A Bulloch Sampler

Smith Callaway Banks

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/bchs-pubs
Part of the History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/bchs-pubs/50

This book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Partner Collections at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bulloch County Historical Society Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.
A BULLOCH SAMPLER

A COLLECTION
OF
BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL MATERIALS

BY
SMITH CALLAWAY BANKS

AUSPICES
BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 42
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459
1998
A BULLOCH SAMPLER

A COLLECTION OF BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL MATERIALS

BY SMITH CALLAWAY BANKS

AUSPICES
BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 42
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459
1998
DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my parents, Laura Smith and Osborne Callaway Banks and especially, to my Grandmother, Sallie Alderman Smith. From my earliest recollections, I was told wonderful tales about my ancestors and the early days of Bulloch County. They taught me to love and to appreciate my Bulloch County heritage.

INTRODUCTION

I am an eighth generation Bulloch Countian. I have collected materials about Bulloch County and its history ever since the day my eighth grade teacher told my class that we would be required to make a Georgia history scrapbook. That day I was bitten by the "history-collecting bug" and today, almost fifty years later, I have never recovered.

This book is a collection of some of those materials. It consists of articles that I have gleaned from old newspapers and other sources. I have deemed these items as important parts of our County's past which needed to be remembered and preserved. In some cases I have taken the liberty to attempt an explanation of the "wheres and whats" of the articles as they relate to us today. Other articles are those I have written for my own pleasure as a way of passing my knowledge of local and family history on to my own children, my grandchildren and my relatives.

Ten or eleven years ago, Dr. Kemp Mabry asked me to write a short book review for a Bulloch County Historical Society newsletter. That assignment launched me on a new course. It led me to scrap my old antique and seldom used Remington typewriter and to buy a "new-fangled" computer so I could copy and record some of the materials I had collected. That has enabled me to write this little book.

As the recently elected Historian of the Bulloch County Historical Society, it is my pleasure to share this material with you. Smith Callaway Banks - October 7, 1998
PIONEERS AND PIONEERING

INDIAN RAIDS ALONG THE Ogeechee

Family traditions in many of Bulloch County's earliest families tell of troubles with Indians but very few details were ever given about those hostilities. Georgia history books give meager information, as well.

A book, *Early Deaths in Savannah, Georgia, 1763-1803; Obituaries and Legal Notices*, has shed new light on those troubles. It has information abstracted from early Savannah newspapers and includes accounts of the murders of settlers by Indians across the state. The raids or troubles were to be called the Oconee War. The paper's reportings of raids along the Ogeechee River have given new insight into the many problems faced by our ancestors. Most raids occurred after the Revolutionary War ended. They seemed to have ceased by 1796, the year Bulloch County was created.

In 1773 the Georgia Colonial government made a treaty with the Creek Indians. This opened a large new land for settlement, an area known as the "pine barrens." That territory included Bulloch County and her neighboring western counties.

During the Revolutionary War both the Creek and the Cherokee sided with the British. As a consequence, after the war, the Indians had to forfeit lands to the State of Georgia. In 1783 in Augusta, a treaty was signed with the Cherokee which ceded the
land that later became Franklin County. This ended the troubles with the Cherokees for a number of years.

In the same year a treaty between the State and the Creek resulted in a tract of land from which the county of Washington was created. The Creek, under the leadership of the noted half-breed Alexander McGillivray, disputed this agreement. It was this "bone of contention" that caused the Oconee War.

The settlers in the new County of Washington were constantly being harassed by hostile Creek incursions and depredations. Subsequent treaties were made and more lands were ceded, but the treaties were of little purpose. McGillivray and his chiefs claimed that the pacts that had been negotiated were made by a small delegation of Creeks who lacked the power to act for their whole nation. They also claimed that the land-ceding treaties made with the State of Georgia were invalid. They said that treaty making powers were only vested to the Continental Congress. The Creeks kept no faith and during the next few years, they went on the "war-path."

This led to a long series of bloody attacks upon the white settlements. Despite the incessant raids and bloodshed, settlers continued to move into the disputed lands. It was during this time that the raids occurred in the area which would later become Bulloch County and her neighboring counties. With the death of McGillivray in 1793, the Creek became disorganized and circumstances became a bit easier for the settlers.

The newly organized Federal government took these matters in hand in June 1796. This was when a final treaty of peace and friendship was negotiated between President Washington and the Creek Nation. It was this act that brought the Oconee War to an end.

The following incidents were reported in the above mentioned book, as well as in a claim found at the Georgia State Archives in a file of county military records. Note that Bulloch County was created in 1796 from the lands of Screven and Bryan Counties. Most of the land area of present-day Bulloch County had been in Effingham and Bryan counties until Screven County was created in 1793.

From:

Royal Georgia Gazette - Issue of Feb 11, 1779

"Advertisement: A most barbarous murder was committed on January 27, on the body of JOSEPH WEATHERLY, manager of Sir James Wright's estate at Ogeechee, by first shooting him, scalping, then breaking his limbs. That evening MRS. HEARN and HER YEAR OLD CHILD were also shot and the mother scalped, HER HUSBAND and HER BROTHER, SYLVANUS BIRD, wounded, the latter since dead ... property stolen and house fired... 50 guineas offered. ARCHIBALD M'ARTHUR, Commandant. (RGG 2/11/1779, 3:3)"

Note: This raid was not a part of the Oconee War. It occurred during the Revolutionary War when Georgia was under British control. This item is included because there is a kinship between
present-day Bulloch Countians and the murder victims. Sylvanus Bird and his sister, Mrs. Hearn (Harn) are those relatives. Harn was the wife of William Harn, of Bryan County. Sylvanus Bird was the ancestor of Bulloch County's Preston Wise family which includes Bonnie Wise Gay and her sister, Ethel Wise Bolton.

The Bird family came to Georgia from Berks County, Pennsylvania in the 1760's. The parents, Mary (Robeson) and Burgund Bird, as well as the rest of the family settled on the south side of the Ogeechee River on Black Creek near Bird's Mill Creek. The Birds were millers and the creek, a tributary of Black Creek, is named for the family. Today the stream, called Mill Creek, is near Ellabell in Bryan County.

In 1768, Sylvanus and his brother, Israel Bird, married Stafford sisters at Jerusalem Lutheran Church at Ebenezer in Effingham County.

Israel Bird is prominent in the founding of Bulloch County. He was a leader in his community and had served as a Captain in the Revolutionary War. In the 1796 act creating Bulloch County, he was one of the three men named to be commissioners for establishing a proper place for a courthouse and jail for the new Bulloch County.

The same legislature appointed officials to administer the new county. Israel Bird and his son, James Bird, were appointed justices of the Inferior Court. James Bird was also among the first county officials. He was Bulloch County's first surveyor.

Bulloch County's Flournoy Glenn and Martha E. (Bird) Hodges family, which includes Commissioner Bird Hodges; and Dr. Bird Daniel; Mary Rogers (Mrs. Paul) Bunce; and the Smith Banks children are all descendants of Israel Bird and his son, James Bird.

****

From:
A file of county military records in the Georgia Department of Archives & History.
"Georgia Bullock / County / SARAH WILLIAMS Came Before me one of the Justices in and for Sd County and maid (sic) oath that on the 10th day of March and in She beleaves (sic) in the year 1784 --- 9 Creek Indians Came in hir (sic) house And She a pore (sic) Widow and took from hir (sic) the follering artickls (sic)

1 Calleminksh gound (gown)...........$5
1 one home Spun gound (gown)........3 50
1 Mare..........................50 -0
20 yards of homespun......................10 -0
5 Pounds of Spun Cotton..............5 -0
5 hankerchief........................3
1 aprun (apron)...........................1
15 yards of homespun Cloth............7 -50
3 plaits one dish and 3 Basoms........4 -0
(3 plates, one dish and 3 basins)
1 loooking glafs (looking glass)........1 -

$ 91 -
"Sarah Williams and Mary Hendricks" Came Before me one of the Justices in and for Said County and maid (sic) oath that the Contents above written (sic) is Just and true

Sworn to before Me this 7th day of October 1802 --

Frederick Williams  J P

Sarah Williams

hir

Sarah Williams mark

hir

Mary Hendricks"

mark

Sarah Williams

$91.00

Sarah Williams

$91

1784

Account

Entd in Page 13

Note:
The identity of the two ladies is unknown. The earliest plat books for Effingham and Screven Counties show grants for men with the same last names as these ladies. The plats are on the south side of the Ogeechee River in today's Bulloch County. One plat for Garrett Williams, dated 1794, Screven County, is for 150 acres located on Neill's Creek and bounded by David Hendricks, John Nevil, James Stallings and Peggy Lanier. Two plats, one dated 1791 in Effingham County and the other dated 1794 in Screven County, are for grants for David Hendricks. Both are located on the waters of Neill's Creek and bound by Nevil, Stallings, Mizell and himself. Because of these records, we know that the Hendricks and the Williams families were neighbors. The membership records of Neill's Creek Primitive Baptist Church for the years 1814, 1815 and 1817 list a Sarah (Sary) Williams and two ladies named Mary Hendrix. Who are these ladies? One of the most interesting features in this document is the list with the values of the stolen items. The first and most valuable article of clothing, "the Calleminksh gound," is very likely a dress made of calamanco fabric. This was a woolen or worsted fabric resembling camel's hair cloth. Also note the values for the homespun cloth and threads.

*****

From:

Gazette of the State of Georgia - Issue of Nov 8, 1787

"Savannah, November 8 - Settlement on the Great Ogeechee in Effingham County exposed to ravages of Indians. A man named SERMON and HIS SON were killed and scalped on SCULL'S CREEK near MIZELL'S FERRY .... other people missing."

Note: It is impossible to determine the first names of the Sermons named here, however there were early settlers here named Sirmans.

Land grant records show that a Charlton Mizell was granted 300 acres of land "in Effingham County" on the south side of the Ogeechee River near Scull Creek. The land was bound on the SE by Nathan Roberts. This land was surveyed 22 July 1783 by
William Clifton. This was in Bulloch County in later years.

An old ferry crossing was on the Ogeechee River at present day Scarboro. This is nearly opposite the mouth of Scull Creek. Is this the site of Mizell's Ferry?

*****

From: Gazette of the State of Georgia - Issue of Nov 22, 1787

"Savannah, November 22 - About 10 days ago a boy named, KIRKLAND was killed and scalped by Indians at NEVIL'S CREEK on the south side of the GREAT Ogeechee in Effingham County."

Note: The Effingham County Plat Book shows a plat for Richard Kirkland granted in 1786 and surveyed in 1787. This land was on the south side of the Ogeechee River. It is thought that a Richard Kirkland was either the father or a brother to Mrs. Sarah (Kirkland) Holland Banks, wife of Elisha Fowler Banks. Is Richard Kirkland also the father of the murdered Kirkland boy.

*****

From: Gazette of the State of Georgia - January 17, 1788.

"Savannah, January 17. On the evening of Wednesday the 9th instant, two men named ROGERS and QUEELING, a LAD named BENNETT, were killed and scalped by a party of 13 or 14 INDIANS, in MIDWAY SETTLEMENT, about 12 miles on the other side of GREAT Ogeechee FERRY, their horses shot, 2 NEGRO BOYS missing."

Note: The GREAT Ogeechee FERRY is thought to be the site of today's "King's Ferry Crossing" where US Highway 17 crosses the Ogeechee River. The river is now the boundary between Chatham and Bryan Counties.

*****

From: Gazette of the State of Georgia - Issue of Feb 21, 1788

"Savannah, February 21. A young man, we are informed, was killed and scalped on Wednesday the 13th inst., near BELCHER'S MILLS on GREAT Ogeechee, but whether by white or red savages is not known."

Note: There are no names, therefore it is impossible to know more about the incident. Belcher's Mill Creek is in Bulloch County and today is known as Mill Creek.

*****

From: Gazette of the State of Georgia - March 20, 1788.

