

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME SIX, NUMBER TWO

JANUARY 1999



JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Date: January 17, 1999
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Berea Community Center
Program: Early Jackson County Schools

The January meeting will be held at Berea Community Center in Newtown District with a presentation on the early schools of Jackson County. This building was the site of the Wilson Jr. High School and the community has a restored a classroom to its original appearance. Laurie Sauls will also tell about her successful two year effort to have the Department of Transportation rename Highway 334, the Lacoda Trail. The trail passes through the historic Groaning Rock community.

IN MEMORIAM

We note with sorrow the passing of two members of the Jackson County Historical Society; Mrs. Sara Quillan of Daytona, FL and Mr. Harry W. Atkinson of Flowery Branch, GA.

JCHS OFFICERS 1998–99

PRESIDENT:	Tina B. Harris
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Marie Parks
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Annie Ruth Snelling
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Jean H. Booth
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS:	Tina B. Harris Jean H. Booth Walton Harris

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

CALENDAR

January 15, 1999 through April 5, 1999—at the Crawford W. Long Museum—Cicero Simmons Photographs, circa 1900. These prints, made by Rick Stone from the original glass plate negatives, bring to life turn-of-the-century Talmo, Georgia.

QUERIES**LEGG • WARWICK–SMITH • HIGHFILL–WOODALL • NUNN–GOODRUM • POWELL**

Looking for information on Elizabeth M. Legg, married Wiley P. Warwick – 1833, Jackson Co. Nancy A. Smith – 1810-1872 married John Highfill. William Goodrum – Habersham Co, married Dorothy Powell – 1838. Parentage of Fanny Woodall married Thomas Nunn – 1813, Franklin Co.

Contact: Lily Mullinax, 2518 Jackson Pkwy., Vienna, VA 22180-6921. E-mail: lilyroym@gateway.net

WILSON

Interested in information about Martha Alice Wilson, wife of Joseph E. Thurmond living near Statham. Born May 24, 1861, married December 1887, died March 4, 1946. She is buried at Calvary Baptist Church. Daughter of McDuffy Wilson and ? Vinson.

Interested in the burial places in Jackson County of: William Wilson, Sr., Michael Wilson, Fennel S. Wilson, and Michael McDuffy Wilson.

Contact: George Thurmond, 120 Cannonade Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30004-4096, 706-475-1463.

CRONIC • GADDIS • CIVIL WAR UNITS

Information on Co. I, 16th Cavalry and 9th GA Infantry (State Guards) DeLaperriere's Co.

Contact: Paul Cronic, 1339 Hwy 124, Hoschton, GA 30548

EARLY SCHOOLS OF JACKSON COUNTY

The first known school in Jackson County was in Fort Strong at Talasee. The first formal school founded in the late 1788 was at Hurricane Shoals Fort. All of the early schools were established in forts so that the children would be protected from the Indians and wild animals.

As more settlers came, land was parceled out by Captains, and neighborhoods were formed. Schools were built and teachers were paid by members of the community. Land owners chose a site in a field that was not suitable for cultivation and this type school became known as an old field school. Another type school was the brush arbor. Constructed by standing poles upright in the ground and laying other poles across the top and covering with brush and tree limbs. This type school was held only during warm, clear weather. No school was held during bad weather or when the children were needed for farm labor.

The pupils of the first formal schools came from well-to-do families. They were the only ones able to pay tuition so that their children could attend school.

In 1785, the Georgia legislature passed an act establishing the first public school system for the State of Georgia. The first monies received by the counties was in 1810 and was \$504.70. It was fourteen years before the next appropriation was paid.

In 1817, the Georgia Legislature established the Poor School Fund. This fund was to provide for children of elementary age whose parents were too poor to pay tuition. For some time the only children attending school were the very poor and the well-to-do who were able to pay tuition. The middle class did not attend public school because they were too proud to be classified poor which would have qualified them for the poor school funds. School for the middle class was provided by home schools.

During the 1800's and early 1900's, each school community selected school trustees who hired teachers, received state and local funds from the county ordinary, paid the teachers and were overseers of the maintenance and operation of the various county schools.

At one point in time there were 247 schools in Jackson County. In 1889, the schools of Jackson

County were listed in twelve militia districts making a total of 118 white and 29 black schools. In 1915, the number of schools had been reduced to 59.

