

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME SIX, NUMBER THREE

APRIL 1999



All of the photographs in this newsletter were taken by Cicero Simmons from Talmo, Georgia. The people in these photos are as yet unidentified. If you can identify any of these individuals please let the Jackson County Historical Society know.

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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.

DUES

The Jackson County Historical Society's dues year runs from July to July. 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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The January meeting at the Groaning Rock settlement in Berea Community was especially interesting to members who had never been to this area of the county. Laurie Sauls explained the application process for the recent name change of Highway 334 to the Lacoda Memorial Trail and Joyce Ethridge talked about the early schools. We thank the members of Berea Church for delicious refreshments.

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The Lyman Hall Chapter of S. A. R. Reenactors, D. A. R. and Honorable Color Guard hosted a Revolutionary Soldier Grave marker dedication honoring George Wilson Sr. in Groaning Rock on March 27, 1999. If you were not able to attend you can look forward to a program at our July picnic by David Hoss of the S. A. R. Reenactors.

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The executive Committee has agreed to be part of a Fund Raising Partnership with the Georgia Heritage Magazine. The magazine will have it's first issue this summer and reflects an interest in Historic Preservation that we feel is in line with our endeavors. The Historical Society will receive \$8.00 from every magazine subscription that includes the membership slip showing our partnership in this issue. The first issue will include an article on the Shields-Ethridge Farm in Jefferson!

GRAVESITE RESTORATION

The Jackson County Historical Society Executive Board has begun a Grave Site Restoration Fund. Money contributed to this fund will be used to restore damaged tombstones and take measures to prevent damage to neglected sites. The first grave site targeted is the marker of John Harrison (July 4, 1776 - January 2, 1847) on Jett Roberts Road. Sitting alone on the site of the Olney Presbyterian Church, it's location under an oak tree and next to the road has caused extensive damage. Please give generously to the project.

DONATIONS

Thank you to Dr. Jerry Legg for his donation of microfilm to the Commerce Library. They are the General Index to Candler's Revolutionary Records 1769 – 1785, The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia Vol. I, 1769 – 1782; Vol. II, 1778 – 1785; Vol. III, 1781 – 1784 and the Minutes of the Executive Council (supplement to Vol. II). Dr. Legg also presented the Historical Society library with the book *Marriage and Death Notices from Raleigh, N.C. Newspapers, 1796 – 1826*. Warren Walker donated *Marriage, Death and Legal Notices from Early Alabama Newspapers 1819 – 1893*. We also want to thank the Jarrett family for their donation of the *Clarke County Cemetery Book* in honor of their late father Harold Jarrett. Many family research records have also been donated to the library from genealogist, Ola Webb. David Hoss donated the *Sevier Family History, The Battle of Kings Mountain* and *The Wataugans* as well as two videos.

JCHS MEETING AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC

Date: April 18, 1999
 Time: 2:30 PM
 Location: Crawford Long Museum

The April meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Crawford W. Long Museum in the newly renovated meeting room, accessible by the new elevator! Rick Stone will give a presentation about the progress of the project he has undertaken, developing fine art prints from Cicero Simmons glass plate negatives. An exhibit of 28 of these framed prints is in the history gallery of the Museum. 16" x 20" prints are available for \$55 to members.

QUERIES

MORGAN

Interested in locating the ancestors and descendants of William and Priscilla Morgan. Their son William married Orra Gathright whose son Christopher Columbus married Mary Jane Moore, whose son William Jesse married Jennie Elizabeth Warren, whose

son William Alfred married Kate Irene Eubanks, whose daughter Jenny Ruth Morgan married Dr. Henry Thomas Sherman. Contact Mercer L. Sherman, 604 Georgia Ave, Valdosta, GA 31602.

OBITUARIES

March 11, 1892—MARTHA BRIDGES was put to rest on January 22, 1892. After a hard day's work, she walked two miles to spend the night with her son J. D. Bridges.

After sitting up till 10:00 o'clock she retired as well as common. At 4 o'clock next morning when the family was all up, her husband, A. J. Bridges, called her, but she failed to answer. Placing his hand upon her face he found that death visited the house in the silent hours of night and claimed the life of Martha. Her age was sixty-seven years, ten months and seven days. She was a sister to Billy Roberts, who was found dead in his wagon, on the road to Athens, about five years ago. She lived four miles west of Pendergrass, where she was much beloved and respected, and the tidings of her death caused deep sorrow in the community. She leaves a husband, five children and a host of other relatives to mourn her loss. She was laid to rest in the Mountain Creek burying ground. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. M. Davis.

