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# *Jackson County Historical Society News*

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VOLUME SIXTEEN, NUMBER TWO

JANUARY 2009



The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Pendergrass House in Jefferson on January 18 at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Bass Pendergrass built the house, in 1893. It is Jefferson's best example of High Victorian Queen Anne style architecture. The gingerbread in the gables and porch is marked by generous spindle work, different shingle patterns and carved brackets. Former owner, Jennie Snare will be present to talk about the history of the house. Current owners, Felicia and Christopher Brown live in the house and use it for an event venue.

Directions: From Athens Road (Highway 129) take Highway 15 towards Commerce at the Jefferson Square. The house is next to the Pendergrass Store building at 27 Sycamore Street (Highway 15). Park on the square or behind Mike's Grill. For information call Caine at 706-757-3750.

*Jackson County Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529*

*(706) 335-5946*

## Newsletter

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly and mailed before the next meeting. Back issues can be obtained for \$3.00 each plus postage. Some of the past newsletters can be viewed online at: [rootsweb.com/~gajackso/](http://rootsweb.com/~gajackso/)

The Historical Society's collection of books, files and research materials are housed in the Heritage Room of the Commerce Public Library.

Queries will be published in the next issue. Please send by March 15, 2009.

## Dues for 2008–2009 year

The dues year runs from July to July. Checks can be mailed to:

Jackson County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529:

Individual –\$15  
Family –\$25  
LIFE member –\$100

## JCHS Officers 2008-2009

President:	Caine Campbell
Vice-President:	Shirley Wilson
Recording Secretary:	Doris Lord
Corresponding Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Ann Jarrett Jerry Legg
Past Presidents:	Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett Richard Chambers Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis James Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks Tina Harris Charlotte Mealor
Newsletter Editor:	Tina Harris

## Meeting Schedule

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Burns-Telford House in Maysville on Sunday, April 19 at 2:30 p.m. The owner, Kay David, has a gift shop, luncheon facility and catering business at the home at 3447 Gillsville Rd., Maysville, GA.

The July Hot Dog picnic will be held on Thursday, July 23 at the Shields/Ethridge Heritage Farm at 6:00 p.m. The farm is recognized as a Centennial Farm owned by the same family for over one hundred years and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It once operated a cotton gin, gristmill and commissary house. Today it is an agricultural museum and has tours for school groups and Field Days.

## Jackson County in 1820

*The following note from the census taker appears at the beginning of the 1820 Jackson County Census.*

Jackson County is about twenty miles Square bounded South by Clarke County, East by the County of Maddison (sic) North by Franklin County, North and North West by Hall County, West and South west by the Counties of Gwinnett and Walton containing eight Thousand Three hundred & fifty five citizens including the White and Black Population 6346 Whites 1997 Blacks and twelve free persons of Colour the Town of Jefferson in the centre of the county contains about twenty houses including the last Court house and out houses, Eight stores, three Public houses, three Sadlers shops, two Blacksmith shops, one Tin Manufactory, & one Shoemakers Shop. The Town of Jefferson stands about Equa distant between Athens and Hall court house. The Principal waters North Ocone Middle Ocone Mulbury Fork, Walnut & Allens fork all of which head in Hall County the increase by births for the quarter commencing the first of August 1820 and ending the last of October same year Blacks and white were about 100 decrease.

The county of Jackson is generally healthy with but little sickness of any kind. Decrease by deaths about twenty.

