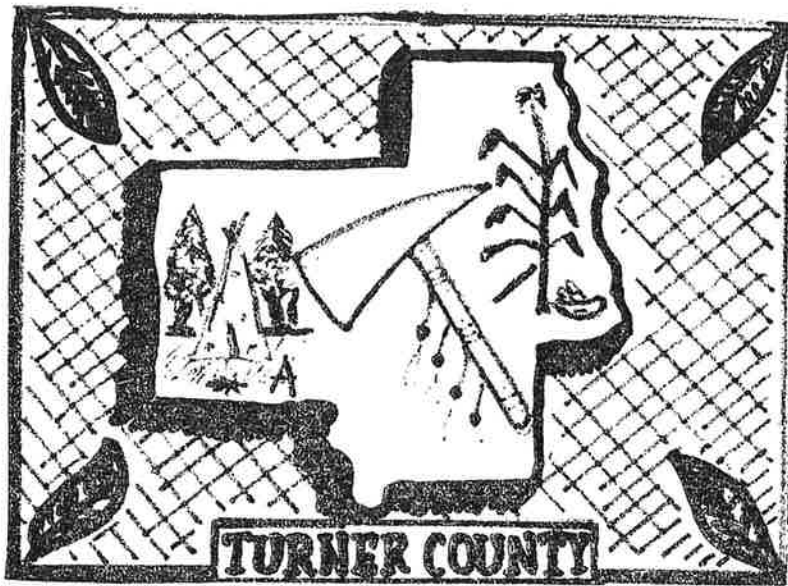




TURNER COUNTY

This County, created by Act of the Legislature August 18, 1905, is named for Capt. Henry Gray Turner who was captured by Union troops at Gettysburg. A resident of Nashville and later of Quitman, he served in the legislature, and in Congress from 1881 to 1897. About 1855 the Battle of Sandy Sink was fought two miles east of Cool Springs with the Indians under Billy Bow Legs. Among the first County Officers were: Sheriff John B. Cason, Ordinary W. A. Greer, Clerk of Superior Court C. L. Royal, Tax Receiver V. A. Freeman, Tax Collector T. B. Brown and Treasurer J. H. Gorday.

TURNER COUNTY DIAMOND JUBILEE
TURNER COUNTY, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 3-11, 1980



In The Beginning

When our Creator was in the process of completing the earth by separating the vapors from the sky above and the oceans below, and the land from the sea, the area that was to become Turner County was for a time, totally under water. So was the rest of Georgia that is located below the fall line.

At some time, unknown to man, the first bit of land in our area, permanently emerged from the sea. Most probably the first point visible above the water was located several miles Northwest of Ashburn, just North of the Warwick Road on land lot 297. This, the highest point in Turner County, is now 473 feet above sea level.

As the waters receded another twenty feet, Pine Hill, in North Ashburn became visible above the sea. By the time the water had gone down another fifty feet, almost all the land that Ashburn, Sycamore, Rebecca and the other communities would be built on had emerged.

By the time the ocean had receded some fifty feet more, the topography of Turner County was pretty well set. The lowest land levels, other than those most always under water, are scattered throughout the southern part of the county and are in the neighborhood of 300 feet above sea level.

Sponsored By:
REBECCA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Turner County Diamond Jubilee, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 1905

ASHBURN, GEORGIA 31714

July 28, 1980

Dear Turner Countians:

When the Georgia Legislature amended the Constitution of Georgia so new counties could be created, Turner County, was the first county created under the new law.



Turner County, Georgia was created by legislative action on August 18, 1905 from parts of Irwin, Dooly, Wilcox, and Worth Counties, and named for Henry G. Turner. Although born on August 18, 1905, Turner County began to function as a separate county in 1906.

The general character of the countryside at that time was one of wiregrass, pines, fertile farms, small towns, and scrub oaks. Seventy five years later, although we have improved our quality of life in Turner County, we are fortunate to still have those fertile farms, pines, wiregrass and small, but progressive communities.

In the year 1980, we, the present residents of Turner County, mindful of the tremendous obligation owed our predecessors, have set aside the days of October 3rd. thru 11th to pay proper tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of the past and present generations.

Our 75th Birthday - - - our Diamond Jubilee - - - will be a happy and joyous time. There is, however, a serious and sober aspect to the Diamond Jubilee. This is because Turner County's citizens have been given a rich heritage of Americanism and with it the responsibility to guard, cherish and increase it in behalf of our children and their descendents. Therefore let us during this Diamond Jubilee rededicate ourselves to those same principles of individual initiative, civic devotion and plain hard work that motivated the Turner County pioneers 75 years ago.

During the last several months, there have been literally dozens and dozens of people working to make this Diamond Jubilee a memorable event for all Turner Countians. On behalf of all the Citizens of Turner County, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those who are involved in this Diamond Jubilee. I know all the workers hope in some small way their contribution will be remembered in years to come.

'For God has sprinkled a bit of heaven
Upon our homes in Turner County
and He has sent his love a flowing
Thru these seventy five years of bounty!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TURNER COUNTY!

Charles H. Perry
Charles H. Perry
General Chairman

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

A.J. COLEY

VICE PRESIDENT

J.I. YOUNGBLOOD

SECRETARY-TREASURER

DAN RAINES

GENERAL CHAIRMAN

CHARLES PERRY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LESTER ADKISON

A.J. COLEY

RACHEL FLAKE

THOM KOLESA

RAY MERCER

CHARLES PERRY

JOHN PURSWELL

DAN RAINES

AUSTIN SAXON

W.O. SWEARINGEN

FLOYD WARDLOW

J.I. YOUNGBLOOD

GENERAL COMMITTEE

DECORATIONS

RACHEL FLAKE

HEADQUARTERS

KEN CROMER

INSURANCE

JOE McNAIR

OPERATING CAPITAL

BEVERLY NORTH

PARTICIPATION-MEN

GARY WAYNE LANNEAU

PARTICIPATION-WOMEN

SUE LANNEAU

PUBLICITY

THOM KOLESA

REVENUE

DUANNE CAMPBELL

SECRETARY

PAUL PERRY

SHOW DIVISION

GLORIA PYLANT

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHERYLE BRYAN

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

JOHN DYE

TICKET DIVISION

JULIAN ELLIOTT

TREASURER

BUDDY McLEOD

Happy Hunting Ground

When Turner County Belonged To The Red Man

By Thom. Kolesa

Illustration by Terry Bates

According to some historians and geologists the inhabitants we came to call Indians moved into South Georgia some 10,000 years ago. Our area offered them wooded bottom lands, lakes, streams, swamps and forests. Resources in wiregrass Georgia were varied and plentiful. Vegetation and game abounded.

This was the Paleo-Indian period, the age of the wandering Georgia hunter that preyed on the last of the Pleistocene animals. This is evidenced by analyzing spear points found lodged in the skeleton of prehistoric animals. The occupants of the land probably supplemented their diet of game with seeds and roots. Small bands of people gathered together forming communities toward the end of this period.

The Archaic period began approximately 5000 B.C. Small groups began settling along streams where shell fish could easily be found. Pottery was being used and shelters were in existence. Various types of hand spears were used as weapons and for hunting. They hunted deer and turkey, fished the streams and lakes and gathered the land's abundant wild plants, berries, nuts and roots.

It was about 1000 B.C. before the Indians accepted the fact that some plants flourished only at certain times of the year and in particular places. It was then that farming had its start in South Georgia. Gardening, rather than farming in its broadest sense, was beginning to be practiced. Squash, gourds, corn and beans were planted. Smoking of tobacco by the men was wide spread. Houses came into use. The hand spear was still the major weapon. There was a development of ceremonial activity and burial mounds were being used. Ceramics had reached a high state of the art in Georgia during this period.

Beginning about 700 A.D. and ending in the early 1500's, geologists outline the predominately agricultural period, the Mississippian. Dwellings were rectangular in shape and people began to gather in rather large communities. Corn agriculture reached a high state of development. The bow and arrow had been developed and was used in Georgia along with the hand thrown spear. Painting of pottery was started. Arts and crafts were highly specialized and religion became more important in their way of life.

These first inhabitants of South Georgia moved freely up and down rivers and streams and across fields throughout our area, hunting and fishing and gathering fruits and berries and growing crops for survival. Remains of the many different civilizations that were part of Georgia from about 8000 B.C. to the early 1700's exist only in burial sites, ceremonial mounds and museums. Some, of course, still remain undiscovered and hold secrets to their life style that may never become known.

Turner County was always a rural area. There were only a few very small villages in the vicinity. The larger groupings existed along the major rivers, the Ocmulgee and the Flint, with wiregrass country being used as a hunting ground and camp ground serving the larger communities.

In the 1400's all of what is now Turner County and South Georgia, together with much of the territory westward toward the 'Mississippi' was within the domain of the Creek Indians.

During the early 1700's, Georgia was populated by both

Iroquoian and Muskogean speaking Indians. The Cherokee speaking Iroquoian, lived in North Georgia. South of them lived the nation of Muskogean speaking Indians which was divided into four distinct tribes. These were the Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole tribes, the Creeks living in our area.

It has been suggested that the name 'Creek' was given to these Indians by the English because they were most frequently encountered in villages set up in fertile creek bottoms. Others believe the name was derived from an Indian tribal name.

The Creeks were a heterogeneous tribe, placing themselves in many sub groupings. Four important sub-tribes were the Hitchiti, Chehaw, Owichiee and the Apalachee. Their hunting grounds extended from Eastern Georgia to what is now Alabama. Creeks living East of the Chattahoochee, which included Turner County, were known as Lower Creeks and those of the Alabama region were known as Upper Creeks.

A number of major Indian trails crossed our county. One, an East-West trail connected the Ocmulgee River with the Flint River area. Its path generally followed a line from the future site of Bowen's mill on the Ocmulgee, crossing the Alapaha River about three miles South of where Rebecca is now and Deep Creek about two miles south of Amboy. It passed several miles North of the present site of Ashburn and continued on to Pindertown and the Flint River area.

A second major trail that passed through our area was another East-West route, linking the East Coast with Columbus. It passed through Turner County only a few miles North of the Flint-Ocmulgee trail, passing near Rebecca, Amboy and Dakota.

The Cherokee nation located in Northwest Georgia and the Seminole nation to the South were connected by another major trail, a well used North-South route. An unknown number of Cherokees, Seminoles and other Indians used this trail that followed the water divide ridge, passing through the future sites of Cordele, Ashburn and Tifton on their way through Turner County.

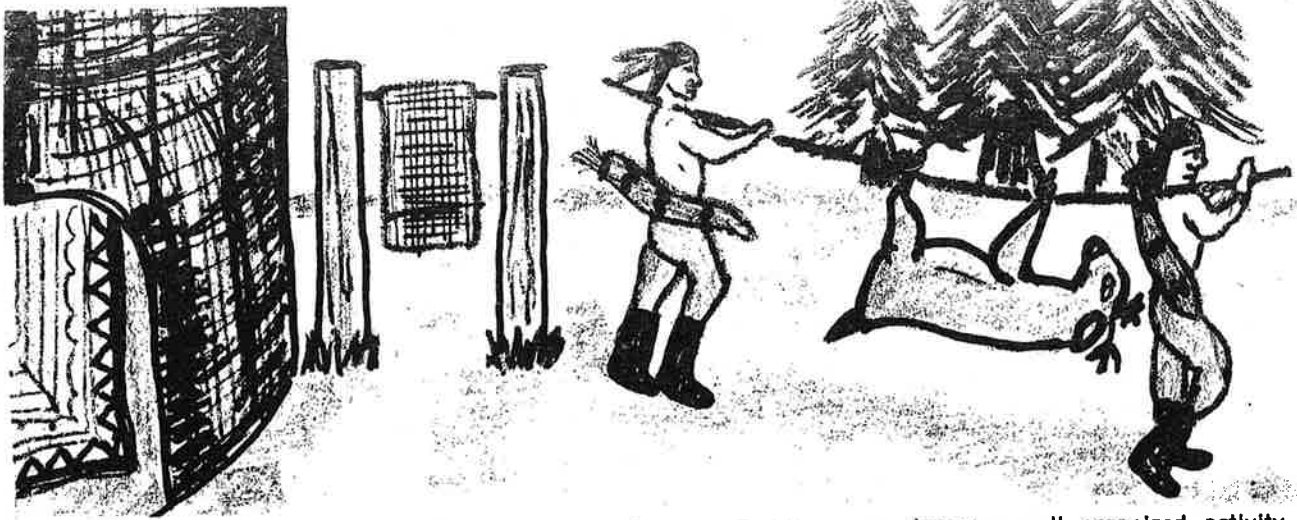
Still another major trail connected Central Georgia with the Okefenoke Swamp. It entered Turner County between Double Run and Amboy, passing by Ross Lake as it headed Southeast.

Indications of several other minor, connecting and hunting trails have also been reported throughout much of Turner County. The Creeks established many hunting trails off of the main routes. These were in varying shapes, ranging from circular or square to free form. These hunting trails encircled an area that usually contained ample small game and could be walked around and hunted in a day's time.

As wild animals selected their trails to move from one grazing or hunting ground to another, they were careful to select high ground, avoiding areas that may become impassable during periods of flooding. As a result, these trails usually flowed a ridge line. The Indians did the same, selecting routes that remained passable most all of the time.

There is a good possibility that the area outlined by the major trails that crossed Turner County enclosed a much used campground. A popular site within this area was

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located just off the Flint-Ocmulgee trail where it crossed Deep Creek. Various indications of considerable activity, relics and broken pottery have been discovered in this area as well as nearby. A few permanent residents may have lived at the site as findings indicate that some crops were raised on islands in Deep Creek and in adjacent fields.

As did the white man and the black man, the Lower Creek red man had their superstitions. It has been reported that they believed that the Georgia rattlesnake would bring good luck if it entered a camp during games. Pointing a finger at the rainbow would make the finger crooked. Blindness and falling teeth were the penalty for not spitting after seeing a falling star. Pups, if given wasps four mornings in a row would develop into ferocious watch dogs.

The most popular game of the early Georgia Indian was called 'Chunkey'. Two players, each equipped with a long spear, stood at one end of the game field. One of the players rolled a disc shaped stone on the ground. Both players ran after it and on command threw their spears at the point they thought the stone would stop. The player having the closest spear was the winner.

The full moon was the time for feasts and ceremonies. The sun was considered a visible representative of the Great Spirit. Connected with the Creek's religion was an annual festival called by many names, the most popular of which was the 'Green Corn Dance'. This festival was celebrated in the summer during June or July, lasting from several days to more than a week. It was a happy festival during which time a person could be rededicated. One could absolve one's self from all earthly problems and sins. It was a time when one could restore their relationships with their nation, with their family and with their own selves. One could start over, beginning a new life.

The Creeks living in our area were generally very scantily clad. Only the adults wore clothing in the summer. In the winter, skins were used for protection from the cold. They wore some jewelry and used a little paint on themselves. However, most painting was done for decorative purposes and was not associated with warfare. Most of their houses were of pine poles interlaced with smaller branches and covered with leaves, bark, cane, pine, or skins. When there was need for more permanent housing they built log cabins of the type we associate with those of the early settlers, some even having two pens. They made mats of straw and grass. Hunting and fishing provided their meat supply and their agricultural crops included corn, pumpkins, squash and beans. These were supplemented with berries, fruits and roots.

Fighting was always a well organized activity. Considerable emphasis was placed on the fact that never more than half of a tribe ever went to war at the same time.

Skilled in crafting pottery, tools and weapons they were able to cope with the environment as it existed and they enjoyed a rather pleasant life in the Turner County area until the 1800's when settlers began to arrive.

Many treaties were negotiated between the Indians and the white settlers in the 1700's, beginning with the several by Oglethorpe in 1733. Other major treaties followed in 1763, 1773, 1783 and 1790. None of these early treaties with the Indians concerned themselves with the territory in or near Turner County.

It was about 1810 that Osceola, the son of a Creek Indian Chief's daughter and an English trader became a prominent Indian Leader. He married Morning Dew, the daughter of an octoroon slave. One of his favorite camping areas was near Lake Ocilla.

The earliest indication of a conflict with the Indians near Turner County comes from a recorded incident that happened on March 10, 1810. This major confrontation between a number of Indians and thirty-five settlers occurred some thirty miles Northeast of the present site of Ashburn.

Because of this incident and others that became more and more frequent, General Blackshear, along with General Gaines and General Jackson, were involved in building Fort Early on the Flint River near Swift Creek, in 1814. This site is just a few miles North of the present location of Warwick. Built to protect the early settlers in the area, it was located deep in Creek territory. The fort was later used as a base by General Jackson and his army of ex-revolutionary soldiers of fortune to attack the Creeks and Seminoles in Florida.

The construction of the fort was probably similar to that of a stockade, designed specifically for Indian warfare. A major battle between the white men and the Indians took place North of the Fort on February 22, 1818.

With the capture and destruction of their strongholds, the Creeks, beaten into submission after fighting General Jackson's army for about two years were willing to reach an agreement that would permit them to live as they did before, hunting and fishing undisturbed in their own territory.

On August 9, 1814, General Jackson and the Creek Indians negotiated a treaty at Fort Jackson which involved territory that is now the Southern part of Turner County. The Creek War of 1813-14 was over.

The Creeks ceded all that part of Georgia South of a line running from Fort Gaines on the Chattahoochee, directly Eastward along the Northern boundary of Calhoun and

Dougherty counties as they exist today, to a point about two miles South of Jesup where it touches the Western boundary of the section known as the Tallahassee strip.

An East-West boundary line now divided ownership of our county between the Creek's and the United States. The Creek's had possession of the land North of a line near where Inaha now is. Inaha's future site was part of the United States, however, the future site of Coverdale was still in Indian territory. These boundaries lasted for just four years.

Many of the Creek warriors joined with General Jackson after signing the treaty at Fort Jackson and helped wage war against the Seminoles. This conflict was known as the First Seminole War.

Holata Mico was a name given to special Indian braves of the Creeks. One who carried such a title was known among the tribes as Billy Bowleg. This was corrupted by the soldiers and settlers to Bowlegs. Billy was chief of the Alachua bands along the Suwannee River.

In the early 1800's a son was born to Billy Bowlegs' brother, deep in Wiregrass Georgia. This son was to grow into a much respected brave in his own rights and would also be called Billy Bowlegs. He would lead many attacks on the settlers in all of South Georgia.

Because they carried the same name and lived during the same period of time, it is not always possible to determine exactly which one of the Billy Bowlegs' was the participant in various battles, negotiations and treaties referred to.

On January 22, 1818, another treaty was entered into between the United States and the Indians at the Creek agency on the Flint River. It concerned the South Eastern portion of Turner County. Chief Osceola refused to sign this treaty because he felt this was his territory and the Florida Seminoles had no right to sign it away. He probably participated in the signing of the 1814 treaty willfully.

The 1818 treaty ceded the irregular area between the Ocmulgee River and the Altamaha River on the North and the line of the 1814 Treaty on the South. The western boundary begins on the Ocmulgee, six miles directly North of Abbeville in what is now Wilcox County and runs Southwest in a diagonal line near Rochelle, Double Run and on by Dakota and Worth in our county to a point on the 1814 Treaty line eight miles West of Coverdale. The Eastern boundary began at a point on the Altamaha River where Goose Creek flows into it and runs Southward to the 1814 Treaty line near Jesup. The land obtained from these two treaties was divided into three very large counties, Appling, Irwin and Early.

Half of Turner County was located in Irwin County with the other half still belonging to the Creeks. Double Run, Sibley and Worth would all be in what was then Indian territory. The future sites of Davisville, Shingler, Rebecca, Amboy, Luke, Ashburn, Sycamore, Coverdale and Inaha were now all part of the United States by virtue of the treaties and the territory obtained from the Creeks. This boundary lasted until 1821 when another treaty, covering land that lay to the Northwest was signed with the Creeks.

This agreement ceded all the area between the Ocmulgee and the Flint Rivers. The tract is bounded on the East by the Ocmulgee River, on the Southeast by the Western boundary of the 1818 cession and on the South by the line of the 1814 Treaty of Fort Jackson. This agreement, known as the Treaty of Indian Springs, made all of the territory which was to become Turner County a part of the United States.

The fear of Creek Indians not wanting to give up the newly opened territory deterred a few. Settlers did not come in droves. However, many did come with saws, axes and guns. They came with horses, cows and sheep. And with food,

supplies, seeds and some money. With their families and their Bibles they arrived. They may have left their church buildings behind but their religion came with them.

Some Creeks were friendly and would visit the settlers to learn from them and to seek tasty items from their kitchens. In cases like this the Indians would leave their weapons out of sight, offer friendly hand signals and convey their wishes to the settlers.

A story handed down through the years tells of a settler's daughter in Irwin County who was always a welcome visitor among the chiefs and braves and squaws and children of a nearby Indian camp. Never was there any indication of hostility to the white child.

When unfriendly Indians appeared with their weapons, the settlers were quick to take cover. Sometimes they depended on their animals, the family dogs and even cows and chickens to warn them of approaching hostile Indians.

In 1818 while building a house near Abbeville that would later be called Poor Robin Springs, Joseph Burch was killed by Indians. His son was scalped but did not die and was able to relate details of the incident to others. It seems that a group of settlers heard of the attack and challenged the Indians at Breakfast Branch for their killing to Joseph. The Indians outnumbered the settlers and quickly routed them, killing most. Some were able to escape by boat but those that didn't make the boat were left to swim, drown or be scalped.

Several incidents resulting from the battle of Breakfast Branch have been recorded. It seems the Captain and another soldier were violent enemies. In spite of this, when the soldier found that his captain had been wounded, he picked him up and carried him to safety. Another soldier who was shot through the knee hid out in a cypress swamp, keeping behind a log with only his nose exposed above the water. The Indians searched the entire swamp but were unable to locate him.

The harboring of runaway slaves by Lower Creeks was reported to have caused a considerable amount of friction between the white settlers and the Indians. Few of the very early wiregrass settlers owned slaves so this was not a major problem in our area at that time. However, runaway slaves from the East did try to join up with friendly Creeks whenever possible.

The Indians, already being here when the settlers came, knew the area and were capable of defending their recently lost land if they so desired. Most white immigrants did not take any chances and built block houses and fortifications called 'stands', to ward off Indian attacks. Others, through necessity, built temporary shelters first. The land was cleared and crops were planted. Then, while waiting for the harvest, the task of building more permanent housing was undertaken.

General Jackson had made quite a name for himself as an Indian fighter and as a result found himself elected president of the United States. On May 28, 1830, he signed an Indian removal bill. This bill was designed to move all Southeastern Indians into territory set aside for them West of the Mississippi River. The Indian chiefs involved in the move made a trip into the territory located in Oklahoma and reported back that the land was suitable for their use.

Many of the Indians did move West. However, a number of the Cherokee and Seminoles refused to go. This resulted in numerous conflicts in the early 1830's which caused the passing of additional legislation. Continued and stubborn resistance by Osceola to the removal of his people eventually led to very hostile relations between the settlers and the Indians that remained in South Georgia.

In the 1830's Billy Bowlegs, probably the nephew, led his

warriors on many raids against the settlers, stealing horses and cattle and engaging in battles and skirmishes with the militia and the settlers.

In 1835 an act amending a previous law was passed, stating that Indians were only allowed to enter Georgia to collect debts or to attend court. Even then they must be accompanied by a white man. An earlier act also stipulated that no Indian or descendant of an Indian should ever be deemed a competent witness in any court in Georgia.

Therefore, the life of an Indian trying to live in wiregrass country was quite restrictive and hazardous. But in spite of these conditions they came from the Alabama area, up from Florida and out of the tractless unexplored vast areas that still remained unsettled. They intermingled with the settlers, sometimes befriending them and sometime attacking them.

Slave hunters now worked South Georgia in their efforts to collect fees for locating runaways. In 1835, one bounty hunter discovered the identity of Chief Osceola's wife and children. They were seized and carried back to their owner. Osceola was so angry and caused such a furor that he had to be subdued and was put in chains. This made him even more furious and after being confined for six days he found the opportunity to escape. In doing so he killed the Indian agent and was reportedly responsible for the death of many American soldiers. The Seminole War of 1835 was now on.

At no time were there more than 1500 Seminoles engaged in fighting against the United States soldiers whose numbers reached 40,000. This war cost the United States over \$40 million and as many lives as there were Seminoles opposing them.

Numerous stories concerning skirmishes between the Indians and the settlers in our area abound during this period. A major battle took place South of Inaha, just across the current county line where bullets were discovered lodged in trees many years after.

An event of bravery was reported during an incident that took place on Swift Creek just beyond the Northwest corner of Turner County. A fighting party of settlers included a father and son team, Sam Story and his boy, Richard.

Richard was aggressive and while both sides were waiting for the other to show their hand, he kept moving ahead, one tree at a time. His father's words of caution went unheeded and Richard found himself in the midst of the Indians waiting in ambush. However, caught off guard by the aggressive tactics of the young Story boy, the Indians were routed and sent into flight.

Sometime in 1836 a group of soldiers West of Turner County came upon a number of Indians in the act of cooking their breakfast. The Indians, having been totally surprised, left in such a hurry that they abandoned a baby girl in a swing. The girl was reportedly taken in by a pioneer family and raised as a slave. The girl later married another slave.

The retreating Indians were pursued, caught up with and a battle followed. The Indians had to retreat once again, this time leaving two women behind. The two squaws were put under the watchful eye of a guard while the rest of the soldiers took up the chase. As night came, the guard panicked when he realized the Indians may return to save their women and he would be killed. As a result, he reportedly killed the two squaws and fled.

The original group of Indians were finally cornered and surrendered, making a separate treaty with the soldiers.

About this time a Major James Brown killed an Indian eight miles North of Troupville crossroads, near the future site of Arabi. The Indian was part of a larger group stealing his hogs. Reportedly, in retaliation, the other Indians in the

group killed a school teacher by the name of Mr. Whitten. The teacher saw the Indians coming, however, and was able to plan for the escape of all the children before he was killed.

The official communique sent to the Governor by Dooly County officials read in part, "...a school teacher was shot and killed. He received three balls in his body and after that they cut his throat from ear to ear, then proceeded to the house of a Mr. Mustlewhite who was away from home and burnt his house and its contents, though the white men pursued and killed one of the Indians."

Not all confrontations were hostile. An incident is reported where a number of Indians came to the Whiddon home, located near the future site of Sycamore and took peaches for themselves and then left.

On numerous occasions the Indians reportedly brought game to the settlers and bartered for watermelons, milk, fruit or other foods.

The Luke family also fared quite well in another reported incident. Mr. Luke was off fighting the Indians in another area when Nancy, his wife, saw five Indians coming at her, marching in single file. She showed no fear and invited the Indians in her home to eat, which they did. After eating they went into the yard and started to dance. Expecting death upon completion of their dance, she was quite surprised to find that once again they formed into a single file and marched off into the woods.

On occasion, when the man of the house had to leave the cabin and be away overnight, his family would abandon the house and sleep in the cow pens. The cows were quite sensitive to the approach of Indians and warned the family if they came near. Dogs were not used in this particular type of ploy as they always tended to bark when the Indians came within range of their noses or ears and gave the hiding place away. Cows, on the other hand did not make any noise other than that caused by their moving away from danger.

Usually the settlers were so poor that the cabins contained nothing the Indians wanted except for food. Upon being convinced nothing of value existed, the Indians usually left, doing little damage other than leaving things in disorder.

The following event is generally considered to have been the last major confrontation between the Indians and the militia in our immediate area. Confrontations did, however, continue to occur until the 1850's. These were considered minor by the U.S. Government but were quite major to those settlers who participated in them.

In order to obtain bags in which to carry their loot from a fairly well to do settlers home, several Indians that were part of a much larger group, took and slit the family's feather beds, pouring the feathers out and scattering them all over the house. They filled their makeshift bags with things they wanted to take with them and left. It was a fairly easy task to follow the trail that they left as they hurried to join the rest of their party.

On June 13, 1836, the militia, consisting of a group of about seventy-five soldiers, overtook the Indians where Bushy Creek enters the Alapaha River. Captain Levi J. Knight was in command. There are no data concerning the number of Indians involved in the attack but it was reported that all but five of them were killed and that the soldiers captured twenty-three guns and nineteen packs.

During October of 1837, General Jesup enticed Osceola to talk of peace. The white flag of truce was turned into a double cross by General Jesup, who had Osceola arrested and put in chains and sent to the prison at St. Augustine, Florida. He was later moved to Ft. Moultry, South Carolina, where he became sick and died on January 31, 1838, at the age of thirty-four.

First Turner County Tourist:

HERNANDO DE SOTO

More than a thousand or so years ago, the European urge to explore our hemisphere grew very strong. We may never know who arrived first. However, we do know that from the time Columbus first made contact with the adjacent settling of America, Georgia and Turner County was inevitable.

Records indicate that in 1540, Hernando DeSoto, a Spaniard, explored the area that is now Georgia, seeking a source of riches for his country.

De Soto started his tour of the area from a base camp near Tampa and was assisted during most of his trip by a former prisoner of the Indians, Juan Ortes, who was reportedly moved throughout the area so many times that he knew most all of the Indian trails in the South.

There are strong indications that DeSoto's party followed an old Seminole and Cherokee Indian trail Northward from Florida. This trail passed through Turner County.

Tramping through the wiregrass and under the long leaf pines with soldiers wearing armor, DeSoto's party probably resembled a cavalcade of knights rather than an adventurous band seeking treasure.

The party, making its way North and East through Turner County included priests, clergymen, monks and scribes. Not having found any gold, silver or diamonds in our area, he never returned. It was to be hundreds of years later when treasures, in the form of turpentine, lumber and rich farmland were to be found.



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SERVICE**

The Willis Massacre

This rather complicated event took place in Turner County in the 1840's. Mr. Sam Story discovered some Indians attempting to steal his hogs. He either caught one of the Indians and gave him a severe beating with his whip or killed him. The story isn't quite clear. The other Indians who were with him traveled to a point a few miles Northwest of Ashburn, near Dakota, to the home of the Willis'. Mr. Willis, who at one time owned a blacksmith shop in Pindertown, was away working on a grist mill wheel near the Ocmulgee River. Upon his return home he found that his wife and children had been killed. Mrs. Willis and all but one of their children were found in the house. A daughter, Peggy was found a short distance away near a stream which was later referred to as Peggy's Branch.

At first Mr. Willis hesitated to blame the Indians but after finding some of his wife's clothing and cooking equipment among the Seminoles he was convinced Indians had killed his family, all of which were buried near Dakota.

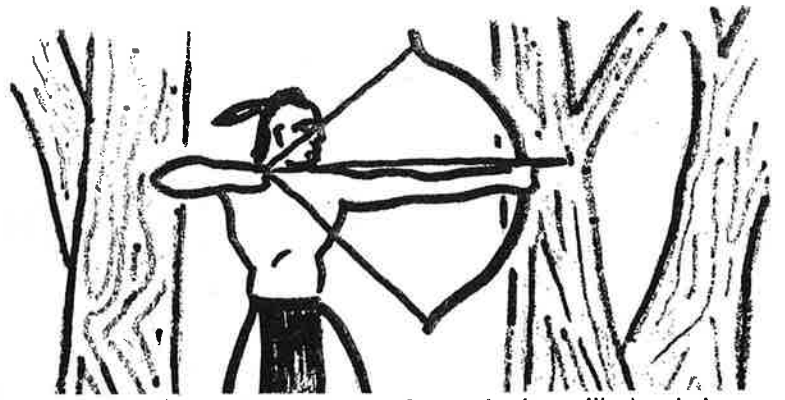
A group of settlers gave chase and caught up with the Indians just South of Ashburn at a point not far from where the Irwinville-Inaha Road crossed a small creek. In the company of pursuers was a settler named Hobby whose horse threw him into the creek where he lost his hat. Mr. Hobby scampered to dry land, minus his lost hat. This is reportedly how the creek was named, Hat Creek.

The party continued to chase the Indians who headed West, eventually capturing them in Worth County where most of the Indians were either killed or captured.

About this same time a family of eight women and children were killed in Irwin County near Big Creek Church while the men folks were all away fighting the Indians elsewhere.

All of the above action took place after the U.S. Government had declared that hostilities with the Seminoles had officially ended. The encounters of the early 40's were not considered organized by the government and even these unorganized skirmishes were declared ended in the 1840's. However, conflicts still occurred into the next decade between the settlers and Billy Bowlegs and his braves.

White guerilla bands, masquerading as Indians, caused considerable havoc and antagonized relations between the settlers and the Seminoles. Dressed as Indians, they would steal cattle and rob stages. The best known and most secretive among these organized units was a group of hundreds known as the "Murel Gang." During the day their leaders would scout out the prize cattle and horses and have their men disguised as Indians steal them at night. Many of the gang members were reported to have been men of good character.



The 1850's saw the end of organized guerilla bands in which white outlaws, painted and dressed as Indians worked this area. It is reported that John Murel, head of the most active group, had as many as a thousand men under his command at times. They considered the entire South as their territory.

Having agents located in every community, they spotted slaves, cattle, horses and anything that could be stolen and sold. Many slaves were paid to be part of the plan in which they allowed themselves to be captured many times. Turner County did not escape the wrath of the guerilla bands and many of its residents were involved either as victims or as part of the group fighting the renegades.

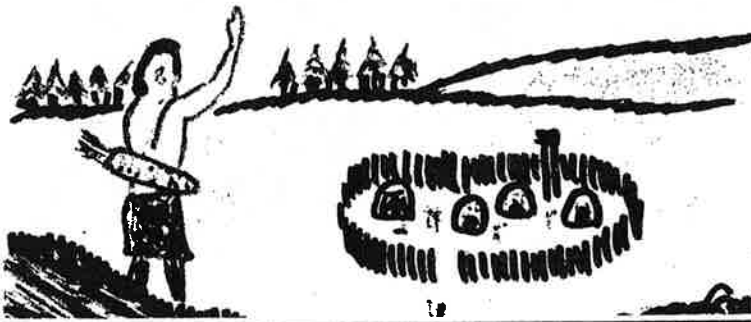
Billy Bowlegs was a legend in his own time. He had a minor war named after him. It was known as 'Billy Bowlegs War of 1854-1856.' He was blamed for so much and credited with doing so much it is difficult to determine the real facts. The U.S. Government was convinced he was responsible for all the looting, killing and destruction of the settlers throughout Georgia that a bounty of \$500.00 was offered for the delivery of any living Indian brought to Fort Brooks or Fort Myers.

Billy was the leader of some 4,000 Indians who made their headquarters at various places in the Everglades and in the Okefenokee Swamp. His exploits touched Turner County. In the mid 1850's a band of his Indians encountered a militia company above Double Run during the heat of summer. The Indians were driven across the Alapaha River. There they joined with another band of Indians at Sandy Sink, a lake several miles East of Cool Springs in Turner County.

The militia had silently moved in and surrounded the encampment. The fight was fierce and many of the Indians were forced into the lake and killed. A few escaped but the lake was reported red with blood. The Indians who did escape posed quite a threat to the soldiers as they had much hatred for the militia. Extremely tight security was necessary for the protection of the soliders.

After several guards at one location mysteriously disappeared, a young solidier was asked to stand guard. While on duty he heard what appeared to be the grunt of a pig as he saw the animal moving in his direction. Being suspicious, the soldier fired a shot and the pig's hide fell off of an Indian who was using it as cover while creeping up on the guard and the camp.

The dead Indians were buried in a long trench, piled on one on top of each other, then covered with several feet of sand. A rumor circulated that indicated the Indians had been buried with valuable rings, necklaces and watches. This caused grave robbers to unearth the graves. There is no indication that these rumors had any truth to them; however, reports were that the graves were left in shambles.



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MITCHELL-STEWART HARDWARE CO.

The Yankees' Greatest Conquest

Less Than 15 Miles From The Heart Of Turner County

Jefferson Davis Was Captured By Union Soldiers

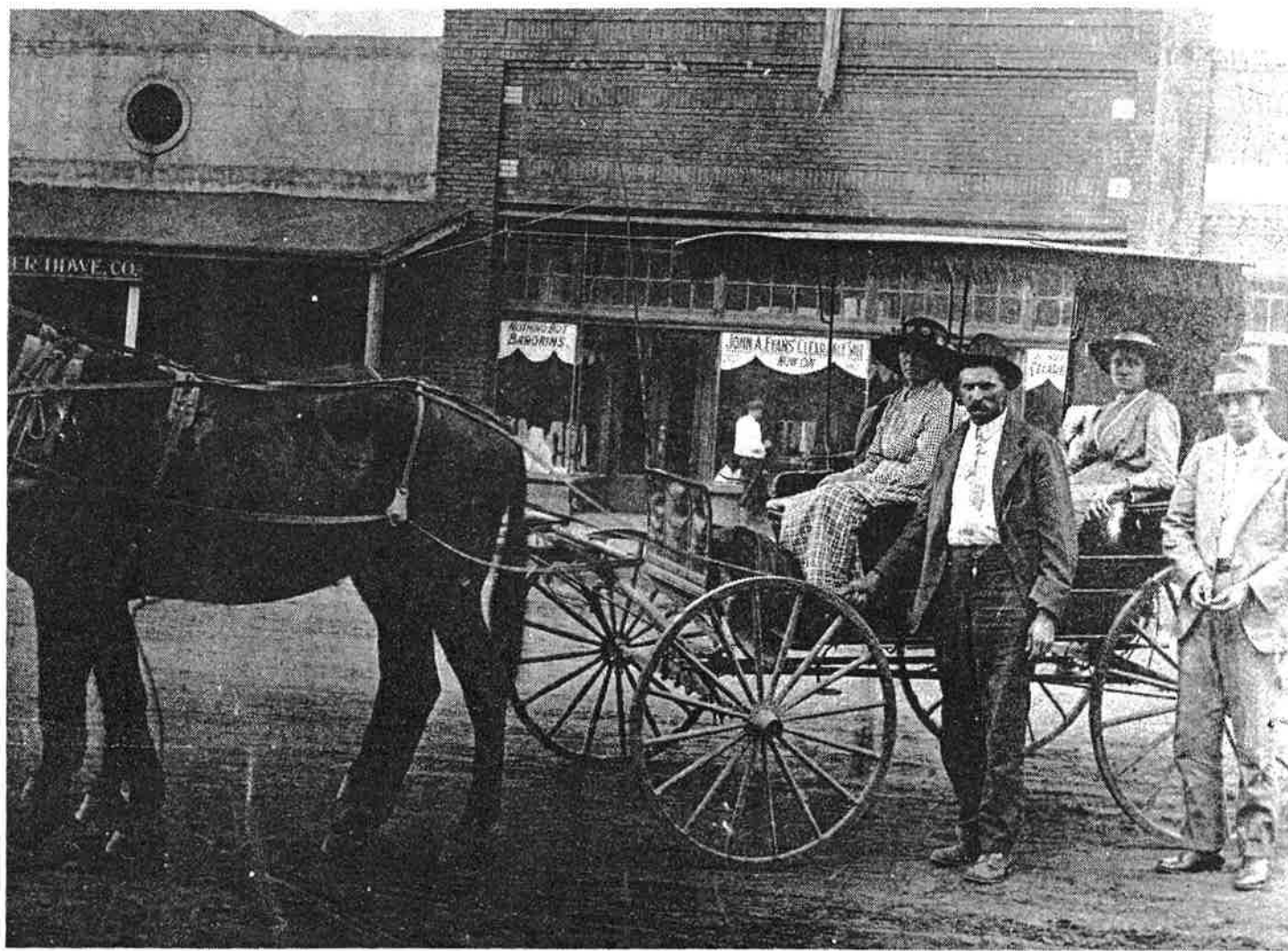
It was on May 10, 1865 that the President of the Confederate State of America was captured by Union soldiers at Irwinville about 15 miles from the heart of Turner County.

A memorial to the Confederate States president now stands in a beautiful pine grove which marks the site of the last great Yankee victory over the man who was sought keenly by Federal troops as he made his way toward Savannah where he planned to sail for England with his family.

Very few shots were fired in the capture as the Union soldiers apprehended the stagecoach in which President

Davis was riding, and the CSA president stepped out, cautioning soldiers to take no life.

A few days later, Henry Gray Turner, the county's namesake was admitted to the bar for the practice of law, and in North Carolina, W.W. Ashburn who had also served in the Confederate Army, fighting at Fredricksburg and Chancellorsville, Winchester and Gettysburg before he was wounded, came home to marry Miss Anna Atkinson on May 16, 1865.



Sponsored By:
CITIZEN'S BANK OF ASHBURN

The Battle At Breakfast Branch

It Was Here, Legend Says, That Indians Departed Turner County Forever.

Legend has it that at Breakfast branch—the location is disputed but many historians would site it between Amboy and Rebecca—the Indians ate their last breakfast before leaving Turner County forever.

Understandably, Indians continued to raid white settlements for the remainder of the 1870's although there are few accounts of their warfare with white men after the settlements of the 1880's.

Two Indian massacres—both now legendary in their recollection—play a vivid role in the life of the pioneers who came to that virgin timberland which was to become Turner County to stake out their claims with a US government grant or with purchase and then to ward off marauding Indians who were not always bent upon death to the white man as much as taking his cows, horses, guns and food.

In 1854 Wash Graham told the story of the Burch Massacre at Poor Robins Springs which brought about the deaths of most members of the pioneer family with the exception of a son, Charron Burch, who remained as lifeless and allowed an Indian to scalp him and then recovered from the terrifying experience.

Seeking to avenge the deaths in the Burch family, a posse of whites came to Turner County (then Irwin County) from Telfair County in search of the Indians who were responsible and encountered the path of the red man at Breakfast Branch. Reading the signs that the Indians had breakfasted near the twisting creek and had left a smouldering campfire, the posse went in search of the Indians but when they confronted the band of red men, the whites were quickly routed, far out-numbered and out-armed.

In an aside to the story, it was reported that Capt. Mark Wilcox and Nat Statham were "carrying guns for each other", intent upon one another's destruction. In the retreat, Statham came across his mortal enemy, seriously wounded and left for the Indians to kill. To save his life Statham picked up Wilcox and carried him on his horse to safety and medical treatment.

