

# Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME SIX, NUMBER ONE

OCTOBER 1998

The July picnic, at the Shields/Ethridge farm was a treat for everyone who attended. Those who had never been to the farm were able to see the many restoration projects that have taken place. We first met in the Batchelors Academy School House, where Joyce Ethridge told the history of the restored school building. After a delicious picnic with plenty to eat, Stan Strickland presented a program on blacksmithing that was an education to everyone.

## JCHS OFFICERS 1998-99

PRESIDENT:	Tina B. Harris
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Marie Parks
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Annie Ruth Snelling
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Jean H. Booth
TREASURER:	Tommy Benton
DIRECTORS:	Jean G. Bauerband James Mathis Caroldene McEver
PAST PRESIDENTS:	Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett Richard Chambers Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol F. Tanner
NEWSLETTER EDITORS:	Tina B. Harris Jean H. Booth Walton Harris

## JCHS MEETING AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC

Date: Sunday, October 11, 1998

Time: 2:30

Location: Prospect Church, Prospect Church Road

Program: Talasee Community by Betty Jo Bowden

The October meeting will be at Prospect Church in the Talasee Community. The Talasee Community was first settled in 1786, at Duncan Springs. It was named after Talasee King, one of fourteen Creeks, who signed the Augusta Treaty giving the Wofford Settlement to Jackson County. The second group of settlers arrived in 1788 and brought with them the first Methodist pastor, James Tinsley. Church services were held under a brush arbor, at Fort Strong. Umausuga, Etohautee, Tota, and Notha Neva, members of the Creek tribe, are said to have attended services at the brush arbor. In 1839, Sterling Combs sold all his land to Charles Kinney, except for two acres that Prospect Meeting House stood on. The meeting house was used for church services and for Prospect Academy, established in 1834. The wood frame church building that you see today was built in 1890 and is situated on a hill surrounded by three springs; Duncan Springs, Cold Springs, and Bell Springs.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

October 18, 1998—A Confederate dedication ceremony will be held at 2 P.M., at Academy Church for Levi Oliver Tolbert and Stephen J. Roberts. The 44th Regiment will perform the ceremony.

Fay Poss has finished another book; Clarke County (Athens), Georgia Newspaper Abstracts, 1808–1820. This book contains legal notices, marriages, deaths and other miscellaneous articles from the Georgia Express and Athens Gazette. It should be very interesting material for researchers of the counties surrounding Clarke. Available in November at the Crawford W. Long Museum or by mail through Fay Poss.

Rick Stone, will be exhibiting photographs of Cicero Simmons at Brenau Gallery, November 5 through January 4. There will be a gallery talk by the artist from 6:30–7:30, on November 5 and an opening reception from 7:30–9:00, on November 17. Rick has been working for the last three years printing photographs from Cicero Simmons original glass plate negatives.

Thanks to Shirley Pittman of Buckhead, GA for a gift of the book Morgan County, Georgia Heritage 1807 – 1997.

Many thanks to Ralph and Grace Freeman, Joyce Ethridge, Jean Booth, Tina Harris, Sammy and Marie Parks, Cherlye Hosch, Alex Stewart for representing the Historical Society as guides at the History Village during Art in the Park.

**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

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS**

Ray E. Ball; 3420 Hiawatha Drive, Columbus, GA 31907, (706) 561-8677, windy@leo.infinet.com  
LORD, HAGGARD, LOVERN.

Sandra & William Hood, III; 2915 Cade Circle, Elberton, GA 30635, (706) 283-4878  
THURMOND

Alice Huff, 646 Pleasant Acres Road, Nicholson, GA 30565, (706) 548-1605  
LORD, THURMOND

**QUERIES****WILSON / GARRISON**

Researching Reubin Mitchell Wilson and Emily Caroline Garrison. Do any photographs exist? Captured at Vicksburg. What regiment was he in? Need information about their siblings, children and parents; John s. Wilson & Sarah Wheeler. Contact: Becky A. Wilson, 2509 Putnam St, Columbia, SC 2922204, bwilson@gwm.sc.edu