"Augusta, March 8. Our accounts from the frontiers are truly distressing. The SAVAGES who are very numerous on the other side of the OCONEE, frequently cross over and commit theft and murder in the settlements on that river. Last week they killed a MAN near WILLIAMSON'S SWAMP, burnt three houses and drove off a number of cattle."

Note: Williamson's Swamp Creek is on the west side of the Ogeechee River and today is near Wadley, Ga.
From: Gazette of the State of Georgia - March 27, 1788.

"Savannah, March 27. From BURKE COUNTY we have advice that, on Tuesday the 11th instant, a man named DANIEL SYKES, MRS. DABNEY, his sister, and a man named PURLOCK, were killed and scalped at WILLIAMSON'S SWAMP within seven miles of the OLD TOWN on GREAT Ogeechee River, it is supposed by a party of WHITE MEN and INDIANS. SYKES' LITTLE DAUGHTER was scalped, but it is hoped she will recover. A party tracked the murderers and captured them; one -CONWAY -was killed."

Note: Old Town was located on the east side of the Ogeechee and is near Georgia Highway 17 about half-way between Midville and Louisville. A famous Indian trading path crossed the Ogeechee River at Old Town. George Galphin, the Indian trader, established a trading post here in the 1760's. Dr. Sue Moore, Anthropology Department, Georgia Southern University is presently supervising the excavations at various sites on the Old Town Plantation. Williamson's Swamp Creek, stated previously, is across the river and near the town of Wadley.

From: Georgia Gazette - Issue of April 30, 1789

"Savannah, April 30 - Last Saturday at SCULL CREEK, south side of the Great Ogeechee, (Effingham County), MRS. MILLS and HER TWO INFANT CHILDREN were murdered by the Indians. It seems to be the opinion of people in the country that it was instigated by white people who bare a grudge against the family."

Note: Mrs. Elizabeth Mills was granted land in Effingham County on March of 1789. This land was on the South Side of the Ogeechee River and became Bulloch County in 1796. Scull Creek was cut into Bulloch County with the creation of the county in 1796. In 1812 it became the boundary line between Bulloch and Emanuel Counties when Emanuel was created. Today Scull Creek is in Jenkins County.

From: Georgia Gazette - Issue of June 11, 1789

"Savannah, June II. Augusta Chronicle, May 30...a man by the name of JONES was killed last week near KEMP'S FORT on BUCKEYE; and about the same time some INDIANS who had been plundering near Ogeechee, were followed and overtaken near the OHOOPEE and THREE INDIANS killed and the plunder recovered."

Note: This is thought to be in the vicinity of Emanuel County.

From: Georgia Gazette - Issue of February 10, 1790.

"Savannah February 10. The body of MR. DYER FRASER, who had been for some time missing and was supposed to have been murdered by INDIANS, was discovered on Thursday the 3d
inst. in EFFINGHAM COUNTY by STEVEN BOWEN, as he was hunting... perished with cold..."

*

Note: This is interesting because it was suspected that Indians were involved with the disappearance. It is included because it names Steven Bowen.

*****

REFERENCES

Coleman, Brooks Grimes, The Story of Bulloch County.

Georgia Historical Society; Early Deaths in Savannah, Georgia, 1763-1803 - Obituaries and Legal Notices.

Hodges, Lucile, A History of Our Locale - Mainly Evans County, Georgia.

Knight, Lucian Lamar; Georgia's Landmarks, Memorial's and Legends, Volume 2.

___ : A Standard History of Georgia and Georgians, Volume I.

LONG LOST RECORDS ARE FOUND

By Smith C. Banks

The Hollingsworth Collection at the Screven County Library contain the research papers and books of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hollingsworth. It also contains some of the papers collected by Mrs. Julian Lane, Mr. Hollingsworth's sister. These three individuals were prominent in research circles for more than half a century. They were this area's best known historians and experts on the families of Screven and Bulloch Counties.

This material contains Mrs. Lane's collection of abstracts of Bulloch County wills from the record books of the Probate Court of Bulloch County.

In researching Bulloch County records, one finds that Book A is the earliest record book in Bulloch's Probate Office. This Book A contained the records of marriages, wills, estates, marks and brands. Today this same book, rebound and laminated in the 1950-60's, is titled, "BOOK A & I A -1796-1816."

In her book, "BULLOCH COUNTY GEORGIA, GENEALOGICAL SOURCE MATERIAL", Mrs. Alvaretta K. Register has abstracted that book. On page 295, Register shows the last record abstracted from Book A as being on page 88. She shows the next record as being page 123 from Book I-A.

Mrs. Register makes the following observations in explaining the missing pages:
"In laminating, this book has been placed together with Book I-A which begins on page 123. ....This leaves a gap from December 1807 to September 1809, but these records were not found in another book. akr"

After seeing Mrs. Lane's abstracts, this writer disagrees with Mrs. Register. There was no original book titled, Book I-A. All records have to be from the original Book A. The pages that are missing are from pages 89 to 122 of the original "Book A". A loss of 33 pages, almost two years of materials are gone. The material consisted of not only wills, but also of marriage, marks and brands, and other records. Is it possible that other abstracts of these lost records will surface at some time in the future?

The following abstracted wills are the only records that have survived this loss. They are shown here exactly as they are written.


N.B. Mr. Bean, Sir, please to assist them in everything for equal justice between the two families.


(Note: Finding the record of Elizabeth Banks is a new discovery. Her estate inventory and sale records show that Simeon Banks had purchased items. Her relationship to him and the others named in the will had been unknown until this record was found.)


Wit: Jesse Hickman, Mary Hickman, James Boston, J.P.

Date, 3 Mar. 3, 1807. p. 121.

****
TWO OLD HOMES

EARLY HOMES OF THE DENMARKS AND THE DUGGARS

In the summer of 1901, the Statesboro News reported two stories and discussed two of the older homesteads of Bulloch County. Descriptions of these home sites would have been lost had these articles not been published. The first is from the Statesboro News, dated June 28, 1901.

"GREAT OAKS"

"Our friend, T. J. Knight, sends us the measurement of one of the largest oaks standing on the Mikell place near Nellwood. The oak is twenty one feet in circumference at the base, and the limbs reach a distance of one hundred and twenty four feet in diameter. Those oaks were large trees over one hundred years ago. Mrs. M. F. Hagins now 72 years old, says she has heard her father say that they were large oaks when he was a boy. Nearby this great oak stands the old double pen log house, which was built by the grandfather of the late Brantly Denmark, and in which his father, Thomas Denmark was born about ninety years ago. This is one of the oldest settled places in the county, and was sold last year by the Mikell estate to Mr. Turner, now of Florida. The land seems to be as fertile now and yields as good crops, or probably better, than it did a century ago. Men come and go but the old oaks live on, and give their shade, and spread their boughs as they did in the long ago."

In order to learn more about the history of Bulloch County, it is necessary that we locate the sites of some of these old and almost forgotten places on a modern map. Where was the old Mikell place? Where was Nellwood?

It is general knowledge among most students of Bulloch County history that Nellwood was the forerunner of Brooklet. Nellwood was a little community that had a post office in the home of John C. Cromley. It was located on the west side of the Brooklet-Denmark Highway approximately one mile from the present center of Brooklet. The post office there was established 30 January 1883 with Mr. Cromley as its postmaster. Its only other postmaster was Robert M. Southwell, who served for the last two months it was in operation. Mail service at the Nellwood post office was discontinued on 22 August 1904. Another post office, just a mile away was established in 1899 in Brooklet when the newly completed Savannah & Statesboro Railroad came through the town.

The Mrs. M. F. Hagans in the article is likely Elizabeth Sheffield Hagans, who married Malachi "Mal" F. Hagans in 1847. Their family lived in this vicinity for fifty years or more.

According to Stephen Denmark, the Denmark family historian, the old Mikell place was where Malachi Denmark (1787-1846) settled in the early 1800's. Here Malachi Denmark and his wife Jincy Wise established their home. He was a prominent citizen of the Bulloch County. He served as a justice of the Inferior Court..."
and was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1839 and 1841-43. Thomas Denmark, their son, was born in the "double pen log house" on 20 June 1833. A "double pen log house" is essentially two log cabins of equal size, built side-by-side and sharing the same roof. The space in the center, between the two rooms or "pens" was called the "dogtrot." As a rule, most of these cabins would have been made of round, peeled or skinned logs. The space between the logs would have been chinked or filled on the outside with clay. On the inside this space would have been covered with puncheons. A puncheon is defined as a heavy timber, roughly dressed with one face finished flat. Many times the floors were made of tamped clay or they could have been made of puncheons. The roof would have been covered with rived shingles.

Today the old home site is on the unpaved Black Creek Church Road. This road turns east from the Brooklet-Denmark Highway at Southeast Bulloch High School and crosses Mud Road near Lower Black Creek Church. The home site is just south of Poplar Branch near the forks of Denmark Branch and Lower Black Creek. In recent years this place has been owned by members of the Flake family.

*****

The second article is from the Statesboro News, issue of the August 9, 1901.

"A FISH FRY
Held Over in Egypt"

Last Tuesday the good folks in the Briar Patch had a fish fry in the forks of Black Creek, at the old Duggar place, generally known as Egypt. Mess. W. S. Brannen, U. M. Davis, Holcombe Warnock, Sim Davis, and others caught a large quantity of fish in nets, and as usual a big crowd helped to eat them. W. S. Brannen, Enoch Brannen, and a whole lot more Brannen's and their kin folks and neighbors carried plenty of rations, and everybody present had a good dinner in addition to the fish. The old house on that place is probably a century old, and is still in good condition. The boys and girls played croquet, and the little fellows went in a washing in the creek, while the old men looked on, and talked about the crops, and the big rattle snakes that have been seen in Egypt.

*

The earliest land grants in what is now Bulloch County were for tracts along the waterways. Black Creek is a large tributary of the Ogeechee River. It empties into the river above Morgan's Bridge in Bryan County. The creek is one of the main waterways in Bulloch and is divided into two major streams. These are Upper Black Creek and Lower Black Creek. The two creeks meet in Bulloch very near the Bryan County line. This is in the lower end of the county in the 47th General Militia District or Briar Patch District. The forks of the creek are located near the junction of US
Highway 80 and Georgia Highway 46.

In the article the tract was called the old Duggar place. It states that it was located in the forks of the Black Creek and was known as "Egypt." A conversation with James Davis of Ivanhoe, a descendant of U. M. Davis and other early settlers of the area, indicated that the Duggers are no longer in the Briar Patch and the memory of their farm being called Egypt has long been forgotten.

This was the home of old David "Davy" Dugger (or Duggar) who was granted 700 acres in the forks of Black Creek in 1814. When Dugger moved there, it would have been as wild as any place in Georgia. Today, this is part of the farm and homeplace of the George Kendricks family and much of the land is still very wild.

Mrs. Kendricks, in an interview, stated that parts of their farm had been owned by Mr. Kendricks' father who had purchased the property from Scott Brannen. This is the W.S. Brannen mentioned in the article above. When asked about a good place to go fishing and "a washing," she stated that they owned a natural lake on Upper Black Creek that was called Dugger Lake. She was not aware that her farm had been known as Egypt.

Through the years George Kendricks has done a great deal of work by ditching and building roads in order to get to his home and to his fields. When asked about big cats or panthers, Mrs. Kendricks stated that many have been seen on their land. Today this area would definitely provide a good habitat for any kind of wild animal.

The Statesboro News in 1902 reported an incident involving Davy Dugger and his bout with a "tiger." This was reported to the paper by Henry Dugger, Davy's son, a 77 year old Confederate Veteran. This event was also featured in a humorous scene in Wiregrass, the Bulloch County Bicentennial drama.

