

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME NINE, NUMBER TWO

JANUARY 2002



Canoeing on the Oconee River in Apple Valley on Hood's Mill Pond, circa 1910. Pictured: Lammie Sims, Hoke Arther, Colquitt Sims, Willie Colquitt

Please note our new mailing address:

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY P. O. BOX 1234, COMMERCE, GEORGIA 30529

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 dues and they will be published in the next newsletter.

NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529

QUERIES

Send queries to be published the month before the next issue. Next deadline March 15, 2002.

DUES

The Jackson County Historical Society's Dues Year runs from July to July. Checks should be written to:

Jackson County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Life Member	\$100.00

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OBITUARIES

excerpt from the Jackson Herald June 5, 1891

Whereas God in his providence has seen fit to remove from among us by death our much beloved brother, B. M. Isbell, who was born Feb. 15, 1844, died April 21, 1891.

Whereas in the death of our Brother Isbell the church has lost a good member, the wife a devoted husband, and the children a kind and indulgent father. He died as he lived—peacefully trusting in the Savior, expressing a great desire to be absent from the body but present with the Lord...

Apple Valley Baptist Church

April 3, 1896

A most terrible accident occurred below Jefferson on Mr. T. A. McElhannon's place last Saturday.

Mr. Thomas Boleman saw a hawk alight near his residence and ran into the house, pulled his shot gun from the rack and went out doors. As he went out his wife followed him to the door to see him bring the fowl destroyer from the limbs of a towering oak. He did not see the wife standing in the door, but he was looking upward for the hawk and began to pull the hammer of the gun back. As he pulled the hammer back his finger slipped, the hammer fell and the gun fired. Little did he think the musket was pointed towards his beloved wife. As the smoke cleared away he saw the precious being of his bosom lying almost prostrate on the floor with a stream of blood gushing from a ghastly wound made in her bowels and abdomen by a heavy load of shot. When this sight met his eyes he almost fainted.

Dr. Smith was sent for at once and he ministered to the wants of the wounded woman, but nothing could be done that would save her life, and on Monday night she breathed her last.

The family are grief stricken by the death of Mrs. Boleman. Her mother and father, brothers and sisters, together with the husband, were all by her bedside when the angel of death came. As they saw the sum of her life fast sinking they knelt by her bedside and promised to meet her

in glory. As the husband saw his sweet young wife's life ebb away by an accidental, but fatal shot, it seemed that his bosom would bust with the saddest grief.

Mrs. Boleman was just twenty-three years old, a beautiful woman, and her husband never saw her angry.

She leaves a little babe just three weeks old.

She was buried at Apple Valley, Rev. C.A. Strickland conducting the funeral services.

October 21, 1898

Mr. J. C. Hunt's funeral was preached here last Sunday at 11 o'clock by Rev. Henry Hardman after which the remains of Mr. Hunt were interred in Apple Valley cemetery.

The sudden death of Mr. Hunt is sad, indeed. Friday evening he was hauling a load of cotton seed from the gin with a bale of cotton on top of the seed, and as the mules trotted down a hill, he got over balanced and fell from the top of the cotton to the ground, breaking his collar bone and cracking his skull bone, producing death in a few hours. J. C. Hunt had lived around Apple Valley about 25 years, and all who knew him held him and his family in high esteem, but this year he was living at Ila, Madison county.

Mr. Hunt leaves a wife and six grown children and many friends to mourn his death. A large crowd attended the burying. Mr. Hunt was a good provider, always made plenty at home. He was good to his family and his neighbors—he never had anything too good for his neighbors and friends. All of his family are members of the church, except one or two. Mr. Hunt himself, for some cause, however never united with the church, but still he had a good, tender heart, and seemed to be better than many who made profession of religion. Rev. Hardman's talk Sunday was directed to the living—telling them how they should walk in time of life.

October 19, 1900

Our hearts are sad on account of the death of Mrs. W. T. Stevens and her baby boy. The little baby was buried here last Thursday, and Mrs. Stevens was buried last Tuesday. Rev. Mr. Mays preached both funerals. He preached one of the best sermons on Tuesday we ever heard, to the largest crowd we ever saw at a funeral. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all the bereaved ones.

