Agriculture, Smith Banks' Collection

December 29, 2018
Agriculture: Smith Callaway Banks Collection Contents Listing

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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 upbuilding of the county. The one and two horse farmer who has cultivated 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 lay 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 over 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 the family, has better health, and more real time than they could possibly have in a city. The small farmer raises thousands of produce, and has 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.

The Bulloch Oil Mill Ginnery is equipped with the best machinery that money could buy. Carry your cotton to them if you want it ginned quick.

L. H. GOODWIN,
Practical Painter &
Paper Hanger,
Sign Writer, Decorator and Frainer
WHY THE BULLOCH COUNTY FARMER PROSPERED

Transcribed by Smith C. Banks - 1997

(The following articles were written by J. R. Miller, editor of the Statesboro News.)

THE SMALL FARMER

(From the Fair Edition of the Statesboro News, dated, October 16, 1903. This special edition was distributed to visitors of the Bulloch County’s agricultural exhibits at the Georgia State Fair. It consisted of about 25 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.)

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Smith Callaway Banks Collection
April 7, 1927

BLAND PRESENTS EDITOR
WITH PINEAPPLE PEARS

Dan E. Bland, horticulturist of note, presented the editor of the Times Saturday with some choice specimens of pineapple pears grown on his plantation near the Georgia Normal School. These were from a tree given him several years ago which came from Liberty county. The chief merit of the variety is that they are not susceptible to blight. The fruit is rather novel in that it has a distinct pineapple odor which is highly pleasing. However, the fruit is entirely devoid of pineapple taste and is not unlike any other common variety for cooking purposes. Mr. Bland will have some samples on display at the county fair and those who are interested may see them in advance at his home.

CUT COTTON-LAND, EXPERT ADVISES

D. W. Watkins of Clemson College Tells Farmers Need of Reduction. ALTER TENANT SYSTEM

There should be a decrease in the total cotton acreage to restore a balance to our farming system, according to D. W. Watkins, assistant extension director, Clemson college, S. C., who discussed the "Cutting of the Cotton Acreage" in the Radio Short Course over WSB, Atlanta. This two-weeks' course for farmers of the southeast was conducted by the Searles-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation in co-operation with the Soil Improvement Committee of the National Fertilizer Association.

"Not only should there be a decrease in 1927, but in future years," said Mr. Watkins, "but when it comes to saying who is to do the reducing we find there are several different classes and conditions of farmers with which to deal. There are the farmers, all too few, who own their land, farm intelligently and while they are set back in years like 1926, manage to keep their heads above water and continue their independent, self-supporting way. This class already produces 80 to 90 per cent of their living on the farm. They do much of their own work and utilize labor-saving machinery. They will not have to reduce as much as others.

"It is the duty of the landowners and others responsible for financing agriculture to bring about a different tenant system. Tenants should be led and required to give more attention to producing a living for themselves and to soil and farm improvement. This will automatically reduce their cotton acreage and will be beneficial to themselves and landowners.

"The light is at last beginning to dawn on all of us in the Southeast that we must be more self-contained and less dependent on one source of income. The southern farmer must learn to have his fields covered with a green crop every winter. Our soils, open winter, permit of the loss of more soil fertility than is removed by crops. Northern soils are frozen and not subject to this loss. All these things have a direct bearing on the acreage in cotton in the Southeast. The grower who follows these policies can continue to grow cotton, and after providing for a self-sustaining system of diversification, may in four or five years produce cotton at a profit.

"The year 1927 is not a year to gamble on cotton production, but for the grower who uses the best seed and the best methods and the best side lines and who reduces acreage and produces, a year of economic advantage will result."
AN OPEN LETTER FROM
CITY DAIRY COMPANY

Editor Bulloch Times,

Dear Sir: Will you please allow us space in your paper to explain to the people of your city, the facts about the City Dairy situation now existing in Statesboro?

It has recently been rumored around town that Mr. George T. Beasley had carried his contract out with us we would have raised the price of milk in Statesboro. Such a statement is absolutely untrue; we have never thought of raising the price of milk. The truth is, this statement was circulated for the purpose of trying to justify Mr. Beasley in deliberately breaking his contract with us.

