

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME SEVEN, NUMBER TWO

JANUARY 2000



LEBANON SCHOOL circa 1900. *left to right*—FIRST ROW: Norma Martin, Ada Jackson, Dave Jackson, Mae Jackson, [next three unknown], Madie Holliday, Bessie Lanier, Mamie Lanier, [unknown], Judson Carruth, Clifford Wall, Wright Cody. SECOND ROW: Ora Segars, [unknown], Estes Holliday, Luther Carruth, Roy Jarrett, Cue Dell Holliday, Walter Lanier, Ruth Holliday, [next three unknown], Byrd Martin, Key Holliday, Summie Shields. THIRD ROW: Howard Jarrett, Ben Martin, G.W.C. (Sam) Holliday, Alvin Wofford, Margie Holliday, Cora Lee Wofford, Ada Martin, Alice Holliday, Magnolia Wofford and Miss Callie Johnson, teacher.

JCHS OFFICERS 1998–99

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NEWSLETTER

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly and mailed before the next meeting. Back issues can be obtained for \$1.50 each plus postage. Please send your Jackson County family connections with your dues and they will be published in the next newsletter. Members may send queries to be published in the next issue.

DUES

The Jackson County Historical Society's Dues Year runs from July to July. *Notices are sent in the July issue and accounts not paid by the October issue will be dropped from the mailing.* Checks should be written to the Jackson County Historical Society and mailed to:

JCHS, 28 College Street, Jefferson Georgia 30549.

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

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Kenny Hayes, 3671 Leilani Way, Altadena CA 91001, (626) 296-0157; HAYES, HEWITT, HEWETT, HEWET

QUERIES

Does anyone have information on the location and history of Candler Creek Church in Jackson County. The Deed dated November 5, 1810, says Archibald York sold 3 acres on Candler Creek, beginning on Joseph Culpepper's line for the baptist church of Chandler Creek. Do the church records exist? Contact: Mrs. Ruby C. Hurt, 117 N. Hight Avenue, Louisville, MS 39339-2733.

Anyone having information on Hampton, McFalls, Legg, Smith, Highfill, Nunn, and Goodrum families please contact: Lily A. Mullinax, 2518 Jackson Parkway, Vienna, VA 22180-6921; (703) 560-1926.

LEBANON CHURCH RECORDS**Register of Members**

Frances McClesky died 1877
Stewart McElhanon joined the Cambelites 1885
John Ross died Dec. 13th 1895
Ira E. Betts died July 30 1896
James E. Wills died Aug. 16th 1892
Susan A. Wills died Sept. 20th 1894
George I. Holiday died June 1900
Francis M. Holiday died 23rd March 1880
Elenor Martin died Sept. 1st 1885
Green Arnold expelled 1877
Sarah Arnold died March 12th 1885
George Kinney transferred to New Hope 1878
Appling Pendergrass dropped 1903
Harriet Pendergrass dropped 1903
Elbert Askew removed by letter 1882
Francis C. Betts removed by certificate 1900
Georgia S. Betts
Hiram Betts transferred 1879
Wm. R. A. Boyd died Aug. 1895
Sarah E. Boyd
William E. Cheely died Feb. 1885

Susan Cheely died May 1888
 Mary Fulcher
 William D. Harrison removed by certificate
 Susan E. Harrison removed by certificate
 Crawford Harrison removed by letter 1878
 Eveline Harrison died 1878
 Martha Holiday died Aug. 10th 1902
 Emma Payden transferred 1878
 James A. Huff transferred 1877
 Jeremiah D. Johnson removed without letter
 Mary S. Johnson
 Alvin L. Lavender withdrawn Nov. 15, 1885
 Patience Luke died 1891
 Martha Luke dropped 1878
 John Luke removed by letter 1877
 Mary J. Luke removed by letter 1877
 Augusta Luke dropped 1877
 Arabella A. Martin (Pentecost) Certificate 1884
 Nancy E. Martin removed by certificate
 Elisha B. Martin died
 Octavia J. Martin died 1884
 Arty A. Martin died Feb. 17th, 1887
 Elizabeth Martin (Walls) removed by letter 1898
 Elizabeth Mason died May 12th 1889
 Julia P. McElhanon died Nov. 16th 1890
 John C. McElhanon dropped
 Amanda Mitchell died 1910
 Mary Paden dropped 1899
 Bingham Pendergrass died 1890
 Mary C. Wills removed by certificate 1885
 Adaline Wills died June 13th 1884
 Lana Wills by certificate 1898
 Sarah A. Wills (Harrison) transferred to Ebenezer
 William G. Wills removed
 Claudia R. Wills (Holiday)
 George G Wills removed by certificate 1885
 Janie A. Wills (sic) removed by certificate 1885
 M. C. Wills (Ross)
 Lourainney Wills removed by letter
 Elizabeth Segars Moved to Texas. Died
 Martha E. Wills (Stevens) died Oct. 15 1900
 James A. Hammond removed without certificate
 Isabella Hunter
 Francis H. Hunter
 Mary E. Lyle Died March 14th 1884
 Anna C. Whitehead died 1885
 Sarah G. Whitehead dropped

