

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME FIFTEEN, NUMBER TWO

JANUARY 2008



Pendergrass Depot for the Gainesville Midland Railroad (Picture postcard) built circa 1883

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Pendergrass Baptist Church, on Sunday January 20, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. A program will be presented by Linda McMullan and Carol Holzhalb.

directions: Take Hwy 185 north to the Pendergrass exit (Hwy 129) turn left over the expressway until Hwy 332 turns off, take it to the left. Follow until you pass the Pendergrass Depot, take the next left onto Church St. The church is on the left at 105 Church St.

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. Some of the past newsletters can be viewed online at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

Dues 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 2007-2008

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 Editor:	Tina Harris

Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, March 15, 2008.

Obituaries

excerpt from Jackson Herald May 22, 1891

Adopted by Pendergrass Baptist Church on death of our brother, H. C. APPLEBY

Whereas our heavenly Father has taken from us our much beloved brother and father in Israel, H. C. Appleby; and whereas we desire to pay a last tribute of respect and brotherly love to his virtues and to commemorate his exemplary character and demeanor.

Brother Appleby was born June 27, 1818; married October 15, 1840; joined the Baptist church July 15, 1842, and was made Deacon May 16, 1846, which office he held and faithfully performed until death removed him.

He received a paralytic stroke a few months before he passed away to receive his reward.

Brother Appleby was of a kind, loving, and gentle disposition, and had by his affability and gentleness of manner won for himself scores of friends, becoming in consequence a general favorite with all those whose privilege it was to know him best. He was a pure, noble, devoted father and a humble faithful Christian, beloved by all who knew him; and those who sadly mourn his decease today may bow their heads to the supreme will of God in the blest assurance that he is now at rest forever, with the loved ones gone before, in the paradise of the redeemed.

excerpt from Jackson Herald May 13, 1892

At the ripe old age, full of years and honors, the good Lord has called our much beloved and highly esteemed brother, JASON HARRISON, to join us with that precious daughter and son who have been enjoying that rest prepared for the people of God several months. He was born in Jackson county, Georgia, August 17, 1813; married at the age of 27 years; joined the Baptist church at the Academy in 1845; a faithful member of the church for forty-seven years. He was a devoted husband, a kind, loving father, a good neighbor, and a true Christian.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald May 27, 1896

Mrs. CYNTHIA POSEY was born in Jackson county, Georgia, October 30, 1846, and died March 21, 1896. She was forty-nine years old.

In 1874 she married to Mr. L. M. Posey, for whom she has made a loving and devoted wife. She joined the Meth-

odist church at Pendergrass in August 1894. She was a good neighbor, and loved by all who knew her. Never were children more devoted to a mother than were the six she has left to mourn her departure. Their devotion was truly returned by this kind and loving mother. We trust the husband and children's loss is her eternal gain, and that they may join her in heaven. She will stand at the beautiful gate to welcome her loved ones. Their beautiful christian character was her noble spirits of self sacrifice. She lived for others, not for herself, and this seemed to be the only reason why she would wish to stay with us. When storm after storm rises dark o'er their way, how the bereaved husband and dear children will miss such a life. She shared all of their sorrows and brightened all of their ways. Forty-nine years is not long. Alas, how short when filled with good to others.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald July 24, 1908

On Tuesday, in Pendergrass, the body of Mr. HUGH M. APPLEBY was laid to rest, the funeral services being conducted by Revs. Brown, Coile and Adams. Mr. Appleby had been sick for only a short time with consumption, and the news of his death will be a great shock to his hundreds of friends all over this part of the state. Three children preceded him to the grave, and he leaves a wife and three children to mourn his sad death. Hugh Appleby was one of the county's noblest citizens, and our deepest sympathies is extended to all who are saddened by his demise.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald April 17, 1913

Mr. HUGH H. BROWN, who has been an inmate of the State Sanatorium, at Milledgeville, for the past year, died at that place on April 2, 1913, and was brought to Pendergrass, where he was buried on April 3. For nine years he served as R.F.D. carrier from Pendergrass. His health had been failing for some time, and about two years ago he was stricken with paralysis. His mind weakened gradually, and he was finally sent to the sanatorium for treatment, but he never improved any after being carried there. A few weeks ago he grew rapidly worse, and quietly passed away on Wednesday, April 2.

