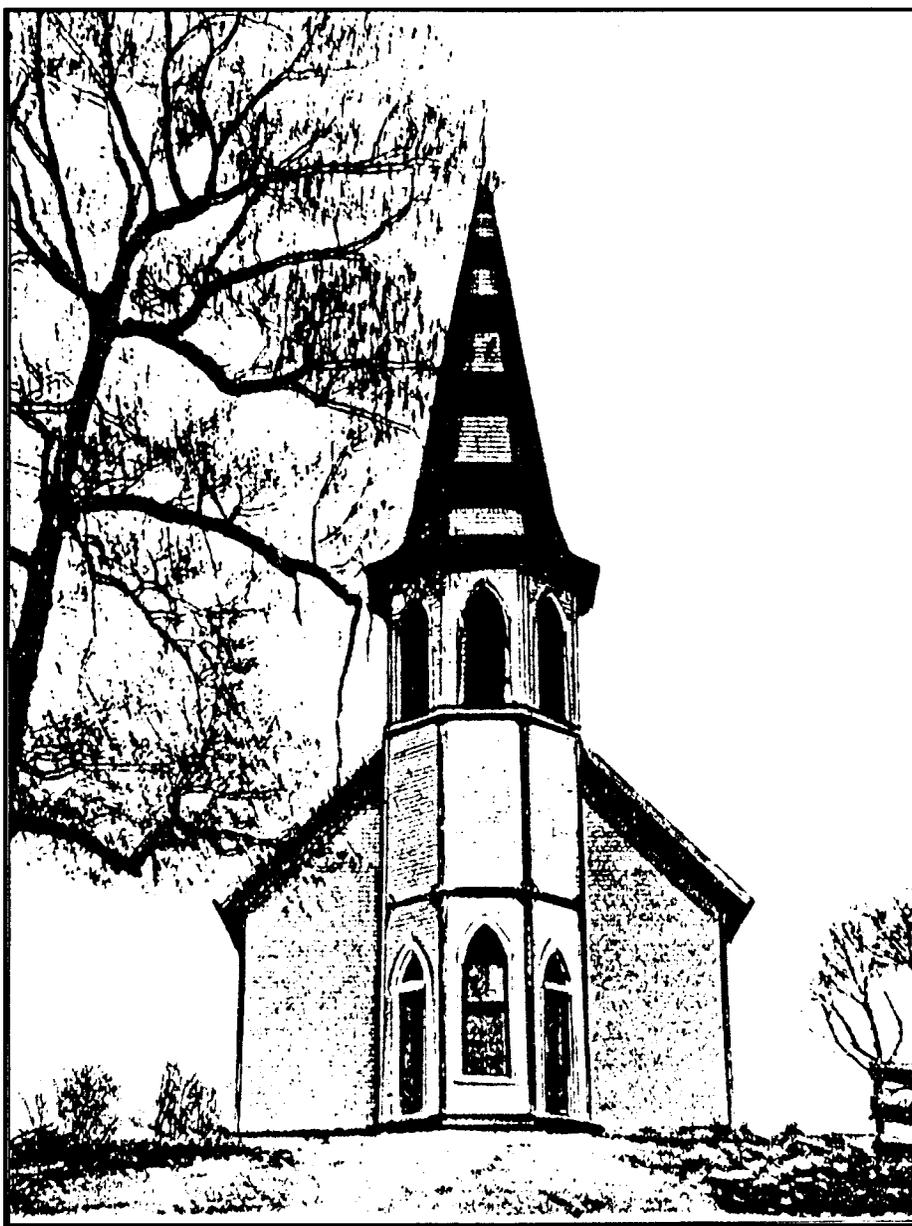


Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME 9, NUMBER THREE

APRIL 2002



Drawing from the Martin Institute Catalogue 1894-95 – The Baptist Church in Jefferson

The Jackson County Historical Society meeting will be held at the Jefferson First Baptist Church, 2063 Highway 129 N, Jefferson, GA, April 21 at 2:30 p.m. Joyce Ethridge will present a program on the History of the Church.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1234, COMMERCE, GEORGIA 30529

NEWSLETTER

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly. Back issues can be obtained for \$2.50 each plus postage. Send your Jackson County family connections with your dues and they will be published in the next newsletter. Queries due – June 15, 2002.

