Agriculture, Smith Banks' Collection

December 29, 2018

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/pub-history-documents

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/pub-history-documents/8

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Statesboro-Bulloch County Library Public History Files at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bulloch County Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.
Agriculture: Smith Callaway Banks Collection Contents Listing

1. The Small Farmer – Statesboro News Article October 16, 1903
2. Why the Bulloch County Farmer Prospered – Statesboro News Articles October 16, 1903 and transcribed by Smith C. Banks in 1997
3. Bland Presents Editor Pineapple Pear & Other News Articles April 7, 1927
4. An Open Letter from City Dairy Company – Bulloch Times News Article October 13, 1927
5. Cotton Outlook for Year 1928 – Bulloch Times News Article February 9, 1928
7. Pickle Co. Purchases Site and other articles – Statesboro News Article January 4, 1945
8. Master Farmers of past years honor ’61 Master Farm Family – News Article November 9, 1961
10. A History of Dairying in and Around Savannah and Coastal Georgia – Historical Archaeology class paper, 1983
11. Bulloch County couple share a love of farming pt. 1 – Statesboro Herald News Article
12. Bulloch County couple share a love of farming pt. 2 – Statesboro Herald News Article
13. Bulloch County couple share a love of farming pt. 3 – Statesboro Herald News Article
14. How the 'Cane Farm' got its Name – Brief History by Mike Bland
15. Soil Adapted to Tobacco Culture – News Article
16. 'Southern Crops' Article – Academic Article
17. The Peanut King – Brief History of Mr. Sparks
18. The Small Farmer – List of definitions of fodder
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 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 farms 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 planting 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 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 Frame

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.)

"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 play as
GUARDIAN ADVISES

D. W. Watkinis of Clemson College Tells Farmers Need of Reduction.

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 Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation in cooperation 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 whom 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 10 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."

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.
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 and 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
brought out the fact that the total 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 com-
pared to 1926. World production de-
creased 29% 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 con-
sumption of American cotton. The
year 1927 witnessed the largest con-
sumption of American cotton in the
history of the world.

DANGER TO BE AVOIDED.

But these leaders sounded a warn-
ing. There is danger that the bright
outlook may mislead growers to put
in too large an acreage and to pro-
duce another 1926 crop with its enor-
mous 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 cul-
tivation. Let the surplus acres be
given to food and feed crops to pro-
vide 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
highest possible profit, speaker after speaker
emphasized the necessity of high acre
yields. It was brought out in farm
surveys that were reported that cheap-
est cotton and greatest profits were
made where the most 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.
Add to these factors the promised facts
of 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' con-
test 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 fig-
ured 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 such
large yield at so low cost per pound of cotton?

He had grown rye as a winter cover
crop, turned it under early and ap-
plied burned manure. Then, after
preparing a good seed bed, he applied
633 pounds of 12: 14: 4 fertilizer per
acre. An excellent stand was ob-
tained, and, after chopping, he made
a side dressing of 89 pounds of sul-
phate of ammonia per acre. He cul-
tivated 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 be-
ing penalized 10% for growing a va-
Iety of cotton that produced 7/8 inch
staple, one inch staple being the
length desired in the contest.

The outstanding fact about Mr. Hen-
drix's success is the low cost which
each pound of cotton cost him, a rec-
ord made possible by good soil im-
provement practices and moderate
uses of high grade fertilizer and top-
dressing.

Boys Demonstrate How to Make Cheap Cotton.

In the great record made by Paul-
dale 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 about 7 cents.

Taking the yields of the six boys
who made over two bales per acre,
the cost of producing their cotton av-
ergaged 6.1 cents per pound, according
to W. H. Garner, the County Agent.
The average net profit per acre was
$19.86.

These boys did not pour down fer-
tilizers, 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 690 to 900 pounds of fer-
tsilizers of the 2-3-3, 84% of which
was nitrogen. They planted 15-5-5 grade at time of planting, and
all of them side-dressed their cotton with 100 pounds of sulphate of
ammonium per acre.

A noticeable fact about these and
other prize winning yields is that the
growing crops received side dressings
of all-purpose fertilizer. 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 rains, 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 Abandoned.

It is announced by Fred E. Gerrald, manager of the Stateboro Pickle Company that the Perfect Pack Company of Long Island City, has purchased from Lottie F. Simmons and Ike Brunson the building on the Dover road formerly used as a livestock barn, and more recently leased to the pickle company. 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 Ray Dye stated, “This is good news. Under normal weather conditions, cabbages will grow, and pay growers well for their time and effort in producing them. This has been done for the past twenty months, and has been experienced very unusual and adverse weather for the crop. Price paid for cabbages will be a fair price, while possibly not always as high as for the green grocery trade early in the season, under normal conditions will be as good or better for the grower because the pickle manufacturer takes the entire crop. The grower is assured of the specified contract prices, whereas prices in the green grocery trade usually fluctuate widely over a period of time. The early part of the year, and rapidly declining prices as the season progresses, has caused some cabbages to become unsalable. Cabbage growers have found themselves unable to dispose of a good part of their crop when grown for the pickle trade, and the expense of marketing. Picked for the pickles by pickle manufacturers, and any of our farmers who have suitable labor for picking the crop should send an accurate or so of cabbages as may be wanted for the pickles, and make the most desirable labor for picking, as they may be employed for this at a time when they would otherwise have little other farm work to perform. I understand the pickles will contract for all the acreage of cabbage as may be grown, and I hope to see at least 250 acres plant in Bulloch county this year.”