Here are the facts with reference to the whole situation: During July and August we were considering establishing a milk plant in some town as near Dublin as possible on account of our plant there and the home office there. We considered Statesboro a good town, for several reasons, for a milk plant. We took the matter up with the dairymen who were furnishing milk in the town, Mr. Akins also Mr. Geo. T. Beasley. On August 29th we made a trade with them for their milk to us for a term of five years. Based on this contract we leased a building for five years from Mr. W. E. McDougald of your city, on West Main street. We also purchased the necessary machinery for the milk plant so that we would be in a position to pasteurize and handle all the milk that was being delivered to customers of Mr. Akins and Mr. Beasley. This made it possible for us to put in a pasteurizing plant in your city, giving us volume enough to start a plant with to justify the expenditure necessary to open up a plant here. We carried our part of this contract out in establishing the plant here ready to receive the milk on the day set out in our contract, which was October 1st. On that date Mr. Akins delivered his milk to us as per his contract, but Mr. Beasley failed to deliver his milk as per his contract and has not yet delivered one single gallon to us on his contract. Instead of fulfilling his contract with us, he has made a trade selling his cows to his wife, Mrs. Geo. T. Beasley, for the sole purpose of evading his contract with us. Mrs. Beasley is now delivering the milk from the Beasley dairy to the customers of Mr. Beasley in his stead. This is a very great disappointment to us, as we never would have entertained a thought of coming to Statesboro with a pasteurizing plant had it not been for the contract made with the dairymen here to sell us their milk and cooperate with us in making it a success. We have gone so far that there is nothing left for us to do but run the plant as best we can under such disappointing circumstances. We, therefore, ask your sincere consideration of this matter. We are anxious to succeed, since we have gone to a big expense to give your people the best in everything in the dairy line, including pure pasteurized milk, which we term a blessing to any town where established. If you good people of Statesboro will cooperate with us and give us your milk business that we expected when we agreed to come here, we can and will succeed in the dairy business here and prove a blessing; not only to your city, but also to your entire county, as we will be in a position to handle all sour cream produced by your farmers.

Yours truly,

CITY DAIRY COMPANY,

By M. C. Dominy, Mgr.

P.S.—For your consideration we are herewith publishing exact copy of contract signed by Mr. Beasley to us, and recorded in the office of clerk of superior court in book 86, page 310.
COTTON OUTLOOK FOR YEAR 1928

OVERPRODUCTION SHOULD BE GUARDED AGAINST.

Holding Down Acreage and Pushing Up Per Acre Yields Considered Safer Than Increased Acreage for 1928.

Atlanta - The outlook for cotton in 1928 is bright and money can be made by the cotton grower. If overproduction does not occur, according to leading southern agriculturists and bankers who recently broadcasted over radio from Atlanta their messages on the subject of how to make more money from farming in 1928. These leaders look at the fact that the great cotton surplus made in 1926 dwindled away in 1927 under heavy consumption. Cotton acreage in this country fell 14.7% and production fell 28.9% in 1927 compared to 1926. World production decreased 20% for the same period.

Not only did this marked reduction in cotton production brighten the outlook for the cotton grower, but there has been unprecedented world consumption of American cotton. The year 1927 witnessed the largest consumption of American cotton in the history of the world.

DANGER TO BE AVOIDED.

But these leaders sounded a warning. There is danger that the bright outlook may mislead growers to put in too large an acreage and to produce another 1926 crop with its enormous surplus and its ruinously low prices.

The policy advocated by these speakers is to hold down the cotton acreage, and practice the economy of high acre yields through good seed, liberal fertilization and thorough cultivation. Let the surplus acres be given to good land and feed crops to provide for the needs of the farm, and, wherever possible, to increase the farm income through more cash crops and livestock.

LOW COST COTTON.

To grow cotton so that each pound will cost the least and sell for the greatest profit, speaker after speaker emphasized the necessity of high acre yields. It was brought out in farm surveys that were reported that cheapest cotton and greatest profits were made where the cost money was spent for fertilizers and good seed. High yields per acre made large profits and low yields per acre made low profits or no profits.