Martha Wood dropped 1903
 Mariah H. Hunter
 W. P. Boggs removed by letter 1879
 Mattie A. Boggs removed by letter 1879
 Seth Hunter withdrawn 1899
 Allen C. Holiday withdrawn Oct. 30th 1882
 Francis Fulcher
 Charles G. Holiday
 Cynthia Betts (Cheely) removed by letter 1892
 Talula M. Martin removed by letter 1892
 Calvin C. McElhannon withdrawn 1898
 Thomas A. McElhanon removed by letter 1880
 James G. McElhanon died March 1895
 W. L. Colier removed by certificate 1888
 W. D. Whitehead removed by certificate 1885
 Robert Whitehead
 Martha McElhanon by certificate 1904
 Sarah Thompson transferred 1880
 Talulia Thompson transferred 1880
 James Alex Wills
 Joana Johnson transferred 1880
 B.H. Johnson died 1878
 Malvina Sims removed without cert.
 James A. Lyle by letter
 J. H. Pendergrass by certificate 1891
 Willie D. Holiday transferred to Jefferson 1903
 Robert A. Holiday withdrawn 1884
 Milton Thompson transferred 1881
 Terrisa Martin died 1898
 Sidney Luke dropped 1881
 John R. Hunter withdrawn 1890
 Cles M. Sims dropped

Register of Marriages

Mr. W. D. Holliday to Miss J. E. Potter. Feb. 1st
 Anno Domini 1885 by Rev. F. G. Hughes
 Mr. J. O. Harrison to Miss Alice Wills. Feb. 3d.
 Anno Domini 1885 by Rev. F. G. Hughes
 Mr. W. T. Stevens to Miss Mattie Wills Dec. 26th
 Anno Domini 1886 by Rev. A. J. Kelley
 Mr. Berry Thompson to Miss Nannie Betts Jan.
 Anno Domini 1886 by Rev. F. G. Hughes
 Mr. W. H. Cheely to Miss Cynthia Betts Dec. 29th
 1889 by Rev. R. S. McGarity
 L. M. Lavender to Mrs. Cynthia Cheely May 8th
 1899 by Rev. H. B. Mays

McELHANNON

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald

(Before 1900, The Lebanon Community was served by the McElhannon Column)

Mar 26, 1897 — Our school is in very good condition under the management of Miss Katie Moseman.

April 2, 1897 — Mr. Hancock, a photographer stationed at Jefferson for awhile, came out and photographed our school last Wednesday morning.

April 2, 1897 — Lebanon Sunday school organized last Sunday morning with flattering prospects. Mr. C. F. Holliday is superintendent.

April 9, 1897 — If any one is seeking a pleasant place to visit, just visit McElhannon; there you will find pleasant and sociable people. First, about the church; they have a nice, comfortable building dedicated to the Lord, a fine and able pastor to fill the pulpit, who can preach as eloquent a sermon as any one wishes to hear. Organized a Sunday school, with Mr. Charlie Holliday as superintendent. We know with such a good man to lead, and a number of consecrated teachers to help him, there is nothing but success for the school. They are making an effort to get an organ for the church; may God give them success in this grand work, and may they soon get the organ for which the good ladies are working and praying. Next, the school; the first thing they did was to try to secure a competent teacher, which I think they did. She is a consecrated Christian, one who will do what conscience tells her is right, and will exert every energy to advance her pupils, and by so doing give satisfaction to all her patrons. These good people appreciate a school; for when we see people sending their children to school 3 and 4 miles through rain and mud, it is then that we know they are in earnest about an education.

LEBANON

August 18, 1901 — Lebanon literary school is still in a very good condition, under the management of Miss Callie Johnson.

