

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME SIXTEEN, NUMBER THREE

APRIL 2009



The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Burns-Telford House in Maysville on April 19 at 2:30 p.m. The owner, Kay David, has a gift shop, luncheon facility and catering business at the house at 3447 Gillsville Rd., Maysville, GA.

Directions: From I85N take exit 147. Turn left over the expressway on Hwy 98 follow through the Maysville and follow past the Maysville post office and Library to a yellow house on the left side of the rail tracks, 3447 Gillsville Rd. For information call Caine at 706-654-9066

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 \$3.00 each plus postage. Some of the past newsletters can be viewed online at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

The Historical Society's collection of books, files and research materials are housed in the Heritage Room of the Commerce Public Library.

Queries will be published in the next issue. Please send by June 15, 2009.

Dues for 2008–2009 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

JCHS Officers 2008-2009

President:	Caine Campbell
Vice-President:	Shirley Wilson
Recording Secretary:	Doris Lord
Corresponding Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Ann Jarrett Jerry Legg
Past Presidents:	Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett Richard Chambers Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis James Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks Tina Harris Charlotte Mealor
Newsletter Editor:	Tina Harris

Meeting Schedule

The July Hot Dog picnic will be held on Thursday, July 23 at the Shields/Ethridge Heritage Farm at 6:00 p.m. The farm is recognized as a Centennial Farm owned by the same family for over one hundred years and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It once operated a cotton gin, gristmill and commissary house. Today it is an agricultural museum and has tours for school groups and Field Days.

The October 18 meeting will be held in Nicholson where we will meet at City Hall and ramble to the "Cross Roads Negro School house", built as early as 1881. We will also visit the cemetery for this community where an early church existed. This is Nicholson's first designation of Historic property and beginning of Historic designation application to the State.

Show of Support

The Jackson County Historical Society has made a donation to the Commerce Public Library in honor of Susan Harper, who retired this year as the Director. We appreciate her continual help and interest in the Heritage Room collection at the Library.

The Jackson County Historical Society has made a donation to the restoration project for the toppled soldier on the Confederate Monument in Jefferson, Georgia. Plans are for a bronze replica to be made.

The Jackson County Historical Society has made a donation for the restoration of the clock tower on the old Jackson County Courthouse in Jefferson.

Family Connections

Carol Bertucci, 30 Old Lane, Gulfport, MS 39503, PCB@cableone.net, (228)604-4441 LONG, MADDOX, MOON, RICHARDSON, SIMPSON, DANIEL, LAY, WOOD, McELHANNON, KINNEY, HOLLAND, TIMBS, LANCASTER, PIERCE, CRAIG, WHITE.

excerpt from "The Robert Telford Family of Anderson County, South Carolina" by Leila Ritchie Mize and Jessie Julia Mize

Prior to and during the Revolution there were no white people of account living in what is now called the Piedmont section of South Carolina, but it was then known as the "back country." Immediately after the war a steady tide of emigrants flowed into this section, coming largely from North Carolina, Virginia and even from Pennsylvania.

Robert Telford with his wife, Isabella Sterrett arrived in Upper South Carolina in time to be counted in the first census taken in 1790. They were my great-great-grandparents and it is for the purpose of perpetuating their memory that this Telford sketch is written.

Robert Telford, pioneer to South Carolina, was born September 28, 1762 probably in Augusta County, Virginia, and was married December 20th, 1787 to Isabella Sterrett who was born October 27, 1767 probably in Pennsylvania. He was in Pendleton District, South Carolina and was counted in the first United States Census taken in June 1790. In 1791 he made application for a grant of land in South Carolina. This was granted in 1792 in pursuance of an Act of the Legislature of February 1791. This grant consisting of 400 acres was located on Broadmouth Creek, near Belton, South Carolina, in the vicinity where the Browns and Benjamin Sterrett, late of Virginia had secured grants a few years before, between 1784 and 1790. He had a large family and many descendants. Robert Telford also purchased a 600 acre tract, under the old English land law providing for quit rent deed, witnessed by Benjamin Starrett (June 25, 1799, Book E, p. 21).

