

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME TEN, NUMBER ONE

OCTOBER 2002



Ebenezer School circa 1913

The school grounds consisted of two acres; Oak grove; unimproved; well kept; small improved playground; no garden and no toilets. Valued at \$900 with one class room, 30x40x12; cloak room on the end of the stage; improperly lighted; painted outside only; well kept.

The equipment included single patent desks; blackboard painted on wall; no maps; no chart; no globe; no pictures; no library; well on lot; common dipper.

One teacher, Miss Norma Sorrells, 7 grades; 29 pupils; no program.

The school year was 24 weeks, divided terms, 16 and 8 weeks.

Maintenance from state funds – \$230.00

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.

QUERIES

Send queries to be published the month before the next issue. Next deadline December 5, 2002.

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 P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529.

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

COLLECTION

The family and community files, research books and microfilm of the Jackson County Historical Society are located at the Commerce Public Library, 1344 South Broad Street, Commerce, GA 30529

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OBITUARIES

February 2, 1894, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

Aunt Sallie Lyle was born in Spartenburg, S.C, February 15, 1801 and died November 21, 1893. She was a Greene, and moved to this county in her young days and was married to Mr. Dilmus Lyle something near seventy years ago, with whom she lived a devoted life, until about thirteen years ago death separated them. She was a member of the Methodist church for near sixty years. I have often seen her happy in the love of God and express herself as being ready and willing to for at any time the Lord saw fit to call her. She doubtless lived a spotless Christian life as near as any woman could have lived. She was almost helpless for six or seven years, but she bore her sufferings without murmuring, and seemed to be reconciled for God's will to be done.

January 23, 1908, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

Mrs. Sarah A. Garner, relic of Jas. M. Garner, died at her home five miles south of Jefferson, on Friday morning, the 17th instant, and her remains were interred at Ebenezer the next day, Rev. Samuel P. Higgins conducting the services. At the time of her death, Mrs. Garner was 76 years, 7 months, and 7 days of age.

She lost her husband by death in June, 1893. Also, one daughter, Josie, the wife of Robert E. Stewart, about ten years ago. There are surviving four boys and two girls, Thomas O., J. Madison, G. Sephus and J. Franklin; Mrs. J. J. Wallace and Mrs. T. L. Armstrong. Also, several grandchildren. Mrs. Garner was a member of White Plains Baptist church. A loving parent, kind neighbor and true friend and humble Christian, truly a mother in Israel has gone to her reward.

July 15, 1909, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

The community was greatly shocked Thursday morning to learn of the death of Mrs. G.W. Garner, who lived a few miles from Winder, in Jackson county. Mrs. Garner had been enjoying her usual health until Wednesday, when she began to complain of neuralgia. Late in the evening, it is said, she took a couple of doses of some kind of patent medicine to relieve the pain, and soon thereafter, was thrown into spasms and died before a physician arrived.

Mrs. Garner was a daughter of Mr. J. A. Segars and about twenty years of age. She leaves her husband, child and many friends to mourn for her.

February 3, 1916, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

A congregation which overflowed the Ebenezer church attended the funeral services of Mr. J. M. Johnson Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock. Mr. Johnson was one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of this section of Georgia, and all who knew him loved him.

Five children survive the father. These are Mrs. Genie Hunt, of Westminster, S. C.; E. E. Johnson of Atlanta; Mrs. Mattie Fite, of Statham; Mrs. Mattie Wood, of Jackson County, and J. R. Johnson at whose home he lived and died. Each of the children were at the funeral except Mrs. Hunt, who was unable to come.

June 22, 1916, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

At 8:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning, as little Benjamin Gregory Collier was opening his eyes to behold the beauties of a world yet unseen, the mother, Mrs. Ettie Gregory Collier, finished her mission on earth and her soul took it's flight to the God who gave it. Before her marriage seven years ago to Mr. Frank Collier, she was Miss Ettie Gregory, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Gregory. Besides her husband, father and mother she leaves one sister, Miss Johnnie Ruth Gregory, and the tiny little son, besides hundreds of friends, to mourn her untimely demise.