March 16, 1894—The angel of death has again visited our section and took from us our much beloved and highly esteemed brother, A. J. Bridges who died February 26th, 1894 aged seventy years and a few days. He embraced the religion of Christ when young; was a faithful member of Masonic fraternity for the rise of thirty years. His benevolence was rarely surpassed by any, according to his ability; none did more to relieve the distressed and suffering of humanity.

December 14, 1894—Mrs. W. O. Harrison—The wife of Deputy collector W. O. Harrison died last Monday morning about 8 o'clock in Gainesville she had suffered with excruciating pain in her head for several days but she became apparently relieved the first part of the night and went to sleep. After watch-

ing by her bedside for several hours her husband laid down by her side, and being partially exhausted from patient watching by her side for several nights, he too soon was asleep. About 4:00 o'clock he awoke from his slumber and found his precious wife's arm lying across his breast cold in death. He went for physicians as quickly as possible, who came and did everything in their power to again kindle the lamp of her life, but it had gone forever. The physicians said that she died of abscess of the brain. She leaves four little children, one of whom is a little babe just nine months old.

Her body was brought to Pendergrass Tuesday, where Rev. S. R. Belk conducted the obsequies in a touching and tender manner. Her body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Pendergrass last Wednesday.

December 6, 1895—Samuel Norville died Sunday. He had suffered for many months from a complication of diseases. Mr. Norville was a prosperous farmer, and for several years led the community in cotton and corn.

March 6, 1896—Mrs. Emeline Duke, who lived near Pendergrass, departed this life last Friday after a long illness. No woman in the county had more relatives than Mrs. Duke. It is said that she was akin to one-half the people in the county. She leaves several devoted children who weep after the beloved mother.

March 13, 1896—Mrs. Amanda M. Duke died February 28, 1896 at her home near Pendergrass Ga. She was born May 17, 1824. Her maiden name was Amanda Howard. She was married to Mr. Green M. Duke Jan 15, 1843. His death occurred nearly thirty years ago. Mrs. Duke joined the Academy Baptist church Oct 23, 1839, and through all these years lived a consecrated Christian life. She was ripe with years, and had long been a sufferer from a painful disease. Mrs. Duke was the mother of six boys and four girls, to-wit: Green S., Virgil H., Harvey M., Zack T., Toney and Frank M., Misses Octavia, Gertrude, Tiney (wife of Dave Smith, Elberton), and Ida (wife of Dr. L. P Lanier, Weatherford, Tex.) The body was interred in the family burying ground by

the side of her deceased husband. The pall bearers were six nephews, viz: T. H., R. H. and V. A. Niblack; H. R., R. L. and Oscar Howard.

March 20, 1896—Manda Caroline Simmons—Died at her home the 6th of March 1896. Her age was forty-seven years, ten months and six days. Her maiden name was Doster. She married James W. Simmons July 27, 1884. Many years ago she joined the Methodist church at Wood's Camp Ground and tried to live up to her duty as near as she could. At her request she was buried in a home made coffin at the old family grave yard.

October 12, 1900—Uncle Cotton Billy Smith—One of the oldest and best citizens of the county, died last week, and was buried at Pendergrass with Masonic honors. He was a safe counselor, and a model man.

WEDDINGS

September 2, 1898—On last Tuesday morning, three buggies were driven in front of the office and stopped, and immediately a gentleman alighted from one of them and went towards the court house. In a few moments, it became known that a wedding was on hand and a crowd of people began to collect around the buggies. The license was procured and squire Pendergrass was sent for, when the couple was invited into THE HERALD office, and soon Mr. J. F. Stanley and Miss Lizzie Roberts were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. They left immediately after the ceremony for their home. The groom is a gentleman who lives at the Doc Hancock place, and the bride is a daughter of Mr. Green Roberts.

December 2, 1898—Rev. Charley Brown tied one of the longest knots here last Sunday morning that has ever been tied in Pendergrass. Miss Annie Braselton and Mr. Aaron Marlow was bound in the knot. This couple has a bright future, and have our congratulations. Sometime this year Aaron gave Joe McDonald a coffee mill with the understanding that when he (Aaron) married, Joe was to give him one, so Joe will have to come up with a coffee mill.