**ROSS**

Researching Ross family. Great grandparents were Thomas L. Ross and Elenor Caroline Lay. Contact: Rosemary Ross Perkins, 630 Hunters Grove Lane, Houston, TX 77024

**MADDOX**

Researching Thomas William Maddox; born 1814 in Virginia; married 1839 Jackson County, GA to Adaline Eliza Johnson. Thomas died in 1862. Where is he buried? Looking for photographs of soldiers from Jackson County who were in the 43rd GA infantry for regimental history I am writing. Contact Michael Kimball, 4450 Alex Drive, San Jose, CA 95130, 408-378-1342, Unreconstructed@worldnet.att.net

## PRISON LIFE OF A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

BY J. W. LORD  
PART FOUR

Now as I am sitting at by barracks door reading in my testament, a Yankee Sergeant steps in at the front gate and looks at the number over my door, and called the name of J. W. Lord. I said—here. He then said for me to pack up and be at Captain Oliver’s headquarters at 9 o’clock. This was Sunday. Oh, me, I was so glad I was going home I didn’t sleep that night. I reported to Captain Oliver’s and awaited my turn. They called my name, I stepped under the standard. Here my measure was taken as follows: J. W. Lord, 5 ft. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> height, weight 141 pounds, fair complexion, dark hair, hazel eyes, 25 years of age. Then I took the oath, signed three papers and I have one of these oath papers now in my possession. I then drew three days rations and got my transportation. I then bid Rock Island adieu. I then came to Rock Island City, at the wet end of the Island. Here I took passage up on the steamer Victoria for St. Louis, MO. Here we changed boats. I took passage upon steamer Butler to Nashville, Tenn. Here we boarded a train for Chattanooga, and here we changed cars for Atlanta, Ga. When I stepped off the train upon a rough platform; no depot, no nothing. I looked to the west side of the railroad and what did I see a batch of charred walls. I then look to the east. What here? Why there stood the Masonic Hall, with the square and compass over the door. I said to myself—Oh, think of the ravages of war. Then I thought of General Sherman’s march through Georgia, burning and stealing, burning, barns, dwellings, corn fodder, and taking cattle, horses, mules, leaving nothing equal to a cyclone, sad that is not all. Old Phill Sherdan and Hunter in the Shenandora Valley in Virginia, burning all the wheat, and everything. The North raised a howl about the prisoners at Andersonville starving, and

the North refusing to exchange prisoners. Now the Confederates of Jeff Davis, sends a delegation of prisoners from Andersonville to Washington, pray their own people to exchange. Lincoln and Steward, and E. M. Stanton, said “No, we had rather feed the rebels than to fight them.” I heard a Yankee officer say that myself. Now for the first time in the history of War, medicine was declared contraband by the North, so the South could neither feed nor medicine the Northern prisoners. Now Jefferson Davis, or the Confederates, proposed to send all of the sick prisoners back to their homes in the North. If the North would pay their transportation. This proposition was made in the winter of 1864, and the North at first refused; but finally agreed to it; but did not send the transportation to Savannah till December, ’64 to take the sick Yankee prisoners back North. So in the summer of ’64, it was so hot and fair South that many of them died and then the North raised a howl about the death rate of their men dying at Andersonville. Now the Northern army captured 220,000 Confederate prisoners, and the Southern army captured 270,000 Yankees. Now, in this hell hole, as they called them in the South, 22,576 died; and in the Northern Pleasure Resorts, as they would have you believe, died 26,436 Confederate prisoners. This is E. M. Stanton’s statement at the close of the war made in 1866.

Now, as someone will want to know how those dogs got in the prison, I will tell you. There was a lot of citizens who were hauling in coal and other material every day and their dogs would follow them into the prison, and if he was fat they roped him, killed and ate him sure and now, while we were eating dogs in this prison in September and October ’64, it got out, and was published in a Rock Island paper, and a citizen proposed to give us 2,000 bushels of Irish potatoes, but A. J. Johnson, the commander of the post, said no, that we did not need them, that we got plenty.

