

# Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME FOURTEEN, NUMBER FOUR

JULY 2007



*Jackson County Historical Society Annual Member's Picnic will be held in the Mill building at Sell's Mill Park, Jackson Trail Road, Hoschton, July 19, 2007, 6:00p.m.*

*Directions: Take highway 85 to exit 129, Hwy 53, travel south through Braselton and Hoschton to Jackson Trail Road, turn left, travel to the park on the right side of the road, turn into the second entrance, not the pavillion entrance.  
(Latitude 34.084 N, Longitude 83.730 W)*

## **Sell's Mill Park**

The park was originally land purchased by Jonathon Sell around 1815. Jonathan Sell married Rebecca Jones in 1812 and they had six sons, James was born in 1814. James married Celia McMillan in 1844 and they had nine children, Leonidus Franklin being the youngest, born in 1862.

In the 1885, Frank Sell returned to the family farm and increased his holdings from five hundred and ten acres to twelve hundred acres. He grew timber, cotton, corn, wheat and oats, and built a new house and erected the mill and the dam. This was the center of a thriving farm community that included a grist mill, cotton gin, saw mill, dairy farm, blacksmith shop, railroad depot, and general store. Frank also sold Model T automobiles.

Frank married Angie Maynard in 1900. They had no children of their own, but raised five children in their home that is now owned by Carroll and Kay Eddleman. Kay is a niece of Angie Maynard.

The land changed hands several times before the Jackson County Parks and Recreation purchased it in 2000. Renovations to the grist mill have been completed and the mill waterwheel will run for 15 to 20 minutes on July 19 during the Jackson County Historical Society annual picnic, beginning at 6:00 p.m. After a short business meeting, Bill Sell will talk about the history of the Mill. There are no restrooms in the Mill, but the restrooms at the pavillion across the creek will be open. Members are invited and can tour the Eddleman home at 8283 Jackson Trail, after the picnic.

## 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/](http://rootsweb.com/~gajackso/)

## Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, September 25, 2007. Send requests for information to the address below with a stamped, self addressed envelope.

## PAY DUES NOW for 2007–2008 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 2006-2007

President:	Charlotte Mealor
Vice-President:	Shirley Wilson
Recording Secretary:	Nora Tolbert
Corresponding Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Thad Richey Ann Jarrett
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
Newsletter Editors:	Tina Harris Jean Booth

## President's column, July 2007

Reflecting on this past year, while looking forward to the next: notes from your president, Charlotte W. Mealor. Since JCHS' annual picnic last July at Hurricane Shoals Park and the introduction to our "Document Recovery Project," much has been accomplished. We are still unfolding original court documents from 1796 through the early 1950's. My sincere gratitude goes to the following volunteers, who have logged in well over 700 hours since September 18, 2006:

Linda Aaron  
Marsha Baxter  
L.C. Bell  
Teeter Bell  
Jean Booth  
JoAnn Burroughs  
Gail Daly  
Carroll Eddleman  
Kay Eddleman  
Carol Holzhalb  
Ann Jarrett  
Milton Leathers  
Betty Ann Mathis  
James Mathis  
Annabel Seltzer  
Marty Seltzer  
Sharon Stanley  
Nora Tolbert  
Liz Walden  
Tom Walden

The vast majority of the documents sorted thus far have been from the Inferior/ Ordinary/ Probate Court dealing with estates (i.e. wills, letters of administration, guardianships, annual returns, etc.). We feel very privileged to have worked with these, and we are excited about the possibility of these becoming accessible to the public. As you may know, these documents have been recorded in the proper book, but the originals contain information and names that were not recorded. As we've been opening, we have also been establishing file folders for each name and will arrange alphabetically. In this newsletter are photos of some of the other files we have recovered, and there are many small handwritten/hand bound books of the superior court, beginning in 1796. Apparently, we in Jackson County should be very pleased that our court and county officials throughout our history realized the importance of keeping these treasures.

Our next group of boxes will be the original loose papers from Superior Court cases. If you would like to help, please let me know (706-757-2471).

