
Jackson County Historical Society News

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Art and Rose Richard are the current owners of the Harber House Bed and Breakfast in Commerce. The house was built circa 1905 and was the home to the Wilsons family. John Harber lived in the house in the early 1900's after which the Castelo and McDonald families called it home. A cousin of John Harber's, James Harber, bought the house and generations of his family lived there. The Harbers were early settlers and business owners in Harmony Grove. Their Harbour (original spelling) ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War from Henry Co., Virginia and migrated to Franklin County, Georgia after the War.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529

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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. Please send your Jackson County family connections with your membership dues and they will be published in the next newsletter. Past newsletters can be viewed online at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, March 1, 2004. Request for searches and copies can be sent to the address below in a stamped, self addressed envelope or e-mail: tina313@mindspring.com

Dues

The Jackson County Historical Society's dues year runs from July to July. Checks should be written to the Jackson County Historical Society and mailed to: P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529

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Mount Olive Baptist Church History

Mt. Olive Baptist Church was originally known as the Bold Springs Baptist Church and was located near a spring on the Addison Crisler place. This old church was constituted in 1871 and was composed of those who had been members of the Oconee Church, which was located near the Dan Morgan place before it was removed to its present site. Bold Springs Church dissolved November 21, 1879. Some of the membership went to Harmony Grove Baptist Church, which had been constituted in 1874. On March 9, 1888, a new Baptist church was constituted under the same name and at the same place as the old Bold Springs Church. It continued at that location until 1890 when it moved one half mile east to a new house of worship and the name was changed to Mount Olive. The land was contributed by G. Short.

Obituaries

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, October 22, 1903

Mr. W. F. Lord, a well know and respected citizen, whose home was near Harmony Grove, was found dead, hanging to the shafting of his grist mill machinery on last Friday morning. Mr. Lord had left his house in the afternoon, to do some grinding at the mill, telling his wife before he left what he would like to have for supper. Dark came, and as Mr. Lord did not return to the house, a member of the family went to the mill to investigate the cause. Failing to find him, he went back for a light, and on his return found him dead, hanging to the shafting, his body having stopped the motion of the machinery. It is supposed that while adjusting the machinery in some way his sleeve was caught, which threw him to death.

Mr. Lord was about 67 years old, was a brother of Mr. J. W. Lord of this place, and father of Prof. J. E. J. Lord. He has hundreds of friends, who will be grieved to hear of his tragic death.

excerpt from "These Men Wore Gray" by Karen Ledford

Mount Olive Baptist Church Cemetery

Lord, W. F. (William) January 15, 1837–Oct 16, 1903: C. S. A. Served in Co. A, 24th Ga. Regiment, Infantry, Army of Northern Virginia, Banks Co., Ga., "Independent Volunteers." Private Aug. 24, 1861. Rejected Sept. 10, 1861. Filed for pension in Jackson Co., Ga. stating he served in Co.

A, 24th Ga. Regiment and in Co. E, 34th Ga. Regiment, Infantry Listed in the 34th Ga., muster roll. Gave witness for the pension application of A. M. Brown of Habersham Co. K, Ga. stating service in Co. B, 1st Ga. State Troops. Gave witness for the pension application of D. A. Crisler of Jackson Co., GA. stating service with him in Co. E, 34th Ga. Regiment Wife Mariah E. Lord drew widow's pension Jackson Co., Ga. He is found in the 1850 Jackson county census in the following household: James Lord 35 years, born S. C.: Harriett N. 28 years, William F. 14 years, James W. 11 years, Middleton G. 9 years, John M. 7 years, Mary J. 3 years, Jesse M. 2 months. James Lord married Harriett Haggard in Jackson Co., Ga on August 30, 1835.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, August 25, 1904

Dr. W. B. J. Hardman died at his home in Commerce last Sunday afternoon, surrounded by members of his family. He was 82 years old at the time of his death. He leaves six sons—Rev. H. E., Dr. L. G., Dr. W. B., R. L., T. C. and J. B. Hardman, and one daughter, Mrs. G. T. Jones. His wife preceded him to the grave several months. His funeral was held in Commerce on Monday.