One other thing, and then I will close; While we prisoners were starving in prison, Great Britain, or Confederate sympathizers, made up \$75,000 to help clothe and feed the prisoners, and the Northern authorities said no. They did not need it.

Fourth and last chapter of my story—it is through. Now, to one and all, young and old, friends and foes, and especially my old Brother Confederate Soldiers, Fare You Well.

---

In 1834 an Act was passed to create Prospect Academy.



*Oak Grove School – 1895; First row, third from left: Norma Alexander*

This Act states: . . . and be it further enacted, That Joseph I. Singleton, Asa Varner, William Bell, Sterling Combs, and Walter S. Mitchell, and their successors in office be, and they are hereby appointed and declared to be a body corporate under the name and style of the Trustees of the Prospect Academy of the County of Jackson.

The exact location of Prospect Academy was somewhere near Talasee Shoals in Gum Springs.

excerpt from Jackson Herald

*July 8, 1881*—Talasee Bridge— As advertised, Judge Bell let out the contract for building the Talasee bridge on last Saturday. The crowd was not a large one, and the most of those present were interested in the bidding. Tom McElhannon read the specifications and asked for bids, when Fayette Gilleland started him at eighteen hundred dollars. The next bid was from

Mr. Bill Cheeley, who called out seventeen hundred, and from then the bidding was lively down to about a thousand dollars. At this juncture, Fayette Gilleland commenced to figure “mighty” close, and concluded that there was no money in it for less figures, so he “quit the patch” Fayette used to build bridges when times were flush and he could make a hundred or two dollars profit, and he has never yet took it into his head that he ought to work for the county for nothing. The bidding was then kept up by Mr. Cheeley, who bid like he had come to see the thing out and he did do so. Mr. Kilgore, of Athens, kept the matter in an interesting condition for him, and between them they ran the figure way down. Sometimes one or the other would show signs of caving, and then there would be a rally, but the bids got smaller, and they took more time to consider as the figures dropped, until Mr. Cheeley bid \$749, and Mr. Kilgore did not see fit to lower it, and the job was knocked off to Mr. Cheeley.

**OBITUARIES**

*May 10, 1885*—Clifford Lavender, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Lavender, who died April 30th, at the age of eleven years. The bereaved family have the heartfelt sympathies of their many friends. Tallassee, Ga

*1892*—On Sunday morning at about nine o'clock Mrs. T. C. Fowler died at her home on East Broad street, near the river, after a lingering and very painful illness.

She was taken violently with brain fever four or five weeks ago, and from that time till the death-struggle few lucid moments. Her sufferings were intense and no doubt death came as a messenger of relief.

Mrs. Fowler for years had been a member of the Methodist church, and doubtless lived much of the time in the enjoyment of religion.

The funeral took place yesterday at Prospect church in Jackson county, the service being conducted by Rev. Mr. Bryan, her pastor.

Mrs. Fowler leaves a distressed husband, four little children and many friends to mourn their irreparable loss.

*1892*—On Saturday, April 9, Mr. George A. Duncan calmly and peacefully breathed his last at his home in Jackson county. He was a son of Mr. J. C. Duncan, well known in Athens. He was from early childhood, dutiful and obedient to his parents, kind to brother and sisters. He leaves a faithful mourning wife and five little children to mourn his loss; he will be sadly missed at home. He had long been a member of the Methodist church and gave his father in his last hours the blessed assurance that all was well. He was buried at Prospect church where so many in the neighborhood have been laid to rest, victims as he was, to the dread disease measles.

Only three weeks before he stood by the deathbed of his sister, Mrs. Carrie Gillespie, from the same disease. She was a kind daughter, faithful wife and loving mother, was a member of the Methodist church and a Christian in her daily life.

She leave three children doubly orphaned, their father dying in Texas some year since.

*September 9, 1898*—We deeply sympathize with Mr. Wm. Wages and family in that they have been called upon to give to the Master their old father and grand-

father, Mr. Andrew Wages. He was born in Fairfield district, S.C., in the year of our Lord 1802, and was married when only 20 years old, soon after which he moved to Georgia, and joined the Methodist church. He leaves a loving wife, five children and a host of grandchildren to mourn his death.