The high cost of farm labor was also advanced as a reason for increasing the acre yields, to the end that larger returns from labor may be obtained. Aside from the facts presented facts these southern leaders, referred to, new facts supporting their claim are being provided by the winners in the cotton growing contests of 1927.

MADE COTTON AT 4.9 CENTS PER POUND.

In the 5-acre cotton growers' contest in South Carolina in 1927, J. H. Hendrix, of Pickens County, made the highest yield, which was 1,184 pounds of lint per acre. Clemson College figured up the costs that can be properly charged and found that the cotton had been produced at only 4.9 per pound. If he had made only a bale instead of two bales per acre, his cost per pound would have been near 8 cents, and if the yield had been still smaller the cost per pound would have been still higher.

What did Mr. Hendrix do to get so large yield at so low cost per pound of cotton?

He had grown rye as a winter cover crop, turned it under early and applied burnyard manure. Then, after planting a good seed bed, he applied 631 pounds of 12-4-4 fertilizer per acre. An excellent stand was obtained, and, after chopping, he made a side dressing of 80 pounds of sulphate of ammonia per acre. He cultivated thoroughly.

It should be said in this connection that while Mr. Hendrix had the largest yield, he was awarded second prize under the rules of the contest, by being penalized 10% for growing a variety of cotton that produced 7/8 inch staple, one inch staple being the length desired in the contest.

The outstanding fact about Mr. Hendrix's success is the low cost which each pound of cotton cost him, a record made possible by good soil improvement practices and moderate uses of high grade fertilizers and top-dressing.

BOYS DEMONSTRATE HOW TO MAKE CHEAP COTTON.

In the great record made by Paulding County, Georgia, where 21 boys produced over 300 pounds of lint per acre and 6 boys over two bales per acre, the average cost per pound of growing, harvesting and ginning the cotton was around 7 cents.

Taking the yields of the six boys who made over two bales per acre, the cost of producing their cotton averaged 6.1 cents per pound, according to W. H. Garner, the County Agent. The average net profit per acre was $119.60.

These boys did not pour down fertilizers, as is sometimes the case in crop contests, but they picked out good land, put on manure and made a fine seed bed. They used good seed, applied from 600 to 900 pounds of fertilizer per acre for the better varieties of the 2-3-3. They sowed corn 15-5-5 grade at time of planting, and all of them side-dressed their cotton with 100 pounds of sulphate of ammonia per acre.

A noticeable fact about these and other prize winning yields is that the growing crops received side dressings of allulgenous fertilizers in addition to the regular application of fertilizer at planting time.
GLOOMY OUTLOOK FOR
THE COTTON FARMER

REPEATED SETBACKS WILL REDUCE CRCP LOCALLY TO NOT EXCEEDING TWO-THIRDS.

If Bulloch county produces two-third of a cotton crop as compared even with last year, it will be a surprise.

It will be recalled that the crop of 1926 was approximately 28,000 bales, and the crop of 1927 was in the neighborhood of 19,000.

If Bulloch county farmers had reason to believe they will make 19 bales this year, they would be happy indeed.

It is a mild expression to say that the prospect is unpromising. It is much worse than that—it is gloomy.

Taken separately, either rain or cold is a big handicap for cotton farmers at planting time; but taken together, these conditions are disastrous. And Bulloch county has had both to contend with this spring, in common, of course, with the rest of South Georgia.

Two weeks late in getting their fertilizer into the ground, the farmers still had hopes that spring was about to open and that they could count on a late crop. Then came more rain, and then frost two weeks ago. Some replanted after that, realizing, however, that the lateness of the season left little hope. Fertilizer had already been put into the ground and some effort must be made to utilize it, so a late crop was better than no crop at all.

And then came the gale of the present week, not quite freezing, but soaking the earth and chilling the cotton and burying much of it. The outcome was that many farmers have been forced to turn back. It is too late to replant cotton. Some of them are planting corn; other peanuts or other food crops. Those with whom one talks, will tell you that from a half to two-thirds of a stand is about the average throughout the county.

