

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER ONE

OCTOBER 2004



Colquitt-Nix House built circa 1850 by Judge William Colquitt. Sold in June 1880 to Dilmus Nix

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet on October 17, 2:30 at Thyatira Church on Hwy 15, between Commerce and Jefferson. A program on the church history will be presented by Richard Chambers. A ramble will follow to the Nix Homplace in Apple Valley owned by Eutelle Wilson Nix, at the end of Duckett Rd.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529

(706) 335-5946

Newsletter

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly and mailed before the next meeting. Back issues can be obtained for \$2.50 each plus postage. Past newsletters can be viewed online at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, December 15, 2004. Send requests for information to the address below with a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Dues increase for 2004–2005 year

The dues year runs from July to July. Checks can be mailed to:

Jackson County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529:
Individual –\$15
Family –\$20
LIFE member –\$100

Cemetery Database of Jackson County, Georgia

View a sample and order at: www.adsd.com/jackson

JCHS Officers 2004-2005

President:	Tina Harris
Vice-President:	Jerry Mealor
Recording Secretary:	Nora Tolbert
Corresponding Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
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Past Presidents:	Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett Richard Chambers Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis James Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks
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Newsletter Editors:	Tina Harris Jean Booth
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Queries

Looking for location of a family cemetery for burial of Tobithy Hamilton Daniel, wife of Jack Daniel, lived below Tallasee Bridge Road, (circa 1900) was a member of Mars Hill Church. Contact: Julia Anne Collins, 6 Westwood Ave, Cranston, RD 02905-1352

Looking for the maiden name of Mary Stapler, wife of Thomas L. Stapler, born 1806. contact: Kathryn Petty, 3417 W, Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72205

Obituaries

September 29, 1877, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

With regret we announce the death, on Thursday forenoon, of Mrs. Harriet Burns, wife of Dr. J. M. Burns, and sister of Dr. J. D. Long, deceased, and Dr. H. J. Long, formerly of Jefferson, but now resident at Gainesville. From the best information at hand, we suppose Mrs. Burns was somewhere about thirty-five years of age. Her disease was consumption, from which she had suffered many months. She leaves a husband and some four children to mourn their deep loss. We learned her burial was to take place on Friday at 3 o'clock, P. M. at Thyatira.

August 6, 1880, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

Mrs. Harriet A. Jones was born in Jackson County, September 26th 1810.

Her father moved to that part of Franklin, which is now Banks county, about the year 1820 where she met Samuel Watson whom she married on the 1st of April 1830; the young people came to Jackson and settled in Jefferson where they passed a long career of useful activity. Few women have witnessed more stirring scenes or greater changes brought into life soon after these fierce struggles "which tried men's souls," it became her duty to join the other noble women of those days in softening the rugged natures which war had developed; in refining and elevating the tastes of a pioneer people, and in shaping and building the grandest county on our planet.

Though, very quiet and unobtrusive, though hardly known beyond the county in which she lived, she contributed her full share to this noble work.

Mrs. Watson joined the Presbyterian Church at Olnay, afterward changed to Thyatira in the year 1838, and gave a long life of labor and prayer to the cause of religion.

She lived to see her children rise up and call her

blessed. At her death, which occurred on the 21st day of July, 1880, she had around her seven daughters and one son. One daughter had gone before and with her father was waiting to welcome the mother to that brighter and happier home where we hope some day they will all form a reunited and entire family.

October 14, 1881, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

Mr. Robert Moon, late of Oconee County, was buried at Thyatira last Monday. Mr. Moon while trying to overcome the fire that destroyed his gin house a few weeks ago, was so injured by the flames that death ensued.

September 26, 1884, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

Grandma Burns died at the residence of Mrs. Margaret E. Carithers, in this place, on last Tuesday morning. She was the wife of Gen. David M. Burns, who died several years ago. Mrs. Burns was in her eighty fourth year, and a remarkable woman. She was buried at Thyatira church, Revs. G. H. Cartledge and J. C. Grow officiating.

November 20, 1908, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

Dr. J. M. Burns is dead. On last Saturday night, at his home, in Harrisburg district, he breathed his last. The direct cause of his death was pneumonia, although he had been a sufferer for sometime with asthma.

At the Thyatira burial ground on Sunday, his body was put to rest with Masonic honors. Dr. J. C. Bennett officiated, and Rev. R. N. Abraham delivered the oration.