James Telford, eldest son of Robert and Isabella, was my great-grandfather. His wife was Artemisia Brown, daughter of James Brown and Nancy Burdine, who lived in the Belton Community of Anderson County, S.C. The other children of Robert and Isabella Telford were Thomas, John, Robert, Mary, William, Hugh, Elizabeth, and Eliza. John Telford married Mary Duff, died Decatur, Georgia, 1840. Mary Telford married James Lemon, moved to Dekalb and then Cobb County, Georgia. William Telford married Leazy Stanton and they lived near Belton S. C. Elizabeth Telford married a Bowman. Eliza Telford married David Garrison. It is said that Robert Telford moved to Illinois, Hugh and Thomas Telford died young.

Robert Telford and Isabella, and James and Artemisian, are buried at the Sally Reed graveyard about 2 miles from Belton and their graves have been marked.

My grandfather, George Brown Telford, was married three times, first to Frances Warnock in 1839, daughter of Captain Johh Warnock, a soldier of the Revolution who died in 1841. She died in a year, without children.

Next he married Cynthia Isabella Wilson of near Williamston, South Carolina, daughter of James and Mary Thomas Wilson. She died in 1857 of typhoid fever leaving an infant daughter, Cynthia Isabella, who became Mrs. Luke N. Turk of Homer, Banks County, Georgia.

He then married Martha Wilson, sister of his second wife. She lived only a few years and left two young sons, William Lawrence Telford, Atlanta, Georgia and Robert Eugene Telford, a Presbyterian Minister of Hartwell, Georgia and Sebring, Florida.

My Grandfather, George Telford, was Superintendent of the Belton, South Carolina Sunday School and an Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Belton for many years. The history of the early church was written by him in the session book. His father, James Telford, and his grandfather, Robert, Telford, were also Elders of the early church.

George Brown Telford was a soldier in the War Between the States and describes his experience in service in his diary as follows:

Dec. 25, 1863. Our old men's Regiment of above 5,000 men was called into the field Sept. 10, 1863. Col. Robert's Regiment including us was ordered to Charleston to serve for 6 months from 1st Aug. Many troops in and around Charleston and a strong Yankee force on some of the islands and on their vessels. Yankees throw shells for Morris Isles some five or six miles into the city sometimes for weeks in succession day and night.

March 22, 1864. Disbanded and left Charleston, Feb. 4, got home on 5th.

May 22, 1865. After spending the winter from 28th Nov. in Camps with Barnett's battallion and traversing much of the lower part of S. C. on foot was captured on 9th March in Moore Co., N. C. by Kilpatrick's Yankee Cavalry and sent home which I reached on 18th, more than a month ahead of the command. In April, Gen. Lee's army being much reduced by desertion was captured in Virginia and entirely dispersed, as also was Johnson's in N. C. and so we have now no army east of Miss. River. Jeff Davis passed through N. C. and S. C. into Ga. going west to cross the Mississippi River.



Margaret Ella, Crawford Burns and son, Samuel Burns

Mrs. Janie Telford Burns remembered well her father's service in the Confederate Army, and in her last years often spoke of it. She said, "My father, George Brown Telford, served in the Confederate Army and was allowed to come home to Belton, S.C. on furlough in the spring of 1864 to make a crop and harvest his wheat. He had a family of 11 children to be fed, and my oldest brother, James Telford, took our father's place in his Regiment at the age of 15. Later when he reached his sixteenth birthday he enlisted with the sixteen year old boys of near Belton. He was mustered out after Lee's surrender and returned home. He was in Charleston when he served in my father's place.

The Telford Family of Banks County, Georgia

The members of the Banks County family are the descendants of George Brown Telford and his brother, James Harvey Telford, who with their families removed from their native home in Belton, South Carolina to Banks County, Georgia, in 1872, during the bitter reconstruction period.

These men were two of the sons of James Telford and his first wife Artemisia Brown Telford.

The George B. Telford plantation was on the Grove River, occupied by the late Mr. and Mrs T. B. Ray. "Uncle Harvey" married Judith Cox of South Carolina, and their two surviving children came with them to Georgia. The son, J. Newton Telford, married Cantie West, sister of Judge Henry West of Athens, Georgia, and they lived for many years in Commerce, Georgia. His daughter Iris resided in Sanford, Florida and was Mrs. Herbert Godwin. The daughter Minnie was Mrs. T. B. Ray who resided at the old homestead near McDonald's Bridge, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cain.

