

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME FOURTEEN, NUMBER THREE

APRIL 2007



Photograph of the former home of Dr. L. C. Allen.

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet in Hoschton, on April 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the former home of Dr. L. C. and Myron Allen. The father and son opened the Allen Hospital in Hoschton in 1928. Robbie Bettis will present a program on Historic Hoschton and the Dr. Allen's achievements in the community. Robbie Betts has published a book, "Passing-stories through the history of Hoschton & Braselton"

Directions: Take highway 53 through Braselton to Hoschton. The Hoschton City Hall is on the right side of the Hoschton Square. Turn right on Bell Street and the former Allen home (now the Law Office of Robin Wyatt) is behind City Hall at 74 White Street.

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 \$3.50 each plus postage. Past newsletters can be viewed online at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, June 15, 2007. Send requests for information to the address below with a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Dues for 2006–2007 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 –\$25
LIFE member –\$100

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Excerpt from Jackson Herald, February 13, 1891

On last Saturday at about 8 o'clock Mr. Cass Bridges' spirit took flight to another world. He had been feeble for some time. He had a nervous complaint, and had been taking opium for it. About a week before his death he came to Hoschton, and, it is supposed, got a new supply and took a little too much, and on his way home he was found asleep and could not be roused. The parties, not knowing him, went on and informed some near neighbors, but by the time they reached the spot his horse had taken a notion to go home. It was late when he got home, and he took out one side of his harness and left the other and went into the house, went to bed, and slept most of the time without eating anything until he died. His body was interred with Masonic honors last Sunday evening, and his funeral was preached by Rev. Mr. Jackson.

Excerpt from Jackson Herald, February 13, 1891

Tuesday evening at 1 o'clock Judge John McCants died very suddenly. He was in the store on Monday apparently as well as usual. Heart disease is thought to have caused his death. His son William was in Jefferson attending court, and was sent for immediately. He was a good citizen, and his death was universally regretted in our town.

Excerpt from Jackson Herald, December 24, 1936

Mrs. Mary E. Wiley, aged 78, passed away at the home of her son, Joe Wiley, near Hoschton, December 20, following a short illness.

Funeral services were held from Bethlehem Methodist church Monday, with Rev. Mr. Henry in charge.

Surviving the deceased are four children, Robert Wiley of Rutledge, Joe Wiley, Jr. of Hoschton, Lorenzo Wiley of Sparta, and Mrs. Lee Bailey of Winder; one brother, H. W. Hill, of Hoschton; four sisters, Mrs. A. G. Strain of Brewton, Ala., Mrs. Lon Meadows of Meridian, Miss., Mrs. Eutah Edwards of Sparta, and Mrs. Frank Durden of Rutledge.

A large circle of loving relatives and friends are grieved over the death of this beloved Mother in Israel. She was a loyal member of Rockwell Universalist church, near Winder.

Excerpt from Jackson Herald, June 17, 1937

Dr. Green Herschel DeLaPerriere died Monday in Hoschton, Ga., where he was visiting his brothers.

Dr. DeLaPerriere had been practicing medicine in Irving, Texas, for the past 20 years, prior to that time had practiced in Hoschton, where he was born, and Atlanta.

He was the eldest son of the late Dr. W. P. DeLaPerriere, prominent doctor, merchant and planter of Hoschton.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three brothers, Arthur L. and Herman P., of Hoschton, and Julian DeLaPerriere, of Atlanta, and a sister, Mrs. John H. Hosch, of Gainesville.

Funeral services were held at the Hoschton church at 3 o'clock Tuesday. Burial was in the churchyard.

Excerpt from Jackson Herald, August 5, 1937

Mrs. Annie Duck, 67, widow of the late Rev. W. J. Duck, died at the local hospital here Thursday, July 22, at 4:10 o'clock p.m., following complications caused by a fall that broke one of her hips and an arm at the home of her grandson, Branson Duck, about three weeks prior to her death. At first her case did not seem so serious, but later complications set up and she grew worse until her pains and agony was eased through death.

Mrs. Duck was a good Christian woman, and was greatly loved and held in highest esteem by all who knew her. About 22 years ago she was married to the late Rev. W. J. Duck, a well known minister of this section. About 10 years later Mr. Duck died, and Mrs. Duck had been making her home with her step-sons. Before her marriage to Mr. Duck she was Miss Annie Phillips, of Friendship and New Salem communities, and had a large number of kinsmen in that section to mourn her passing.