Born and reared in this county, he loved her hills and valleys, her brooks and meadows, her fields and flowers, her balmy breezes and blue sky and her men and women; and all who knew him loved him, too. It was not strange, then, that such immense multitude should gather around his bier and chant the funeral hymns over his body.

He was 75 years old. For many years he engaged in the practice of medicine, and was one of the most erudite practitioners who ever administered medicine. Some years ago he quit the practice of his profession, since which time he has been engaged in agricultural.

When war sounded in the memorable days of the sixties, he responded to his country's call, and made one of the most gallant heroes in the struggle between the states. On his body were scars made by bullet and bayonet, and these were badges of honor to his bravery. No reunion of Confederate veterans was ever held in this county but what he was there to recount the halcyon days.

February 23, 1911, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

Last Friday evening at 9 o'clock, at his home, in Harrisburg district, Mr. J. H. Barnett breathed his last. Several months ago he had a partial stroke of paralysis, and it was thought then the end was near. Monday of last week he was taken worse, and lingered till Friday.

He was born February 8, 1846. Was married in 1868 to Miss Ann Brooks. Was a soldier in the civil war, and a member of the Jackson County Camp of Confederate Veterans at the time of his death. His first and only pension money was received the morning before he died.

His remains were interred Sunday at Thyatira, services conducted by Rev. R. N. Abraham. Mr. Jack Bennett and Judge H. W. Bell also spoke. The mound was covered with flowers by members of the U. D. C. His widow, several children and grandchildren survive him.

April 24, 1913, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

On Tuesday, the 22nd instant, at the home of her son, Sheriff S. C. Potts, in Winder, occurred the death of Mrs. Eveline Potts. For several years Mrs. Potts had been in declining health, and her passing away was no surprise to her family and friends.

Mrs. Potts was a daughter of Gen. David M. Burns, one of the most prominent citizens of Jackson County in ante-bellum days. The old Burns homestead, now owned by Shackelford brothers, and known as the Uncle Sam House, still stands by the banks of the Parks Creek, near Hood's Mill. It was here she was reared. The late Dr. J. M. Burns and Mr. J. H. Burns were her brothers.

In early life she was married to Mr. J. M. Potts, better known as Mack, who was a leading farmer and politician in his time. He died in 1879. Mr. John M. Wilhite now lives at the Potts homestead. To Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Potts were born two sons, W. C. and S. C. Potts; the former for several years was in business in Atlanta, but a few years ago moved to Texas; the latter is the present Sheriff of Jackson County.

Mrs. Potts, from her earliest womanhood, was prominently identified with the Presbyterian congregation at old Harrisburg campground, now Thyatira, and was a woman of the deepest piety, given to hospitality, charitable and thoughtful and a blessing and benediction to her family. She was 85 years old.

Her remains were laid to rest at Thyatira cemetery Wednesday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. R. N. Abraham.

May 28, 1914, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

One of the saddest deaths that has occurred in this county was that of Mr. Hoyt Storey, son of Mr. J. A. Storey, which occurred Friday night at the home of the father.

The young man was ill only a few days, when death summoned him from time to eternity.

His body was interred at Thyatira, Revs. B. D. Porter and S. W. DuBose conducted the funeral obsequies.

He was only sixteen years old. At the age of four his mother died, and his rearing was left exclusively to his father. From that time until his death he and his father were constant companions. Their love was entwined about each other's heart, and no people ever loved each other more devotedly than father and son.

While not a member of any church, yet he was a good boy—one of the best ever reared in Jackson county. The people's good will for him was manifested by the large crowd that attended the funeral.

March 4, 1920, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

On Monday afternoon at two o'clock, the spirit of Mrs. Julia Burns took its flight from this earthy home, to be with the One to whom she had pointed so many of the people about this place for many years. She was a Sunday school teacher at this place longer than anyone, with possibly one exception. After falling and breaking a limb a few years ago she was not able to attend the Sunday school, but would come to the preaching service every time she felt able to make the trip. Many were sick at home, and

could not attend the service to pay their late tribute of respect. The service was in charge of Rev. Stribling of Jefferson, her pastor, and her body was laid away on Tuesday afternoon, surrounded by relatives and friends.