Since early childhood, she had been a faithful member of Ebenezer Methodist church, and in the cemetery at that place, her body was laid to rest. Loving tributes were paid her memory by her pastor Rev. R. P. Jackson and a former pastor, Rev. M. D. Cunningham, Messrs. J. E. McElhannon, Homer Hancock, D. T. Storey, Jr., W. W. Hancock, W. H. Williamson, Hoyt Archer, friends of the bereaved young husband, acted as pall bearers; and the choir sweetly sang "Asleep in Jesus", "I Love to Tell the Story", "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Home of the Soul". As the casket was lowered to its last resting place, and the mound was made a bed of beautiful, fragrant flowers, an old song "When I Am Gone Don't Weep O'er My Grave" was sung by Dr. J. C. Bennett and Mr. A. C. Wilson in

making preparations for her death, Mrs. Collier requested that this be sung.

Loving sympathy is felt for the bereaved young husband and for the tiny little son, who will never know a mother's love.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

February 4, 1909, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

On Thursday of last week at her home between this place and Winder, Mrs. Rebecca Hancock celebrated her ninety-second birthday. The celebration was in the nature of a family reunion, and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered at the old homestead to gladden the heart of this good old lady. Her children are Messrs. H. H. Hancock, J. R. Hancock, Mrs. Emma Bush, Mrs. Jane Whitehead of Winder, and Mrs. O. B. Stanton of Social Circle. Mrs. S. S. Hancock, a daughter-in-law of Athens, was also present. With about three exceptions, the entire membership of the family, numbering near fifty people, was present on this occasion. As the aged mother who has lived almost five score years, gazed on these descendants, her heart must have been filled with joy from the knowledge that these children and grandchildren are useful citizens of the state and that she has no cause to be ashamed of even on of them, and how thankful she must feel for the love and devotion of these children. The following grand children were present: Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. M. Q. Whitehead, Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Roberts, Mrs. Charlie Hancock, Mrs. S. C. Cowan, Misses Clyde, Ruby, Ada and Fannie Hancock and Messrs. Claud, Homer, Will and R. J. Hancock. The great-grand children were Edwin and Robert Kelly, Willianelle, Hoyle and Louise Whitehead, Irene, Beulah, Roy and Carrie Lou Carter.

excerpt from the Lyle Family file

Early settlers, William Lyle Sr. and Elizabeth Boring, were married March 25, 1803. William was born December 21, 1770 and died October 24, 1860. Elizabeth was born October 29, 1784 and died September 17, 1863. They had twelve children: Dilmus, Charles B., James B., John B., William C., Frances M., Rebecca, Elizabeth, Asenith, Martha, and David S.

Rebecca Lyle was born January 11, 1818. She lives



Hancock reunion, seated in chairs left to right: Jane Hancock Whitehead, Hugh H. Hancock, John Boring Hancock, Gennie Hancock Stanton, Emma Hancock, Rebecca lyle Hancock seated in front.

at the old homeplace. She joined the Methodist church at age of 14. When she joined the church it stood somewhere between the Justice place and Lyle's old mill. It was then called Center. A few years later it was moved to a place we know as the Ross farm. There it was called Shilo. She went with her church. Later this church was moved to the Hancock Farm. There it remained for a number of years then it was moved to where it now stands and is called Ebenezer.

On December 31, 1834, she married John R. Hancock. He was born February 16, 1811, and died December 21, 1890. At the age of 12 years he moved with his father from a farm on the Chattahoochee to a farm near the Academy church, in this county. He joined the Presbyterian church at the age of 32, and in his 38th year left that church and joined the Methodist. He represented his county in the legislature in 1870. He was class leader for fifty years and a steward for more than thirty. He was Judge of the Inferior Court during the war.

There was born to bless the union of John and

Rebecca six boys and three girls: Silas, Robert J. Elizabeth J., W. Parks, David L., Hugh H., John B., Fannie and Emma. Silas died at the age of three years. Elizabeth was born October 15, 1841, and married Mark Whitehead, who died a few years back leaving two children; Marshal and Woodie. W. Parks Hancock, born July 19, 1846, died February 1, 1894 in Statham. He married Cynnie Finch. They had three children; Edward who married Media Jones; Ledia who married Weldon Roberts and Charley who lives with his sister. Hugh H. was born November 19, 1849 and married Anne Johnson. They had four children: Homer, Claude, Clyde and Ruby.