— from *Historical Notes on Jackson County, Georgia* by Frary Elrod

Excerpts from The Jackson Herald

September 20, 1895—General Wilson has made a map of Jackson County, laying out each militia district, showing the principal water courses, and location all the schools in Jackson County. There are 109 schools — 84 white and 25 colored. Newtown district has the largest number of schools. On the map are two bright stars — one showing the birthplace of Ex-State School Commissioner G. J. Orr, in Harrisburg district, and the other showing the birthplace of the present State School Commissioner, G. R. Glenn, which is near Centre, in Newtown district. The map is quite an artistic piece of work, and will be sent to the Exposition and be placed among the educational exhibits of the State.

editor's query: (Does anyone know where this map is today?)

April 18, 1907—The board of education and county school commissioner have recently divided the county into school districts, and we publish the following so that our readers may locate the districts of the county . . .

Berea District, No. 40 Beginning at a point 1-4 mile N.E. of Monroe Chambers, thence a straight line to a point 8-4 mile N.W. of Watt Harris place, thence a straight line crossing road between Chas. Dixon's and Jack Denison's to Madison county line, thence with said line to Little Sandy Creek, thence a straight line to mouth of creek on Big Sandy creek, thence a straight line to beginning.

August 12, 1915—Mr. M. L. Duggan, rural supervisor of schools and Supt. L. F. Elrod have just finished a survey of the schools of Jackson County.

Since Barrow county was created there are 46 white schools and fifteen colored schools left in Jackson.

This survey will be published and distributed about the first of September.

Excerpt from Survey

Berea – 40

Teachers: Unice Bolton, Miss Ester Stovall

Location: Five miles northwest to Commerce; 3 miles south to Adams.

Grounds: Area, _____; title in local trustees. Adjoining church lot; grounds unimproved, fairly well kept; no school garden; no toilets.

Building: Value, \$500.00; two class rooms; fairly well kept; no cloak rooms; insufficiently and improperly lighted; unpainted.

Equipment: Single patent desks; good blackboards; maps, library, globe and other equipment ordered. Spring near by; covered water cooler; individual drinking cups.

Organization: Two teachers; 8 grades; 70 pupils; no industrial work or clubs; 24 week school year; divided into terms of 16 and 8 weeks.

Maintenance: From State fund – \$260.00, From local tax – \$259.62 = \$519.62

P.S. – Rate of local tax, 5 mills.

September 25, 1919

We note in the Herald of September 11, 1919 that every child between the ages of eight and fourteen are required to attend literary school at least six months; under the new compulsory school laws. This gets the children of Nicholson in a critical fix. We only have five and one-half months at the best, and should the child go every day it will be two weeks behind. The board of education had better see to this matter I guess.



Teacher: O'Neal Kemp

NAME	AGE	GRADE
Harold Cleghorn	7	1
R. J. Cleghorn	6	1
Odis Hawks	13	4
Rosie Ingram	8	1
Johnie Ingram	11	3
Oscar Nunn	14	5
Nellie Nunn	13	5
Hosie McGinnis	10	5
Fred McGinnis	15	6
Dolis Farrow	12	5
Mozelle Farrow	7	1
Odean Tolbert	12	5
Odell Tolbert	15	6
Hope Sorrows	8	1
Lilly Nunn	7	1
Levie Nunn	6	1
Alton Shore	6	1
Alma Shore	9	3
Paul Nunn	10	2
Marvin Rider	11	1
Mary Rider	13	1
Frank Rider	8	1
Coke Rider	14	3
Nellie Rider	7	1
Hoke Faulkner	7	1
Goss Rice	8	2
Ardell Faulkner	8	1
Cleo Faulkner	9	2
Olin Tolbert	8	1
Jack Dunson	8	2
Jack Brock	7	2
Alfus Pittman	16	8
Majorie Gibson	13	7
Tommie Faulkner	14	4
Alma Rice	15	6
Lewis Rice	14	4
Clarence Faulkner	12	3
Lester Rice	12	4
Luther Brock	12	5
Deury Cleghorn	14	4
Nora Cleghorn	12	3
Annie Lee Robertson	3	5
Lona Rice	12	6
Rona Dunson	12	5