Historical Sketches, Presbyterian Churches and Early Settlers in Northeast Georgia, page 98

Rev. John Harrison was born in Virginia, July 4, 1776. His mother was Ann Patillo the daughter of Rev. Henry Patillo from Scotland, who was pastor for many years of the churches of Hawfields, Eno, and Little Rover in North Carolina. He pursued his classical studies under the tuition of Rev. James Gilliland of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. He selected teaching as a profession. When thirty-six, he united with the church, and soon commenced the study of Theology, under Rev. John B. Kennedy of Laurens, South Carolina. He was licenced to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of South Carolina, about 1815, and after preaching and teaching a few years, removed to Georgia in May, 1818, and settled on Curry's Creek, Jackson County about two and a half miles north of the village of Jefferson. He spent the remainder of his days, and here he died on January 2, 1847. His body was laid to rest in the grave yard of the old Olney Thyatira church. His wife was Margaret Stuart of Spartanburg, South Carolina. She is the sister of Rev. Thomas C. Stuart of Munroe, Mississippi. They had seven daughters and Rev. William P. Harrison of Uchee Anna, Florida, is the only son of Rev. John Harrison.



Thyatira Church
established 1796

Olney Church

May 22, 1913, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

The citizens living in the vicinity of Hurricane Shoals were, in the main staunch Presbyterians, and patterning after the English Olney, when the church was organized, called it by the same name.

At one time there lived a little distance above the McLester Mill Pond, on the west side of the creek, an old gentleman by the name of John Harrison, a Presbyterian preacher, and Olney church lot was adjoining his lands. Mr. Lum Webb later owned the Harrison farm. My friend, Mr. Austin Brock, a grandson of Rev. John Harrison, could probably give the exact location of the old building. After the Montgomerys, Cunninghams, and other members of Olney church moved to Alabama, the church went down, and the few remaining members were transferred by the Presbytery to Thyatira church. What I have written about Olney church, I gathered, in the main from my father, whom I have heard speak of attending preaching there.

Historical Sketches, Presbyterian Churches and Early Settlers in Northeast Georgia, page 105

Among the emigrants from Bethsalem, was John Cunningham. In 1830 and for several years afterwards he resided about six miles northwest of Jefferson, on the Oconee River. He had long been an elder of Thyatira Church. He was a man of considerable wealth for that day. His wife was the daughter of Col. Hugh Montgomery, who removed from Green County, Georgia, to Jackson about the time that John Cunningham did.

In 1830 there was standing just above where the old Hog Mountain Road crossed the road from Jefferson to Gainesville a small frame meeting house, named Olney, in which a branch of Thyatira Church worshipped once a month. That neighborhood was at that time made up almost entirely of Presbyterians. Then the Cunninghams, the Montgomerys, the Knowes, the Applebys, the Storeys, the Hemphills, the Kellogs, and Liddells all resided near and around Olney. They all went to Mississippi, Alabama, and Cherokee Georgia long since or died. Joseph T. Cunningham and John T. Story had been captains in the War of 1812, in the same regiment in which Edward Story, the father of Capt. Storey, was Major. Capt. Cunningham was a staunch Presbyterian and a zealous and active elder.

Historical Sketches, Presbyterian Churches and Early Settlers in Northeast Georgia, page 145

Rev. John Newton settled near Bethsalem, Oglethorpe County, in 1786. Besides his pastoral work, Rev. John Newton made many missionary tours in to the farming settlements, and in 1796, the year before his death, under the direction of the Synod of the Carolina, he spent several months in visiting and ministering to the scattered Presbyterians recently settled in the State. In the year, he organized Hebron and Concord Churches in Franklin County, Bethsalem or Sandy Creek, Curry's Creek or Thyatira, and probably Menham or Mulberry in Jackson County.

Olney Church Minutes, Volumn 11, page 335

Presbytery meeting in Augusta, April 1856. A communication was received from a portion of the members of the church of Thyatira asking Presbytery to set them \$200 and organize them into separate churches. Presbytery being satisfied with the reasons assigned for the request determined to grant it and appoint Dr. Hoyt and Messrs. Newton and Milner a committee to organize the church on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in May at 11 A. M.

January 1968, excerpt Georgia Genealogical Magazine, contributed by Jack Ladson, Jr.

The old church Olney Thyatira was merged into the new one and the name Olney was dropped entirely. The church has been known only as Thyatira since that time. It is located 2 1/2 miles north east of Jefferson, on highway 15. The land was given by J. M. Potts and consists of 10 1/2 acres, ground was designated for camp meetings and a number of tents were built to accommodate those who wished to attend. The slaves were allowed to attend and worship. On a hill side west of the church is the graveyard. The widow of Rev. John Harrison was among the first to be laid to rest in this burial ground. Since that time many of the faithful members have passed on. Just across the driveway treading by this graveyard are the graves of many slaves.