Dr. Hardman was one of the most prominent men in Jackson county. For many years he was actively engaged in the practice of medicine, but for several years prior to his death retired from the active practice, and devoted his time almost exclusively to church work. He was a minister of the gospel, and for 15 years was pastor of the Baptist Church at Commerce. He had charge of the church at Apple Valley until he became too feeble to attend his ministerial duties.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, March 21, 1919

Mrs. M. E. Lord, widow of W. F. Lord, was buried at Mt. Olive Baptist church, Banks county, on the 21st, Rev. J. J. Goss of Monroe, preaching the funeral.

Mrs. Lord was 79 years old, and had been a member of the Primitvie Baptist church at Black's Creek for more than forty years.

She is survived by eight children: J. E. J. Lord, F. L. Lord, Mrs. W. A. Randall of East Lake, Tenn., C. G. Lord, Mrs. Hattie Talent of Atlanta, G. G. Lord of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Prof. J. M. Lord of Morgan, Ga.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, June 17, 1920

On last Saturday afternoon occurred the death of Mrs. Docia Jarrett Standridge, wife of Mr. Jim J. Standridge, at

her home in White Hill community. Although she had been in declining health for more than two years, her death came unexpectedly. the funeral was held Sunday afternoon at Mt. Olive church with religious services conducted by Rev. W. L. Culbertson and interment was made in the cemetery nearby. Mrs. Standridge was a member of the Baptist denomination. She was a kind neighbor, devoted mother and a true friend. Besides her husband she is survived by six sons and two daughters.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, April 12, 1934

Mrs. Malinda Jane Short, widow of the late W. H. Short, died Wednesday, April 4, at her home two miles north of Commerce, following a two weeks illness.

Funeral services, conducted by Rev. C. C. Tooke, were held Thursday at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and internment was in the church cemetery. She had been a member of this church since early childhood.

Mrs. Short was 86 years of age. Sixty-two years ago she became the bride of W. H. Short, who precended her to the grave eleven years. Her entire life was spent at the old homestead. She was a noble, Christian citizen, and a large concourse of people attended her burial, attesting the esteem in which she was held. Surviving Mrs. Short are six children: J. W. Short, F. C. Short, Mrs. J. N. Edwards, Mrs. J. W. Streetman, Mrs. Curt Massey, Mrs. Hugh Purcell. Also, three brothers, Joel, F. C. and Crawford Massey.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, March 13, 1958

William Nathaniel "Curt" Massey, 74, of Route 1, Commerce, in the Mt. Olive community, passed away at his home on March 10, following an extended illness. A retired barber and mail carrier, Mr. Massey had been a member of Hudson Lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M. for many years. He was a member of the Homer Baptist Church.

Services were held on Tuesday March 11, from the Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Rev. H. T. Jarrard officiating, assisted by Dr. C. C. Tooke. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Massey is survived by his wife, Mrs. Hattie Short Massey. Children surviving are, Cody Massey, Corneila, Shelby Massey, Donaldson Air Force Base, Mrs. H. A. Moody, Winston-Salem, N. C., Mrs. Leonard Hill, Elberton, Mrs. Ernest Milford, Commerce, Norman Massey, Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Dan Chandler, Dalton.

Brothers are Ernest, Ellis, and Paul Massey, of Commerce and Hubert and Swep Massey of Toccoa.

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at Mount Olive Church, 190 Mt. Olive Church Road on Sunday, January 25 at 2:30 P. M. There will be a presentation by Betty Ann Mathis of the church's history. After the meeting, the members will ramble to the Harber House Bed and Breakfast for a tour by owners Art and Rose Richard.

Directions: From the Maysville Exit at I-85, drive towards Commerce about one mile and take a left onto Mt. Olive Church Road. The church is across the street from the Baker and Taylor Company.



The old Mount Olive Church in the snow.

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