Mrs. Duck is survived by two step-sons, W. Preston and Gordon Duck, of Braselton, Route 1; two step-daughters, Mrs. Joe Baird of Winder, and Mrs. Esther Roberts of Braselton, Route 1; one sister, Mrs. Bradford, near Oakwood; and one brother, Mr. Lewis Phillips, between Flowery Branch and Buford. She is also survived by several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were held at Zion Baptist church, Saturday, July 24, at 11 o'clock, with the Rev. W. P. Holland in charge, assisted by the Revs. Buice and Jim Jones.

Burial rites took place in the church yard cemetery.

Excerpt from Jackson Herald, September 2, 1937

Funeral services for Mr. William Miles Smith, whose death was recorded in last week's issue, were held Thursday morning at the Hoschton Methodist church, in which he had been a useful and beloved member for many years. Services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. W. G. Henry, assisted by Rev. A. B. Elizer, pastor of the Jefferson Methodist church. Music was rendered by the church choir, and the pall bearers were chosen from among his younger friends in that city. A number of the older men who had been associated with him in social and business life and by whom he was greatly beloved, acted as an honorary escort. A profusion of beautiful flowers, sent by loving friends, adorned the church. Interment was in the city cemetery.

Mr. Smith was 88 years of age, and was a native of South Carolina, the son of David and Patsy Whaley Smith. He came to Georgia in early life, and for many years reside in Hoschton. He was a retired farmer, and at the time of his death spent a portion of the time in Jefferson, and the remainder at the home he still maintained in Hoschton. He was twice married, but both companions preceded him to the grave.

Surviving the deceased is a son, J. C. Smith, of Jefferson, and four grand children, Ralph and Lester Smith, and Misses Gene and Mary Smith. Also, a daughter-in-law, Mrs. W. C. Smith, of Jefferson.

Mr. Smith was a loyal member of the Methodist church, and never failed to be in his place at the services, either in Jefferson or Hoschton. In his advanced age, although at times very feeble from declining health, he availed himself of the privilege of attending both the Sunday school and preaching services.

He was a successful business man and farmer, a citizen always impelled by a desire for obedience to law, for the educational, moral and religious welfare of his community, and for everything for the betterment of state and county. Always cheerful, sweet spirited, kind, and even ready to render service, he was an invaluable asset to the community and the people where he made his home. Without envy, malice or jealousy, he rejoiced in the success and happiness of those about him, and was every ready and willing to manifest the spirit of the words, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, March 13, 1947

Dr. L. C. Allen Passes Thursday after Long Illness

Dr. L. C. Allen, prominent Northeast Georgia physician, and a greatly beloved Jackson County citizen, died Thursday in an Atlanta hospital, following a long period of illness.

Dr. Allen was 84 years of age. He was a native of Forsyth County, a son of the late John Fisher Allen and Amanda Gober Allen.

He was a graduate of the Augusta Medical College, and entered the practice of medicine in Jackson County in 1888. He established the Allen hospital at Hoschton in 1930, he had operated with his son, Dr. M. B. Allen.

He was a member of the Georgia Medical Association and of its board of trustees. Served as president of the bank of Hoschton, was chairman of the welfare board of Jackson county many years, and was chairman of the welfare board of Jackson county many years, and was chairman of the building committee of the Alto Sanitorium. He was an Odd Fellow and a member of the Methodist church. Dr. Allen also served seven terms as representative from Jackson County, and was active in civic affairs. Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Wills Jones. Interment was in the Hoschton Cemetery. He first married Miss Alice Bartlett, of Augusta, and after her death married Miss Isabel Canning, of Flowery Branch, who survives him, together with his son, Dr. M. B. Allen, of Hoschton; two daughters, Miss M. Allen, of Hoschton and Phil H. Dohn, of Atlanta, and five grandchildren.

The death of Dr. Allen removes from Jackson county one of her most outstanding and useful citizens. His services to her people can not be valued. Hundreds of people owe their lives to his superior medical knowledge. He gave his time and his talents to the service of the people.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, July 23, 1953

Founder of Hoschton Hospital, Dr. M. B. Allen, Services Held Wednesday

Dr. Myron B. Allen, 58, Hoschton, died Monday at the Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, after an extended illness.

Born in Jackson County, he was the son of the late Dr. L. C. Allen and Alice Bartlett Allen.

He received his education at Riverside Military Academy and Gordon Institute, and graduated from the Emory University Medical College in 1918. Dr. Allen practiced medicine from 1919 in Hoschton in association with his father. In 1928, father and son opened the Allen Hospital there where he practiced until his death. An assistant professor of pathology at Emory, Dr. Allen was a member of the North District Medical Association, the Georgia Medical Association, and was a Mason and a Shriner. He was also a member of the Theta Kappa Psi medical fraternity, a member of the American Medical Association and the Jackson County Medical Association.