September 6, 1901 — I. W. Ethridge photographed Lebanon literary school last Friday.

September 6, 1901 — F. C. Holliday and Miss Clara Holiday entered Martin Institute at Jefferson Monday.

September 12, 1901 — Little Madie Holliday started to school at Martin Institute, Jefferson, last Monday.

November 22, 1901 — E. H. Shields is a full-fledged candidate for matrimony. He says that he expects to make his matrimonial wave his leading issue from now until January 1st 1902. Any fair lady that will send some word to cheer him up will be greatly appreciated.

November 29, 1901 — Miss Callie Johnson of Jefferson will be our literary school teacher at Lebanon Academy for the coming year. Miss Johnson was teacher of our school for the past year, and gave general satisfaction.

November 29, 1901 — A. H. Pendergrass had his sale last Saturday at the home place. He and his family will move to Alabama this week. We hate to lose Mr. Pendergrass and family from our county.

January 17, 1902 — H. R. Fulcher has moved from this place to the plantation formerly owned by W. H. Deavors, near Crooked Creek.

OBITUARIES

March 15, 1895 — Mr. J. F. McElhannon committed suicide at his home near McElhannon early last Monday morning. He went into the kitchen while the other members of the family were out and loaded the gun and did the fatal deed. He had been in ill health for a long while. Only a few months ago he endeavored to take his life while in the agonies of pain but his attempt proved futile. He was buried at Lebanon church, where he had been a consistent and devoted member for several years. Mr. McElhannon leaves a wife and

four children, Mr. A. C. Holliday, Mr. Hugh Lee McElhannon and Misses Ida and Darline McElhannon. There is not a family of children with sweeter dispositions than these in Jackson County. He had large family connections, in fact, he was related either by blood or marriage, to almost half the people in that section of the county.

March 21, 1884 — On last Friday morning, Mrs. Lizzie Lyle, wife of Mr. J. M. Lyle remarked to him that she was not feeling well, and before he could do anything for her relief she died. It is supposed by the doctors that a clot of blood formed at her heart and caused her death. Mrs. Lyle was the daughter of Mr. George Holliday and had been married to Mr. Lyle but a few short years. She leaves two children one quite young. She was buried on Saturday, at Lebanon church.

HOW A MIRACLE SAVED JOHN McELHANNON AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Read on June 12, 1999 by Buddy McElhannon at the rededication of John McElhannon's grave by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Anita Sims married Stewart McElhannon in 1915. Stewart was the son of John Monroe McElhannon, grandson of William Green McElhannon, great grandson of Francis McElhannon and great, great grandson of John McElhannon. Some years ago members of the McElhannon clan were doing genealogical research attempting to trace the McElhannon ancestry backwards in time. I am not sure who found it, but the discovery of John McElhannon's Will provided critical information in completing the McElhannon family tree. In it were a list of his children and what he bequeathed to each one. It provided critical information that documented that all known McElhannon's in the U.S. were descendants of this one man.

John migrated from Ireland in 1768 and settled in Pennsylvania. He later fought in the Revolutionary War and moved to North Carolina for a year before migrating on to Georgia soon afterwards. He had 13 children in all. He died in 1834 and was buried in

Jackson County. At the time his Will was discovered, so also was his application for a Revolutionary War Pension. Congress passed the Revolutionary War Act on June 7, 1832. This granted any soldier still living a whopping pension of \$50 a year. John had submitted his application with two affidavits testifying to the truth of Application.

In his Application, he outlined his military service. In his accompanying statement were these words:

“...volunteered services in York County Pennsylvania under the command of Captain Peoples and served for term of three years... was attached to Colonel Chamber's Regiment of the Cumberland County Pennsylvania and marched from there to New York under the command of General Anthony Wayne and from there to Long Island and was in the Battle of Brooklyn on the 27th of August, 1776 in which battle Captain Peoples lost his life and the whole of his Company was killed or taken prisoner with the exception of seven men among whom was your petitioner and after the retreat of the American army from Long Island was attached to captain Armstrong's Company under the command of Colonel Stewart...”