Thirsey Brock	14	6	Clarence Childs	8	1
Vallie Roe Robertson	8	2	Ruth Childs	6	1
Henry Dunson	10	5	Howard Clarke	11	1
Hilery Brock	10	4	Clyde Clarke	9	1
Lula Mae Tolbert	13	5	Cleo Clarke	8	1
Bessie Faulkner	17	8	Mary Lee Clarke	9	1
Guy Rice	17	8	J. C. Clarke	7	1
Loree May Phillips	7	2	Claude Clarke	9	1
Demma Rice	17	6	Harold Cleghorne	13	7
Robert Wheeler	13	6	R. G. Cleghorne	12	5
Ulie Guy Thompson	4	7	Alma Chandler	15	7
Sallie Mae Thompson	12	4	Wilda Chandler	14	6
Clyde Gibson	15	8	Evie Chandler	11	5
John Brock	15	4	Annie Dixon	13	5
Nell Collins	12	3	J.C. Dixon	11	3
Mark Collins	9	1	Cleo Faulkner	15	7
Robert Harris	12	1	Arnell Faulkner	12	6
Ernest Clark	12	4	Hoke Faulkner	10	3
Maggie Anderson	11	5	Paul Faulkner	6	1
Vernon Anderson	7	1	J. B. Faulkner	8	2
Sivie Anderson	6	1	Otis Hawks	19	7
Almera Dixon	9	4	Bethel Kesler	12	3
Fairer Dixon	11	4	Nettie Sue Kesler	9	2
Annie Dixon	7	1	Onie Kesler	7	1
Gordon Anderson	14	5	Georgia Lord	10	4
Eulius Sellars	9	1	Viola Massey	6	1
Emma Jeane Sellars	7	1	Heta Massey	9	2
Pauline Tolbert	6	1	W. J. Massey	7	1
Hubbard Cleghorn	11	2	Leonard Massey	8	1
			Viola Pittman	11	5
			Nodie Ramsey	10	3
			Ralph Ramsey	8	2
			Levie Mae Ramsey	6	1
			Nellie Rider	12	3
			Davie Rider	10	2
			Willie Mae Roach	11	3
			Allie Lee Roach	14	5
			Joseph Roach	9	2
			Troy David Roach	7	1
			L. C. Sanders	11	2
			Willie Sanders	8	1
			Alton Shore	12	4
			Floyd Smith	13	7
			Marvin Smith	11	6
			Grace Smith	9	4
			Vera Sorrow	7	2
			Hope Sorrow	14	4

ATTENDANCE ROLL FOR BEREA SCHOOL, 1922

Teacher: Kathleen Shaw

NAME	AGE	GRADE
Mosseileen Bates	9	1
Aubrey Benton	10	4
Arnold Byrd	14	2
Winfield Byrd	10	2
Paul Byrd	8	1
Mary Frances Byrd	6	1
Lucile Benton	6	1
J.T. Cantrell	12	5
Frank Cantrell	10	2
Clifford Cantrell	8	1
Vivian Childs	12	6
Charlie Childs	10	5

Pauline Tolbert	12	5
Robbie Williamson	16	7
Louise Williamson	13	5
Olive Williamson	9	2
Ouida Wilson	6	1
Waller Chandler	15	7
B. T. Carithers	8	3
Clarence Faulkner	17	7
Hamp Bates	14	4
Henry Baxter	14	5
Joe Brown Baxter	13	4
Estelle Baxter	11	4
Eddie Baxter	8	2

OBITUARIES FROM THE JACKSON HERALD

Oct 27, 1927—Sherwood Wise Jackson, a widely known citizen of Jackson County, died at his home three miles west of Commerce last Sunday night, October the 16th. He was born at Lexington, Ga, 83 years ago and his parents moved to the county when he was a small boy and settled on what is known as the Jackson farm on Oconee river, now owned by L.G. Hardman, so he has spent practically all his life in the county and in this immediate community. He was endowed by nature with a sunny disposition and an intellectual capacity above the average. He spent three years of the prime of his life in the war between the states and his going away leaves only a few, possibly a dozen members of camp John J. Morgan, of which he was a member. Years ago he united with the Baptist church at Berea and his membership was held there until the end. He is survived by his wife and five sons: Sidney, of Commerce, Fred, of Macon, Carl of Commerce, Ernest and Deward, of Miami, Fla. and by the following daughters: Mrs. H. A. Maley of Athens, Mrs. W. J. Burns of Bensons Springs, Fla. and Miss Nelia Jackson of Fla. The funeral service was held at the First Baptist Church here conducted by Dr. W. H. Wrighton and Rev G. H. Collins and interment made in Grey Hill cemetery.

May 7, 1936—Center, GA. James Wright, 82 years-old Confederate Veteran, died at a home in Center, Thursday afternoon, after an illness of one week. Funeral service were held Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at Center Presbyterian church, with Dr. S. J. Cartledge, pastor Central Presbyterian Church, Athens officiating assisted by Rev R. E. Telford, pastor Center Presbyterian church. Grandsons served as pall bearers.