DUES - NEW MAILING ADDRESS

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

NEXT MEETING DATES

Executive Board meeting - June 12, 2002, 2:00 - at the Jerry and Charlotte Mealor home

Membership meeting - July 21, 2002, 2:30 - at the Commerce Library - new release -Jackson County Cemeteries CD Rom presentation by Don Sailors

October 6, 2002, 2:30, Ebenezer Methodist Church

JCHS OFFICERS 2001-2002

PRESIDENT:	Marie Parks
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OBITUARIES

excerpt from the Forest News, July 10, 1875

It becomes our sad duty to chronicle a most deplorable and fatal accident that occurred at the Tannery of the Messrs. Randolph, of this place on Thursday afternoon last, and by which one of the old and highly respected citizens of Jackson, Mr. Thos. J. Morrison, lost his life.

Not being familiar with the premises, we may not be able to give the particulars with that accuracy desired. Mr. Morrison was a tanner, and was employed at his trade at the above named place. Some portion of the machinery in the tannery is propelled by a large overshot wheel—probably a 24 foot wheel. Around the rim of this wheel is a sort of boxing about eighteen inches wide—and to be cleaned and rinsed, hides are frequently thrown into the wheel, the water turned on, and thus, as it revolves, the desired end is gained. It would appear from all the circumstances—no one being close by at the time—that Mr. Morrison had gone into the wheel, (it being stationary,) to take out hides previously placed there for the purpose above mentioned, and that while in this position, the waste water that is constantly running over the wheel, filled the buckets and thus caused it to turn in the usual way. At this point, it is supposed that Mr. Morrison made an attempt to escape from the now revolving wheel, by jumping, and the timbers being wet and slippery, it is presumed he fell between the wheel and the works surrounding it; at any event, from the condition in which he was found by a gentleman working in another department, the only person on the premise—and who was attracted by the cries of the unfortunate man—it was evident his whole body had been forced through a space, between a large post and the wheel, not exceeding four and a half or five inches! and so tightly was his body wedged in against a heavy rock wall that the wheel had ceased to move, and it was with the greatest difficulty he was extricated. After hard work, however, this was accomplished and he was placed on a wheelbarrow and rolled into a house near at hand. Medical aid was summoned at once, and everything done that could be, for his relief. Several ribs on each side were broken, and so severe were the internal injuries otherwise, that the attending physician, Dr. H. J. Long, expressed his belief that it was

impossible for the unfortunate man to survive them.

The accident occurred about 3:30, and as he could not be moved otherwise, a litter was constructed and on this Mr. Morrison was brought over in town, about dusk, to the residence of his son-in-law Mr. F. M. Bailey, where, after a night of intense suffering, he breathed his last at daylight yesterday (Friday) morning.

Mr. Morrison was an old citizen of Jackson—born in the county—and was, at the time of his death, in his 72nd year. He had long been a most exemplary member of the Baptist Church; was a hard-working man, and was highly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. A proper tribute to his memory will no doubt, be given by some one more capable and better acquainted with his life than the writer of these lines.

excerpt from the Forest News, July 17, 1875

The burial of Mr. Morrison, who met with such an untimely end last week, took place on last Saturday, from the residence of Mr. F. M. Bailey, of this town. His remains were attended to their last resting place in the “family burying ground” near “McLester’s factory,” some 2 1/2 miles from Jefferson, by a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends. There was no regular funeral service on the occasion at the residence of Mr. Bailey . . .