The citizens are generally industrious kind and courteous Staple commodity Cotton & Tobacco. Difficulties in obtaining the census in the first place the law not operating until the first Monday in August no conveniency resulted by going round with the collector or receiver of tax returns, as they were done before that period of time and I had to go to nearly every house in the county. In the 2nd place the citizens although thick in some places livs on the Riverside yet they are very disperse on the ridges where the land is poor and off from the large waters course in the 3rd place, there are but few open public road and since I took the census in 1810, when I was allowed \$2.00 per 100 the country has grown over with considerable brush woods and very many of the inhabitants live in the interior of their plantations with either gate or Bars for entrances, so that I had often; very often in deed; to light and walk a considerable distance to the dwelling cabins, or houses; in the 4th place, the month of August was very wet in the County of Jackson with a few exceptions, and between due and rain traveling through, or along small paths, often got very wet in the 5th place except in the village there are but one or two public houses in the county and I had often and generally to fast from morning to night, both myself and creature, not but what by earnest application, it could have been got oftener, but there being but few public houses; delivery forbade applying where I knew citizens were not in the habit of charging fee in the 6th and last place being sworn to taken from the heads of families or at the residence, I had often to go twice and often more to see the same persons and think in all I traveled nearly one Thousand miles in the performance of my duty in the whole I respectfully submit the above for the inspection of the District Land, to say what farther compensation than \$1.00 per 100 census I am entitled to; the census amounting to 8355 and in 1810 amounting to upward of 10000. And was then allow upwards of \$100. for taking the amount of manufactures, which was but very little more trouble, If any than this time when only allowed 20 per cent on the other allowances.

T. M. C. Montgomery, Agent to the Marshal

## Jackson County boundaries

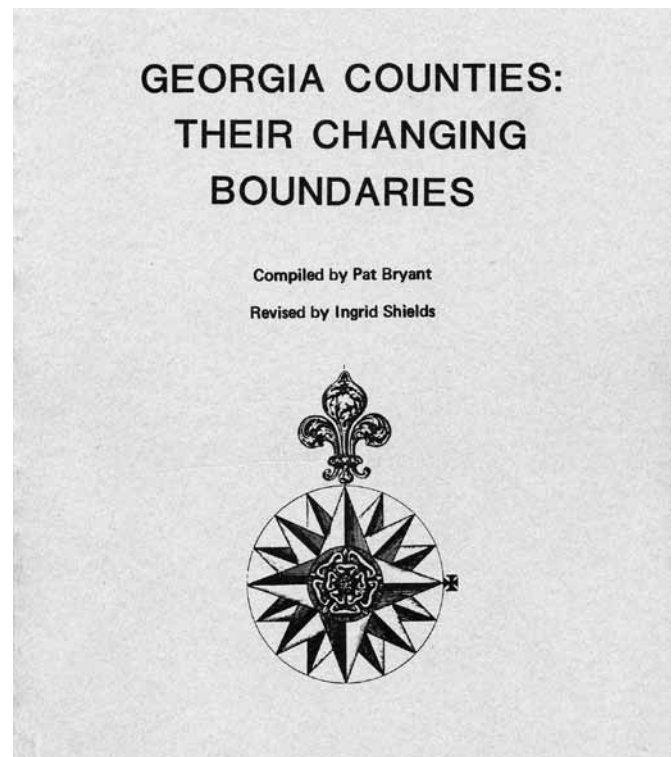
*excerpt from Georgia Counties: Their Changing Boundaries*

Jackson County was created: February 11, 1796  
taking area from the following counties:

Franklin, February 11, 1796 – Marbury and Crawford's  
Franklin, December 7, 1812 – Lamar's compilation  
Madison, December 20, 1860 – Georgia Laws 1860  
Wafford Tract, December 8, 1806 – Clayton's compilat'n

Jackson gave up area to the following counties:

Banks, 1870 – Georgia Laws 1870  
Barrow, July 7, 1914 – Georgia Laws 1914  
Clarke, December 5, 1801 – Clayton's compilation  
Clarke, February 21, 1850 – Georgia Laws 1850  
Clarke, February 17, 1854 – Georgia Laws 1854  
Clarke, December 19, 1860 – Georgia Laws 1860  
Gwinnett, December 19, 1818 – Lamar's compilation  
Hall, December 19, 1818 – Lamar's compilation  
Madison, December 5, 1811 – Lamar's compilation  
Madison, December 26, 1851 – Georgia Laws 1851  
Madison, February 29, 1854 – Georgia Laws 1854  
Madison, December 20, 1860 – Georgia Laws 1860  
Madison, August 24, 1872 – Georgia Laws 1872  
Walton, December 19, 1818 – Lamar's compilation

