Director Dianne Wood volunteers her time helping others research their heritage and invites all citizens to take advantage of free access to Ancestry.com, a genealogy website, on the museum's computers by appointment. The museum is operated by the African-American Alliance (AAA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation and preservation of the African-American history of Coweta County. Plans call for the reconstruction of an authentic slave quarters dating back to the 1850s or earlier that was recently donated to AAA by Mike and Leah Sumner and moved from their LaGrange Street property.

Buggy Shop Museum, Main Street, Senoia. Hours: third weekends from April-October from 2-5 p.m. and late Friday afternoon (Aug. 24, Sept. 28 from 3-6 p.m.) or by appointment for groups of five or more (leave a message with the requested date and time and allow five days for someone to get back with you); free admission; 770-253-1018; buggyshopsenoia@aol.com

This unique museum, housed inside the former Baggarly Brothers buggy building, is operated by descendants of Rev. Warren Baggarly, one of Senoia's earliest settlers. Inside you'll find antiques circa 1890-1930, including a model T Ford, buggies and wagons from the late 1800s, an extensive arrowhead collection, and other curiosities.

Lewis Grizzard Museum, 2769 Hwy. 29 South, Moreland; Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment; free admission ($1 donation requested for Lewis Grizzard scholarship); 770-253-3400

This small town museum celebrates the life of one of the most beloved and well-known Southern humorists. Lewis Grizzard, whom The New York Times once dubbed "The Mark Twain for our time," spent most of his life in Moreland and eventually became almost inseparable from it in his life and stories. Visitors can stroll around a small room full of his memorabilia, including columns for the Atlanta paper, where he was sports editor at one time, photographs and clothing. The museum shares its space with Coweta Monument Services.

Erskine Caldwell Museum, Moreland Town Square, Moreland; Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Admission, $2 adults, $1 those under 12; for appointment, call Winston Skinner at 770-254-8657

The Presbyterian Manse where author Erskine Caldwell was born in 1903 has been moved from outside of town to Moreland's town square where it attracts visitors from all over the world as well as Caldwell scholars and family members. Caldwell remains one of the most widely read authors of the 20th century with more than 80 million copies of his books sold to readers in 43 different languages. Caldwell has written more than 50 books, including "Tobacco Road" and "God's Little Acre." His themes center on social injustice in terms of race, class and gender. "The Little Manse" contains Caldwell's books, art, a video presentation, dramatizations of stories, and items that belonged to Caldwell or his parents.

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Moreland Mill Museum, Moreland Town Square, Saturday-Sunday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment; free admission; 770-251-3428

Located in an old hosiery mill/W.A. Brannon Department store that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this museum features the Smithsonian Textile exhibit, a collection of antique farm implements, and the contents of Dr. Quigg Young's medical office in addition to housing the town's government.

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Male Academy Museum, 30 College St., Newnan; Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 2-5 p.m. Note: Museum is closed from 12-1 p.m.; $3 adults, under 12, free; 770-251-0207; www.nchistoricalsociety.org

A charming museum housed in a former boys' private school dating back to the 1840s. A peek inside reveals period clothing, Indian artifacts, treasured furniture, a Male Academy "classroom," Civil War artifacts, including guns, swords and bayonets, and early medical instruments, maps, photos, and the memorabilia of Coweta's own country music legend, Alan Jackson.

Newnan-Coweta History Center, 60 E. Broad St., Newnan; Rental information, 770-253-0500; private tour information, 770-251-0207

Located in the old A & WP railroad depot, the purpose of the depot is to preserve and interpret the history of Newnan and Coweta County through collections, educational programs, exhibits and research. The center contains a permanent exhibit on the history of Coweta County as well as a painting of the Battle of Brown's Mill by local artist Martin Pate. The center is owned by the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society and is available for special event rental and private tours.

— Compiled by Leigh Knight