We learn that the funeral of the deceased will be preached at Oconee Church, on the first Sunday in August, by Rev. A. J. Kelley.

excerpt from the Forest News, October 30, 1875

It is our painful duty to record the demise of John David Long, M. D., the President of the Jackson County Publishing Company. Dr. Long peacefully departed this mortal life at his residence in this town, on Thursday 28th instance, October 1875 at 10:30 A. M. After a severe illness of eight weeks duration. Dr. Long was born in Madison County, Ga., March 19th 1824, and consequently was just fifty-one years, seven months and nine days old at the time of his death. He was the third son and seventh child of Thomas Long, Esq., and his wife Isabella. In the years 1845 and 1846 he pursued the study of medicine in this town, under

the tuition of his cousin, Dr. Crawford W. Long, and was graduated in March, 1847, from the Medical College of Georgia, in the city of Augusta. After a short course of practice in his native county, he removed to this place, and entered into a partnership with his preceptor; and about the close of the year 1849, bought out Dr. C. W. Long, who removed to the city of Athens.

February 3, 1850, Dr. J. D. Long was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Watson, of this town. They were not blessed with offspring, and she is now left a childless widow to mourn her sad bereavement. We are sure that she has the deepest and warmest sympathies of our entire community; and we pray that the merciful God of the fatherless and the widow may fill her sorrowing heart with His Divine consolations. . . .

Dr. Long will be sadly missed in this community, in which he has resided so long, and in which he has done so much good. For more than a quarter of a century he has done a large practice in his useful profession and perhaps no man of his age has done much more than he has to relieve the suffering of humanity and “to cure the ills which flesh is heir to.”

Death of R. J. Hancock

excerpt from the Forest News, July 14, 1877

This most estimable citizen of our town died at his home, here, on Friday afternoon, July 6th, 1877, about four o'clock...on the morning of the day he died, he began to complain of pain in the head, and in a short while was suffering intensely and rapidly grew worse, in spite of all the efforts of his physician, Dr. J. B. Pendergrass, assisted by Drs. W. A. Watson and C. R. Giles, and near eight o'clock he became totally unconscious, in which state he remained till he died. The physicians say his disease was congestion of the brain.

He is buried in the new Cemetery, on Saturday last, by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was an honored and useful member.

The deceased was the eldest son of Hon. J. R. Hancock, of this county and was indeed, a worthy son of a noble sire. He was thirty-eight years old; was born and reared in Jackson county, where he has numerous relatives, many friends, and but few, if any, enemies. He received a commonschool English education in the

country, and was just previous to the late war, clerking for Mr. R. H. Goodman, at that time merchandizing in Athens, where young Mr. Hancock made a large circle of friends, and performed acceptable service for his employer. He volunteered in the "Georgia Troopers" and went into service under the gallant Delony, in July 1861. This company was a part of the famous "Cobb Legion Cavalry," and among all that band of tried, true and noble heroes, there was no braver soldier than R. J. Hancock.

He married Miss Sallie Pendergrass, a most amiable lady, and youngest daughter of Esq. N. H. Pendergrass, of this county, and engaged in merchandizing in Jefferson. Beginning on a very limited capital, in 1868, by his indomitable energy, courtesy and fine business management, he rapidly accumulated capital; made customers and friends, until now we see the well established house of Pendergrass & Hancock, with its enviable business, as the result mainly, of his efforts.

Mr. Hancock was one of the most upright, thoroughgoing public spirited citizens of the county of Jackson, and one whose judgment and counsel was sought after by his fellow-citizens often, in regard to public matters...

excerpt from the Forest News, June 13, 1884

Doctor Sherwood McCarty, who had resided in Jefferson since 1867, and who is so well and favorably known by many of our readers, died at the residence of his son, Dr. J. H. McCarty, in Birmingham, Ala., on last Sunday. His remains were brought here by his son and buried in the cemetery beside those of his wife, who preceded him to the grave some four or five years ago.

Rev. Mr. Kelly read appropriate Scriptures and offered prayer at the grave, after which the body was interred with Masonic honors by that craft, witnessed by a large assembly of the friends and acquaintances of the deceased. He died of rheumatism, from which he has been for many years confined and which caused him to suffer long and excruciatingly.

Dr. McCarty was also a skilled physician of experience, and did much while in life to alleviate the sufferings of humanity in the practice of his profession. He was a native of Oglethorpe county, and was more than

seventy-two years old. He was for many years an orderly member and deacon of the Baptist church, and had discharged many important trusts as a man and citizen; was, in early life, the trusted friend and private Secretary of Gov. G. R. Gilmer, and had for a number of years been a trustee of Martin Institute, over which at this time his son, W. S. McCarty, presides as Principal. His labors and sufferings are ended. Rest in peace.