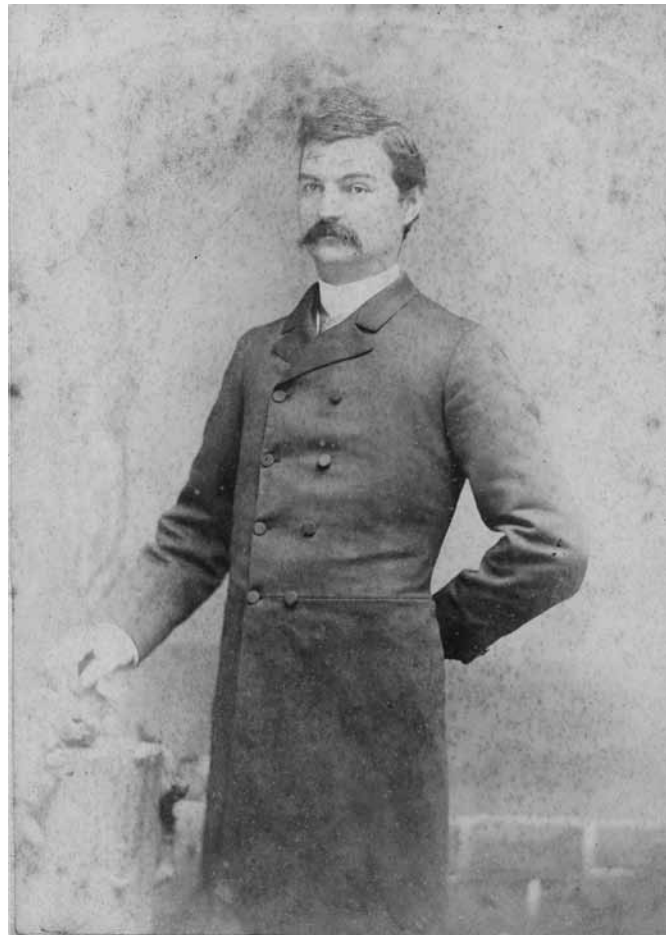


**James Bascomb Pendergrass, born May 31, 1851  
– died January 23 1929**

Bass Pendergrass graduated from the Kentucky school of Medicine in Louisville in 1876 and started his practice in Jefferson, Georgia. His office was located above the Pendergrass Store, in the room that has a balcony extending from the west side of the building. After he had been in practice for ten years he went to New York for a course of post graduate study and en route met Nellie J. Egerton, born June 6, 1860, daughter of Charles Wilmot and Lou Egerton of Louisburg, N. C. They were married March 3, 1887. Bass and Nellie had one son, Wilmot Hollingsworth Pendergrass. Nellie died August 5, 1889 and is buried in the family plot in Woodbine Cemetery. Dr. Pendergrass second wife was Mittie Dell Heath, born August 30, 1870, daughter of James Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth Heath of Norwood, GA. Mittie Dell was a graduate of Wesleyan College, Macon. They had eight children. Mittie died January 2, 1964 and is buried in the family plot of Woodbine cemetery. Dr. Pendergrass and all the children except, Penelope, Mildred and Mary Agnes are buried in the family plot in Woodbine Cemetery.

**Children:**

- Wilmot (Worth) H. Pendergrass,  
born Dec 6, 1887 – died April 1940
- James Evans Pendergrass,  
born April 1, 1895 – died Jan 21, 1919
- Penelope Sunbeam Pendergrass Mielenz,  
born March 23, 1897 – died May 12, 1929
- Thomas Nathaniel Pendergrass,  
born March 21, 1899 – died Nov 30 1900
- William Lane Pendergrass,  
born May 22, 1901 – died April 18, 1917
- Martha Elizabeth Pendergrass,  
born Oct 11, 1903 – died December 9, 1907
- Mildred Virginia Pendergrass Sheats,  
born December 2, 1905
- Joseph Heath Penndergrass,  
born April 27, 1909 – died December 19, 1951
- Mary Agnes Pendergrass Crimmins,  
born June 12, 1911 – April 14, 1947