August 12, 1909, excerpt from the Jackson Herald

You are invited to my birthday party, on Saturday afternoon, from 1 to 5 o'clock, August 7th.

These simple little lines caused nineteen little hearts to beat double quick time on last Thursday, when they were assured of a way being provided for everyone to be taken to the country home of little Johnnie Ruth

Gregory. Saturday by 12:30, the little folks began to gather at Mr. Collier's where a wagon filled with straw had been provided for them, and with the jovial Frank Collier to guide the horse, were soon on their way.

Waiting on the lovely lawn to receive her guests, dressed in a lovely little dress of white silk mull over pink silk, stood the little hostess, and with her Miss Ettie Gregory, Irene Roberts, Tom Holliday and Miss Walden. After many anxious looks at last they heard the joyful shouts, and soon they were welcoming each child as only the Gregory's can welcome. They were invited out under wide spreading shade trees, where rugs had been placed in every conceivable corner for them to sit upon, and tables spread, from which they were to partake of good things to eat.

In one corner, under a wide spreading tree, stood a well made of evergreens, from which could be drawn the "Old Oaken Bucket", filled with cold water; in another, resting on a small table, covered with an exquisite Battenburg array on a silver waiter, was the birthday cake, snow white, trimmed with 13 candles, denoting the age of the little hostess.

After playing many games each child was given a sheet of paper and a pencil, and told they would be given ten minutes to see how many words they could make out of Johnnie Ruth Gregory. They at once began to work, and when time was called, and paper counted kit was to Miss Irene Roberts the lovely prize was given, she having made 22 words.

Then came the loveliest refreshments, served on a table covered with a snow white cloth, on which rested the figure 13, made of double pink Touch-me-nots. Watermelon, ice cream, lemon sherbert, and cakes of all kinds were passed, and each child was made to feel at home and happy. After this they were asked to gather in the front porch, where they were given a short time to chat, and then 13 of them were asked to blow out the candles, each child making Johnnie Ruth a wish as he or she blew on out.

Then came the only sad time they had had, and that was they had to say good-bye. After many good wishes, a long to be remembered afternoon was over, and each one left for home with hearts full of love and good wishes for our dear little hostess, her charming sister, mother and father, who have done so much for our pleasure, and given us a day never to be forgotten.

REUNION

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, September 8, 1921

One of the largest and most interesting family gatherings of the season, was the annual reunion of the Camp and Lindley families, which was held in Grant Park, in Atlanta, on August 19th. At this time about 500 of the descendants of these prominent and widely known families met to spend a delightful day in social intermingling, and learn of their family history and line of propriety.

The record shows that Thomas Camp who was born 1691, came from Essex county, England, to Virginia. His wife was a Miss Marshal; they had two sons, Thomas and John.

Thomas, born Feb 8, 1717, is the ancestor of all these Camps of today and their descendants. His first wife was Winifred Starling, who was the mother of eleven sons and one daughter. The second wife was Margaret Corney, of Ireland, who also had eleven sons and one daughter. This interesting list follows in the order of their birth, By 1st wife: Edmund, born 1739; Joseph, 1741; John, 1743; Nathaniel, 1745; Thomas, 1747; Starling, 1749; Hosea, 1751; Alfred, 1753; William, 1755; Benjamin, 1757; Elizabeth, 1759; Joel, 1761; By 2nd wife: Crenshaw, born 1763; James, 1765; Daniel, 1766; Lewis, 1768; Adam, 1769; Stephens, 1771; Larkin, 1773; Quincy, 1775; Aaron, 1778; Ruth, 1780; George, 1782; Joshua, 1785.

Three of these 22 sons settled in Jackson County, Georgia. One of the daughters approached her father's record in being the mother of 22 children.

Nathaniel Camp was the father of the three noted Camp sisters, of Jackson county, Elizabeth, Winnie, and Cammie. The former was married three times, first to James Giddens, second to a Mr. Stewart, and third to Hardy Howard. She also was the mother of 22 children, and was the great grandmother of Mrs. G. E. Hill of Maysville. One of her sons, Virgil Stewart, when a young boy betrayed the noted Murrell gang, preacher and horse stealers, and had to flee to Texas to save his life. Winnie married a Williamson, and Cammie an Arnold. These three sisters had altogether 58 children; a large percent of the population of Jackson county are their descendants, and are found among the very best citizens of the county.