The Willis Massacre took place in what is now Turner County. Sam Story reportedly found an Indian youth stealing his hogs, and after making him a captive, the report says that Story tied the Indian to a pine tree and flogged him, a common practice among hostile whites and red men.

In retaliation, Indians swept down on the Willis home near Dakota, killing all the women and children and fatally wounding the men.

Willis, the head of the house, was not at home at the time but instead was on the Ocmulgee River more than 40 miles away at work on a grist mill water-wheel.

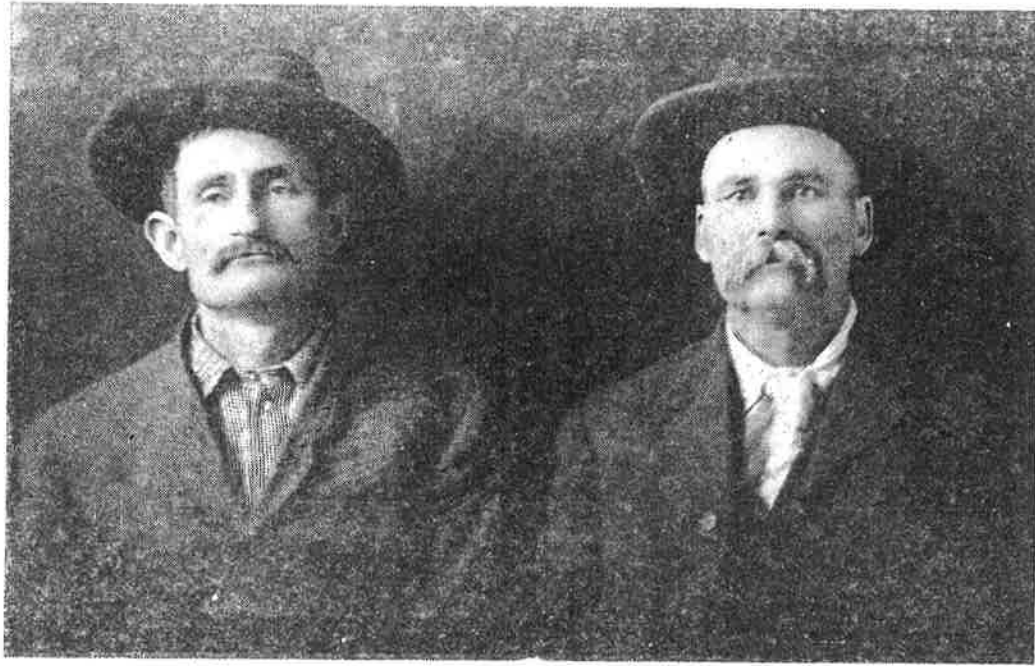
The legend says that during the night, Willis saw his family in need of him, crying to him, and taking the dream to be an omen from God, Willis arose, dressed himself and set out on foot for his home. On his arrival, three days later, he found that the Indians had raided his home and killed his family.

The evidence indicated that one of the women had almost escaped, running into the woodlands nearby with an infant in her arms, but she apparently had been overtaken by an Indian, and she and the child were killed, the child stomped to death by the Indian.



W.D. Fountain, Sr. and Fountain Trading Co. were particularly important to Sycamore in years past. He was instrumental in bringing the first waterworks to Sycamore and was well-known as a merchant and banker.

**Sponsored By:
ASHBURN BANK**



Two men who helped shape the future for Turner County in early 1900s: Sheep Bennett Pate and Dan H. Davis.

Willis for an unknown reason suspected his son-in-law of the massacre. Why, Willis never disclosed, but the son-in-law had escaped harm, claiming that he was not at the house at the time of the Indian raid.

But years later, a Willis neighbor discovered what Willis ascertained to be the clothing of his wife, and several items of her cookware, among Seminole Indians in Florida.

Adding to the legend of the Willis Massacre, the report says that settlers pursued the Indians, and in the chase, Jesse Hobby lost his hat as he crossed a creek. Some neighbors waited as Hobby dismounted to reclaim his hat floating atop the water, and later the creek was to be named "Hat Creek", one of the most popular geographical lines in Turner County's colorful history.

In the late 1800s as the US forced the Indians westward, roving fragments of tribes and bands occasionally roamed the countryside and ventured into what is now Turner County to loot, steal and on occasions massacre white settlers.

William Jordan, a famous Indian fighter in South Georgia, herded his family into a nearby fort, improvised for protection against Indians. After nearly a week in hiding from the red men, Jordan and his family started home, became terrified as they reached their rural dwelling when they heard clatter and unidentified noises coming from inside the cabin. An investigation determined that inside there were no Indians at all; two goats were busying themselves about the interior of the home, overturning tables and chairs and rattling pots and pans.



Sponsored By:
FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN
ASSOCIATION OF TURNER COUNTY



W. W. Ashburn

W.W. Ashburn who held extensive property ownership in Ashburn was interested in timber production. His name was given to the city, originally called Marion.

And They Called The Place Marion

It was in the Winter of 1888 that a rare snow storm with ice and sleet swept across the wilderness of South Georgia, bringing great property damage to scattered settlers who huddled around wood fires in log cabins to brace against the piercing wind and numbing temperatures.

It was some 87 years later that another snowfall—this one bringing little damage but instead presenting a Christmas card scene of familiar horizons—was recorded in Turner County and most of South Georgia on Feb. 14, 1973.

First pioneers in the territory that included Turner County which was declared a county in 1905 had established homes and some businesses as early as 1845 when Aaron Chandler came to what is now Ashburn. His daughter married a young farmer, H.A.W. Gorday who came to the frontier land in 1850 as a grist mill operator. Gorday also operated a sawmill later in his life and was the instigator for the first cotton gin in this section after farmers carved out cultivated acreages from the piney woodlands.

As villages sprang up along stagecoach trails and traveled routes at Pindertown, Worth, Luke, Amboy, Dakota, Sycamore and Marion, W.A. Murray in 1888 came to the community of Marion, giving up his profession of teaching school to establish a dry goods store in the new community. He also was the business man who developed other interests in the new town, including a grocery store, hardware, barber shop, livery stable, cafe, farming utensils and funeral home. At the outset, he could only sell caskets. This price included no services.

J.B. Chandler, a grandson of Aaron Chandler, went into business with H.A.W. Gorday and they became among the first merchants of the new territory.

Years before, in 1880, naval stores had become a major business in South Georgia. W.W. Ashburn had acquired some 30,000 acres of timber in Colquitt County and environs, and he came northward looking for new timber. Finding Tifton already exploited, he moved north to Turner County and with J.S. Betts purchased a large parcel of land which was to become Turner County.

As sawmill operations began and a few settlers gathered into a community, they named their new town Marion.

It was J.S. Betts who persuaded the John W. Evans family to come to the new community at about the time the rails met and opened vast new frontiers for farming and business. D.H. Davis had sold some of his extensive holdings to Betts as one of the earliest pioneers, and others came, seeking to make their living—if not their fortunes—in resins, timber, dry goods, and farm-related services.

It was in November, 1888, that the rails finally tied together north of the little community of Marion, bringing a great celebration with festivities which attracted wide attention. On the new ribbon of steel, trains plowed northward from Jacksonville, Fla. to Macon, Ga.

At this time, Sycamore was already a bustling community, coming to life earlier than 1877 when Smith and Bussey were one of the major businesses in the new territory along with W.W. Cowan who operated a grist mill at the growing community of Worth, and W.A. and James Greer began another sawmill operation at Dakota.

In the new community of Marion, R.B. Lutterlok and Bros. began a manufacturing business dealing in naval stores, Anderson and Brown opened a drug store, and Mrs. Holmer Owens and a Miss Holliman opened a millinery store.

The Clyde Hotel was built by J.S. Shingler, and plans were

made to start a newspaper with the arrival from Eastman in Dodge County of the Evans and Irish merchant Joe Lawrence and his wife, Maggie, and their daughters, Nora and Kay.

George Cooper opened his dental office as Col. Aaron established the first law firm in Marion. First post offices at Marion and at Sycamore began serving the growing public in 1889, and at this time, the star routes which had served the rural section were discontinued, and daily delivery of mail, frequently on horseback, became a new public service.

At the time that the trains began to travel up and down the newly laid tracks, J.S. Shingler, who came here to engage in naval stores operations, chose a site facing the railway and on the northside of Marion—away from the hustle and bustle of the sawmill—to build his home, Sparrow's Nest. Sparrow's Nest was not completed until 1895 but when the Shingler family moved into the spacious Victorian dwelling, it became one of South Georgia's showplaces, lavishly furnished and beautifully decorated with many European furnishings and the latest in lighting and water works.

Other early homes include the George Betts home, now the L.B. Shealy home, the Baldwin home, now the Marvin Raines residence; the A.R. Smith residence which left the Smith family almost 100 years later in 1978; the Evans home, now the residence of Wesley Clements, a splendid example of architecture of the period with its verandas and gabled roof; the Joe Lawrence home on the south side of the city and, nearby, the Ella Mae Rogers home.

The J.S. Betts and Co. firm was to become one of the new community's most successful businesses, and in 1890 J.S. Betts became the first mayor of the community. Serving with Betts as city aldermen were Joe Lawrence, J.B. Bozeman, J.S. Shingler, J.C. Hallman who became known as the "J" regime. Their first city ordinance made it unlawful to disturb the peace by firing a gun.

John Jenkins was the first acting postmaster. Glenn Smith, a black man, had been appointed by the Republican Administration in Washington, but he was not allowed to serve. Instead, he held the position incognito while working by day in the sawmill.

The 1890 census listed 403 living in Marion, and Betts and Evans had already mapped out plans for the Betts subdivision. With virtually every train that arrived, more passengers got off to make their home in Marion where D.H. Davis was becoming one of the largest land-owners in South Georgia.

From the start, Ashburn was an extremely religious community and later was to gain the reputation as "The Holy City". Each work day, prayer was observed at the signal of the mill whistle. At 11:55, businesses were closed for noon prayers. On Wednesdays at 10 a.m., apparently stalling his deadline, editor Joe Lawrence led prayer meetings upstairs in the Betts Evans Trading Co. Joining him were Morgan Cantey, J.B. Bozeman, J.S. Shingler, J.W. Evans and John L. Evans.

In 1892, the community experienced a great blizzard and icicles hung on windows for many days. There was then an unusual community spirit of neighbor concerned for neighbor, sharing generously at times of crises.

The Shingler Building, the Wiregrass Farmer Building, the Betts-Evans Building and several others were built to accommodate new businesses.

Sponsored By:
GOLD KIST OF ASHBURN

Ralph Hucabee, Sr. owned the first telephone company in Ashburn in 1900. He is the father of Walter Huckabee who owned and operated a grocery business for many years, making countless friends here.

A fire department, made up of volunteers, was organized because at the sawmill and in naval stores operations, fire was a constant threat.

However, electric lights and city utilities including a waterworks system were still in the distant future. Incorporated as a city and re-named after the land developer W.W. Ashburn, the city did not decide on the need for public utilities and new school buildings until October, 1907, when Ashburn residents floated bonds to pay for city's electric lights, a waterworks and public schools.

The Wiregrass Farmer was established in 1899 by Editor Joe Lawrence who first attempted a religious publication but later turned his attention to farm news and community events. At the same time, the Turner County Banner flourished, serving as the county's official publication organ after the formation of the county.

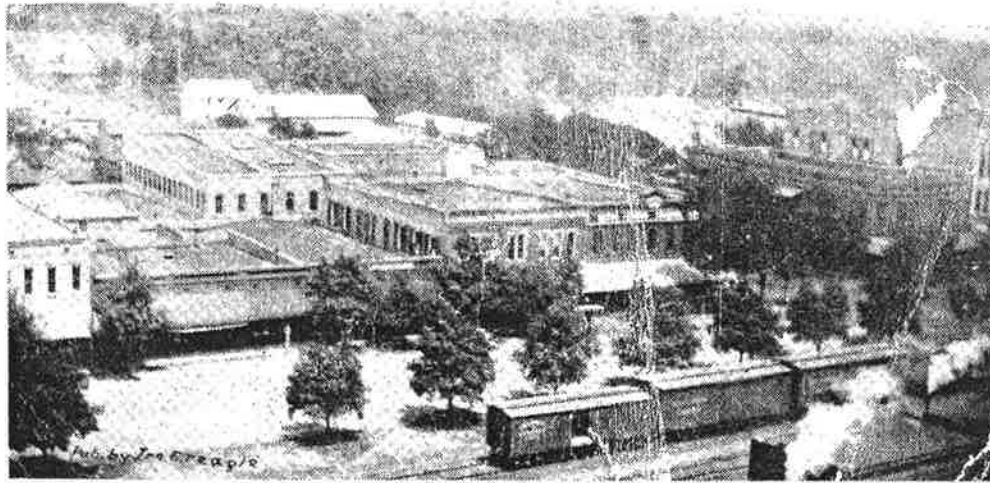
Both newspapers found objectionable the use of mail order catalogs, and one of the community controversies on which they reported frequently was a dispute about community sings and the day on which they were best suited, Saturday or

Sunday. Apparently, some drinking was going on at the sings to which both newspaper editors strenuously objected. The Banner and The Wiregrass Farmer merged in 1913, admitting that the town wasn't big enough to provide advertising support for two newspapers.

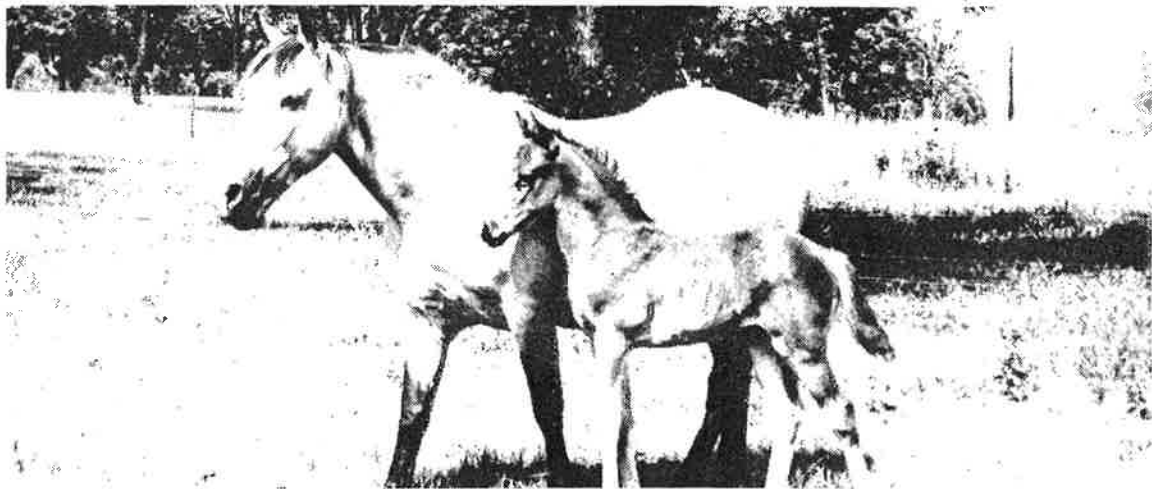
With as many as six banks in the business sector, the Ashburn Bank and the Citizens Bank were founded in 1905, and among the most industrious businessmen were A.A. Johnson and his young son, John S. Johnson, who oftentimes provided the transportation for salesmen as they arrived in town. Mr. Johnson owned and operated a business which he called "The Horse Hotel", and it was not an infrequent practice to conduct something akin to a rental agency, providing a horse and buggy for young suitors to go courting in an afternoon.

Trains were invaluable to the communities. In 1901, the first AB&C Railways train passed through Rebecca, and as early as 1906, Ashburn recorded as many as ten passenger trains passing each day.

One of the identifying landmarks for the new community was the towering smoke stack of the sawmill, located in the vicinity of what is now called Mill St. in downtown Ashburn. The smoke stack was dismantled by J.W. Evans in 1926.



Front St. (now Main St.) in downtown Ashburn at about the turn of the century.



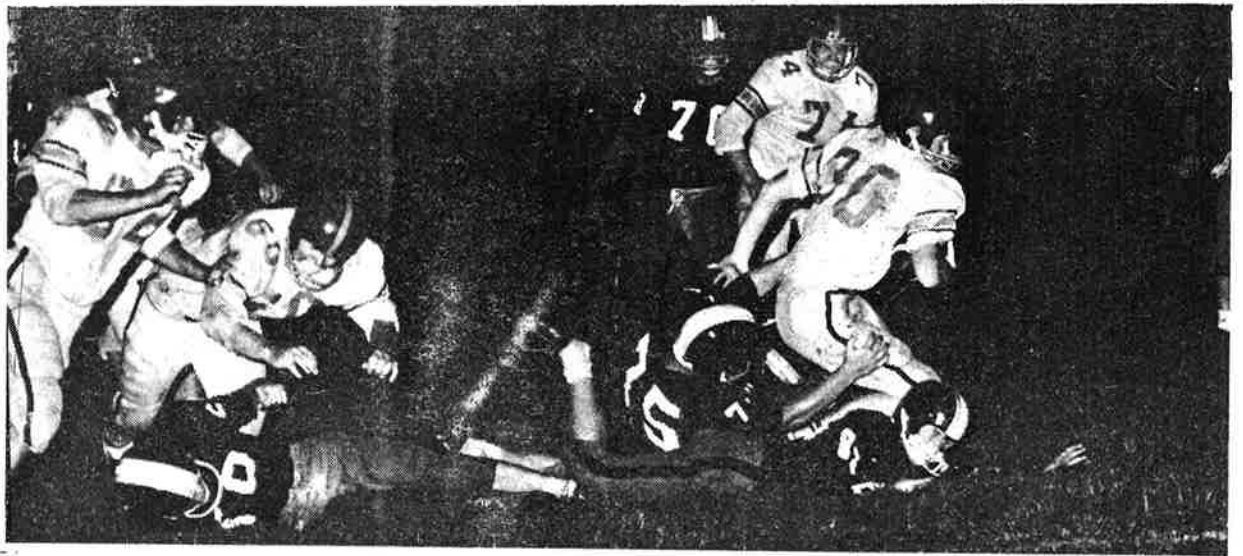
Sponsored By:
COLEY & GORDAY FERTILIZER CO. INC.
-and-
WING A PRAYER FLYING SERVICE, ASHBURN



Jack and Mamie Rowland are in this interesting photo, bound for school likely with their lunches in syrup cans.

Sponsored By:
W.B.T. FARM SERVICE, REBECCA
-and-
DENT RAINES 66 SERVICE, ASHBURN

Just Yesterday...



**Sponsored By:
FARMER'S CHOICE OF REBECCA
-and-
KING GIN AND WAREHOUSE, REBECCA**



Sponsored By:
PERRY FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC.
-and-
MARVIN WARD PONTIAC-GMC, INC.

General Brisbane's Railroad

An Act approved on December 22, 1827 almost gave us our first railroad or canal. The Act did result in the forming of The Ocmulgee and Flint Railroad or Canal Company.

The Act provided that they be authorized to cut a canal or construct a railroad of wood from any point on the Ocmulgee River to any point on the Flint River as, 'deemed most proper'. The company was authorized to obtain land by purchase or abritration and was to have a ninty-nine year lease on the completed railroad or canal. The project was not started at that time because of many financial difficulties.

A new Act was approved December 22, 1834, authorizing, 'the building of a railroad of wood or other such road as deemed by them best adapted for the running or passage of steam driven locomotives from the Ocmulgee to the Flint River.'

Work was started in 1835 on the railroad which was to run from Pindertown, North of Sylvester, then through what would be the Southern part of Turner County and on to Irwinnville and Jacksonville, Georgia, located on the Ocmulgee. Mr. Brisbane, one of the principals involved, did not intend to use steam locomotives initially but intended to pull the cars with horses or mules until economics justified steam power. The railroad was graded in some areas, a few bridges were built and some crossties and wooden rails were also laid.

The Act as originally approved called for completion of the railroad within ten years. Several extensions were granted but financial difficulties forced abandonment of the project before it became operational.

W.W. Ashburn, after having acquired some 30,000 acres of timber land in Colquitt County and becoming a major factor in the lumber and naval stores business, began expanding his purchases into our area. Tifton was already exploited so he and a group of others, including J.W. Evans bought large acreages in what was to be Turner county.

They anticipated the value of having a railroad through the pine forest, joining the North pine-barrens with the South pine-barrens. After all, Georgia had shipped 570,000 gallons of turpentine and 92,000 barrels of resin and pitch during the year 1880.

J.S. Betts was also extremely interested in the possibilities of the area and began to buy land from D.H. Davis who was quite active in promoting the area's real estate potential. At one time Davis was probably the largest land owner in Wiregrass, Georgia.

As more and more people became interested in and began to move into the area then known as Troupville Crossroads, the community was given a specific name. No longer were we just an area with farm houses spread out miles apart. We were Marion, Georgia.

It is not clear if the name was used before the railroad was known to be going to pass through the area. It was very common in those days to assign names of wives, girl friends, mothers or even other men's wives as names of new communities. Whether this was the case or if it was assigned by the railroad engineer, fr a similar reason or some other reason, seems to be a lost bit of information.

Whatever the case, here was a group of people already living in an area that would soon have a railroad. A station

was needed here and the railroad maps were drawn up with the stop designated as Marion.

By the end of 1887 the rails were getting very near. The Ashburn-Betts team had already acquired several thousand acres of timberland here and plans were being made regarding the possibility of locating a sawmill to take immediate advantage of the vast resource.

The railroad was built by private contractors using engineering drawings provided by the railroad. It was not common for a contractor to build only a short section of track before he went broke and another one had to be obtained by the railroad. Bidding was often very competitive and the contractors had to keep costs as low as possible in order to survive and make a profit. At that time labor was mostly imported from other areas. Many more workers were needed than were readily available locally. Another source of labor were convicts that could be secured from the state at a minimal cost, provided the contractor agreed to supply them with food, clothing and shelter and keep them securely confined so they couldn't escape.

Provided with these conditions, it was not uncommon for these convict laborers to get sick and without expert medical care, die on the job. The usual procedure was to bury the man where he died if there were no special instructions. It is rumored, and highly possible, that many such men are buried along the major fill that was required along the Northern approach to Marion.

Late in November, 1888, Marion was the scene of a celebration, the likes of which had never been seen in the area before.

Everyone that could make it came to witness the event, November 25th had seen the laying of the last section of open rail on the Georgia, Southern and Florida Railroad at Deep Creek. Since late summer, when the rails were put down through Marion, the town had waited for this day, when the puffing engine would sound its whistle as it came into town on its way from Florida to Macon.

Most of the areas residents came to watch the celebration which was put on by the railroad and participated in by the laborers and section hands that were staying in the community. There was a lot of drinking, shooting, laughing and guns were fired into the air on a regular basis. The train whistle was almost constantly blowing as boys and girls, dragging their parents came to look. And the parents began to contemplate what this new creation would do to their life style. Some saw only the advantages while others only saw the disadvantages. But most saw the combination. It would bring growth which meant better housing, better selection of materials and food, better educational facilities and culture. But it would also bring the evil that went with progress and many made plans to begin to combat it.

Soon trains began to run on a regular schedule. The growth pattern was firmly established. People that had not thought much about it now wanted to be located near the railroad. In 1888, the property was set aside for the Sparrows Nest. The Evans and the Betts and others began to make plans for their houses. W.W. Ashburn and his family continued to live in Colquitt County where they had established their home years ago. Marion was destined to grow, whereas other communities that were not right on the line, such as Pateville, would not.

The owners of the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad were good businessmen who promoted the land along its path. They put on a very well planned sales campaign, advertising that the best pine timber in Goergia grew along the ridge line. This got many timber people interested.

Then they contacted the manufacturers of equipment as

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HOME-HEALTH RENTALS
SOUTHERN RAILROAD

well as known sawmill operators and offered to transport their machinery free and to provide them with a siding without cost or a rental fee. This effort on the part of the railroad resulted in plenty of action and enabled Georgia to outstrip its nearest competitor, North Carolina, in its shipments of turpentine, resin and pitch.

Cities listed on the Railroad line, on an official Department of Agriculture Map made in 1895, were: Sibley, Ada P.O. or Dakota Station, both in Dooly County; Worth and Ashburn in Worth County; and Sycamore and Inaha Station or Emerald P.O., both in Irwin County.

The next railroad through Turner County was built in the early 1890's, from Worth, on the Georgia, Southern & Florida Railroad, north to Pitts. This road, known as the Hawkinsville and Florida Southern Railroad, was very instrumental in developing the Northeastern part of the County, serving its timber and turpentine interests.

The road spawned the communities of Shinglers, Amboy and Davisville, then in Wilcox County. A branch line also ran from Davisville, past Luke toward Fitzgerald.

It was not possible to move from the nation's capital or the state capital to the Gulf Coast cities of Mobile and New Orleans in the early 1900's by rail. A plan was conceived to connect the cities through a series of short line railroads.

Individual businessmen were asked to build portions of the road. In 1906, J.S. Betts & Co., entered into an agreement to build the road from Ashburn to Sylvester. The Honorable C.A. Alford was to build the line from Sylvester to Bainbridge and the railroad would operate from Ashburn to Bainbridge under the name of Flint River & Gulf Railway Co.

The line was to use the Georgia, Southern and Florida trackage from Ashburn to Worth, where it then headed North East on the Hawkinsville and Florida Southern R.R.

On May 1, 1907, the railroad was chartered. Through freight service began in 1911 and through-passenger service from Washington or Atlanta to Bridgeboro was available the following year.

However, the line to the Gulf was never completed. The name was changed and the line operated through Turner County as the Hawkinsville & Florida Southern Railway Co. until late in 1912, when it was bought by the Southern Railway Co.

In 1921 the line was sold because it was not making money. The rails from Worth to Hawkinsville were abandoned and the tracks were removed.

Turner Countians, not wanting to lose their rail service to the Southeast, joined with others living in the cities of Sylvester and Camilla and subscribed to half of the purchase price of the defunct line. A Moultrie group put up the remaining money.

In 1924 the line was granted a new charter and operated under the name of Georgia, Ashburn, Sylvester & Camilla Railway. Almost everyone called it the 'Gas' Line.

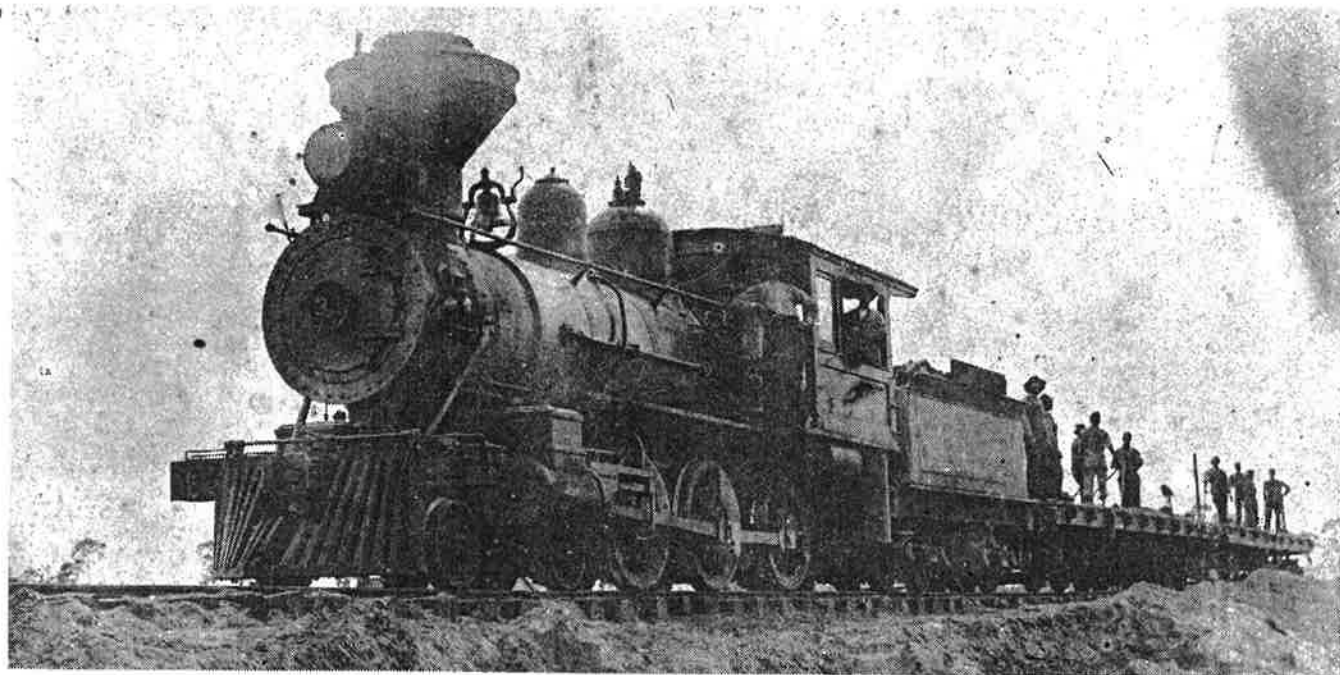
Special trips and excursions were planned and carried out by the Railroad owners. It is likely that everyone living in the Ashburn area rode the train to its first stop, Wane Lake, where weekend picnics were commonplace.

The railroad discontinued operations in the early 1970's. There are still many miles of the original rails in place and the city of Sylvester has one of its steam locomotives on display in their city park.

Another railroad, playing an important part in the development of Turner County, was the Atlanta & Birmingham Railway. Shortly after the turn of the century, rails were laid through Wilcox County in the area that was soon to become the Northeast corner of Turner County.

Lawson Smith owned property along the line and sold off those acres that bordered on the railroad. By 1904, a new town had grown and was incorporated as Rebecca on August 15th of that year.

The railroad would later be called the Seaboard Coast Line Railway.



Sponsored By:
MILADY'S SHOPPE
-and-
HOBBY'S



A.R. Smith, a member of one of Turner County's oldest families, was Clerk of Superior Court from 1925 for 44 years.

The Smith Family

--They Were Important In New County

Edwin Riddick Smith, the son of Rev. Edwin Smith and Mrs. Margaret Riddick Smith, was born the 10th day of January, 1846, in Nancemond County, Virginia. He died Nov. 25, 1908, at Sycamore.

Edwin Smith joined the Confederate Army at the age of seventeen and returned home in 1865 to find everything but the farm land confiscated by the Federal Army. At 19, he shouldered the responsibility of helping his father recoup his finances.

On Jan. 13, 1868, he married Marlanna Benton Goodman, the daughter of General Barnes Goodman and Harriet Benton Goodman of Gates County, North Carolina. Realizing that his family was increasing and considering the very difficult task of giving his children the advantages he wanted to give them, a task which could not be achieved from the returns of his farm at that period in the South, he sold his farm interests in Virginia and moved to Telfair County, Georgia to engage in naval stores operations.

Later in 1889, he moved to the western border of Irwin County which later became Turner County and remained there until his death.

He became very active in the development of this section of Georgia. While continuing his naval stores business with the help of his family, he ran a general store, the Post Office and a cotton gin in connection with his large farming interests. He was instrumental in building a church copied from the one he attended in Summerville, Virginia.

He succeeded in sending all of his children to college. They are:

Wilber Riddick Smith, born Dec. 7, 1868.
 Margaret Riddick Smith, born Sept. 9, 1830;
 Florrie Benton Smith, born Sept. 22, 1873; Edwin Smith, born April 25, 1876; Marvin Smith, born Sept. 9, 1878;
 Sydney Kittrell Smith, born Aug. 23, 1881;
 Arthur Smith, born March 28, 1886;
 Barnes Goodman Smith, born Aug. 25, 1888.

Sponsored By:
ASHBURN CONVER-CARE NURSING HOME

Turner County Was Almost Named Henderson County

Seventy-five years ago, on August 18, 1905, the Georgia Legislature approved the formation of a new county to be made up of parts of Irwin, Wilcox, Dooly and Worth counties.

The county, to be called Turner, in honor of a State Supreme Court Justice and long time state and national legislator, was to start operating the first of January.

But, it wasn't all that simple. For years the residents of Ashburn, which was in Worth County, complained about having to depend on horses to accomplish the long trip to Sylvester when attending court or having to transact business at the county seat.

The residents of Sycamore had to go an equally far distance to Irwinville, their county seat in Irwin County. Those living in Dakota had to journey to Vienna and if you lived in Amboy or Rebecca, you went to Abbeville. For many, these trips required two days.

Ashburn citizens led the campaign to form a new county and sought support from those living within ten miles of the city.

But the taxpayers living in the other counties that would lose representation and tax dollars, mounted a strong campaign to stop the movement.

Irwin County mounted a strenuous campaign as did Worth County to keep it from happening. Both would lose a railroad

and major developing areas, Sycamore and Ashburn.

Literature was distributed to all residents asking them to contact their representatives and vote against the proposal. A copy of one such lengthy communication was sent to Mr. D.H. Davis, probably inadvertently as he was a strong booster of the need for a new county.

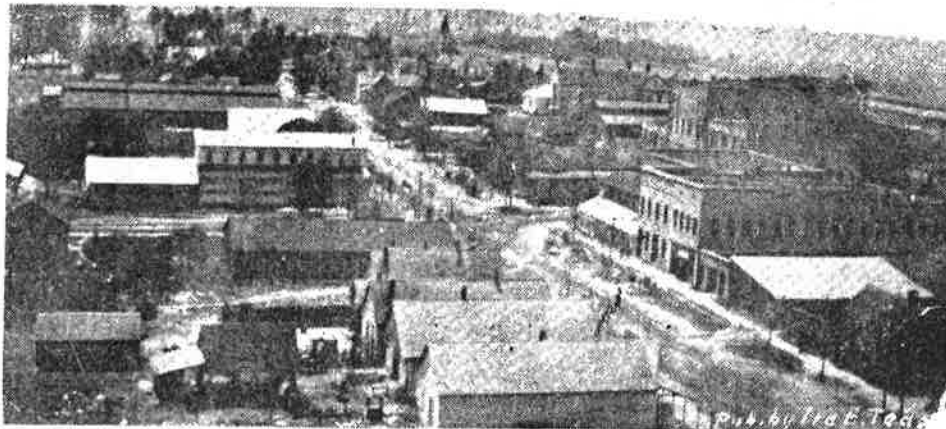
The delegation selected to promote the formation of a new county with Ashburn as its seat, proposed the name, 'Henderson,' to honor the early pioneer family and its descendants who settled in the Sycamore area.

Unfortunately, there were too many of the Henderson family still alive and active in government. The rules stated that a county could not be named after a living person.

It so happened that Henry Gray Turner, the well respected judge and legislator had recently died and the honor was bestowed upon him. The local delegation was notified of the change in June.

The legislature heard final arguments on the proposal on August 11 and the bill was approved and signed on August 18, 1905.

The county is remembering the seventy-fifth anniversary of this occasion with a nine day celebration starting October 3. Included will be a number of special events days, recognition programs, plays and a parade.



This early photo depicts Gordon St. in Ashburn long before it became a modern business plaza.

TURNER COUNTY NURSERY AND FLORIST
WILLIE BURKS
SCOTT OIL CO.

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WOODMEN OF THE WORLD
MEN AND WOMEN'S UNITS OF REBECCA
QUALITY PRINTING CO., ADEL, GA.

The John W. Evans Family

AMONG EARLIEST SETTLERS WHO HELPED BUILD NEW TOWN

John West Evans was born Sept. 27, 1844. Ella Bohannon was born Dec. 27, 1852. They were married Sept. 27, 1871.

In the early 1880s, they came to the section which is now Turner County to work for J.S. Betts in his sawmill operations. Mr. Evans served as bookkeeper for the firm of J.S. Betts and Company and served in other capacities with affiliated companies such as Betts-Evans Trading Co. and Evans Realty Co. When a post office was opened in Ashburn, he served as the first postmaster.

His eldest son, George Sterling Evans, was born Sept. 3, 1872 and was very active in the businesses until his untimely death on Nov. 11, 1903.

His second son, John Lamkin Evans, took over the

management of the sawmill and was engaged in extensive farming in later years. He was very active in all civic and church interests, particularly the Ashburn United Methodist Church which he served faithfully for decades, until his death on Dec. 6, 1934.

Other members of the family were:

Victoria Charity Evans, born Oct. 4, 1876; Aurena Emmie Josephine Evans, born July 22, 1880, married to James Rowland Burgess; Ella Mary Evans, born June 3, 1884, married to Col. Edwin A. Rogers; Samuel James Evans, born March 2, 1888, married to May Vickers.

John L. Evans married Florrie Benton Smith of Sycamore.

Their children are Josephine Evans Miller; Margaret Evans McDonald; and John L. Evans, Jr.



Reinhardt's Store on South Main St. in Ashburn about 1915. In this photo area Augustus (Gus) Reinhardt, Dean Moss, Sheriff G.A. Reinhardt and others including sister of John S. Johnson and late Ruby Johnson.

Sponsored By:
CRAFTY SUN
RAINES PHARMACY
REBECCA AUTO PARTS
WIDEMAN HARDWARE CO. OF REBECCA

The Little Red School House

hand in answer to the question, "Who is the smartest student in the class?"

Joel Chandler Womack, a student at Inaha, was certain he could fulfill requirements. He claimed "I can beat 'em all spelling, reading, writing and figuring."

At Amboy School, Miss Mary Haman claimed to be the brightest student, but Valley Strickland disagreed and claimed the honor for herself. Master Hester Strickland, who was then six years old, is a master penman and a bright boy, states the information source.

At Oak Hill School, little Miss Essie Godwin managed to spell the word "baker" but could not come up with a definition of the word "verb".

Miss Leone Paulk at Live Oak School said she liked to attend school. When asked where she lived, she said, "Anybody ought to know where I live. On the other side of the schoolhouse, of course!"

Miss May Hill, now Mrs. Clyde Young, attended school in Rebecca in the early years, and Master George Robert Youngblood was a student at Lumpkin School. At Liberty School, Master Vernon Brown was an outstanding scholar.

Listed in 1910 were these schools in Turner County: Wynn, Luke, Davisville, Deep Creek, Inaha, Amboy, Oak Hill, Live Oak, the New B&B, Bussey, Lumpkin, Oak Grove, Pleasant Hill, Sycamore, Dakota, Shingler, Liberty, Bethel, High Hill, Worth, Whiddon, Rebecca, Ashburn, Cravey.

In a number of instances, a black school was located near the site of a white school, and in a number of instances, the building was used for both school and church.

Generally, the school term was limited to the time available when farming chores could be taken care of without difficulty; during planting and harvesting school sessions were seldom.

In the case of the above schools, students rarely attended beyond seven years although Ashburn, Sycamore and Rebecca were soon to organize high schools to follow a full-year schedule for the students, providing time out of school for planting and harvesting seasons in county schools.

From the early years of the first settlers in what is now Turner County, families placed great emphasis on the need for schooling for adults and children.

Looking back at the early years, it is recalled that Mrs. Rachel Bass, a widow, began teaching in the Inaha area in about 1872. Then, the first school sessions extended for about two weeks. Mrs. Bass lived in the home where the classes were conducted for boys and girls who came to school from neighboring farms.

After conducting her classes for one group of children, Mrs. Bass would then move to a distant home to conduct classes again for other students who anxiously attended.

Among the first pupils in the Inaha area of Turner County in the year 1872 were included the names of Martha, Judy and B.E. Smith from the Smith family and Ella and Jessie Royal from the Royal family. Both families were prominent in the early days of the Inaha community.

Ella Royal and B.E. Smith were sweethearts from the time they were in the second grade. Ella was the daughter of C.L. Royal who was the first Clerk of Superior Court in Turner County and the granddaughter of Rachel Bass.

Following their marriage, Ella and B.E. Smith gave the property to locate the first two-room building in Inaha where the children attended classes. This was certainly among the earliest schools to be established in Turner County.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Smith donated property and material to construct a school for blacks in a location near Inaha.

Clara Smith Jarman was among the early teachers and continued to make teaching her career for 36 years, a favorite teacher of many elementary students at Ashburn Elementary School. Her son is W.C. Jarman, Jr., an Ashburn businessman.

Here are some comments of students which appeared in a 1910 issue of *The Wiregrass Farmer* which produced a special edition on schools of the county, including photos of the early schools and approximately 1,000 students from throughout the county.

Miss Lillian Hartley, a student at Luke School, raised her

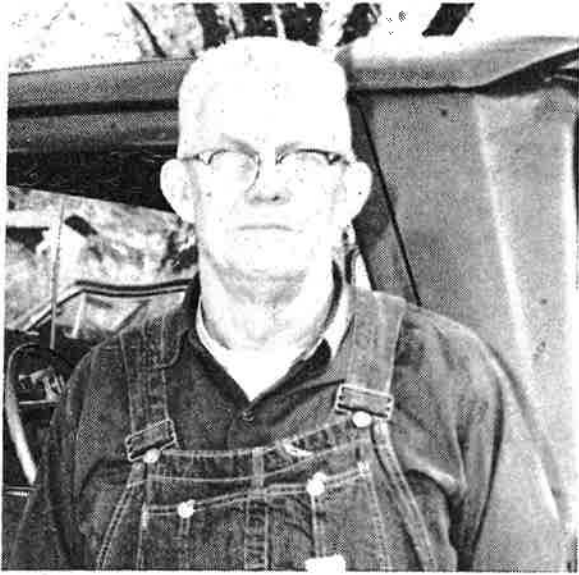


1919 graduating class: Walter Huckabee, Harry Bell, J.B. Hobby, Glenn Hemminger, Edward Baldwin, William Cooper, Anna Wardlow, Mattie Wardlow, Cecile Murray, Nina Maddox, Mary Zac Cowan, Data Mae Douglas, Bettie Lee Powell, Opal Thrasher, Evelyn Berry, Stella Cockrell, Margaret Shingler, Rena Metcalf.

The Face Is Familiar...



**Glimpses Of Turner Countians In Activities And Events
During The Years Of County Peace And Progress...**



The Face Is Familiar



The Stars Fell Like Snowflakes...

NATURE'S FIREWORKS IN 1833

Suddenly as the shadows of night fell, the heavenly fireworks began—streaks of brilliant hues across the heavens, distant soundless explosions in the uncharted seas of silent space, a panorama of incredible colors first in the east and then in the west.