But Bulloch farmers are not quitters—they are determined to make the best of a gloomy situation and Bulloch county is going to have a big tobacco crop, and plenty of corn.
PICKLE COMPANY PURCHASES SITE

Have Acquired Property On Dover Road at City Limit Already Allocated.

It is announced by Fred E. Gerrall, manager of the Stateboro Pickle Company that the Perfect Pickle Company of Long Island City, N. Y., has purchased from Lannie F. Simmons and Ike Brunsun the building on the Dover road formerly used as a livestock barn. The purchase of this property assures stateboro of a permanent industry that will afford farmers of Bulloch and surrounding counties a market for another crop which can be sold on contract at guaranteed prices for all cabbages produced.

When informed of the purchase, County Agent, B. C. Weave said, "This is good news. Under normal weather conditions cabbages will be more than plentiful and pay growers well for their time and effort in producing them. This is being shown early during the past winter season. Farmers have experienced very unusual and adverse weather for the crop. Pricer paid for cabbages has dropped about 20 cents per barrel, while possibly not always as high as for the good green stuff in early in the season, under normal conditions we should expect a good crop for the grower because the pickle manufacturer takes the entire crop. In making a purchase at the specified prices, the price in the green market trade usually fluctuates widely over a period of time.Prices have gone up for the earlier part of this year and rapidly declining prices as the season progressed have made the margin of profit for this year. For this reason, it is no longer a good idea to make the most desirable labor for picking, as they can be employed in other work or at the expense of marketing. Pricer paid for the crop by pickle manufacturers should be paid by any of our farmers who have suitable labor for picking the crop shouldfind an acre or so of cabbages suitable for the hair for which they can make the most desirable labor for picking, as they can be employed in other work or at the expense of marketing. Pricer paid for the crop by pickle manufacturers should be paid by any of our farmers who have suitable labor for picking the crop shouldfind an acre or so of cabbages suitable for the hair for which they can make the most desirable labor for picking, as they can be employed in other work or at the expense of marketing.

Exact232thirty-months

Exactly twenty-three months since the company was formed, a new and successful venture has been established and is now in operation. The company, known as the "Bulloch Cabbage Company," has purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of Stateboro and is now engaged in producing cabbages for the market. The company has been well received, and the farmers of the vicinity are highly pleased with the results obtained.

One Other New Face In Official Family

In writing last week about the new faces to be seen in the official family, we noted the appointment of a new county district attorney. This week we have another new face to introduce, the appointment of a new county solicitor. B. H. Ramsey has been appointed solicitor of the county court, and we congratulate him on his appointment and wish him success in his new position.

VETERANS' FUND MOVING UPWARD

Substantial Amount Added Since Statement Published In Local Paper Last Week

C. B. McAllister, chairman of the finance committee, reports that the fund has increased since the last statement was made. This increase is due to the efforts of the committee and the support of the community. The committee is making progress in its efforts to raise funds for the veterans of the Stateboro area. The committee is grateful for the support it has received and is confident of reaching its goal.

HOLIDAY GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Elia Tyson had as guests several of their friends during the holidays. They entertained lavishly and enjoyed the company of their guests. The snow fell heavily during the holidays, but this did not deter the guests from enjoying themselves. The atmosphere was festive and merry, and the guests had a wonderful time.

GAME DIRECTOR TALKS TO FARMERS

In High Authority On The

The game director, who is in high authority on the subject, gave a talk to the farmers on the proper way to handle the game. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance between the supply and demand of the game. He also discussed the methods of controlling the game population and ensuring its sustainability.

OTHER NEWS

County P.-T.A. Council Meets at Warnock

On Saturday, January 12th, at 10 o'clock, the Bulloch county P.-T.A. council will meet at the Warnock P.-T.A. hall. The local P.-T.A. will present a very interesting program and will serve dinner following the business session. The program will include a variety of activities to engage the attention of the audience. Everyone is urged to attend and enjoy the festivities.