It seems that while Mr. Dugger was checking on his hogs, he heard an animal scream and realized that a "tiger" was coming toward him. The animal tried to attack him as he rode away on his horse and fortunately, he escaped. A few days later he heard a commotion at his hog pens and discovered that the tiger was catching and killing his hogs. The old man attempted to shoot the cat but failed to kill him. The "tiger" then turned on the old man. Davy was forced to climb a tree to escape the large cat. The creature was, no doubt, the animal today known as the Florida panther. A neighbor, Sam Davis, came to the rescue and killed the large cat. The tiger was said to have measured eleven feet, from its nose to tip of its tail; it weighed 400 pounds. They skinned it, ate the meat, and made 3 gallons of tiger oil out of the fat. Can this animal be an ancestor of the large cats recently sighted in Bulloch County?
WHERE IN BULLOCH COUNTY IS BENGAL?

The following is a deed that gives the exact location of the community of Bengal.

State of Georgia 
Bulloch County 

This indenture made this the third day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty three between THOMAS NEVILS, Adm. on the estate of JACOB NEVILS SR. dec'd of the county and state aforesaid of the one part, and C. E. FLETCHER of the same place of the other part, witnesses that the said THOMAS NEVILS Adm. on said estate for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and Eighty Dollars ($380.) to him in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents. "The receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted bargained and sold and conveyed and does by these presents grant bargain and sell and convey unto the said C. E. FLETCHER his heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land situated lying on Lott's Creek known as BENGAL containing fifteen (15) acres more or less - being on the west side of Big Lott's Creek - bound North and West by lands of GARRETT WILLIAMS - South by land said THOMAS NEVILS and East by the main run of Big Lott's Creek. It being a part of a survey, originally granted to BRIDGER JONES for two hundred and ninety four acres to have and to hold said tract or parcel of land unto him the said C. E. FLETCHER his heirs and assigns together with all and singular the rights members and appurtenances thereof the same in any manner belonging to his and their own proper use benefit and behalf forever in fee-simple. And the said THOMAS NEVILS for himself, his heir executors and administrators - The said bargained premises unto the said C. E. FLETCHER, his heirs and assignees will warrant and defend the rights and title thereof against themselves and against the claims of all other persons whatever. In witness whereof the said THOMAS NEVILS hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us.

A. J. Strickland )
Josiah Allen )
Frances Akins. J.P. )
MARK

I transfer the within deed to THOMAS NEVILS being his warrant for the same for the within deed conveying the within deed to THOMAS NEVILS. Also I warrant and defend the land to THOMAS NEVILS as good property.

Feb. 2nd 1863 )
A. J. Strickland)
J. S. Dearmark J.P.)
MARK

Recorded May 30, 1884

Jason Franklin, Clk - B.C.B.C. Ga

From:

Book FQ, Pages 559-560; Bulloch County Clerk's Office
Made: 3 February 1863
THE POST OFFICES OF BENGAL

Bengal was the third post office to be established in Bulloch County. Statesborough was first in 1823; Mill Ray was the second post office and was opened in 1847.

In 1903, A. J. Gibson of Waco, Texas, wrote a series of letters to the Statesboro News which were published. In these letters he described in detail his life in Bulloch County during his childhood and youth. These are the best and fullest accounts of life in Bulloch before the War between the States. The letters have been reprinted in "Life in Old Bulloch," by Dorothy Brannen, pages 18-32.

In his first letter, dated 3 April 1903, Gibson writes, "... after a while in the early 50's, the office of Bengal, near Lower Lotts Creek was established, and then we felt that we were surely living in a progressive age." Bengal post office was established on 22 January 1855. Its first postmaster was Thomas Nevils (Nevil or Neville). Neville was the son of Jacob Neville, Sr. - sometimes called, "Biting Jake". The deed above is dated 3 February, 1863, it is signed by Thomas Nevils, the administrator of the estate of his father, Jacob. This was for the sale of the tract of land situated on Lott's Creek known as Bengal containing fifteen (15) acres and situated on the west side of Big Lott's Creek. The price of the fifteen acres was $380.00. This deed is the only document known to have given the exact location of Bengal.

Note that on the same date, C. E. (Charnick) Fletcher transferred the property back to Thomas Nevils, himself. All this happened in the second year of the War Between the States and they probably used Confederate currency to pay for the transaction.

The plat shown below is for a warrant dated, 1 August 1808, and surveyed 25 August 1808, for Briger (Bridger) Jones for two hundred seventy four acres of land on Lotts Creek. It is believed that this is the tract referred in the 1863 deed above. Note that there is a small portion of the property across Lotts Creek. It is believed that the fifteen acre tract, the site of Bengal, is in this smaller portion. Bengal was originally located on the west side of Lotts Creek where the Old Burkhalter Road crossed the creek. On the east side of the creek that road passed in front of Lower Lotts Creek Church and crossed the creek into Bengal.

Thomas Nevils served as postmaster until Dr. W. Avant took the office on 25 February 1859. In the 1860 census Dr. Avant is listed as a medical doctor. On 17 March 1860, William W. Williams became the postmaster. He was a Justice of the Inferior Court of Bulloch and distinguished himself as the heroic Captain of Company C, 47th Georgia Infantry Regiment. He was killed in the Battle of James Island, South Carolina. Williams was postmaster a short time because that same year (1860) Jacob Nevils filled the office on 27 October. Jacob Nevils, listed in the 1860 census as Jacob Jr., a merchant (at Bengal), was a son of Thomas Nevils, the first postmaster. This Jacob was also the nephew of Jacob Nevils, Jr., the merchant in Statesboro at the same date. Jacob, the merchant of Bengal, was the father of Jacob "Jake" Griner Nevils - the man responsible for Nevils, Georgia getting its name. Jacob G. Nevils had a general store that was used as the depot, Nevils Station, for the Sherwood Railroad.
office department records show that the Bengal office was discontinued on 22 June 1866.

It was eight years later, on 4 August 1874, that the Bengal post office was re-established. William Holloway was the new postmaster for four years. In 1878, Norman W. Rushing became the postmaster; he had married Mrs. Thomas Nevils after Thomas died. He owned and operated a grits mill on Lotts Creek in Bengal. Before the year was out Ely Kennedy filled the office and in 1879 William B. Corie took his place. Corie or Corey is listed in the 1870 census as being a painter and born in New York. In 1880, the post office was discontinued for a second time.

During 1879 C. W. Norwood compiled material for the "Sholes' Georgia State Gazetteer and Business Directory" for years 1879 and 1880. Bengal is listed as a place with less than 20 inhabitants and situated on Big Lotts creek. It is hard to believe that it was ever a real village. The people listed as inhabitants, however, were likely living within close proximity to the original site. The planters listed in the index would be the farmers who received their mail addressed to Bengal. Bengal post office was revived again, the third time, in 1902 when Joshua L. William became the new postmaster. This lasted until May 1904 when it closed for the last time. The mail was then sent to the Register post office which had been established in 1899.

Over a period of almost fifty years Bengal had quite a number of different postmasters. It is thought that the locations of the post offices would have moved about, into the stores or homes of the men who ran them.

In recent years, people have pointed out the Dr. James Lemuel Nevil farm called "Lemwood" as the site of Bengal. The old Burkhalter Road (now called, Old King's Road) passes by this farm. Today this is located on US Highway 301 about one mile south of Georgia Highway 46 and is the home of Dr. Nevil's son, Lem Nevil. Lem Nevil is the great grandson of Thomas Nevils, the first postmaster of Bengal.

A plat for 274 acres on Lotts Creek surveyed for BRIGER (BRIDGER) JONES. The land warrant was dated 1 August 1808. The land was surveyed on 25 August 1808 by AARON EVERITT, County Surveyor. Chain carriers were BERRY JONES and ALLEN JONES. (Bulloch County Plat Book A, page 386)
AGRICULTURE IN BULLOCH COUNTY

This section includes five newspaper articles about farming in Bulloch County. The editor of the paper attempted to give an explanation as to why the Bulloch County farmer was prospering in this time. The opinions expressed here are the same as those passed down in the lore of many Bulloch County families.

* * *

The first item is from the Fair Edition of the Statesboro News, dated, October 16, 1903 and was written by J. R. Miller, the editor. This special edition was distributed to visitors of the Bulloch County's agricultural exhibits at the Georgia State Fair. It consisted of 48 pages of descriptions that boasted of the superlatives of Bulloch County and the city of Statesboro. It is said that the fair exhibit and this paper influenced a number of central Georgia farm families in their decision to move to Bulloch County.

"THE SMALL FARMER"

Bulloch has always been noted for its great number of small farmers, and this to a large extent has contributed to the welfare and up-building of the county. The one and two horse farmer who has cultivated from thirty to sixty acres of land and depended on the labor of himself and family to do the work, has been remarkably prosperous, and has done much to build up the agricultural interest of the county since the close of the civil war.

Labor has always been honorable in this county, and it is no disgrace for the men, boys, girls and wives to help along the farm work. Instead of relying on negro labor to do all the work as they do in some sections, our farmers rely on themselves and family, and what is made, belongs to them. In every section of the county, can be found many small farmers, who have made a success, raised large families, and educated their children, and have even made money at farming alone. In some parts of the country the lands have drifted into the hands of a few men, and they have large farms, with many tenants and croppers. No country can be very prosperous where such a condition exists, and where the lands are owned in small tracts by many people, you see more prosperity and it is better for everybody. The home owner is essential to any country's success, and in war the strongest protection. In Bulloch, it is no unusual sight to see the mothers and daughters assisting the fathers and brothers in making and gathering the crops, and they are not looked down on because they work in the fields.

There is no business in the world that will pay as large a dividend, as the capital invested in a small farm. With one horse, many a farmer has made plenty of corn, meat, potatoes, and other products to do the family, and make five hundred dollars worth of cotton besides. This has been done over and often on an investment of not more than a thousand dollars. A man with a good one horse farm can live better, and make more than the average man, who gets fifty to a hundred dollars a month in the towns and cities. Besides his family has better health, and more rest time than they could possibly have in a city. The small
farmers raise thousands of produce, and find a ready market for it in the towns and cities, and such things as eggs, chickens, butter, beef, bacon, and in fact all farm products find a good market. Here's wishing the small farmer more and continued prosperity, for after all, the farmer feeds them all.

*****

"WHAT IS A BULLOCH COUNTY ACRE WORTH?"

This second article is from the First Congressional District Agriculture School Edition of the Statesboro News, dated, October 9, 1909, was written by J. R. Miller, the editor. This was a special 96 page edition of the paper and was probably distributed to visitors of the Bulloch County's agricultural exhibits at the 1909 Georgia State Fair. The issue repeated many of the same articles used in the 1903 Fair Edition. It was another advertisement to promote Bulloch County and the new Agriculture School. The Augusta Chronicle commented that this "was one of the most incredible publications ever issued by a county weekly paper in Georgia."

If one acre of Bulloch County farming land will yield a sixty dollar bale of cotton every year, what is its intrinsic value?

That is what lots of them are doing this year, some of them doing much better. Did you ever stop to figure it out? We mean the cost of producing the sixty dollar bale this year.

Four hundred pounds of Commercial Fertilizer..................$ 3.50
Cultivation one acre.....................................................6.00

Picking the cotton......................................................7.00
Ginning, bagging and ties.............................................2.00
Hauling it to the gin..................................................1.00

Total Cost $ 19.50

Take this from $60.00 and you have a net balance of $39.50, add to this the value of a half ton of seed at the prevailing price and you have $12.50 more, running the net total to $52.00 per acre.

Land that will pay you for your labor, give you a job all the year round, with no one to boss you, go when you feel like it, and work as it suits you, and on top of this lay you up $52.00 off of every acre you cultivate for a rainy day, is better than any gold mine that we know of.

it beats practicing law, it beats running a newspaper, a bank, a store, or holding public office at the hands of the dear people.

You will say "they all don't do that." Then why don't they do it? If it has been possible for Mr. H. I. Waters to raise eleven bales of cotton on five acres of ordinary Bulloch County land this year, then why isn't it possible to make every acre raise five bales on five acres every year? This is six bales below the record he has made on a five acre tract.