Jefferson First Baptist Church

excerpt from "The History of the Sarepta, Baptist Association of Georgia", 1943, Rev. T. C. Hardman

On June 29, 1866, a portion of the Baptists of Jefferson and vicinity met together at the Methodist Church for the purpose of organizing themselves into a Baptist church. After an impressive sermon by Rev. H. J. Goss, a motion was made by Rev. A. J. Kelly in constituting the church, Col. W. C. Howard acting as secretary, which place he filled for twenty-five years. Charter members, 19.

The Methodists kindly offered their church to the Baptists until 1869, when they bought half interest in the Presbyterian church. Afterwards, the old Martin Institute lot was purchased and a Baptist church erected. The dedication service was conducted by Dr. F. C. McConnell on May 19th, 1894. This building was used for twenty-seven years, the congregation and membership increasing all the time.

Then the church had a vision that they were in need of a more commodious building, in which to carry on the Lord's work. That vision became a fact, and the dedication sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. Milo H. Massey, on the third Sunday in August, 1921. the number of members on roll, 317. Church property, total value, \$66,500.

On August 16, 1942, was the anniversary of twenty-one years in the present building. The church celebrated with a birthday cake, holding twenty-one candles and giving a complimentary donation for the church. Anniversary offering, \$570.80. The present membership is 315. We felt that a sense of obligation is increasing and with it a desire for a better work is growing stronger in the hearts of our people.

JEFFERSON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS*excerpt from the Forest News, December 11, 1875*

. . . the committee appointed to confer with Mrs. Worsham in reference to the leasing of a public lot, reported favorable; which was accepted, and ordered, that the Clerk reduce the contract to writing by the next meeting of their Council; and that the Committee on Public Works proceed to improve said lot according to directions heretofore given. Ordered that the Marshall proceed at once to remove the horse-rack near the Court House and the one near Stanley & Pinson's store, and that he put up two Hitching Posts near Pendergrass and Hancock's store, and two in front of Dr. Carither's shop, and one near Bailey's Store. Ordered that the Marshal make a rock walk from the Court House to Mrs. Worsham's house. Ordered, that the Committee on Public Works erect the lamp posts at once . . .

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS*excerpt from the Forest News, May 6, 1876*

Ordered, That the Committee on Public Works procure a Pump at once for the new well on the Public Square . . .

Ordered, That the Clerk issue order to the adjoining landowners, J. J. Doster and S. P. Carithers, to have their fence and other obstructions removed from the street leading from Washington Street to Hill Street.

Editorial Visit to Jackson County*excerpt from the Forest News, February 17, 1877*

. . . There are two good hotels, well kept by Messrs. John Simpkins and J. E. Randolph. There are three first class stores, kept by Messrs. Pendergrass & Pinson, all clever, genial gentlemen, and doing a fine trade.

excerpt from the Forest News, November 19, 1880

The Venable corner is a perfect beehive. The upper story is occupied as a dwellings and there is a doctor shop, shoe shop, barber shop, barroom and restaurant in the balance of it. It is all occupied, except un-

derneath the steps on the front side, and we understand two or three embryo merchants are talking about renting it for a goober shop . . .

excerpt from the Forest News, July 31, 1891

Mr. J. E. Randolph is working on the new brick hotel above the stores of F. M. Bailey, Smith & Boggs, and F. L. Pendergrass. There will be 20 nice rooms when completed, and a veranda and stairway in front, and a veranda in the rear, with stairway. When finished it will be a delightful place for transients and boarders.

excerpt from the Jackson Herald, April 1, 1909

Some very much needed and permanent improvements will be made on Jefferson's side walks.

Council has closed a contract with Mr. E. S. Ethridge to do the work.

The side walk in front of the brick stores on the northeast side of the public square, and the side walk from the hotel to the courthouse yard will be paved with tile blocks. The side walk from the Randolph brick building to Mr. Jack Bennett's residence on the northeast side of Washington Street will be graded, after which it will be paved also. No side walks in town are more traveled than these and than in rainy weather none are more muddy. The side walk on Washington Street is traveled by most of the school children and then in the winter season it becomes almost impassable.