January 5, 1905

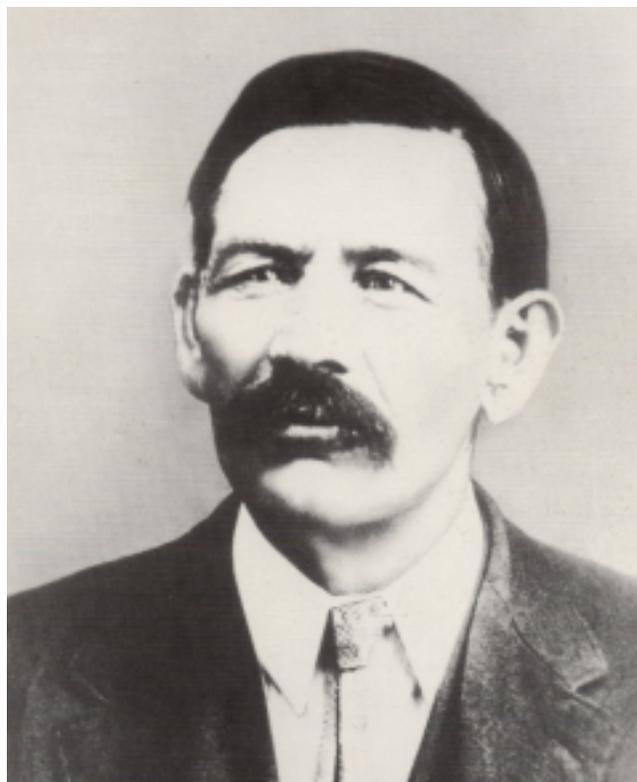
One of Jackson county's best citizens, Hon. D. M. Nix, died

at his home in Apple Valley last Friday morning about 1:30, after an illness of only four days.

He was in Jefferson Monday, and just as he reached his home in the afternoon he had a very sever pain in his breast near the throat. His breast was poulticed, and the pain changed to his right side, than to his head, after which it went to his heart and produce instant death. His death was caused by neuralgia of the heart.

He was buried at Apple Valley last Saturday by the Masons and his internment was witnessed by one of the largest crowds that ever saw the mortal remains of a being lowered into Jackson county sod.

Mr. Nix was born in Jackson county in about 100 yards of the home in which he resided at the time of his death, and was not quite 58 years of age. When he was quite a young man he joined the Baptist church, and lived ever afterwards a consecrated Christian life. In 1869 he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. He was an Odd Fellow for several years prior to his death. He was first married to Miss Cornelia Adair. She lived only about ten years. He again married Miss Permelia Jane Mitchell, who still survives him. Twelve children were born to bless his home, but four of them preceded him to the grave.



Dilmus Monroe Nix

June 15, 1905

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haynie of Cabin Creek came up to Apple Valley Sunday morning to spend the day with their children, George Haynie and family and Bob Hutchins and family. They went to George Haynie's Sunday morning and after a while started over to Bob Hutchins, and as they were walking along, Mrs. Haynie had a hurting in her breast and fell in the road. Mr. Haynie called for help and Bob Hutchins and Ven Turk went as quickly as possible. Mrs. Haynie was put in a buggy and carried to Mr. Hutchins house. A physician was summoned as quickly as possible and all was done for her that could be done, but she died Sunday night at 10:00. She was buried at the family burial ground.

WEDDING

McDonald-Braselton

A very quiet, though beautiful home marriage, a social event around which clustered oceans of interest on account of the popularity of the contracting parties, was that of Miss Ottis McDonald of Apple Valley and Mr. John O. Braselton, last Sunday, the ceremony being gracefully performed by Rev. Mr. Telford, of the Presbyterian church, pastor of the bride. Owing to sickness in the family of Miss McDonald, no cards were issued. Consequently, only members of the immediate families and a few intimate friends were present.

The consummation of the marital vows between the splendid young couple ends a chapter in a love story of remarkable interest, and begins a book that several years shall find more and more interesting.

It was when in the enjoyment of seasons of pleasant pass-time with the McDonald boys, brothers of the bride, and friends of the Damon and Pythias type, that Mr. Braselton met and fell in love with the young lady who has now become his wife.

The bride is a member of one of Jackson's staunchest, best families—a family, though "raised on the farm," has furnished some splendid timber to the social, religious and professional structure of their native county. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McDonald, came from a most enviable lineage, and have stood in the first rank in their section of the state for years.

As to personal charm, in manners and character, the bride stands without a superior. She has a sunny, cheerful disposition, knows how to entertain and be entertained. Besides the best local school advantages, she has received special training at the Georgia Normal and Industrial College, at Milledgeville. It was only recently that she graduated at this, one of the leading schools in the state, with distinction. She is very bright, and these graces, interwoven into her modest and religious fiber, make for her friends in every walk of life, all of whom will be constant in their wishes for her happiness and prosperity through life.