Then back to the first question. How much is an acre of land worth that will yield a clear profit of $52.00 every year to its owner? That's a question that we would like to have answered.
Note that the editor's figures are wrong! Using the figures in the article, the net profit is $53.00. By simple subtraction and addition, we have:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Price received for one bale of cotton} & \quad 60.00 \\
\text{Cost of producing the bale} & \quad -19.50 \\
\text{Profit} & \quad 40.50 \\
\text{Value of half ton of cotton seeds} & \quad +12.50 \\
\text{Total Profit} & \quad 53.00
\end{align*}
\]

BULLOCH COUNTY
Her Praises Sung by One of Her Adopted Sons

This article is from the same edition as the previous article, the First Congressional District Agriculture School Edition of the Statesboro News dated, October 9, 1909.

Bulloch County is one of the most fertile in the State, and in fact, in the South, and it's rapid development proves its great value.

In proof of the value of these lands it is sufficient to say, that settlers are coming to the county from the Carolinas, North and Middle Georgia and Tennessee. In fifteen years the land has advanced 1,000 per cent.

The climate of Bulloch county is very mild, especially when we consider its proximity to the Atlantic ocean, whose breezes temper the mid day heat of summer and the midnight cold of winter.

At this time, October 4th, a peach tree is blooming in my garden; sugar cane is green and growing, in fact my cotton is blooming. Frost seldom falls earlier than 1st of November, or later than March 15th.

As to health, people get sick here, and sometimes they die—in fact they have all died or will die whether they live in Bulloch or not. If there is any place where they do not die on this earth, I have not heard of it.

The rainfall is about 45 inches and this county is principally blessed with regular seasons. Excessive droughts are few.

I have never known an entire crop failure from drought and I have been living and farming here for 28 years.

No part of the United States will produce a greater variety of crops, vegetables and fruits than Bulloch county. Experience proves the truth of what I say. I have seen rice, rye, wheat, oats, corn, upland and sea island cotton, field peas, ground peas, sorghum, sugar cane, sweet and Irish potatoes, pumpkins, Millet, watermelons, muskmelons, cucumbers, squash, okra, collards, cabbage, beans, turnips, English peas, tomatoes, lettuce, egg plant, radishes, etc., all growing in the same vicinity here in...
Bulloch county, and in fruits, peaches, apples, walnuts, pecans, quinces, plums, all kinds of grapes, different kinds of mulberries, pomegranates, blackberries, dewberries, strawberries, etc. We have "crab" and "crow-foot" grass which grow rapidly and make good hay.

In cotton, Bulloch cannot be beaten. A bale of sea island cotton per acre is not an extraordinary yield.

H. I. Waters says that he has gathered 2 bales of upland cotton per acre and more to gather this year. Ten barrels of syrup per acre is not uncommon; this is worth $150.00. Four hundred bushels of sweet potatoes can be made.

Corn and oats, 50 bushels are not uncommon, (in) vegetables and watermelons we lead the world.

We are not dependent upon the rivers or wagons for transportation, we have the railroads. These roads form a network of rapid and convenient travel and transportation; reaching almost every neighborhood in the county. We are no longer in the "backwoods."

signed -- W. O. DARSEY.

*****

BULLOCH'S WELL-FED PREACHERS

In the early days of our county, in periods of droughts and hard times, the old folks would say, "People had better watch out! We are reaping the whirlwind! Somebody must not be paying their preacher enough!"

It seems that in times past, people felt that a fair judge of the prosperity of a community was to see how well the preachers in a community were faring. Agriculture and business in Bulloch County were doing very well at the turn of the century. The towns were growing, new businesses were being opened and the cotton market was booming. The farmer and all the citizens seemed to be prospering. The preachers must have been doing well, too. The following would indicate this. In boasting about the county, the May 17, 1901 issue of The Statesboro News published the following article.

* FIVE BIG PREACHERS

Talk of Having Them as an Exhibit at the State Fair

Statesboro and Bulloch County can no doubt boast of the biggest preachers of any town and county in the state. If the Fair Association will offer a prize for the five largest preachers in any one county or town, Statesboro will certainly carry off the premium. There are five here that will average considerably over 250 pounds. Rev. T. J. Cobb, a resident of this place and serving several missionary churches in the county, weighs 190 pounds. Rev. Whitley Langston, pastor of the Methodist church, follows at 225. Rev. J. F. McMillan, pastor of the Missionary Baptist, is next in order of size, and weighs 230. Elder M. F. Stubbs, pastor
of the Primitive Baptist church tips the beam at 275 and Elder Patterson broke the scales at 350. There is no telling how much he would weight if a pair of scales would hold him. Where Rev. Cobb falls behind in weigh the makes it up in height being seven feet four and one-half inches. They are a sleek, jolly set of gentlemen, and are specimens of how the ministry thrives in this prosperous and salubrious climate. Not one of them has ever been to the springs since they came here, and some of them have lived here nearly all their lives. There are several other large ministers in the county, and an effort will be made to have them exhibit at the State Fair this fall.

Josh Smith was a farmer! In his day, he was called a "big" farmer, but more than that he was a man of ideas. His vision and foresight made a difference in farming, a difference that has lasted far beyond his life's span. In fact, farming as he saw it, is the farming of today!

Joshua Smith was a 6th generation Georgian--a 6th generation Georgia farmer. His ancestor, Hans Schmidt (John Smith), a tanner from Salzburg, Austria, came to Georgia in 1736. This was just three years after the founding of the Colony by General Oglethorpe in 1733. Hans became a farmer in the Georgia colony at Ebenezer. It is interesting that during their 255 years in Georgia, Joshua and his ancestors never lived more than forty-five miles from Ebenezer.

Josh Smith was born in Bulloch County, October 11, 1876, the Centennial Year of the United States. This was only eleven years after the close of the War Between the States. When he was born the South was still suffering from the devastation of the War. Josh married Sallie Alderman when he was 23 years old. Sallie, the
daughter of Mitchell Alderman, was a neighbor who lived less than three miles away. Sallie had celebrated her sixteenth birthday just two weeks prior to the wedding on November 30, 1899. They became a true family of the "New Twentieth Century" when their first child, Frank was born on March 29, 1901.

In the early 1900's, farming in Bulloch County, in general, was probably much like it had been since the War Between the States. The South as a whole was still impoverished as a result of the War. The main crop planted was cotton, because "Cotton was (still) King." Most farmers had almost every acre of their lands in cotton. In the 1880's and 1890's lumber companies came into Bulloch County and began cutting and clearing vast tracts of virgin timber. This made more land available for cotton farming. At about this time Bulloch County began planting Sea Island Cotton in a big way. Cultivation was done with mules and plows and weeds were "chopped" with a hoe. The average farmer was a subsistence farmer and produced just enough to "get by." He hoped to make enough cotton to pay his bills at the general store in Statesboro and have enough left to pay on the mortgage for his land. There were no cars, trucks or tractors. There were no electric lines or telephone lines running through the countryside. This is the way things were when Josh and Sallie got married. Josh Smith was a farmer. But Josh Smith was not an average farmer in Bulloch County! He was a man of ideas and vision; he was a progressive farmer!!

Josh Smith loved the land. He was a devout conservationist. From his earliest farming days he terraced his land. His terrace level and tripod were always handled with great care and were kept in his office. It was his conviction that a farmer must continuously replace those elements extracted from the soil. He realized that a farmer must have a planned program to enrich his land if it was to continue to be productive for present and future generations. He also believed that the soil's potential for abundant, superior, and diversified production had barely been tapped.

He was an avid reader. He read everything—agricultural publications as well as state and national magazines. With his extraordinary foresight and fortified with knowledge gained from his extensive reading, and by experimentation, he dared to make changes. Josh Smith saw the boll weevil coming. He realized that our cotton culture, as it had been, was doomed. He knew that the farmer's salvation was diversification.

He was one of the first farmers in Bulloch to seek out good-blooded livestock. He went to Kentucky and Indiana to buy registered pure-bred hogs and cattle. Those were the days of "piney-woods rooters" and "razor-back" hogs. When farmers were branding their stock and cropping their stock's ears and letting the cows and hogs loose to roam and range the woods and countryside, Josh Smith fenced his fields and fed his livestock. He knew that ticks killed good cattle. Josh was dipping his cattle long before dipping became a state law. Always a generous neighbor, he would let nearby farmers use his dipping vats for their stock.

His farming practices were revolutionary.

In 1906, when most other farmers were plowing behind one mule, he had a riding cultivator pulled by two horses (or mules).
Before the days of tractors and automobiles he had 22 mules plus a fine horse for his buggy. Farms were designated in those times, not by their total acreage, but by the amount of horses (or mules) needed to cultivate the farm. A "one-horse farm" was 20-25 acres of cultivated land. This was considered the amount of land that one horse (or mule) and one man could farm.

Josh Smith owned about 1000 acres, 987 acres, to be exact. His home place had over 800 acres plus about 130 acres at his "Portal Place." He had over 500 acres in cultivation.

Sea Island Cotton was the black seed long staple (long fibered) cotton. Bulloch County was the largest producer of Sea Island Cotton in the world. It was very expensive for a farmer to produce this kind of cotton. It is interesting to note that Josh did not plant Sea Island Cotton. He planted the green seed cotton. He said that he could make more money growing green seed cotton. When most farmers were hauling their cotton to the gin miles from home, he bought his own gin so that he could gin his own cotton. Josh would plant about 300 acres in cotton and he could usually produce one bale per acre or 300 bales. This was considered most unusual because few farmers made a bale-to-the-acre. Some years all 300 bales of cotton would be in the gin yard at one time.

Josh developed his own strain of corn. It was known as "Josh Smith Corn." It took more than 10 years for him to develop this corn. In those days it was unusual for a corn stalk to bear more than one ear of corn. Josh would harvest his corn by hand and save his seed corn from ears that came from stalks that made two or more ears to the stalk. Thus "Josh Smith Corn" would have two or three ears per stalk. The stalks produced small ears, with kernels that were "as hard as flint." It was so hard that the weevils had a difficult time getting into it. (This was in the time before pesticides.) The corn was good cooked as table corn and could be ground down to make excellent meal and grits. He was one of the first to plant all of his field in just corn. Today corn is planted 9-10 inches apart. In the old days corn was planted 7 inches apart with alternating rows of peanuts or velvet beans planted in between the rows of corn. Josh planted his corn with a Cole Planter about 10 inches apart. He was one of the first men in Bulloch to produce over 100 bushels to an acre. He was not afraid to make changes when he saw something he thought was better. Several years later Josh found another strain of corn that he considered to be better than his own so he started planting that corn. For 20 years after he had stopped planting his corn other people were still planting "Josh Smith Corn."

Josh knew his land and always walked over every inch of his fields and woodlands observing everything about his farm.

Josh saw a reaper and binder and was so impressed that he ordered one. He owned the second one he saw!

Josh Smith had the first tractor in Bulloch County. It was a Mogul 12-25. He bought it about 1913-14. In the 1920's, while many Bulloch Countians were still using mules, he was running three tractors.

Besides farming cotton and corn, the Smith Farm was
prominent in the chicken and egg business. At one time, Josh had 10,000 laying hens and 3,000-4,000 chickens for fryers. The eggs and chickens were sold in Savannah to a broker named Futrelle. Mr. Futrelle supplied Johnny Harris' Restaurant with Josh Smith's chickens. The chickens were sold, live! They were shipped in coops each holding 20 fryers. The live chickens were sold to grocery stores and restaurants, there the chickens would be killed and dressed. The ideal weight for a fryer was 2 1/2 pounds.

Josh installed a Delco Light Plant in 1915-16. He liked it so well that he put in a second and later a third plant. He wanted enough power so that he could have electricity in his home and in his barns. His son, Hamp said that he was probably one of a few boys in the whole county who could say that they milked the cows every morning by electric lights.