Reminiscence of T. W. Jarrett as Jefferson was in the early sixties of the 19th Century*excerpt from the Jackson Herald, February 24, 1938*

In the public square stood the court house, a two-story brick building. The lower floor was used as a court room, and above were offices and jury rooms.

On right hand side of road leading to Gainesville stood what was then known as the Dr. Venable corner, a frame building, with large stone steps leading up on the porch from the public square.

Next on same side of road was a blacksmith shop. Further on, an alley crossed the street or road leading toward Martin Institute.

On left side of street near where courthouse now

stands, was another blacksmith shop. On same side; next was the Callahan and Winburn wagon shop.

Just back of shop was Mr. John Callahan's residence, with large apple trees in the back ground. An avenue to the right led up to the Methodist church. Near the avenue on left side of road, stood Dr. J. J. Doctor's shop. On his professional shingle over the office door, was printed this unusual inscription "Dr. J. J. Doster—No Implements of Death Here."

The next place on left, as I remember was the Bob Mulligan home, a large frame structure, later known as the Carithers place, and in the 90's the Twitty home, now the home of Mr. C. E. Hardy. On same side where road forked, on leading to Gainesville, the other to Lawrenceville, stood the home of William Winburn, facing Martin Institute, as it is today.

Just out of town on Gainesville road was the Tom Morrison tan yard, near the home of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Dickson, mother of Judge W. W. Dickson.

On the right side of the Lawrenceville road, near where the H. I. Mobley home now stands, were two small frame houses. Next on same side, was the Giles Mitchell home, with land extending to the South Oconee river, three miles distant, same now being the property of Col. J. C. Turner.

Out from public square toward Athens, on the right hand corner, was the Josh Randolph Hotel, now the Harrison House.

Next was the late John J. McCulloch home.

On left hand corner of public square, was the late William S. Thompson store, a frame building, in which was the postoffice, and jewelry shop owned by Thompson and Bill Ross. The postmaster at that time was Ciscero Thompson.

Down the branch from the Athens road, was Billy and LaFayette Gilleland buggy and carriage shop.

On east side of square, was the McLester Bros. store, and the James G. McLester residence, about where the postoffice is now located.

Next was the John Worsham home.

From public square toward Curry's creek, on right hand corner, was the Jack Bell store and hotel. Next to the Bell lot, stood the jail house, a large log building.

Further on the same side was the Sam Watson home. Next place was the Michael home, early home of the

Michael brothers of Athens; later the McCarty home, whose daughter, Miss Myrtie McCarty, was considered on of the most beautiful young ladies in Jefferson.

Then came the Chatham home. Next the James Lindsey blacksmith shop, where road forked, fording the creek toward Danielsville.

From public square on left, stood the Pendergrass and Hancock store, and as yet the Pendergrass property.