Dr. Allen was in addition a member of the Georgia Academy of General Practice.

He was a member of the Methodist Church.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday from the Allen Clinic in Hoschton, the Rev. Harvey Boyd, officiating. Interment was at the Hoschton cemetery. The remains laid in state at Allen's Clinic from 10 a.m. until funeral hours.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. T. M. Doney, Purville, Tenn.; and Mrs. H. W. Mead, Pendleton, S. C.; a son, M. B. Allen, Jr., Hoschton; two sisters, Miss Myrtice Allen, Hoschton; and Mrs. Phillip H. Dohn, Jr., Decatur; and two grandchildren.

Pallbearers were P. P. Pirkle, Royce G. Braselton, W. D. Bell, W. M. Braselton, F. H. Baird, and Dean Lott.

Reunion

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, July 29, 1937

The children and grandchildren of Mr. And Mrs. W. O. E. Adams, deceased, held a family reunion, at the Adams old home place in Hoschton last Sunday. This was the first reunion held by this family since the death of Mr. And Mrs. W. O. E. Adams some two or three years ago. The Adams family is one of the pioneer families of Hoschton and that part of the county.

All were present except Erastus Adams and family of DeLand, Fla. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Adams of Fayetteville, N. C., Mr. And Mrs. Grover Adams and little Ann of Buford, Mr. and Mrs. Alton Adams, Miss Colins and Master Billie of Winder, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Adams, Misses Curtis and Clara Adams of Hoschton, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thurmon and Master Paul of Statham, Miss Mamie Lee Roberts of Pendergrass, and Mr. J. F. Eckles of Jefferson.

Doctors from Hoschton in the News

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, August 10, 1892

Through the skillful treatment of Dr. L. C. Allen, Mr. Dave Anderson, who has been afflicted with dropsy and paralysis, is again able to visit his children and friends. We are glad to know Mr. Anderson is able to be up again.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, March 19, 1893

Reply to an Interview with Dr. Holliday in the Athens Banner

(Hoschton, GA March 4.)

An article of Dr. Holliday's, published in the Constitution and also in the Athens Banner, applauding himself and making false statements concerning the Thurmond case and standing of the Thurmond family and Dr. W. P. DeLaperriere, sounds ludicrous in the extreme to the people of Jackson county, where Dr. DeLaperriere was born and reared, and where he has made such an enviable reputation as a successful practitioner of medicine. We would not condescend to notice these effusions which flow so freely from Dr. Holliday's elastic pen but for the fact that they appear in the leading daily journals of the State, and we want the facts brought prominently before the public.

It is true that Dr. Holliday was again called to see Mr. Thurmond after he had given the calomel and Mr. Thurmond's tongue and mouth became so sore and his condition so alarming, but a few days previous he had no such symptoms. It is a new feature in the science of physic that congestion of the lungs should develop into a carbuncle on the lip. The physicians who visited Mr. Thurmond the next day after the consultation were carried back by Dr. Holliday after he had been dismissed, and they having had former connection with the case, their visit is easily accounted for.

The Thurmond family is one of the best and most highly respected in Jackson County, and their sworn testimony shows that Mr. Thurmond was under Dr. Holliday's treatment when the symptoms of sore mouth, etc., originated, and that he had been taking calomel and lemonade alternately. Their affidavits also show that Mr. Thurmond was in a critical condition and rapidly growing worse. Dr. Holliday himself did not believe that Thurmond would live. He told Mr. L. C. Thurmond who was sent for Dr.

DeLaperriere, that the patient could not live.

Dr. Holliday was opposed to calling in other physicians. He first objected to Dr. Smith and also opposed the calling on Dr. DeLaperriere. He acted as though the territory belonged to him and he wanted the case entirely to himself. He claims that if Dr. DeLaperriere was insulted it was by his (Holliday's) refusal to take a drink with him, when every member of the family and visitor that were present knows there were no stimulants about. On the contrary, Dr. Holliday had directed that the patient should take a pint of whisky in twenty-four hours and a pint of brandy during the next twenty-four hours. Judging from this and his former dissipation, one would not infer that he was very much opposed to taking a drink. However, he may have reformed, and if so should be congratulated, but just here it occurs to us that we saw Dr. Holliday here, six or eight years ago, at a meeting of the practicing physicians of this and adjoining counties. He, doubtless, remembers it, though he was so much intoxicated that he did not participate in the meeting, but sat in his buggy during the day and became the cynosure of all eyes by acting the monkey, which furnished fun for the crowd.