One Other New Face In Official Family

In writing last week about the new for sale, we seem to be mentioning the beginning of the new year in the house there was an unintentional omission of one new county officer who assumed his duties on the first of the new year. This new official was John P. Braxton, newly elected solicitor of the state court, who was elected without opposition in the Democratic primary to succeed B. H. Ramsey, who retired after eight years in the office.

While Mr. Braxton goes in as solicitor, however, he will continue to occupy offices in the old Bank of Stateboro building, having moved there several weeks ago.

Veteran’s Fund Moving Upward

Substantial Amount Added Since Statement Published In Local Paper Last Week

C. B. McAllister, chairman of the finance committee of operators who used property to be used in building a memorial honoring the men from Bulloch county in the American Forces of our country, makes the statement the half way mark to the goal is nearly reached.

Two thousand dollars is the goal. Last week collections amounting to $2,000 were reported. During the remainder of the year ending December 30th a total of $5,200.00 is being brought in to make the total to date $4,800.00.


To those who have contributed, a reminder that the second of the year is approaching, and all who are able to do so are urged to make their contributions promptly.

Game Director Talk to Farmers

In High Authority On The County P.-T.A. Council Meets At Warnock

On Saturday, January 13th, at 11 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.

Every P.-T.A. in the county is urged to have a delegation of not less than three to appear at this meeting. It is hoped that the council will be able to plan for the year. May we depend on your delegations?”

Mr. Deans Youngblood, Pres.,

Mr. A. H. White, Sec.

How Long Beard Has Guss Handled

Operated Fifty Years On People Of Bulloch County;
Total Number Men 248,800.

It’s right interesting to contemplate the amount of beard a man can trim away at given employment and operations through a period of fifty years, you will admit. But that is just what the man known as Guss Floyd walking on the streets, spry as a cricket, cheerful as in the days of his youth, is doing at the temple.

Asked about his age, Guss told us that Monday happened to be his birthday—and he was seventy-five years old.

He didn’t go into any further particulars, but we recalled that we first saw him working for Guss Floyd, and that he has been working for the man in July, 1894, to operate the barber shop which belonged to George S. Blackburn. Gus had been barbering in the shop for a century and a half, and had kept the job here with expectation of staying only till he could do better in another line, in raising a family, and was a patriotic and responsible citizen.

Veteran’s Fund Moving Upward

Substantial Amount Added Since Statement Published In Local Paper Last Week

C. B. McAllister, chairman of the finance committee of operators who used property to be used in building a memorial honoring the men from Bulloch county in the American Forces of our country, makes the statement the half way mark to the goal is nearly reached.

Two thousand dollars is the goal. Last week collections amounting to $2,000 were reported. During the remainder of the year ending December 30th a total of $5,200.00 is being brought in to make the total to date $4,800.00.


To those who have contributed, a reminder that the second of the year is approaching, and all who are able to do so are urged to make their contributions promptly.

Game Director Talk to Farmers

In High Authority On The
Master Farmers of Past Years

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. Nessmith 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 or members of their families at the meeting to honor Mr. and Mrs. Nessmith, 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 Blitch, 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, 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. Leodell 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. Nessmith 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-A-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 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

[Handwritten note: "Researched & written for Larry Babitz's Historical Archaeology class at Armstrong 1983"]

Smith Callaway Banks Collection
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 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.

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

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
Farming

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 Hiller-Mann—born 1820—died 1887—Grandson of the David A. That Came from N.C. in 1815 and settled in Bulloch County—Sold his home—The Pigg's Old Mill (Cypressdale) 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 Prentious, John Ford and Charnie Fitcher. 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 presented the city of Statesboro and Bulloch county in most favorable light. The edition consisted of 24 pages, including covers. In these column we have compiled interesting information about the history and the people who had built the county and city from the earliest days.

Looking through the columns of this edition we have come upon an article which we believe will fit well into this special edition, at least. 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 principally a great pine wilderness, and what people had come into the territory lived along the Great Ogeechee river.

On account of the ease of migration, the country gained population rapidly and by 1800, the population was only about 200. During the first part of the war the population increased but little up to about 1810. The population gradually increased, and by 1830, it reached 4,000.

A Decade of Rapid Growth

From 1840 to 1900 was a decade of rapid growth. The population had reached 14,000 in 1880, 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 1880 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 93 (3) is in the rest of the arable land is now cultivated.

There is now over 200,000 acres of good farming land 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 Caucoochee 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 level stretches of land containing from one hundred to five hundred acres, where every foot could be successfully cultivated. These beautiful plateaus 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 fell 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 marshy marshes of the coast, and we are close enough to the sea 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, peas, pinders, 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 add beauty to the county attest that fact.

A farmer can raise a bale to two acres without 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 factors 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 grape are found here.

The climate here is pleasant and there are no cold winters to prevent people from working. In fact, a family 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 an 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 sawmills 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 life is advised to go Elsewhere.
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".