Because the shallow well on the back porch of the Smith home would sometimes dry-up in the summer, Josh installed a deep well and windmill. He bought his first car, a Grant, in 1915. However, being the practical man that he was, his tractor had been purchased long before the car!

Josh believed in labor-saving devices for his home. He engineered an electric motor to power their sewing machine. In the wood-burning cook stove in the kitchen he installed large coils of pipes to run through the fire-box to an over-sized hot water tank. This provided the family with an adequate supply of hot water for the kitchen, the two big bath rooms, and the half bath. His family enjoyed the latest modern appliances. There was a peach peeler, an apple corer-peeler, and an electric iron! The refrigerator or ice box held 100 pounds of ice and had a water line consisting of a series of six pipes that ran under the block of ice to a spigot on the left side of the refrigerator. This provided the family with running ice water.

We should mention that Josh installed steel fencing around all his lands. The steel end and corner fence posts were set in concrete and the line posts were driven into the ground with a sledge hammer. Josh thought the posts would last for 50 years. Today in 1992, more than 70 years later, some of the posts are still in use.

The Smith fruit orchards were known all over Bulloch County. There was a large orchard of Yellow Cling Peaches, which were sold to the public. Although apples were fairly rare in Bulloch County, the Smith farm had apple trees that ripened in May and June. When the apples were picked, some were canned as jelly and apple butter and some were dried. Many were stored fresh by wrapping each apple in a page from the Sears and Roebuck Catalog. These were packed in boxes and barrels. Of course, there were the fig trees, pear trees, walnut trees, chestnut trees, and large pecan orchards. The Josh Smith farm could boast that it produced almost everything edible that it needed. There was not only pork and beef grown for market and for the family table but there was also the large and bountiful vegetable garden. There were chickens, geese, and turkeys. The sugar cane patch provided syrup and sugar for the family and Frank tended the bee hives. Probably the only foods that were not homemade were the salt and the white sugar used in white cakes. The ladies of the family were busy during all seasons with canning, preserving, and preparing the
foods produced by the farm.

The Smith Family was an average size Bulloch County family. There were twelve members. There were: Joshua and Sallie, Grandmother Alderman (Sallie's mother, Emma Morris Alderman), Aunt "Fronie" (Sallie's Aunt Saphronia Alderman) and the eight Smith children. The children were, in order of birth: Frank, Hamp, Laura, Roy, Emma, Sallie, Joshua, Jr., and Harold Carter Smith.

The Josh Smith family was highly esteemed by all their friends and neighbors. Josh Smith believed that a man's word was as good as his bond and he taught his family this along with other good principles. The family was known for its hospitality, its hard work, its exceptional farming abilities and its good name!

The WEDDING PORTRAIT of JOSHUA SMITH and his bride, SALLIE ALDERMAN. Married in Bulloch County, Georgia on November 30, 1899.

FODDER AND FODDER PULLING

Years ago, before the days of cars and tractors, our ancestors depended on horses and mules for transportation and for farming. The old time fuel for these means of conveyance was not gas and oil but grass, hay, corn and other grains.

Because grasses and crops are not abundant in winter, it was necessary for everyone to have a supply of hay and other livestock feed to get the family animals through the cold months. All feeds needed to be kept dry and out of the weather so they were stored in barns and shelters. A stock food item that went out of use 60 or more years ago was fodder. Older Bulloch Countians talked about fodder often. They had sayings like, "It's hotter'n pullin' fodder!" or "It was just a fodder shower."

Hamp Smith, aged 96 years, was interviewed for this article. Born in Bulloch County in 1902 he grew up on his family farm in the Westside Community. We are grateful that he would share his experiences and knowledge about gathering fodder.

Corn was one of the main crops in the old days. Corn is a good food for both man and beast. The young tender ears are delicious roasted, boiled, or cut and creamed. In local terms, they are "roas'in'airs" - roasting ears.

When a person said he went to the field and got a good "mess of roas'in'airs", he meant that he had gone to the field and picked enough tender ears of corn to feed his family generous servings of corn for both a dinner and a supper meal.
Corn that is left in the field to cure and become hard is also good food for the table. Shelled corn can be used to make big hominy or lyed hominy. This is made by boiling the kernels of corn in lye or potash to remove the husky outer layer and then soaking it. The kernels puff-up and make a tasty dish. Of course, corn can be ground either course or fine to make grits and cornbread. The corn cobs also had a use. They were saved to be tinder for making fires. They had a special use at the outhouse, too.

Fodder was another corn product. It was an important part of the winter diet of mules and horses. Fodder pulling was not an easy task. It was a hot job and took a lot of physical strength and stamina.

Fodder had to be harvested in one day, that is, it had to be pulled, gathered and stored all in the same day. Because of this, the farmers in a neighborhood would join together to help each other with the harvest. They would come with their wives, their children, and their "hired-hands." While the men and boys gathered fodder, the ladies and young children would go to the garden to pick peas and gather other vegetables for the noonday meal. There might be as many as 30-40 people for dinner. The women would prepare and cook great pots of peas, rice, okra, corn and tomatoes. They would fry plenty of home cured ham, bacon, and sausages. A fat hen would have been dressed in order to make a big chicken pie. Mounds of biscuits and cornbread would have been baked and quarts and jars of homemade syrup and jellies were put out for "sopping." Hard working men needed hearty food.

At noon the big bell on the post beside the kitchen door would be rung. It could be heard for a mile. That was the signal, dinner is ready, come to the main house, wash-up and get ready to eat. After dinner everybody went immediately back to work. A fodder pullin' was a community effort just like an old-fashioned barn raising or a shucking bee.

The time for pulling fodder was just after the corn passed the "roas'in'air" stage. This would be in late June or early July and the weather was always hot and muggy. I am sure that this helped give rise to the saying, "hotter'n pullin' fodder." Many of the old folks agree that fodder pullin' was one of the worst jobs on the farm.

The farmer would select a hot dry day for the work. The pullin' would begin in the morning after the dew had evaporated. The puller would approach each individual corn plant and, with both hands, he would strip all the green foliage from the stalk. All the ears of corn would be left attached to the stalk. Then with both hands full of corn leaves, the harvester would combine and twist his bundle together. The bundle would then be hung or wedged over one of the ears on the stalk. There it hung while the foliage wilted.

Later, about three or four o'clock in the afternoon, the bundles would be collected. This time 5 or 6 of the bundles would be tied together by using several long corn leaves. It was this sheaf that would be put in the wagon at the end of the row. They said that the "young-uns" were usually the ones who took the sheaves to the wagon. It must have been something to have seen entire fields of
I

com standing bare, stripped of all their leaves.

Fodder could not be left in the field overnight. Any moisture would cause it to ruin. If dew or a shower wet it, it was gone. This is why the rule was that any wagon loaded with fodder had to be stored or put under a shelter for the night.

A sudden summer downpour that lasts only a few minutes and leaves everybody and everything just as hot as before the rain was called, and still is referred to as, "a fodder shower."

Almost fifty years ago in 1946 the Bulloch Herald ran an article about fodder pulling. Here are a few lines:

"Why don't Bulloch county farmers pull fodder any more? There was a time when many hours could be passed away around the country store talking about the "fodder pulling champ" in various communities and how the fodder flew when two or more of these local champs tied up in the same field.

"... A close check...found possibly not more that 80 acres out of some 90,000 acres of corn had been pulled."

The reason the farmers had stopped pulling fodder was because it was discovered that fodder was not that good for stock feed. When the leaves were stripped, the kernels of corn on the stalk ceased to develop which meant waste to the corn crop. Also, there were fewer mules on the farm in 1946. The tractor had become a necessary piece of farm equipment and tractors don't eat fodder.

*****

O U T S T A N D I N G  W O M E N

There are many outstanding women in the history of Bulloch County. Three of those ladies are featured here. The first, Mrs. Sarah Jones, was a true pioneer woman of Bulloch County. She is also a pioneer in the history of the Methodist Church in this county. Her obituary from 1839 is indeed a rare find.


From SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, Vol. III, 15 November 1839, page 91, col. 3. Transcribed by Dr. Martha Tootle Cain.

"Died in Bulloch County, Georgia, on the 27th day of September, 1839, MRS. SARAH JONES, consort of the late DRURY JONES, ESQ., in the 84th year of her age. She was a native of Virginia, and married to Mr. Jones 8th January 1773. She was early impressed with the necessity of religion; and though a member of a church, she, received no such consolation as real religion affords. On the first arrival of the Methodists, she and her husband went to hear them. "Ere the preacher was done his sermon, Mr. Jones was convinced of the truth of the doctrine and, error of his own heart. He invited the preacher to his house; and they both immediately joined the society, and soon obtained religion."

"At the close of the Revolutionary War, they moved to Bulloch County, Georgia, where they resided to the close of life. They suffered much from Indian deprivations and otherwise. To the first
Methodist preacher that came, he opened his door, and soon had a society. Their house was a home for the preachers sixty odd years. And though the plainness of their style precluded a sumptuous table, yet the spontaneous flow of their generous hearts gave a zest to the whole fare, which more than supplied the want of every delicacy. This the writer has often witnessed. She suffered pain and bodily affliction more than 40 years. Her son-in-law, J. DELL, informs, that he was intimately acquainted with her during all that space of time, and 15 years lived in an apartment of the same house - has "never known her otherwise than an excellent Christian;" that "her sufferings during the last ten months were almost unparalleled;" and throughout he "never saw her out of temper approaching to anger;" and that "not a doubt, complaint, or murmur," was ever heard by him from her. Near her last, being asked whether she was prepared for heaven, she answered, that were she to live a thousand years longer, she did not feel that she could be better prepared. Thus, she lived in the world - above the world - and, when called, was ready for a better world."

"Oct. 24th 1839

Lewis Myers"

*****

MRS. KEZIAH CONE SHEFFIELD HAGIN DELOACH

Keziah Cone Sheffield Hagen DeLoach is another pioneer woman of Bulloch County. It is unusual that a woman's interest in politics would be noted in her obituary in the nineteenth century. Here we find it. Tradition tells that she was most active in helping to manage political campaigns for her brother, General Peter Cone. For many years he was Bulloch County's distinguished member of the Georgia General Assembly. This lady's sons were members of Cone's Company, Company K, 47th Georgia Infantry Regiment, Confederate States of America.

The memorial shown below was missed when the deaths, births and marriages in early Bulloch newspapers were abstracted and published.

IN MEMORIAL

"Mrs. Keziah Cone DeLoach, died on October 10th, 1897. She was born June 4th 1806, and was in her 92nd year at the time of her death. Her grandfather Capt. Wm. Cone, was the only survivor of four brothers in the war of 1776, and for his devotion and sacrifice to the cause of the colonies, the state presented him with the Hodges plantation, on the great Ogeechee river. He was Bulloch county's first senator and foreman of the first grand jury. He spent the closing years of his life preaching of his Christ and Him crucified from a Baptist pulpit."

"Mrs. DeLoach was one of twelve children, five of whom passed their 75th year, and one died in his 73rd year. She was
converted and joined the Baptist church at Black Creek sixty years ago. At the division of the church in 1847, she sided with the Primitives and advocated the cause of her church, and defended its doctrines with a heart as warm as the noonday's sun. She was a sister of General Peter Cone and like her illustrious brother, took a deep interest in the politics of the country, and like him, loved this Southland second only to her God. She was married three times, and when the great civil war of 1861 burst upon the country, she offered three gallant boys: Capt. William A. Sheffield, who led a company and illustrated Georgia in a sister state; Capt. Peter Cone Sheffield, who died on the battlefield leading the old Cone company, a company that lost half its members engaged in its first three battles; Capt. James S. Hagin, who succeeded his lamented brother, surrendered at Greensborough with his great Commander General, Joseph E. Johnston. Capt. Hagin has held the office of School Commissioner almost continuously since the system was inaugurated with credit to himself and honor to his county.