Internment was in Hebron cemetery, in Banks county. The deceased was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Wright was born in Talladega, Ala, but had lived in the Center and Athens vicinities for the past 45 years. He was a retired farmer.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. J. A. farmer Nicholson; three sons, A. G. Wright Woodville; G. S. Wright, Center; and W.A. Wright of Florida. He is also survived by 20 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Known to hundreds throughout this section affectionately as "Uncle Jimmy," he attended practically all of the State and national conventions, and upon his return always paid a welcome visit to the Banner Herald offices to tell of the happenings at the conventions.

He was ever faithful to the lost cause, and deeply ingrained in him was his loyalty to the host's that wore the gray and fought under Lee, Stonewall Jackson and the other Southern leaders.

Of gentle demeanor and sterling character, "Uncle Jimmy" numbered his friends by his acquaintances, and they were legion. His kindly manner and cheerful spirit will be sorely missed by the many who admired and loved him for the worthwhile traits he possessed.

EXCERPTS FROM THE COMMERCE NEWS

January 1927—On last Thursday night Mr. and Mrs. R. J. H. Benton threw open their doors of welcome to their friends and neighbors for an old time syrup candy pulling and song service. Fifty were present to enjoy this gathering, it was hard to tell who enjoyed themselves best, the ones that pulled the candy or the ones that were engaged in song service during all this fun. However everybody enjoyed the eating of this candy and had enough left for another crowd like this.

Uncle Reuben say Come again as he is very fond of syrup candy himself.

February 10, 1927—The farmers of this community have been very busy day and night trying to get through picking cotton. But the night picking has been very pleasant as the friends and neighbors have met in each others homes and enjoyed their work together. We think most everybody will get through before planting time.

February 24, 1927—About sixty five friends and neighbors enjoyed a real cotton picking at the home of Mr. Hull Jones one night last week.

*Honor Roll For January 1927
Berea School*

FIRST GRADE: Lucile Ramsey, Lucile Jordan, Roy Childs, DeWitte Gregory, Eldow Helton, Hiram Hambrick, Claudius Tolbert, Frances Helton, Nellie B. Baxter.

SECOND GRADE: Hoyt Childs, Hugh M. Baxter, Dock Baxter, Bert Suggs, Milton Dixon, Jr., Imogene Cleg-horn, Irene Dunson, Versie Gunter, Ruth Owensby, Mozelle Redd, Okie Tolbert, Howard Ramsey, Levie Mae Ramsey.

THIRD GRADE: Ed Baxter, Fayette Baxter, Buford Carithers, Frank Cantrell, Ruzzelle Hambrick.

April 28, 1927—Miss Eugenia Harris, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Harris and Mr. Tap Burroughs of Ila, were happily united in marriage Sunday afternoon at the home of the brides parents, Mr. John Sailors of Nicholson, performed the ceremony.

June 23, 1927 —The Sunday school at Berea considered it a great treat to have had Governor L. G. Hardman as a visitor in Sunday school Sunday morning. We regret his time was limited with us, but every minute of his stay, and the speech he gave the school was highly enjoyed by everyone present.

May 14, 1928—Mrs Emma Culbertson Benton was born in Wilkes County, Ga., Sept. 1, 1855, and died

May 17th, 1928.

On January 28, 1875, she was married to Milton A. Benton and from this union there were born seven children: H. Theo Benton, Claude B. Benton, Mrs. Lola Benton Richey, Thurston Benton, Clarence Benton, Mrs. Allie Benton Bird, and Clyde G. Benton. Two of these children, Claude B. Benton and Mrs. Lola B., Richey preceded her to the grave.

She was baptized into Cabin Creek Baptist church at about the age of 16 years and has been a member since that time. Her membership at the time of her death was in the First Baptist Church of this place.

Her father died leaving her mother a widow with a large family of children to rear, Mrs. Benton being among the older of these children was a source of comfort and help to her mother in every way. After seeing seven of her own children grown and married, her oldest daughter died leaving four small children. These orphan grandchildren found a place in her heart and home and have never realized the loss of a mothers love . . .

May 24, 1928—Several of our people attend the funeral of Mrs. Gus Benton (Emma Culbertson Benton) near Commerce Friday afternoon.

* * *

The name of the local column in the *Commerce News* changes from Berea to Wilson Jr. High in April 1939. One of the first entries following this change was this:

April 23, 1939—Runnell Nunn entertained a number of her friends with an egg hunt Sunday afternoon.



Illustration on front, from *Country Life Readers* by Cora Wilson Stewart, 1930. Illustrations on page 4 and above, from *McGuffey's Eclectic Reader*, 1879.

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