The Jackson County Historical Society has been busy in other areas as well. In October 2007, we met at the home of Carroll and Kay Eddleman (the Sell home place in Hoschton) with over 55 in attendance. It was cold that day, but we felt the warmth of their hospitality.

In December 2006, we celebrated the publication of *Portraits of a Southern Place*, and, as of this writing, we have less than 200 copies remaining.

Ann Jarrett gave us a very informative presentation on the First United Methodist Church in Jefferson in January 2007.

Tax exempt status for the Historical Society under section 501 ©) (3) was granted on January 13, 2007.

After a little more paperwork, on March 12, 2007, the State of Georgia, Department of Revenue determined JCHS is also exempt from Georgia income tax under Georgia Code Section 48-7-25. Donors may now make tax-deductible contribution to the JCHS.

April 2007 brought us a blustery and cold day, but a good crowd to hear Robbie Bettis, as she talked to us about the historical significance of Drs. L. C. and Myron B. Allen and the Allen Clinic and Hospital in Hoschton. While we did not get to visit the hospital, we enjoyed touring Hoschton City Hall and the L. C. Allen home. Robbie is the author of *Passing Stories through the history of Hoschton and Braselton*, which was published in September 2006.

Also in April, Tina Harris, Carol Tanner, Tommy Benton, and I presented two copies of *Portraits of a Southern Place* to Governor Sonny Perdue at the state capital. One to stay in the Governor's office at the Capital and one for his home in Bonaire, GA.

Of particular note: The Jackson County Board of Commissioners have set aside \$2 million for the restoration of the Historic Courthouse. Please help us in encouraging the BOC to allocate part of the space in the building for The Jackson County Archival and Research Center. This is where we envision the return of the historic documents. Such a center would be more accessible to the general public. Although it would take many volunteers to offer a limited number of hours per week, we believe such a center would be a major asset to the county. It would also bring in more visitors to the city of Jefferson. **This is a very critically important endeavor**, and if you

would be willing to serve on a historic courthouse restoration authority, which is being discussed by the commissioners, please let your representative on the board know. Or, if you'll give me your name, I'll pass it on. It is also important that you send letters (either by mail or email) to the board members, expressing your support of the restoration work. Money is indeed limited, and to complete the work, other funding sources will be needed. Again, let me know, if you are willing to participate in these efforts.

During the coming year, your president and executive board will be planning other excursions to historic sites in the county. Plans are also underway for a program on Abraham Baldwin and the establishment of Franklin College and to possibly visit the site of Franklin College (on the campus of The University of Georgia), which was located in Jackson County before Clarke County was formed in 1801, and a ramble to historic Pendergrass to visit the Baptist Church and the recently remodeled train depot. If you have program suggestions, please contact me at 706-757-2471.

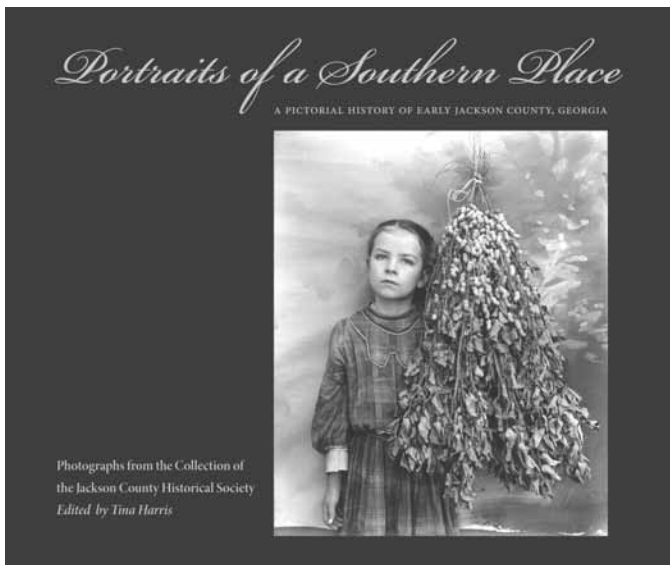
As we continue to be concerned for the preservation of historic sites in Jackson County, we want to encourage the Board of Commissioners to establish "historic overlay districts," so that many unmarked cemeteries and historic sites DO NOT get bulldozed by new developments. I encourage you to become involved in the processes of our county government. We certainly have a rich heritage that needs to be preserved as we seek and welcome new folks into Jackson County.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Library and Editorial Help needed**

Help is also needed in the Commerce Public Library to assist researchers with our collection of resource materials and to organizing the books and materials. Presently, Annabelle Seltzer is available to assist researchers on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We also need volunteers interested in assisting with this newsletter's publication. Research, layout, typing and mailing assistance are areas of need. Contact Tina Harris at 706-757-3750 or [tina313@mindspring.com](mailto:tina313@mindspring.com).