"Her body was funeralized by Eld. M. F. Stubbs --Proverbs VI, 31-- "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." He dwelt upon the beauty of her life and Christian character, of her vast influence for good, and her consecration and submissiveness to her Master's will. For years she made her home with Capt. Hagin and never was more devotion shown to any living soul that was shown her by that devoted household."

Note: Keziah Cone was married and was widowed three times. She married first Simeon Sheffield on 15 November 1827. She married second James Hagin on 19 February 1838. She married third William DeLoach on 6 May 1858. She had no children by DeLoach.

*****

MISS ISABEL LANE SORRIER

Miss Isabel Lane Sorrier was a pioneer of the 20th Century. She devoted her life to her career and to her community. This is a tribute to her. -- Smith C. Banks

She was small in stature but that was all that was small about her. She was known for her big smile, her generous heart. She was a busy lady with a big job. Her mission was to provide library services to the citizens of five counties. They were Bulloch, Bryan, Candler, Emanuel and Evans Counties. In fact, she was in charge of providing library services to a population of almost 100,000 souls. That was a big job!

Public library work is not confined to one field or one age group or one need. It provides services to every age group and every segment of a population. Her mission was to give her patrons the best possible library services in a happy and efficient way. She was always looking for ways to improve those services. She was successful. She loved people and they loved her. She was known to her patrons and her staff as "Miss Isabel." Her name -- Isabel Lane Sorrier.

A life long resident of Statesboro, she was one of four children
born to Caroline Moore and Brooks Blitch Sorrier. Her two brothers, Gus and Brooks, were partners in their family insurance firm. It was one of the oldest firms in Statesboro having been established by their father and grandfather in the early days of the town. Her sister, Elizabeth, was a former public school librarian.

Miss Isabel said that she decided to become a librarian while working on a class assignment when she was a student at Statesboro High School. She attended South Georgia Teachers College, now Georgia Southern University, where she graduated with majors in English and History. She completed graduate work at the University of Georgia and received her fifth year degree in library science at Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. Miss Isabel has said that she originally intended to become a school librarian. However, after an internship in the public library in Springfield, Ohio, she became interested in public library work.

She began her library career as a School Librarian in Homerville and then in Newnan, Georgia. Later she was director of the Waycross Public Library.

On January 21, 1944, the Bulloch County library board met with representatives from Bryan and Evans Counties to form a regional library. It was at this meeting that Miss Sorrier was named as the new director of the Statesboro Regional Library. She was employed to organize and develop the area's regional library system which was a new educational movement for Georgia. Thus this Statesboro Regional Library became the third regional library system in the state of Georgia.

Bookmobile service for rural areas had also been a new concept in 1940. Bulloch County had the second bookmobile in the state of Georgia. It was this same Bulloch County vehicle that was the first bookmobile to be used in a Regional Library System in Georgia. In later years Miss Sorrier would be called a library services pioneer.

The library at this time, was being housed, rent free, on the second floor of the Sea Island Bank building at the corner of East and South Main Streets (the present site of the bank). The building had been built at the turn of the century as a large merchantile store.

The first budget for the Statesboro Regional Library shows a budget of $7,066.90. Funds from local support amounted to approximately $4,000. Miss Sorrier reported at the end of six months that the library served 21 schools, 22 rural communities, and nine towns in the three county area. The first annual report showed a book circulation of 57,306. It is amazing that before the year was out, a campaign fund was begun to build a new library building.

Almost five years later, in 1949 and after a successful $30,000 building drive, the new library was dedicated. The beautiful one-story facility contained 3,122 square feet. The building with its impressive portico and four Greek columns was said to be one of the finest library buildings in the area. The new address was 124 South Main Street.

The library immediately became a meeting place for citizens of
the county. Miss Sorrier encouraged and enjoyed having groups and clubs use the new facilities. Local artists always had a place to show their works. For years garden and flower shows were held there among the stacks of books. Many of the rose shows, camellia shows and chrysanthemum shows were co-sponsored by the library and the various garden clubs. Children actually had birthday parties at the library with a special story hour as entertainment. She was always happy to co-sponsor any worthwhile project with any group. Her greatest joy was providing services for her patrons. She always said that she was like any business, she needed more "customers." In 1958 she established a library branch at the Blitch Street Recreation Center.

In 1950, the old 1940 bookmobile was replaced. Miss Sorrier ordered a new paneled van with built-in bookshelves. The van was tall and patrons could walk-in, browse and select books. This was evidently a new concept for bookmobiles. That year, our bookmobile, all painted with the "Statesboro Regional Library" sign, was displayed at the American Library Association meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

The next few years the population of the town and the county increased beyond expectations. The collections and programs of the library were increased, too. In fact, by 1964, the library had outgrown its facilities and needed more space. In 1966 a tax referendum to build a new library was proposed. Library patrons were disappointed when the referendum failed by 438 votes.

Miss Sorrier, having grown up in the Depression, made the best of what she had. Among her greatest assets were her abilities in hiring a capable, dedicated, multi-talented staff. Another asset was her talent for creating and maintaining a happy work environment. She knew that a pleasant atmosphere was contagious. Happy employees tend to have satisfied patrons. Miss Isabel wanted her patrons to enjoy the library and to enjoy its programs.

Another asset was her ability to stretch her budget. Local funding for the library came from county and city funds. Any library board member could report to the taxpayers of Statesboro and Bulloch County that their money was tightly budgeted and frugally spent. When she needed additional equipment she made thrifty purchases of the used goods at the Surplus Property Warehouse of the State Department of Education. It was said that no other library in Georgia got as much for its tax dollar as the Statesboro library.

She knew how to conduct an efficient operation even in crowded and cramped facilities. After the bond referendum failed in 1966, she rearranged the space she had and expanded the collection. Although she was understaffed, she continued to expand her services and programs. It would be some fifteen years later that the library would have a new building.

She definitely WAS NOT the stereotyped librarian. She forbade signs in the library that read "QUIET PLEASE!" or "NO TALKING" or "KEEP OUT." She was just the opposite. One reporter wrote that Miss Isabel was one of the first librarians anywhere to put up a sign in the library which stated, "NO
Isabel Sorrier believed that a good librarian was a well-informed librarian. Because of this, she traveled many thousands of miles at her own expense to various professional library meetings across the United States and Canada. She wanted to know the latest happenings in public library circles. She also wanted to be prepared to incorporate new techniques and methods when the time came. She always encouraged her staff to attend these meetings, too.

In 1972, she and library board members, Virginia Lee Tiliman and Nona Bunce, helped initiate the first Library Legislative Meeting in Washington, D.C. The Statesboro library furnished three of the eleven member delegation. It was through the expertise of the Statesboro group that the delegation was able to meet in the White House with the president's top aides. The purpose of the meeting was to make our national leaders aware of the problems, concerns and needs of public libraries. It was called, "A Day With Your National Senators and Representatives." Today, twenty five years later, this day is still on the legislative docket.

An important date on her calendar was the annual Library Day with the Georgia State Legislature in Atlanta. Miss Isabel never missed this date. She knew her way around the Capitol and was never bashful about approaching politicians when it came to promoting libraries.

She believed that the library should be more than just books. She was proud of the many services and programs at the library. She had a gift for involving and inspiring her patrons to give their talents for various library activities. She was always willing to cooperate with other organizations in the community to co-sponsor many worthwhile projects. Community volunteers added new facets to these programs. The programs were numerous. There were arts and crafts demonstrations and festivals. In the 1970's, the Feed-a-Kid Program provided summer enrichment programs and a place for underprivileged children to eat lunch. Genealogy workshops were co-sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Laubach Literacy Program was for teaching adults to read. There were programs at nursing homes and a talking books program for the blind. The very complete reference section was supplemented by the Georgia Library Information Network. With the extensive audio-visual materials, patrons could borrow movie and slide projectors. Schoolteachers found the film strip collection invaluable. There were always special exhibits of works by local artists. The many plays co-sponsored with Bulloch County Board of Education, the Atlanta Children's Theater, and the Continuing Education at Georgia Southern College were especially successful. More than 4500 children and chaperones saw plays. Also remembered were the programs co-sponsored with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The library's genealogy collection was begun in 1970. This was started with federal funds from a grant that Miss Isabel had written. The first books purchased were copies of rare out-of-print genealogy and Georgia History books at a cost of approximately $200. These were duplicate copies from the private library of Jack Ladson of Vidalia. For several years Miss Isabel continued to
write more grants for more genealogy books and the collection grew.

In 1972, she said, "The nation's bicentennial will be here in four years. We need a Bulloch County Historical Society." She initiated meetings with the mayor, the county commissioner and other civic leaders to discuss this. As a result, the mayor called a meeting in April of that year and plans were made to organize a local society.

The area covered by the Statesboro Regional Library also grew when neighboring counties came into the system. Emanuel County was added in 1969. The next year, Evans County, which had dropped out of the system in the 1940's, rejoined. The last county to join the system was Candler County. Their entry in 1975 made this a five-county regional system. Each county's addition brought many advantages for the Statesboro library. One of these was additional state-paid professional staff.

As stated above, the library had outgrown its facilities by 1964. The following year the Bulloch County commissioners purchased a house and lot on East Grady Street. With the removal of the house, the staff and patrons now had "off-301" access to the parking lot at the rear of the building.

In 1970 a consultant was hired to determine the best site for the public library in Statesboro. No one was surprised to learn that the specialist found that the present site was the best possible location. In 1971 the county commissioners bought two important properties for the library. The first was the Cobb house, next door to the library and on the corner of South Main and East Grady Streets. The second house was on East Grady Street. About the same time, the City of Statesboro purchased the Georgian Hotel on the north side of the library. The Cobb house became "The Annex." It was utilized for the book processing center with other rooms for community meetings. The cramped conditions at the library were temporarily alleviated. The library property now covered 2.45 acres.

In 1977, many citizens of Bulloch County were demanding new library facilities. It had been eleven years since the last referendum. The time was, indeed, right for another vote. It was determined that a building costing approximately $1,000,000 would be required to meet the standards set forth for library construction by the Georgia Department of Education. By meeting these standards, the Statesboro facility could receive a state grant of one-fourth the cost, or $250,000.

The referendum for a bond issue of $750,000 was called to be voted on October 11, 1979. In the optimism of expecting the issue to win, tragedy struck the library. Four days before the vote, the Annex caught fire and burned. This was a tremendous loss! It was determined that $70,000 worth of books and equipment was lost. This was a loss of 5,000 books and all the office and audio-visual equipment in the building.

There was happy news on the night of the election. Miss Sorrier, the library trustees, staff and friends gathered to hear the returns. The bond issue passed, 2370 for and 1308 against. The issue passed by almost two-thirds majority!
Miss Isabel, ever vigilant, found new quarters. The old buildings had to be razed and the ground prepared for construction. She along with consultants and architects had to draw plans for the new facility. During all this time, Miss Sorrier and her versatile staff continued to provide their fine services at all the libraries in the region as well as at the temporary facility in Statesboro.

It would be more than three years before the library could move into the new building. The magnificent facility, costing $1.1 million, was declared to be the finest and most beautiful public building in Bulloch County. It was dedicated on Sunday, March 8, 1981. The structure contained 21,000 square feet. This was quite an improvement over the 32 year old, 3,122 square foot building it replaced.

Miss Sorrier and the library began a new era in the new building. Now there was adequate space for larger programs and for special exhibits. Local artists signed up months in advance in order to be featured on the art wall near the front door. The locked display cases in the various parts of the library continuously changed as eager patrons shared their hobbies and collections.

The genealogy collection was greatly enhanced when Mrs. Alvaretta K. Register, a local genealogist and author, gave several hundred of her research books to the library. More genealogy books brought in more family researchers. Mrs. Register initiated the local obituary file. She later willed all her collection and book royalties to the library.