It was the night of Nov. 13, 1833, that Uncle Billie Pate, a pioneer preacher who was responsible for the conversion of hundreds in the wastelands and pine thickets of South Georgia which was to become Turner County, reported that "the stars fell like snowflakes, and fireballs darted back and forth across the heavens."

Later astronomers verify the showers of meteorites over Southwest Georgia.

Terror-stricken pioneers, virtually isolated on scattered farms where they groveled out a passable living at farming, trapping or "back-peddling," had no idea of what the falling stars meant.

Some of the more superstitious considered it a sign from God; others were afraid that the world was coming to an end.

It was to Billie Pate's home that many of them came, anxious to be with a neighbor at such a time, frightened at what they saw outside, but finding some comfort in numbers.

Very soon, accommodating the crowd became a problem, and Brother Pate did not hesitate to draft assistance.

He recorded that the long night was spent in Bible-reading, praying and hymn-singing. So forceful was Uncle Billie that he could easily assume responsibilities for all three; if his voice was not as melodious as others might wish, it was

Ben Rainey, Wolf Trapper

Ben Rainey gained a wide reputation for his success at trapping wolves during the pre-Civil War era in Southwest Georgia in the vicinity of Turner County.

Rainey reportedly in 1855 trapped large numbers in his wolf pit which he constructed when it became apparent that the wolves were a danger to both humankind and animals, preying on farmers' livestock when he himself was not in danger.

Wolves continued to plague farmers through the 1860s and into the 1870s when great wolf hunts were organized in an attempt to abolish the fearful hazards to farming and business since the wolves frequently ran in packs, providing grave danger.

It is interesting, too, to note that in 1866 in the Spring of the year, word spread that a school had opened on land donated by Judge Story. Located on the north side of Worth County, the school attracted many residents—children, adults, hired farm hands—so many in fact that a lean-to-had to be built to accommodate adults. Anne Judge, Mary Shinholder, and Charlie Tipton were among the early teachers.

In 1866, the courts ordered, too, that farmers must help repair the roads after they had completed planting because the roads were in "terrible condition."

The court contended that no taxes could be collected, and that farmers would have to donate their time at road in order to make passage possible.

voluminous, and after an hour of hearing his resonant voice, reading from the Psalms or the words of Jesus Christ, the heavenly fireworks did not seem so fearsome.

At daybreak, the falling stars continued to streak through the fading darkness but Aunt Tempy Pate put herself to work to feed the hungry.

James Pate and Elijah Pate, the two sons, were sent outdoors to dig potatoes. Polly Holt, Sarah Johnson, Betsy Story and Nancy Blanchard were put to work to prepare the food.

In another room, Uncle Billie Pate did not pass up a captive audience. His record says that he delivered an hour's sermon to a stilled audience who no longer feared the wrath of God but felt the warmth and comfort of a saintly friend in the Pate home.

Eastern Star Shines Brightly Through The Years

Ashburn Chapter No. 287 Order of the Eastern Star was instituted March 3, 1941 at the Masonic Hall in Ashburn. The Chapter was granted by the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, State of Georgia at the June Convention and was constituted on July 23, 1941 by Worthy Grand Patron Ed L. Almand.

There were 37 charter members.

The first Worthy Matron was Mrs. Essa Story and the first Worthy Patron was Mr. Harry Rose.

The chapter has been honored by the Grand Chapter of Georgia with several appointments. In 1946-47 Louise Rose served as Grand Martha. Emily Perry has served as Grand Organist and a member of the Grand Choir. Jewel Phillips was a Grand Lecturer and has served on several committees. Linda C. Ewing was appointed Grand Representative of the State of West Virginia in 1944 and in 1946 Louise Rose was named Grand Representative of the State of Maine.

Four members hold Gold Seals for the Proficiency Test. They are Ruth Story, Jewel Phillips, Mildred West and Blanche Vance.

Yearbooks were compiled by three Worthy Matrons: Mrs. Mary Martenn in 1952, Mrs. Elizabeth Nolan in 1957, and Mrs. Jewel Phillips in 1964 and 1975.

Ashburn Chapter now has 33 Emeritus members with a total membership of 85.

The chapter has always been 100 percent in all special projects of the Worthy Grand Matrons during their official years.

The chapter has worked side by side with all the Masonic Bodies serving suppers for them on request. They have aided the Masonic Bodies when needed.

Each year an impressive installation of new officers is open to the public and planned by the Incoming Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

Some of the things furnished in the Masonic meeting rooms has been: emblematic signet and a piano, purchasing and installing gas heaters, a star inlaid in the carpet, chairs and tables for the star point stations, 30 folding chairs, 121 velvet covered chairs, 43 blue velvet theater chairs with padded seats, tiling the floors, painting hall and dining room, 2 wall cabinets, a refrigerator, 2 coffee urns, and dishes, glassware, and stainless steel tableware.

The chapter furnished a room at Turner County Hospital when it was built.

The Face Is Familiar



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'I Never Knew We Had So Many...'

by Butch Hasty

In more recent years Turner County has felt a crunch from a lack of medical doctors. This was not the case in earlier years. From reading the Physicians Register in the County Clerk's Office and from talking to many older citizens, it seems Turner County once had an abundance of doctors. Over the years just about every town in the county had at least one doctor. Also there were several optometrists, pharmacists, chiropractors, and dentists here in days gone by. This article attempts to give brief information on many if not all the doctors that practiced medicine of some type in Turner County.

Turner County has had only one black medical doctor. He was Doctor A.N. Samuels and he practiced medicine in Ashburn around 1918. He had his office in a small wooden building on Gordon Street near the present location of Barnes Electric Company. Doctor Samuels saw only black patients. When he left Ashburn he relocated in Moultrie, Georgia.

Probably one of the first doctors to practice in this area was Doctor T.W. Tison. Doctor Tison was a medical doctor in Ashburn before 1900. He retired from his work around 1900. Several more early doctors were R.C. Smith, Archie Griffin, Mark Anthony, Waller, and Johnson. The offices and years of these doctors could not be found.

Around 1900 there were several doctors practicing in the area which is now Turner County. Doctor T.H. Thrasher was a medical doctor in Ashburn in 1900. He had his office in a single room on Main Street. Doctor C.E. Walker was also here in 1900. He was a medical doctor in Sycamore and his office was located in the old hotel. Doctor W.J. Turner was another doctor in Ashburn around 1900. His office was in the Shingler building on College Street. There was also a Doctor C.W. Gardner who practiced medicine in Ashburn about 1900.

About 1906 Doctor W.W. Rutland set up his practice in Ashburn. His office was on Main Street. Doctor G.R. Luke came to Ashburn also around 1906. His office was upstairs above the present location of First Federal Savings and Loan Association. Doctor J.T. Dickey practiced medicine in Sycamore around 1906. He was a medical doctor but he also filled his own prescriptions as many doctors did at that time. Doctor W.L. Story was practicing in Sycamore in that same year. His office was near Doctor Walker's in the old hotel. Later Doctor Story set up his office on Main Street in Ashburn. Rebecca also had a doctor in 1906, being Doctor W.J. Dickson. In 1907 Doctor J.M. Tucker set up his practice as a medical doctor in Turner County, but the location of his office could not be found. Also in 1907 Doctor T.J. Dunlop began his practice in Amboy.

In 1908 Doctor L.H. Bishop began a practice as a medical doctor with Doctor Thrasher on Main Street in Ashburn. In 1910 Doctor J. H. Baxter set up his practice in Ashburn. His office was located in the three story Davis building beside the former Turner Theater. Doctor Baxter later moved his office to his home. Around 1911 Doctor H.W. Harris set up his practice in Sycamore. His office was beside the Royal building. Also in 1911, Doctor W.W. Terrell began his practice in Sycamore. Doctor C.E. Rutherford was a medical doctor and pharmacist in Ashburn in 1911. Doctor W.H. Houston was a doctor in Ashburn in 1911. He came to Ashburn that year and set up an office on Main Street.

In 1913 Doctor R.P. Odom set up an office in Ashburn as a medical doctor. Also in 1913, Doctor H.M. Belflower began a practice in Sycamore. His office was located upstairs over the old Swanee Store. Doctor F.W. Rogers set up a

practice in Ashburn in the same year. His office was in the J.S. Shingler building. In 1914 Doctor H.W. Birdsong set up an office in Ashburn. Also in 1914, Doctor R.D. Lins came to Turner County and set up his office in Rebecca. About the same time Doctor W.A. Harrison came to this area and began practicing as a medical doctor in the Bethel community. Later he moved his office to Sycamore.

Doctor J.R. Hughes came to Turner County in 1915 but the location of his office could not be found. In 1915 also, Doctor J.W. McElroy came to this area and set up his office in Rebecca. Later on he moved the office to Ashburn. J.F. Covington, 1915-1925, J.S. Shingler building, R.P. Adama and J.S. Shingler 1915-1920. In 1916 Doctor C.B. Welsh located an office in Ashburn. Also in 1916, Doctor J.T. Moore set up an office in Sycamore over Royal's store. Doctor O.H. Snider also came to Turner County in 1916 but the location of his office could not be found.

In 1917 Doctor J.T. Henley came to Turner County and opened an office in Ashburn. Doctor G.C. McKenzie began practicing medicine in Ashburn also in 1917. His office was in the J.S. Shingler building. Doctor McKenzie practiced medicine for less than a year before going into the real estate business. Doctor R.D. Stallings also came to this area in 1917. His office was located in Ashburn. In 1918 Doctor D.P. Luke set up his office in Ashburn in the Davis building beside the former Turner Theater. Also in 1918 Doctor J.W. Bradley opened an office in Ashburn in the J.S. Shingler building. Doctor H.L. Giles also came to Turner County in 1918 but the location of his office could not be found. Doctor L.D. Stephens set up his office in Sycamore in the same year. His office was above the Swanee Store with Doctor Belflower.

In 1919 Doctor J.H. Kelly came here and set up his office in the Bethel community. In 1920 Doctor G.W. Balkcom set up his practice in Ashburn. Doctor D.D. Rea, a medical and surgical doctor, came here in 1924 and set up an office in Ashburn. In 1927 Doctor W.D. Rea set up his office in Ashburn also. In 1935 Doctor C.A. Henderson came to Turner County. He was a nephew of Doctor Belflower. He had his office first in Ashburn and later on in Sycamore. In 1939 Doctor I.H. Hunter came to Ashburn and opened an office. J.H. Matthews, Rebecca, 1940's. Around 1940 Doctor W.K. Stewart came to Turner County. He first had his office in Rebecca. Later he moved his office to Ashburn in the Davis building. About 1945 Doctor J.M. Schnelling came to this area and opened his office in Ashburn in the J.S. Shingler building. Doctor C.F. Allen came to Ashburn in 1954 and set up his office on Main Street. Also in 1954, Doctor Y.F. Carter set up his practice in Ashburn. In 1956 Doctor H.W. Meeker, a medical doctor and chiropractor, came to Ashburn and set up his office in a house where Mr. Robert E. Smith lives today on East Washington Street. In 1961 Doctor W.K. Lane came here and set up his practice in the Doctor's Clinic. In 1973 Doctor O.C. Gunter came to Ashburn and also set up his office in the Doctor's Clinic.

At the present Turner County has five medical doctors. Doctor C.C. Goss came here in 1948 and set up an office in the McKenzie building. In 1950 Doctor Woodrow Goss joined him and they set up an office in the Shingler building. Later, in 1957 they set up the Doctor's Clinic on Washington Street and they still have their offices there. In 1956 they were joined by Doctor J.W. Reynolds. He also had his office in the Doctor's Clinic at the present. In 1975, Doctor Jordon Dinolov came to TURNER County and first had his office in the Doctor's Clinic. He has now set up an office on South Gordon Street in Ashburn. Also in 1975, Doctor Jack Fan came here and his office is located in the Doctor's Clinic. Doctor Dinolov will be joined in the next few days by Doctor Yu-Chia Chao. He will raise Turner County's number of medical doctors to six.

Turner County has also had a number of dentists in past years. The first dentist in this area was Doctor G.W. Cooper. He was located in Ashburn around 1900. His office was

upstairs in the Betts-Evans building on Main Street. He was followed by Doctor J.E. Paulk, also around 1900, who located his office on Main Street in Ashburn. In 1911 Doctor S.W. Lide came to Turner County and set up his practice in Sycamore. In 1913 Doctor T.A. Price set up an office in Ashburn. Doctor H.O. Baught came to Turner County in 1916. He first had his office in Sycamore in the Fountain building. Later he moved his office to the McKenzie building in Ashburn. He was followed in 1917 by Doctor G.E. Fussell. Doctor Fussell located his office in Ashburn. Around 1920 Doctor A.S. Saunders came to this area and began his dental practice in Ashburn. In the 1920's or 1930's there was a Doctor McCullum who came from Cordele to Sycamore one day per week to work as a dentist. His office was located in the Fountain building. Also in the 1930's Doctor W.H. Hansford set up an office in Ashburn. His office was in the Betts-Evans building in the present location of the office of Del-Cook Lumber Company. In 1947 Doctor L.C. Cone set up his practice as a dentist in Ashburn. His office was also located in the present location of the office of Del-Cook Lumber Company. Today Turner County has only one dentist. He is Doctor E.J. Tison and he came to Ashburn in 1959. His office is located on College Street in Ashburn.

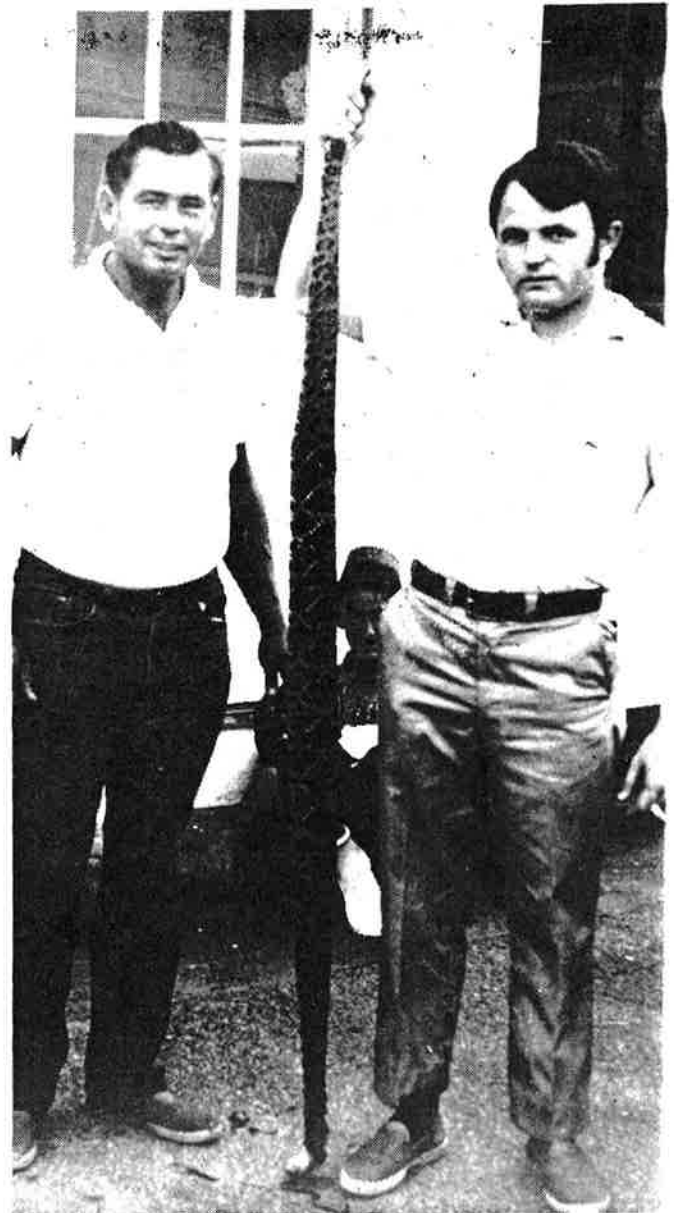
Turner County received its first optometrist in 1917. In that year three optometrists came to this area. Doctor J.W. Haley came and set up his office in Ashburn. Later he opened a jewelry store in Ashburn. Also, Doctors T.S. Freeman and J.W. Johnson came to Turner County in 1917. The location of their offices could not be found. In 1919 Doctor W.S. Young came to Turner County to set up his practice. His office was also one that could not be located. Turner County did not acquire another optometrist until 1954 when Doctor W.E. Walker came. Doctor Walker opened an office in Ashburn. At the present, there is only one optometrist in Turner County. He is Doctor J.C. Greene and he came to Ashburn in 1959. His office is on Johnston Street in Ashburn.

The first chiropractor to come to this area was Doctor A.W. White. He came to Turner County in 1925 and set up his office in Ashburn. Doctor H.W. Meeker, already mentioned as a medical doctor, was also a chiropractor. He came to Turner County in 1956. Today Doctor Grady Poole is the only chiropractor in Turner County. He came to Ashburn in 1958. His office was first located in a house on North Main Street, now the residence of Rev. C.M. Payne. Doctor Poole now has his office on Shingler Drive in north Ashburn.

In the earlier years of the 20th century before a druggist license was mandatory many of our doctors filled their own prescriptions. But as our society modernized and medicine became more complicated, pharmacy branched and became a field all on its own. There were druggists in the early 1900's but they were trained locally rather than going to a school of pharmacy as is done today. One of Turner County's first pharmacists was Doctor M.S. Stalsvey. He located his business in Ashburn in about 1908 in the Ashburn Drug Store. Another early pharmacist in Turner County was Doctor J.A. Faircloth. Doctor Faircloth located in Ashburn in 1913. He was in the Davis-Faircloth Drug Store. This store was in the Davis building in Ashburn. Later Doctor Faircloth had a drug store next door to the present location of the office of Floyd Wardlow. In 1914 Doctor V.A. North set up a business in Ashburn. He operated Union Drug Store on College Street in Ashburn. In 1920 two pharmacists began working in Rebecca. They were Doctors T.B. Wideman and C.A. Latinus. Also around 1920 Sycamore received a pharmacist. He was Doctor Jake Luke and he worked in a drug store in the old row of buildings just west of the railroad in downtown Sycamore. About this same time Doctor Albert Tharpe opened a drug store on Main Street in Ashburn. Doctor Tharpe operated this store until about 1941. In about 1925 Doctor Lamar

Ray began filling prescriptions and working in a drug store. He was taught much of his pharmacy by Doctor Humphreys. Later Doctor Ray attained his pharmacy license and he opened Ray's Drug Store in Ashburn on Gordon Street. In the 1960's he went into partnership with Doctor Ralph McLeod at R&M Cash Drugs on Washington Street. Doctor David Raines began as a pharmacist in Turner County about 1935. In 1941 he purchased Tharpe's Drug Store on Main Street in Ashburn. He operated the store there for about 20 years. He then built Raines Pharmacy on Washington Street and operated his business there until about 1973.

Presently Turner County has three pharmacists. Doctor Roger Wilsom came to Ashburn as a pharmacist in 1964. He worked with Doctor Raines until about 1973 when he purchased Raines Pharmacy from Doctor Raines. Doctor Ralph McLeod came to Turner County in 1965. He went into business with Doctor Ray at R&M Cash Drugs and later he purchased the entire business and he is presently operating the business. Doctor Richard Lane began in Turner County as a pharmacist in 1967. He is the pharmacist at Freeway National in Rogers Plaza in Ashburn.





The Ashburn Lions Club was active through the 1940s and 1950s in Ashburn. At center are Roy Maddox and Bill Stover. Others in scene are D.C. Getz, L.E. Barry, Alex Story, Arthur Smith, John S. Johnson, and Dr. J.W. Haley.

Near Neighbors

W.W. Ashburn And Henry G. Turner Were Born Within A Hundred Miles Of Each Other.

On November 26, 1838, a son was born to the Ashburns who were small plantation owners in Surry County, North Carolina. The boy was called W.W. by his family and friends and he would eventually have a city named after him.

About a hundred miles away, and less than four months afterwards, on March 20, 1839, Henry Gray Turner was born in Franklin County, North Carolina to a newly settled pioneer family.

It is interesting to note that the men that our county and our county seat would be named after were born near each other and at about the same time in history.

W.W. Ashburn did not acquire a formal education but chose to work after completing his basic preparatory schooling. He served in the Twenty-First North Carolina Regiment during the Civil War, serving on General Early's staff. Participating in many battles, including Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Plymouth where he was wounded, he established an enviable service record.

Returning home in 1865, he married his sweetheart of many years, Anna Atkinson. W.W. bought and sold tobacco for a number of years, acquiring sufficient funds to move to Eastman, Georgia and start buying timber in South Georgia.

Later they moved to Atlanta and Mr. Ashburn set up an office and a South Georgia home in Moultrie where he built his financial empire, acquiring thousands upon thousands of acres of land. Much of it was in the Turner County area, some being jointly owned.

Even though he never lived in Turner County, it was through his benevolence towards the area, donating land for church and public use, that the city fathers decided to honor him by changing the city's name from Marion to Ashburn when it was chartered in 1891.

Henry Turner entered the University of Virginia but had to drop out when his father died. Several years later he moved to Georgia where he taught school until the Civil War started and he joined the Confederate Army. He was mustered out as a captain after being severely wounded at Gettysburg. He began to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1865. He served three terms in the State Legislature and eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was then appointed one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia. He died in 1905 and was honored by the State Legislature with the naming of the next county to be formed.



This is one of the first schools in Rebecca, and numbered among these students is Mrs. Mae Hill Young.

A Sycamore Switch Gave Town Its Name...

James Jackson Henderson Was Among Earliest pioneers Here

James Jackson Henderson, son of Rhoda Whitley Henderson and John Henderson, was born August 27, 1827 in Irwin County, Georgia. He was married to Miss Susannah Whiddon September 19th, 1850. He died May 28, 1910. At the time of his death he was 82 years, nine months and one day old. He and his devoted wife lived together for 59 years, eight months and nine days.

From this union was born five daughters and three sons. His wife and all the daughters survive him, Mrs. Jane H. Clements, Mrs. Una H. Young, Mrs. Sarah H. Clements, Mrs. Susan H. Story, Mrs. Juda H. Story, and one son James W. Henderson. Two sons, Duncan Henderson and George W. Henderson died in 1872 and 1875.

Captain Henderson was one if not the oldest citizen of Turner County, and it was for him that the county was first to have been named, but, he being alive, the Legislature could not name any county for a man who was still in life. He was one of the pioneer citizens of this section of the state. He did as much in the eighties and nineties as any man in South Georgia to induce settlers from Middle and North Georgia to settle in this section of the state.

He was the son of a Methodist preacher, and at no great distance in the past he was called upon to officiate at the grave, he having connected himself with a branch of the church in early life, and ministers being far between in this section of Georgia. Be it said of him that his home was a shelter for the weary and at all times. No man was ever turned away hungry and unsheltered, never turning a deaf ear to the importunities of his less unfortunate bretheren.

He was the founder of the beautiful little City of Sycamore,

same having been named for a huge Sycamore tree standing in his yard, said to have been planted there by his own hands more than fifty years ago. He was an ex-Confederate soldier and a member of Camp Bartow, this county. He volunteered in Camp "A" of 61 Ga. Regiment in 1861 from Irwin County, was captured at Ft. Pulaski in the early part of the war and was sent to Ft. Delaware Federal Prison, being afterwards exchanged. He returned to his company and was honorably discharged at Ft. Donalson at the close of the war in 1865 as Captain of his Company. He was painfully wounded at Petersburg, Va. being shot in the mouth with a minnie ball during the memorable seige of that strong-hold. He was as true to the South as any man that wore the Gray, he loved the Stars and Bars as only the true and brave could. He loved that flag when it went down in glorious defeat at Appomattox, as he did when it waved in triumph and victory at Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and the Wilderness. He never tired telling to both old and young of the glory of the old South and of his love for her cause and people.

But alas like the majority of that once invincible army of the purest and noblest men that every mustered around any banner, he has answered that last call of the Great Captain of his salvation, fought the last fight, and came out more than conqueror. Is he dead, No, he only sleepeth.

Asleep in Jesus, Oh how sweet, To be for such a slumber meet, With holy confidence to sing, the death has lost his venomd sting.

Rebecca Arts And Crafts Club

When a small group of ladies began talking about organizing a Home Economics Club in Rebecca, Marjorie Waters contacted all other ladies who seemed interested and with the help of Turner County Home Economist Mary Jane Warren, on December 8, 1966 met at the home of Shirley Crawford. There were 25 ladies at that first meeting and it was voted to meet one afternoon once a month.

In February of 1968 the Turner County Agent, Harold Hall, met with the club to inform us that we would have to have all future meetings in a public building. Because Rebecca did not have these facilities our Home Economics Club was disbanded. In November, 1968, we reorganized, changing our name to Rebecca Arts and Crafts Club. We elected the following officers: Evelynne Maddox, President; Shirley Crawford, 1st Vice President; Emma Young, 2nd Vice President; Ruby Hancock, Secretary and Treasurer.

Some of the activities that our club has been responsible for in the last years are: Cancer pads made and given to the American Cancer Society in Albany; lap robes, terry cloth bibs and flannel boots were made and taken to the Veterans Hospital in Dublin each year.

Polyester lap robes were made for the Turner County Convelescent Home. On several occasions we served the Elderly Village with covered dish lunches.

We support the Jerry Lewis M.D. Telethon. The club has an arthritic pen-friend Helen Fendrick living in Dodge, Nebraska. All the ladies keep in contact with Helen and on her birthday and Christmas she is mailed a parcel of gifts.

Each year our club takes trips to places of interest.



They Sang At A Hanging!

by MRS' NETTA SHINGLER

I arrived in Ashburn in September, 1914. There were no paved sidewalks and no paved roads. Roads were either dusty or muddy. Highway 41 was our first paved highway. Property owners paid for the sidewalk and the road that was paved in front of their property.

Teachers could have two dates during the week and were pledged to have their date leave at 11 p.m.

There were no radios, no picture shows, but we did have Chatauqua every year in the late spring. It was good clean entertainment held in a big tent. Drug stores had soda fountains and they also had curb service so you could sit in your car (if you had one) and enjoy your chocolate ice cream soda.

The school house in 1914 was all grades including high school in one building. It included grades one through eleven. School was from 8 until 2 p.m. with a half hour for lunch that was brought from home.

This school house had an auditorium on the second floor and a stage for plays. One of the most popular was "The Old Maids Convention". Every grade put on a program at the end of school.

This first school was located on a lot at the corner of Madison and Gordon streets. It was a wooden building. The first teacher was Miss May Jenkins, later became the second Mrs. J.S. Betts.

This wooden building was replaced by the two-story brick building which was located where the present first and second grades are now. This building burned in 1955.

Miss Nina Cox was instrumental in having Grade Schools established in rural sections of Turner County. There were three high schools in the County, one in Rebecca, one in Sycamore and one in Ashburn.

Mr. J.S. Shingler Sr. came to this section from Eastman in 1888. There was no town, but plenty of pine forests.

Mrs. J. S. Shingler with, Clyde, her first child, arrived later on a freight train. Their first home was a log house. On entering the log house, Mrs. Shingler, after looking around, asked the question, "Where can I hang my hat?"

Their home, "Sparrow Nest," was built in 1895 and here through the years the parlor was used for funerals, weddings, christenings, and family celebrations.

Mr. J.S. Shingler Sr. was instrumental in helping to build the church, the school, the courthouse and many buildings in downtown Ashburn. The first pipe organ was given to the church by Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Shingler Sr. in 1918.

The first parsonage donated to the South Georgia Conference for retired preachers was given by Mr. Shingler and the land on which the Wesley Camp Meeting is held each summer. Mr. J.S. Shingler Sr. and Mr. W.A. Shingler, his cousin, gave the land used for a town and county Recreation Park such as picnics, etc.

The last man to be hung in Turner Co. was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was in the Fall of the year 1914. King was the Sheriff and O.B. Jarman was Deputy Sheriff. C.H. Bishop, School Superintendent, and J.B. Thrasher Methodist minister were others who were present.

Just before the trap was sprung a brief service was held. We were grouped facing the prisoner. Bro. Thrasher read the Scriptures and closed with prayer. Then Miss Netta D. Jacobs, the Public School Music Teacher, and Mrs. J.J. Story, a former teacher, sang two numbers. "Jesus Lover of My Soul" and "Rock of Ages." If the prisoner heard us he made no sign but those conducting the service were overcome. As we reached the bottom of the stairs we heard the trap spring open.



'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!'

Thus A Telegram From J.S. Shingler Instructed Joe Lawrence To 'Tell The People' Of The Creation Of Turner County!

It was on August 11, 1905, that a telegram arrived in Ashburn, a sawmill community not much more than 18 years old, and Wiregrass Farmer Editor Joe Lawrence read the message:

"J. Lawrence, Ashburn, Ga.

You are living in Turner County. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Tell the people.

J.S. Shingler."

Immediately, there was abundant celebration as a long-time dream was realized with a legislative act which created a new county for thriving communities of Ashburn, Sycamore and Rebecca as well as Worth, Amboy, Coverdale, Sibley, Luke, Bethel and other hamlets.

An appeal for the formation of a new county had been brought to the State legislature for almost a decade. As early as 1902, Dr. Tigner H. Thrasher, a prominent community leader and a close friend of Gov. Terrell, had made a special trip to Atlanta to ask for the creation of a new county.

Dr. Thrasher could tell first-hand of the need for a new county to be served by the City of Ashburn as a county seat. Doctors frequently were required to travel great distances to serve as witnesses in court cases evolving from highway and roadway accidents, and at the same time, the farming populace found it difficult to participate in court sessions since they were required to make a two-day trip to Isabella, the county seat then of Worth County, or to Abbeville, the county seat for Wilcox County, to serve as either jurors or witnesses.

At this time, the people of Ashburn found themselves divided by four counties—Dooly, Worth, Wilcox, and Irwin Counties—with Ashburn at the hub, and it is from those four counties that the new county was carved.

A report was given to the State House of Representatives on Aug. 11, 1905, by a committee on new counties and new county lines. Eight other counties were to be created simultaneously with the creation of Turner County. They are Jenkins, Tift, Crisp, Stephens, Toombs, Jeff Davis and Grady Counties.

The legislature designated that the county seat for the new county was to be Ashburn and Turner County was attached to the Second Congressional District and to the Albany Judicial Court.

The Superior Court of Turner County was to be held on the second Monday in March and September of each year.

While earliest plans to construct a new courthouse were underway, court sessions were held for a short period of time in the building now occupied by The Wiregrass Farmer on Gordon St. in Ashburn.

Ordinary W.A. Greer served as a commissioner for the new county, and it was his decision for the site of the new courthouse. Mr. Greer, a prominent business man at the time of his election to the job of ordinary, had full responsibility for county funds in the years 1906 to 1908 as the new county came to life. A board of commissioners was started in 1908, two years after the new county came into existence.

Serving on that first board were D.H. Davis, who was the chairman, J.H. Gilmore, Ben Cravey and W.T. Williams who served as clerk.

The first sheriff of Turner County was John B. Cason, and the first tax receiver was V.A. Freeman. First tax collector was T.E. Brown, and the first clerk of Superior Court was C.L. Royal.

It then became necessary for these pioneers to choose a

man to represent them in the State Legislature. Women, of course, were not allowed to vote, much less serve in the State Legislature.) The first representative chosen was J.W. Sumner.

Other chores awaited those who led the way in the formation of a new county; county schools required a county board of education. In those days, community schools at Ashburn, Sycamore, Rebecca, Worth, Coverdale, Luke and Amboy were growing rapidly. The county board of education served the county schools, but boards of trustees were named at Ashburn, Sycamore and Rebecca for the designated city schools.

On the first board of education were B.E. Smith, J.W. Brown, H.B. Erminger, Judge J.D. Foster and O.A. Boze-man.

J.H. Gorday was the first county treasurer, and the first jury commissioners were W.K. Jenkins, J.B. Chandler, J.S. Geoghagan, A.L. Hobby and J.W. Henderson.

E.N. Spence of Albany was the first judge to serve Turner Superior Court, and W.E. Wooten was the first solicitor.

A.J. Davis, J.L. Bass and Elbert Paulk were the first board of registrars.

Tax equalizers were chosen from the seven districts—later Turner County was to expand to nine districts—for the purposes of a county tax levy for the new county.

At the outset, those courageous men who led the way to the creation of Turner County including the Evans, Betts, Shinglers, and others had dedecided on the name of Henderson County, not Turner County, seeking to honor J.W. Henderson for his major role in the development of the county and his identity with the pioneers of this section.

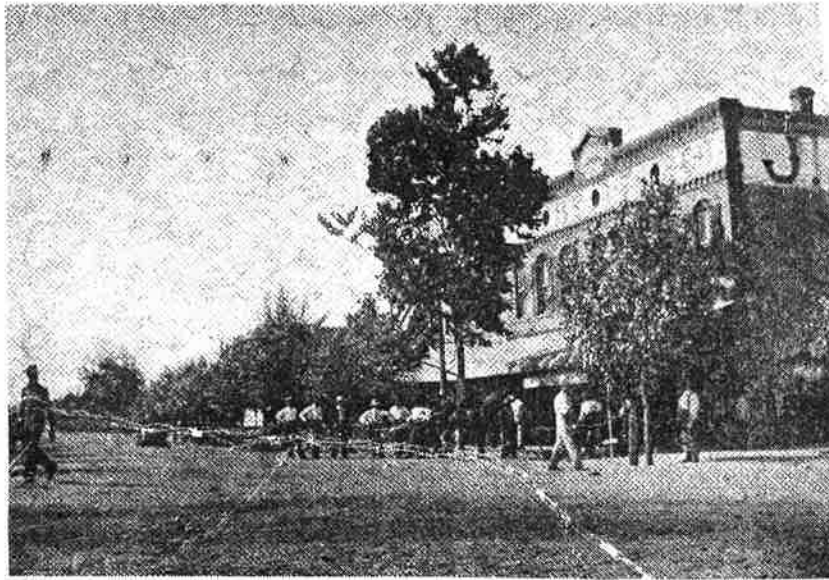
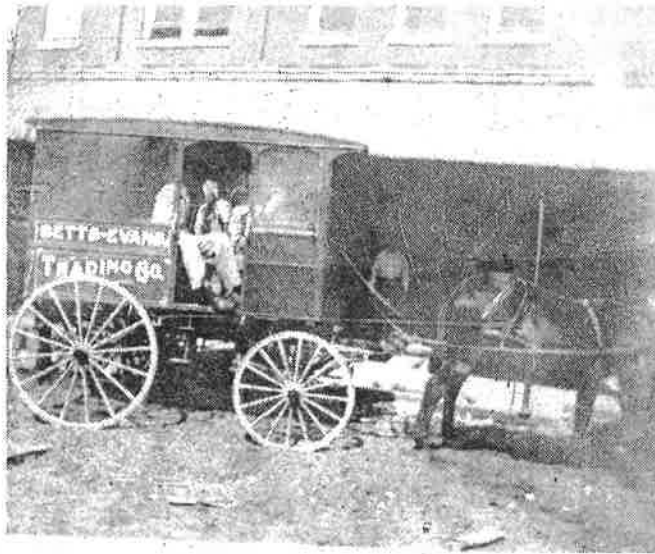
But the State Legislature would not accept the name of a living man as the forefather of the county, and instead chose Henry Grady Turner as the man to honor. Mr. Turner, a Confederate veteran, and a State and U.S. congressman, died two years before he would have known that a county had taken his name.

In March 1906, a bond issue was called and approved to build a new courthouse and jail at the breath-taking cost of \$60,000.

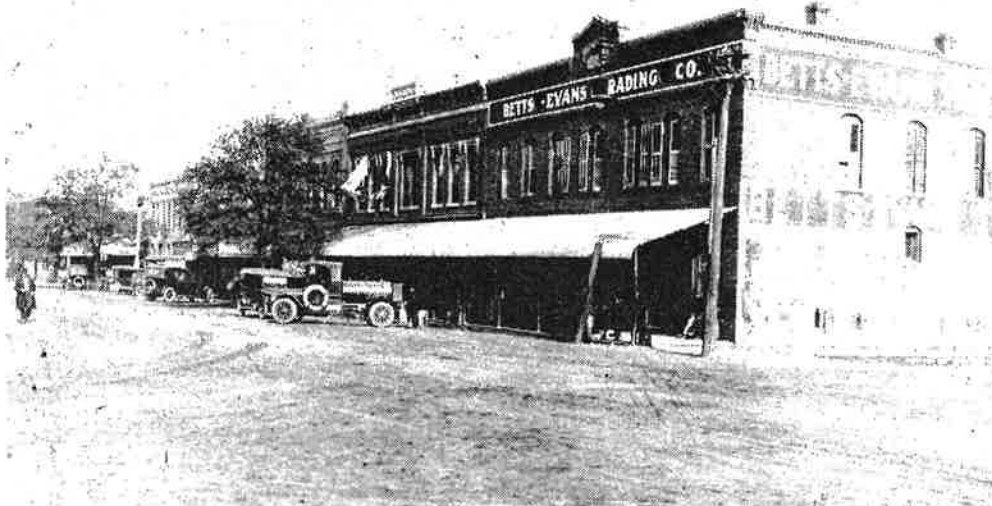




In this photo are (left) Adolphus A. Johnson and Reason Paulk, both identified with the earliest days of Turner County. Mr. Johnson, known as "Two-A Johnson," came to Turner County around 1900, selling and trading horses and mules. He moved his family to Ashburn July 5, 1900. He ran a livery stable on Main St. near present Fire Station. He served as a police on several occasions and was deputy sheriff under first sheriff John Cason. He was one of a group with Mr. Paulk who served as clerk of Superior Court, who worked for creation of Turner County.



This postcard photo shows the original J.S. Betts and Co. before the business became Betts-Evans Trading Co. on Main St. at Washington. This was long before Highway 41 was paved through Ashburn. Note trees growing on sidewalk in front of stores.



Main St. was called Railroad st. when this picture was made to show Betts Evans Trading Co. at the corner of Main and Washington St., one of Ashburn's most prosperous business places in the early years of the community.

On Sale: Horse Collars And Paris Perfume

Betts-Evans Trading Co. Started With Ashburn,

Became One Of Most Successful Businesses In New County.

No business in Ashburn was more closely identified with the early growth of Turner County than the Betts-Evans Trading Co.

Betts-Evans Trading Co. was an outgrowth of the commissary which supplied the workers at the J.S. Betts Lumber Co. here. Part of their pay each week was in coupon books which could be redeemed for supplies at the commissary.

In 1898 the Evans Building was erected on the old site of the commissary (now the corner of Washington St. and Main St). The "front street" building was divided into three departments, connected by the large doors inside which made passage from one to the other convenient.

The main floor was comprised of a dry good store, a grocery store and a hardware store. The upper floor housed the offices of the J.S. Betts Lumber Co. and other businesses connected with the company.

A stairway at the back of the hardware store led to the furniture displayed there. Later, the offices of the stores were moved to the back of the hardware store where there was an outside entrance. Also, at one time a bridge stretched across the alley to the Wiregrass Farmer building.

The grocery store met the needs of the housewives by taking orders over the phone and then making deliveries in a horse-drawn wagon in time for the noon meal to be ready when the mill whistle blew for lunch at 12 o'clock.

In the early days Jim Bozeman managed the stores and conducted all funerals. Coffins and other funeral supplies were furnished by the hardware store.

Some of the managers connected with the department store were Gus King, E.N. Clark, J.F. Johnston and George Stubbs.

Garnet Durham and Will Miller ran the meat market of the grocery store. In later years, this store became "Jitney Jungle" and was operated by Harry Rose.

The furniture store was operated by Ed Clark for a number of years. Later, it was bought by D.H. Rose and he and his son, Charles Rose, ran the business as Ashburn Dept. Stores.

The office for the company was operated for a number of years by E.F. Knowles, ably assisted by Miss Ellen Gordon.

This store served the people of Ashburn for a number of years.

Shriners ... A Worthy Group

The Turner County Shrine Club is made up of members of the Shrine at Hasan Temple in Albany which was chartered July 12, 1951 as the 162nd temple in North America. It was chartered with 800 members and now has over 4,000. The Turner County Shrine Club was organized in 1956. The members of the Turner County Shrine Club were business men with foresight and they purchased a city block in West Ashburn. On this property they built a swimming pool, skating rink and lighted softball field, a playground equipped with a slide in swings and a picnic area with permanent concrete tables and benches. Most of the actual labor was done by the Shriners themselves after their regular working days.

At the swimming pool each year they were responsible for hundreds of children being taught how to swim and thus save lives.

The club house was presented to the Shrine Club by the Ashburn Lions Club along with a check for \$1400 by Roy Maddox, treasurer of the Lions Club, which was no longer active. The house was moved from just north of the Hunt home to the Shrine Club property.

The Turner Club Shrine Club has always been considered one of the strongest clubs in Hasan Temple due in part to every monthly meeting being "Ladies Night" with the ladies serving a delicious meal.

Annually the club holds a paper sale with the money being used to support the orthopedic and burns hospitals for children sponsored entirely by the Shriners of America.

The club hosted the first Hasan Temple Ceremonial ever held in

Ashburn on April 7-8, 1967. Potentate Roby Royal started this ceremonial in its entirety would be conducted in memory of the late Charles A. Rose, Ambassador-at-large of the Hasan Temple at the time of his death in June 22, 1966 and also president of the Turner County Shrine Club.

Potentate Royal had this to say, "What a Great Day," it was at Ashburn. We have never had the open-armed reception of hospitality as we received from the nobility and general public. To the Nobles and townspeople all, a great big Thank you. You left no stone unturned to make this one of the most memorable occasions for Shriners and all visitors alike—again to all of the people in Turner County—Thank you!"

The 2nd ceremonial was held in Ashburn in May 1972 as a loving tribute to Noble Grady M. Sconyers who was on the elected Divan of Hasan Temple at the time of his death in 1971 and a past president of Turner County Shrine Club. Potentate O.F. Thompson expressed his thanks to the club for their good work and wonderful hospitality.

In 1977 the club furnished their 1st Potentate in R.E. Blue and in May 21 the third ceremonial was hosted by the club.

Next year they will have their 2nd Potentate when Joe McNair will assume the help of Hasan Temple.

The club has recently sold their property to the city for their recreation center and they are presently meeting at the Masonic Building. At a future date they hope to build a new club house and continue their good work in Shrinedom.