Murder

June 4, 1897, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

The gayety of the commencement in Winder has been greatly marred by a sad, sad event, which occurred on Sunday afternoon about two o'clock.

I refer to the murder of Mr. Ed J. Wright. The young man had a magnificent tenor voice, and had been kindly assisting in the sacred service of song in connected with the commencement sermon. Many are the encomiums which I have heard lavished upon him upon this particular occasion, and if my tongue could wake the dull cold ear of death, I would thank him personally for this evidence of friendship for me. The song at the close of the service was "God Be With Us Till We Meet Again," and this is perhaps the last song Ed Wright ever sang this side of eternity.

The congregation was dismissed, Mr. Wright repaired to his home, ate his dinner, hitched his horse to his buggy, and started on his way to visit a young lady friend in the country. But he was fated never to reach his destination, for he was met only a short distance from the corporate limits of our town, and cruelly yielded up his life by the red hand of an assassin.

He is thought to have been first attacked with a large iron bolt, about half inch in diameter, and about eighteen inches long, used in constructing railroad bridges. This

bolt was found near the scene of the murder, and is now in possession of Sheriff Braselton. The nut on the bolt made several indentions on the cranium of the young man, fracturing the skull, and lacerating the scalp fearfully. He seems to have gotten loose from his assailant and to have run a considerable distance through a field and back towards the road, where he was overtaken, and shot from the rear through the body, the ball coming to the skin in front, where it was found by Dr. S. T. Ross, and extracted. Another ball entered the head near the temple and made its exit in rear of the opposite ear. Still another entered the occipital bone and lodged just in the rear of the frontal bone. Five shots in all were fired, one, at least, being at very short range, as there were powder burns on the victim's head. A pistol scabbard was also found. Dr. J. M. Saunder's family, who live near by, heard the out-cry of a person as if in distress, and soon after the five pistol shots were heard in the same direction. A gentleman by the name of Carlisle, in passing, saw the dead body, and reported the fact. Upon investigation, it was found that Mr. Ed J. Wright was the unfortunate man.

Suspicion at once pointed to a rival for the heart and hand of a young lady in the neighborhood, and the circumstantial evidence was so strong against him, he was arrested and held until an investigation was had by the Coroner, the verdict of the jury being: "We, the jury, find that Mr. Ed J. Wright came to his death at the hands of an assassin circumstantial evidence pointing to Harvil."

Mrs. Wright, the mother of the dead man, in speaking of the awful tragedy, said: "I had rather be the mother of the dead boy than of the one who did the deed." Poor stricken, widowed, mother! God heal gently with her in this hour of her sore affliction, and help her to rest her head trustingly upon the bosom of that Savior from whom only comfort can come in such times of sorrow. Ed Wright was one of the best boys in Winder, or even Jackson County. He labored in the field, making an honest living for himself and helping provide the comforts of life for a precious widowed mother.

On Sunday night Mr. Alexander A. Harvil was arrested and placed in the custody of an officer. He was suspected it seems, because, soon after the killing, a pair of blood hounds were placed on some one's track in about two hundred yards of Mr. Alex Harvil's father's house.

Again, a Mrs. Cash a neighbor of the Harvils, said that Harvil came by their house about 12:30 o'clock, and said he was just knocking around. She said after learning of



MR. E. J. WRIGHT,
Who was killed at Winder Sunday.

Ed Wright being killed she went over to Mr. Harvil's to tell them of it, and soon after she got there Alex came in the back way. Alex's mother asked him if he had heard of Ed Wright being killed, and he said: "No." He then went in the room, changed clothes, and said he believed he would go over to see about it. He was gone some little time, when he returned with another young man, and they, together with a younger Harvil, went off together. Harvil was arrested and his body examined, and it was found that he had some bruises on his person. These are about the facts on which the Coroners jury made it's verdict.

We visited the jail Tuesday and talked to Harvil some, and asked him what he had to say.

"I am as innocent of this crime as you or any other man in the world," said he, "and I ask the people of Jackson county to wait until they have heard the testimony of the stand before forming an opinion or condemning me. I propose to show that I am as innocent as an angel in heaven." Young Harvil would talk no more, because he said his lawyer had instructed him not to talk. He said he must do as his lawyer said, because he said if he was going to run his own case, there was no use in employing a lawyer.