He was 64 years old. He had been twice married, first to Miss Mattie Vandiver, who died about 17 years ago; and he was married again to Miss Emma Roberts, who died 6 years ago. He leaves one sister, Mrs. Frances Turn-

er, of Jefferson, and several children, and a host of relatives and friends.

We believe Hugh Brown had as many friends as any one in or around Pendergrass. He seemed to be on good terms with everybody, and he was sadly missed when he gave up his services as R. F. D. carrier. We are sorry to give him up in death, but his health has been such that we should not grieve for him "He is at rest."

excerpt from the Jackson Herald May 20, 1915

In the early morning hours of last Tuesday, the death angel called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Long, in Pendergrass, and accompanied to the spirit world the soul of Mrs. MANT M. HARRISON, there to find rest for a tired body and a brighter home for a heavenly spirit.

Mrs. Harrison had almost reached the 78th mile post of life and all of those years had been spent in loving service to family, neighbors and friends, and when the summons came for her to "come up higher" she was doing all she could to help lighten the labors of those around her.

Bereft of companion, Mr. Thad Harrison, in early womanhood, she filled the place of both father and mother, and reared to splendid citizenship two beautiful daughters and two noble sons—Mrs. W. W. Braselton and Mrs. W. T. Long of Pendergrass, Mr. W. T. Harrison of Gainesville, and Mr. J. N. Harrison of Hall county, all of whom will greatly miss the presence of their loving mother, but her influence will ever be a benediction over their lives.

Mrs. Harrison was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel N. Pendergrass. She was married in and near Jefferson, and her entire life was spent in this county. She had been in declining health for the past few years, but her death came unexpectedly, and was a great shock to friends and loved ones. Besides her children, she has two sisters, Mrs. S. S. Hancock of Athens, and Mrs. M. A. Holder; and three brothers, Dr. J. R. Pendergrass, Messrs. F.L. and N. N. Pendergrass, of Jefferson.

In early life she joined the Methodist church, and was always true to every interest of the Master, and her daily life was a shining example of service for Him. Her funeral was preached at Pendergrass on Tuesday afternoon, by Rev. C. M. Verdel, and the body was carried to the family burial ground, at the old homestead, and laid to rest beside the companion who had preceded her so many years ago.

excerpt from Jackson Herald November 11, 1920

Mrs. JAMES R. GIBSON died at her home in Arkansas and remains brought to her home in Pendergrass for burial.

Mrs. Gibson before her marriage was known and loved as Miss Cora Gaines. She was married to Mr. James R. Gibson, of Hope, Arkansas, about fifteen years ago, and went as a bride to reside in his home town. Her fine Christian character and sunny disposition won for her many friends in her new home, which was attested by words of courage and loving sympathy in her last hours, and in the many beautiful floral offerings which accompanied the casket from Arkansas to Georgia.

She joined the Baptist church here in her early teens, and lived a consistent Christian life. After marriage, she went to the Christian church with her husband.

Mrs. Gibson numbered her friends by the score, in this, her girlhood home, and was her request that her remains be brought back to her native soil for burial.

Her influence in all its sweetness and beauty will go on and on in the community where she lived, and will ever linger a bright halo around the hearts of the many who loved her. She leaves a husband, one sister, and two brothers, to mourn her death.

Mrs. Gibson was young in life to be taken, but we know that He doeth all things well and has a glorious purpose in His work.

The funeral service were conducted at the grave by Rev. Milo H. Mady, of Jefferson, and as the choir sang, "Abide With Me, Fast Falls The Eventide," the remains were laid to rest in Pendergrass cemetery, just at the close of day.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald December 9, 1920

This entire section of Georgia was shocked beyond expression on Monday morning, when the news was flashed over the wires that Mr. ERNEST DUKE had attempted suicide at this home in Pendergrass, by sending a bullet through his body.