The groom is the junior member of the firm of Braselton Bros., at Braselton, Ga., and to him belongs a vast deal of the splendid success that has been and is now being enjoyed by this widely known and popular firm—a firm that, perhaps, does a greater volume of business than any other in Jackson county. In fact, he was the beginning of this enterprise which today stands as a monument to his early endeavor. He belongs to a family that has, like "a rock wall," stood in defense of the principles that they thought to be right in the matter of politics, business, religion and social economics. He, it is said, is "bound to be a true, devoted husband, since his attention to his widowed mother and sister, with whom he has made his home since the death of his venerable father, have been sublime." He is one of the most approachable, genial-natured men in Georgia, and with ease that makes him attractive, wins friends wherever he goes. In business life, he displays indomitable energy, and yet is never too busy to be affable in his manners to all who visit his place of business. He is indeed, a very strong character; and to his capable judgement, belongs the glory of his choice.

Mrs. Braselton's wedding dress was a beautiful creation of white satin, with pearl trimmings, and she carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses and lillies of the valley. Her going away gown was a handsome traveling suit of dark blue, with hat, shoes and gloves to match. After the ceremony, a buffet luncheon was served the guests.

Immediately after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Braselton left via the Southern Railway for a trip to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C. and New York City to be gone two or three weeks. Upon their return they will be at home to their friends at Braselton.



Apple Valley School, 1896

HISTORY OF APPLE VALLEY CHURCH

by Audrey Shirley, April 19, 1977

Apple Valley Baptist Church was organized in 1887. Before this time the people in this community were members of Cabin Creek church, Black's Creek Church and Oconee Church. The Colquitt's attended Cabin Creek Church. They had services once a month and would carry their dinner and spend the day. They would have a service in the morning and one in the afternoon. They traveled in a buggy or a carriage. Mama said when she and Aunt Ella were old enough, they sometimes rode horseback to church. Cousin Emma Benton rode with them. Grandpa had several fine horses. Mama said often they would meet up with the Dowdy family and the Stephens family from Brockton at the creek then they would ride along together. The new church is not situated near the creek. The old church had a place for the slaves to sit in the rear of the building. Some of the negroes were members of the church.

Grandma Colquitt told me about one Sunday they were having Sunday School in an old house (near what we later called Miss Annie Hawkins' Spring and where she later built her peach shed) someone brought news that Sherman was on his march from Atlanta to the sea and was coming through this community. Grandma said they all hurried home to hide their valuable things. Grandma said she had Grandpa's horses hid down in the cane break near the river. Some of the slaves hid them for her. Grandpa had gone to the war and was serving in Captain Bennett's Company. Sherman never came through our community.

Sometime later Sunday school was held in the log house right near my home. Mr. Bill Mathew later used the house for a kitchen when he bought the place from Grandpa and built his home in front of it.

Later on the school house was built and Sunday School was held there. It was here in this old school house that Apple Valley Baptist Church was organized on May 7, 1887.

The land upon which the church and school house were built was given by William Jones Colquitt, my grandfather. There were 34 charter members; G. W. and Rose J. Benton, J. H. and P. A. Barnett, John W. and Mary Minish, John M. and Althea Vernon Hawkins, N. C. Collins, J. C. and G. M. Roberts J. M. and Martha Hutchins, J. M. and Dora Nix, J. C. and Ella Sims, E. W. P. and Etta Ritchey, W. C. Davis, R. B. Shirley, G. A. F. Kessee, B. M. Isabell, Aney Mitchell, J. M. Smith, Mary Espy, Buna Minish, Anna Phillips, P. J. Nix, Salline Wilhite, Nettie Wilhite, Caroline Wilhite, P. T. Benton.

Apple Valley had a post office in Uncle Clark Sim's old store from 1887-1903. When the post office was established, Grandpa Colquitt was asked to send in some names. He sent in several, among them was Apple Valley, because he had a large Peach orchard in the valley near the Oconee River.

Our first offering plates, Mrs. Jane Nix made of two tiny little round baskets and fastened each of the baskets on a long stick. The deacons could walk down the aisles and reach everybody with the long sticks. Later Mrs. Nix made larger baskets and lined the bottoms with velvet. She also made a large basket to carry the Lord's Supper to the church.

I remember the first pulpit chairs. I thought they were so pretty. I remember after Mrs. Walt Davis grew old, she couldn't hear well so Mr. Davis would bring her up close to the pulpit and seat her in of those chairs, so she could hear the preacher. She would wear a black silk dress and a little black bonnet like hat and on a bench near by sat Grandma Colquitt and a bunch of other women, all in their black dresses, hats or bonnets. I don't think cloth is that black now.