HISTORY OF EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

Ebenezer Methodist church was organized in 1832. The first pastor was Rev J. W. Glenn. The original church was located on the John Hancock estate about one mile from the present location. The land was given by Brother Hancock as well as were the logs used in its building. This building was on one side of the creek but later was moved across the creek. The next location was in the northeast forks of the crossroads, north of the present cemetery. The next site was where the present cemetery rests. In 1929, this building was moved across the road near the oak trees north of the present church. Deeds for two acres of ground were given by Albert H. Black in 1875. In 1939, J. W. Chandler deeded 91.82 acres to the church and Buddy Chandler willed 269 acres to the church. A new church was built in 1947 for the amount of \$8009.08 and the present building is on 5 acres of land.

Register of Members

1. R. T. Seymour 1866
2. James M. Johnson 1867
3. James A. Thompson
4. Alvin J. Lyle 1873
5. John W. Thompson 1884
6. William J. Leay 1877
7. J. W. Fields 1877
8. Columbus W. Thomson 1881
9. E. H. Allen
10. A. J. Seymour 1883
11. A. A. Thompson 1884
12. Joshua G. Harrison
13. Leo Hunt 1895
14. W. J. Whitehead
15. Rev. W. W. Heath
16. T. L. Burdaine
17. Wm. S. Allen 1897
18. Edward W. Rickles 1897
19. James D. Seers 1897
20. John E. Doster 1897
21. John H. Rickels 1897
22. Benj. P. Rickels 1897
23. Wm. D. S. Lyle 1897
24. Joseph F. Fulcher 1897
25. Emory S. Allen 1897
26. William B. Doster 1897
27. James C. Gazaway 1897
28. John B. Lyle Jr. 1897
29. William Burdine 1897
30. William H. Brewer 1897
31. W. C. Johnson
32. John Rickels Sr.
33. Jack Suthrie 1897
34. Sarah E. O'Bryant 1832
35. Martha J. Johnson 1857
36. Martha A. Lay 1858
37. Sarah Sauser 1877
38. Manervia Chandler 1877
39. Susan Collins 1881
40. Mystie Chandler 1883
41. Nancy Fite
42. Mattie Wardlaw 1884
43. Rosa Hardy 1884
44. Amie Nicholson 1884
45. Mary L. Thompson 1884
46. Julia Lay 1887
47. Emma Allen 1888
48. Alice Harrison
49. Mollie Allen 1892
50. Amie Whithead
51. Edna Thompson (O'Shields) 1896
52. Ella Seymore 1896
53. Effie Bush 1896
54. Ada Hancock 1896
55. Lula Allen 1896
56. Mattie Whitehead (Megquier) 1896
57. May Fields (Raynolds) 1896
58. Belle Fields (Brewer) 1896
59. Bestie Fields 1896
60. Laura Meles
61. Leroy Lyle
62. Mary E. Gazaway 1897
63. Sara Rickels
64. Josephine Doolittle
65. Susie E. Harrison 1896
66. Mrs. Sudie Gregory
67. Miss Etta Gregory
68. Myrtle Gregory
69. Mrs. J. N. Whithead
70. John Gregory
71. J. H. Wardlaw
72. Dock S. Nickilson
73. C. N. Whithead

SELLS MILL PARK

Jackson County's newest park was originally land purchased by Jonathon Sell around 1815. Jonathan Sell married Rebecca Jones in 1812 and they had six sons. One of their sons, James was born in 1814.

James married Celia McMillan in 1844 and they had nine children, Leonidus Franklin being the youngest, born in 1862. This son would grow up to become known as Frank.

In the year 1914, Frank built a house and erected the mill and the dam was built. There are stones on the dam and the wall around the mill with the year 1914 carved into them. Most of this area is part of the roots of Stone Mountain. This was the center of a thriving farm community that included a grist mill, cotton gin, saw mill, a dairy farm and a store.