The act was committed while sitting in a chair before the fire, while alone in the room. The bullet was aimed directly at the heart, but struck a rib, and glanced around the heart, coming out at the back. The wound didn't produce death, only unconsciousness. Mr. Duke was rushed to a hospital at Gainesville, and he was not considered in a serious condition but at five o'clock Tuesday morning he passed away.

Surrounded by a large concourse of loving friends and relatives, whose hearts were overcome with grief and sorrow, he was laid to rest in the cemetery at Pendergrass on Wednesday morning.

He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Essie Crook; by a small daughter and son, by his father, Mr. H. M. Duke, and one sister, Mrs. Kate Cantrell; to whom the loving sympathy of hundreds of friends is extended in this sad hour.



The Brown Hotel 1907, Pendergrass. Hugh and Emma Roberts Brown, in the doorway .

Pendergrass History by Edna Gilbert

In the late 1700's and through most of the 1800's, the community now known as Pendergrass was known by the picturesque name of Garden Valley. Its city limits extended a half mile in every direction from the depot of the Gainesville, Jefferson, and Southern Railroad. Pendergrass was incorporated August 11, 1891.

The town was named for Franklin L. Pendergrass, who was prominent in business, farming, and county politics. He was a director of the Gainesville, Jefferson, and Southern Railroad and chairman of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners between 1904-1908.

Pendergrass was at its peak in the early 1900's and was a prosperous small town. It had an oil mill, two gins, two buggy factories, three doctors, a bank, a telephone exchange a veterinarian, three hardware stores, a furniture store, five general merchandise stores, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, a Methodist Church, Baptist Church, a calaboose, a warehouse that held 15,000 bales of cotton. The names of some of the businesses on main street were: Kelly & Braselton, (stock dealers), Braselton & Marlowe; B. A. Hill & Company (oil mill), Jet Hartley (store); J. S. Brooks (store), Glenn Braselton; Fred Anderson's Drug store; J. S. McDonald; Dunny Gaines' blacksmith shop and buggy and wagon factory; Long & Getzen's blacksmith shop and corn mill and a store; W. H. Higgins' barber shop; Pendergrass bank (P.J. Roberts, Sr., president).

The three doctors in town at that time were: A. D. White, J. A. Bryant, and J. A. Maudin. Dr. J. W. Merk was the veterinarian. He was the only one in Georgia, with the exception of Atlanta. Mrs. Emma Brown ran the hotel.

Around 1908, a harmony band was formed. The band was directed by Emile Walters, and it is said that about every instrument was represented in the band.

The McDonald's formed a string band called the McDonald band. They provided music for the village on special occasions.

The Pendergrass Post Office was established in 1883 when Harry M. Duke was appointed postmaster. Other postmasters have been: James F. Trout, Tonie Duke, Harvey M. Duke, Aaron T. Marlow, Barrington A. Hill, James A. Crook, Roland D. Brooks, Nolen N. Braselton, and Annie T. Gilbert.

The first rural route was established in 1902 with Ernest Duke as mail carrier. At one time there were three mail carriers; Elmer Jackson, W. F. Higgins and Joel Alexander. They shifted from horse & buggy to motorcycle.

From 1882 to 1888, both the Methodist and Baptist Church used the same log cabin for preaching service, each denomination presenting a preacher once a month, and both groups attending each worship service. This was a foretoken of their use together of the brick church provided for them by Scott Appleby fifty years later.

In 1888, the Baptist built a church on the left side looking north of the railroad near the cemetery, and the Methodist built a church on the right side. Each church had only one large oblong room with pews on the right side for the women and on the left side for the men.

The first wooden structure school began operation in the late 1800's, which was later converted into a dwelling when the citizens of Pendergrass built a two story brick building in 1912. The building committee for the new school consisted of P. J. Roberts, Sr., J. S. Brooks, A. R. Braselton, W. T. Long, and J. S. McDonald.

The school was owned and operated by the citizens of Pendergrass. Students paid tuition to finance the operation of the school. Grades one through ten were taught. Graduation exercise was held for the tenth grade graduates, with all pomp and circumstance.

In the late twenties the school merged with the county. The first bus to transport county children to the school was driven by P. J. Roberts, Jr.