Miss Sorrier encouraged Mrs. Hulda Kelly when she volunteered her services to the library. Mrs. Kelly's area of interest at first, was to abstract and transcribe the early census records of Bulloch County. Since then, she has published more than 70 volumes of cemetery, census, courthouse, and newspaper records of Bulloch and surrounding counties. She, more than any other person, has done the most to make family research easy for local family historians. Mrs. Kelly then gave the library the rights to copy and sell all her books. She designated that funds realized from sales be used for purchasing more books for the genealogy collection. She is a double benefactor to the library.

The new community room enabled the library and the Bulloch County Historical Society to sponsor numerous programs and genealogy workshops. These very successful programs would be overflowing with participants who came from far and near. The two groups also co-sponsored several publishing projects.

It was through the efforts of the library that the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program was initiated in 1979. This is a national program designed to motivate children to read by making books available to them. Kindergarten children were allowed to choose a book that interested them from a wide selection, then permitted to keep that book as their own. The books, bought with federal grants and locally donated monies, were distributed to all kindergarten children in Bulloch County schools. Each child was given a book three times during the school year, twice at the school's media center, and the last at a gala affair at the public library. The program was designed to involve parents and local citizens as readers to assist the children in selecting their books.
Later the program expanded to giving books to pre-school programs, and all kindergarten, first, and second grade and special education students in the county. Statesboro was the first public library in Georgia to initiate this very successful program. It is one of few public libraries in the nation with a multi-site program.

Miss Sorrier started the TAP program in 1983. This is an adult literacy program and stands for "Tapping Adult Potential." This program trains and certifies volunteers as reading tutors. Then it supervises the tutors as they give individual, one-on-one instruction to adults and teens who read below the fourth grade level. For several years an average of 100 people per year have successfully learned to read. Adult potential is truly tapped here!

In 1985, Lawton Brannen and other members of the Brannen family asked Miss Sorrier for permission to raise funds for a special genealogy room at the library. The family raised over $60,000. This, along with a federal grant, provided more than $100,000 to build and furnish the Brannen Genealogy Room. The special room was dedicated in September 1987.

The regional system continued to grow as the population grew. Miss Sorrier was just as frugal with funds used in the region libraries as she was with the local library. When most of the counties came into the region, they had outdated collections and poor facilities. She weeded out and updated collections, and planned and supervised major building projects in the other four counties. She was proud of her libraries. She built or added to 10 libraries. These were:

Bulloch County -2 new library buildings in Statesboro.
-1 major addition, the Brannen Room.

Emanuel County -1 new library in Swainsboro.
Candler County -1 new library in Metter.
Evans County -1 new library in Claxton.
Bryan County -2 new library buildings in Pembroke.
-1 new library in Richmond Hill.
-1 major addition in Richmond Hill.

When Miss Sorrier retired in 1992, she had been the library director for almost 50 years. She had devoted all her energy and her life to her job. One friend said, "Her lifetime theme was service." Staff members quoted her favorite motto, "Don't say no, when you can say yes." To two generations of Bulloch County citizens, her name was synonymous with libraries and books. She was a leader in state library circles, her region, her community.

She died on March 4, 1995 and was interred in the Sorrier family plot at Eastside Cemetery.

Isabel Lane Sorrier will be remembered! Her legacies are many. The dedicated service she gave to her fellow man and her community will be appreciated for generations to come. The ten beautiful library buildings she planned and built are tangible legacies. Perhaps her greatest legacies are the generations of children and adults who love to read; the enlightened adults, who were taught to read at the library, the many, who as young people, were encouraged and inspired by her to seek more education and become better citizens.
This portrait of ISABEL LANE SORRIER, by Sue Oliver, hangs in the Isabel Sorrier Community Room at the Statesboro Regional Library. It was unveiled when the room was dedicated on Sunday, April 13, 1997 at the grand opening ceremonies for the newly renovated Statesboro Regional Library.

AN OLD GEORGIA RECIPE

Milledgeville was the site of the Georgia capitol from 1807 until 1867. It is the only city in the United States established especially for the purpose. Its newspaper, The Georgia Journal, in an issue dated, July 12, 1815, published this recipe:

GINGER-WINE RECIPE

Place twenty pounds of white sugar and one-half pound of ginger in 20 gallons of water, and boil one hour and remove the scum, then add peelings from eighteen good-sized lemons. Put in a tub to cool. Add one quart of lemon juice, one gallon of your best French brandy, and a half-pint of fresh yeast. Put in a cask, stop it up good and shake well. In 10 days it will be fit to bottle. In 10 days or more it will be fit to drink.

****
BULLOCH CONFEDERATES

In this chapter three old Confederate veterans give accounts of their war experiences while serving in three companies from Bulloch County.

H. IRWIN WATERS, PRIVATE - "BULLOCH GUARDS"
COMPANY C, 47TH REGIMENT
GEORGIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

H. Irwin Waters, enlisted into Confederate service as a private in the "Bulloch Guards," Company C, 11th Battalion, Georgia Infantry which was organized on March 4, 1862. Waters continued in service when his company was disbanded and reorganized as Company C, 47th Regiment of Georgia Infantry on May 12, 1862. He served in this regiment until General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Sherman in Greensboro, North Carolina on April 26, 1865.

He drew a Confederate Pension. Pension records show he was at home on furlough at the close of the war. The following article was printed in the BULLOCH HERALD of November 15, 1911. This issue of the paper was not on microfilm and is in this writer's collection.

*SOME REMINISCENCES OF A CONFEDERATE VETERAN*

"MR. EDITOR: Will you allow a few lines from an old Confederate Veteran?"

"I joined the army on the 4th of March, 1862, feeling that it was my duty to help protect the great South, the home of the brave. We had a hard struggle, in the cold and heat and from hunger; especially we privates had a hard time. The boys of today sometimes ask me how far ahead would the officers go in time of battle? We always had to look back to the rear to see an officer; now they get all the honor and we had to salute them whenever they passed us."

"The company I was in was sent to the western army; then trouble commenced at Jackson, Miss. I was detailed to nurse the wounded Yankees and I did the best for them I could. I found a few good men among them. The Yankees captured me while nursing their wounded. They treated me very kindly and told me we were fighting the whole world. I thought they were trying to scare me. When they turned me loose I went to my commander at Chattanooga, Tenn., and then the storm of war commenced. At the battle of Lookout Mountain they captured about one thousand of our boys. It made me sad to see them wave their flag and cheer over our boys. We fell back that night to the Missionary Ridge. The next day they charged us with ten to one, and we mowed them down like cutting oats. They broke our line in the center with artillery and shot us ......... (the next line is illegible) ......... was soon so smoky we could not see anyone and it didn't seem..."
possible that anyone could escape being hit. Our army fell back to Tunnel Hill and the Yankees went back to Chattanooga. We went into winter quarters at Dalton, Ga., and stayed there from November until May. Then it was a continual fight and skirmish back to Atlanta. Our regiment was sent from there to Charleston, S. C., to fight the negroes, who were about to take Charleston. We got them located and charged them at night and captured about everything they had. We surely had plenty of bedding and rations. We put the negroes on the gunboats. There were very few white men there, and the negroes would not let us get very near before they would throw down everything and run."

"We staid around Charleston until the Sherman army got there, then we had to fall back. It then was a continual fight and fall back till the surrender. When we would capture a bunch of them and ask them where they were from some would be from the United States and others from Canada, Ireland and Germany. We did not capture many negroes but I went over one battlefield where the woods were full of dead blacks; about every tenth one was a white man."

"When I remember that the thirteen southern states held the white men of the north and the negroes of the north and south and all they could get from other nations at bay for four years and our mothers and sisters at home plowing, trying to make bread for us, I think that every woman who plowed ought to draw a pension and have an easy time in her old age. We need not complain of hard times now. When we got out of the war Sherman's raiders had stripped every ........(about 8 lines are missing)....... Union soldiers. There are negroes drawing pensions all over the southland to-day -- twelve dollars per month -- but we Confederate veterans came home and went to work and have lived happily and left an example for our children to follow."

"I would be glad if all the Confederates would join the corn club for next year. All the pension we need is love, kindness and justice.

H. I. WATERS."

*****

ZACHARY TAYLOR DELOACH, CORPORAL
"BULLOCH TROOP"
COMPANY E, 5TH GEORGIA CAVALRY REGIMENT

Zachary Taylor DeLoach wrote the following narrative on four pages that were torn from an old store ledger. Today the old papers are in tatters and some of the pieces from the pages are missing. The narrative is written in pencil on the same pages where the old store accounts had been kept with an ink pen. The pages show the names of the customers and the cost of the items they charged. Most accounts were dated, November and December, 1912.

Mr. DeLoach owned and operated a grist and rice mill on upper Lotts Creek near Portal. It was known as DeLoach's Mill Pond. Today this large pond is called Lake Collins.
Account pages were for:
Jim Humphrey; Ernest Alderman; M. A. Newton; O. Woods; and (missing first name) Owens (Colored).

Items charged were:
Salt - 60 cents; Flour - 40 cents and 90 cents; and vinager (sic) - 20 cents.

This document was owned by Mrs. Jo Brannen (Mrs. Larry) Chester, DeLoach's great granddaughter. Mrs. Chester is the daughter of Arleen Zetterower and Lloyd Austin Brannen and is the granddaughter of Mary Magdeline "Sudie" DeLoach and Joseph Joshua Zetterower. Mrs. "Sudie" DeLoach Zetterower was Taylor DeLoach's daughter.

There is little or no punctuation in the original document. This transcription has been "punctuated and filled-in" by comparing it to a similar account printed in The History and Genealogy of the DeLoach Families-1630-1980; by Judge Harry R. DeLoach; pages 306-309.

In 1995 the original document and a copy of this transcript was placed in Special Collections at the Henderson Library, G.S.U. by Smith C. Banks.

*WAR RECORD OF Z. T. DELOACH*

"In the fall of 62 (1862) I joined the State Troops and my father was elected Captain and George P. Harrison, Colonel. We were sent to No. 7 on the then Gulf Railroad, now Seaboard, and drilled there for about three months when I was taken down with rheumatism and finally got a discharge from war service, came home and stayed three months. I got so anxious about the war I wanted to go back and be with the boys, as I was too young to care anything about the girls, not near as much as I have since then."

"So I went to the cavalry and got in by begging a little and swearing I would not try to get out on account of my age and broken arm. They were stationed at the isle of Hope. We drilled there for 3 months then were sent to Charleston, S. C., to picket Sullivan's Island, and other places. (We) stayed there six or eight months --then was sent to Cedar Creek, Fla., near Jacksonville, stayed there a very short time and saw a little of what war was. (We) had one little skirmish while there and then were sent to the front. There it was war all the time, retreating and fighting. When we got to the Chattahoochee River, there I was chosen with others, about twenty in number, to hold the blue jackets back until our folks could cross the river and destroy the crossing. We boys who did get out --swam the river about night. So we soon found our command and had a good night's rest. But while we were resting, the Yankees were planting artillery on the other side of the river and got us well located. About daybreak they put in on us and shelled us out and killed Marion Miller. I think he was the first man our Company lost--killed."
"We kept up our retreat until we got near Atlanta. There about three hundred of our regiment were detailed and ordered to report to General Roberson. He took us in behind the Yankee lines to tear up (the) railroads and bridges and cut off all communication that we could and I tell you, the Yankees sure kept us moving. Six days and nights we never took the saddles off our horses. We only had about 40 minutes every morning to pull green corn to feed the horses on (and) toast ourselves enough for that day. No other rations except sometimes the farmers would give us what rations they had cooked. We had several hard fights on the road and lost a lot of our men."

"At Salt Lake, Va., I was left behind the Yankee lines with John Neal and Leon Neal of Thomasville, David Glisson of Tattnall County, and Mike Parrish of near Metter, Georgia. The last were killed, but we finally got back, a part of us, in our own lines. Then the boys began to get furloughs, and by the time the command got to Waynesboro, Burke County, (Georgia), all had been home except J. W. Mikell, James Rimes and myself. They quit giving furloughs so we decided to come (home) anyway. We forged our own papers and got through all right and were at home when the Yankees past (passed) our homes."