Inaha

The Community's First Families

by Mrs. Clara Jarman

To my knowledge one of the very first settlers in Inaha district was John Allen Smith of Scotch-Irish descent. He was a veteran of the "War between the States" or "Civil War" having enlisted voluntarily when 16 years of age. He was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg—carried a bullet in his hip—not accepting a discharge and assisted doctors in treating the wounded until the war ended April 9, 1865. At the close of the war he rode a train to Albany, Ga. and walked to Inaha community to settle. He bought land from a Jim Sumner who helped him erect a log cabin. He married Nancy Roberts from Crosslands, Ga. then later erected a nice wooden home (which stands today unoccupied in need of repair). He reared 6 children, namely, Martha, Judy, B.E. (Bryant Erastus) Reason, Ozzie, and Alice.

B.E. was born Oct. 20, 1866, a person of courage, vitality, vision and perseverance—rightly called a philanthropist, a real founder of a progressive, moral and religious community. As his success in farming grew he entered a partnership with William Scandrett and added turpentine business to farming. In a short time he purchased Scandretts interest and assisted in cutting the right of way for J.S.&F. (Georgia Southern and Florida) railroad. Later he added saw-milling and cotton ginning to farming and turpentine operations. To these interests began a mercantile business in a large wooden structure which soon had a sectioned area as a room for a Post Office. He applied for Post Master and for years was Inaha Post Master. A depot or station was erected by the railroad to accommodate the growing population with freight shipments by rail to and from Inaha.

B.E. Smith's interest and love for people and advancement prompted further work and achievements. He donated land and materials for a church building, also, land and materials for a two teacher (two room) school building close beside the church.

Following these accomplishments and realizing the needs of the black population he donated land and material for a black people's school and church which were erected less than a mile away from the white school and church. In later years when Turner County voted consolidation of schools their white school was included.

Pioneers settling later were:

C.L. Royal who became the first Turner County Clerk of Court. Father of Ella Florine Royal who was married to B.E. Smith and grandfather of Robert Royal, at present Judge of Superior Court, Floyd County. Also, grandfather of D.C. Royal who served ably as Turner County School Supt.

Other great contributors to area development were Lott Warren, Charles E. Hardy, Mark Luke (father of three doctors, Richard, Dave and Dempsey), B.H. Cokrell, Ben Cravey, Jim Cravey, Jordon Clyatt, Jim Denham, (father of J.N. Denham, Judge of Probate Court), Simon Yawn, Jim Cromer, Isaiah Wright, Fletcher Phelps, O.B. Jarman, Garrett NeSmith, J.A. Ewing (1912) John Yarbrough, H. Dean Wagoner, A.C. Meek and others.

First Weddings:

Martha Smith, daughter of John Allen Smith, married to Johnnie Sutton of Sumner, Ga.

Judy Smith, daughter of John Allen Smith, married—Cravy.

B.E. (Bryant Erastus) son of John Allen Smith, married to Ella Florine Royal.

Ozie Smith, son of John Allen Smith married to Pearl Fountain of Sycamore, Ga.

First baby born:

Martha Smith, daughter of John Allen Smith.

First Death:

Doris Nell Griffin, daughter of Lillie Belle Smith and Josh Griffin.

Black Pioneers—Early Inaha

Lest we forget these outstanding characters of this race in Inaha area:

Fletcher Faulk, Wesley Griggs, Lizzie Griggs, half Indian long black hair, high cheek bones, smart, intelligent, upright and lovable to whites and blacks, Ed Hunt, a very good, dependable character called "Uncle Ben". Also, Hamp Martin and Mingo Presley, a family connection of Bud Presley.

P.S. Uncle Ben's surname—Crump.

Occupations of First Pioneers

These first pioneers made their livelihood farming and encouraging timber growth in the area to naval stores business this led. Crops included cotton (king), corn, sweet potatoes, sugar cane. Raising cattle and hogs, Fruits—such as pears, apples, peaches, scuppernongs, and vegetables. Bird life added to their variety of foods for quail were plentiful in the woods.

Pastimes:

Pastimes for early settlers included husking bees, barn raising, quilting parties, cane grindings, July 4 picnics, candy pulling (from sugar cane syrup), dances called. Multiplication and Twistification—also a form of square dancing.

Arts and crafts were practiced by women and girls. From wax, beautiful flower arrangements were made. From corn shucks, attractive mats or rugs were woven and even hats. Fancy stitchery was used on decorative quilts.

Education

The first school sessions began around 1872 and were held in the homes. The first teacher was a widow, Mrs. Rachel Bass. The teacher would spend two weeks at intervals in different homes for salary remuneration. At that time the average number of pupils was seven. Known pupils were Martha, Judy, and B.E. Smith, Ella and Jessie Royal. Years later B.E. Smith and Ella Royal were married (date 2-4-1890).

The second school sessions were held in a one room house (called field school) and the first teacher was Miss Henrie Hogan. Among the pupils were Lillie Belle, Bessie, and Clara Smith, Dave, Dempse, John, and Lizzie Luke.

The third school sessions were held in a two room building for two teachers. This being erected as the first school building. Land and materials donated by B.E. Smith about year 1900. First teachers were John Yarbrough, Ellie Wright, Dean Wagoner, Mary Owens and Inez Vance.

Clara Smith Jarman taught two terms before consolidation and continued in the profession in Turner Schools totaling 26 years.

Athletics or Extra Curricular Activities: Softball was popular—foot races, jump rope, horse shoe games and singing games such as "London Bridge Is Falling Down" and the like.

In the sixth and seventh grades pupils were often required to write papers on topics common or current as how Turner County was organized, "Our America," "The First President," and et.

Commencement exercises including all pupils were given and dinner was spread by parents and friends.

Consolidation with Sycamore was begun in 1928.

P.S.

People of this community loved music and singing. An interested group provided "Singing Schools" every summer for all who would enroll in a two week session. These were held in the school building or church.

Religious Education

Inaha Community expressed religious interest and activity in its beginning. The first services were held in a brush arbor and Rurhl Gorday—first preacher. Soon, services were led in the field school building. A short period later when the two room school building was erected preaching continued here.

Between years 1900-1902, a church was built close beside the school building. Preaching services were held on Sunday A.M. and Sunday School in the P.M. for a period, then later the Sunday School came or was changed to the morning hour preceding the preaching services.

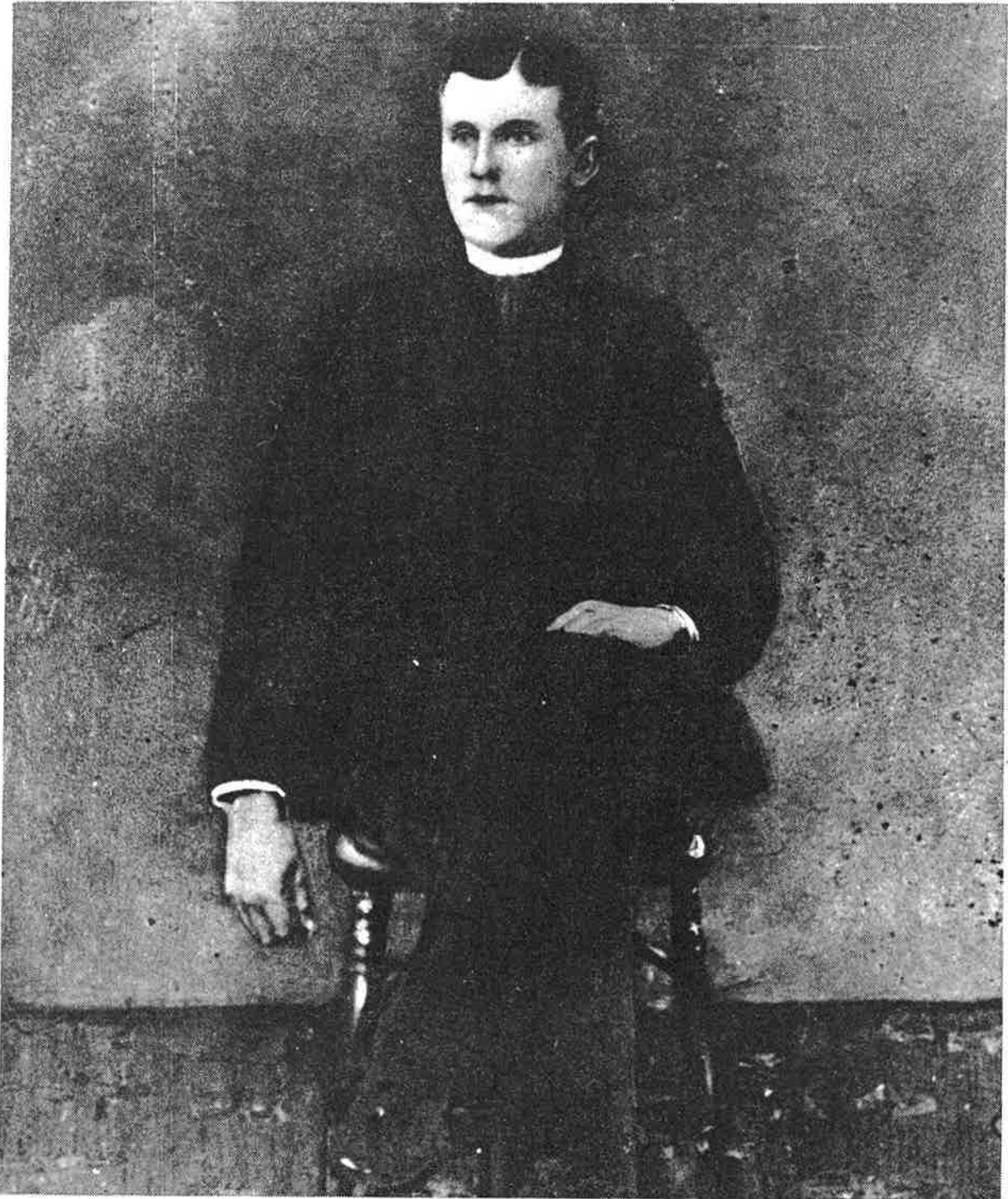
Early Pastors

Rev. Rurhl Gorday
Rev. Waters
Rev. D.W. Branch
Rev. Isaac Hobby
Rev. Floyd Hobby
Rev. W.T. Bodenhamer

These and others served well and faithfully. The present 1980 pastor is Rev. Wiley Vickers.

I have enjoyed reminiscing over the section of Turner County where I was reared, and feel deep gratitude for having lived in a community where strong and religious conviction was always expressed in the lives of the people. I have never seen or known a community of greater cooperation, unity, and love among its population.

Clara Smith Jarman
May 23, 1980



B. E. Smith was one of the early community leaders in the Inaha community.



Sumner's Grocery was located in the J.S. Shingler Building in the 1930s. General manager and owner was Roy Sumner, shown here.



This is a glimpse of first telephone company in Ashburn about 1900. Phone company was owned by Ralph Huckabee, Sr. (at right). Women in photo are unidentified. Office was located in McKenzie Building (on College Ave.) and was later sold to the General Telephone Company.

Coverdale Was Once HOLTZWITCH

The G.W. Turner Family Was Among The First To Settle In Community.

In 1889, the G.W. Turner family moved to what was then called Holtzswitch. Holtzswitch was named for a Negro who lived there by the name of Holtz. At the time Mr. Turner moved to Holtzswitch there was only one house there and that was the house Mr. Holtz lived in.

Mr. Turner built a log house and lived there until they built a large wood framed house in 1905. This house is still standing and is the oldest house in Coverdale. (It was renamed Coverdale on approximately August 18, 1905). Mr. Turner's granddaughter Patsy Roberts Brown, daughter of Ilene Turner Roberts and her family, now owns the Turner homeplace and lives there. Mrs. Ilene Turner Roberts is also still living in Coverdale. Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Brown were both born in the house now owned by Mrs. Brown.

Among the other descendants of early settlers now living in Coverdale are Kyle Brooks and his family, grandson of John A. Brooks and his mother, wife of Ira Brooks. Some more early settlers included the Evans, Forshees, Kings, Dairs, Barfields and Hobbys.

Early Industries

In the 1910's Coverdale had a cotton gin, grist mill, a two story building with a post office in the back of the general store and a barber shop and Woodsman of the World Hall upstairs, a commissary and five other stores. This was destroyed in the 1920's by fire.

The Evans' brothers built and operated the first cotton gin in Coverdale. Later the cotton gin was bought by Maxie Forshee. In the fall of 1914, Mr. Forshee also bought the Clyde King business.

Education

In approximately 1917, a one room school house was built. This was used for grades 1-7 and later a partition was added to make it a two room school. The school house was also used as a Primitive Baptist Church.

Recreation

For pasttime, they enjoyed square dances held at different homes, cane grinding and church picnics.

Industries

Over the past years, Coverdale has also had a large peanut shelling plant owned by J.W. Hallman, a turpentine still, a store and garage owned by Marvin Roberts and a train depot. The garage and depot were destroyed by fire and the peanut mill and turpentine still have been discontinued.

Presently Coverdale has a large peanut drying, buying and storage building, one store, and a fertilizer and seed business. The store is owned and operated by Mrs. C.A. Tuck. The peanut business and fertilizer business are owned by Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals.



Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Turner with children Alfred, Mary Elizabeth, Mamie Lee and Alison (in wagon). Turners built this house in 1905-10 at Coverdale.



Sabra Frances Ross was born Jan. 30, 1880 in Turner County and died Oct. 30, 1961. She was married in July 1898 to Tucker Mauldin, son of Tom Mauldin. She was daughter of John Ross and Mary Clements Ross. This photo was made in 1898.

May Day And Minstrels: IN BETHEL COMMUNITY

(Informant is Carlos Ross, born March 8, 1900. Ross' father was born here and died here.)

This was a rural community with the main crops being cotton and corn. Potatoes and sugar cane were grown for personal use. Peanuts were planted at this time for use as hog feed and for personal use.

In 1906, Bethel district formed and a school was used in the Bethel Church for 1½ years. Then Bethel School was built where grades 1-7 attended with one teacher for all. As the population increased the enrollment reached up to 100 at times and at one time there were as many as 3 teachers at the Bethel School. Mr. Ross told of a time some of the older boys "skipped" school on April 1st and decided to appear back at school about dismissing time at 3:00. Upon their arrival the teacher had them stay in school and complete the entire assignment before going home. They had to stay until after dark and of course learned an important lesson. Pageants would be held at the end of school with possibly Negro minstrels or May Day festivities. Box suppers were also held at school where the girls would pack a lunch and the boys would bid not only for the lunch but the chance to eat with their favorite "girl". There were a few of the pupils as old as 20 years old because they could only go for minutes at mid-morning and mid-evening with 1 hour for lunch. Most children brought lunch in a tin pail containing tea cakes, sausage, sweet potato and biscuit or cornbread. Activities at recess were usually ball played with a ball made from old thread used from a torn-up sock or such. The balls were soft enough that often they threw the ball at the runner rather than tag them out. Mr. John Moore was one of the first principals and teachers at Bethel School who later left to become a doctor. He returned to Sycamore and practiced medicine there for a while.

Church services were held once per month on Saturday and Sunday with ministers usually serving other churches in the county.

One horse wagons were the first mode of transportation, then double seated buggies. By 1917, there were a few Model T Fords around.

Saturday nights were spent with suppers and friends. Games of "stealing partners" and post office were enjoyed by the youth. Spin the bottle and a game called "cross questions and crooked answers" was also played. The older men would hunt and fish and occasionally have fish fries for the community. Swimming was enjoyed in this community only by the boys as girls were not allowed to wear pants, only dresses. It was also considered "disgraceful" for a young lady to ride a bicycle. Families visited often and would often spend the day visiting each other. The women would prepare a meal from vegetables on hand and meats cured in their smoke house while the children played and the men helped out with chores. There was always plenty of food in this rural community even during the drought and depression. The garden was producing summer and winter and livestock was used for meat as well as chickens.

Most people were farmers in the community.

If they weren't farmers they usually worked at the sawmill or gin or cutting timber and clearing land. There was a teacher and minister and at times a doctor in the Bethel Community. Dr. Kelly and Dr. Harris lived in Bethel Community and there was a hospital in Sycamore. There also was a mail carrier and at times a country store in the community. Land could be bought in 1907 and 1908, for \$10.00 or \$15.00 per acre. Often times a horse could be traded for a lot of land. Wealth was measured in the area by the amount of land owned. Also the wealthier people were among the first to have screen doors and windows, painted houses, telephones, battery radios and electric lights.

In 1918 or 1919 there was a flu epidemic that killed lots of neighbors. One family lost both parents and relatives had to take in the six children left. Tucker Mauldin visited all the

sick and would help out in the deaths but he never caught the flu.

Weddings were mostly at home or at the Justice of the Peace. The wealthier families invited friends and had a gala affair. More often it was just the bride and groom and the couple to "stand up with them."

HISTORY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

September 26, 1898, a group of eight people met in the Piney Grove Methodist Log Cabin and formed the Bethel Baptist Church. Bob Powers and Johnny Ross were the pioneer founders. Rev. W.I. Patrick and Sharon Lightfoot helped with the founding of the church. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ross, Mrs. R.T. Mauldin, Mr. Bob Powers, Mr. and Mrs. Tobb Arnold, and Mr. and Mrs. Garrett NeSmith. Bethel Baptist Church met on the 3rd weekend with the Methodist meeting on the 2nd weekend. Baptisms were held in Gully Branch. First Church called Bethel Baptist Church was built on 1 acre of land donated by E.A. Smith on August 18, 1900. In 1906, the first organ was purchased for \$36.55. In 1908, they had outgrown the original church and a new one was built just above the old one. The present structure of Bethel Baptist Church was completed in 1959.

(Informant—Paul Beard, born September 29, 1901, in North Georgia and moved to Turner County with his parents in 1907.)

Some of the "original settlers"—the Mauldins, Ross, and Clements were called "Wiregrassers" by the immigrants from North Georgia. They in turn were called North Georgia "Hillbillies". At the time the area was settled there was wiregrass abounding throughout the area. Paul Beard recalls the teacher, Mr. John Moore, who was a very strict disciplinarian. He said he gave him a "whipping" the first year of school and kept up the habit throughout his school career. Mr. Beard did have one teacher he holds fond memories for. A Susie Scandrette made some home-made candy and shared some with Mr. Beard. He said it was such a rare treat to get candy he has always remembered her as his favorite teacher. He remembers some of the older boys sneaking around school to smoke and when caught they were usually expelled. He also remembers having to drink water from the same dipper that every other student used, but it was either that or do without water.

In 1912, only a few cars could be seen and they really generated excitement but by 1918, the Beard's had bought a car and the novelty had worn off. Before this time they drove mules, horses, or just walked. He remembers the "sore eyes" being a problem especially the years during 1908-1912 and they were very hard to cure. It seems the gnats and flies were especially bad and they just didn't seem to respond to Dickey's eye water nor to the mentholatum used.

There were few feuds but occasionally a brawl would break out if liquor was involved and two or three murders resulted.

Livestock roamed the woods at liberty as all the neighbors fenced in their fields and somehow there were few animals lost.

There was a wonderful freedom enjoyed by this community after planting and before harvesting. Usually the entire month of July was spent eating watermelon, going fishing, and always to church for the annual third week in July revival at Bethel Baptist Church. Mr. Beard recalls it was rare to get new members at any other time than the annual July revival. At this time he said the people would often line up to come.

During the Depression most families in this rural community had enough to eat as they grew so much of their food. Sugar, salt and coffee were delicacies not found on the farm. There just wasn't enough money. The doctor had to treat patients "on credit" and more often than not was never paid. He remembers he usually paid \$3.00 a visit for the doctor to come make a house call.



Drastic changes have come with modern-day peanut harvest in comparison to earlier times as depicted in this photo on the Marcus Denham farm.

MARCUS DENHAM WAS ONE OF COUNTY'S FIRST PEANUT FARMERS

Marcus Denham moved from Upson County with his parents to Bethel Community in 1898. He said that the first time he ever ate peanuts was when his Grandmother, widow of Nathaniel Denham, killed in the War Between the States, grew and gave to them.

He grew his first peanuts in 1917, picking and shelling them by hand, the first in Turner County to grow them for planting.

He bought his first shelling machine in 1922, it was mounted on a wagon under the big oak trees in the yard. He operated a shelling plant for the next 43 years, until his death in 1965.

His son, Alva Ray Denham continued operating the mill since that time, except for two years when he was ill. The machinery has been modernized and kept in good condition. It is located 2½ miles east of Sycamore on Denham Road.



Hog-Killing Time in Turner County. Here are Marcus Denham, Arthur Denham, Pop Ferguson and Luna Almand.

For The News

Of The Day...

Wherever people have congregated—regardless of the forces that bring them together—there has appeared to be a ready abundance of saloons, churches and newspapers.

Newspapers and their publication have held as a fascination for Turner Countians since the days before the county was carved from Irwin, Dooly, Worth and Wilcox Counties in 1905.

One of the first newspapers to be published in that territory which was to become Turner County was the Ashburn Advance. Little is known of how it came to be or why it was discontinued after a short-lived success.

The Wiregrass Farmer, founded in 1899 by Publisher-Editor Joe Lawrence, was originally conceived as a religious publication because he and his wife, Maggie, were staunchly religious persons, devoted to the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

But very soon after its start, The Wiregrass Farmer turned to news of the secular world although continuing its emphasis on Christian faith.

In the early days, The Wiregrass Farmer was not the official organ of Turner County, a deficiency which annoyed Joe Lawrence in no small way. The official organ—the newspaper which carried the county's legal advertising for court purposes—belonged for a number of years to The Turner County Banner. The Banner was edited first by S.B. Hudson. Later, Brown Tyler was the chief spokesman and the newspaper enjoyed a spirited life in the community. In 1913, Editor Lawrence wrote that "there is not enough advertising sufficient for two newspapers because many of our merchants want to advertise in both newspapers but cannot afford to do so" and at that time The Wiregrass Farmer purchased the Turner County Banner to become the county's leading newspaper.

But with the success of The Wiregrass Farmer and the Turner County Banner, the new county enjoyed at least one other publication, The Ashburn Journal, edited by Miss Kate Jenkins. Little information is available on this newspaper although at least one copy has been preserved by W.W. Adams. Mr. Adams had made an interesting study of these newspapers, uncovering abundant information of the county's earliest journalism.

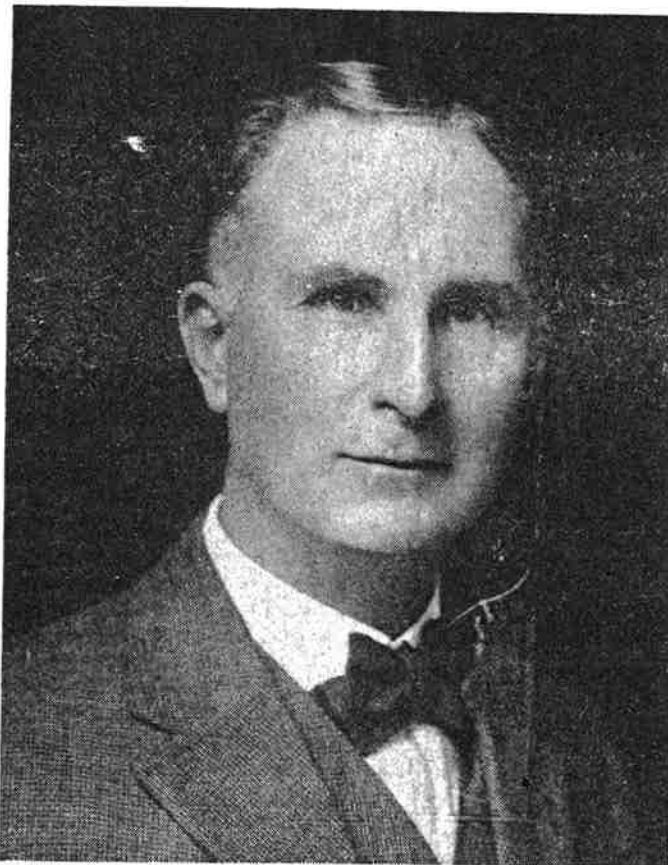
Before the days of these newspapers, The Irwin County news, edited by M.L. Tinsley, Clifford Grubbs and A.G. DeLoach, was the news organ of this section, headquartered at Sycamore and serving as the official organ of Irwin County.

Sycamore had at least two other newspapers—the Sycamore Tribune, published by C.J. Steed, and the Sycamore Courier, published by W.R. Smith who also served as grocer and postmaster.

Little is known about the publication but Rebecca once provided support for a newspaper called The Rebecca Gazette. It disappeared in the early history of the county after being edited by A.J. Kiley.

Early newspapers were involved intricately with issues in the community and waged an editorial war which extended over the years against what they described as the evils of mail-order catalogs. The catalog sales apparently were constantly cutting into merchants' sales here and that affected advertising for newspapers.

Another example of editorial fearlessness: "We fear that the young ladies of this country, particularly here, are becoming addicted to Coca-Cola..." That appeared in a 1912



Joe Lawrence, founder of The Wiregrass Farmer, an Irish immigrant who came to Turner County in 1889 with his family from Dodge County.

issue of The Wiregrass Farmer. Later: "the Merry-Go-Round has left town and it is hoped for all time..." The editorial column never explained its objection to Merry-Go-Rounds.

Indelibly a part of the newspaper world was Nora Lawrence Smith who succeeded her father Joe Lawrence as editor of The Wiregrass Farmer at her father's death in 1939.

Indomitable in her community spirit, she became Ashburn's chief "puncher-upper" as she described herself. Equipped with a flair for reporting but without professional polish, Miss Nora was famous for her boisterous repartee,

her unflinching devotion to duty and for treading with marvelous results where angels feared to tread. She could slaughter the King's English—"at the birthday party, they blew out the candles"—but her very life was devoted without reservation to Ashburn and Turner County.

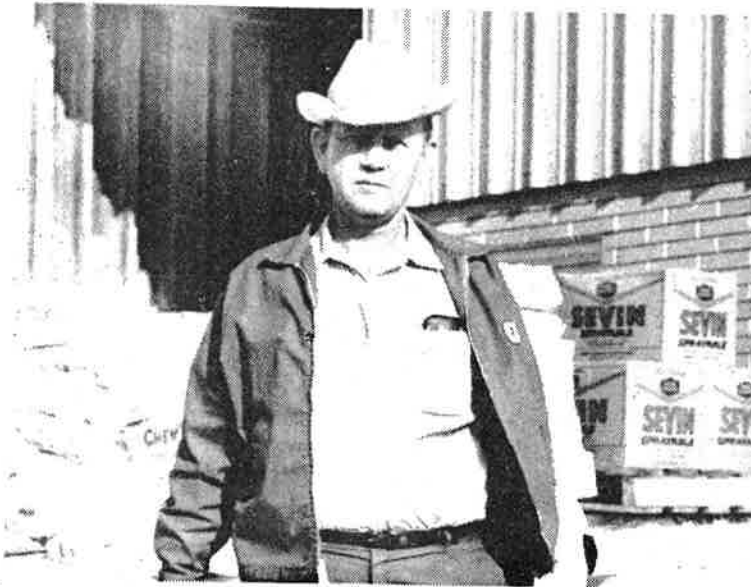
She sold her newspaper (regrettably for many Turner Countians) to G.C. Patten in 1969. Frank Tison, Jr. who had served for many years as a partner and business manager with Miss Nora continued with the newspaper as did Austin Saxon who came to Ashburn from the University of Georgia in 1950. Miss Nora died in 1971, and Mr. Tison died in 1979.



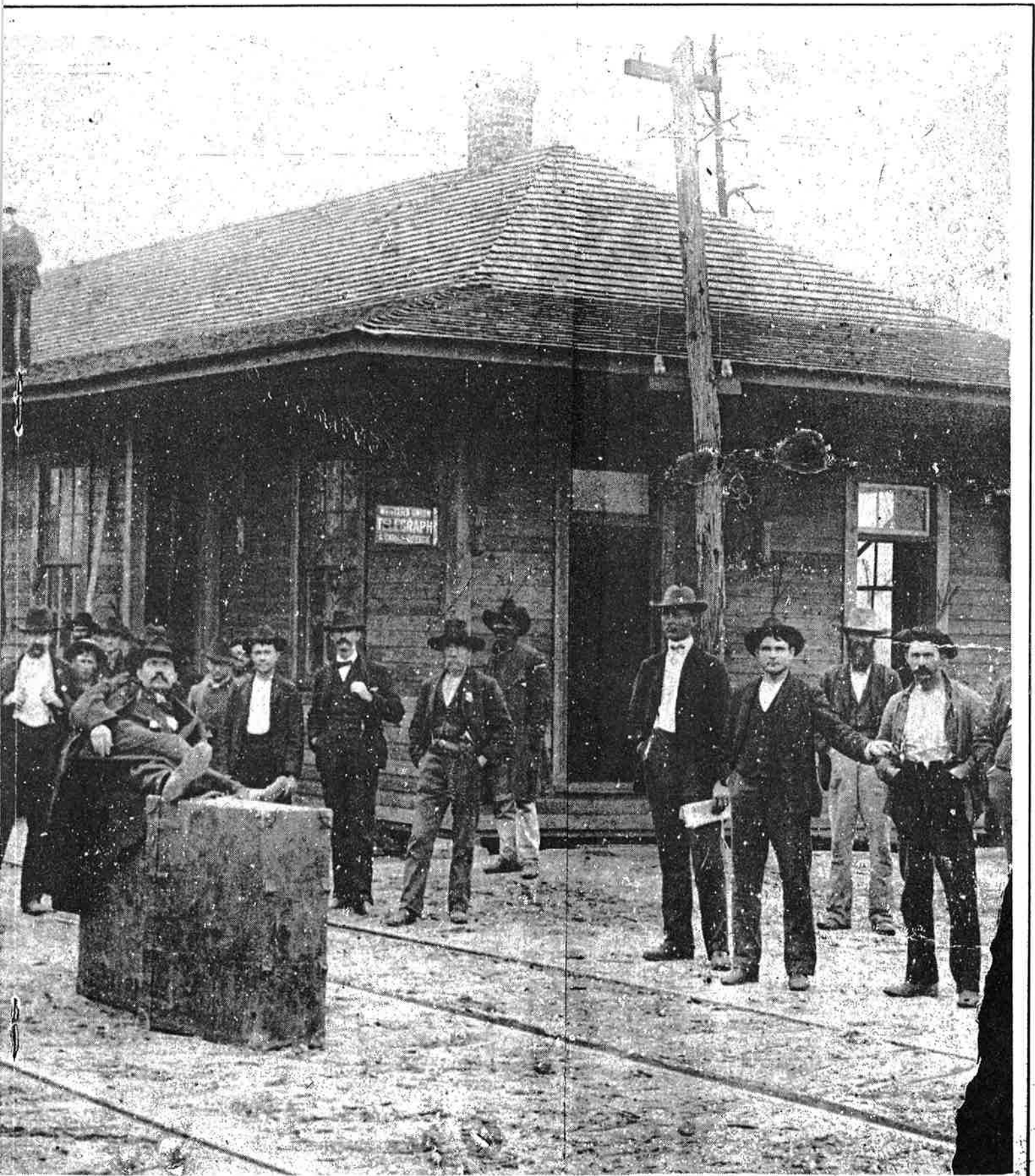
Bennett Pate, born in 1842, was the owner of the newspaper, The Ashburn Advance which he began publishing in 1892. He was an early pioneer and business man in Amboy where he started Pate Store in 1870.

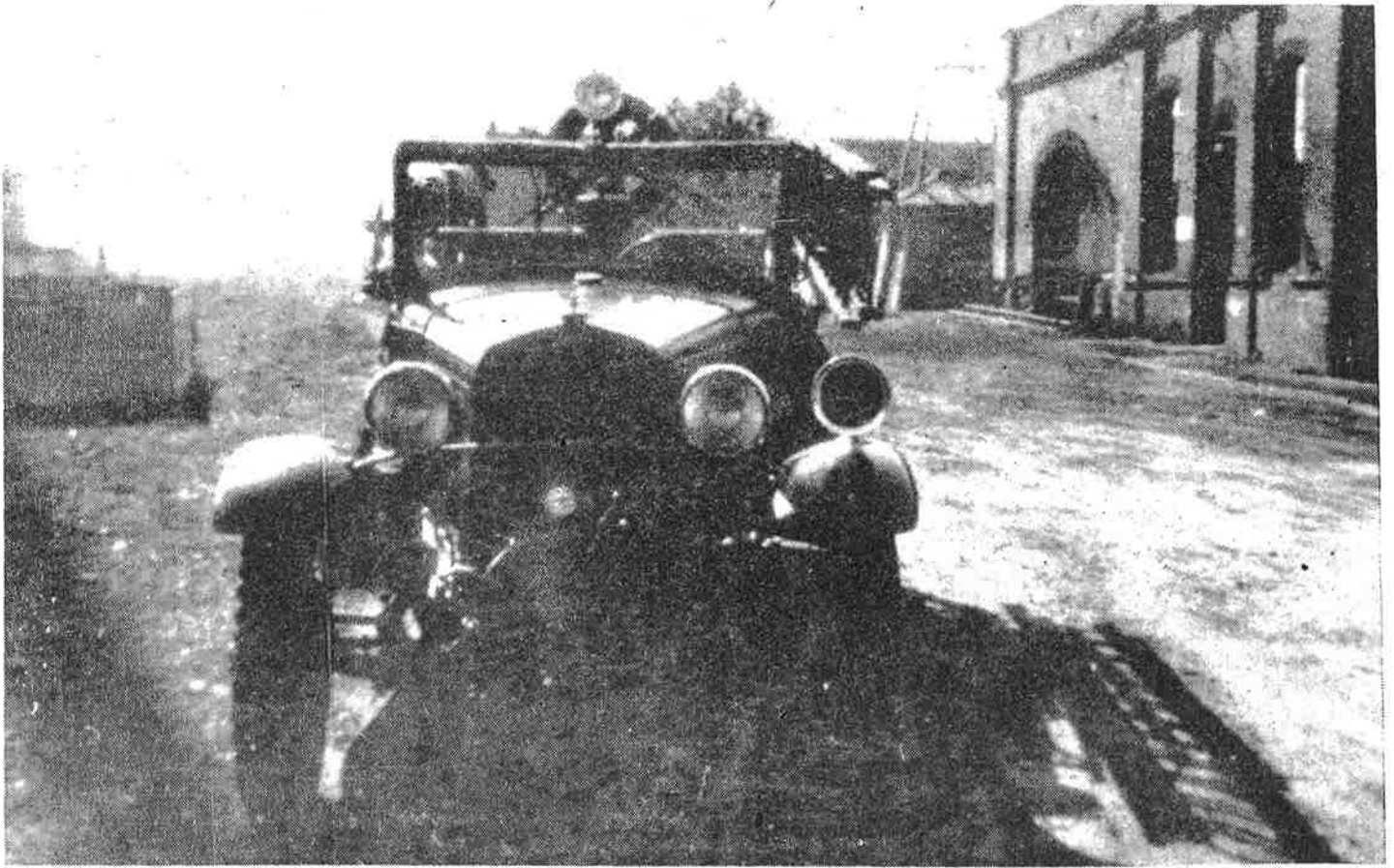
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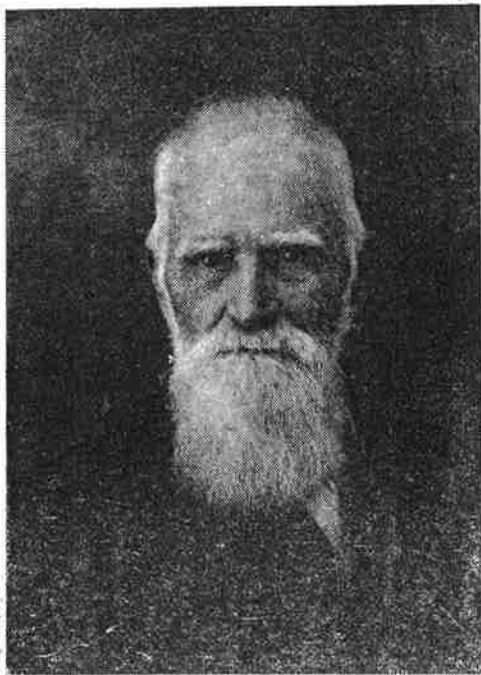








This is the first fire truck in Ashburn. Fire Dept. was located in old generating plant, now city barn and waterworks. Henry Royal provided this photo.



Dr. T.W. Tison was well-known in new territory of Turner county. He is the father of the late F.M. Tison, Sr.



B.H. Pilkinton was one of Turner County's earliest citizens.

Bring The Buckets, Bring The Buckets!

In Earlier Days, Fires Often Shaped Events As Flames Posed Severe Threats To Businesses, Farms And Residences.

Fire!

The most feared cry that could be heard in the silence of a dark night or the blazing sun of a cloudless sky.

Fire has played an immeasurable role in business, industry, farming, schools and churches through the years, at frequent times sending priceless possessions and invaluable property aloft into the Turner County sky in flickering flames and boiling smoke.

To the pioneer of earlier days, fire was particularly frightening because it could be so damaging. For one instance, farm buildings and homes and many community structures inside the city limits of a municipality were oftentimes built of wood with little or no steel and brick construction. This made huge properties—store buildings, warehouses, farm-related industry as well as spacious residences very vulnerable to fires. In another instance, although these earliest residents must be credited with valiant effort, there was little equipment and no trained personnel (except those who learned by experience which was certainly an adequate teacher) to fight suddenly raging infernoes.

The destruction of residences by fire blaze across virtually every page of Turner County history. At the same time, fire often struck fiercely and without warning at business places and industrial complexes, occasionally burning structures to the ground, destroying costly furnishings and storages in a matter of a few hours.

In March, 1906, a bank at Rebecca burned. Had it not been for a heavy rain at the time of the blaze, records claim that the entire community of Rebecca may have been leveled.

In August, 1906, a ginnery, sawmill and grist mill owned and operated by W.D. Ross burned at its location eight miles east of Ashburn. The heavy loss was estimated at the time at \$4,000 and it was reported that there was no insurance on the properties. Two years later, Mr. Ross held a "log rolling" to raise funds to rebuild the businesses. The Wiregrass Farmer commented that "log rollings" were just about a thing of the past and considered its waning popularity "a shame".

In 1909 Prospect Methodist Church was destroyed by fire but the church was later rebuilt.

In 1912, newspapers here reported that a devastating fire swept the Rebecca business district, destroying many businesses and severely damaging several others.

Also in earlier times, the J.C. Durham business was destroyed by fire, claiming not only the structure which was expansive but livestock owned by C.E. and T.H. Thrasher. In this case, arson was strongly suspected and Sheriff Cason's dogs were used to track the arsonist's trail to the center of town where the path evaporated. A reward of \$50 was offered for information about the suspicious incident.

In November, 1921, fire raged through the Sycamore business district. Such persons as Gordon Shepherd, W.H. Ray, J.W. Henderson, A.H. Hamrick, B.B. Howard, J.G. Williams, Mrs. Ruby Browder, R.W. Monroe and Mrs. Fannie Tipton reportedly suffered losses. No waterworks were available to fight the blaze which fortunately did not destroy the entire business community.

The Ashburn Airport was hit by fire in 1950 when a hanger and two planes, one owned by A.V. Akin Jr. and the other by Joe Wood, were destroyed by the blaze.

In May, 1955, Ashburn High School suffered severe losses of a major part of the school building and the auditorium. Fortunately, the flames erupted in the late afternoon when students were not present and many teachers were at a GEA meeting at Rebecca.

Students completed the school year at the First Baptist Church and the Ashburn United Methodist Church. At this time, plans were already underway for high school consolidation, but Ashburn School was rebuilt to provide for elementary students.

One of the most painful losses by fire came in 1971 when the Turner Theater at the corner of East Washington St. and Main St. was destroyed by fire. The theater had been built in 1948 under the management of D.A. Luke. Hudson and his father were managers at the time of the destructive fire.

Not very long after, a costly and devastating fire hit Gold Kist Peanut Co. in Ashburn when part of a warehouse and peanut silos for storing thousands of tons of peanuts smoldered for two weeks, keeping Ashburn firemen on alert throughout the time. Frank Criswell served as fire chief for many years, occasionally risking his life to save other persons' property, and also serving successfully as fire chief for many years was Kent Robinson.

Billy Ray Royal succeeded Mr. Robinson, managing a vastly-improved fire-fighting unit employing modern fire trucks and equipment as well as thoroughly trained personnel to combat fires.

Flowers In Our History

The Rose Garden Club was organized in 1940 by a group of Ashburn ladies who felt such an organization could bring more beauty to its surroundings. The club was admitted to the federation of The Garden Club of Georgia in 1942. It is a member of the Camellia District.

In the early days many regular flower shows were held for the people of Ashburn and Turner County to enjoy. Many beautiful camellia shows have also been held.

In recent years this club was responsible for landscaping the grounds of the Turner County Health Clinic. They also made plantings at the Victoria Evans Memorial Library and maintain a garden center at the library. They planted a rose garden in the triangle between Highway 41 and Amboy Road. At one time they maintained a rest area North of Ashburn on Highway 41.

After the death of Mrs. Nora L. Smith the club planted a memorial garden in her name with an appropriate marker. In this garden 6 camellias and an amaryllis bed have been planted as memorials.

The club has presented several Christmas tours of homes.

When the Ewing Village was completed the Rose Garden Club planted a red maple tree and 3 Burfordii Hollies for the residents enjoyment. We also helped them to organize their own garden club.

A Blue Star Memorial Marker was sponsored by the club at the rest area on I-75 north of Ashburn with an appropriate ceremony.

The motto is still "More Beauty for Ashburn and Turner County."



H.W. Bussey who was a member of Turner County's first families, served for many years as county ordinary.

Looking Back At Sycamore Methodist Church

It has not been possible to determine the exact date of the organization of the Sycamore Methodist Church. From available Quarterly Conference records we have found facts that indicate the existence of a Methodist Church in the Sycamore Area designated as The Little River Mission in the Waycross District. Evidence obtainable leads us to believe that this, and other Methodist Churches, may have functioned prior to the War Between the States. An item of evidence is that according to a Conference record, in many respects unlike those of today, white and colored persons belonged to the same Church. This practice, we are sure, did not continue following the war.

