

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER THREE

APRIL 2005



Oak Avenue District, Jefferson, Georgia. Roberts-Hood-Frost House built circa 1890.

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet on Sunday, April 17, 2005, 2:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara and Boniface McDaniel at 149 Oak Avenue (Kelly-Johnson House on page 2). There will be a program by Willie Hughey on his memories of the neighborhood followed by a walking tour of the Oak Avenue Historic District.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529

(706) 335-5946

Newsletter

This is a quarterly publication mailed to members. Back issues can be obtained for \$3.50 each plus postage. View past newsletters at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

Membership Dues

Individual –\$15
Family –\$20
LIFE member –\$100

Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, June 15, 2005. Send requests for information to the address below with a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Researching William ARMOUR who lived in Jackson County circa 1840s or 1850s. Contact: Janice Browning, 120 Winterset Place, Winterville, GA 30683, (706) 742-7022, jbrownin@uga.edu

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, November 15, 1906

The faculties of Rev. A. J. (Adoniram Judson) Kelly became impaired several months ago. He was kept at home for sometime, in the hope that his condition would improve, but he got no better. Hoping that his physical and mental condition could be bettered, he was sent to the State Sanitarium some weeks ago, but medical treatment did not help him. Last Sunday one week ago, he became very ill. The sanitarium people, a day or two after the change, telegraphed the family. Messrs. J. P. and Sam Kelly; his only two sons, started immediately for Milledgeville, but before they could reach there the noble and kind-hearted father had breathed his last.

They brought his body home for burial. It reached here Friday morning, and was carried to Mr. Kelly's home, where it remained until 12:30 p.m. that day, and was carried to the Baptist church, where the funeral services were conducted by Rev. W. S. McCarty, assisted by Rev. J. J. Bennett. A large crowd attended the funeral. The children of Martin Institute attended, because Mr. Kelly was



Photograph of the Kelly-Johnson house built circa 1900



Photograph of Idonia Kelly, step-grandchildren; Sam and Martha Ann Kelly, neighbors; Janet Hood and Doris Storey

once president of the board of trustees of that institution. After the funeral his body was carried to Woodbine cemetery, where it was put to rest.

Mr. Kelly was 75 years old, at the time of his death. He was not only a member of the Baptist church, but a minister of the gospel. He was not an eloquent preacher, but a close reasoner and a powerful debater. He had strong convictions, and was fearless in advocating what he believed was right. Many times we consulted him on different questions. Several times we submitted articles we had written for his criticism. We felt safe in printing an article, after it had been criticized by Mr. Kelly. He was not only a student, but was one of the best farmers that ever lived in this county.

When his body was put to rest, Jackson county lost one of her best citizens, the ministry one of the ablest expounders of the word, his children a good father, and his wife a noble and loving husband.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, May, 7, 1936

Mrs. M. I. Kelly (Martha Idonia Miller) passed away early Thursday night at her home in Jefferson, following an illness of about twenty-four hours from pleurisy, which terminated in pneumonia, causing her death.

Mrs. Kelly was the widow of the late Rev. A. J. Kelly. She was 84 years of age, and before marriage was a Miss Miller, member of a prominent Franklin county family. She has made a host of friends, who admire her sweet, gentle manners and Christian character. Her advanced age and impaired health caused her to lead a secluded life, but she was always cheerful, and found pleasure in her household duties and administering to those who were near and dear to her.

