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The Story of Bulloch County

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The Story of Bulloch County

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In the Beginning

It was the year 1946 and the bulldozer operator had no idea he was about to link Bulloch County's present with Bulloch County's past.

He was bulldozing a new road near Cone Hall's place east of Statesboro when he cut into an Indian grave.

The late Fred W. Hodges, then chairman of the County Commissioners was notified. Mr. Hodges was intensely interested in Indian relics and was jubilant with the new discovery. He called Mr. C. H. Fairbanks, a National Parks Service agent who came and began working in the area.

Working with a tiny trowel and a whisk broom Mr. Fairbanks removed the dirt from around the skull and bones of the body found in the grave. The backbone, ribs and arms had disintegrated badly. The leg and thigh bones were drawn up under the chin of the skull in the position characteristic of Indian burial customs.

Mr. Fairbanks stated that the Indians found here were the direct ancestors of the Creek Indians of the 1400-1700 era. They were farmers and planted about the same things we now plant, such as squash, corn and beans.

In addition to the body of the Indian turned up by the bulldozer there were several stone axes, a pipe, beads, pottery, a conch shell used to drink casino tea from, and tiny arrow points.

There are some in the county who have collections
of arrow heads which were found in ploughed fields and in places where Indians might have met in assembly. South of Statesboro where Middleground Primitive Baptist Church now stands is said to have been an assembly ground of the Indians, known as “Five Points,” named for the five paths leading to it. The bluff on the Ogeechee River, where Magnolia Lodge is located and where Indian relics have been found, is believed to be another Indian assembly ground.

It is interesting to speculate about the first white man in Bulloch County. DeSoto, in his search for wealth, came up from Florida through Georgia, and crossed the Savannah River at Silver Bluff, a point twenty-five miles south of Augusta. Did some of his soldiers wander into the land that is now Bulloch County? Or did some Spaniards cross Bulloch County on the old Spanish trail that ran from Mobile, Alabama, to North Carolina through Bulloch County? Or was it some white trader such as George Galphin who did extensive business with the Indians of east Georgia?

However, it is known that the first white man to make the most profound impression on Georgia was James Edward Oglethorpe. Under a charter granted by the English governor, Oglethorpe and his friends in 1733, colonized that part of Carolina lying between the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers and reaching all the way to the Mississippi River and beyond. This was put under the government of a group of Trustees in London who were too far away to understand the problems of this new country.

Each family sent over at the expense of the Trustees received a grant of only fifty acres of land. Those who paid their own expenses got larger grants of five hundred acres. These were passed on to the sons. The first Colonists were not allowed to import strong liquor and slavery was forbidden.

In 1741 the Trustees divided the Province of Georgia into two counties. Savannah County including all the settlements along the Savannah River and both banks of the Ogeechee River which included what later became Bulloch County, and Frederica County which embraced Darien, Frederica and the area south of the Altamaha River.

In 1752, a year before the original charter was to run out, the Trustees asked the English Government to take over the rule of the Colony. This was done with a Royal Governor as administrator, aided by a Provincial Congress and Council.

On March 17, 1758, under Governor Henry Ellis an Act was passed by the legislature dividing the Province of Georgia into parishes providing for religious worship according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England. However, there were numerous dissenters in the Province—Presbyterians, Lutherans, Congregationalists, Methodists, a few Baptists and Hebrews. To all sects except Catholics free toleration was accorded.

Eight parishes were created. They were St. Paul’s, St. George’s, St. Matthew’s, Christ Church’s, St. Philip’s, St. John’s, St. Andrew’s and St. James’.

When the regions south of the Altamaha River became a part of the Colony in 1763, four additional parishes were created. They were St. David’s, St. Patrick’s, St. Thomas’ and St. Mary’s.

St. Philip’s Parish was designated as “the town of Hardwicke and district of Ogeechee on the south side of the river Great Ogeechee extending northwest up said river as far as the lower Indian trading path leading from Mt. Pleasant and southward from the town of Hardwicke as far as the swamp of James Dunham including the settlements on the north side of the north branches of the river Medway with the island of Ossabaw and from the head of the said Dunham’s swamp in a northwest line.” This parish included what today is Bulloch and Bryan counties. A number of deeds to property in Bulloch County carry the name of St. Philip’s Parish.

After the introduction of slaves into the state
about 1750 it became profitable to establish large plantations to raise rice and indigo which were exported in large quantities and required slave labor to produce.

The wealthy accumulated large holdings in the coastal areas. There was no place for the small farmer, and after 1750 the small farmer moved further afield into what was then the back country, following the rivers like the Ogeechee, sometimes settling in groups but very often settling individually. These settlers were true pioneers living under an economy of self-sustenance.