May 29, 1891—Married at the residence of Prof. W. R. Hall Sunday morning, May 24, Mr. John A. Braselton and Miss Mary Blalock, all of this place, Rev. W. B. Dillard officiating. After attending service at the M.E. church the happy pair, attended by a number of their friends and relatives, repaired to the home of the groom.

August 28, 1891—Mr. Will Herrin and Miss Lillie Whitehead, both of Pendergrass, were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony last Thursday at the residence of Rev. R. S. McGarty. Miss Lillie is a graduate of the Gainesville seminary, and is quite an accomplished young lady, and Mr. Herrin is an industrious young man. May they have peace, happiness, and success through life.

January 30, 1908—At the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Herrin of Winder, Mr. P. J. Roberts and Miss Valeria Herrin were united in the holy bonds of wedlock, Rev. C. T. Brown of Gainesville officiated. Mr. Roberts is one of Jackson county's wealthiest most enterprising and influential citizens, while the bride is a lady of many charms.

PENDERGRASS DOTS

March 1895—Mr. G. S. Duke was in Jefferson last Saturday. Mr. Duke is the proprietor of one of the largest government distilleries in this part of the state, yet he never took a drink of whiskey in his life, and never advises anyone else to drink. He is also one of the kindest-hearted and most charitable citizens in our county.

December 18, 1896—The warehouse connected with G. S. Duke's distillery near here, was broken into last Saturday night, and a quantity of whiskey was stolen. The thief has not yet been caught.

May 18, 1887—Our young friend, Albert White, has returned from Augusta Medical College, armed with the title, M. D. The young doctor will begin the practice of medicine at once. We wish him a fortunate distribution of pills, quinine, bismuth and dover's powders.

December 9, 1898—Last Thursday night, just at 12 o'clock our town and surrounding community was aroused by the firing of guns and pistols and



the burning of powder kegs and explosion of kerosene cans and barrels, and in a few minutes four buildings were destroyed by the rushing flames of fire. "Klondike", the new two-story store building, occupied on the first floor by Misses Herrin & Hill, and the upper floor by Misses Herrin & Mahaffey in the millinery business; the Smith house, occupied by J. F. Bates; E. H. Shaw's work shop, and the station house, were burned. All the contents of the houses were burned except a few goods from the Smith house. The loss of all is heavy.

The fire was first discovered on the outside wall of "Klondyke," and no fire inside, of course, most people think old "Klondyke" was set on fire, and if so, are hoping the guilty party will be brought to justice. There is somebody in or around this town who set fire to that building—is the opinion of many—and our people should go to work and find them out. Not many years ago, H. M. Appleby found his door steps on fire and a bunch of pine splinters burning under his house.

March 30, 1905—Pendergrass had one of the most destructive fires in her history Monday morning about 2 o'clock. Every wooden storeroom in town was burned, with one exception, that of Braselton & Marlow. It originated in the store room of B. A. Hill & Co. and was first discovered by Dr. J. A. Bryan, whose residence is near by. The post office was also in the store of B. A. Hill & Co. This building was completely destroyed and nothing was saved. The loss of B. A. Hill & Co. is estimated to be \$2,500; with \$1,000 insurance.

The next building burned belonged to J. S. Brooks, and was occupied by Long & Getzen as their furniture department. Value of the building \$450 with \$150 insurance.

Next building belonged to W. T. Long. Valued at \$400 with \$200 insurance. This store was occupied by H. S. McDonald, the value of this stock was \$800 with \$400 insurance.

The brick store of J. S. Brooks, adjacent to B. A. Hill & Co. was considerably damaged part of the roof being burned, and otherwise damaged. Insurance on same \$600. Damage in dollars is not yet known. The stock of Mr. Brooks was damaged by some being carried out of the store room. The stock goods by Long & Getzen was also damaged by being carried out of the store room.

Judge J. A. Bell, the insurance agent who wrote the policies on the store rooms and stocks of goods was on the grounds Monday, and no doubt the insurance companies will pay the claims in a few days.

February 15, 1906—Mr. F. P. Holder's barn and crib on the Blackstock place, containing over ten thousand bundles of fodder, several tons of hay and stover and several hundred bushels of corn, were all destroyed. They caught from an engine which was used to shred corn. No insurance. A few days later the Academy school house was burned down. The school house caught from the stove flue. The teacher and pupils worked faithfully to extinguish the fire, but could not. No insurance.



Railroad Workers, *photograph by Cicero Simmons*

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