READER'Sシリ

Dear Editor:

I think it is important to raise the issue of the lack of transportation in our community. The current transportation system is not adequate to meet the needs of the community. The roads are poorly maintained, and the public transportation system is insufficient to meet the demand.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

HOW LONG BEARD HAS GUS HANDED

Operated Fifty Years On People Of Bulloch County; Total Number Men 248,000

It's right interesting to contemplate the amount of work a man can trim away of given steady employment and operating tools through a period of fifty years, you will admit. Consider the case of Gus Floyd walking on the streets, spy a cricket, cheerful as in the days old Kris Kringle, and go about the churches and temples. Asked about his age, Gus told us that he was of a certain age, but he was seventy and not many.

He didn't go into any further particulars, but we recalled that we first saw Gus Floyd in the summer of 1894, when he was a boy in the employ of the lawyer who had the store at the corner of Main and Market streets. Gus had been bartering and dealing in real estate, and he had kept the book for the estate. We expected him to stay here with expectation of staying only till he could be back in the employment of the lawyer, who had been raising a family, and was a prominent and responsible citizen.

From all the data we have here, it seems that Gus Floyd has been in the neighborhood for forty years, and he has been in charge of the property. He has been a steady and industrious man, and he has been a useful member of the community.

As we walked away the other evening, we could see that Gus Floyd was getting on in years, and he was looking rather tired. We felt sorry for him, and we hope he will get some rest and enjoy the fruits of his labor.
Master Farmers of past years honor '61 Master Farm Family

It couldn't have happened anywhere else in the United States. But it did happen in Bulloch County — members of ten farm families, all of Bulloch County, cited as Master Farm Families, gathered in one place to honor the newest family added to this most distinguished group. There is no other county in the nation with as many Master Farm Families.

On Tuesday night, October 31, Members of Bulloch County's Master Farm Families met at Mrs. Bryant's Kitchen to honor Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nessmith and their family upon their selection as a Master Farm Family, one of the highest distinctions to be achieved by a farm family. The citation was awarded Mr. and Mrs. Nesssmith and their two sons, Paul Jr. and Billy, at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on Friday, October 20.

The officers and directors of the Bulloch County Bank were hosts at the meeting last week to honor the most recent addition to this distinguished farm group.

The Master Farm Families and members of their families at the meeting to honor Mr. and Mrs. Nesssmith, the newest family to join them, were Mr. W. H. Smith Sr., Master Farm Family selection in 1927; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Gay, 1936; Mrs. J. H. Brannen and her daughter, Mrs. Howell DeLoach, 1939; W. C. Hodges Jr., representing his family, W. C. Hodges Sr., 1941; Mr. and Mrs. Delmas Rushing Sr., 1947; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bitch, 1950; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Smith Jr., 1954; Mr. and Mrs. J. Lehman Dekle, 1958, and Mr. and Mrs. Otis Holloway, who were named by the American Legion.

Mr. W. G. Cobb Sr., president of the Bulloch County Bank, acted as informal master of ceremonies.

Mr. Byron Dyer, former county agent of Bulloch County, now with the Extension Service in Athens, commended Bulloch County upon its distinction in having the greatest number of Master Farm Families in the nation.

Officers and members of the board of directors and their wives present were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Aldred Jr., Mr. Cliff Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. Leodle Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Thad J. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Robbins Jr. Those unable to be present were Mr. George M. Johnston, Mr. Fred T. Lanier and Mr. Harry Smith. Mr. J. Brantley Johnson, vice president and cashier, and Mrs. Johnson; Mr. Tom Howard, assistant cashier, and Mrs. Howard.

Also present were Mrs. Byron Dyer, Mrs. W. G. Cobb Sr., Robert Adams, Miss Irene Groover, Mr. Roy Powell, county agent, and Mrs. Powell, Mr. Jones Peebles, assistant county agent, and Mrs. Peebles, Mrs. W. E. Gear, home demonstration agent; Miss Judith Webb, assistant agent; Mrs. Percy Rimes, county agent's office secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Malone and Miss Sue Stanford and Mr. J. C. Richardson, all of the Extension Service.