Dr. Holliday claims that Dr. DeLaperriere was the cause of his removal from Jackson county. Pray, what caused him to move from Pendergrass, Ga? Was it Dr. DeLaperriere? No; the charges against him were more grave and serious than anything Dr. DeLaperriere could have said or done. Dr. Holliday has had four different locations, and has not left any one under favorable circumstances. He was not popular as a physician before the Thurmond case. As evidence of this, many of the best and most influential citizens would not employ him. Dr. Holliday is a man of excessive egotism, not over-burdened with mental caliber, and an overbearing disposition, which is characteristic of the man. Dr. Holliday claims that he commenced suit in self-defense, when the records show plainly that he entered suit against Dr. DeLaperriere first. He will not only have an opportunity of defending himself in the case now pending, but also a bill found at the February term for assault with intent to murder.

Dr. DeLaperriere has done an extensive and lucrative practice in this, his native county, and adjoining counties for eighteen years, during which time he has met in consultation the most noted and eminent physicians from all the adjoining towns, who invariably complimented

him for diagnosis and treatment as well as his courtesy and respect in professional ethics. His name and fame as a skilled and successful practitioner is treasured up beyond the reach of accident, and this attempt of Dr. Holliday to injure him will prove as unsuccessful as it is futile.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald , March 19, 1893

Drs. Allen and Moss sent up into Hall county this week and performed on Mrs. Brooks a very important gynecological operation. Mrs. B. is doing well. Plastic surgery is a branch of the art that has been practiced but little in this section, and we congratulate the doctors on their splendid success.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, October 31, 1935

Prominent Hoschton Physician Accused of Wife's Death

Dr. M. B. Allen, widely known Hoschton physician, voluntarily placed himself under custody of Sheriff Culberson Saturday, accused of the death of his wife, who expired in an Athens hospital Friday night from pistol wound received at the Allen home Thursday night. Dr. Allen was kept under guard at his home until after the funeral services of Mrs. Allen, which were held Sunday afternoon. Since then he has been placed in the Jackson county jail, awaiting a committal trial, which will be held before a Justice of the Peace as soon as Solicitor J. C. Pratt can absent himself from Barrow superior court, in session this week. We are informed that Col. P. Cooley of Lawrenceville, Col. Joe Quillian of Winder, and Col. E. C. Stark of Commerce, have been retained by Dr. Allen. The warrant was sworn out by Mr. C. L. Ritchie, of Toccoa, a brother of Mrs. Allen.

Mrs. Allen was wounded while in her bed room Thursday night, and was rushed to an Athens hospital, where she passed away Friday night. The defendant claims the shooting was accidental; that he was in the act of removing the pistol from one part of the room to another when it was accidentally discharged, the bullet entering the abdomen of Mrs. Allen.

Dr. Allen for many years has been one of the outstanding physicians of Jackson county, and was connected with his father, Dr. L. C. Allen, in the operation of a very successful hospital in Hoschton. He is an honor graduate

of Emory University.

Mrs. Allen was equally as prominent and popular. Before marriage, she was Miss Virginia Ritchie, and her parents are residents of East Point.

The Allens have three children, a young lady daughter, who is a student at Piedmont College; a younger daughter attending High School in Braselton, and a four-year-old son.

Funeral services for Mrs. Allen were held in the home Sunday afternoon, interment was in the Hoschton cemetery. A large concourse of people attended the services.

The unfortunate occurrence has caused wide-spread sorrow and regret, and it is claimed that Dr. Allen will be able to convince those who are prosecuting him that the act was accidental.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, April 9, 1936

Dr. M. B. Allen Acquitted – Jury Returns Verdict of Not Guilty in the Case of Dr. Myron B. Allen in Jackson Superior Court.

The trial of Dr. M. B. Allen, prominent Hoschton physician, charged with murdering his wife on the night of last October 25, came to an end Saturday night, when the jury brought a verdict of “Not Guilty.”

Due to the prominence of the families of the deceased and the accused, the trial elicited the greatest of interest, and the court house was crowded to its capacity from the time court convened Wednesday morning until the jury returned a verdict about 10 o'clock Saturday night.

When Judge W. W. Stark called the court to order Wednesday morning, both the state and the defense announced, “ready for trial.” Seated with the prisoner were his attorneys, P. Cooley of Lawrenceville, Early Stark of Commerce, Joe Quillian of Winder, and W. P. Frost of Jefferson, also, his father, Dr. L. C. Allen, of Hoschton. Near by were several friends and members of his family. The prosecuting attorney, Solicitor Clifford Pratt, was assisted by Col. J. E. Frankum of Clarkesville, and Col. T. L. Bynum of Clayton.