Other Churches beside Sycamore on the Circuit or Charge known as The Little River Mission were Mt. Zion, Piney Grove, Damascus, Mt. Carmel, Ebenezer, Clements School House, Live Oak, New Hope and Branch's School House. Since no one preacher could have served so extensive a charge that supposition is that Circuit lines were changed from time to time.

All these Churches were intermittently effective, with services held when conditions of health and weather were favorable. A cash contribution was made sometimes quarterly, sometimes annually, for the support of the preacher in charge and the Presiding Elder. The amount contributed was seldom over and frequently less than \$200.00 per year. Small contributions for Foreign and Domestic Missions and for Sunday School literature increased the amount paid by a few dollars.

The Circuit Riders of the Early Church were indeed men of great courage, perseverance and faith. Without exception, their reports indicate great zeal and enthusiasm for the work of the Sunday School. They were greatly concerned about the

Preacher Served Nine Churches

proper teaching and training of Young People and Children. Handicapped as they were by poor and uncomfortable meeting houses, and few, if any, facilities for teaching they carried on in a magnificent way the work of the Sunday School.

The history of our Church is full of human interest stories. The personnel composing its membership were colorful and challenging. They carried on in the face of great odds which seemed to be conducive to great spiritual stamina. The love and devotion to Christ and His Church of some of the pioneers of this Community were unequalled.

One of these pioneers was J.J. Henderson, whose name was on the official roll from the earliest record until his death. He served as Steward, Recording Steward, and Trustee. He also gave the land on which our Church is built. We pay tribute to these pioneer members of our Church, and are grateful for the heritage that is ours because of their unselfish devotion to the work of God's Kingdom.

The Quadrerennium-1886-1890-was filled with great activity; hundreds were added to the membership of the Church. The membership, as well as preachers, seemed to depend on the prayer meetings for strength and spiritual development.

R.M. Booth and M.H. Galloway, later Bishop Galloway, each served two years as preacher in Charge and Presiding Elder. In 1886 there was only one or two church buildings in this entire area. Services were held in school houses, and one preacher said shanties in the most thickly settled communities.

On Aug. 16th, 1886, a Conference was held at Mt. Zion Church. Among those present at this meeting were J.J.F. Goodman, Z. Bass, Wes Bass, J.L. Bass, J.J. Henderson and J.R. Brock. At this conference J.J. Henderson, J.W. Eldridge, T.W. Horne, Lewis Smith and Z. Bass were appointed a parsonage building Committee. On April 5, 1890, at the 1st quarterly Conference the record said "The Brethren of Sycamore were authorized to build a Church, and Treas. W.B. Dasher, C.F. Hill, A.G. DeLoach, J.J. Henderson and E.R. Smith were appointed a building committee".

The date of completion of the Church and parsonage is not on record. But trustees of Church property were elected at the first Quarterly Conference in 1891. They were: J.J. Henderson, W.B. Dasher, C.F. Hill, H.W. Bussey, E.R. Smith, H.P. Dopson and A.G. DeLoach.

In 1935 our Church was remodeled in order to carry on more effectively the Sunday School work. The partition in the center of the auditorium that divided the pews in two sections was removed. Six rooms at the end of the auditorium were made and equipped for Sunday School Classes. This work was done by the co-operation of the woman's Missionary Society and the Sunday School.

The history of the Sycamore Methodist Church is so closely interwoven with that of the various churches that have made up the Circuit, it is difficult to present a distinct picture of so small a segment. Consideration must be given to the contribution each Church has made to the success of the whole.

Situated as we are, on the boundary of the Cordele and Valdosta Districts, at the convenience of those in authority, we have been moved three times: From Waycross to Valdosta—Valdosta to Cordele, and Cordele to Valdosta where we remain for the present.

Circuit lines have been changed from time to time. Churches on the Sycamore Circuit during the years included Worth, Live Oak, Cycloneta, Terrell, Ty Ty, Damascus, Inaha and Rebecca.

Among charter members of the Church were Hundersons, Bass, DeLoach's, Brocks, Murrays, Hills, Goodmans, Dashers, Busseys, Ross, Smiths, Depsons, Kendricks, Zorns.

Highways And By Ways

Turner County Was Last To Pave Highway 41 But First To See Paving For Interstate 75

In 1926, Turner County was the last county to allow paving for US Highway 41, the first paved road to extend from north to south through Georgia.

Turner County was stubborn; it refused to allow US Highway 41 to be paved through the county, or rather, refused to pay for the cost of the paving, leaving the roadway incomplete.

Ironically, some 34 years later in 1960, Turner County was the first to see a link in Interstate 75 completed, extending from Tifton to Ashburn, and opening a "super" highway of four-lanes through a highpriced roadbed of former peanut fields.

From 1926-60, Highway 41 was a major thoroughfare in Georgia, providing paved passage from the northern states and a congenial lure of tourists. Highway 41 was the pathway to Florida. And so many "Yankee" tourists from Northeast and Mid-West metropolitan centers found their way through Turner County on US Highway 41.

But at the outset, Turner County refused to pay its share for the paved road. A bond election was called for Jan. 15, 1926 to pave "the National Highway" as it was called, prompted by citizens from every section. Turner County, they reasoned with their adversaries, could not afford to pass

up this opportunity because the Federal Government was to pay 50 percent of the cost, the State another 25 percent, leaving Turner County with only 25 percent of the cost to provide.

But that was more than Turner County was willing to provide at that time. Despite newspaper appeals and the endorsement of many county leaders, the bond election failed.

Finally, in February 1927, the great furor subsided as the State paid for the construction costs in order to complete the route which was the first completely hard-surfaced road in Georgia to extend the length of the State.

In 1960, there was a gala dedication of the new interstate road at the site of the first link to be opened from Ashburn to Tifton. Nora Lawrence Smith was the mistress of ceremonies for the program which Gov. Vandiver requested (not realizing that Miss Nora had already made all the plans three weeks earlier.)

And so Ashburn became a community on Interstate 75, a development which was to have lasting impact on the city and county, effecting virtually the life-style of Turner Countians.



A. V. Akin, Sr. for many years operated one of Ashburn's most successful businesses, located on South Main St. at Madison Ave. This is a rare photo of Akin Auto Co.

ABOUT BUCK LANE

William Wallace (Buck) Lane came to Turner County about 1900 as a young man from Walton County who had just lost his father, Joseph James Lane, at the age of 39.

Buck Lane was the oldest of 13 children so he felt obligated to go in search of work to help support his widowed mother and brothers and sisters. His search led him to Turner County where he obtained work as a hired hand on the farm of James Henry Gorday near Rebecca. There, he met and fell in love with the oldest Gorday daughter, Emma Sarah Gorday. She went to the Spring for water one day and he met her there. They ran away to Crystal Lake and were married Jun 27, 1902, by Joe Mac Hancock.

At that time both lived in what was then Wilcox County. They farmed and in later years, they were able to buy property, becoming one of a number of large land-owners in Turner County. To their home came nine children, six boys and three girls. His wife worked side by side with him, placing her infants or small children in a wash tub at the end of a cotton row in the shade to keep the ants away while she picked cotton and at the same time expecting another baby in February, continued to pick cotton until Christmas.

Mr. Lane was an excellent carpenter and when their children were small, their toys oftentimes were made by hand including complete sets of tables and chairs and others children's favorites.

The Adams Family

Homer Adams and his wife Vola Massey Adams moved to Turner County (at that time Irwin County) in 1887 from Macon, County, Georgia. They lived on their farm 2½ miles east of Sycamore, on the Denham Road until 1898 when they moved to town. Mr. Adams served on the City County of Sycamore for many years. Mrs. Adams was active in the Sycamore Women's Club, and a Women's Missionary Society of Sycamore Methodist Church.

For a number of years prior to 1897, the Irwin County News was published in Sycamore, and was the official county paper. Publishers were A.D. DeLoach in 1894 and 1895, M.L. Tinley in 1896, and Clifford Grubbs in 1897.

D. Brown Tyler published the Turner County Banner as the Official County paper 1906 through 1911. Mr. Brown Tyler was the brother of Mrs. Ruth Sumner of Ashburn.

Wilbur Smith operated a general mercantile store in Sycamore, selling anything the people needed. He was postmaster and the Sycamore Postoffice was in one corner of the store.



Once serving in the State Legislature and providing leadership for the Turner County Board of Education, C.S. Young was an outstanding citizen for many years. He was a successful farmer in Rebecca.



Mrs. Carrie Bell Taylor came to Turner County in 1907. This photo was made year before her death in 1974.



In this scene at courthouse steps are John Raines, Mrs. Alex Story, Alex Story, Arthur Smith, R.H. Johnson, E.C. Mann, D.W. Redman, J.H. Beard and Joe McHancock with School Supt. Miss Nina Cox.

Nina Cox Went To Bat For Turner County As School Leader

Miss Nina Cox, daughter of Starkle Manasseh and Mary Frances William Cox, was born in Isabella, Ga. Wörth County, on November 5, 1892. A year later in 1893, the family moved to Ashburn, Georgia where Miss Nina, as she was known in Turner County, received her foundation education, graduating from Ashburn High School in 1909. She chose her life work, teaching, as a child. She was later graduated from Georgia State College for Women. After graduation from college, she taught for several years in high schools of Americus, Ocilla, and Sylvester but returned to Ashburn and developed a deep interest in woman suffrage and was an earnest advocate of citizenship for woman. In 1924, (the first primary in Georgia in which women were eligible to offer for office) she resigned her position from the faculty of Ashburn High School where she had outstanding records and made the race for Turner County School Superintendent. She was elected to office by overwhelming majority (nearly two thirds of votes cast). Thus, she became the first woman in the state to be elected to office by a vote of the people. Her campaign slogan was: "I will go to bat for Turner County Schools!" She assumed duties in 1924, feeling she had been chosen to lead the way in the consolidation of rural schools. She made it possible for every boy and girl in the county to have an education because of better transportation; she introduced home economics and vocational agriculture to the schools here. At the end of her fourth term, the 27 wooden buildings had been done away with and replaced with six modern brick buildings. She served 20 years as School Superintendent; for one term as Secretary of State Democratic Executive Committee; and delegate to State Democratic Convention in 1924-26-28-33. She was also named by several governors to serve as member of State Textbook Commission. Herman Talmadge named her one of 12 Presidential Electors in the election of President Dwight Eisenhower in 1952, the 12 electors naming her as Messenger to carry the Georgia vote to the Electoral College in Washington, D.C. She was a charter member helping in organizing Turner County American Legion Auxiliary, was active in the work of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, served as President of the Ashburn Woman's Club and Ashburn High School's Alumni Association for several years. She would lend a helping hand to friend and foe alike. Personally, she did much for the poor and charity in a quiet way, at all times trying to keep such acts from the public and never speaking of them. Her last service to Turner County was as visiting teacher and attendance officer for the county, a job she enjoyed greatly. She retired December 11, 1952. She was honored by Turner County Georgia Education Association unit, accordingly. She was a faithful member of the Methodist Church and was considered for many years, Turner County's leading educator.

Jim Pate Became One Of Most Respected Attorneys

James H. Pate, better known as "Colonel" Pate, was born on July 17, 1882, in Wilcox territory. This area later became part of Turner County. He was the son of Benjamin and Nancy Pate. After primary and secondary schools he attended Mercer University in Macon. There he graduated with a degree in law in 1901, at age of 19. Prior to his death he was one of the two remaining members of that class which included the late, long-time U.S. Representative from Georgia Carl Vinson.

In 1905, he moved to Ashburn and established his law practice here. Once here he was active in the creation of Turner County in 1906. Continuing his law practice he became one of the most respected and brilliant attorneys in South Georgia.

In cooperation with Dan Davis, W.A. Murray and others, Col. Pate founded The Citizens Bank of Ashburn in 1905. He remained active in the bank as chairman of the board of directors. For many years he took a special interest in the bank's staff which held him in high esteem.

Col. Pate was elected to serve the Georgia State Legislature and also served as legal advisor for the city and county for many years. He also was one of the founders of Turner County Motor Company and operated a farm near Ashburn.

Col. Pate, extremely healthy most of his life, possessed remarkable mental faculties which continued into his later years. One of his ambitions was for Turner County to have a hospital. This dream, along with his assistance, became a reality in September of 1953.

The Colonel was a well-liked individual. He loved children and was known to stop, talk with them, give them a small amount of money, and a pat on their head. He was a long time member of the Arabi Baptist Church. He was an "authority" on history and politics, but refused to live in the past. His outlook on life was optimistic and filled with humor.

He was active in the business community and worked towards local improvements. However, he shunned publicity and did not seek self-edification.



This is a rare photograph of Col. Jim Pate, made in his earliest years as an attorney in the office of Clerk of Superior Court Reason Paulk. In the photo at left is Ben Cockrell, deputy clerk with Mr. Paulk. Date shown on the calendar indicates 1909.

IN YEARS OF DESPAIR ALEX STORY BROUGHT JOY

The year 1976 was our bicentennial year. But also, it was a year of the politician. A presidential race was in progress. Some good, some bad, could be said of all candidates in the running.

Alex Story was around a long time, and his career of public service spans more than a half century. Closely identified with politics in our county since 1915, he was one of our most dependable leaders in bringing new industry to the county. Never one to leave the job to another, he walked the streets of our town many days, seeking assistance in a project to benefit others.

During his long career, he served as Sheriff and as a county commissioner. His public service began when he was named as a deputy sheriff, a post he held for about 13 years.

In 1928, Turner Countians elected him as sheriff and he carried out these duties for 16 years. During 1951-52, he was a member of the commissioners of Road and Revenues. At that time the county was broke, nothing ahead. Well known businessmen told him not to run for this office on account of this condition, but he did paying expenses out of his own pocket. By his usual capable management he had the county out of debt when he left office and a good amount of money on deposit.

In 1954, he was elected mayor of Ashburn, and served six terms in our city government.

This man was a member of the first Turner County Hospital Board and was instrumental in the construction of our hospital facilities.

In addition, he was an invaluable member of the First Baptist Church where he served as finance chairman of the building fund committee from 1953 to 1956, assisting greatly in construction of a new church. He was named Chairman of

the church's trustees in 1956 and continued in this capacity for many years.

A past director and treasurer of Turner County Enterprises, he was also a director of the Turner County Development Authority, a director in the Turner County Shrine Club and a member of the Lions Club.

It is doubtful that any man in our community has donated more of his time and efforts to industrialization than this community leader. He was an outstanding contributor of both money and time in locating Ashburn's first major industry when Jaco Pants, Inc. began operations here in the 1940's. He was extremely helpful in working to secure The Manhattan Shirt Co., Plant, Armor Mobile Homes and Scotty Travel Trailers.

As mayor of Ashburn, he led the way in progressive expansion of city services without a heavy tax burden on the city's population. In fact, the only tax increase has been a one-mill addition for the purpose of aiding industrialization. At the same time, the city has installed a \$500,000 water and sewerage system, constructing a new 300,000 gallon water tank and adding a new well to provide water for the industrial park and other locations. To illustrate this growth, there were 475 customers in the city in 1954, when he took office, there are 1,100 plus 700 natural gas users in the city. During his long administration, almost all streets in the city have been paved or resurfaced. Residential and business expansion has rapidly set new records each year. For instance, about 40 new homes have been built in one subdivision which is served by the city. The city now has two new oxidation ponds in operation. Also, under his leaderships, a new fire station has been built at a cost of about \$25,000 and a new fire truck has been purchased.

S.W. Brown Was Master Farmer In 1927

This decade's Bicentennial personality is, S.W. Brown, a farmer from Turner County. Not merely a farmer, but a master farmer, one of twelve such men chosen state-wide in 1927. He is a man with lots of faith in Georgia, for it was in this county he has made his success. Thirty years ago, S.W. Brown moved to South Georgia from Upson County where he was born and raised. At the time he arrived in Turner County, his total wealth consisted of \$59 and a mule and buggy.

Resulting from hard work and the application of the same business methods to farming that successful men apply to other lines of business, he became independently well-to-do from farming.

Mr. Brown had a beautiful 250 acre farm in the 1920's, a comfortable home with all the conveniences of a city home, such as radio, trucks, tractors, automobiles, electric service, sewing machines, vacuum cleaner, stoves, running water, piano, refrigerator, electric iron, phonograph and others. These benefits were results of diversified farming which helped Mr. Brown in making a good profit for 32 of 34 years of farming.

Our Master Farmer has made many changes to keep up with changing conditions. In 1920 and 1921, when farmers of Georgia saw dark days, Mr. Brown studied new techniques in farming so as not to be dependent on one crop. Thus the boll weevil invasion of South Georgia in the 1920's never damaged the overall operation of his farm. His balanced farm included cows, hogs, and well balanced crops.

This farm had 180 cleared acres for cultivation. Each acre was fenced and every field stumped. There was fresh or piped water available to all fields. In 1927 his farm paid \$100 per acre on all 250 acres inclusive of woodland, clear after all expenses inclusive living expenses and taxes.

His well kept home was adjoined by a 16 acre pecan grove and grazing areas. A Northern visitor once remarked "No wonder this man is prosperous, he neglects nothing." "He makes a bottom crop and a top crop on the same land." Also, Mr. Brown sells almost all of his crops through a cooperative association for he believes in its success.

The old proverb, "Back of every successful man can be found a good wife," is certainly true of Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown was fortunate, he married Miss Sallie McFarlin of Upson County. In 1928, they had been married 34 years. They worked together in harmony and together have helped the community develop in such areas as education, culture, socially and religious. They have two children, a son, Mr. Lawson Brown, 32. He is connected with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and is well respected there. Their daughter Nellie Brown, will graduate next year from Tift College in Forsyth.

As for Mr. Brown, he believes that today the opportunities for success in farming is even greater today than 30 years ago. He is quoted as having said "Now is the best time I have ever known for a young man to buy a farm and begin farming." And if one studies Mr. Brown's records and methods, one can be assured of a happy and satisfactory existence.

Populace Feared Bone Lake Was Haunted

Popular Recreation Place Has Colorful History

Which Includes A Claim That The Devil Appeared Out Of The Waters

Located about 15 miles from Ashburn, Crystal Lake has been a popular recreation attraction for Turner Countians since the early 1920's.

Dr. W.L. Story of Ashburn first saw the potential of Crystal Lake as a place for adults and young people to enjoy swimming, camping, and other outdoor recreation.

Crystal Lake's popularity has risen and fallen like the underground springs that feed it. At first only the natural lime sink "lake" was available; later, as the property changed hands, the native white sand beaches surrounding the lake were re-built, a pavilion was built, and recreational facilities were expanded.

From the 1920's through the 1930's Crystal Lake enjoyed fluctuating success. In the 1940's the lake fell into disrepute and soon became a "ghost" resort place with abandoned camping cabins, a pier, and little activity in the pavilion's bowling alley or skating rink.

In the early 1920's was when the myths and legends about Crystal Lake first emerged.

In those days, many Turner Countians believed that Crystal Lake was haunted; that the Devil on more than one occasion had risen out of the "bottomless pit" where property developers had tried to cement the limestone outlet where water from the lake flowed into underground streams and eventually into the Alapaha River which flows partly underground through South Georgia to the Suwannee River.

Actually, the factual history of Crystal Lake is so colorful and dramatic that it is no wonder that these legends grew up.

The place now called Crystal Lake was first known as "Bone Lake." It was owned in 1860 by a farmer named Willie Bone who brought his wife and sons to their undeveloped section to chop out a small farm near the lake.

During these days of the Civil War, Bone was an abolitionist, being a native of Massachusetts and openly opposed secession and slavery. His contrary stand made him unpopular and a man to be held in suspicion by earlier settlers around him.

In 1861, a slave named Tony Young—he took the last name of the Young family which lived near Rebecca and whose descendants are still here was reported missing by his owner, S.M. Young.

At that time, a grist mill for grinding corn for livestock was in operation on the banks of Crystal Lake. Bone regularly went to the mill. When he failed to show up he sent his young

son Phillip, then 13, in his place. Some men at the mill began to question young Phillip who denied that he or his father had seen the runaway slave.

In the meantime, neighbors around the Bone place began to spread rumors that Bone was hiding the slave and was going to get him to the "Underground Railroad" for escape to the north.

A private judge of Irwin County, (which stretched through most of South Georgia then) went to the Bone farm to question Bone about the slave. He found Bone and the slave at work on some fields on a back side of the farm near the lake. When Judge Walker saw the slave, he tried to persuade Bone to give him up. An argument started, and Bone picked up a heavy rock and smashed Walker's skull, killing him instantly.

Then according to later reports, Bone took Walker's body and buried it in a shallow grave in the white sand on the edge of the lake.

After Walker had been missing two days, a posse was organized and the group went to the Bone place. Their search didn't produce the slave, but Walker's body was uncovered.

Bone denied everything. He refused to admit hiding Walker or hiding the slave. Years later, Bone's son indicated that after Bone killed Walker, he killed Tony, the slave, and threw his body into the deepest part of the lake.

The posse became a lynch mob. Without delay, they took Bone and at a tree in sight of the lake, they hanged him with a rope.

Bone's son Phillip, and his mother were allowed to leave the county. Phillip later became a minister in a North Georgia community.

Soon after Bone's hanging, stories began to circulate that Tony's ghost appeared occasionally on the surface of the water. In later years, this violence was responsible for people avoiding the lake.

In the 1920's, its popularity as a recreation center attracted many to the place. On one particular summer night, young men and women, enjoying a party on the sand, were paralyzed with fear when they claimed to see the devil rise from the deepest part of the water. True or not, they were so convincing, that the lake began to be much less popular.

Also in the middle 1920's, reports circulated that thousands of moccasins were in the lake, a claim that may have had some truth in it since it was almost abandoned.



Leaders for the Turner County Shrine Club include (left) R. E. Blue, a member of the Hasan Temple Divan, and Joe McNair, potentate, of Ashburn. They have provided outstanding leadership for many Shrine activities in Turner County through the years.



Chester Clark's cafe on Main St. was popular gathering place for friends. In this scene are Nora Lawrence Smith, Chester Clark, Mrs. Annelle Murphy, Louise Trasher, and others.

The Old Maid's Club

Young Swains Resented A Ladies' Club

Which Was Extremely Popular In The 1920's

One of the most active and enjoyable clubs in Ashburn during the 1920s was "The Old Maid's Club".

The club listed a number of young ladies of the community as its members and while it proved most entertaining for the young ladies, it was regarded with impatience and frowns by the young men about town.

Very elaborate programs were planned for each meeting. These consisted of celebrations of all special dates, dinners, trips out of town and carefully planned parties.

At one meeting, an advance notice in *The Wiregrass Farmer* informed members that the program would feature a presentation, "How To Avoid the Snares of Suspicious Men". On the same program was the feature, "How To Attract a Worthwhile Man."

One of the most enjoyable parties was a "Popcorn Reception" planned for the club by the young men. The invitation was pasted on the glass at the Union Drug Store. Beside a huge bowl of popcorn, a bird supper was enjoyed at

Rainey's Lime Sink.

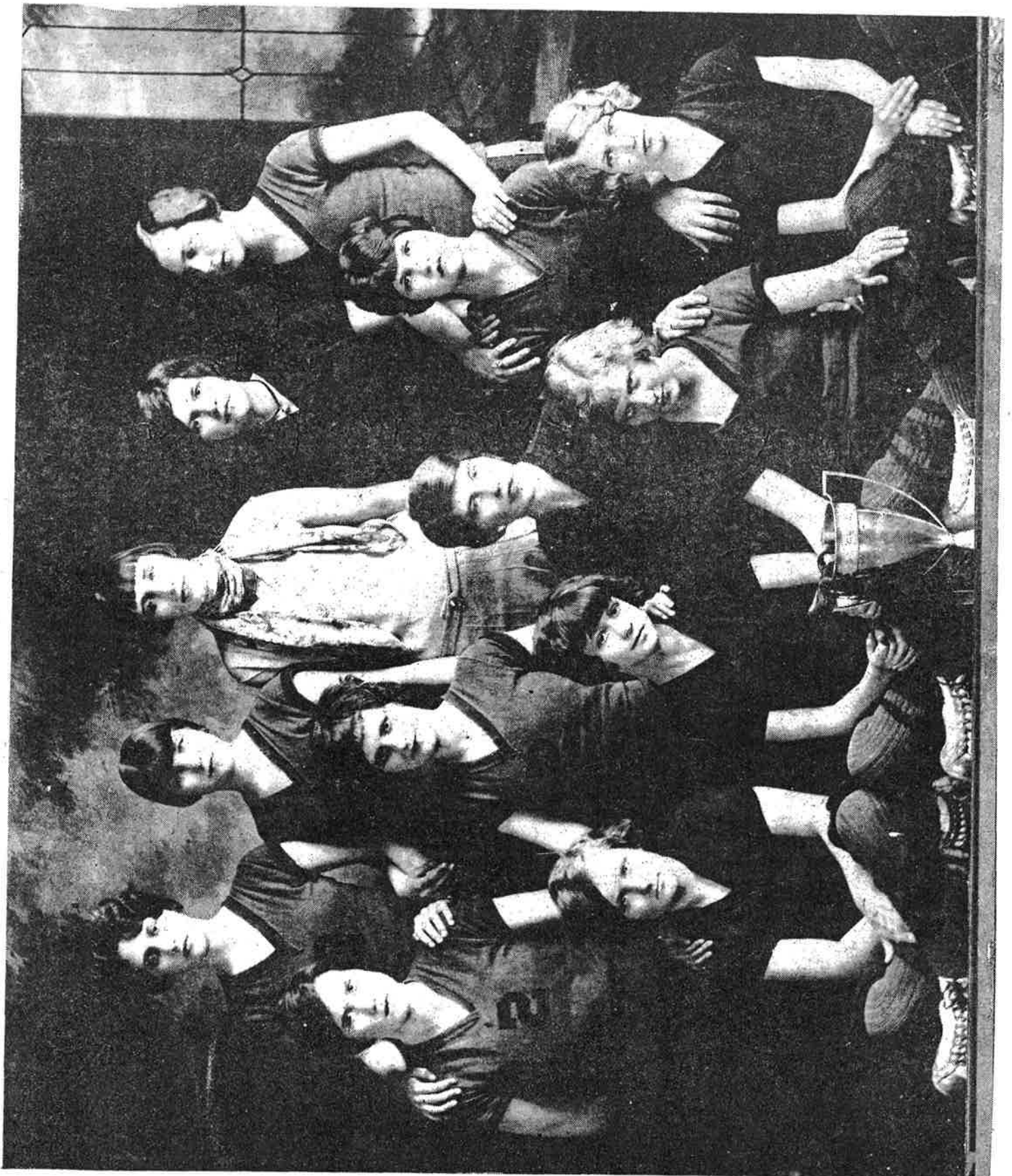
Numbers of trips and camps were planned at Bone Pond which is now Crystal Lake. Getting there was much more of a problem then than it is today because of the danger of sand in the dirt roadways.

Mrs. Linda C. Ewing was an ardent supporter of the club and many pleasant meetings were held in her home.

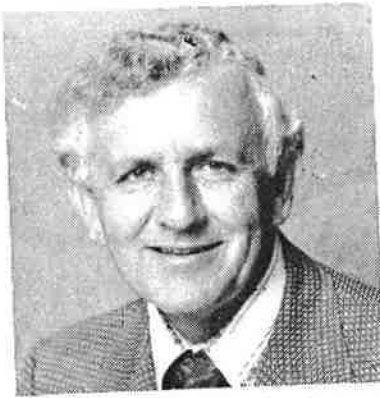
Some of the members of the club included Cecile Murray, Hazel Turner, Laura Sue Hawkins, Merle Tison, Myrtice Deal, Mamie Vinson, Josephine Evans, Zula Gammage, Laura Essie Whiddon, Martha and Rosa Lucas, Jessie Mae Davis and Mat Rhodes.

Some of the men about town who made trouble for the club were Albert Tharpe, Frank Bohannon, Bert Miller, and Fred Raines. Occasionally, despite their peckiness, they were invited to meetings.

After several years of interesting activities, the club was finally broken up by wedding bells.



Sycamore State Championship Basketball Team--Front, Myrtle Eidson Denham, Runette Searcy Robinson, Mattiphene McCard, Marian Reeves Bailey; (second row) Blanche Zorn Whitley, Bertha Stephens Lanneau, Janie Mae Royal Drozeski, Lillie Mae Shepard Summers; (third row) Emma Adams King, Elizabeth Ray Nelson, Celesta Smith Paulk, Coach Lucy Fields Smith Hudson, Dorothy Fountain Taylor.



Bill Hardin was successful coach for 14 years before he moved into administration, elected as county school superintendent in 1976.

Every Team Was A Winner In Memory...

Sports have been a part of Turner County's life since the days that the Indian played a game called "chunkey" in which players threw spears to estimate the distance a rock-ball could be thrown.

Cecil Adair, now retired from the U.S. Post Office at Ashburn where he served capably for many years, was first a baseball player and came to Ashburn not to work as a postman but as a baseball player.

The names of many Turner Countians—including Charlie Hunt and Lanky Moore—are closely identified with sports. At the turn of the century, the new village called Marlon was already fielding teams of young men whose work kept them at the sawmill or on the farm each day but who could devise a way of organizing and practicing for sports participation.

As schools grew in Turner County and consolidation provided a larger enrollment, sports became a major part of school-life for boys and girls and the years have been liberally sprinkled with excellent basketball and football teams.

Looking back at these colorful and exciting times of sports competition, many individuals will assert that Ashburn, Sycamore and Rebecca fielded greatly-talented and highly-successful squads in both sports.

A team in the early 1920s at Ashburn High School was awesome on the football field and succeeded in lashing such powers as Albany High School, Tifton High School, Sylvester High School and Cordele High School.

A girls' team at Sycamore won a State championship, and another team at Rebecca was almost successful in the 1930s, and both schools produced fine squads in the 1940s.

It was in 1956 that Coach Bill Hardin who came to Ashburn High School in 1951 produced what may be called justifiably the best team of the century in girls' basketball.

That was the team which won 35 straight games and never

suffered defeat. In fact, so talented was that Hardin team of 1956 that the squad never trailed in a game until the Class C State championship at Macon Auditorium.

The 1956 team which had no super stars (others may say the team was made up of six superstars) had the fabled Carolyn Freeman at forward with teammates Beverly North and Avis Watson. At guard were Ceciler Reid, LaDonna McHugh and Dorothy Joe Lane with Annie Mae Bobo as first substitute. The Ashburn team rolled through all season competition—Sumner pulled to within ten points at 56-46 in a regular season encounter and that was as close as any adversary came—and as the tournaments arrived, Ashburn, of course, was the team to beat. The Hardin team quickly dispatched every foe, including arch-rival Vienna, but had some trouble with Wilcox County's Rochelle before advancing to the State tournament.

Winners in the first two rounds by large margins, Ashburn and Roopville met in the Class C finals, and the tall Roopville girls jumped off to an early lead and the game had only 14 seconds remaining when Freeman lifted her team from behind with a free throw and a follow-up goal to tie the scoreboard at 70-70. In the overtime, Beverly was the one who fired the winning bucket as the State title went to Ashburn at 83-82.

The years of 1954-55 saw the return of football to the Ashburn campus after more than a decade without a gridiron squad. Joe McNair, Alvin Rose, John Hunt, Joe Miller, Tommy Leverette, Tommy Holland, Charlie Blue, Carl Ward, Al Rose, James Snow and a dozen more were responsible for an impressive squad which played most of its games on the road at the outset before a football field was built at the site of the new Turner County High School.

Don Robinson was the first coach to regroup Ashburn's football forces. When he resigned, Turner County High School—the merger of Ashburn, Sycamore and Rebecca—hired young University of Georgia star Ken Cooper to assume command in 1959-60-61.

Cooper produced a sub-region champion in 1960 with a team which included Jim McKenzie, Bobby Zorn, Henry Smith, Larry Williams, Bobby Bobo, Charles Perry, Paul Akdrige, Robert Smith, Johnny Ewing, Randy Folsom, Richard Ellis, Ralph Speight, David Moore, Phil Gibbs, David Young and others. That team defeated Blakely 25-0 at Blakely for a high point in its year and went to the region finals, losing via the penetration rule 0-0 at Patterson.

Turner County fielded another "dream team" in 1963 basketball when Gwendell McSwain and his team-mates of James Williford, Raymond Johnson, Danny Alexander, Joseph Blackwell, Harold Shivers, Johnny Raines and others won the State Class B championship at Columbus Coliseum (the first time the state tournament was played at Columbus). The Rebels of Coach Hardin whipped Fort Valley, Clarkston and Norcross.

It was in 1970 that the Rebels of Coach Joe Wilson provided thrills galore for football fans as they swept by every challenger enroute to the State Class A finals at Carrollton before bowing 34-21.

That team included Chris Brown at quarterback, James Wynn at wingback, Charles Hille at fullback with linemen and defensive standouts Dale Wiggins, Larry Walker, Alan Hobby and others.

Wilson came to Turner County to succeed Cooper in 1962 and continued through the 1963 season before departing. He came back to Turner County in 1969 to build a dynasty of winning teams.

His team claimed the State Championship in 1976 with great performances that climaxed years of preparation and expectation.

We would be amiss if we failed to look at magnificent track teams of the 1950s and 1960s, produced by Hardin, with countless stars who excelled in seasonal meets and the state tournament, winning State titles five times.



Coach James Williford and Coach Joe Wilson (right) produced championship football teams in the 1970s for Turner County High School.



The Rev. and Mrs. Lee Jones and family. Mr. Jones served several churches in the Inaha, Coverdale and Sycamore vicinity in the late 1890s and 1900s. Emory Jack Jones, a pioneer citizen, is the baby of the family and lives in Turner County today. Other children, Elmo, John Henry, William, Mattie Lou and Jack.

Janie Comes To Turner County

One fall day in 1929 a truck pulled into Fort Valley driven by H.L. Strickland, He wanted people to pick cotton in Turner County. It wasn't long before the truck was filled up with people with a small bag containing a few necessary things; a cooking pot and skillet, a few clothes, and they were headed for Turner County. On the truck was a young girl named Janie Mae Callaway and her mother Hester Callaway. A few more stops were made around Vienna and more people got on the truck until there were 50 or 60 people on the truck. When they reached Arabi the people were hot and thirsty. The truck pulled up to a house and asked the owner for some water to drink. The owner was not very sympathetic and asked them to leave. There were very few deep wells at that time, and the shallow wells would run dry then water had to be hauled from other wells. Janie always remembered the incident when she passed through Arabi.

When they reached Amboy, the farmers met and let each person that would work with them have enough credit to purchase food for the next few days.

Janie and Hester went to work on the Arthur Morris farm. The cotton was weighed on portable or field scales. Top pay was 50c per hundred pounds.

They were housed in the Davilsville quarter houses. Beds were made of cotton or corn shucks with a cotton sheet covering them. The farmers picked them up early in the morning and brought them home at dusk.

When the cotton was finished the people were loaded on the truck and carried back home. After a couple of trips Janie and her mother decided to make their home among the good people of Turner County.

Janie and her mother found work helping kill hogs for a share of the meat. They cleaned chitterlings, head and feet and cut the fat for making lard. The lard was cooked in the wash pot and stored in cans. They took in washing and did house work and took care of babies for different families.

Janie's family moved to Macon when she was small so she attended school there. She had very little schooling here but remembered her teacher, Camilla McCollough.

Janie enjoyed her rides in the Hoover Carts (wheels and seat taken from automobile pulled by a mule or horse) but remembered not everyone had one because they didn't have anything to pull it.

After Janie grew up she married George Terrell. He was the son of George Terrell, Sr. and Lizzie (Elizabeth) Terrell.

George was a farmer and worked at the Amboy Cotton Gin.

Janie Mae Callaway was born December 27, 1915 in Monroe County. Her parents were Joe and Hester Irvin Callaway. She died July 26, 1978 and was buried in her beloved Turner County near her many friends, both black and white.





Four generations of Samuel D. Martin family: (Left to right) Doris McKenzie West; Gregory J. West; Leola McKenzie; Samuel D. Martin. He was born May 28, 1875 and was reared in Turner County. His wife is the late Mrs. Frances Emma Paulk of Bibb County.

The Ups And Downs Of The Edwards Family

In the fall of 1931, the crop gathered, the family of Lester Edwards and Liza Styles Edwards knew some changes had to be made. The peanuts and cotton crops did not pay them "out of debt." With no money for winter food and clothes, Les set out to find a new home for his family. Fate brought him to Amboy where he located a vacant house and a chance to start over on the Lige Pate farm. He hitched up the two horse wagon and went for his family. He loaded the wagon with his few belongings and then placed on the wagon his most valuable possession—Liza—along with his children Willie B. born in 1922 at Inaha, Lucile, Junior, Clarence, Willie Joe, Willie Mae, and Hattie in their ragged clothes. When the floors were scrubbed and walls scalded down, the belongings and family moved in.

The Depression years had hit the family hard. Liza found work with the WPA to clear road right way for 25c per day. The winter was spent shelling corn by hand to carry to the mill for meal. Cornbread, sugar, cane syrup, and side meat (when it could be had) were the main foods. Les and boys went to the creek and gathered moss from the trees. When the wagon was loaded they headed home. Liza and the girls had the wash pot boiling. The moss was boiled and laid out to dry. When it was completely dry Liza made her family new mattresses.

Spring was nearing and all family members and friends were busy shelling seed corn and peanuts for planting. When one family had finished this chore they went to another house until all the seeds were ready for planting.

Planting time came: it was up at daylight to feed and water the mules, back to the house for breakfast. The teams were hitched to plows to drag them to the field to plow the long furrows for the year's crop. Back home at dusk to feed and water the stock, wash up time for supper and then to bed to get an early start tomorrow. Next came the hoeing and chopping cotton and weeding the peanuts. Finally the harvest was finished, the corn pulled, cotton picked, the peanuts stacked and picked. While hauling in hay Willie B. recalls an exciting event. "Mr. Lige had just bought a new pair of mules and the team was being broken in hauling the hay to the barn. Something spooked the mules and they broke loose and ran

away, leaving hay and a collection of little black boys scattered along the road.

The next year things were a little better. Chickens, hogs and vegetables were home grown. Peas and beans were harvested and stored for winter food. Scrap cotton gathered at the cotton gin was used to make mattresses and quilts for the family. Clothes were still patched and getting shorter.

After Sunday School the Edwards boys and Pate boys looked forward to a trip to Sand Lake with John Buckner for a morning of swimming. Clothes were scarce and bathing suits were not heard of. Little Joe was saved from drowning by John Arthur Pate.

Other fun activities were candy pulling when friends got together to make syrup candy and peanut candy.

Blackberry time gave Willie B. and his brothers a little spending money, but other times the berries were exchanged for a ham bone to cook with vegetables.

After the harvest was finished, fire wood had to be collected before the cold and wind started. A continuous job was the feeding and watering of the livestock.

The only time the family ever saw the doctor was when the family had pneumonia. Dr. Turner and Dr. Rogers came out to see the family. The family had its own remedies; cuts and scrapes were treated with raw turpentine, for bad colds the boys were sent to dig blue grass roots to make tea, for fever yellow top weeds were boiled and the water was used to bathe the patient.

Les died but Liza is living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The boys and girls have scattered, leaving Willie B. and his family to keep the home fires burning.

Willie B's children are: Willie B., Jr., Freddie, Willie Mae, Charles, Willie J., David, Randy, Ricky, Pam, Larry, Melvin, Kenneth, Timothy, Monica, and Steven. Helen Gaslein also had these children: Patricia, Linda Faye and Tony.

Nearly forty-nine years have gone by since that fall day in 1931. Willie B. is still farming and little ones are eating watermelon, playing in the dirt, and growing like weeds but Willie B. has seen a lot of changes take place in those forty-nine years.

He Left Us A Legacy Of Hymns...

The Rev. James Cleveland Moore first saw Turner County when called to revival at Sycamore Baptist Church in 1929. Here he found a number of people from his home in Paulding County and also from Haralson County where he was born May 2, 1888. This, along with the warmth of the community, brought him back in May 1932, as the principal of Sycamore School. He was also pastor at Sycamore Baptist Church which was half time, Bethel Church which met once a month on Saturday and Sunday, and at Inaha which met once a month. During this time, he also taught singing school during the Summers at the area churches. He moved for a short time from Turner County but returned in 1941 as pastor of Bethel and Harmony churches and as principal of Bethel School.

It is impossible to catalogue all the contributions that came from the boundless energy of J.C. Moore. In 1915, he was graduated from Mercer University but also attended Paulding Schools, Draketown Baptist Institute and did graduate work at Mercer, Oglethorpe, University of Georgia and Florida and Berry College.

He began his teaching career at age 17 and served at Rhine, Alamo, Bronwood, Nashville, Doerun, Pearson, Sycamore, Brewton Parker Junior College, and Bethel to

name a few locations. In Florida, he taught in Madison, Liberty and Alachua Counties.

Along with being a preacher and educator, he also owned and edited a newspaper in Moultrie and ran for School Superintendent and State Representative. But after all this, J.C. Moore will probably be best remembered for over 500 hymns he wrote including, "If You Only Knew Him," "What a Wonderful Savior," "Where We'll Never Grow Old," and "Thou O Christ of Calvary."

But if you could ask Rev. Moore what he was most proud of, he would say his four children who all graduated under him, were all baptized by him, and were all married by him. His children are Mrs. Lillian Ray, Robert T. Moore, Howard Moore, and Rev. J.C. Moore, Jr. His wife was Clara Driskel Moore from Monroe County.

It is doubtful whether there ever has been a man who affected this county more than Rev. Moore in the two most important areas of life, education and religion. And one must look far today to find a man who can boast a more energetic life: Educator, newspaper editor, preacher, writer, and politician.

In 1956, Rev. Moore retired to Ashburn where he owned a farm and purchased old houses which he restored. He died on June 1, 1961 and is buried at Bethel Cemetery.



Mrs. Annelle T. Murphy, long-time citizen of Ashburn, served for many years as organist at Ashburn United Methodist Church and was active in community life as talented musician. She now makes her home at Reno, Nev.