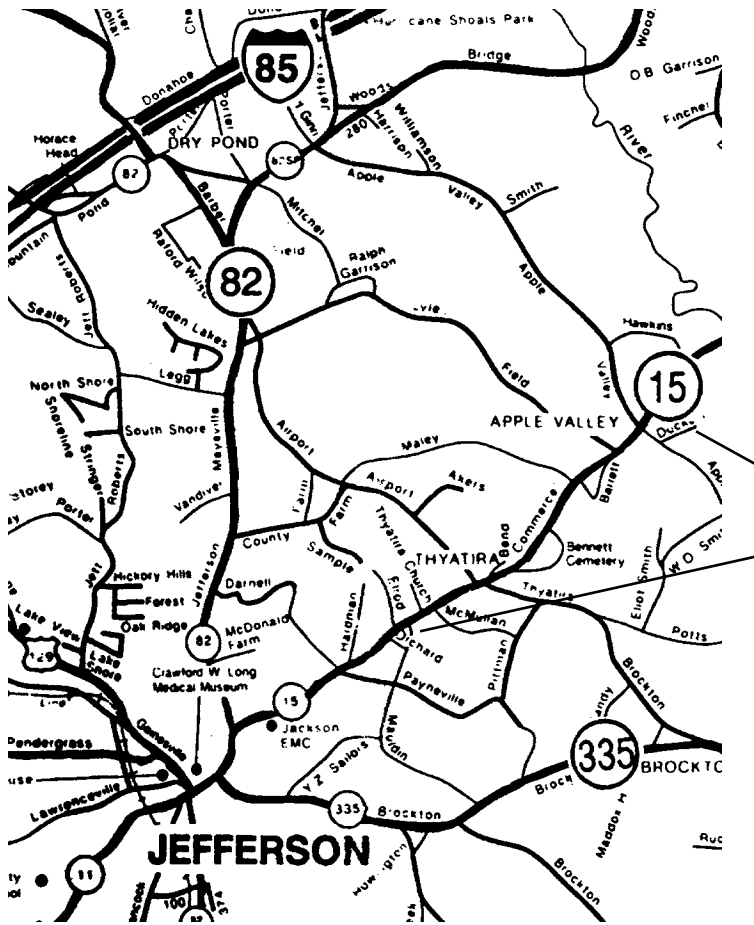
Solicitor C. H. Brand and Col. J. H. Sikes represent the State and Col. Richard B. Russell represents the defendant.

A commitment trial will probably be had next week.

June 23, 1897, excerpt for the Jackson Herald

It seems that Gene Camp, with some other negroes, had agreed to meet in the woods near where the murder was committed to have, as he expressed it, "A little game." As he approached the appointed place of meeting, he noticed a white man slipping along, and thinking he was there to watch the game, Camp concealed himself. He had not lain in concealment long before he heard a buggy approaching. Upon this the white man stood up behind a large tree, and he saw that it was Alex Harvill. Just as Wright passed, Harvill rushed out, and jumping upon the back of the buggy, dealt Wright several blows upon the head with a stick. In the scuffle Wright's mule started to run, when Harvill jumped for the lines, and in the melee was run over by the buggy. The negro says that Wright was knocked from the buggy or jumped out, and ran through the woods. Harvill followed and fired at Wright in the woods, and when Wright emerged from the woods into the open ground he fired again, when Wright fell. Harvill then ran up, and stooped over, fired again at short range. He then took up the body in his arms as if to carry it off, but seemed to take a second thought, dropped the body and ran off through the field. The direction given by the negro was the same as indicated by the tracks of the murderer found on the afternoon the deed was committed. He described the two white men and the topography of the place minutely before visiting it, and afterwards they found it exactly as he had described. The iron bolt, which the negro thought was a stick in the hands of Harvill, was picked up just where the attack was first made, and which the negro says was dropped when the pistol was drawn. Camp say that Harvil ran in the direction of where he had concealed himself, and thinking it might not be very healthy for him if found, he got away in all possible haste, running to a negro house not very far away. The inmates of the house confirm his statement. These are the facts as I have heard them.

The negro kept the facts of the murder secret for over a week, because he was afraid to tell. He has gone before a justice of the peace and sworn to what he saw.



Coquitt-Nix Homplace,
Duckett Rd

Thyatira Church

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529