The first farming was done by work oxen. Horses were kept for transportation. In 1894, mules began to appear as work animals, and by 1900 had replaced the oxen. Later, farm tractors and machinery were used on the farm.



Pendergrass baseball team 1920: first row: Harve Roberts, Scott Appleby, Second row: Cliff Posey, Scott Smith, Stoy Jackson, Harvey Greenway. Third row: G. S. Gilbert, Alf Brooks, Dillard Shaw.

Cunningham District Early Settlers

Lottery 1804-1805

William Shockly
Thomas Shockley
Gideon Shockley
Thomas Niblack

Lottery 1807

William Appleby
Abraham Duke
Thomas Shockley

Lottery 1820

Thomas Niblack
Thomas Shockley
Powel Kinningham

Lottery 1821

James Appleby
Cornelius Shokley

Lottery 1827

John A. Long
Sarah Johnson (widow of J. H.)
James Cunningham
Samuel Niblack
Alfred White
Green R. Duke

Gold Lottery 1832

Joseph T. Cunningham
Green R. Duke
James Cunningham
Thomas Niblack
Samuel Niblack
Gideon Shockley
A. C. Shockley



Pendergrass School, built circa 1903. Original frame school house, built 1881, can be seen to the right.

Revolutionary War soldiers living in Cunningham District

Thomas Shockley, Sr. served in Union Co. S.C.
Middleton Brooks, Sr. served in Virginia

Civil War veterans from Cunningham District

Robert White
G. W. White
A. J. White
Allen White
W. C. White
G. S. Duke
G. P. Troutt
W. C. Troutt
P. J. Roberts

T. H. Braselton
Z. T. Addington
W. C. Appleby
G. R. Duke
T. S. Gilbert
G. S. Gilbert
H. S. Gilbert
Andy Long
T. R. Niblack
Thomas Shockley
William Shockley
Joseph Smith
N. C. Troutt
T. D. Brooks



Pendergrass graduation class 1917: first row: Nettie (Gussie) Smith, Vera Dean Bridges (McDonald), Frances Roberts, Annie Mae White (McDonald) Back row: Fred Stenchcomb, Edwin Getzen, Red Marlow.

Cemetery Database and Books

Cemetery Database of Jackson County, Georgia (on one DVD or a two CD set).

Don Sailors has photographed the tombstones and cemeteries of Jackson County, as well as searching out additional remote grave sites, not previously included in any publication. This unique photographic database covers 248 cemeteries in Jackson County with 20,000+ photos, includes GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates, and written directions to each cemetery. The program is fully searchable by name (or soundex), date and location. The information on the database can be sorted and printed several different ways.

The quality and clarity of the digital photographs are most impressive. Photos of the tombstones, churches, or area surrounding the burial sites, can be printed on your home printer. To order send your check for \$60 plus \$4 S&H, to: Don Sailors, 668 Lewis Sailors Road, Jefferson, GA 30549-4034 (phone 770-550-8109), specifying a two CD set, or one DVD. See the web site at <http://adsd.com/jackson> for information. A printable order form is on the web site as well as information on credit card purchases.

Jackson County, Georgia Cemetery Records by James A. and Betty Ann Waddell Mathis

This book was last revised in 1980 and is being reprinted by James and Betty Ann Mathis. This 400 page book contains over 1650 indexed surnames. It will be available the last of January. Cost of \$37.45 includes tax. Add \$4.00 for shipping. Contact the Mathis' at 706-335-5875 or write them at 937 Wood's Bridge Road, Commerce, GA 30529.

Portraits of a Southern Place

This hardbond book was first printed in December of 2006 and less than 100 copies remain available. Printed on archival paper and indexed by first and last names, this book is a collector's item for all generations. It has 228 pages with text, maps and photographs from the time period 1850's to 1950's covering the counties formation, schools, churches, families, recreation, businesses and doctors. Copies can be purchased at the Commerce, Talmo, Jefferson, Braselton Public Libraries for \$32.00. For shipping, make checks payable to the Jackson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529. Shipping cost is an additional \$5.00.

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