*photograph of Dr. Bass Pendergrass*

**Letters from Confederate Soldiers**

*Thank to Pat Hardin for contributing the following letters written to Camma Camp Arnold from her sons John S. Arnold and George Washington Arnold, while they were serving in the Confederate Army. Both men died in service.*

Camp Hunt near Knoxville, Tenn October 29, 1862

Mrs. Cammy ArnoldDear mother this morning write you a few lines to inform you that I am still living and in as good health as I have been in for some time, but my eyes still bother me they pain me very bad and the doctor told me that if I was not very careful they would go out this winter but I hope not but Mother I hope this will find you all well and doing well Mother I have seen hard times since I saw you I never thought I could undergo what I have had to under go I have lived sevril days on parched corn and part of the time could not get that but still it is not as bad I thought it was to read letters from

others I thought it would be death but it is not so bad at last. Mother I have heard you was all very uneasy about me and Green that we was captured and some said you heard we was hung but thank God we are neither but we were gone from our command some two months but we done a greateal better than the others. We staid some seven weeks in Lexington, Kentucky and faired as well as I could and the .....(unreadable) world they would come out to our camp and talk to us as same as if they all ways new us and ask us to go out and see them and as Martin said about potatoes in Arkansas it was the very prettiest kind of Girls but I never went but once. Green went severil times but I would not go we were not in any fighting but was in a few miles of a big fight I never heard the likes in my life the canon was firing all the time. Some times we could feel the ground shake under us and we were some seven or eight miles off we were in hearing of the canon for two days we were hunting our command but it did not do us much good to find them for we did not stay but few days until we were detailed for a boddy guard for Gen Heath and it is very uncertain wheter we are ever with the command any more or not but I not care much our hole company is together now and we will never have any fighting to do as long as we are a boddy guard but we will never stay but a short time at any place Mother I would like the best in the world to see you all and some times think maybe I will get the chance to go home about Christmas but it is very uncertain but if their is any chance in the world I am coming their I would give fifty dollars to go home and stay one month but money will not by a furlow but I hope the war will end by Spring and they will let us all go home I have some hope of seeing you all once more but my hope may be vain but Mother I still ask your prayers that I may but if not that we may meet in a better world than this where there will be no wars nor parting known  
George Washington Arnold

Camp Young near Savannah  
Chatham County Ga March 1, 1863

Dear mother and sisters Elvira and Susan. I this morning seat my self with a sad heart and trouble mind to write you a few lines I received a few lines from Cicero Thompson last thursday stating that Brother George was dead which gave me much pain and while I write the tears are running down my cheeks so that I can hardly write I felt before I left home that if I did not see George that I never

would see him in this world but I hope to meet him in a better world than this where there will be no more wars and fiting where the wicked cese from troubling and the very are at rest. Mother I feel more determined to try to live write than I have for a long time and I want you to pray for me that I may hold out faithful for there is so many things in Camp to draw one off from the rite way but the more I see of the wickedness of the Camps the more I strive against it I have not been the least tempted yet, but I don't know how soon I may be.

Mother this leaves me and Jack well and I hope it will find you all well and doing well mother if you have not got cow food send to my house and get some cotton food I must come to a close as I want to write some for Jack on this sheet. Elmira I will say to you that Jack is well and well pleased he is our cook and he said if you make him any shirts to make them striped and not white for we cant wash them here to look like any thing and Jack said you must write to him as soon as you get this and write how you and the children is getting on. Elvira I want you and Susan to pray for us while we are exposed to so many dangers we are looking for a fight here all the time and we may fall. We know not but we know it is with our maker whether we live or not I must come to a close by asking you all to write for I want to hear from you bad so nothing more at this time but remains your affectionate son and brother until death so farewell for this time  
John S. Arnold