Mr. Nesssmith is a member of the Georgia Ton-Per-Acre Peanut Club, the Georgia 100 Bushels of Corn Club, the Georgia 1,000 Bushels of Corn Club, Georgia's Bale And One Half Cotton Club. He holds the Georgia Grazing System and Feed Production Contest Award. He is a member of and secretary and treasurer of the Ogeechee River Soil Conservation District, a member of the old Agricultural Commodities Authority, and a member of the Agricultural Commodities Authority Com-
Bland remembers 'Turpentine Days'
A HISTORY OF DAIRYING IN AND AROUND SAVANNAH

AND COASTAL GEORGIA

Ruth S. Jensen

Researched & written for Larry Babits' Historical Archaeology class at Armstrong 1983

Smith Callaway Banks Collection
By Stacey Wysong
Special to the Herald

Farming has been in John Ed Brannen's family for as far back as he can remember, and probably even farther. His family has always lived in the same area of Register, and he and his wife, Buford, have made the most out of their 43 years of farm life together.

Brannen grows a diversified crop of peanuts, corn, cotton and small grain. He also raises mixed breed beef cattle in pastures that were once part of his grandfather's turpentine business.

After graduating from the School of Agriculture at Clemson University in 1950 with a degree in animal husbandry, Brannen sold fertilizer on the side while he farmed. At this time he was also busy putting in a lot of pasture by clearing and developing his grandfather's land.

The Brannens raised hogs for a number of years, but Brannen said, "the price in the last four or five years has been real bad. The feed costs are high and labor is extensive."

Because of this, Brannen decided to give up raising hogs. "We're trying to do a better job with fewer things instead of spreading ourselves too thin," Buford Brannen said.

Buford Brannen was raised in Loris, South Carolina. She said she didn't know much about farming, although her mother's family were farmers.

"I didn't know much about it, but I always said I never wanted to marry a farmer," she said. "I changed my mind and found it was a wonderful life, and I think it's the greatest place to raise children."

The Brannens have three children, John Emory, Mollye and Edmond. John Emory farms alongside Brannen in their farm, which is named Double B Ranch. The Brannens also have six grandchildren; four boys and two girls.

John Ed and John Emory Brannen have been farming together since John Emory finished ABAC and GSU about 20 years ago. Although they aren't in a partnership, Brannen said he and his son use all the same equipment and do everything together.

"They farm together, but keep things separate," Buford Brannen said. "All of our children are right here in a wad and we love every minute of it."

This year the Brannens installed two different pivot irrigation systems on their land.

"It's been mighty slow getting them into operation," Brannen said. "One was hard to get in and that's slowed us down."

The Brannens said they decided to install the irrigation system last winter when the weather was extremely wet.

"We were scared to tell anyone what we were going to do..."
A couple share a love of

because we thought they’d think we were crazy,” Buford Brannen said.

Now the Brannens are thankful they had something after the drought that swept through the area.

“You can’t stay in business if you don’t have a good crop,” Buford Brannen said.

“Eventually, as the population and demand for food increases, I think that the majority of farm land will be irrigated in the future,” John Ed Brannen said.

The Brannens said their corn crop is pretty much lost, but they are still hoping their peanuts and cotton will do well.

“We have hopes for our peanuts because they don’t require as much water, although they must have it at those critical times,” Brannen said. “I think our cotton and peanuts will be okay, but with corn you’ve just got one shot. This year has been an extreme year. It was real rainy at first and then real dry.”

The Brannens said they are looking forward to a better year next year.

“There are always bad years in this business,” Buford Brannen said. “You just have to weather them as best you can. If you like what you’re doing, then you’re willing to make that sacrifice.”

“I always say that life is like a game, sometimes you don’t win, but you get another chance,” John Ed Brannen said. “That’s just the way it is in farming.”

Last year the Brannens used Round Up Ready cotton and said they were very satisfied with the results. Brannen also

Buford and John Ed Brannen stand outside their grape vines at their house.

Photo by Stacey Wysong
said they began using no till, as well.

This year Brannen said that half of his cotton was planted late and he has had to destroy a lot of his crop.