The Jackson County Historical Society publication “Portraits of a Southern Place” contains 257 black and white photographs that document life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in Jackson County, Georgia. Among this collection are 54 photographs taken by photographer, Cicero Simmons of Talmo, Georgia. The book is indexed by surname and photographs identify places and people depicted.

This beautiful hard cover book is Smyth sewn and printed on archival paper. Copies can be purchased at the Jefferson, Commerce, Braselton and Talmo public libraires and the Crawford W. Long Museum for \$32.00 (this includes tax). For mail orders, send a check to the Jackson County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1234, Commerce GA 30529 for \$37.00 (includes shipping) There are less than 200 copies left. Get yours copies before the holidays.

The following are samples from the Jackson County document recovery project.

**Executive Department,**  
Atlanta, Ga., January 1st, 1895.

*To Clerk Superior Court:*

The following list contains the names of disabled Soldiers who were paid Pensions in Jackson County for the pension year ending October 26th, 1894.

Present to Grand Jury for inspection as provided by Act of the Legislature, approved 19th October, 1891.

RICHARD JOHNSON,  
Secretary Executive Department.

NAME	DISABILITY	AMOUNT	NAME	DISABILITY	AMOUNT
W. R. Aaron	Disabled Leg	\$50	J. H. Nelson	Loss of Eye	\$30.00
H. D. Anglin	Disabled leg & loss finger	5	Jose Williams	Body wound	50
J. M. Anail	" Arm	50	M. P. Wood	Loss of Leg	100
A. L. Barge	Loss of Leg	100			
Geo. W. Brown	" " Arm	100			
F. A. Coleman	Disabled "	50			
R. V. Delay	Loss of Finger	5			
A. A. Delaprise	Body wound	50			
Martin Eberhart	Disabled Leg	50			
J. S. Echols	Loss Finger	5			
C. S. Fleman	Disabled Leg	50			

*is not*

# The Allen Clinic and Hospital

DR. L. C. ALLEN  
GENERAL MEDICINE & GYNECOLOGY  
DR. M. B. ALLEN  
INTERNAL MEDICINE & RADIOLOGY



DR. J. WEYMAN DAVIS  
VISITING SURGEON  
DR. LLOYD LOTT  
DENTISTRY

ROSCHTON, GEORGIA

This is to certify that Mr. H. G. Miller  
is unable to do ~~hard~~ manual  
labor and is entitled to a license  
to ~~drive~~.

M. B. Allen M.D.

11-5-37

This is certify that Mr. H. G. Miller  
is unable to do any manual labor  
and suffering with spinal injury  
caused by severe blow with  
Iron pipe on spine, also stab  
wound over spine. Causing  
spinal nerve pressure and  
atrophy of muscles of right  
leg. and he is entitled to license  
to <sup>drive</sup> ~~drive~~   
Ambler, Ga.  
Nov 13th 1937

L. P. Pharr

STATE OF GEORGIA, }  
Jackson COUNTY. }

Be it known, That before me, *Thomas Niblack*  
a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared  
*Solomon Saxon* and made oath in due form of law, that  
he is the identical person named in an original certificate in his possession, of  
which (I certify) the following is a true copy:

**“ War Department.**

**“ REVOLUTIONARY CLAIM.**

“ I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States, of the 7th June, 1832, *Solomon Saxon* of the State of Georgia, who was a *private* in the *Revolutionary Army*

“ is entitled to receive *Eighty* Dollars per annum, during his natural life, commencing on the 4th of March, 1831, and payable semi-annually, on the 4th of March and 4th of September in every year.