Mr. Wages lived a consistent, happy Christian life. He followed his Master many years, and it was beautiful to note his childlike faith humility and patience. He had been sick five weeks, but not enough to be confined to his bed until Tuesday, when he was taken very ill, and after much suffering, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 5 p.m., and was buried Sunday, Aug. 14, at his old home near Prospect church, Jackson county.

*August 1900*—Mr. George Nixon died at his home near Nicholson last Thursday, and was buried at Prospect church on Friday morning at 10 o'clock. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his death. We would say to the bereaved: Weep not, for your loss is his eternal gain.

*April 12, 1906*—Mr. N. J. Williamson went to the Wheeler memorial exercises in Atlanta where he took pneumonia, and after an illness of little more than one week, died in Atlanta, at the home of his daughter, last Thursday. His remains were brought to Crooked Creek burial grounds, where they were interred Saturday.

Mr. Williamson was a good citizen, a clever man, and one of the best farmers in this county.

He made a gallant soldier in the war between the states.

He leaves a wife and several children. He had a policy in the Southern Mutual Life Insurance Company, and his wife and children will get \$850 to \$1000 insurance.

*May 7, 1908*—Saturday morning at ten o'clock, at his home in Jackson County, Mr. J. W. Wallace, aged 57 years, passed away. The funeral was held Sunday morning at eleven o'clock at Prospect church.

excerpt from The District Herald

. . . Bre. Duncan was born in Nacoochee Valley, April 17, 1829; joined the M. E. Church, south, when seven years of age; married Miss Jane Roberts, October 23, 1851; died June, 1909. He leaves his devoted wife and

four children; four of their children had preceded him to the better land.

Bro. Duncan was a lay preacher; for years he was a licensed preacher. His life shone more beautifully in his home and community than anywhere else. The incense of prayer ascended from his home morning and evening to the day of his death. And when the shadows of death were gathering around him, he said to the watchers by his bedside, "It is time for family prayer," and prayed with them. Thus ended a life well spent.

A large congregation attended his funeral at old Prospect church. . . .

*May 13, 1915*—Resolution by Jefferson Chapter, No. 1917, U. D. C.

W. H. Meeks was born in Banks county, Georgia, May 28, 1838, and died at Arcade, Ga, Jackson County, Jan 24, 1915.

On August 24, 1861, he enlisted in Co. A., 24th Ga Regiment, Georgia Volunteers, Cobb's Brigade. In the battle of Chickamauga, September 24, 1863, he lost his right arm. Was honorably discharged from service in 1865. In 1861 he joined the Masons, and the ritualistic services of this order were used at his burial. Was a consistent member of the M. E. Church, South, since 1864. In 1879 the state granted him a pension which he drew annually thereafter. In his native county of Banks, he filled at different times the office of county treasurer, N. P. and ex. J. P. and other positions of trust and honor. His wife and several children survive him.

J. J. Pettyjohn was born in Forsyth county, Georgia, June 12, 1845, and departed this life at his home in Jefferson, Ga., March 128, 1915. He enlisted in 1863, Co. A. 2nd Ga State Troops, at Acworth, Ga, and was honorably discharged in 1865 in Atlanta. In early life he moved to Jackson County, Cunningham district, and was married to Mrs. Helen Morrison Webb, who survived him only ten days. The three children born to him preceded him to the grave. For several years he was constable in Cunningham district, which position he held in Jefferson district at the time of his death. He had been chief of police of the City of Jefferson and in 1906 he filled the unexpired term of Sheriff W. T. Stevens. He was a true and loyal member of the Baptist church for half an century.

## DIVORCES

*February 1875*—Susan Cook vs W. A. J. Cook

*August 1875*—Samuel Prewitt vs Nancy E. Prewitt; total 2 juries. Defendants have permission to marry again. Plaintiff pays cost.

Celia Miller vs Ancil Miller; total Defendant to be relieved of his marriage obligations. Defendant pays cost.