These families were noted for their interest in education and religion and contributed much to the cultural life of the section. George Brown Telford possessed an unusual library for his day consisting of religious books, classics of Latin and of English literature, and histories.

George Brown Telford was a teacher at Belton, South Carolina, and was a fluent writer and speaker. He kept a diary, from 1838 to 1887, the time of his death.

The family was of Presbyterian faith, having membership in the Homer church, where he was an Elder. He died in 1887, and is buried in the Homer cemetery as are his sons Joseph Newton and John Leland and his daughter Cynthia Isabella Turk.

JOSEPH NEWTON TELFORD was born August 16, 1850 in Belton, South Carolina, married December 14, 1882 to Ella McAlister of Toccoa, Georgia, died in Banks County Georgia, April 24, 1891, buried in the Homer cemetery near the Presbyterian Church. There were three surviving sons; George McAlister, Thomas Wilson and James Harvey Telford.

Joseph Newton Telford bought the colonial Telford home of his father in Banks County, and lived and died there. Sometime after the marriage of his widow to James Crawford Burns, the Burns and Telford family returned to live at the Telford home. About 1898 it was destroyed by a disastrous fire; the loss of this home and the loss of the old Pruitt home two or three miles down the Grove River by fire removed two of the most commodious and imposing homes in Banks County.

ELLA McALISTER was the daughter of Amos Hascue McAlister and Irinda Virginia Kelly of Toccoa, Georgia. Amos served in Co. I, 62nd N.C. C.S.A. 1861.

Ella McAlister Telford, born November 16, 1863, was married second to James Crawford Burns March 6, 1892. He died in Maysville, Georgia, July 24, 1934, and was buried at Hebron Church in Banks County.

James Crawford Burns, born May 20, 1856, was a brother of David Mitchell Burns who married Martha Jane Telford. They were nephews of Dr. John Milton Burns who married Julia Caroline Telford. James Crawford was the son of David Mitchell Burns and Sarah Hay married in Jackson County, 1818. They are buried at Thyatira Presbyterian Church cemetery. David Mitchell Burns parents were William and Margaret Mitchell Burns. They moved to present day Maysville in 1781 from Orange Co., N. C. They are buried in a private cemetery in Maysville.

James Crawford Burns' first wife was Onie Ellison. Their children were: Cleo married William Stanhope Erwin; William Crawford married first: Louise Dixon, second: Geraldine Hood; Henry Knox married first: Ruth Parker, second: Lucile Gainey; Hubert married Minnie Johnson; Eva married Ross Wilson; and Robert married May Laudervack.

Children of Joseph Newton Telford and Ella McAlister: George McAlister Telford born 1883, married Mary

Elizabeth Brown; Thomas Wilson Telford born 1885 married Emma Corn and James Harvey Telford born 1889, married Nell Ophelia Kenimer.

Children of James Crawford Burns and Ella McAlister Telford: Joseph Crawford married Herma Banks; David Brantley married Lollie Newton; Guy Amos married Alice DeHaven Wimberly; Sarah Margaret married Ernest Andes; Sidney Lenear married Lulie Forrester; John Stanhope married Jeanette Scarborough, Samuel Mitchell Burns married Inez Buckner.

THOMAS WILSON TELFORD was born June 24, 1885, died May 24, 1951, Maysville, Georgia and was married at Hiawasse, Georgia, on August 11, 1911, to Emma Corn. Later he lived at Hamilton, Georgia, and then returned to Maysville, Georgia. Their children are: Thomas Wilson Telford, Jr. born June 8, 1912; Lyra Margaret Telford born September 27, 1913 married Vince Lowe Booker of Washington, Georgia. Resided in Barrow County, Georgia; John Heatherly Telford and James Sidney Telford. The parents of Emma Corn Telford were John Heatherly Corn and Sarah Elizabeth Dillard who lived in Towns County, Georgia.

excerpt from Big Brother Reminisces by Henry Burns

My father married a second time-- a very fine motherly woman (Margaret Ella McAlister Telford Burns who assumed her duties as only a brave and Christian person can do. This marriage started off with the six children my father had and three of his second wife's. The nine of us got along exceedingly well, and this devotion has extended over all the years since. In addition to the nine children of this last marriage seven more were born, which brought sixteen children in one household.