Miss Lily And The House By The Road

The House by the Road in Ashburn known nation-wide, first opened to financial guests in the Fall of 1926. Mrs. Robert Shingler, the owner and manager for the entire life span of the House by the Road, recalled what first suggested a guest home:

It was late one rainy evening when the manager of a local garage called and wanted to know if Mrs. Shingler would be so kind as to furnish lodging for the night for a party who were having car trouble enroute to Florida and would not be able to get the car repaired until the next day.

The year of 1926 was the height of the Florida land "boom" and the traffic on US Highway 41 was very heavy, Mrs. Shingler recalled. "One reason for the heavy traffic was the fact that little of the road in this section was paved; hence, many came in early in the evening to avoid spending the night on the road or in the ditches, and especially was this true during the rainy season."

The House by the Road actually was a wedding gift to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Royal Shingler from Mr. Shingler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Simon Shingler, Sr. who came to Ashburn in 1888, opening up a large turpentine operation and other enterprises.

The House by the Road was located on US Highway 41, a main artery to Florida from the Mid-West and East, and within 170 miles of Atlanta. It was in a lovely setting of spacious landscaped grounds on a 100-acre plantation, Mrs. Shingler said, with abundant plants to beautify the grounds, including about 200 camellia bushes of assorted varieties, some of these from time to time from the old historic gardens of Charleston, S.C.

Other plants such as pyracantha, cocoa palms, banana shrubs, Spanish bayonets, camphor trees, crepe myrtle trees, Southern magnolia, mimosa, holly trees, and several varieties of cedars as well as a prolific bearing kumquat tree were on the grounds.

"The house was not built with any thought of a guest home, but the number of spacious rooms and the very large lounge were easily converted into a guest home of eight large bedrooms, each with twin beds and private bath and steam heated throughout," recalled Mrs. Shingler. "Our lounge had a friendly greeting over the fireplace which was fired each night during the winter with oak logs to add cheer to the guests as they chatted by the fireside in the evening enroute to Florida. The greeting was as follows: Hail guest, we ask not who thou art, if friend, we greet thee hand and heart, if stranger such no longer be, if foe, our love will conquer thee."

Keeping guard at the side of the fireplace was a three and a half foot bronze statue of Napoleon Bonaparte, a very old antique piece.

Adjoining the lounge was the dining room which accommodated 25 guests with individual tables, and a silent blessing over the mantle carved in wood, "Lord, we thank thee for the birds that sing; we thank thee, Lord, for everything". Also another blessing was a wayside blessing as follows: "god bless this little share of bread, this water from the spring; this way-side boon of rest at noon, as we go hurrying".

Among other items displayed around the dining room was a miniature turpentine still of three gallons capacity which was made in 1889 by the Savannah Copperage Co. of copper for Mr. Shingler's father and later given to Robert Shingler. This is displayed on the mantle. Says Mr. Shingler: "Some of the guests said it looked mighty much like a liquor still, but there was no drinking allowed in the dining room."

Three meals were served daily—breakfast, lunch and dinner—and Mrs. Shingler recalled her staff at The House by the Road fondly:

"Our first cook, Viola Jordan, was with us more than 31 years ever since I came from Charleston, S.C. as a bride. Second cook Bill Powell also was with us a number of years, both excellent cooks and noted for their good dishes. Jerry Lowe, our butler, and his wife, Leila Mae, of the maids, have also been with us for a number of years and both very efficient."

Mrs. Shingler said that although there have been a number of new "gadgets" in the cooking line through the years, her cooks still preferred to use the old cast iron skillet and other utensils of long ago."

"Five of my mammy's recipes you will find in the Duncan Hines Cookbook. That includes our banana bread, waffles, sweet potatoe souffle, guinea squash pie and apples with marshmallows," Mrs. Shingler remembered. Duncan Hines said of the House by the Road: "It is such a delightful place, you will want to return again. Whenever possible I drive out of my way to spend the night there."

Mrs. Robert Royal Shingler was Lillian Shingler Hughes from Charleston, S.C. She was the daughter of Dwight Hughes who was vice president of one of the large banks of Charleston. She came from a very old aristocratic family, the grand niece of Thomas S. Sully, the colonial portrait painter.

Her father, Dwight Hughes, as a child witnessed from his boyhood home at 47 South Battery the firing of the guns of Fort Johnson on the forces at Fort Sumter, S.C. At the outbreak of the Civil War, his family moved to Summerville as refugees. His father and older brothers were in the Confederate Army. He died at the age of 86 on Oct. 8, 1939. At the age of 12, Mr. Hughes was in a troop organized in Summerville by a minister of the town and was in the town hall firing when marauders rode into Summerville, pillaging and burning.

He entered the First National Bank of Charleston, S.C. in 1872 and was in the banking business for more than 62 years, retiring because of ill health in 1929.

Mrs. Shingler has an 89-year-old brother, Col. Dwight Hughes, Jr., US Army Retired, a long-time Cavalry officer. She also has a sister, Mrs. Adele Hughes Girardeau of Charleston, S.C. Her mother was Mrs. Lillian Shingler Hughes.

Mrs. Shingler was born at Summerville in August, 1887. Mr. Shingler was born in Ashburn Feb. 7, 1897. They were married at St. Michael's Church in Charleston on April 10, 1919. Mr. Shingler died in 1966 and Mrs. Shingler died in 1980.



Dr. G.C. McKenzie He Was A Man Of Inspiration

Dr. Gordon Columbus McKenzie was born Feb. 10, 1885 in Byromville, Georgia. He was the son of Henry C. and Catherine Beverly McKenzie who were residents of Cordele, Georgia for many years. His father was a leading attorney there. He was named for General John B. Gordon, a Confederate General who later became Governor of Georgia and a United States Senator. When he was about eight years old Governor Gordon told young McKenzie's father his son could be a page in the Senate. As a youth he did not like to leave home so he did not accept this appointment.

The family moved to Montezuma in 1892 and moved to Moultrie in 1895. On the move to Moultrie, Dr. McKenzie, as a young boy, drove one wagon and his father drove another. They spent the first night in Sylvester and drove all next day to Moultrie. He remembered seeing one turpentine still house as they drove through a pine forest on what could hardly be called a road. The family had been in Moultrie for about a year when the Spanish-American War broke out.

His first year of schooling was at Byromville, the second year at Montezuma and he went through the ninth grade at Moultrie. He entered the Augusta Medical Department of the University of Georgia to study medicine but because of finances he attended only two years. After working two years at Samson, Alabama in the lumber business he entered the University of the South at Suwannee, Tennessee for three months. He received an appointment to Mississippi Charity Hospital at Vicksburg, Mississippi, but while visiting his mother in Ashburn an epidemic of Yellow Fever broke out in Mississippi and the state was quarantined so he entered the Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons which is now Emory University. Here he graduated in 1906 when he was twenty one years old with a degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. McKenzie went to Arabi, Georgia to practice medicine and while there married Clyde Shingler of Ashburn on April 24, 1907. She passed away June 30, 1934 leaving four children, Emily, Katherine, Gordon and Henry. Their first child, Simon, passed away in 1908 when only three months old. Some years later Dr. McKenzie married Ioline McKenzie of Montezuma. He and his wife moved to Ashburn in 1909 and he practiced medicine here about three years working some Farm Loan and Mortgage Investment business on the side. His brother, W.H. McKenzie and Judge U.V. Whipple of Cordele had a loan business and they gave him a territory to work at which time he gave up medical practice. In 1912 he started the Shingler-McKenzie Hardware business with his father-in-law, J.S. Shinger, Sr. Later he sold out his interest and went into the automobile business.

During the First World War he offered his services to his country and was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps being stationed at New Haven, Connecticut where he served in the Mobile Laboratory Unit at Yale University. He well remembered the many deaths that occurred there from the 1918 flu epidemic and often told the story of how the many, many bodies were brought to the hospital morgue. Christmas Day, 1918, he returned home which was a wonderful Christmas present for his family. The next day the family of five along with two very faithful servants, Charlie Payne and Sissie White, left Ashburn in an open seven passenger Cadillac for a visit to Miami, Florida. When within 14 miles of Jacksonville the car "bogged down" and all seven had to sleep in the car in the swamp until a team of mules came the next day to pull the car out of the mud.

In 1919 he started back in the loan business for Whipple and McKenzie of Cordele. In 1922 the family along with faithful Charlie Payne moved to Atlanta for three months where he worked for Bankers Trust Company. In 1927 the firm of Whipple and McKenzie put him in the Telephone business and bought approximately a million dollars worth of

telephones in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South and North Carolina. In 1929 he made reports and did some advance work for Foremost Dairy. Still in the Farm Loan business the Chicago firm of George M. Foreman Company went broke on "Black Tuesday" in October, 1929 and Dr. McKenzie came in direct contact with the American and Foreign Companies that Foreman had. He made several business trips to Scotland and Europe to contact these companies. At the time of his death on Feb. 26, 1958 he was still in the Farm Loan and Mortgage Investment business with Continental Casualty Company and North American Life Insurance Company, both of Chicago.

Dr. McKenzie was a leader in the community, giving unstintingly of his time in many civic capacities. He was a member of the City Council from 1912 to 1916. Served as President of the Ashburn Board of Trade and was Chairman of the Board of Education for 30 years. He was one of the organizers and president of the Chamber of Commerce. President of the Kiwanis Club and first Commander and charter member of the American Legion Post No. 98 in Ashburn, later serving a second term as commander of the post. Also a member of the Masonic Order. He was a faithful member of the Ashburn Methodist Church and served three times as chairman of the Board of Stewards. He was Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School for 28 years. Served 13 successive years as Church treasurer. Served on the Board of Tax Equalizers for over 20 years. He was a member of the Governor's Staff under Governor Rivers. He also served in Turner County's Home Defense Force as a Major. He faithfully served as President of Chehaw Council, Boy Scouts of America in its early days and was a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award from The National Council, Boy Scouts of America.





In earlier years, baptismal services were invariably conducted at nearby streams or rivers. This one here shows how many persons were interested in attendance as they line the bank of a mill stream.



F.M. Tison
Miss Nora Associate

Our Miss Nora

Her favorite story was of her arrival in the woodland wilderness that was to become Turner County.

She came in a covered wagon, she recalled, holding a lantern to show the way.

For the remainder of her 86 years, Nora Lawrence Smith showed the way for Turner County, doing what no one else dared to do in confronting laggards who were not keeping step with progress in her own territory or blasting the loftiest office-holder in the land; Her accomplishments were more than impressive; they were astonishing.

Nora Lawrence Smith was born December 25, 1885, in Dempsey—a community in Dodge County—but as a young girl, she came with her father and mother to new timberlands and the site of a sawmill that eventually became the community of Ashburn.

Joe Lawrence was an Irish immigrant who came to New York City in the late 1800's as a merchant and then to the South Georgia pioneer country to join the first settlers in Turner County. Here, he founded a religious newspaper—both he and his wife, Maggie, were devoutly religious as Wesleyan Methodists and that newspaper in 1899 became The Wiregrass Farmer. Later, Miss Nora as she was always called inherited her father's devotion to farming and business and throughout her years, the farmer of Turner County had his greatest champion in her and her newspaper.

She grew up in the dusty, ink-smudged rooms of The Wiregrass Farmer (located then in the upper floor of its present location), setting type by hand and learning her trade from her stern, dedicated father. She attended Ashburn High School and later Houghton College in upstate New York, but her college days were limited. She returned frequently to Ashburn and her father's newspaper. When her marriage ended in divorce, Miss Nora came back to Ashburn to stay. She became editor of The Wiregrass Farmer at her father's death in 1939.

Through the years, she was immensely loyal to the Democratic Party and over a decade served as a delegate to the National Conventions for her party, joining others during the days of the Depression in the nomination in 1932 of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Her loyalty to the Democratic regime never wavered. Miss Nora, years later in 1960, was among the first to lend hearty support to young John F. Kennedy.

At the same time, she and her newspaper were effective in a new approach to farming in Turner County, a program labeled "The Cow-Hog-Hen" program to advocate diversified farming when cotton failed. It was then, during those hungry days of The Great Depression, that peanuts became Turner County's major crop.

Her devotion to schools was endless. Early in the 1940's she saw a need for school consolidation, an unpopular subject at that time, and she didn't hesitate to claim credit for merger of high schools in 1957.

Her skill as a newspaper woman was demonstrated in her uncanny gift at seeking out news of her county and community, usually by telephone or on the streets where she was fearlessly and blatantly inquisitive. Whatever she may have lacked in professional polish, she more than made up for with courage and enthusiasm. Through these years, her newspaper frequently won prizes from the Georgia Press Association to which she was extremely loyal, never missing a meeting. In the late 1960's, one of the greatest honors came when she won the Emma McKinny Award from the National Newspaper Association as the outstanding woman journalist of 1967.

The Wiregrass Farmer was founded as a partnership between Joe Lawrence and F.M. Tison, Sr. Mr. Tison's death in 1951 made his sons, F.M. Tison Jr. and Joe Tison, co-owners with Miss Nora. F.M. Tison remained with the newspaper. In 1950 Austin Saxon joined Miss Nora's staff and became managing editor in 1960. Miss Nora and Mr. Tison sold The Wiregrass Farmer to Grover Patten in 1969.

Soon after, Miss Nora underwent surgery and was recovering when she fell and broke a hip. She remained an invalid for two years, until her death on July 17, 1971 removed one of the great citizens of Turner County.



A Town Named Grover

By Shirley Crawford

Some of the early settlers in Rebecca were the Smiths, and Hasworthys, but the date when they arrived is not known.

It is thought that the Smiths were of Irish origin.

Occupations of the early settlers were raising sheep and cattle. (Once a year the farmers would meet at Sheep Camp Hill, now owned by Jim Vinson and located on Highway 112, to divide their sheep after round-up time). The sheep were branded so everyone could tell their sheep.

In 1912 a picnic including the whole community celebrating the fourth of July was started. On July 4, 1979 this past event was revived and hopes to be continued.

Do not know the first wedding, but was told of a wedding present given to a couple in 1934 of a 24 lb. sack of flour.

One of the early land sales was from Jonathan Smith to Thomas Gibbs in 1872.

Town

In 1901 the first train on the A B & C railroad passed through Wilcox County and the home of Lawson Smith became the town of Rebecca.

Joel Smith, a grandson of Lawson Smith, was the engineer on the first train from Cordele to Fitzgerald.

1904: The mayor was Lawson Smith; Aldermen were: Whitehead, Smith, Foster and Maddox.

The town was first named Grover. This name was then changed to Rebecca in honor of the sister-in-law of Lawson Smith.

The town of Rebecca was incorporated in 1905 and Lawson Smith was named the first mayor.

Rebecca has a fire truck.

Donald Stanford is the volunteer Fire Chief.

The present Council is: John Purswell, mayor; Jack Ivey, Mayor pro-tem; Sidney McWhorter, Dennis Mangum, Hoyt Biggers, Jr., Travis Biggers. City Clerk, Joan McWhorter.

The city hall is the only building owned by the town. It was deeded to the town when the bank went broke, for the money the town lost on deposit. The first service of the town of Rebecca was the street lights. In 1967 the water system was erected and the garbage pick-up was added in 1974 when Turner County purchased the land for the county landfill.

Education

1906: Some of the first pupils were: Viola Hobby Moore; Myra Mae Hill (Young), Bullington, Ethel Hill (Young).

The first school was a two story wooden structure which was destroyed by fire.

The second school was a two story brick building. In 1931, Amboy and Davisville consolidated with Rebecca. This building was also destroyed by fire.

The third school was a one story brick building completed in 1938. This building was used as the school until it was consolidated with Ashburn and Sycamore in 1963. This building was later sold to Charles Wideman by the county school board.

In 1933, Miss Emma Adams (King) came to Rebecca as a sixth grade teacher. She was paid fifty dollars a month for nine months. She was also the girls basketball coach free of charge.

In 1933-34 the Rebecca Boys Basketball Team went to state, but lost the championship by one point.

Those playing on the team were: Archie Hobby, Luther Hobby, Bill Kennedy, Tiny Townsend, Loy Harvey, S.J. Young, Wilson Hancock, Wallace Lane and Raymond Mann. They were coached by Jimmy Means.

In 1931, some students from several classes accompanied by their advisor, Mrs. Elise Stallings, went to Macon to a literary meet. The students were: Edith Stanford (Holloway) piano; Evelyln Rawlins and Mattie Lane (Strickland), Edward J. Snow, speech; Wilda Maddox (Wilson) voice; not sure what they competed in.

In 1933 at the end of the school term the students had a picnic at the city park which later deteriorated to the city dump.

At one time there were three parks in Rebecca. The land was given to the town for this purpose.

The first swimming holes were known as "Rock Bottom", "Rainey's Wash Hole," "Crawford Wash Hole" and the Baptizing Hole. All the children learned to swim in these holes before Jim King built the swimming pool in Rebecca in 1946.

Each class at Rebecca school was given a free day with parents and relatives at the pool and picnic grounds. This was a big get together for everyone.

In 1954 a terrible drought came and the only deep well in town was Jim King's. The widows and elderly people would put their tubs and buckets on the front porch and he would come around and fill them with water.

In 1925 the banks went broke. The Farmers and Merchants or The Bank of Rebecca, and the Peoples Bank.

Edith Stanford (Holloway) lost a dollar and W.E. Simmons sixty seven cents. That was all the money they had in the bank at the time.

In 1876 the church known as Pleasant Hill was organized. The first meeting was under the brush arbor and a little later a log structure. A white wooden building is in use today.

In 1918 a Fair Exhibit was held in the Newspaper building, that was standing at the sight of Stubbs service station today. The ladies displayed handiwork of crocheting, embroidery, quilting, flowers and canned fruit and vegetables. Homemade ice cream was made and sold to the people that came. Mrs. Polly Stallings (Crawford) pears were disqualified because they were not cooked long enough.

Rebecca had a newspaper named the Rebecca Gazette. Mr. A.J. Kiley was the owner.

The Bowen Telephone Co. was the first telephone exchange in Rebecca. The June 5th, 1911 first operators were Miss Ina Godwin and Mrs. Estelle Robinson.

In July 1938 the Electricity was turned on in the town and added to the surrounding area much later.

The first depot agent was Mrs. Nora Fields and a railroad car was used until a building was built.

In the fall of the year a tent movie would come to town and stay for a week. The Rebecca Food Center today was first the Peoples Bank and then later made into the theater (movie).

1912 Mr. Rufus King planted all the oak trees in Rebecca and those around Pleasant Hill Church. These were planted for beautification of the town.

Mr. Jackson owned a livery stable in Rebecca in the early 1900s. He had a surrey, that he used to take people to visit or on trips for pay, he also had a hearse for fire if anyone wanted to use it for a funeral.

1924, John Harris Perry was named for John Harris Childs, president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. He presented the baby with a pocket knife and said he would keep him in knives from then on. Mr. Perry said it was the only knife he ever owned.

A Hitching Rack was behind the stores in Rebecca in the early days and during the fall Gypsies would come to town with 50 to 75 mules and horses and hitch them at the racks, then the people from all around would come to trade mules and horses or to buy one.

Several wells were dug in the town for watering the horses. One such well use to be in front of the postoffice of today. The old saying was that anyone who drank water from the well would want to stay in Rebecca or would return to stay.

In the early days the town of Rebecca had a flag raising. A platform was built to make speeches on at the sight of the flag raising. Later a large rock was placed there and it was called a "Drive to the right post."

On Dec. 7, 1910, Mayor Dickson reported the presence of smallpox among the train crew stationed here and at his request authorities moved them beyond city limits the following day.

**REBECCA CHURCHES
METHODIST CHURCH**

The first Methodist Church was built in Rebecca in 1906-1907. The Rev. L.B. McMichael was the first pastor. The first woman's society was known as "The Parsonage Aid" and was organized in 1910. Mrs. Gussie Gilmore was the first president of the society.

The first stewards were W.H. McMillan, W.D. Wilson, J.W. Cribbs, and J.H. Gilmore. J.W. Cribbs was the first Church School Superintendent.

The new brick church was erected in 1952-1954. The Rev. W.A. Wilson was the pastor when the new church was built and Mrs. J.T. King was Chairman of the board.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rebecca Baptist Church was established in 1907. The first pastor was the Rev. B.T. Mansfield. E.R. Nash—Clerk,

J.F. Maddox—Church School Superintendent, Mrs. H.L. Speer—WMS Pres.

Charter Members—Mr. & Mrs. J.G. Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Lewis, J.F. Maddox, Mr. & Mrs. E.R. Nash, Mrs. W.E. Paulk, Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Speer, Alva Speer, Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Taylor, and Miss Bessie Taylor.

The brick church was erected in 1947, after a tornado blew the old church off the foundation. The Rev. Pope Hulett was pastor at the time.

COLORED CHURCHES

St. John Methodist Church (Rebecca), first pastor—Rev. Woods of Cordele.

Piney Grove Baptist Church was established in 1892. The first pastor was Niles Perry (Rev.), Rebecca.

The church out near the Guy Maddox Farm is: St. Luke Baptist Church organized in 1905.

Shaw Baptist Church





This shows the original First Baptist Church which was a stately building in sparsely populated section.

First Baptist Church Was Born At Sawmill Shed

Records show that the Rev. B.A. Bacon, a Baptist missionary, was the first preacher to hold a worship service for a Baptist congregation in Ashburn on Aug. 25, 1889.

A meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. That meeting was held under a shed at the Betts-Evans sawmill company.

The Baptist Church was organized with nine members, all of whom had their letters of dismission. The members were J.D. Wayne, Mrs. J.S. Wayne, Mrs. Z.J. Cowan, Mrs. Georgia Pate, Mrs. B.R. Graham, W.J. Williams, Mrs. Mary E. Williams, Mrs. Flutilla Calhoun and Mrs. C.T. Williams.

For more than a year the congregation met in homes with

several additions. In 1891 a committee on a building announced that funds had been raised for the purpose of erecting a church house, but the later records of the church fail to indicate just when the dedication took place.

During its years of service, the Baptist Church has built a new building, an annex as well as a Baptist parsonage, taking a leading part in the spiritual life of the community.

The Baptist WMU was organized in 1893 at the home of Mrs. W.A. Murray with Mrs. M.A. Holland as president. The WMU divided into four circles in 1922 and in 1925 gave over \$800 to all causes.

SYRUP MAKING

Lester Adkison, serving as county commissioner after his election in the late 1970's, his first venture into politics, recalls happily three generations of syrup makers.

Lester shared his secret which was really not a secret because it was shared by most Turner Countians who enjoyed syrup as a part of their daily menu.

He said that beginning with his grandfather, Bryant Adkison, who lived in the Paulk section close to Live Oak Church and at that time near the community of Luke, the same system for producing delicious syrup has been practiced through the years.

Born in 1932, Lester recalls that syrup was made by most farm families and was considered a staple. Just as a farmer raised a hog or grew his own vegetables, sugar cane syrup was important and the art of making syrup was passed from one generation to another. Lester's father Elbert A. Adkison

was born in 1910 after his father came to this section before the turn of the century.

Knowing when to cut the sugar cane was extremely important. The stalks were brought to the mill to squeeze the juice from the canes, pouring the juice into 60, 80, or 100-gallon kettles of cast iron which were built into a brick furnace.

For the best syrup, the furnace had to be fired at just the right temperature for cooking for a long period of time. One boiling could be cooked off in approximately four hours. In some circumstances, the cane juice could be squeezed the day prior to the cooking, but only in extremely cold weather.

During the cooking, the cane juice had to be skimmed and immediately after finishing the cooking, the syrup was poured into buckets or jars which served as syrup containers.

NO SWASTIKAS

But German POWs Once Worked In Turner County

Peanut Fields In Days Of World War II

Most of people of Turner County don't know or don't remember that German POW's once lived and worked in Turner County. The following information has been compiled from local sources. Government records checked were incomplete and not very helpful. Little exact information on the POW camp is available, but the following is probably a good account of this camp.

There were 250 prisoners, 65 U.S. personnel, and one medic. The camp was started in late 1943.

Most of the prisoners spoke German; a few could speak English. There was an interpreter to help everyone understand one another. By the time they were ready to leave, some could understand English well, especially by using their hands.

The prisoners were obedient and respectful. When one got disorderly, he was put on bread and water for a certain number of days. Some were allowed bread and water only, for 10 to 15 days.

They were skillful, as most Germans were, and could do almost anything put before them. They were very smart. They built tables with sideboards around the edges. They filled these with sand and mounted birds, insects, snakes and all animals that were found in Turner County at that time. They also painted beautiful paintings and played music at night.

When the prisoners went to work, they always had a guard with them. They turpentine, stacked peanuts, and helped the farmers. The prisoners always wanted to go back and help those who were nice to them and fed well. Some bought cokes and candy for them and were liked by them. They were good workers and worked hard. Each guard had so many prisoners to supervise. It was according to the type of work

as to how many each guard had. The prisoners worked at Sheally's Mill and Geohagan's Mill and various farms.

Lieutenant Staluka was in charge of the whole camp. Sargeant LaBart was in charge of the motor pool. Sargeant LaBart and Jack Boedecker, the medic, pulled a joke on J.H. Sims (individual in charge of detailing the prisoners to farmers). He was always in a rush; he would jump in his car and take off fast. LaBart and Jack jacked up his rear wheels. He jumped in his car, cranked it, put it in reverse, and it wouldn't move. He put it in first and it still wouldn't move. He figured the rear axle had broken. He went in the tent to get a ride, and while he was in there, they let his back wheels down. Sims never could figure out what happened.

The prisoners were allowed to play volley ball, soccer, softball, and football.

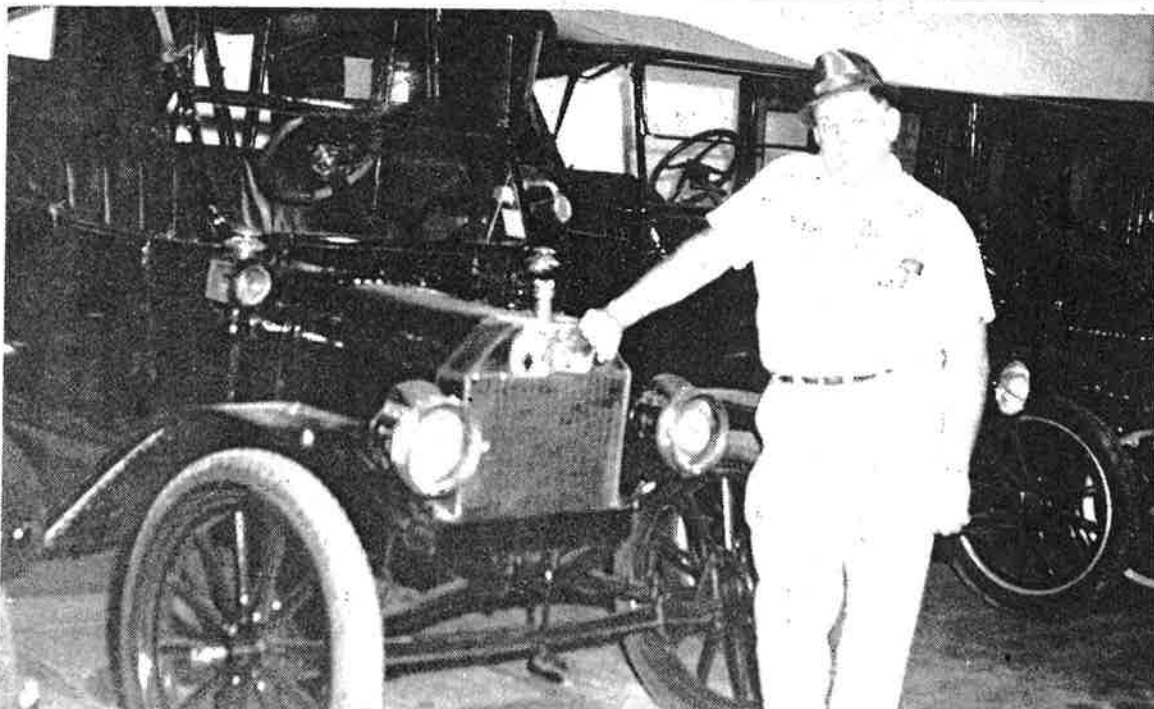
The farmers didn't pay the prisoners directly, but they normally gave them money for cigarettes and other things. The personnel in camp would give them cigarettes and money to buy a few luxuries.

The camp was located near Lad N' Dad Slacks, on a field about 500 square. It had four guards houses without windows. There were ten strings of barbed wire around it and in it.

The prisoners were well fed. They were allowed to have pets such as dogs and cats, but they had to be innoculated and from 200 to 300 dogs were innoculated.

One prisoner was injured badly. If there was any surgery to be done, the prisoners were taken to Camp Wheeler in Macon. Otherwise, the local medic handled the injuries and pulled teeth.

In 1946, the camp was disbanded and most prisoners returned to Germany, only some remained in the U.S.A. LaBart.



BELOVED MRS. BALDWIN

Turner County Jubilee would be incomplete without paying tribute to Mrs. Vera Baldwin, one of Turner County's most loved and outstanding citizens, a teacher for 33 years.

Mrs. Baldwin was a native of Winder (Barrow County), where she was born December 27, 1888, the daughter of W. B. Jackson and Mrs. Ola Thrasher Jackson. She came to Ashburn at age 16. In later years, she married Don M. Baldwin, who passed away in 1932 leaving her with four sons.

Mrs. Baldwin once remarked to a close friend that she prayed to God to give her wisdom and strength to rear her sons not to be wealthy men, but Christian men. She retired from public and private school teaching in 1969. In this efficient field of service she endeared herself to pupils and associates in all walks of the educational field.

The indelible imprint and unique gift of understanding and genuine love she extended to others was her universal language of love. With love, precept and example, as a basic rule, she taught moral statue and integrity that can well be applied in every walk of life through generations to come.

She gave abundantly of love, of home, family and church, which placed her in many positions of leadership. She willingly sacrificed her time, talent and resources as an inspiring example to others.

Her wisdom and rare talent of communicating with compassion, to people of all levels of life, made her a friend of unusual ability.

She was deeply appreciative of the many honors bestowed upon her by friends and family.

The charm and vivid impact of this beloved mother, teacher and friend will live on in the corridors of time.

Shriners ...

A Worthy Group

The Past Matrons Club of Ashburn Chapter No. 287 Q.E.S. was organized December 13, 1965. Charter members were Louise Rose, Cortez Sconyers, Emily Perry, Lilas Griffith, Bertha Faircloth, Mildred West, Berta Mae Hobby and Jewel Phillips.

The object of this organization is for the Past Matrons of Ashburn Chapter to work closer with the Chapter for the good of our order, and to make the Past Matrons as successful as possible, to stimulate more interest and participation for all Past Matrons and strive to reflect to others charity, truth and loving kindness among others and ourselves throughout the years.

This club has had many successful projects and each year has made some contribution to Ashburn Chapter No. 287 Order of the Eastern Star including furnishing the Ladies Lounge and kitchen items and two velvet chairs in the Masonic building, cookware and many other things including a roaster.

The Club always had a luncheon for the Worthy Grand Matron during her official visit until recently when her time was limited.

GRADY SCONYERS

A BUILDER

Grady Moore Sconyers was born May 28, 1909 in Laurens County, Ga. and died June 8, 1969.

Grady Moore Sconyers was the son of John Sterling Sconyers and Mary Jackson Sconyers. The family moved to Sycamore in 1910. His father served as Mayor of Scyamore for many years.

He was a graduate of Scyamore High School and Georgia-Alabama Business College in Macon.

He married Cortez Henderson June 21, 1936 and they operated a general mercantile store for 10 years. In 1947 they built the Turner County Frozen Foods, operated it until 1950 when he sold it to John Corbitt. In 1952, he installed one of the most modern cotton gins in South Georgia and had farmers hauling cotton to Sycamore in a radius of 30 miles. He also stored seed, peanuts and shelled them for the farmers. The gin, cotton warehouse, and peanut shelling are still in operation.

During this time he also had a large farming operation.

Through the years he has been interested in the industrial development of Turner County, giving his time, talents and financial aid to the growth of the industrial park and to building the various manufacturing plants.

He was a life long member of the Sycamore Methodist Church, serving on the official board and for many years teaching a Sunday School Class. Through his gifts Sycamore Methodist Church was brick veneered and a social hall was added. He served as chairman of the building committee. Following his death, his wife remodeled the church parsonage next door as a memorial to him.

He was very civic minded and was one of the organizers of the Sycamore Lions Club, and gave the land on which the club house was built. He also gave the Railroad right-of-way for the Industrial Park. He gave one acre of the two acres of land on Highway 41 on which the American Legion Home is built.

His father was a Mason and as soon as Grady was old enough, he joined Sycamore Masonic Lodge No. 210. Later he joined Alee Shrine Temple in Savannah. When Hasan Temple was organized in Albany he moved his membership there. He was one of the leaders in developing the Recreation Center, building a swimming pool and a skating rink. The City of Ashburn made him an Honorary citizen.

He was active in the Shrine and was on the appointed Divan. Had he lived he would have been Potentate of Hasan Temple in a few years. He saw the need for a new Masonic Temple as the Masons and Shriners and Eastern Star members were holding their meetings on the third floor of the Davis Building in Ashburn. A building committee was formed which he headed, and the lovely new Masonic Building, one of the nicest in any small town, was built. After his death, his estate paid in full all the indebtedness on the Ashburn Masonic Temple as a memorial to him.

He assisted many young men to obtain a college education. Now his wife gives a scholarship to some deserving student each year.

He served on The Turner County Board of Education and as a member of the Hospital Authority. For several years he was director of the Ashburn Bank and was one of the organizers of the First Federal Savings and Loan Assn. in Ashburn, serving as a director and as a secretary.

A Young Man Named

Jimmy Carter Comes To Town—

It was in April, 1968, that a young man named Jimmy Carter—a State senator from Plains who was being mentioned as a possible candidate for governor—came to Ashburn to address the Civic Woman's Club, a popular organization interested in promotion of worthwhile activities for Turner County.

At that time, folks here didn't know this man named Jimmy Carter. They were most familiar with Plains as a community in Sumter County which produced rival basketball teams for Third District Tournaments for Ashburn and Sycamore.

At the club meeting at the Ashburn Motor Inn Restaurant's private dining room, Mr. Carter charmed his audience by his candor as he revealed that he had run for State senator in order to get off the Sumter County School Board.

He told the Civic Woman's Club that the threat of integration and the likely merger of schools had made him extremely unpopular in his home county of Sumter County

and his home town of Plains.

So unpopular, he revealed, that service station attendants refused to put gas in his automobile when he drove in for service, making it necessary that he get out of his car and pump the gas himself.

"The South has always criticized the President, even Franklin D. Roosevelt who certainly had his critics among us," said Mr. Carter, perhaps not realizing what the future held for him.

Mr. Carter who came to the meeting at the invitation of Mrs. Horace Forshee and Mrs. Gene Littleton, club president, smiled frequently as he spoke, making an eerie prophecy: "Any man who is elected president of the US has a job that cannot be done by one person. He must depend on others and at times, others cannot be depended upon..."

Later, Gov. Jimmy Carter returned to Turner County to address a high school graduating class that years later he was to ask for their vote for president of the US.



This handsome young man is Judge J. Bowie Gray at the time he became solicitor general in Tifton Judicial Circuit in 1949. He became Judge of Superior Court in 1955 and retired in 1978.



John B. Cason was first sheriff of Turner County.

The Shingler Mule Barn Is An Ashburn Landmark



This is the original Turner County Stock Co. for sales and stables. Herbert I. Shingler is seated at left in buggy. Many standing at left is William M. Bryan, a general contractor who was born in 1865 and died in 1933. Signature on front of this picture was by H.I. Shingler and the picture was dated Aug. 15, 1922.





The Turner County Boys Quartet was first-place winner in State competition, included Kelly Zbinden, Zack Zbenden, Mark Mercer and Jeff Cooper.

Wesleyan Camp Ground Is Older Than Turner County

In Years Past, Hundreds Flocked To Ashburn To Attend Tabernacles Services.

According to the Rev. C.M. Payne, patriarch of the Wesleyan Church in our area, the Wesleyan Campground is older than Turner County. The campground was established in 1902, while the county was chartered in 1905.

For seven-eight years the annual Wesleyan Camp Meeting has been an important summertime event. Many people attest to the fact that their spiritual journey began at the tabernacle located at the corner of Gordon Street and Madison Avenue. Others testify that there they made a decision to live a holy life.

The campground began in the days in which Ashburn was a sawmill town, located in timber-rich Turner County. In 1902, J.S. Shingler, one of the founders of the town and a naval stores operator, helped to start the campground by donating a fifty-year lease to the property where the tabernacle and housing for campers now stands.

According to Mr. Payne, the Wesleyan Church at the time was located near where the Liberty Wesleyan Church now stands. When the church decided to build a new sanctuary and campground there was a conflict in the church over who was going to be pastor. The conflict was resolved when Mr. Shingler, a loyal member of the Methodist Church in Ashburn, agreed to a free lease for a church and campground in Ashburn. The Wesleyan Church they built stood at the corner of Gordon Street and Madison Avenue until the 1950s. The campground remains at the same location.

The first pastor of the Wesleyan Church in Ashburn was the Rev. H.S. Dixon. He and D.H. Bankston, a prominent layman in the church, served as the first trustee of the campground. The two men worked tirelessly to make the annual revival meeting a well-attended community event.

Also, among the early supporters of the camp were Joe and Maggie Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence, a deeply religious Irishman, founded *The Wiregrass Farmer* in 1899 as a religious publication. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence were both members of the Wesleyan Church and large financial supporters of the camp.

These early civic leaders of Ashburn hoped that the Wesleyan Camp Meeting would help the town to keep its reputation as the holy city.

In 1952, one day before the fifty-year lease was to expire, the Shingler family sold the property to the Wesleyan Church for a price that Clifford Payne says was "very reasonable."

For the past thirty-one years, the primary custodian of the campground has been Rev. C.M. Payne. Mr. Payne says he owes a lot to the annual Camp Meetings. It is there that he has been nurtured spiritually through the years. Rev. Payne was saved in 1923 and licensed to preach in 1931. Since 1932 he has served as pastor of Wesleyan Churches in Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia. He currently serves as pastor of the Wesleyan Church at Tifton and of the Liberty Wesleyan Church in Ashburn. He also runs an antique shop at his home in Ashburn.

Turner Countians universally regard Mr. Payne as a "walking saint." People of all races and denominations love him for his sincere faith. They hold him in high regard for his constant attention to those that are old, sick and grieving.

The Wesleyan Camp Meeting is not as big an affair as it once was. The camp now lasts eight days instead of ten. Preaching is held only twice a day instead of three times. The local businesses no longer close during worship hours. Crowds of people no longer pack the tabernacle to sit on wooden benches, sing out of shape-note songbooks, and fan themselves with snuff fans. As a matter of fact, Mr. Payne is having to fight a move at his annual conference to sell the campground. But in spite of all these obstacles, Clifford Payne remains undaunted. "We are all small in number," he says, "but we will not die, quit, or surrender to discouragement." Quoting Joe Lawrence, he says, "All discouragement come from the devil."

A Cow, A Hog And A Hen

Turner County Was Credited With Changing The Very Structure Of Farming After Devastation Of The Boll Weevil In 1920's

No other event, no other development in its long and adventurous history has ever catapulted Turner County into national prominence as did "The Cow, Hog and Hen Program".

It came out of necessity as many great success stories are conceived. It was nurtured by diligence and determination. And it came at the right time.

In the 1920s, devastation overtook the South Georgia farmer. In Turner County's cotton fields, the profits would not grow. Came the boll weevil and a many a farmer wound up on that cruel path to poverty and bankruptcy. Families were at the brink of dissolution because money could not be made at producing cotton. The weevil saw to that.

Added to the agricultural enemy, the economy of America was unstable and many persons who had invested heavily in the farmer's cotton, attempting to make a profit, some a fortune, on the market saw their plans collapse in ruin.

There were as many as a hundred men who had a part in the birth of the plan, but certainly entitled to a major share of credit for ingenious thinking and devoted interest were George Betts, John Evans, Dr. Story, Joe Lawrence and C.H. Bishop.

George Betts was a member of one of Ashburn's most prominent families, a family which had come to a wilderness of pines to start a new life in sawmilling and other business interests in this part of the world which had been left virtually to pine trees and thickets.

George Betts had more than family heritage. Blessed with keen intelligence, an indefatigable spirit and vast influence, he was as much responsible for the success of "The Cow, Hog and Hen" program as any one individual although he always wanted the credit to go elsewhere.

Mr. Betts died an untimely death at the very zenith of his success in a number of endeavors. He was stricken with appendicitis on a Monday and was expected to recover, showing favorable signs, but died on a Saturday night following, much to the dismay of family and friends as well as countless acquaintances he had made throughout the State as a banker, agriculturist, farmer and a devoted believer in the "Turner County Plan". He was 42 at the time of his death.

Mr. Betts was one of the foremost workers in the cause of better agricultural conditions in Georgia. He was president of the Ashburn Bank, vice president of the Georgia Sawmill Association and owner and operator of one of the largest and most modernly equipped farms in the state.

It was after an extended trip across the State to boost the "Cow, Hog and Hen" program that Mr. Betts returned home exhausted, and at the time, doctors attributed his death to low resistance because of overwork.

But while he gave his life to a cause involving farmers, other Turner County plans carried on the administration of one of the first plans for diversified farming ever advocated.

It worked like this: a farmer milked three to seven cows, sold the sour cream to the creamery, kept the skimmed milk for pigs and chickens, kept a brood sow or two, depending upon the amount of feed he had, and also kept a flock of chickens. The sour cream check and the sale of eggs and

For the plan to be successful, a creamery was necessary. One was built in Ashburn and C.H. Bishop, later at Sears Farmers Market, was placed in charge. It was believed that this was the first creamery established in Georgia. Whether it was the first or not, it certainly made history and hundreds of visitors flocked to Ashburn to inspect it and to learn first hand of the Turner County "Cow Hog and Hen" program.

For the farmers of the land were desperate. King Cotton had been brought low by the boll weevil, and something new in the way of farm income had to be devised. The Turner County plan held out possibilities.

It is not known what the operating statement of the Ashburn creamery would show, but every thinking person would agree that it provided an example of sound farming at a time when Georgia needed such an example more than anything else.