Adolphus Bailey vs Meley Bailey; total Thomas Cain vs Angeline Cain

*February 1876*—Martha J. Sharp vs Edward J. Sharp; defendant to pay \$600. Aug 1876; total 2 juries.

David McIntosh vs Jerusha McIntosh.

N. E. Gordon vs James Gordon. Aug 1876; total 2 concurring juries.

George Gathright vs Sallie Gathright; defendant not in county; rule be published in Forest News monthly for 4 months.

Marie McElhannon (colored) vs George McElhannon (colored); total Defendant pay costs

Alexander Morgan vs Amanda Morgan; total, 2 juries

*August 1876*—Reubin Bell (colored) vs Harriet Bell (colored)

*February 1877*—Edna Phillips vs John Phillips; total 2 juries

Milledge Rakestraw vs Jenny Rakestraw dismissed

Martha C. Hawkins vs W. A. Hawkins; Defendant out of county. Service to be published in Forest News.

George Gathright vs Sallie Gathright; total 2 juries

Emma Phillips vs John Phillips. She was former Emma Patrick, widow of Thomas Patrick.

*August 1877*—Sallie Randolph vs Asa A. Randolph; defendant does not reside in this state. Publish notice in Forest News

*February 1878*—Rowe serving notice perfected.

Catherine Duke vs J. R. Duke dismissed

*August 1878*—Hawkins case dismissed. Cost to

## Plaintiff

Leonia E. Rowe vs William J. Rowe; total Feb 79

James P. Davis vs Naomi Davis; total Feb. 1879

J. T. Cheely vs Amanda Cheely

*August 1879*—Aty Ann Nixon vs George N. Nixon

Julia A. Cox vs Richard Cox. Bill for temporary and permanent alimony

James H. Gordon vs Everybody. Asks that marriage disabilities be removed. (Nancy E. Gordon, former wife)

Lucy Moore vs James Moore.

Emiline Shields vs Mac Shields; total defendant recover costs.

**PARTIES**

July 11, 1912 – A most enjoyable social function of the week was given by Miss Lurlie and Ruth Mahaffey, at their home, on Washington Street, on Tuesday evening from 9 to 12, in honor of Miss Ruth Gilleland of Atlanta. The decorations of the artistically arranged home were of cut flowers and ferns. The entire lower floor was thrown together, and tables were placed in each room where the guests enjoyed an exciting game of “42”. Punch was served on the front veranda by little Misses Evelyn McElhannon and Frances Holder. At the close of the game, a delicious salad course, with sandwiches, were served. Those present were: Misses Gladys Hardy, Lillian Brock, Leta Puckett, Alma Niblack, Alva Appleby, Anabel Brock, Irene and Ruth Stevens, Susie Dunegan, Lollie Lyle, Hattie Storey, Eva McElhannon, Annie Whitehead, Montine Hutchins, and Kate Smith of Commerce; Messrs. George Appleby, Ned and Phil Pendergrass, Fred Evans, Paul Mathews, Dudley Moore, Glad Brock, Summie Morrison, Clyde Stockton, John and Doss Wilhite, Overby and Price Branch, Polk Niblack, and Sumner Smith of Commerce.

**DOUBLE WEDDING**

*December 23, 1888*—On Sunday morning a double wedding took place near Prospect Church, in Jackson. It was at the residence of Rev. John C. Duncan, the father of the young ladies. Mr. Joseph Alexander and Miss Lou Duncan, And Mr. S. I. Seymour and Miss Alice Duncan, Were united in the holy bonds, Dr. E. B. Rees officiating. These young couples started out in their new life with the best wishes of a large number of friends.



*Joseph Alexander and Lou Duncan's wedding portrait – 1888*



*Duncan Homeplace: LEFT TO RIGHT: Addie Duncan, \_\_\_ Fowler, J. C. Roberts, Jane Roberts, \_\_\_ Fowler, Lois Seymour, \_\_\_ Fowler.*

*The small photograph on front of this newsletter was taken at the July Historical Society meeting. Tina Harris and Joyce Ethridge listen as Stan Strickland explains blacksmithing.*

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