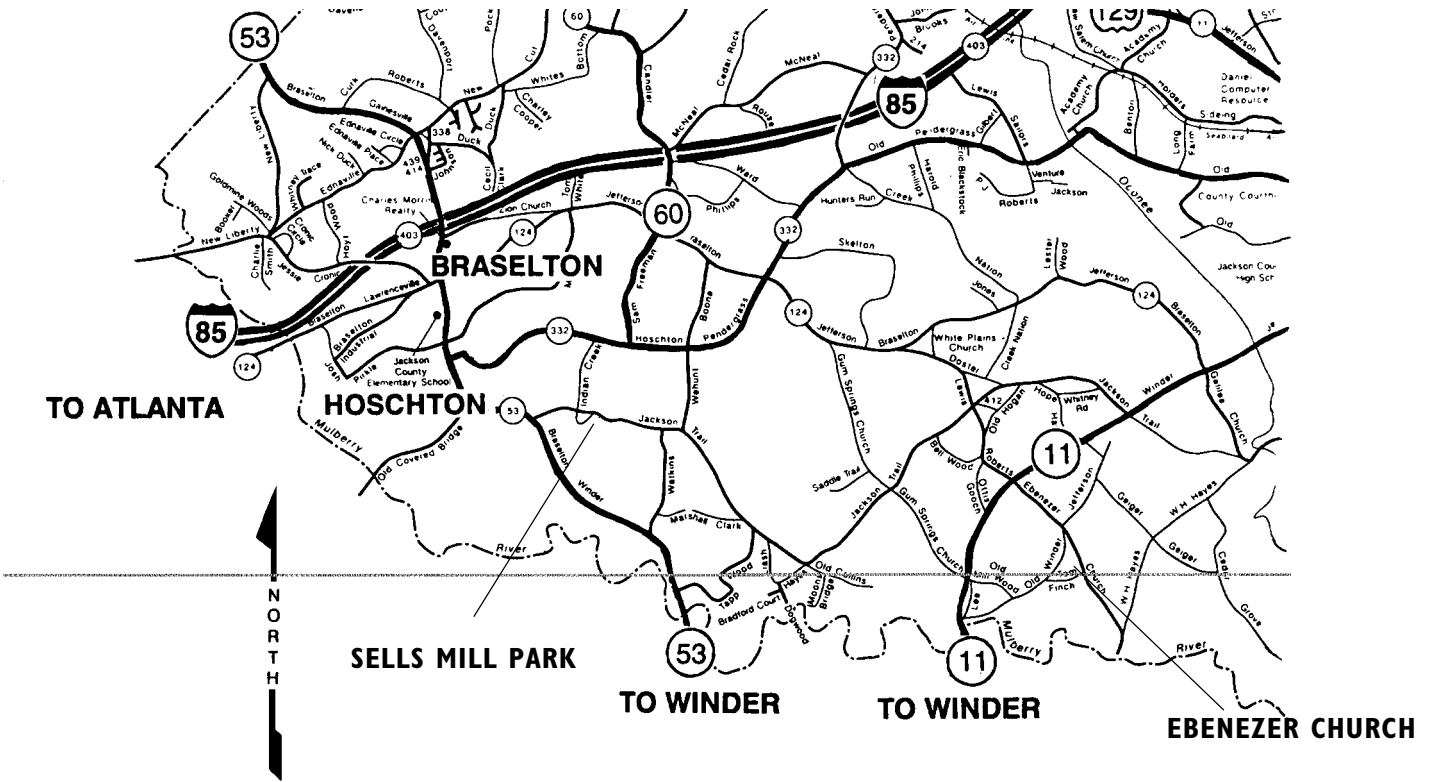
The land changed hands several times after Mr. Sells sold it. Owners included Wood, Hill, Watkins, Gilreath and J. N Tate. The original wood troughs were carrying water when Tate purchased the mill.

The property was purchased in 2000 by Jackson County Parks and Recreation and has opened this year as a county park. The site of the original house is where the pavilion, a playground and restrooms were erected. The waterwheel is still turning today with concrete pipes that J. N. Tate installed to carry the water. Renovation will begin on the Grist Mill this winter and should be open sometime in 2003.



Sells Grist Mill built in 1914 by Frank Sells

Purchased in 2000 by the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department. A playground and pavillion were added and the park was opened in 2002. Renovations to the mill to be completed in 2003.



The Jackson County Historical Society Ramble: Sunday, October 20, 2:30 p.m.
 Beginning at Ebenezer Church for a program on the history of the church and a walk through the cemetery.
 Ramble will continue to Jackson County's new park at Sells Mill.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O.Box 1234
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