Soon after my father's second marriage we moved to the former home of his second wife whom I shall call Mama. I feel I should endear her with deep devotion because of all she did for me. The second home we moved to was larger than our first home. It was situated in a beautiful grove of trees between two small streams. We nine children enjoyed this second home, and the others born there joined in all of the fun. Everything was not a bed of roses for this big family, but I have many happy memories there.

...The combination of happy days and hard times at the Telford place (which is the home Mama owned) came to a sad end in the late Nineties. The beautiful old place burned one November night, and most of us came very near being burned in it. None of us got out with any clothes, and my

younger brother Bob was badly burned. I saw him standing at a window upstairs with flames leaping over his head. My father was frantic and wanted me to go upstairs and get him. I knew this was impossible because I had just got out and my hair was badly singed. I called to Bob and told him to jump and I would catch him. He did jump and I caught him. It must have been an act of Providence. I don't know how I did it. We all got out alive, but we did not save any furniture or clothes.

This fire called for reshaping our lives. We had the upper place where I was born and lived until Papa and Mama married. The family had grown during the years at the Telford place and the old place was not large enough to house us all. We all began to get out for ourselves...



Picture of the Tom Telford Sr. family, Maysville Home

Lyra, Thomas Wilson Telford, Sr. (born June 24, 1885, died May 24, 1951,) Emma Corn Telford, Thomas Wilson Telford, Jr., John Heatherly Telford and James Sidney Telford.

excerpt from "The Early History of Maysville, Georgia" by Richard Chambers (1986)

The first settlers to arrive in present day Jackson and Banks Counties constructed forts for their protection: Fort Strong at Talasee, the fort at Yatrachoochee or Hurricane Shoals, Fort Yargo, and Bush's Fort and Norris' Fort on Nails Creek near present day Homer.

excerpt from the Banks County Gazzette, March 16, 1893, -Lockhart

Just two miles from Maysville, Ga. there is an old fort said to be built by Ferdinand Desoto in quest for gold. Former tradition tells us that Desoto was guided by Indians of this country. Desoto was a proud man and could not return to his country without gold. He was a great terror to the Indians. Often when his guides became exhausted he would cut off their hands and give them to the dogs, and the Indians to get rid of him would tell him that gold was a little farther on.

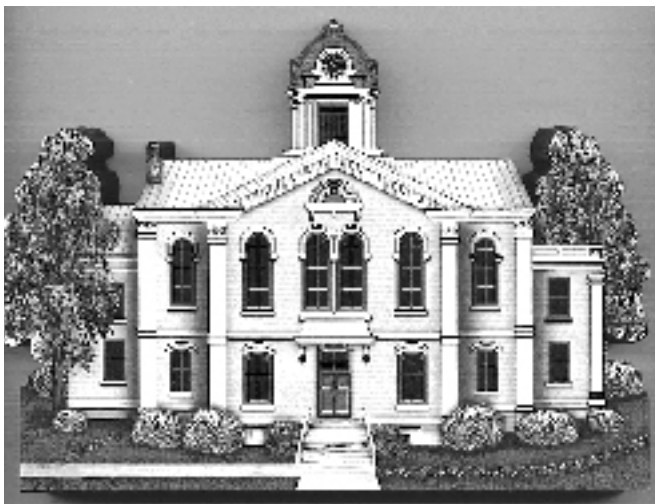
They had fooled him this way until they carried him through Alabama. It is supposed that he marched up above where the Lula and Athens R. R. stands and got him off to where the fort now stands. It was supposed to be made by his men to protect themselves from the Cherokee Indians who inhabited this country at that time. The fort is built of stone and old logs. Of course there is but little proof of the logs being there except some cedar and pine knots that are embedded among the jagged rocks. There is on the base of one large rock, curious Spanish carving and sculpturing, and an old date mark that just can be made out. This is Spanish. The writer might have read it if he had been so fortunate as to have learned Spanish. The fort is surrounded by strong oaks, and tall redolent pines, and quite a number of Indian graves, supposed to have been killed by Desoto's men. There is supposed to be some hidden treasures, etc., around there. Then there is another one of same kind near Lula, supposed to have been built by the same man. It has quite different surroundings. There are also Indian graves around it. It is supposed that the Indians tried to storm this little rude structure that was protecting Desoto's men and the men gave them a warm reception and killed them. Just about two miles from there is the grave of an Indian Chief. His grave is just a common high mound of dirt. It is supposed that he is buried in a sitting posture, as it is their custom to inter bodies in this manner. There is an old rude head stone with the following inscription on it:

IN MEMORY OF RED BEAR
 As we have to leave the Country
 by the white man's Order
 we will leave something
 In memory of our father,
 the Chief of the Cherokee.

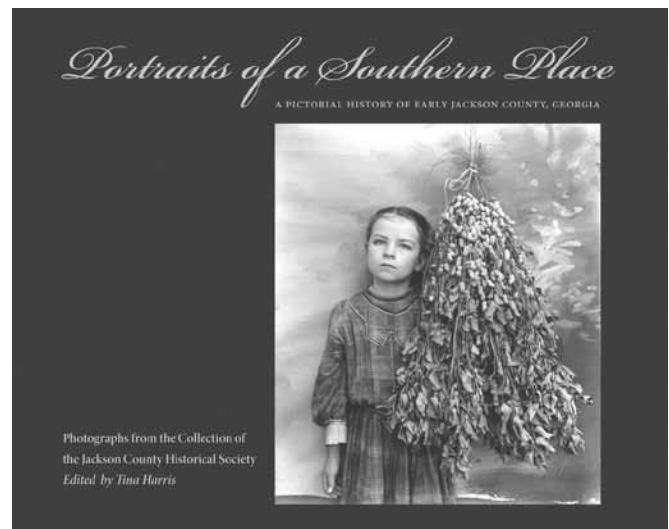
Blue Head and Red Willow

Blue Head and Red Willow were the two sons of Red Bear. You will find down on a little branch not far from there, bark carving on common beech trees in the Indian dialect. Their mode of writing at that day and time was the Hieroglyphic system of writing by mean of pictures, conveying ideas but the inscription on the tombstone is in plain English.

The area related by Lockhart is near what Elrod(1967) identifies as the Lacoda Trail, an important trail from Augusta to Nacoochee and Tallulah territory. The highway through Commerce and Maysville, State Highway 98, partially follows this trail. Near this trail was Pocate-ligo Creek, an Indian name for Sandy Creek.



The Jackson County Historical Society is selling an architectural replica of the Jackson County Historic Courthouse with proceeds going to the restoration project. Replica's can be purchased at Genuine Jefferson on Washington Street, Jefferson. For more information call Charlotte Mealar at 706-757-2471 or cmealor@uga.edu.



“Portraits of a Southern Place” has been reprinted in paperback by the Jackson County Historical Society.

This is a collector's item for anyone interested in Jackson County history and early photography. Includes an index, organized by surnames, to benefit genealogy researchers. Individually shrink wrapped. This is a reprint in paperback of our 2007 hardback publication. The price of \$25.00 includes tax. Checks and money orders can be made to The Jackson County Historical Society.

The book is available in Jackson County at the Commerce, Jefferson, Talmo, Braselton Public Libraries and at Genuine Jefferson on Washington Street, the Crawford Long Pharmacy in Jefferson and the Burns-Telford House in Maysville.

Checks can be mailed to JCHS, P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529, Shipping cost is \$3.00 per book. Call Tina for special deliveries (706)207-6889

Newsletter editor

Anyone who has interesting articles or material that you would like to share for the newsletter, please send it to me at my e-mail address: tina313@mindspring.com or to the Jackson County Historical Society at P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529. It will be greatly appreciated.

Tina Harris



Cemetery Restoration

Jefferson Davis Bell is restoring the Lyle-Moon Cemetery for his Eagle Scout Project. The cemetery is located on Tap Wood Road and is believed to be the burial site of Revolutionary soldier Maher Lyle. He plans to clear paths and install a marker to identify the cemetery that is now overgrown and hidden.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529