Another thing I remember about church is the way we cleaned the church for "big meetings". We call it Revival now. I can just see Mrs. Will Minish and Miss Tina driving up in the buggy with that old shuck mop sticking out the back of the buggy. The floor was scoured, the lamps filled and washed and the yards and cemetery cleaned. How clean everything was. I hope we had our hearts that clean. I believe we did for we had some good meetings and the church would be filled.



Mrs. Walt Davis (Lydia Malinda Vaughters Nix Davis)

COUNT D'ESTAING

excerpt from Jackson Herald February 25, 1976

It was in 1976 that Jackson County Clerk of Court Billy Elder found some records in his office written in French. He mentioned this at a Jackson County Historical Society meeting and a search uncovered the following story.

D'Estaing was born in Auvergne, France in 1729. He was an Army officer taken prisoner in India in 1759 and then became a lieutenant general in the French Navy. He served as governor of Antilles from 1763 to 1766.

In 1777 he became the vice admiral of the seas of Asia, Africa and America and was sent to aid the colonist in America in 1778. During attempts to dislodge the British from Savannah, he suffered a severe wound and was sent back to France.

When the Revolution was over, the Georgia General Assembly in 1785 awarded D'Estaing 20,000 acres in Franklin County, formed a year earlier. Jackson county was cut from Franklin in 1796.

D'Estaing probably never returned to America after the war as he had troubles enough at home to occupy his attention.

He was elected in 1787 to the French Assembly of Notables and when the French Revolution broke out in 1789, he was commandant of the national guard at Versailles. Before long, D’Estaing found himself sentenced to execution as a royalist.

This is where the documents in the Jackson County Clerk of Court Office come into the story.

Written in French, followed by an English translation, the documents show that D’Estaing’s sister, Luci Magdallen Boyseuth went to court just before he was guillotined, asking to be named as his sole heir. His wife had been buried in 1792 and he had no children.

Mrs. Boyseuth won her plea to become his heir. However, his lands had shrunk considerably by the time she got her hands on them. He sold 16,000 acres of the land to Francis Lewis Taney shortly before his death. In 1801 Taney and his wife, Berenice Arsene Taney, bought the other 4,000 acres from Mrs. Boyseuth.

A man named Lewis Sewell of Columbia County, Georgia, had been employed by the Taney family in 1798 to survey 4,000 acres from the “best parts” of the 20,000 acres.

In 1810, the Taney family sold 16,000 acres to Michael A. Gouvain of Clarke County, perhaps a native of France, for

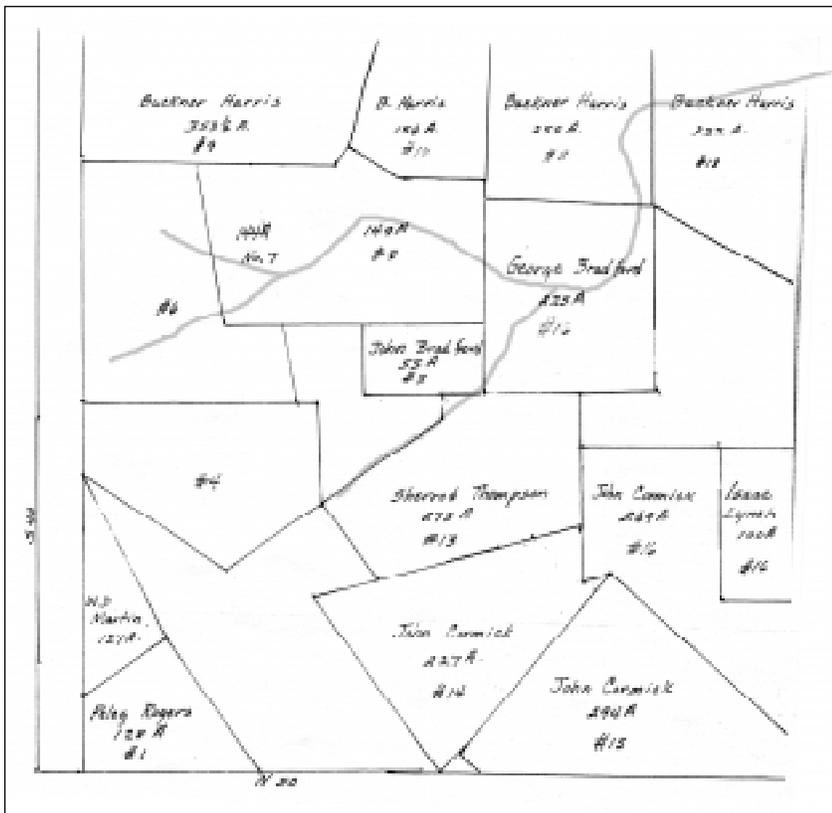
\$6,000. In 1812, they sold the other 4,000 acres to Gouvain for \$10,000. This may have been the “best parts” referred to in the survey document.