The call of jurors summoned showed about 70 percent. These were sworn, and about 55 names were submitted before 12 were chosen as acceptable to both the state and the defense. These were: T. W. Reynolds, C. W. Keith, Paul J. Blackstock, W. H. Nunn, R. H. Merck, C. T. Coleman, Garnett Lord, Gratt Minish, R. Q. Roberts, J. W. Arnold, E. O. Hawkins and Pat Faulkner.



Allen Clinic, Hoschton. Former home of Dr. Myron B. Allen

Both sides announced a large number of witnesses, who were excluded from the court room during the trial. Witnesses for the state were first called. Among these were Lee and W. R. L. Ritchie, brother and father of Mrs. Allen; Mrs. O. C. Montgomery and Mrs. D. M. Pointin; Miss Betty McCuen and Miss Eunice Sisk, nurses from St. Mary's hospital, Athens, where Mrs. Allen was taken for an emergency operation, and where she died within 24 hours after she was shot; Mrs. Ralph Freeman, a close friend of Mrs. Allen, who went to the hospital and supplied blood for a transfusion; Mrs. Earl Smith, a neighbor of the Ritchie family, who nursed Mrs. Allen several months prior to the tragedy while she was in her mother's home in East Point; Mrs. Lee Ritchie, a sister-in-law, Dr. Guy O. Whelchel of Athens, and a number of others.

The defense witnesses were Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Allen, father and step-mother of the accused; Mrs. Maggie Lee Davis, a niece of the deceased; Mrs. Virginia Allen Molee and Miss Alberta Allen, daughters; Misses Wade and Allen, nurses at the Allen Clinic, Messrs. Cronin, Roark, Evans, and others.

With the exception of the testimony of the accused and that of Mrs. Maggie Lee Davis, the only eye-witnesses, both of whom swore that the shooting was an accident, the testimony centered around the relations of the husband and wife and the sobriety of the former. Witnesses for the state swore that the couple did not live together in harmony, while the defense witnesses testified that their married life was happy and congenial.

A letter said to have been written by Mrs. Allen to her mother, mailed just 32 hours prior to the shooting, in which she laid bare the unpleasantness of the home life, was offered as testimony. The defense claimed the letter was a forgery, and offered as a witness a handwriting expert who swore Mrs. Allen had not written the letter. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie swore the letter was written by their daughter.

The defense closed its testimony with the statement of the accused, who made quite a lengthy speech to the jury, and a dramatic plea for freedom, describing the shooting as accidental.

"You are here," he told the jury "to determine whether or not I am guilty of murder.

"I deny the accusation."

"My function is to save life—not to take it."

He said. *"I could destroy everyone in this courtroom if I was criminally minded, and you would never be able to discover it by an autopsy."*

"Certainly if I had wanted to kill the woman I loved, I would not have shot her."

He told of his first meeting the future Mrs. Allen at Piedmont College at Demorest. She at all times lent encouragement to him in his studies, he said.

Reciting various scholastic honors he won at college, he said:

"My scholastic standing was due to constant encouragement from Virginia."

Describing events on the night Mrs. Allen was shot, he said:

"There was a disturbance of some kind out in the back yard, caused by dogs and I loaded the pistol and went out there, but the dogs had left. I came back and placed the gun on a night table near the head of the bed."

"Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Allen came from the theatre and prepared for bed."

"I was lying across the bed. Virginia prepared to get in bed,

look at the night table, saw the gun and said:

"Daddy, don't you think you'd better move the gun?"

"I got the gun and raised up on my knees on the bed and as I started to step off the bed I slipped. I saw I was going to fall and tried to catch myself. Unconsciously, my arm grabbed the poster of the bed and the gun went off."

"As I had started to fall, Mrs. Allen leaned over to catch me. The bullet struck her."

"She said. Oh, darling, you've shot me, " and fell forward. I was dumbfounded."

Upon completion of defense testimony the state quickly completed its rebuttal testimony and the attorneys launched into arguments as the afternoon session started.

Arguments were completed late in the afternoon, and the jury began its deliberations after Judge Stark directed that one of three verdicts be brought in—guilty, with the death penalty; guilty, with a recommendation for mercy; or acquittal.

After the verdict of acquittal, Dr. Allen, who had been in the Jackson county jail since the shooting last October, left for his home in Hoschtou, where he said he will resume the practice of medicine.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529