The mountain folk, wrote Channing Cope, had always practiced cow-hog-and hen farming but the mountains were far away in those days. South Georgia was committed lock, stock and barrel to the production of cotton and when cotton crashed the whole super-structure crashed with it.

But the livestock idea caught on. "We now have a \$40,000,000 hog industry in Georgia," wrote Cope, "most of it in South Georgia." The creamery and the dairy idea "took" also and has become very important in Middle Georgia more than South Georgia in recent years.

"Our beef cattle industry is doubling value," wrote Cope, "every few years, we see this great venture extended and extended, and we are beginning to be known nationally in cattle circles as producers of excellent breeding stocks."

"For my own part, I am glad to testify that the Turner County plan changed the course of agricultural pursuits and turned faces in the direction of livestock and pastures. Many another man can say the same thing."

fryers provided day-to-day cash and the Spring and Fall crop of pigs furnished one of the major money crops. Fields were planted in combinations of corn, velvet beans and peanuts and the animals gathered their own feed for the most part.

Cotton acreages were reduced and watched over more carefully.

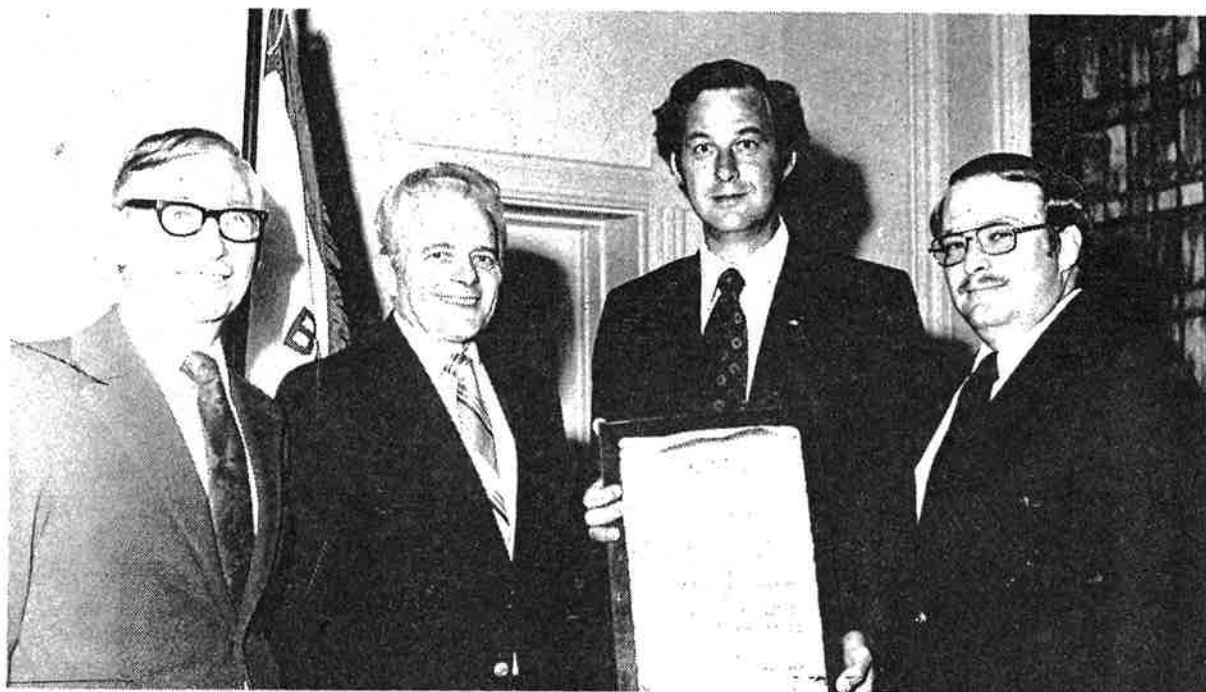
Just who brought the plan to Turner County is uncertain. Some thought it to be F.H. Abbott who had come to Georgia from Nebraska. Certainly, Abbott was a vigorous advocate of this type of farming as was Henry G. Hastings and others including Atlanta columnist Channing Cope who wrote at length about Turner County's determination to provide a better living for the down and out small farmer in rural South Georgia.

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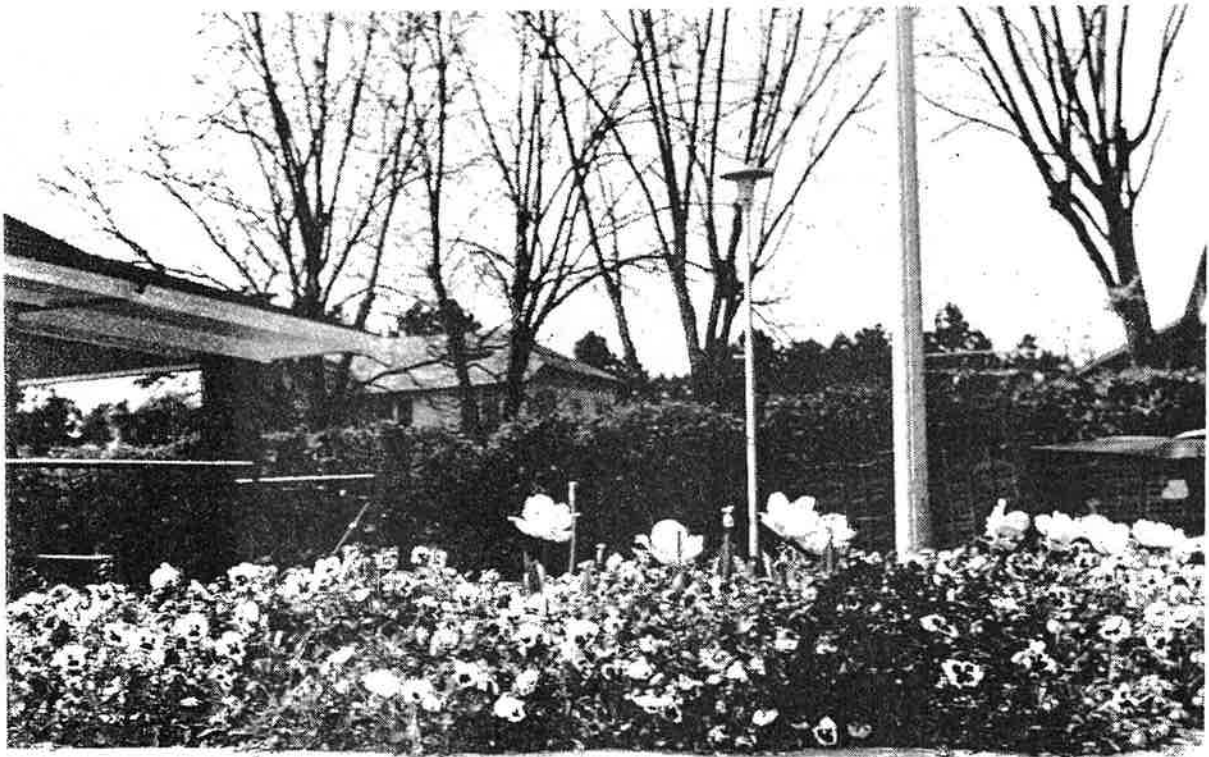
The Rev. John Townsend, pastor of West Side Baptist Church (center) extends congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Dunn as church honored couple for long years of service in Summer of 1980.



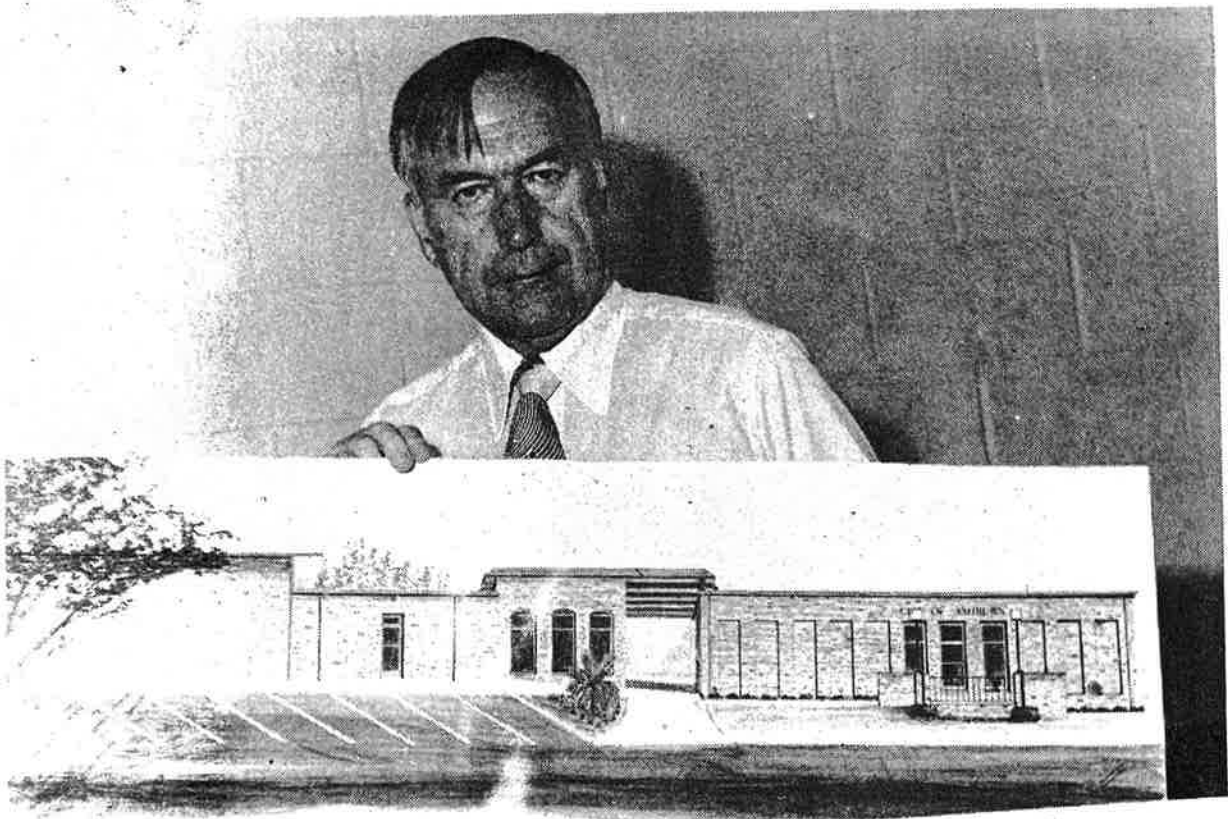
Boys Club of America District Director John Crawford (second from left) honors Turner County Chamber of Commerce and the people of Turner County for their help at the time that a Ypsilantic, Mich. bus crashed near Ashburn taking the life of three boys and injuring others.

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Beautiful flowers in beautiful places has always been a goal for Turner County men and women. This colorful spot is near Citizen's Bank.



Ashburn Mayor J.I. Youngblood shows artists plan for extension of new city hall which was built in mid-1970s at Gordon and Monroe. New extension will house city police department and fire department.

Looking Back At Sycamore Methodist Church

History Of The Sycamore Methodist Parsonage

The first parsonage was built about 1890 on the corner of Willis St. and Labelle Ave. presently occupied by J.L. Wynn Warehouse. The parsonage served the Sycamore Charge composed of Sycamore, Prospect, Clements Chapel, and Newton Churches, and at one time served as the home for the Presiding Elder of this district.

In the early 1940's the parsonage had deteriorated and needed extensive repairs. The decision was reached to tear down this building and use the material to construct a new parsonage where it presently stands.

In June of 1969, Mrs. Grady M. Sconyers, as a memorial to her late husband, Grady M. Sconyers, completely rebuilt the parsonage. It is now a beautiful home with central heating and cooling system, three bedrooms, two baths, utility and carport, and fully carpeted.

The four churches on the charge completely refurnished the parsonage with new furniture, making this one of the finest parsonages in the South Georgia conference, one of which we can all take great pride in as a home for our minister.

John Flanders	1898-1899	J.O.A. Cook
W.F. Hixon	1900 1904	J.O.A. Cook
		J.D. Branch
		H.M. Morrison
H.P. Meyers	1905-1906	
Paul Kendrick		H.M. Morrison
Paul Kendall	1907	J.A. Harmon
H.D. Grenfell	1908-1908	J.A. Harmon
A.H. Brazemore	1909-1910	J.H. Harmon
T.E. Murray	1910-1911	W.H. Budd
H.H. Sumlin	1912-1913	W.H. Budd
O.W. Little	1913-1914	J.P. Wardlow
J.W. Patterson	1915-1916	O.B. Chester
F.C. Gardner	1916-1917	W.T. Smith
T.F. Waller	1917 1918	W.T. Smith
W.B. Cheshire		W.T. Smith
Barrett	1919-1920	W.T. Smith
J.E. Carmichael	1920-1922	W.A. Rees
		W.M. Flanders
J.P. Tyson	1922-1924	J.P. Tyson
W.M. Flanders	1924-1925	J.P. Tyson
T.E. Murray	1925-1926	H.T. Freeman
T.E. Murray	1926-1927	H.T. Freeman
Gardner	1927-1929	J.H. House
C.E. Dell	1929-1931	C.E. Dell
C.A. Jackson, Jr.	1931-1933	J.H. House
		J.U. Hitch
F.C. Meyers	1933-1937	H.T. Freeman
Kemp	1937-1938	H.T. Freeman
Ed Nottingham	1939-1940	H.T. Freeman
Moody Booth	1940-1941	G.E. Clary
Splvey	1941	J.P. Dell
W.C. Rhan	1941-1944	J.P. Dell
F.A. Ratcliff		
J. Kell Hinson	1944-1949	John Sharpe
		M.P. Webb
R.L. Harris	1949-1951	M.P. Webb
C.I. Morgan	1951-1954	N.M. Lovein
C.L. Wall	1954-1956	W.E. Scott
Carroll Crosby	1956-1959	W.E. Scott
Brooks Partain	1959-1960	W.E. Scott
W.A. Wentworth	1960-1962	W.E. Scott

Don Reynolds	1962-1963	W.E. Scott
W.E. McCord	1963-1964	W.E. Scott
R.V. Sneed	1964-1966	David Duck
S.J. Brown	1966-1970	David Duck
J.K. Van Horn	1970-1972	H.W. Scoates
Woody Roberts	1972-1976	
Paul Mosser	1976-1977	
C.N. Haisten	1977-1979	John Carrol
Ray Lott	1979	

MORNING WORSHIP PROGRAM

11:00 A.M.

The Prelude	Mrs. Carl Sconyers
Call to Worship	Rev. S.J. Brown
Invocation	Rev. S.J. Brown
Words of Welcome	Miss Ruth Swearingen
Hymn "Oh Worship The King"	Hymnal 473
The Affirmation of Faith	Hymnal 738
The Responsive Reading	Hymnal 575
The Glori Patri	Hymnal 794
Prayer	Mr. Jim N. Denham
Hymn—"Come Ye Thankful People, Come"	Hymnal 522
Announcements	Rev. S.J. Brown
Offertory (Offering to Parsonage Upkeep)	
Doxology	Hymnal 809
Special Music	Mrs. M.C. Harrison
Presentation of Speaker	Rev. S.J. Brown
Message	Dr. David A. Duck
Hymn "Blest Be The Tie That Binds"	Hymnal 306
Benediction	Dr. David A. Duck
Lunch in Social Hall	



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Victoria Evans Library

Its Name Honors Long-Time Librarian; Services Grew With County.

The Library Story

by

Madge Rouse

"The silent influence of books, is a mighty power in the world; and there is a joy in reading them known only to those who read them with desire and enthusiasm".

THE LIBRARY STORY

Through the windows of the two story frame building came the steady hum of a sawmill and the whistle of a train engine pulling into a station. This building was located at West End Avenue and the railroad tracks. It was the depot for the Georgia, Ashburn, Sylvester and Camilla railroad, commonly called "The Gas Line".

In addition to housing the railroad company's executive offices, the depot also provided a club room for the Ashburn Sewing Club. Here these pretty young matrons sewed, served lunch to the members of the Lions Club to raise funds for their projects and planned the future of their town. Their dream was to have a Public Library in Ashburn.

Netta Shingler, president of the club, had come to Ashburn from Vineland, New Jersey to teach music in the Public Schools. She soon met and married Herbert I. Shingler, son of Emma Shipman Baldwin and J.S. Shingler, Sr. One of the pioneer families of Ashburn and Turner County.

One day in the early 1920's Netta's mother, Mrs. G.W. Jacobs, was a guest at the Sewing Club and suggested to the girls that they each buy a book and circulate them among themselves and other interested friends. The young ladies were delighted with the plan and had their books ready for circulation within a few days and the public library of Turner County was born.

Interest grew as well as the collection of books. The little library was housed in various locations in those days: The Depot Club room, Lions Club House, the City Hall and the Old Ashburn Bank Building and probably more.

Library patrons were asked to pay ten cents per month for a library membership and the ladies who served as librarian during these years were: Mrs. K.P. Baker served from March 1925 to July 1927. Mrs. Rebecca Cooper from July 1927 to February 1930. Mrs. J.R. Whittier from February 1930 to October 1931. Mrs. J.R. Greer from October 1931 to July 1932.

These civic minded ladies received \$1.00 per year for their services.

In 1932 the City of Ashburn, at a public auction, bought the lot on College Street for \$128.72. With the help of public donations and President Roosevelt's Relief Programs for the unemployed, during the great depression, the W.P.A. and the city built a Community House and later added a little back room for the library. The little library had finally found a home.

The Ashburn Woman's Club had been organized by this time and as all Federated Women's Clubs were doing throughout America, this club also sponsored the public library. They supported it monetarily and with volunteer workers as needed. A committee was appointed to find a

permanent librarian now that the library seemed to be putting down roots. "Miss Netta" Shingler now active in the Woman's Club was chairman of this committee. They asked Miss Victoria Evans, Woman's Club President, to be permanent librarian.

"Miss Vic" as she was affectionately called accepted the position with her usual charm. She was the daughter of Ella Bohannon and John West Evans. The Evans family was one of the very early settlers of the Ashburn Community.

Victoria had been a rather frail person most of her young life, and the story is told that after she became librarian, she loved her works so much, she never suffered ill health again. This adds more proof to the old theory that one should enjoy their work. Miss Evans became librarian in August 1932 and retired on June 30, 1952. She worked devotedly for the growth and progress of the library for so little or no pay. After several years, "Miss Netta" Shingler's voice was to be heard again for the library. As Library Trustee and first Treasurer of the board, she went before the County Commissioners and asked for a salary of \$50.00 per month for the librarian. She got it.

During those early years books stations were set up throughout the county, in Rebecca, Sycamore, Dakota, Coverdale and any location where a store or home had been made available for a book deposit. Miss Evans, with an Assistant to drive for her, would take boxes of books to these locations, always picking up one collection and leaving another to be circulated among the people of that area. In those days it was not always easy for people to come to Ashburn to check out library books, so the library took the books to the people. This practice continued until the Regional Library System was formed and the bookmobile service began in rural areas.

In 1953 Victoria Evans was to receive the outstanding recognition of having the library named for her. It became The Victoria Evans Memorial Library. This honor, so well deserved, was brought about by an act of the City Council and the Mayor of Ashburn, W.C. Jarman, Jr. Victoria Evans died May 19, 1955.

About 1935 the state of Georgia issued an act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries to be supported by their county or city revenue. Turner County and the city of Ashburn have since been the supporting agencies of the library. Library Trustees, appointed by these agencies formed the library board, which became the governing body.

This board is always made up of a County Commissioner, the City Mayor, the County School Superintendent and a representative from each section of the county.

Mrs. Lois Doss, "Miss Vic's" library assistant and a board member, became the librarian in June 1952. A native of Wilcox County, she came to Ashburn when she married John Doss. They had two children: Dorothy and J.C. Jr. Mrs. Doss served as librarian for two years retiring in September 1954.

Martha Holland followed Mrs. Doss as librarian, also a library trustee, Martha had come from Thomaston, Georgia as the bride of Julian Holland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Holland. Martha and Julian had two children, Anne and

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Tommy Holland.

During Martha Holland's administration, the Coastal Plain Regional Library System was formed in 1956 with Mr. Phil Ogilvie as Director. The Counties forming the region were Turner, Tift, Irwin, Berrien and Cook. The regional headquarters are in the Rural Life Building on the campus of Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton. By 1975 all counties in Georgia were part of a Regional or County Library System.

In 1943 Georgia formed the Library Extension Service and appropriated one hundred thousand dollars for state aid to public libraries. Each county library was then given a book allotment, based on the size of the county. The larger the county the larger the allotment.

Martha Holland retired in September 1958 after serving four years as librarian.

Madge Rouse, who had served as a Library Trustee since 1951, became the librarian in September 1958. She was a native of Evanston, Illinois and came to Ashburn with her husband, Samuel C. Rouse, Jr., of Sylvester, Georgia. Following his service with the United States Navy, Sam built the Ashburn Food Store and was to own and operate it for thirty four years. The Rouses have one daughter, Sharon (Mrs. Bob Bailey) and two grandchildren, Jessica Bailey, age 4 and Robin Bailey, age 1 of Sylvester, Georgia.

The library, still located in the little back room of the Community House with a card table for a circulation desk, was becoming a bit crowded. In 1960, when John Arthur Holoway was county School Superintendent and chairman of the library board, he appointed a committee of the librarian, Madge Rouse and several board members, to go before the City Council and Mayor Austin Scott to ask for space in the building for library expansion. Mayor Scott and the Council members, judicious enough to see the need, gave the large, front room of the building for library use. The little room in the back then became the public meeting

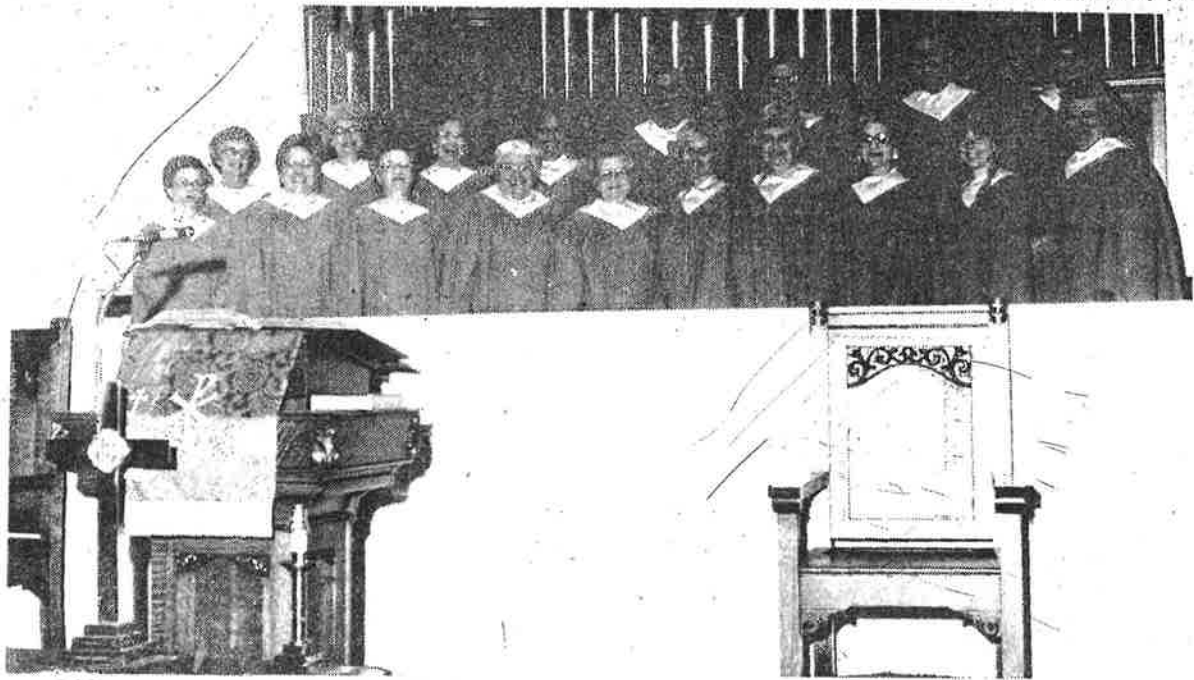
room and in 1969 the library took over the entire building and has progressively grown in circulation and services.

Mr. Phil Ogilvie left the region as Director in 1957 and was replaced by Carlton Thaxton, a young and dedicated Director, who contributed much to the success of the Coastal Plain Regional Library. At the death of Miss Lucille Nix, Director of the Division of Public Library Service with the State Department of Education in Georgia, Carlton Thaxton was promoted to that position. Though he moved to Atlanta to assume his new duties, he never lost touch with his Coastal Plain Regional Library friends.

Mr. Walter Johnston, Director of the library at Abraham Baldwin College replaced Mr. Thaxton as Regional Director in 1968 and the region continues to accomplish the impossible under his direction.

Each year the five county libraries, with their staff and board members, City and County officials meet with the Regional Staff for an annual meeting. The Director gives an annual report of the year's accomplishments, and future goals. There is a speaker of prominence, a dinner and a good exchange of ideas. Each County takes its turn acting as host for this meeting. This makes a strong region and the result is better library service.

Each county is host every five years. Turner County was host in 1979. The meeting was held at the Highschool Cafetorium and the guest speaker was Mrs. Betty Talmadge, former Betty Shingler, of Ashburn. Mrs. Farrel Flake and her lunchroom staff prepared and served the buffet dinner. The first annual meeting held in Turner County, was in May 1964 when Mr. Walter T. Johnston, was the speaker. In April 1969, Mr. Harry Crews, well known author, was our guest speaker. His mother, Mrs. James Turner of Ashburn, was a library trustee at the time. Austin Saxon, Editor of the Wiregrass Farmer and library trustee since 1941, was the speaker at the 1974 annual meeting. Austin, unsurpassed for his wit and skill in public speaking, has been a loyal supporter of the library program



Ashburn Methodist Church Choir at church which has been closely identified with Turner County since 1890s. Church was renovated in 1974-77. The J.S. Shingler family donated original pipe organ which was replaced in renovation.

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COLLECTOR'S CORNER

for more than thirty years.

About 1965-66, this library received its first allotment of \$600.00 from Federal Funds, created by the Library Service Act. This money was spent on carpet for the main room of the library. These funds have enabled the library to add better and more shelving and equipment as the funds had to be spent on library improvements and could not be used on routine operation.

The Comprehensive Employment Training Act came into being in the early 1960's. This Federal Program, known as CETA was to provide the first library highschool assistants and continued to do so until 1979.

The library participated in the 1976 Bicentennial observance by planting a "Liberty Tree" on the front, west, library lawn. (In the Revolutionary War days, the Colonial rallying cry was "Lets meet at the Liberty Tree".) Board members who planted the sturdy young oak were: Mayor Clyde Hobby, Sr., D.C. Royal, Austin Saxon, Mrs. Lois Corbett, Mrs. Edna Holland, Mrs. Y.J. Stover, Mrs. J.E. Dunlap, Madge Rouse, Librarian, Ray Barker, Assistant Regional Director and Georgia Forester, Bill Jack Williams, who provide the tree.

Also during the Bicentennial Christmas season, an Open House was held at the library, complete with early American Christmas Decorations, Candle light, Christmas carols and Wassail Bowl. More than two hundred guests visited the library that evening. The library staff and board members were appropriately dressed in elegant satin, formal colonial gowns. These activities stand as a reminder of the importance of Community involvement in which the library has always played a major role.

Many cultural and worthwhile programs have been presented by the library over the years, such as Art Exhibits from the University of Georgia, exhibits by local adult artists, highschool and Junior Highschool artists and an exhibit of art by prisoners at Reidsville, which was provided by the Regional Library.

Special weeks have been observed with special programs and book displays during Georgia Author's Week, Children's Book Week and Career Week for students. In November 1979 a Free Book Week was planned and made possible by the Regional library, when every first, second, and third grade child visited the library and received a free book.

The Region has also brought us such outstanding programs as the Art Classes taught by Dr. Vicen Kesee of the Art Department of Abraham Baldwin College, a show of magic presented by the well known Magician and author, Mr. David Ginn, a workshop on genealogy which attracted so many adults and students it was necessary to hold it at the Turner County Highschool.

Each summer during our summer vacation reading club, when special programs and activities are planned for all boys and girls of Turner County, the region adds special programs which are presented by a member of their staff.

In December 1974, the region joined a state telephone network, which made it possible for them to call each branch library at least two times a week for requests that the branch library might have for books or difficult reference questions. This has been a good service for library patrons. Since the latter part of 1978 the library has been in the process of changing over from the old card catalog to the new computerized catalog listings, showing all of the books in the region, which are easily accessible to all patrons.

During the last fifty five years the collection of books

has grown to approximately twenty thousand and circulation of these books exceed thirty six thousand annually. In addition to this "wonderful world of books", one will find phonograph records, cassettes, film strips, framed prints, (reproductions of famous paintings), services for the blind and physically handicapped, with a specially trained consultant. Workshops have been presented for both adults and young people on such varied subjects as: Needlecraft, flower arranging, freezing and canning, Christmas gifts and ornaments, classes in painting and bridge lessons. A book review was given once each month by the librarian, Madge Rouse, over WALB television station in Albany, Ga. This continued for five years when Madge terminated it because of the time element.

New services and goals are always in the planning by the library staff and board members. The present Board members are: William G. Hardin, County School Superintendent and Library Board Chairman, Lester Adkison, County Commissioner, Mayor J.I. Youngblood, Austin Saxon, Mrs. Evelyn Lane, Treasurer, Mrs. Dot Coker, Mrs. J.E. Dunlap, Mrs. Edna Holland, Mrs. Lois Corbett, Mrs. James Austin, and Kenneth Cromer.

Madge Rouse is in her twenty second year as librarian and Robin Cox, a highschool senior, is the library assistant and Mrs. Susan Lumsden, (Mrs. Charles) is the substitute librarian.

There have been many library trustees since the beginning of the library and each has given a very special service and meaning to the life of the library. They have played a monumental role in its progress. The names of the past board members appear here in alphabetical order.

The library has reflected the standards and hopes of the community it served, since its beginning as a pioneer settlement, Parents expecting the best for their children, brought them to the library and those children in turn were later to bring their children, a continuing tradition of loyalty and interest has resulted. The community confidently supports its library.

"A little library growing larger every year, is an honorable part of a young community's history."

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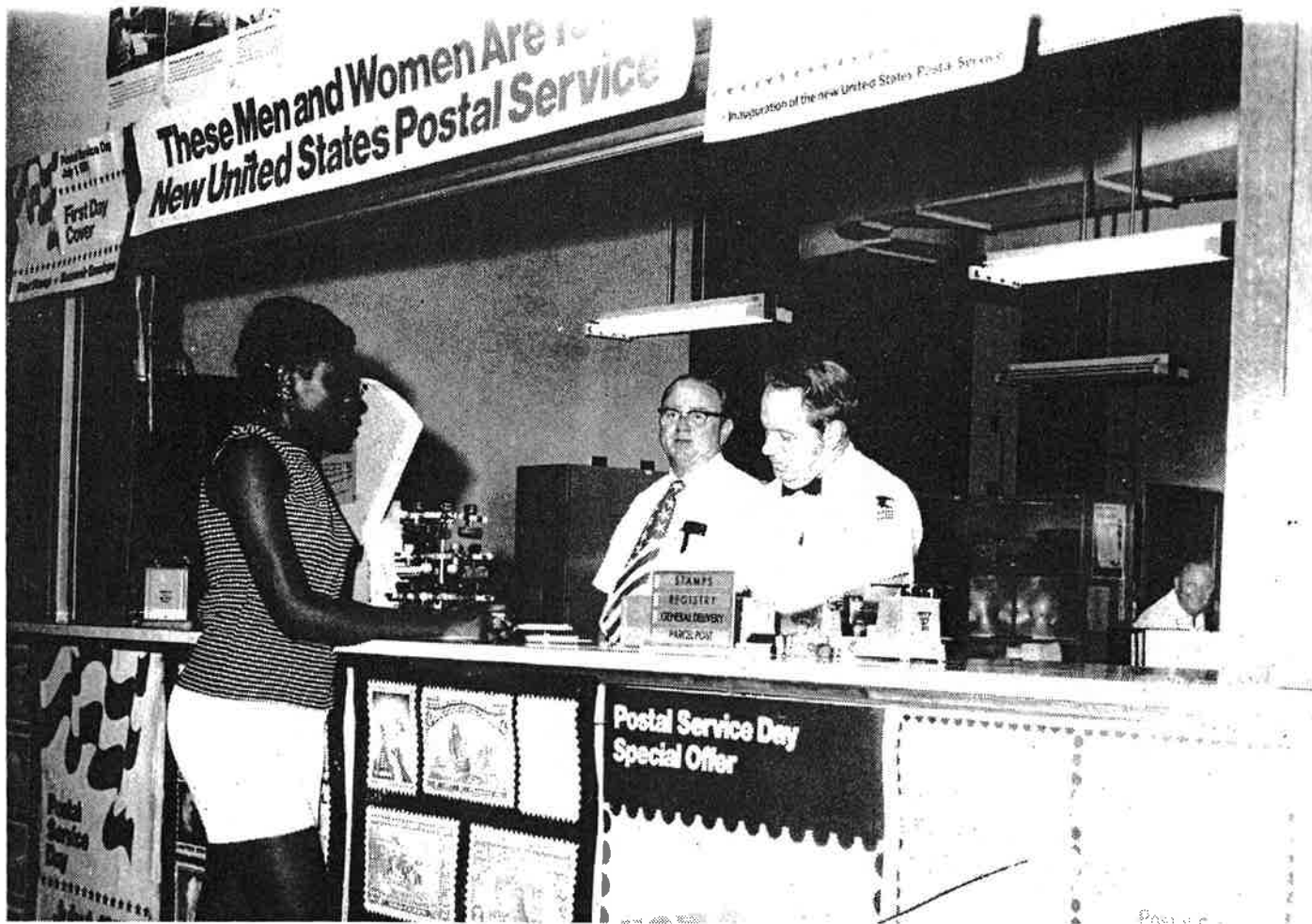
Capt. Robert Smith for many years served as warden for the public works camp in Turner County. Mr. Smith died in 1929.



Mrs. Danny Davis Odom Davis Ward became one of Turner County's largest land-owners.

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 LAWSON FURNITURE CO.
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They Sent The Mural Back To Washington

Bert Miller told the story so well and so hilariously that it is a shame that he isn't around now to tell it once more.

It seems that the Federal government, seeking to provide employment for starving artists and decorate the walls of post offices around the nation, set up a project to place beautiful murals on post office walls around the country.

The project was moderately successful in other sections. But not in Turner County.

The young artist came to Ashburn under the auspices of the Works Project Administration of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, eager to approach his work with an attitude of giving to Turner County something invaluable, something to be treasured through the years.

He spent much of his time talking with postal offices to determine just what kind of mural might be suitable, and he made himself known around town as he prepared for his exciting task.

He researched Turner County, hoping with his artists' brushes to capture what could be called the very essence of Turner County's long and colorful, adventures back through the years. He was a skilled artist, and he went to work diligently in his studio faraway—he worked elsewhere—to put on his canvas the story of Turner County.

He had done a job of talking. Turner Countians told him of how Ashburn grew up as a small village; how the settlements

around Bethel, Rebecca, Sycamore, Amboy, Worth, Coverdale came to be populated by folks with pride and ambition. He was particularly interested in the "Cow, Hog and Hen" program of the 1930s that sought to lead Turner County farmers to a diversified agricultural program.

Finally, the big day arrived. He had completed his mural on a wide canvas that was to be attached to the post office wall.

The canvas arrived and there was a modernistic—almost surrealist—portrait of a young man carrying a pig on his shoulder, surrounded by chickens and cows, a cotton field, a peanut patch, beautiful ladies in ante-bellum gowns and blue skies with puff cotton-ball clouds.

Bert claimed that everyone who saw the mural responded with disgust!

"You're not going to put that thing up on the post office wall, are you?" some angry patrons demanded to know.

The resistance created a dilemma.

What could they do with this mural which had required months to paint?

The Post Office waited for Washington to act. Days became weeks and weeks became months. No one at the post office dared to install the new mural, fearing public revolt.

Finally, Bert said, the mural was bundled up and sent back to Washington, and they've never heard from it since.

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Memories...



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Family History: Thomas Hardy McMurrain

Thomas Hardy (Tom) McMurrain was born April 30, 1855, in Macon County, Georgia, to parents Thomas Hardy McMurrain and Rachel McKenzie McMurrain.

Catherine Cynthia Merintha (Caty) Hammond McMurrain was born December 14, 1856, in Sumter County, Georgia, to parents Willis Hammond and Sarah Davies Hammond.

Tom and Caty were married in her home on August 1, 1875, near old Sumter City, Georgia. Tom used the one dollar gold piece his father had given him on his eighth birthday, by pawning it to purchase their marriage license, but later redeeming it and keeping it throughout the remainder of their lives.

They moved in 1882 to what was then Irvin County (now Turner County) and rented a place on the Old Peckville Lane Road north of Ashburn, thereby becoming pioneer citizens of Turner County. They helped build and were charter members of Sycamore Methodist Church, bought land located in land lots Nos. 93 (for 40 cents per acre) and 114, which they owned until their deaths.

To this marriage were born

James McMurrain, born August 12, 1877, died October 29, 1879

Clark McMurrain, born April 19, 1880, died April 23, 1957, married Annie Bell Bussey on February 12, 1900, born February 12, 1882, died November 2, 1948. Buried in Smith Cemetery, Sycamore.

Mendon Monroe McMurrain, born June 3, 1883, died January 17, 1956, married Mandy Theelda Baker on July 19, 1903, born January 4, 1880, died August 8, 1949. Buried Rose Hill Cemetery, Ashburn.

Lillian F. Grant McMurrain, born September 12, 1888, died January 27, 1938, married John Oscar Vance on July 27, 1902, born September 1, 1881, died April 29, 1953. Buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Sycamore.

Ola Irene McMurrain, born October 11, 1891, died November 2, 1979, married James Herschel Zorn on August 7, 1910, born February 6, 1889, died March 7, 1971. Buried Rose Hill Cemetery, Ashburn. (See Index--JAMES HERSCHEL ZORN)

Thomas Hardy McMurrain died October 15, 1933. Catherine Cynthia Merintha Hammond McMurrain died February 6, 1941. Buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Sycamore.

OUR THANKS TO THESE PATRONS ...

The Weyerhaeuser Company

Quinney and Associates

Probate Judge Jim N. Denham

Financial Credit Services

The C.H. Overby Family

Bill's Dollar Store

William Ernest Simmons

Ruby Simmons Sievert

Family History: James Herschel And Ola McMurrain Zorn

James Herschel Zorn (1889-1971) Farmer and carpenter, born in Jackson County, Georgia, third child of James Tate and Martha Johnson Zorn. Studied in the public schools located in the New Liberty Community.

Ola Irene McMurrain Zorn (1891-1979) Housewife and farmer, born in Sycamore, Georgia, fifth child of pioneer family, Thomas Hardy and Catherine Hammond McMurrain. Studied in the Sycamore and Ashburn public schools.

James Herschel Zorn came to Turner County in 1903, with his mother, sisters and brother, after the death of his father, to farm with the Zorn's clan already settled in Turner County near the Newton Church Community. Farming there for awhile and then making a move with his family 1½ miles from Sycamore, he rented farmland from the Thomas Hardy McMurrain plantation. There he met Ola McMurrain and after a worldwind courtship, on August 7, 1910, by way of horse and buggy, they made their way to Ashburn to the home of Reverend J.C.G. Brooks, minister of the gospel, to be wed. Prior to his death, Herschel and Ola celebrated their 60th anniversary in 1970.

Sycamore, or farms near Sycamore, was always their home. Their first home was on the McMurrain plantation where three of their children, Edna Blanche, who married Lester Cook Whitley of Tifton, Georgia; Thomas O'Neal, who married Esther Smith of Sycamore, Georgia; Mae Ola, who married Edmond J. Gibson of Florence, South Carolina, were born. The beginning of being in possessions of their own farms was 3½ miles east of Sycamore on land lot 114. Here three of their children, Martha Catherine, who married M.C. Harrison of Bethlehem, Georgia; Jimmie Latrelle, who married A. Darsey Nicholson of Amsterdam, Georgia; and

Hubert Nolan, who married Myrle Ann Arnold of Isabella, Georgia, were born. Land Lot 114 is known as Breakfast Head, as legend is that this location is where the Indians ate their last breakfast before leaving the county.

Bussy and Sycamore public schools educated the Zorn's children while they were growing up. Each graduated from Sycamore High School and continued higher education in various schools and colleges.

The third farm home, known as the Pearce Place, was 1½ miles east of Sycamore. This home burned and today, Noland and Myrtle Ann maintain their home in the house that James Herschel Zorn built to replace the family home.

The fourth home was a move into Sycamore in a large home on the corner of Dasher and Academy Streets. This home was destroyed by fire also and James Herschel Zorn built their last home at this same location, the place where they resided at the time of their death. This home, meant... many years of fun, work, and love in the family, including twelve grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren. The many friends and relatives were always welcomed to this home, a model of fine old southern hospitality.

The Zorn family took an active part in the religious (they being Methodist), community, social, political and school activities, holding many places of honor supporting with most earnest endeavor every move for development and uplift of the community and county.

At the passing of Ola McMurrain Zorn, aged 88, November 2, 1979, she was the oldest living native of Sycamore. The house in which she was born remaining intact at the time of this publication. James Herschel Zorn, aged 82, preceded her in death March 7, 1971. Their bodies rest, as they lived, side by side in Rose Hill Cemetery, Ashburn, Georgia.

Family History: Middleton Cleaton Harrison

Martha Catherine Zorn Harrison, born in Sycamore on December 12, 1920, to parents James Herschel Zorn and Ola Irene McMurrain Zorn (See Index-JAMES HERSCHEL ZORN)

Middleton Cleaton Harrison, born in Bethlehem, Barrow County, Georgia, on May 10, 1913, to parents James Thomas Harrison and Minnie Tanner Harrison.