Old deed records at the courthouse show that Gouvain and his wife, Rene, sold off the land in smaller parcels during the next several years. In many instances, the land is identified as being in Jackson county and as being land that was originally granted to D’Estaing. Among the recipients of the land were Buckner Harris, Peleg Rogers, Joseph Hampton, John Cormick, John Bradford, Sherod Thompson, William Burns, Charles McKinney and Isaac Lynch.

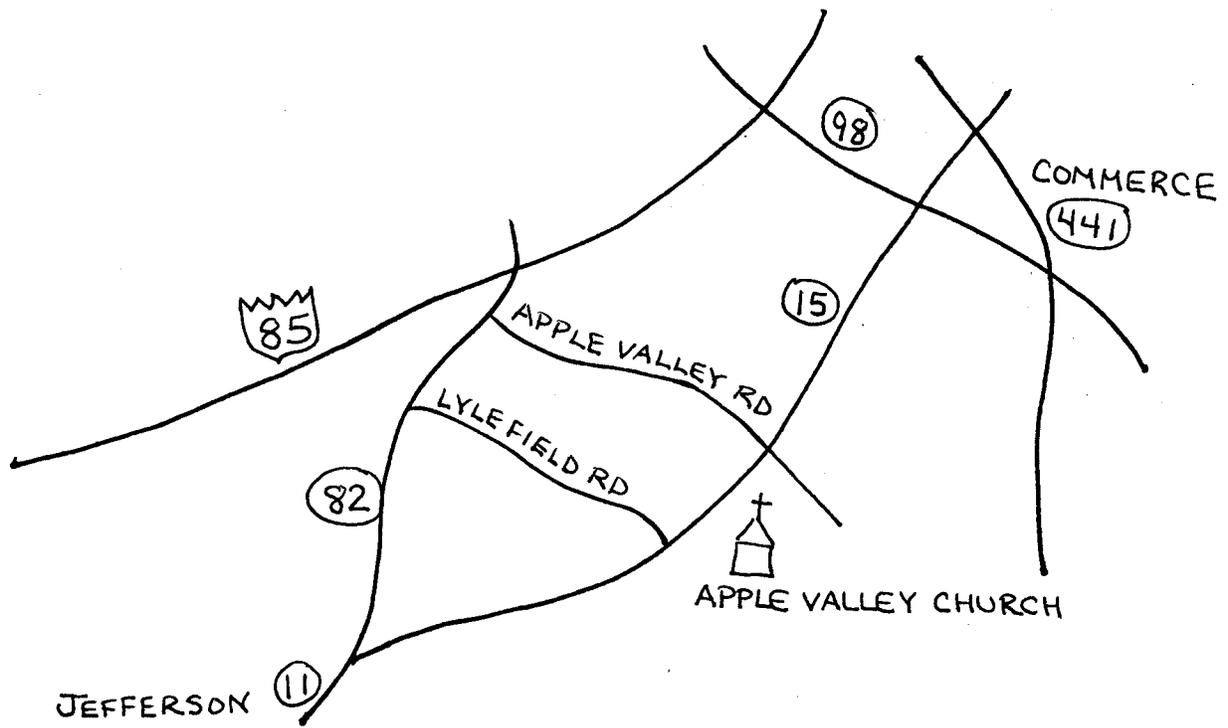
FRENCH CONNECTION IN JACKSON COUNTY

excerpt from the Jackson Herald May 12, 1976

...Who the Taney family is not known. They lived in Maryland in 1801 and probably never lived in Georgia. It appears they traded the land for some West Indies land to Michel and Rosaline Rene de Trobriand Gouvain. Two Jackson County families are descended from this French family. The DeLaPerrieres are descended from Rosaline and her first husband, General Ange DeLaPerriere, and the Hardens are descended from Rosaline and Michel Gouvain.



Tracing from an 1809 map. Shown are some of the plats of the original purchasers of 4,341 acres of the D’Estaing land.



The Jackson County Historical Society meeting will be held at Apple Valley Baptist Church, Sunday, January 27 at 2:00. Jean Booth will present a program on the History of the Apple Valley Church and the D'Estaing land.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529