“The drought stayed with it so long, so now we’re going to plant small grain early this year,” he said. “Poor stands, dry weather, weeds and low cotton growth were all reasons why we had to get rid of some of it.”

Brannen said that this year has been one of the worst he has seen in his years of farming.

“This has been about as bad on corn that I’ve ever seen,” he said. “Cotton can usually wait for some rain, but this year it was so dry and the cotton was planted later than usual, and it didn’t have time to mature.”

Brannen said he watched his cotton come up in two stages due to the soil conditions with varying degrees of moisture.

“That messes up the whole thing,” he said. “We’ve had some ready to gather, while others are still in the production stage. That’s what you call farming!”

Buford Brannen said that, although farming can be frustrating and tough at times, that her husband would probably go back and do it all over again if given the chance.

“Once I asked him that if he knew about all the frustrations and slim profit margins that are involved in farming, would he still go into it,” she said. “He told me that he would for sure. He just loves what he does.”

John Ed and Buford Brannen are active members of Gracewood Baptist Church in Statesboro. Brannen was honored as the Bulloch County Young Farmer of the Year in 1961.
How the 'Cane Farm' got its name - David Elder-
man - born 1820 - died 1887 - Second son of the David A. That came from N.C. in 1815 and settled in Bulloch County - sold his home - The Piggs Old Mill (Cypress Mill) and bought several hundred acres on what now is known as the 'Cane Farm' and had a two story house built on it - now standing. This house was built during the Civil War of 1861-65. I have been told that the Carpenters were Charlie Pretorius, John Ford and Charrie Fletcher.
David raised a large family there - died in 1887 - His children sold the farm out - My father came in.

(Mike Bland)
HISTORY OF BULLOCH; PEOPLE WHO BUILDED

SOIL ADAPTED TO TOBACCO CULTURE

Offers Inducements to Home Seekers Who Are Willing Hustle for A Living

On Friday, November 28th, 1902, the Statesboro News published a special edition which contained the city of Statesboro, Bulloch county in most favorable light. The edition contained 14 pages, including cover and columns. We have repeatedly mentioned the interesting information and history pertaining to the people who had built the county and city from the earliest days.

Looking through the columns of that edition, we have come upon an article which we believe will fit well into this special edition, as much as it is always well to look backward while going forward. Following, therefore, is the history of Bulloch county copied from the special edition of the Statesboro News of November 28, 1902:

Bulloch county was laid out in 1796. It was named in honor of Archibald Bulloch, one of the early settlers of Georgia, who distinguished himself during the Revolutionary War. At that time (1796), the country was practically a great pine wilderness, and what people had come into the county lived along the Great Ogeechee river.

A Decade of Rapid Growth

From 1796 to 1806 was a decade of rapid growth. The population had reached 14,500 in 1890, and the taxable property during these ten years increased from one million to more than two million. Two-thirds of the population are white. Up to 1890 very few settlers from other states or counties had come into our borders, but since then hundreds of people from all over the country have been attracted to this favored land.

Territory, Location, Etc.

Bulloch county embraces about 800 square miles of territory, being nearly as large as the state of Rhode Island. There are more than 500,000 acres of land in the county, four-fifths of which is capable of being brought into cultivation, and only about 33 (3) per cent of the arable land is now cultivated.

There is now over 200,000 acres of good farming lands in the county that is waiting the hand of the husbandman.

Our county is in the southeastern section of Georgia, with the Ogeechee river for its northern and the Ca mochee river for its southern boundary. Besides rivers, the county is bountifully supplied with creeks and branches.

Its Topography, Health, Etc.

This is the ideal country for a farmer. The lands are neither too high nor too low. The happy medium between the two is here attained, and the lands lie nearly level, gently sloping to the branches and creeks. It is no uncommon thing to find little stretches of land containing from one hundred to five hundred acres, where every foot could be successfully cultivated. These beautiful plateau's and gently rolling ridges comprise nine-tenths of the county.