Surviving the deceased are two brothers and three sisters: Mr. Jack and Miss Alice Miller of Franklin county, Mrs. Addison of Toccoa, Mrs. Newsome of Atlanta, and a brother in Oklahoma. Also, five step-grandchildren, Edwin, Robert and Miss Bess Kelly of Jefferson, Mrs. Aubrey Gates of Florida, and Mrs. Jimmie Crowder of Chester, S. C.



photograph of the Kelly-Grubbs House built circa 1913 by Sam Kelly

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, August 16, 1934

The announcement Saturday morning that Mr. Sam Kelly had answered the last summons was a great shock to the citizens of Jefferson, and brought sadness and sorrow to a wide circle of friends. His death came almost suddenly, although he had been in declining health for the past several years. He arose as usual Saturday morning, and while he had complained for several days because of a difficulty in breathing, neither he nor his family felt any undue uneasiness over his condition. He was in the act of taking a cold shower bath when he called to Mrs. Kelly that he was too weak to continue. She assisted him in dressing, and with the assistance of a colored man carried him to his bed, but he breathed only a few times.

Mr. Kelly had almost reached his sixtieth birthday. He was the son of Rev. A. J. Kelly, and was born in Jefferson, and spent almost his entire life in and near this city. He followed the avocation of a farmer, and until his health

failed, was one of the best and most successful farmers in this section of Georgia.

Although he never united with any church, he was reared in a Christian home, and never forgot the example and teachings of this home, and his life in every respect was marked with honesty, uprightness, and a desire to do the right thing by his fellow man. He was a thoughtful husband, an indulgent father and a loyal friend.

Surviving Mr. Kelly are his widow, Mrs. May Hancock Kelly; three children, Mr. Edwin, Mr. R. J. and Miss Bess Kelly; two grandchildren, Sam, Jr., and Martha Ann Kelly; and two nieces, the daughter of the late J. P. Kelly.

page 5 photographs:

top: Sam and Mae Hancock Kelly, children; Robert Judson and Edwin Leary

bottom: The Kelly Hotel on the southside of the Jefferson Square before it burned in 1913.





Photograph of the Hardy-Purcell house built circa 1905

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, April 15, 1943

On Monday evening at the home of Mr. And Mrs. L. A. Langford on Borders Street, summoned C. D. Hardy.

Mr. Hardy was 82 years of age, and until two years ago was an active businessman. Since that date, his health failed gradually and for the past two weeks he was seriously ill.

He was a native of Jackson County and for many years lived in Millers district where he was honored by the people among whom he lived by being elected J. P. For the past 25 years he has resided in Jefferson. In young manhood he was married to Miss Laura Merritt, who passed away in 1923. Mr. Hardy was a loyal, consecrated member of the Baptist Church, was a public spirited citizen and took part in all efforts for the betterment of his community and county. Of a friendly and social disposition, he made friends of his acquaintances. His long life was characterized by honesty and integrity.

Surviving the deceased are seven children: Mrs. A. T.

Bell, of Gainesville; Mrs. Knox Brackett, of Athens; Mrs. L. A. Langford, of Jefferson, A. M., C. E. and J. W. Hardy, of Jefferson. Also, there are 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, November 10, 1927

Mr. Henry M. Silman passed away at 9 a. m. Friday, after a week's illness, in which pneumonia developed, terminating in his death. For several years his health was not good, but he was improving, and had returned to his work with the Jefferson Mills.

Mr. Silman was 58 years of age. He was a son of the late Col. and Mrs. Ben Silman, his father having been one of the most prominent lawyers ever practicing before the courts of this section. His mother was a Miss Cowan, a member of a very influential and popular family of this county. Mr. Silman was born and reared in Jefferson, at the family home on Silman Heights, which has recently burned.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Presbyterian Church in which he was a member.

He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Janie Yearwood; by four sons and three daughters, Ben, Ralph, Max, Clarence, Elizabeth, Ora Nell, Eveyn and by a brother, Mr. John Silman who resides in Texas.

The Silman House, located on Oak Avenue burned in 1927. The Silman-Tate tenant house still stands and was moved behind the Roberts-Hood-Frost house.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, August 19, 1920

After a lingering illness for several weeks from typhoid fever, Mr. W. Clint Roberts passed away early last Friday morning. His remains were laid to rest Saturday morning in Woodbine cemetery, after a short service conducted by Rev. M. H. Massey.