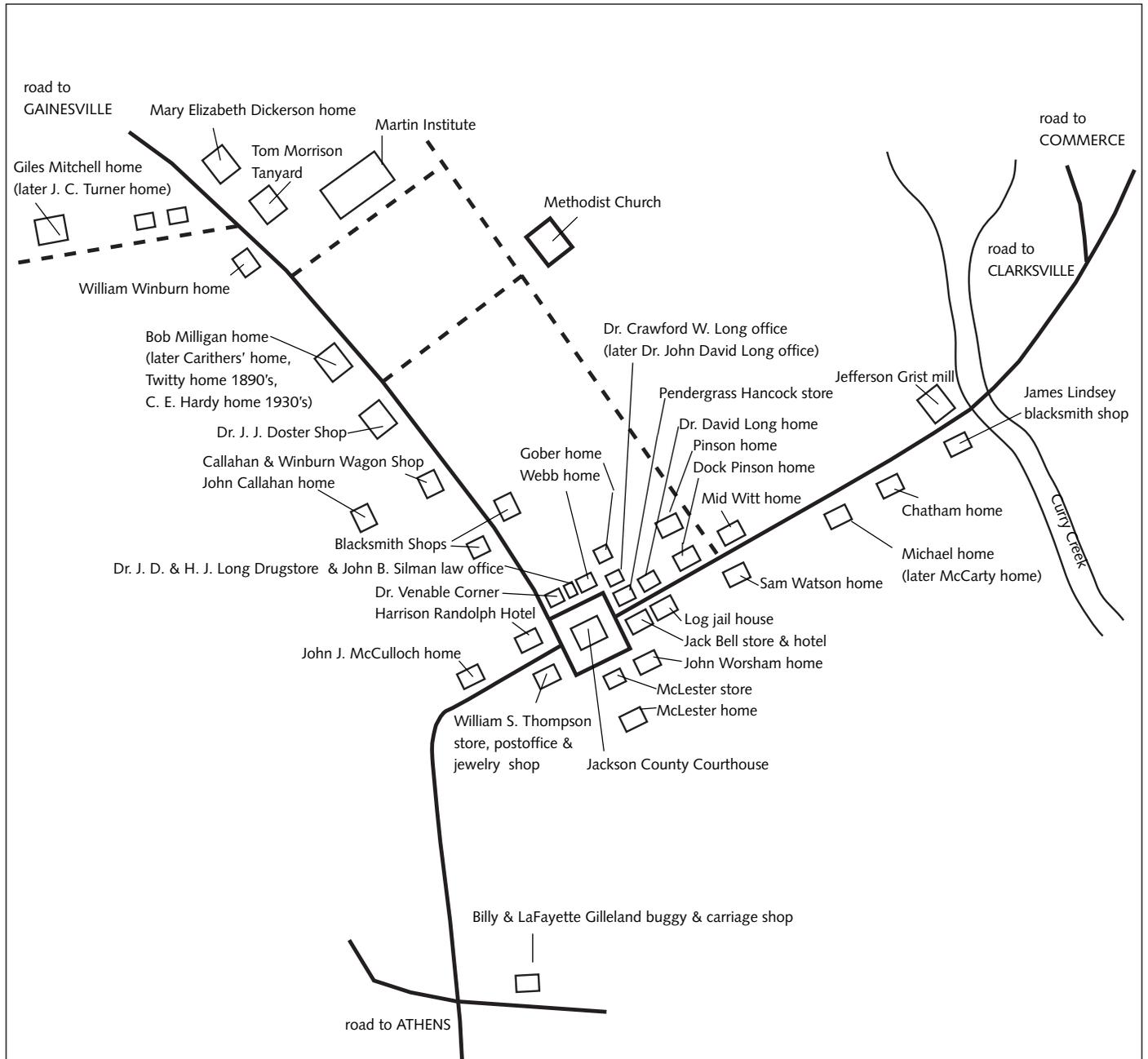
Next on left side toward creek, was the Dr. David Long residence. Next, Dock Pinson grocery store; back of the store was the Pinson home, which had iron railings around the porch. Across the alley leading to Martin Institute was the Mid Witt home; later was the property of Drs. J. D. and H. J. Long, which extended to the creek, including the well known Jefferson grist mills.

Between the mill and ford of creek leading toward Harmony Grove (now Commerce), was a gin, and an old-time wooden screw—must have been fifty or sixty feet high—with huge levers reaching out like granddaddy legs extending nearly to the ground; when pressing a bale of cotton, the roof revolved with the action of the levers.

Across the creek leading to Harmony Grove, the road forked beside the mill pond, the left leading to Clarkesville, with sign board reading, forty miles to Clarkesville; the right hand to Carnesville, via Harmony Grove.

On the public square, was the famous Dr. Crawford W. Long doctor shop, where anaesthesia was discovered and first used by the same Dr. C.W. Long. The public well was near the shop door.

The Gober residence was next. A large frame building, known as the Webb house, stood on the other side of the well. Between the Webb place and Dr. Venable corner, was Dr. J. D. and H. J. Long's drug store, over which was law office of John B. Silman.



Jefferson in 1860's from the Reminiscences of T. W. Jarrett (drawn by the editor)

North Side Public Square,
Jefferson, Ga.



JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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