[L. S.] “ GIVEN at the War-Office of the United States, this *23rd* day of *February* one thousand eight hundred and *thirty three*

EXAMINED AND }  
COUNTERSIGNED. }

*J. L. Edwards*

*Geo. Cass*

Secretary of War.

That he now resides in *the County of Jackson*  
and has resided there for the space of *twenty seven* years past; and  
that previous thereto, he resided in *Wilkes County, Georgia.*

Sworn and Subscribed this *fifth*  
day of *September* 1838  
before me,

*Thos. Niblack J. P.*

I, *William Cowan* <sup>Magistrate</sup> Clerk of the Court of *Jackson* County, certify that *Thomas Niblack* is a Magistrate as above, and that the foregoing signature, purporting to be his, is genuine. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have herunto affixed my seal of office, and subscribed my name, this *fifth* day of *September* in the year *1838*,  
*having no seal of office) at*

*William Cowan*  
*J. P. Cowan*  
*J. County*

*excerpt from papers found in the back of Edward Adams, Clerk of Court book*

**A Bible Society was established in Jackson County on April 16, 1826. Members were:**

Robert Smithwich, Frances Meriwether, John J. Cheatham, Middleton Witt, W. D. Martin, M. H. Gathright, Wm Naibor, T. H. Cheatham, Allen Mathews, Green R. Duke, B. F. Porter, T. Trout, Edward Adams Sr., James B. Naibors, Jackson Trout, John Eskredge, Thomas Adams, S. Ripley, E. Adams Jr., Miss A. Wood, Mrs. Cheatham, Mrs. Ripley, Mrs. Trout, H. Hobron, James Liddle, Jacob Braselton, James Armor, Miss Martha T. Douglas, Mr. Hobron.

Names added since the formation of the society:

James Appleby, Edward Story, Samuel Knox, Sr., Samuel Knox Jr., John A. Rhea, Joseph Ratchford, William McMullin, Joseph J. Singleton, John Harrison, Robert Allen, James Montgomery, John Park, Samul Barnett, John Borders

Added July 4, 1827:

Beverly Allen, William Niblack, Joseph Hampton, John Wallace,...(other names unreadable)

The Auxiliary Bible Society of Jackson County adopted the constitution of the American Bible Society to cooperate with that national institution in a wider circulation of the Holy Scripture.

All subscribing and having the sum of one dollar or upwards annually shall be members of the Society or the sum of ten dollars or upwards at the time shall be members for life.

**Jackson County Debate Society minutes**

*excerpts May 8th 1835 through June 1840,*

President, Dr. George Grant  
members and participants: Mr. Stark, Webb, Giles Mitchell, Appleby, Brown, Adams, Lindsay, Jno. N. Pendergrass, J. B. Nabors, Overby, V. J. Cherry, Geo. Shaw, Thurmond, Jones, Winton, Ripley, Carithers, David Crenshaw, Geo. Cowan, H. T. Peoples, R. E. Oliver, C. W. Long, G. A. Borders, M. Witt, Gray McLester, John J. McCullouch, J. W. Clark, Thos. Doster, Cox, Howell Cobb, David M. Burns

Topics of discussion:

Was the British government justifiable in exiling Bonaparte to the Island of St. Helena?

Was General Jackson justifiable in declaring Martial Law at New Orleans?

Would it be politic in the United States Government to purchase Texas and admit it into the Union?

Which is the most pleasing to the eye, the works of nature or the works of art?

Should the U.S. Government incorporate a U. S. Bank?

Were the European settlers in this country justifiable in removing and exterminating the aborigines?

Will the Militia Bill, now before Congress, if passed into a law as reported by the secretary of War and recommended by the President, save the liberties of this country?

Should imprisonment for debt be abolished?

Will it be condusive to the pecuniary interest of the great mass of the people to have an exclusive specie currency? (specie is coined money with metallic content and value)

Who have seen a greater influence over the morals of society than women?



*Jackson County Historical Society members will return to the Sell house after the picnic on July 19 by invitation of the owners Carroll and Kay Eddleman.*

## Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529