"The next day after they past (sic), brother Joshua and myself took a notion to go across Black Creek where they had past (sic) --we thought. But when we got over to the other side we met the old man John Goodman and talked to him a while. Then we went down to Mal Hagans to see what they had done and while we were talking to them, we looked back up the land and saw at least forty men coming down the road in a big hurry. They had horses, mules, rations and everything, which they had taken from people on the route, making back to camp. So they had us penned. I thought I didn't see any way to get out. So we went meeting them and rode up in about ten steps of each other. I told the head one to surrender. They said they had plenty of men behind. I told them we did too. So while we were talking he pulled his pistol and I tried to shoot him but my gun wouldn't fire. And about that time they commenced shooting --the whole business. So Joshua said if your gun won't shoot, we better leave, and (he) started off. I turned to go, too. As I turned, they hit my horse in the head; also the side. He (the horse) went but a short distance before he fell dead. But we turned them back and sent them out of their way about six miles. I took the saddle off the horse and footed it in. After the army past (passed) --about a week --I started around their army to our own and found them at Green Pond, South Carolina."
chance we got, we would form a line and fight until they commenced flanking us, which they could very well afford to do, as they had plenty of men to entertain us in front and an army on each side to go around us. Then, of course, we had to resume our march. So when we got into North Carolina, Wade Hampton, the Senior Cavalry General, bunched up what cavalry he could and put out to surprise the Yankees while in camp. We rode all night and swam two rivers and succeeded in reaching their army about day break.

"They were surrounded by branches but we found a trail to cross and went across two in abreast. One went up the branch and the other down. Pretty soon, we closed in on them, took some of them out of bed and some others that were up. But about the time we thought we had things going our way, the infantry which was camping close by put in on us and ran us out in that fight. They shot my mule down. I ran to get me a Yankee horse. Before I could unhitch it, they shot that, and I heeled it from there to the branch, but couldn't get a ride and had to get out to one side and let all pass by, Yanks, too. That night we got to an old man's house by the name of McLean. He treated us mighty nice, fed us on Johnnie Cakes, the first I ever saw. They had a piece of board -- they stood it up on its edge before the fire. When it got hot they put the doe (dough) on it and baked it. I thought it was real good after fasting all day. He give us a good bed to sleep on -- that, we were not used to. After breakfast, he give us direction to Johnson's Ferry above Fayetteville, (North Carolina). As the bridge there was burnt, he also gave us a nigh cut. We went it but didn't get far before the Yankees got there and he put them right on our track and of course, took us. (We were) in their hotel at Fayetteville for the night. Next morning their General sent for us. We were carried up before him and he asked us a few questions and told the guards (guards) to take us out."

"I understood someone had told them our men had stripped their men of clothing and I think they must have. Pretty soon after we got back to their camp, orders came to take our shoes, hats, coats off and burn them. So that was done and a little later we were on the march and it sleeting. As I had not walked much in a long time my feet were soon cold bit (frostbitten). We marched right in the road behind all those horse and wagons in mud half-leg deep. We marched 3 days that way before we got to a R.R. (railroad). There they shipped us to the coast, Newborn, N. C., I think. The next day they loaded us for prison -- Hart's Island -- about fifty or sixty miles above New York City. There they fed us on six soda crackers and a very small piece of meat a day. I didn't get hungry but once while there and stayed so until we were paroled (paroled). Then they took us to New York City and gave us a square meal, and that lasted me until I got home. Otherwise they treated us as well as we could expect. My daily (daily) occupation while there was killing body lice or gards (guards?) -- whatever you wish to call them. My time in prison was from March 12th to June 12th, 1865. I had a tough time getting home. My dinner in New York made me sick. As long as I could ride, I did very well, but walking got away with me. When we landed on the Island the Yankee soldiers gave me a pair of shoes and I sold part of my crackers and bought a coat. I got home okay and haven't grumbled about rations since."

*****
JOHN T. BRANNEN, PRIVATE
"MILLER RANGERS"
COMPANY B, 7TH GEORGIA CAVALRY REGIMENT

The following record was in the possession of Mrs. Jo Brannen Chester, a great granddaughter of John T. Brannen. It is thought to have been written by Mrs. Peter Hayden (Nellie Brannen), a daughter of W. Wylie Brannen, and granddaughter of John T. Brannen. Mrs. Hayden loved family history and was proud of her Brannen heritage. She died a number of years ago at the home of her nephew, W. W. "Dub" Brannen of Statesboro. She was in her late 90's.

Bulloch Countians are indebted to John T. Brannen because he sent a roster of Miller Rangers to the BULLOCH TIME, published on June 10, 1897.

* * *

RECORD OF JOHN T. BRANNEN'S SERVICE IN
WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

4

"John T. Brannen of Bulloch County, Georgia born March 27 (29), 1832; died (March 1), 1912. Louvenia (Loavenia) Lee of Bulloch County, Georgia born October 5, 1835; died April 12, 1915."

"At the beginning of the war, he enlisted at Statesboro in the 2nd Georgia Battalion, and was sent to Charleston, S. C. While there, this Georgia Cavalry Battalion was broken up and other companies formed. He was put in the 5th Regiment and then later was put in the 7th Georgia Cavalry Regiment known as the Miller Rangers. In the cavalry he furnished his own horse."

"He was sent to Virginia; served in McAllister's Regiment; was in the Battle of Gettysburg. He was also in the Battle of Trevillion Station in July 1863. (Note by Smith C. Banks - This date should be June 11, 1864.) McAllister was killed, nearly all the entire battalion also and those who escaped death, were taken prisoner, John T. Brannen, included. They were sent to Baltimore, Maryland, and put on a boat (steamer), and held in the harbor for a period. Grandfather resented the treatment the prisoners were subjected to and as punishment was first in a dungeon -in the "hold" - and was confined in damp darkness until they were sent to Elmira Prison in New York State. During his confinement in the ship- in Baltimore, he contracted asthma and he coughed as long as he lived, and I think everytime he coughed, he cussed the Damned Yankees and I do everytime I think of Damned Yankees."

"Well, it was torture for the prisoners in Elmira! He had one blanket to lie on and one to cover with in that freezing winter (1865) and no food and nothing else but misery!"

"When they were freed they were told to get out. They walked back a long part of the way."

"I do not know their method of communication, but Grandmother and an old man named Mr. Bell went to meet him. Mr. Bell was the stepfather of Uncle George Lee's wife. Uncle George was our grandmother's brother. Mr. Bell went with
Grandmother to meet Grandfather and Mrs. Bell stayed at Grandmother's to take care of the children, etc."

"It was a hazardous trip. Grandmother (was) a good looking woman - not yet 30 years of age. They met stragglers en route who tried to take their wagon, and the driver had to become very abusive in order to protect themselves."

"Some place in North Carolina, Grandfather became so ill on his long walk, he had to stop. He was passing a house by the road and asked if he could rest there for a while. He was so ill they took him in and nursed him for days - or weeks until he was able to continue his journey. The people where he stopped were very poor - her husband killed in service, just she and children and some colored people, all exhausted and scarcely any food."

"He said they were very kind to him. Colored man and his family who lived on the woman's place, helped her to take care of Grandfather until he was able to go on his way."

"He got to Augusta to hospital and that was where Grandmother found him. They were to have met him someplace else, but missed him. Grandfather was deafened (partially) by the explosion of a nearby minnie ball. He had malnutrition, to a great extent - lost all his teeth and did not like dentures. Could not eat with them in place. When Grandmother remonstrated with him for removing them while eating, he said, "They are just like a cockle bur in my mouth."

"John T. Brannen was a man of great integrity. If he liked you,

you were fortunate. He called a spade a spade. I heard him say once, (that) he abhorred mealy mouth people. He was a good neighbor, and much discussed."
MODERN HISTORY

The subject of this article, Joe Louis Reliford, visited Statesboro in the early 1990's. He stopped at the Statesboro Regional Library and gave them an autographed miniature baseball bat and autographed a copy of his picture, shown below. Few Bulloch County citizens know that baseball history was been made at old Pilot's Field.

SPORTS HISTORY MADE IN STATESBORO

Sports history was made in Statesboro, Georgia on the night of July 19, 1952.

This incident has been listed in the Guinness Book of Records and in Ripley's Believe It or Not. It has been placed, officially, in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York.

The local baseball field was located on U.S. 301, north of town. Its location was on property that had been used during World War II for an small airbase. After the war those same runways became the Statesboro Airport. The team was named "The Statesboro Pilots" because of the location of the field. The Pilots belonged to the Class D Georgia State League.

Saturday, July 19, was a special night at Pilot's Field. It was special because it had been designated "Statesboro Elks Club Night." The Elks were promoting the game and had been successful in bringing a large crowd of fans out to the game. The Fitzgerald Pioneers, the visiting team, had travelled almost 100 miles. The night was hot, the fans were hot and the Pilots were hot! The Pilots were running away with the game. At the start of the eighth inning, Statesboro was leading 13-0.

The fans began to yell, "Send in the batboy! Send in the batboy! Let's see if he can hit!" Finally, after checking with the umpire, that's exactly what the Pioneer's manager did. He told 12 year old, Joe Louis Reliford, the Fitzgerald team's batboy to grab a bat. They said that the crowd was delighted and went wild with applause. Young Joe stepped up to the plate. They said that Curtis White, the Pilots' pitcher, just shook his head when he saw the batter. White pitched the ball, Joe hit a sharp grounder to third and was thrown out at first.

Statesboro won the game 13-0. They said that the Fitzgerald Pioneers went home "quietly" that night.

The bit of levity that night produced a big controversy. The Georgia State League took dim views of all these shenanigans. They fired the umpire who granted permission for Joe to play. They fined the Fitzgerald's team and suspended him too.
Unbeknown to the participants, baseball history was made that night at Pilot's Field in Statesboro. The little batboy, Joe Louis Reliford, became known as the youngest professional player in baseball history. Not only that, he is also known as the first black player in the Georgia State League. It was Joe, the 12 year old black batboy for the Fitzgerald Pioneers baseball team.

(More details can be found in Strange But True Baseball Stories by Furman Bisher; Sports Illustrated, July 2, 1990.)

A WEE BIT OF BULLOCH HUMOR

My daddy, Osborne C. Banks, had a unique sense of humor. He would tell funny stories. As a teenager I thought they were a bit old-fashioned and corny. Now that I am older, I have grown to appreciate them and have enjoyed remembering some of them. Here is one of those stories. The names of the characters in the story are fictitious.

HIGHS AND LOWS

It was 1945. Junior Jones was home on leave from the army. His mama's Aunt Janie lived in the Sinkhole district and had invited his family to the old family church for Sunday meeting. An invitation to church with Aunt Janie always meant an invitation to dinner. Sunday dinner at Aunt Janie's and Uncle Lonnie's house was always an occasion.

After dinner, as always, the ladies went to the kitchen. They were busy, putting away the food, washing dishes and having an enjoyable time catching up on the news and gossip of the county. The men went out toward the barn and gathered in the shade of the big Chinaberry tree. The three men "hunkered-down" with their own brand of talk.

The elder Jones said to Junior, "Junior, tell your Uncle Lonnie about them underground trains in the subways:"

JOE LOUIS RELIFORD, age 12 years, the youngest professional baseball player in baseball history and the first black player in the Georgia State League.

*****
Junior had been in special training in the north and had spent a weekend leave in New York City. He had ridden the subway system and had been fascinated. When he came home he had been able to "hop-a-flight" to Charleston. This was his first airplane ride.

Junior was glad to tell his Uncle about all these new-fangled ways to travel.

When Junior finished, the old man was silent for a while, then he said, "Waal son, I reckon I ain't never goin' to try them thangs. I'm plumb satisfied to stay right chere. 'Tell you the truth, son, fer me --I don't want to get no deeper 'an diggin' tater an' no higher 'an pullin' fodder!"

'You know? Uncle Loanie never did -- not in this life!

*****