Being a Revolutionary War buff, I was still only vaguely familiar with the Battle of Brooklyn. The best I could remember was that General Washington almost got his army captured and after a minor skirmish on Long Island was able to avoid the British. At least that is all secular history teaches. In 1992, while listening to a radio broadcast I learned something that humbled yet excited me beyond measure. The radio program, Focus on The Family, with host Dr. James Dobson had a guest on by the name of Peter Marshall. He was sharing about a book he had co-authored entitled, *The Light and The Glory*. In this book, Mr. Marshall looks at our Nation's early history from God's point of view. He shares story after story of how God intervened in the formation of this country. This was all very fascinating until he mentioned the Battle of Brooklyn. Then it got personal! That's when I had a hard time keeping my car on the road! What he described was so unbelievable that, if true, could mean only one thing. The success of the American Revolution and the future of the McElhannon family line were saved those

miraculous days of August 27–28, 1776 when a fog, a wind, a storm, and too many coincidences to number saved the American Army (and John McElhannon) from almost certain defeat and death.

I rushed out and brought Mr. Marshall's book. On pages 312–315 were a detailed description of what took place. The British considered control of New York pivotal to their suppression of the uprising. New York controlled the Hudson River and effectively split the colonies in half. Only one obstacle stood in their path, the Americans held the town of Brooklyn, on the western end of Long Island. On August 22, the British landed 15,000 troops on the southeast shore of Long Island. Three days later they were reinforced with 5,000 Hessian troops. Washington had split his forces leaving 12,000 men on Manhattan Island on the north side of the East river, and taking 8,000 troops to Long Island on the south side. Historians consider this one of Washington's greatest tactical mistakes. With only 8,000 troops on Long Island, half of whom were untrained, Washington was outnumbered 3 to 1, with the British fleet moving up the East River to cut off any hopes of retreat. Early on the 27th, the Battle of Brooklyn began. The British attacked and succeeded in cutting off some of the Americans. Overwhelmed the Americans retreated to their final perimeter and waited. All day they waited for the next British assault. Low on gunpowder, they could only contemplate their noble but soon to be short lived days of glory. General Howe of the British Army had brilliantly executed the surprise attack that forced the Americans back. Now, against all military logic, he failed to follow up his military advantage and finish off the Americans. No doubt, the lessons learned from Bunker Hill a few months earlier were still fresh in his mind. This unaccountable delay, proved to be only the opening curtain on what would be the most amazing episode of divine intervention in the Revolutionary War.

As the morning of the 28th dawned, the day was overcast and the skies were threatening. The Americans once again waited for the British barrage to start, the prelude to the final assault. But the British guns remained silent. That afternoon a cold pelting rain began and continued to fall through the evening. While it soaked the poorly clothed American Army it came on a northeast wind. This same wind prevented

Howe's fleet to realize the futility of staying and fighting. He made a decision. He would evacuate his forces across the East River. His Generals quickly pointed out all the risks. It was a mile across the river, the British fleet would tear apart a small flotilla of boats and the British land troops would surely attack at the first sign of a retreat. Nevertheless, Washington was convinced his plan could work.

The first thing he needed was boats and men to handle them. By "coincidence" the last men to join the forces on Long Island, were a Company of Marbleheaders, all expert oarsmen. They were soon joined by the 27th Massachusetts, also possessing the same skills. All night long these men made the treacherous two mile round trip. Early in the evening they had to push through the wind and stormy chop. By midnight the wind died down, and they had to quietly glide through the waters. With the waters now calm, the boats could carry heavier loads, but quiet was essential to remain undiscovered. On shore the Americans had to keep men visible on the front lines so the British would not suspect a retreat was in progress. A near tragic mistake occurred when two Pennsylvania Companies were told to withdraw to the boats. These were the last troops on the front line. Washington himself discovered the mistake and quickly got the men back in position. The British had failed to recognize the absence of American defenders for the hour they were away. Dawn approached with three hours still needed to evacuate the remaining troops. What happened next is best described by Major Ben Talmadge who wrote in his diary,

"As the dawn of the next day approached, those of us who remained in the trenches, became very anxious for our own safety, and when the dawn appeared, there were several regiments still on duty. At this time a very dense fog, began to rise (out of the ground and off the river), and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well, and so very dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at six yards distance.....we tarried until the sun had risen, but the fog remained as dense as ever."

The fog remained intact until the last boat, with Washington in it, departed then it lifted and the shocked British ran to the shore and started firing, but the Americans were now out of range. With some

1,500 casualties from the earlier fighting, the battle of Brooklyn was a severe American defeat. Yet thanks to a storm, a wind, a fog and many “coincidences”, nearly 8,000 American troops were evacuated without a single loss. The Continental Army remained alive, as did John McElhannon.