The health of the county is good, and will compare favorably with any section. No epidemic has ever visited us, and a man will probably live as long and feel as well here as at any place on the globe. The drinking water is obtained from wells from 25 to 50 feet deep.

We are removed from the malarial marshes of the coast, and yet close enough to get the sea breezes from the Atlantic.

Soil, Products, Etc.

The soil is naturally not rich like the river valleys of the west, but it is capable of yielding fine crops with little manuring.

The subsoil is clay within three to twelve inches of the surface. The lands in their natural state are covered with pines and some oaks, and are easily cleared.

The soil will produce anything that will grow in this latitude. Corn, oats, potatoes, rye, sugar cane, pea, pin ders, vegetables of all kinds can be raised every month in the year.

The chief money crop of the farmers is sea island cotton, which grows to perfection in this county. Last year we produced about 9,000 bales of that cotton, and the price for ten years has been from 15 to 30 cents per pound. It has brought thousands of wealth to our farmers, and the beautiful residences all over the county attest that fact.

A farmer can raise a bale to two acres but little fertilizer, and it is about as easily gathered and ginned as the short staple cotton. The belt of country in which this cotton will grow is very limited, and the cotton growers say that the staple raised in Bulloch county will compare favorably with the best. It is a big advantage to a farmer (especially the man with small means) to live in a country where farming pays like it does in this county.

All kinds of stock do well here, and do not require feeding more than three months of the year, as they can graze on the wiregrass, which covers the woods, the balance of the year. Our farmers are getting Jersey cows on their places, and they raise their own bacon with little trouble.

All kinds of fruit do well, and very fine peaches, apples, pears and grapes are found here.

The climate here is pleasant and there are no cold winters to prevent people from working. In fact, a farmer can work the year round. The heat of summer is not oppressive like it is in further north.

Price of Lands, Etc.

The prices of lands in the county are from three to twenty dollars per acre, according to improvements and location. There are thousands of acres of virgin pine lands that can be purchased cheap. Improved farms can also be bought at reasonable prices.

Lumber is cheap and saw mille all over the county make it convenient to obtain building material.

A farmer who is living among the washed hills and gullies, and who depends on short cotton for his income is

See HISTORY, page 14.
she took a bite and told Mother, "This is the goodest thing I ever tasted!"

THE PEANUT KING

When I came to town in the summertime as a child, I would see boys ten to fifteen years of age on the streets calling out "Boiled Peanuts, five cents a bag." A few years later the peanuts sold for ten cents a bag or three bags for a quarter. These boys carried baskets that would hold thirty bags of peanuts. The boys made a profit of two cents a bag. A prize of money was given to the boy selling the most peanuts by Mr. S. M. Sparks, Statesboro's Peanut King. Mr. Sparks was given the name Peanut King by people from other states who would order raw peanuts to boil. They would address the order to "The Peanut King, Statesboro, Georgia", and he would receive the order card without any additional address.

I remember Mr. Sparks standing on the street with a crutch under each arm, as he was crippled. Even though he was handicapped, he would not receive any help from Welfare as he had an idea to support his family by growing peanuts in fields near the edge of Statesboro and boil the raw peanuts and bag them. He would then hire boys to peddle them on the streets of Statesboro. This idea developed into a family enterprise in 1941 with his wife Adabell and four children Buford, Jeanette, Garnett, and Kenneth helping to make it a success.

He found the Vlances Peanut could be planted early, so he
WHAT IS FODDER?

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary says:

fodder - (noun)
1: something fed to domestic animals; esp.: course food for cattle, horses, or sheep.
2: an often inferior person or thing that is used to supply a heavy demand - routine entertainment.

American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language say: fodder - (noun)
1. Feed for livestock, often consisting of coarsely chopped stalks and leaves of corn mixed with hay, straw, and other plants.
2. a. Raw material, as for artistic creation.
   b. Masses of people regarded as raw material for the achievement of a given political or military end: cannon fodder.
3. A consumable often inferior item or resource that is in demand and usually abundant supply. Example: Romantic novel intended as fodder for the pulp fiction market.

Aren't my little stories more or less just --fodder. Polish them and they might become -- "Choice Fodder".