Resaca, Ga November 1, 1863  
to Camy Arnold at home

Dear mother it is with pleasure that I seat myself this Sabbath morning to write you a few lines to inform you that I have not forgotton you and that I am in good health and I hope this will soon reach you and find you in the best of health mother I would be very glad to see you if it were so that I could tho there is no chance at the present. Mother Camp life is not very desirable I had rather be at home and be the porest man that is in my knowing than to be Gen Bragg and stay in the camp tho there is a considerable difference in the officers and the privates in the camp that is one thing that makes me hate the camp life so bad to see the difference that is made. Mother I received a letter from Louisa the other day and she wrote to me that she had sent you two loads of corn and she did not write how much she sent you and her must keep an account of the amount and if I can get to go home in

february I will see you and we will fix it you can take the corn as low as corn can be bought in the settlement I told you that when I saw you last mother I care but little for gain at this time so I can get home and can make a living is all that I care for I told Louisa to get the money from Mr Boyd and to pay you the 87 dollars and 30 cts that would be Brother G. W. Arnolds part of the interest and to pay the other to J. E. Bells to be put with the estate and if the corn that you get is more then my part of the interest you can count it on the next year interest you mother you must do the best you can for your self now for it is not so that I can do any thing for you at the present and me so far away from you you must get Sharp and G. W. Smith to tend to your business for you as there is none of the rest at home mother I ask an interest in your prayers that I can hold out faithful and discharge my duty as a faithful soldier of the cross as well as a soldier in defence of my country mother I must close my short and uninteresting letter so fare well for this time I remain your affectionate son John S. Arnold

*excerpt from The Camp Family Bible  
National Bd. of Mgr. of DAR, number 39400*

Just prior to 1717 six young men, Thomas Camp; two younger brothers from England and their cousins, Samuel, Edmond and John DeCobbs from Wales landed at Charleston S.C. and went on foot through the Carolinas into Virginia. Thomas Camp, Edmond and John DeCobbs settled in Halifax and Bedford Counties Virginia, the others going farther north. Thomas Camp the emigrant, born 1691 married a Miss Marshall of Virginia, born February 8, 1717, and had three sons, John and Marshall. The last two were officers of the Revolution in Virginia. Thomas removed to Ireland Ford, Rutherford Co. N.C., soon after the death of his first wife. There he married Margarey Corney, both of them are buried in the burying ground of the ole homestead, which is still owned by the family. Thomas Camp was too old for active military service, but for the aid he gave the colonies, his home was pillaged by the British. He had five sons in the battle of King's Mountain. According to family tradition, Nathniel with several relative and friends, was walking over the battlefield and found a silver mounted conch shell. All the men tried to blow it with indifferent success. Because Hosea, the little son of Nathaniel succeeded, it was given to him and is still in possession of his decendents. This conch shell was the property of Col.

Ferguson, the British commander and was used by him for signal work with his troops.

*excerpt from a letter provided by W. L. Williamson Jr. to the editor of the Atlanta Constitution, date not recorded*

After the cessation of hostilities, the conch shell was used by the elder Camp as a dinner horn, until young Hosea began housekeeping for himself, when he took charge of it, using it to call the field hands from labor to refreshment until his death in 1856. The conch was bequested to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Dr. S. A. Borders, who retained it until her death, in 1892, having bequested the relic to her daughter, Mrs. R. W. Evertt, at whose home she had been affectionately cared for during the last 15 years of her life. Mrs. Everett is now rapidly approaching three score and ten the Revolutionary relic no longer needed as a dinner horn occupies the post of honor on her parlor mantle. R. W. Evertt, Rockmont, GA

### **Camp /Arnold geneology**

Nathaniel Camp, born 1745 married Nancy Tarpley  
Their daughter Cammie Camp, born 1796 – died 1873, married Stephen Arnold from Wilkes Co., GA, born 1796 – died 1844.

children of Cammie and Stephen Arnold:

Winifred Arnold married Wm. Lay and Simion Martin  
Mary Ann Arnold married Green Wagner Smith  
Thomas Harper Arnold married Sarah Chandler  
Elizabeth Arnold married Ira Betts  
Virginia Arnold married Edward Griffith  
John Arnold married Louisa King  
Eliza Adeline Arnold married George Kinney  
Elvira Arnold married Jack McElhannon  
Susan Arnold married Wm. Segars  
Jesse Arnold never married  
George Washington Arnold never married  
Andrew Jackson Arnold married Susan Lyle  
Stephen Green Arnold married Sarah Kinney and  
Emaline Bolton  
Drucilla Arnold never married died 1852

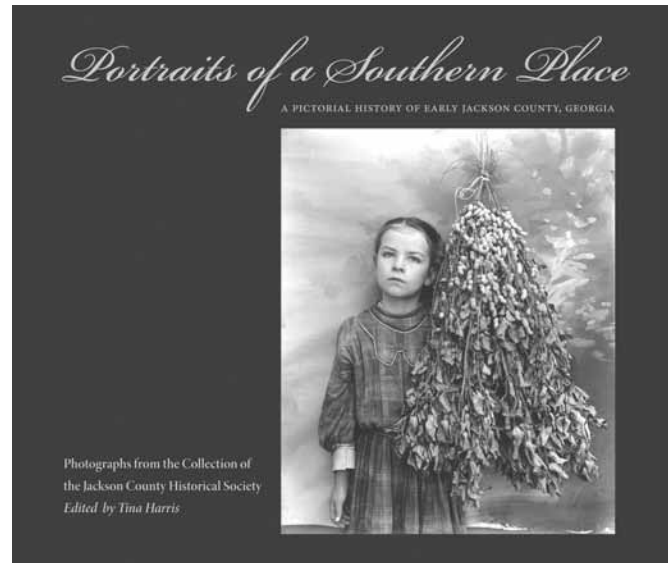
William Lay was the administrator of the estate of Stephen Arnold. Willliam died in 1846 and Green W. Smith became the administrator of Stephen Arnold's estate. S. G. Arnold was the administrator for the estate of Cammy Arnold in 1875.

## Update on the restoration of the Historic Jackson County Courthouse:

During the past year, the restoration committee has been meeting with various professionals, researching the history of, and discussing how best to go about the restoration of Jackson County's most historic and grand structure. The major accomplishments in 2008 were: the completion of an environmental assessment and the hiring of an architect, Mr. Gene Barrington and his firm, to define and design the specifics of the construction details for the work on the exterior elements of the courthouse. The committee is hoping the abatement of hazardous materials can be done early in 2009 and work on the exterior can begin. They are also still seeking old photographs, articles, or artifacts about the Courthouse. Call Charlotte Mealor: 706-757-2471.



The Jackson County Historical Society is selling an architectural replica of the Jackson County Historic Courthouse with proceeds going to the restoration project. For more information call Charlotte Mealor at 706-757-2471 or [cmealor@uga.edu](mailto:cmealor@uga.edu).



"Portraits of a Southern Place" has been reprinted in paperback by the Jackson County Historical Society.

This is a collector's item for anyone interested in Jackson County history and early photography. Includes an index, organized by surnames, to benefit genealogy researchers. Individually shrink wrapped. This is a reprint in paperback of our 2007 hardback publication. The price of \$25.00 includes tax. Quantity discounts of 5 books or more for \$20.00 each (5 for \$100.) Checks and money orders can be made to The Jackson County Historical Society.

The books will be available in Jackson County at the Commerce, Jefferson, Talmo, Braselton Public Libraries and and at Genuine Jefferson on Washington Street, Jefferson.

Checks can be mailed to JCHS, P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529, Shipping cost is \$3.00 per book.

Call Tina for special deliveries (706)207-6889

## Heritage Room

The Historical Society collection of books and family files are located in the Heritage Room at the Commerce Public Library. One or more volunteers are needed to assist researchers. Please contact Susan Harper at the Library for information.

# Happy New Year 2009

Jackson County Historical Society

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P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529