Mr. Roberts was 72 years of age, and one of the few

brave Confederate veterans of the Jackson County Camp, whose ranks are growing very thin.

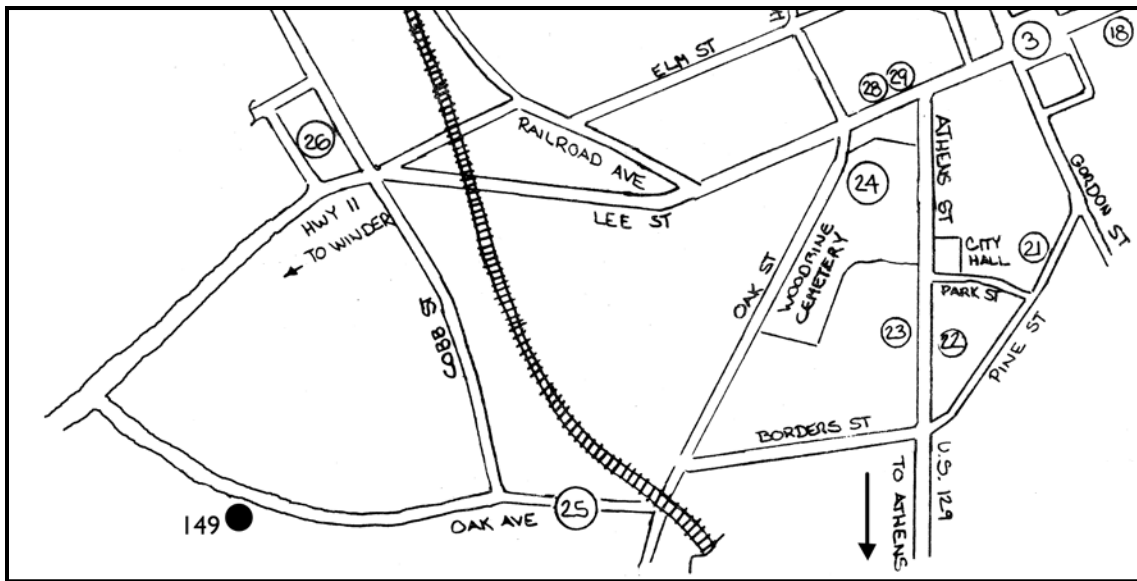
All that medical skill could devise was used to stay the hand of death, but the final summons came in spite of this and the kindly ministrations of friends and loved ones.

Those surviving Mr. Roberts are his grief-stricken companion; two brothers, Oscar and Alvin; six sons, Rev. L. E., B. H., Sam, Fred, Guy and Curt; and three daughters, Miss Kate, Mrs. Grace Ogle, and Miss Cullie. Three of these, viz: Misses Kate and Cullie and Mr. Curt, have been and still are sick, but are improving.

Stone Mason, Clint Roberts and his sons quarried granite from the Oconee River near Academy Church. Circa 1893, he built the Jefferson Callaboose, Evie Doster's sarcophagus in the Doster cemetery, Jackson Co., Mrs. Pettyjohn's tomb at Harmony Church, Hall Co. and a Rock Barn for J. Luther Lanier on Louis Sailors Road.



Photograph of Okie Hood, Annie Douglas Hood, children; Zilman, Martha Elizabeth and Cathel. Andrew Okeehonchee Hood lived in the former Clint Roberts house on Oak Avenue while serving as the Tax Assessor for Jackson County.



The Jackson County Historical Society will meet on April 17, 2005, at 2:30, on 149 Oak Avenue in Jefferson. Willie Hughey will talk about his memories of the neighborhood followed by a walking tour.

Directions from Jefferson by-pass: Take Hwy 11 to Oak Avenue, turn right and travel to 149 Oak Avenue on the right.

Directions from the Jefferson Square: Turn on Hwy 129 towards Athens, travel to Border Street, take a right, take a left on Oak Street, cross tracks and turn right onto Oak Avenue, travel to 149 Oak Avenue on left.

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