Since John McElhannon made reference in his pension application that he “. . . was in the Battle of Brooklyn on the 27th of August, 1776 in which battle Captain Peoples lost his life and the whole of his Company was killed or taken prisoner with the exception of seven men among whom was your petitioner,” I was curious to see if I could identify when his close call with death or capture occurred. I did some further research to confirm the events of August 27-28, 1776. In *The Compact History of the Revolutionary War* by Dupuy, the battle on Long Island is described in much more detail. On the morning of the 27th, General Howe initiated his attack. One key element of his strategy was to outflank the Americans. He had General Clinton move unseen around the Eastern flank of the Americans around dawn on the 27th. About the same time, Colonel Miles of the American Army had grown concerned about the vulnerability of the American’s eastern flank. He led his regiment of 500 Pennsylvanians through the wooded heights parallel to the Bedford Road. The British advancing westward on

Bedford Road, were completely unaware of the Americans advancing eastward through the woods, just a few hundred yards away. They soon surprised each other. After a brief exchange of musketry, almost all of the Pennsylvanians were killed or captured. A few of the Pennsylvanians escaped through the wooded hills to the main Brooklyn fortification to alert the American army of approaching troops on the eastern flank.

This skirmish matches almost perfectly with John McElhannon’s testimony.

Remember, earlier he was quoted as saying

“. . . Captain People lost his life and the whole of his Company was killed or taken prisoner with the exception of seven men among whom was your petitioner . . .”

It is quit possible that John was one of the few Pennsylvanians to escape this encounter. The American Army lost some 1,500 men in the entire Brooklyn campaign. 500 of these men were lost during the encounter on the Bedford Rd. No other encounter during this battle John refers to in his pension application.

John McElhannon’s narrow escape made it possible for the McElhannon name and lineage to continue in America.



This 1974 photograph shows a new building going up at Lebanon Methodist Church. The older building on the right is where Dr. Crawford Long was married on August 11, 1842 to Caroline Swain, daughter of the governor of North Carolina. He was late for the wedding, having been detained by having to attend a patient.

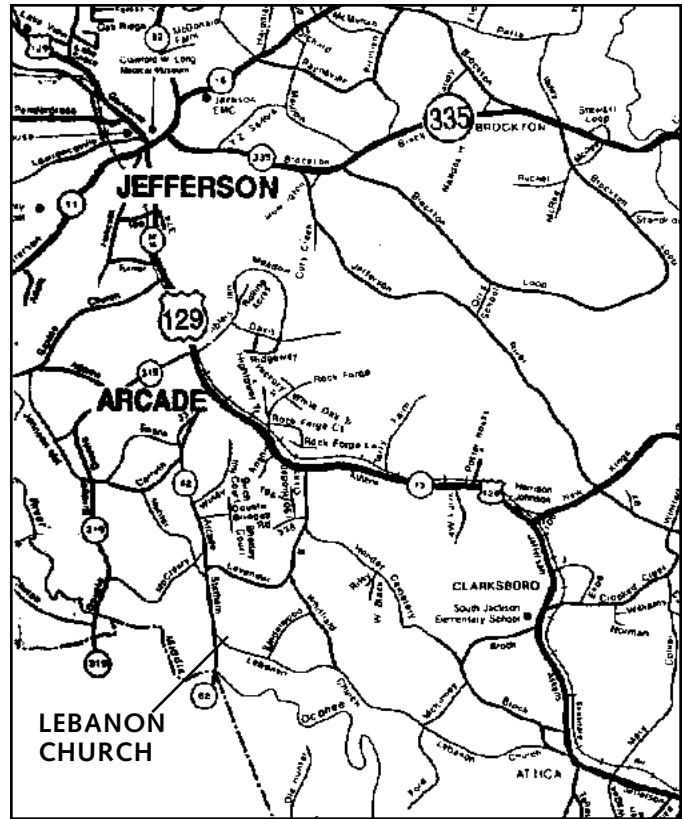
**The Jackson County
Historical Society Meeting**

Date: Sunday, January 16, 2000

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Lebanon Church,
233 Lebanon Church Road

Program: Hazel Glenn and John Holliday
will speak on the History of
Lebanon Church and Cemetery



JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
— c/o Crawford W. Long Museum —
28 College Street
Jefferson, Georgia 30549