Catherine and M.C. were married in her parents' home in Sycamore on July 7, 1938, M.C. having arrived in Turner County in 1937 on his first teaching assignment, he being the first teacher of Agriculture at Sycamore High School, he continuing his teaching career in the public schools of Georgia until 1973 when he retired. Catherine has been a legal secretary for the past 25 years in Sylvester. Both are members and have been very active in Pinson Memorial United Methodist Church in Sylvester.

To this marriage were born three daughters:

Malissa Cynthia Harrison, born July 5, 1939, in Sycamore,

married Thomas Edward Reese (born February 18, 1940, Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia) on March 12, 1959. They have one son, Thomas Edward Reese, Jr. born November 4, 1962, and one daughter, Robin Reese, born March 12, 1966; both born in Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia.

Marjorie Phyllis Harrison, born December 3, 1941 in Americus, Sumter County, Georgia, married Octavio Orta (born May 21, 1944, Havana, Cuba) on August 4, 1966. To this marriage was born one son, Quillon Cornell Orta, on January 1, 1968, in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. Phyllis was married the second time to Michael Alan McAlister (born May 8, 1950, Mooresville, North Carolina) on July 9, 1978, and they have one son, Michael Cleaton Harrison McAlister, born January 26, 1980, in Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia.

Martha Kathryn Harrison, born December 3, 1954, in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia, and is residing in Atlanta, Georgia, at the date of this publication.

Family History: Lee Andrew Ebenezer Metcalf And Georgia Caroline Spruill

Ebb and Georgia came to Turner County in the early 1800's from North Georgia with his father and mother and other members of the family. Ebb was the youngest son of William Francis and Martha Everline Thompson Metcalf. Georgia was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Spruill.

The family settled in the Bethel Community. Ebb farmed until his health failed then his sons continued in the same occupation. One son, Hugh, is still engaged in farming along with his two sons, Bennie and Dennie. They farm some of the land that the Metcalf's have farmed for over a century.

Ebb and Georgia were some of the early members of Prospect Methodist Church. They are buried in the church cemetery. He died in 1946 and she died in 1959. They were the parents of eight children: Maggie married Cliff Farmer; Ernest married Annis Hasty (both deceased); Sarah died as an infant; Hoyt (deceased) married Gertie Hester and Marie Ross; Luna Cloe married Lonnie Wood (deceased); Hugh married Effie Jo Scoggins; Eloise married Carl Williams

(both deceased); and Luther married Jimmie Ruth Scoggins. Ebb was previously married to Jeannie Beaty who died when their son Paul (deceased) was an infant.

Ebb and Georgia and eleven grandchildren Calvin Farmer (Cordele); Dewitt Wood (Waycross); Jack Metcalf (Americus); Betty Metcalf Bryant (deceased), Joann Metcalf, Mike Williams, Bennie and Dennie Metcalf, all of Sycamore; Eleanor Metcalf Galyan (Macon); Doris Metcalf (Colorado); and Glenda Sue Metcalf (Unadilla).

Ebb's brothers and sisters are: Mary Elizabeth Metcalf Donahoe, John Thomas Metcalf, Jehu Alexander Metcalf, James Henry Metcalf, Edithia Jane Metcalf, William Barnette Metcalf, Nancy Ann Metcalf Jones, Martin Tillman Metcalf. Georgia's brothers and sisters are: James Spruill, John Spruill, Noli Spruill, Vada Spruill Morgan, Rosa Spruill Brisindine, and Lily Spruill.

Ebb's father served in the Civil War and received an honorable discharge at the end of the war.

Family History: The Swearingen Family

The Swearingen family has lived in Sycamore for almost one hundred years. William Oscar Swearingen was born in Dooley County and moved to Turner County where he followed the building industry as a carpenter and house painter. He married the former Martha Williams.

Martha Williams came from a deeply rooted pioneer family of Turner County. She was a staunch supporter of church, school and civic affairs. She was a member of the Sycamore Methodist Church where she helped organize the first Sunday School, the first prayer service and the first Women's Missionary Society. She helped organize the first Parent Teacher Association in the Sycamore schools and also the Woman's Club. She was a lady who was dedicated to her church, family and community.

William Oscar Swearingen and Martha had four children; Ruth, William Oscar, Nedra and Walter.

Ruth graduated from Sycamore High School and attended Georgia State College for Women, Dahlgren and Valdosta State. She entered the teaching profession and taught the first grade for forty five years which was a record. She was a member of the Sycamore Methodist Church where she served as Sunday School Superintendent and taught the adult ladies class. This class was known as the Class of Ruth, named in honor of her. She received a life membership from the W.S.C.S. of which she was president. She was loyal, dedicated and sacrificial to her church, family and community.

William Oscar graduated from Sycamore High School and worked with his father and later his uncle in the general merchandise business. He is a veteran of World War II where he served in the Pacific area on the island of Tinian. It was here that the famous Enola Gay carried the atomic bomb to

Japan and ended this dreadful war. After being discharged from the army, he entered the civil service and was a postal clerk and post master of Sycamore post office. He is a member of the Board of Trustees and treasurer of the Sunday School class. He has served as coach for the Little League, volunteer fireman and working hard for the good of the community is now Mayor of Sycamore.

Nedra graduated from Sycamore High School and worked for the general merchandise store, a local insurance agency and the city pharmacy. She later entered civil service and was employed in the Sycamore Post Office. She is a member of the Sycamore Methodist Church where she helped organize the first Wesleyan Service Guild and Young Ladies Missionary Society. She taught nursery and intermediate classes. She is presently serving as President of United Methodist Women.

Walter graduated from Sycamore High School where he excelled in basketball and baseball. He entered World War II and flew as a navigator on a bomber with the Air Transport Command from India to China. After the war, he entered the University of Georgia and graduated from the School of Pharmacy. He then moved to Jacksonville, Florida and worked for a prominent drug company. He married the former Frances Lawson and they have four children, Kay (Mrs. Larry R. Tye), Kimbrell, Walter and Laura. They all live in Albany, Georgia. Kay Tye has one child, Jason R. Tye.

Since this is the Diamond Jubilee, this historical note should be added. Two huge posts stand in the back yard of property owned by William Oscar Swearingen (formerly owned by the Henderson Estate). These wooden posts mark the division of the Worth-Irvin Counties to form Turner County.

Family History: The Henderson Family

Thomas Henderson, a sturdy Scotchman, was among the adventurous spirits who in 1607 braved the storm and stress of the epoch-making voyage which brought the SUSAN CONSTANT, DISCOVERY and GOODSPEED to the New World and became the founder of this branch of the family in America. We can imagine the emotions of that intrepid band of weary storm-tossed travelers when they found themselves at last in quiet waters with the fertile land of Virginia spread before them abloom with the glory of the Spring. At Cape Henry they erected a simple wooden cross in devout Thanksgiving and offered the first prayers ever uttered in the English tongue upon this American soil. Thus the first act of the settlers was to bestow a language which was henceforth to prevail upon a great continent. Thomas Henderson settled at Jamestown and played his part in the affairs of the infant colony. Later he removed to Blue Springs where he spent the remainder of his days.

Daniel Henderson, a descendant of Thomas Henderson, was the father of all those of the Henderson name in this section of the country, excepting a few that have come in from other places. He came to Georgia from the state of North Carolina sometime early in the nineteenth century, probably before the year 1810 and settled in Irwin County on what is now known as the "Wyatt Tucker Place", about nine miles South East of Ocilla. He was at that time married to Sallie McBride who he had previously married in North Carolina. They were among the early settlers of this section. He was the father of nine children, including John Henderson, the father of James Jackson Henderson.

James Jackson Henderson, son of Rhoda Whitley Henderson and John Henderson was born Aug 27, 1827 and married Susannah Whiddon, daughter of Juda Dorminy Whiddon and Lott Whiddon, in September, 1850.

Their children were: Jane Henderson, born July 31, 1851, married A.E. Clements; Una Henderson, born April 20, 1855, married Thomas Young; Sarah Henderson, born Nov. 10, 1857, married J.I. Clements; James W. Henderson, born May 5, 1860, married Martha Ann Young; Susan F. Henderson, born Oct. 4, 1864, married Alex Story; Juda Henderson, born Oct. 11, 1867, married H.S. Story; Duncan, born May 2, 1872; George W. Henderson, born Aug. 18, 1875, married Daisy Sims.

Children of Jane Henderson and Abraham E. Clements: Reason P. Clements, born July 24, 1872, married Mary Anderson; James W. Clements, born June 14, 1874, married Mattie Daniel; John J. Clements, born Nov. 28, 1876, married Maude Wilcox; Sarah J. Clemenns, born Mar. 3, 1879, married Ed Musselwhite; Susie A. Clements, born Oct. 18, 1882, married Ed. Winters; Jacob C. Clements, born Mar. 23, 1885.

Children of Reason P. Clements and Mary Anderson are Maggie Warnell Clements who married Carl J. Rogers; Viola Beatrice Clements who married James L. Turner; Bula May Clements who married Parker Jones; Joe Hugh Clements who married Annie Belle Griffin; James Bagsley Clements.

Maggie Warnell Clements and Carl J. Rogers had one child, Violet Warnell Rogers.

Viola Beatrice Clements and James L. Turner had the following children: Beatrice Aldene Turner, Drewy Jack Turner and Martha Elizabeth Turner.

Bula May Clements and Parker Jones had the following children: J.P. Jones and Virglee Jones.

Children of Joe Hugh Clements and Annie Belle Griffin:

Hugh Hamilton Clemenns.

Children of James W. Clements and Mattie Daniel were: Claudia Mae Clements and Lois Aline Clements.

John J. Clements and Maud Wilcox had two sons, George A. Clements and Horace M. Clements.

Horace M. Clements and Jennie Belle Dobson had two children: Dorothy May Clemenns and Horace M. Clements, Jr.

Susie A. Clements and Ed Winners had one child, Verna May Winters.

Children of Una Henderson and Thomas B. Young: Joseph Horton Young married Minnie Mitchell; Mary Van Young married S.A. Youmans; Howell Hardyman Young, married Mittie B. Clark.

Children of Joseph Horton Young and Minnie Mitchell: Una Lucille Young who married Jack G. Christian, Sarah Estelle Young, Joseph H. Young, Jr., Downing Banks Young, Evelyn Louise Young and Minnie Hazel Young.

Una Lucille Young and Jack H. Christian had a son Jack Christian, Jr.

Children of Mary Van Young and Stephan A. Youmans are: Percy A. Youmans, Ruth Youmans, Joe Lester Youmans, Frank M. Youmans, Mana Youmans, Tump Stepehn Youmans and Tom Young Youmans.

Howell Hardyman Young and Mittie B. Clark had 4 children: Julia Irene Young, Reta Lois Young, Howell Lamar Young, Grace Joyce Young.

Children of Sarah Henderson and James I Clements: Arthur M. Clements who married May Kennedy, Ernest Clements, Otho C. Clements who married George W. Warren, Lettie A. Clements who married H.W. Bussey, Lloyd Clements.

Otho C. Clements and George W. Warren had one daughter, Evelyn Warren who married Rush Camp.

Letty Clements and H.W. Bussey had one daughter, Sarah Bussey, who married Lamar Johnson.

J.W. Henderson and Martha Ann Young had two sons: Able Henderson who married Dora Belflower and Allred Henderson who married Alberta Adams.

Abie Henderson and Dora Belflower had four children: Marvin Milton Henderson who married Otho Ray; Susie Pearl Henderson who married W.M. Goodman; Pauline Henderson who married J.C. Rodgers; Able Clair Henderson who married Charlotte Bethea; Alfred Henderson and Allerta Adams had one daughter, Cortez Henderson, who married Grady M. Sconyers.

Susan F. Henderson and William Alexander Story had two sons: John J. Story who married Rhoda Van Buskirk, Miller Story who died at the age of 18 months.

Children of John Jackson Story and Rhoda Van Buskirk: Ramona Kathryn Story; John Jackson Story, Jr.; Susan Phyllis Story.

Juda Henderson and H.S. Story had the following children: Warren Story who married Ida Durenne; Abby Story who married Harry Alexander; Unie Story who married J.C. Chambliss; Alex Story who married Essa Howell; Mae Story who married A.B. Phillips.

Eunice Story and Jessie George Chambliss had one son, Jesse George Chambliss, Jr.

Pansy Mae Story and Alfred Bailey Phillips had three sons: Samuel Monroe Phillips, Alfred Bailey Phillips, Jr., Alex Phillips.

George W. Henderson and Daisy Sims had one child, Carl Henderson.

Family History: Isaiah Jessie Wright And

Edna Pauline Hathcock Family

Isiah Wright, born 1876 in Crawford County came to Inaha around 1908, joined by parents James Elias and Rebecca Annie Greene Wright and others of his family.

He married Edna Pauline Hathcock in 1912, daughter of James H. and Lucy Ann Avra Hathcock of Quitman, Co. They purchased land along Southern Railroad, part enveloped by Highway 41. Her brother farming with them, was one of the first men to leave Turner County in WWI.

They were active in Inaha School (trustee) and Inaha Baptist Church. After consolidation, the children each graduated from Sycamore High School.

Mr. Wright set some of the first improved pecans in the area, along with row crops, cattle, hogs, and chickens, Mrs. Wright raising chicks by hand before brooders were common. He operated a syrup mill.

Mrs. Wright, gifted in nursing qualities, used her talents in community situations; they aided highway accident victims, fed wayfarers, bedded needy, notwithstanding work and

hardships of depression years.

Health failing, Mr. Wright was proud of his sons in partnership with their mother. Albert in the late thirties successfully used the first tractor for cultivation as sole power, as Turner County headed for mechanization. He served in WWII and Raburn continued the farming. He purchased and operated with the help of brothers-in-law the first combine, beginning mechanical peanut harvesting, in the area.

Isaiah Wright died December 1940. Mrs. Wright gave up the farm for a home in Sycamore, then Ashburn Nursing Home. She died December 1978. They are buried at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Children: Rayburn (Louvenia Seay), Haralson; Albert L. (Vernelle Parr), Dakota; Minnie (J.L. Milam, Joe Steed, Allert S. Wright), Duluth; Ola Mae (Frankie Posey), Arabi; Lillie (Paul Scoggins), Ashburn; Kathleen (Allen Johnson) Cordele; Rosie Lee (Howard Moore) Augusta.

Family History: William Scoggins And Effie Leo Smith

Jim and Effie Leo Scoggins with 9 children, migrated to Turner County in 1926 following drought in North Georgia. Jim was born in Elbert County to Warren Jefferson and Ida Hopper Scoggins. Effie Leo was the daughter of Jim and Molly Wilson Smith, Hart County.

After a year on Gordy Farms, the family became active in Oak Grove Baptist Church and Community on Dan Davis lands. Four children were born here, including an infant that died, is buried at Oak Grove.

Spending a few years in Worth County, the family relocated on the farm of Marcus and Beulah Denham, using diligence in growing peanuts used for Denham's Seed, and other crops. They became a part of Bethel Baptist Church.

Health failing, Mr. Scoggins recalled experiences with his grandfather peddling chickens in Athens. Buying chickens and eggs from rural homes, he sold the chickens and eggs to stores and restaurants in Albany in the days prior to World

War II. He died July 1943.

The family continued farming until 1946; she went to Florida but returned to make Sycamore her home, dying in September 1973. They are buried at Bethel, along with Clarence (married Tince Raines); Maebell (married Calvin Denham); Jewell (married Robert Jones and Theodore Mitchell).

Descendants return to Turner County annually in July with Paul (married Lillie Wright); Guynell (married Andrew Oliver-deceased and D. Cranford); Jimmie Ruth (married Luther Metcalf); Effie Joe (married Hugh Metcalf). From Tifton is A.J. (married Helen Stripling); Rochelle, Lois (married Clevis Dominy-deceased); Palm Harbor, Florida, Odell (married Vader Freeman); Leoties (married Ollie Camp); and Irene (married Ed Self-deceased). There are 41 grand children plus great and great-grandchildren.

Family History: The Rev. William Pate Family

Reverend William Pate, son of Jacob Pate and Zilla Broach Pate, was born in 1750, in Gloucester County, Virginia. In early manhood he moved to North Carolina. There he volunteered January 29, 1777 to serve three years in the Revolutionary War. After the war he moved into Georgia. Reverend Pate is the only Revolutionary soldier buried in Turner County. The DAR memorialized William Pate, the Revolutionary soldier, patriot and pioneer preacher by placing a beautiful monument on his gravesite near Amboy. He died in 1837.

By his second marriage the following children were born: Samuel Pate and Betsy Pate Story. He married Tempty Parkerson (3rd marriage) in 1811 and she bore him the following children: Nancy, 1812; Mary, 1814; Elijah Bennett, 1815; James, 1817.

James Pate married Jane (Jincy) Moore and they had the following children: Bennett, 1842; Elijah M., 1845; John T., 1847; Mary J., 1848; Nancy, 1851; Sara, 1854; Narcissa, 1858; Elizabeth, 1856; James H., 1862; Ben S., 1864. James Pate and his son, Bennett, served in the Civil War. James died August 28, 1865 after returning from the war.

Bennett Pate was born on October 2, 1842 in Dooly County, Georgia near Arabi. Later he settled near Double Run but soon moved to a place near Amboy where he lived 40 years. In 1868 Bennett Pate married Mrs. Catherine Rainey Chandler, daughter of Benjamin Rainey and Jane Watson. Bennett Pate's children were: John Benjamin, July 10, 1874; Samuel Elijah, Sept. 21, 1878; Arthur, August 2, 1884; Jane Pate Haman, July 25, 1886. Mrs. Pate had one son, J.B. Chandler, by a former marriage. He was the first merchant in Ashburn. In 1892 Bennett purchased a printing press from the Solid South Newspaper in Rochelle and moved it to Ashburn to begin the first newspaper "The Ashburn Advance". He was engaged in farming and children operated a cotton gin, blacksmith shop and merchantile business known as Bennett Pate Store.

Reverend John Ben Pate born 1874, died 1948 was a Baptist minister, teacher and historian. He married Fannie Lee Mitchell in 1910. He served as a teacher and minister in Turner County and surrounding counties. Rev. J.B. Pate published the Pate Family Geneology and the Turner County History in 1933.

Arthur Pate, born August 2, 1884, was a business man and a farmer in the Amboy area. He died January, 1960. Jane Pate married Monroe Haman. They had the following children: Bennett Pate, Evelyn and Jane.

Samuel Elijah Pate, born 1878; died, 1946 was a business man and farmer in the Amboy section. He served 40 years as postmaster for the Amboy community. In 1917 he married Eunice McElroy, born May 26, 1892 in Jones County,

Georgia, daughter of Jessie Pierce McElroy and Carolyn Long McElroy. They had the following children: Bennett Pate, born Nov. 17, 1918; Caroline Erline Pate, born December 22, 1920; John Arthur Pate, born November 27, 1922.

Caroline Erline Pate, born December 22, 1920 was the daughter of Samuel Elijah Pate and Eunice McElroy Pate.

She has been in the teaching profession in the Turner County School System for 27 years. She earned her Certificate as Visiting Teacher at the University of Georgia.

She has served as Special Education Coordinator and Migrant Education Coordinator in the Turner County School System. In 1979 she initiated the re-printing of John Ben Pate's History of Turner County and as a project, The Turner County Exchange Club sold numerous copies.

John Arthur Pate

John Arthur Pate, born November 27, 1922 was the son of Samuel Elijah Pate and Eunice McElroy Pate. A life time resident and business man of Turner County, he married, in 1948, Grace Thompson, born April 17, 1926; died December, 1959, daughter of Roy Breecham Thompson and Lottie White Thompson. They had two children: John Arthur, Jr., born Jan. 5, 1949 and Judy Claire, born Feb. 4, 1952.

He served in Europe with Patton's Army, 90th Division, 358th Infantry, in World War II. He was selected as a member of the honor guard at General George S. Patton's funeral.

In 1960, he married Margaret Garner Faircloth, daughter of E.W. Garner and Lela Safford Garner. Margaret was born April 7, 1925, mother of 5 sons: Jim K. Faircloth, Ty Faircloth (deceased), Tim Faircloth, Jay and John Faircloth.

John A. Pate, Jr. (Johnny) son of John Arthur Pate, served in the U.S. Navy for four years. He married Susan Fain and they have two daughters; Joy, born November 15, 1976; and Anna Grace, born August 21, 1979.

Bennett Pate

Bennett Pate, born November 17, 1918 was the son of Samuel Elijah Pate and Eunice McElroy Pate. He married Frances Buice, born April 21, 1918 in Buford, Ga., daughter of I.D. Buice and Ethel Brooks Buice, in 1942. They had one daughter, Susan, born Nov. 29, 1948, who married Ronald P. Hogan. They had three sons: Bennett Pate, born October 11, 1970; Samuel Ross, born February 6, 1973; Paul, born August 9, 1977.

Bennett Pate is a farmer and businessman. He served as Turner County Commissioner for 12 years, and a member of Turner County Hospital Board and Democratic Executive Committee.

Mrs. Pate taught in the Turner County School System for 33 years. She was selected Star Teacher in 1963 and 1965 and Teacher of the year in 1974.

Family History: The William Cravey Family

Where Turner, Tift, and Worth counties meet is an area known as the Cravey Settlement. Newly-weds, William and Elizabeth Rainey Cravey came to what was then Irwin County about 1850 from Telfair County. Here they raised nine children; Mitchel (Nancy Smith), Mark (Mary Parker), Ben (Mary Elizabeth Sumner), David (Minnie Luke), James (Dacey Gorday), William (Judie Smith), Polly (Rodgers), and Betty (Levi Williford). Their descendents are numerous.

Ben Cravey purchased some land and he and Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Jesse and Mary Branch Sumner settled there in a log cabin. Ben was an excellent farmer, expanding his holdings to over 800 acres. In 1895 he built a larger house to accomodate ten children. The youngest daughter, Bealuh Kingsley lives in the house.

About 1900 Ben Cravey noticed that William Burton Shepherd was interested in his daughters but being a proud and loving father; he felt no man was good enough for his girls. Ben discouraged Bert by refusing to allow him to

"call" at the house or speak to the girls. Not until fourteen year old Beola disappeared from the house was Ben sure which daughter Bert was "sweet on". In anger he grabbed the large trunk used by Beola to store clothing and personal belongings; carried it outside; and burned it. To late he discovered it was the wrong trunk.

The loving father soon forgave the young couple and they settled down to farm near Ben's home. Here they raised five children; Ana (Jim Watson), twins: Berta Mae (Luther Hobby) and George Burton (Anna Lunsford); William David (Mary Lizzie Hobby), and Leona (Clyde Frazier).

Bert Shepherd was a citizen of the newly formed Turner County while across the creek his parents, George Laban Oliver and Nancy Catherine Johnson Shepherd were in Worth County where they had moved in 1853 from Taylor County with the other children; Clyde, Gordon, Julia (Cox) and Maggie (Dickerson).

Family History: John David Waters Family

John David Waters, born September 18, 1876 in Worth County, married Emily Elizabeth Gibbs, born October 7, 1886 in Wilcox Co., now Turner Co., on May 5, 1905.

John David's father was Warren Waters and his mother Sarah Jane Watson Waters. Emily Elizabeth's father was Thomas Gibbs and her mother Sarah Pate Gibbs.

John and Emily had two children: Thomas McArthur, born January 1, 1907 in Crisp County and Robbie Sue, born January 13, 1909 in Crisp County.

John and Emily moved to Rebecca from Crisp County, bought a farm and made Rebecca their home.

Thomas McArthur married Emmie Louise Haynie, born August 21, 1908 in Atlanta, on November 14, 1928. Louise's father was James Wesley Haynie, born July 16, 1884 in Morlands, Ga. and her mother was Mary Ann Fry, born June 19, 1887 in Morland, Ga. McArthur and Louise had three children: Thomas McArthur Jr. (T.M.), born December 25,

1930 in Rebecca; Elizabeth Anne born February 12, 1933, married Charles Perry, their children are Connie, Cathy, Cindy, and Chuck; Hal Felix born July 4, 1935 married Lyndall Owen Farmer, their children are Andrea and Mark.

Thomas McArthur (T.M.) married Marjorie Dawn Malby born March 31, 1931 in London, England, on August 15, 1953 at Leavsdon All Saints Church, Garston, England. Marjorie's father was Alfred Athur Malby born on February 22, 1902, London, England and her mother was Daisy Ethel Donegan born July 22, 1901, London, England.

T.M. and Marjorie have two children born in the Turner County Hospital: Ronald David, December 13, 1959 and Shirley Dawn, March 23, 1962. T.M. and his family live and farm the land settled by his Great-grandfather Thomas Gibbs. T.M., Marjorie, Ronnie and Dawn are members of the Rebecca United Methodist Church.

Family History: The Edward James Snow Family

Edward James Snow born in Henry County, Georgia, January 28, 1911; son of John Washington Snow and Tulula Abigale Johnson Snow and Mildred Louise Brown, born at Fitzgerald, Ga. June 15, 1918 daughter of Albert Leon Brown and Mollie Janet Revels Brown were married June 25, 1937 at Ocilla, Ga.

Parents of Edward James, Jr. Lawrenceville, Ga. born May 26, 1938, married Mary Nanette King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. King, Jr. June 18, 1960. George Andrew, Morrow, Ga. born April 17, 1942 married Helen Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S.B. Young, June 14, 1964. Children are Andrea Kay and Julie Renea, Emmett Brown, Riverdale, Ga. born March 7, 1947 married Judith Ann Sargent daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Sargent of Minn. Minn. Oct. 24, 1969. Children are James Matthew and Shane Sargent Snow. Marilyn Kay born Nov. 13, 1949 married

Donald Gene Collins October 15, 1966, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dass Russell Collins of Arabi, Ga. Parents of Sherrie Lynn and James Russell and reside in Rebecca.

Edward's family moved to south Georgia only a few months after he was born in 1911 living in Irwin and Turner County before moving to Rebecca in 1929. He graduated from Rebecca High as Valedictorian in May 1934 and began work at the Rebecca Post office July 1934 serving as clerk for 22½ years, being appointed postmaster in 1950 and retired Dec. 31, 1970 completing 36½ years of service.

The Snow's served on the administrative board of Rebecca United Methodist Church and as secretaries of the ladies and men's unit of the Woodmen of the World.

Their 43 years of married life have been spent in Rebecca where they have many friends. Mrs. Snow often refers to Rebecca as "The Garden Spot of the World."

Family History: The H.C. Williams Family

PEANUTS

"We Serve You Best"

See Us Before You Sell

H.C. Williams and Son Peanut Co.

Turner County

(ad in Wiregrass Farmer—Sept. 10, 1926)

Today this peanut market is still in operation at the same location as Turner County's Oldest Peanut Market.

The founder, Holman Clifford Williams, was born in Hall County Georgia, November 17, 1879, son of the late Rev. Linsey Williams, a Baptist minister and farmer. In 1902 he married Mabel Pirkle, daughter of the late George Washington and Annliza Pirkle. They moved to Tishamingo, Oklahoma which was Indian Territory at that time. Here their first child, Clarence, was born in 1903, and another son, Henry Grady was born May 2, 1905. This pioneer land was very productive, but health conditions were bad. Their eldest son, Clarence, died with hemorrhagic fever suddenly. Then they returned to Georgia locating at Arabi, Georgia in 1908.

In 1910 they moved to Turner County purchasing land at Siley in the Dakota District. It was here twin boys, Homer and Holman were born October 10, 1910 and died four and six months later with spinal meningitis. A daughter, Bertie Clifford, was born Feb. 16, 1919.

They moved to Dakota in 1923, built a home and purchased a general store, grist mill and other farming interests. He began shelling peanuts on a small sheller and selling seed. Later he and his son opened a peanut market in Ashburn, building a shelling plant in 1926 which employed sixty people.

In 1931 Mr. Williams moved to Ashburn and his son, Grady, opened another plant in Fitzgerald. After his death, Nov. 27, 1946, his daughter, Bertie Elliott and her husband Byron Elliott continued to operate the plant. His wife, Mabel, died September 23, 1963. He has four grandsons, Doctors Henry Grady Williams, William Morris Williams of Nashville, Georgia; Tyron Clifford Elliott, Attorney, Manchester, Georgia; a granddaughter, Barbara Elliott Settles of Columbus, Georgia.

Family History: The Monroe And Ann Kennedy Denham Family

Monroe and Annie Denham both lost their father in the War Between the States. They married in 1879 and moved to this area in 1898. Enroute their wagon was hit by a train and Annie's hip was broken, which caused her to limp for the rest of her life. One boy's head was hurt and another's arm was broken. They lived in Inaha, then Bethel and finally in Sycamore. Their five sons were:

James N. married Sally Warren 1902. James Olin married Christine Boles 1927. He is engaged in extensive farming operations in Inaha in partnership with his son Benny, who married Norma Israel in 1950. His son Nicholas assists in the farming as did Gregory until his death 1971. Benny is Pres. of the Irwin County E. M.C. James Olin Jr. a graduate of Georgia Tech, is Pres. of Ross Engineering Co., Miami, Fla. Married to Polly Jones in 1950. Daughters are Karen, Sharon and Pam. Julian works with Clark Bufford Cattle Range, Crisp County. He married Margaret Stewart in 1955 and Eleane Hendricks in 1978. Daughters are Cindy, Julie, Elen and Terrie. Cindy married Benji Griffin, Julie married Dennis Wright, and Ellen married Randy Giddens. Sara Ann married Dr. Lamar Moree in 1952. She is Floor Manager of Gold Kist, Ashburh. Children are: Lamar Jr., Mara Ann, married James Wynn 1977. Children: Andrew, Emily, and Matt. Charlie (Bub) is Purchasing Agt. for Morbair Co. in Cordele. Married Elaine Booth 1964. One Son, Scott. Theodore married Helen Young and is retired from service in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Probate Judge James Nichols married Maggie Collier in 1944.

Walter married Agnes Shepherd. Calvin, worked in shipyards in Jax., Fla. Married Maybelle Scoggins and

Jeannie Theis. Children: Mike, Kenneth, David Wallace. Beulah May married Dean Pate 1944 and has one son Earl.

Marcus married Beulah Ray in 1909 and Annie Pate in 1944. Lived in Bethel Community and operated a peanut sheller for 43 years. James Henry was a farmer and raised livestock. He married Myrtle Eidson in 1939. His son Ralph Henry manages the farm with his wife Jane and son Mitchell. Beulah lives in Decatur with her husband Roy Duke and children Byran and Donna. Reba and her husband Raymond Adams operated the Lakeview Dairy in Dearing with their children Kendell and Benjamin. Doris D. Swanson and her son Lance also live on the James Denham farm and she is Loan Officer with P.C.A. Arthur married Erma Own in 1939. He built the first Livestock Market in Turner County in 1946. He raised and raced Thoroughbred horses. He built Denham and Sons Feed Lot in 1948. Tommy married Brenda Mauldin and their daughter is Tondra. Tommy worked with his father until his death in 1968. George married Rhonda Spradley and their sons are: Spencer and Jeremy. Alva Ray continues the work his father began, buying and shelling peanuts. He operates a hardware and gift store in Sycamore. He married Reba Coker 1946. Their daughter, De Alva is an accountant with Quinney and Associates in Ashburn. She married Eston Freeman.

Drake married Emma Hamilton. He operated a store in Tampa. Their children are: Dorothy, Billy, Betty, Robbins.

Russell farmed and later drove a school bus. He married Telete Wilson in 1929, their daughter Joanne married Wallace Wiley in 1947. Their daughters are: Janice, married Arthur Baker, Children Russell and Caroline. Karen married Doyle Crider.

Family History: B.E. Smith Family

B.E. Smith son of John Allen Smith a veteran of "the War Between the States" who voluntarily joined Robert E. Lee's forces when 16 yrs. old, wounded in battle of Gettysburg, discharged in 1865, came to Inaha community, bought land, settled, farmed, married Nancy Roberts of Sumner, reared a family of seven.

B.E. oldest son of John Allen Smith was born Oct. 20, 1866, married Ella Florine Royals engaged in farming, assisted in cutting right of way for G.S. & F railroad, began turpentine (naval stores), merchantile business, Postmaster for Inaha and President Farmers Bank, Sycamore.

Labeled a philanthropist and real founder of a progressive, moral and religious community. His love and interest for people and advancement was clearly visible. He donated land and materials for a church and a two room school building. Following shortly, land and materials were given for a church and school building to the black population.

B.E. and Ella Royal Smith became the parents of twelve children: Lillie Bell, married J.L. Griffin; Linnie Bessie, married G.H. Webb; Clara, married W.C. Jarman; Addye, married H.W. Clark; Marletta, married P.O. Land; Elma,

married F.L. Andrews; Celesta, married V.H. Taylor; Evelyn, married Babe Dunn; Walter, married Lillie Paulk; Charles, married Catherine Lightsey; B.E., Jr., married Valera Cravey; and Jerome, married Ben Opal Hobbs.

When these children completed Inaha schooling, several attended boarding school at Sparks, Ga., one Oak Ridge, N.C. When Sycamore High School was founded, younger ones attended there, using the GS & F daily train transportation.

B.E. died Sept. 25, 1935. Ella died Nov. 11, 1972.

1980 members living in Turner County: Clara Smith Jarman, College graduate G.S.C.W., teacher 36 years in Turner County, UDC Historian, Young Peoples Director WMS, President, and S. School Supt. Junior Dept. Enjoys activity in many interests of Turner Co. W.C. Jarman Jr., Educated in Ashburn and ABAC, Co-owner in Barnes Elec. Co, Masonic Order, and Royal Mystic Shrine.

Atlanta Citizen: son of Clara Smith Jarman, D.W. Jarman, reared in Turner Co., Educated in Ashburn and Ga. Tech, Western Union Supervisor, Masonic Order and Religious Worker.

Family History: The W.B. Roberts Family

W.B. "Billy" Roberts and Dora Pate were married in Turner Co., Ga. on Sept. 3, 1939. Billy was a native of Worth Co. and was the son of a sharecropper, Elijah Dan and Cora Gay Roberts. Miss Dora was a native of Turner County and the daughter of Henry Pate and Simmie Lou Martin Pate. Billy and Dora made their home in Worth Co. for 2 years before moving to Turner Co.

Mr. Billy was a hard working farmer with a 7th grade education. Miss Dora was a helper and homemaker. Farm, home, and family took most of their time and energy. They are members of Harmony Baptist Church. Mr. Roberts lived a very happy and very successful life on the farm. He was always full of ambition, love for his neighbor and he believed in hard work. Mr. Roberts was a cattleman, and the owner and manager of Turner Milling Company in Sycamore for 8 years. He was a member of the Turner County Board of Education for 17 years. He was associated with the Ashburn Bank as a director and then as the Chairman of the Board of directors. In 1974 he was appointed President and Chairman of the Board of the Bank and served in that capacity until his death. Mr. Billy died on February 26, 1980 after a long battle with cancer.

Mrs. Roberts has always been a cheerful homemaker, caring for their beautiful home and their five children. She has always been an expert at canning, freezing, cooking and gardening. Mrs. Roberts is active in church activities and is very popular person with her 11 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The five children were all born in Turner County, all were married to natives of Turner Co. and all five currently live in Turner Co.

The oldest and only son William Bennett Roberts Jr. was born in 1942 and married Ruth Tucker in 1964. They have three children: William Bennett Roberts III born in 1967,

Jessie Daniel Roberts born in 1974, Kerri Lynn Roberts born in 1976, Bill currently owns and operates the farm which Mr. Roberts purchased in 1950. Bill and Ruth also make their home on the farm.

Diane Roberts was born in 1944 and married Charles Henry Wideman Jr., in 1972. They make their home in Rebecca and have 2 sons: Charles Henry Wideman III born in 1974 and Thomas Clay Wideman born in 1976. Charles Henry is actively engaged in farming and is a cattleman.

Their third child, Lindora Roberts was born in 1947 and was married to Chesterfield Chapman in 1966. They had one daughter, ChessAnne who was born in 1968. Chess was killed in a car accident in 1968. Then Lindora was married to Willis R. Collins in 1971. Willis and Lindora have another daughter, Rhonda Lynn Collins born in 1973. Willis is the former owner and manager of WBT Farm service but is currently farming full time. They make their home near Rebecca.

Carol Roberts was born in 1951 and was married to James Garrett in 1969. They have two daughters, Reginna Lynn born in 1970 and Stephanie Renee born in 1973. James is an engineer and is associated with All American of Ashburn, Inc. James and Carol make their home in Sycamore.

The youngest of the five, Vickie Roberts was born in 1953. She was married to David Kendrick in 1972, and they have two children Sallie Elizabeth born in 1975 and David Randall Kendrick Jr. Born in 1979. Vickie and David lived in Sycamore and David is a farmer and cattleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts always had time for their large and loving family but were never too busy to extend their home to others. In 1947 a homeless boy with no family came to live with the Roberts family. Dewey Stone was born in 1910 and currently lives on the farm and helps Bill with the chores. He is considered a member of the family.



Family History: The Henry Ray Family

Henry Ray was born in Macon County in 1856, son of Dempsey and Mary Elizabeth Ray. Dempsey was a soldier in the War Between the States, he joined the army March 4, 1862 and surrendered at Appomattox with Robert E. Lee, Commanding Officer, C.S.A. Dempsey was a member of Wrights Brigade, 4th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry Army of Northern Virginia.

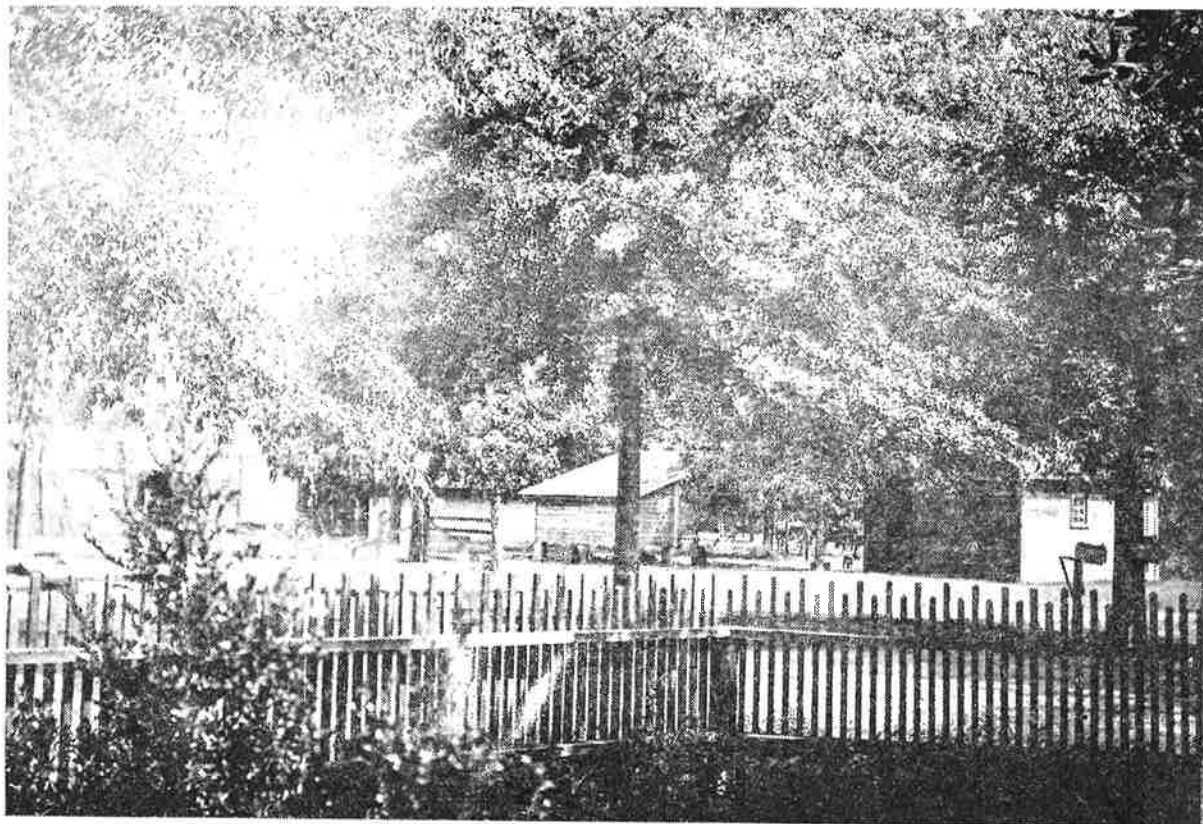
Henry married Mittie Williford and came to Turner County from Taylor County before 1890 and was one of the largest land owners in the area. He owned land in Norman Park, Tift, Turner, Irwin and Worth Counties. He also owned a large amount of stock in The Exchange Bank of Sycamore. Henry and Mittie were parents of eight children. Mittie

died when the children were very small but Henry never remarried. His son, Charles, married Lottie Warren, Claude married Willie Hardy, Henry Grady married Martha Smith, Dock married Maybelle Gravey, Lena married John Wynn and Beulah married Marcus Denham, Lewis and Mittie never married.

In 1919 one of his apartment houses in which he lived caught fire and burned to the ground, he managed to get out with only the clothes he wore.

Henry died in 1926 and most of the land owned by him is still held by his heirs.

Dempsey and Mary Elizabeth, Henry and Mittie are buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetary near Sycamore.



This is a view of front Yard of the farm of S.W. Brown, called the Rock House Farm.

Ernest
ANTHONY

DEDE
M. DAVIS



—About This Book—

The Turner County Diamond Jubilee is immensely indebted to a number of Turner Countians who contributed marvelously to the preparation of this historical account of Turner County and its development from a small sawmill community and neighboring crossroads to a thriving county which continues to provide more and more for a better life for its men, women and children.

But this book, filled with glimpses of history and accounts of earlier days, is in no way a chronological history of Turner County. That would require many days of preparation and exhaustive research which could not be applied at this time to this booklet.

However, as we gathered information and photos for this historical booklet, it became very apparent that Turner County's long history should be compiled for an accurate and rewarding picture of how we grew and prospered, an account of our brightest days and darkest nights. We hope this booklet might be an inspiration for such a vast undertaking.

The editor of this book is greatly indebted to a number of persons who were so kind as to make contributions and allow the use of valuable photographs, and we of the Diamond Jubilee hereto express our most sincere thanks.

Austin Saxon