The problems of transportation and communications were very important to the settlers who were moving into a region where no roads existed, so it was natural that the first comers should settle on the rivers and creeks.

One of the early deeds, recorded in the clerk’s office of Bulloch County, refers to property bought by William Fletcher in the Parish of St. Philip, originally granted by King George III of England in June, 1760, to John Stafford, bounded at the time of the survey by Lambeth Lane’s land. Another piece of land sold by Jacob Hoffman to Abraham Stafford on Black Creek was originally granted to Israel Reiser in 1767 and was transferred to Jacob Hoffman in 1785. A deed to Henry Touk by the heirs of Frederick Rester was originally granted by King George III on April 7, 1767, to Fred Rester. John Dukes received a deed from Sherrod McCall in 1796 to a tract of land along Black Creek in St. Philip’s Parish, originally granted in 1768 to Andrew Bird. Deeded to Alexander Lane in 1801 was property originally granted to Joseph Ironmonger in 1766. Another record describes a grant made by King George III on March 3, 1767, to John Caspar Wertch of lands on Ironmonger Creek on the south side of the Ogeechee River. Also recorded is a grant of land to John Flerl by the King dated October 7, 1766, on Black Creek and a grant made to John Wertch adjoining the land of John Flerl dated May 3, 1768. On April 2, 1805, Stephen Denmark bought a piece of property from Benjamin Dasher that was originally granted to Martin Dasher on February 5, 1765. This property was bounded on the east by the Ogeechee River, northwest by M. Plummer, southeast by Thomas Davis, southwest by John Lane. Stephen Denmark also bought a tract on February 10, 1803, originally granted to John Adams Treutlen on September 2, 1765, and located in St. Philip’s Parish on Ironmonger Creek.

The names on some of these grants indicate that some of the first settlers in what is now Bulloch County were people from the Ebeneezer settlement known as St. Mathew’s Parish. The Ebeneezer colony was founded in 1734 by a group of seventy-eight Lutheran refugees who fled from the persecution of the Archbishop of Salzburg in Southern Germany. Oglethorpe accompanied their leader, Von Reck, to select a settlement on Ebeneezer Creek. Later the settlers moved six miles further to Red Bluff where they built the well known Jerusalem Church.

The Ebeneezer Colony grew rapidly and by 1743 there were about 1,200 of these German Protestants, most of whom settled around Eberneezer. As they sought new lands they pushed toward the Ogeechee River and the lands that became Bulloch County.

Other Salzburger families to come into Bulloch County early were the Zetterowers and Groovers.

Charles Zitrauers (Zetterower) was one of the Salzburgers to come into Bulloch County from the Ebeneezer Colony. He and his family came from Salzburg, Austria and settled around Ebeneezer. The King of England offered him amnesty and a life annuity if he would support the King during the Revolution, but he refused and supported strongly the Colonists in their fight for independence.

According to a family record, John Gruber (Groover) was born in 1739 in old St. Philip’s Parish, Georgia. He was the son of Peter Gruber and his wife,
Mary, German immigrants who came to the Colony of Georgia in the 1730's. Volume 7, page 446, of the Georgia Colonial Records by Chandler shows a grant of fifty-two acres in St. Philip's Parish made on June 11, 1772, to John Gruber. He fought in the Revolutionary War and was murdered by the Tories in 1780 at or near his home on Cowpen Branch in Effingham County.

In 1773 a treaty was made with the Creek Indians in which the Indians gave up the coastal islands between the mouth of the Ogeechee River and the mouth of the Altamaha River in return for which they were to be relieved of the debts they owed to traders like George Galphin and James Jackson and Company.

This treaty of 1773 opened up for settlement a large area of pine lands referred to as the "pine barrens" which covered the present counties of Bulloch, Emmanuel, Effingham, Tattnall, Appling, Ware, Wayne and Telfair. This pine land was considered poor and was not settled as rapidly as other sections of the state. However, settlers did come. Hardy pioneers from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina came into these lands, many of them by way of Burton's Ferry over the Savannah River, settling in what later became Screven County and Bulloch County.

Many were the types of settlers who came in. Some had property and a few slaves. Some were poor, hoping to establish a homestead for their families. Some were shiftless drifters and some were fugitives from the law.

The land along the Ogeechee River was good oak and hickory land. This was taken up and settled first. Behind this was the piney woods which was settled slowly. The first settlers were stockmen.

White, a Georgia historian, in his "Statistics of Georgia (1849) gives the following names as being some of the first settlers of Bulloch County: Benjamin Cook, Bernard Michael, John Everett, Andrew E. Wells, George Threadcraft, Charles McCall, Alexander Stewart, M. Buckhalter, A. McKenzie, Daniel Lott, Arthur Lott, Wm. Mizell, Lewis Lanier, Clement Lanier, D. Hendrix, N. Sweat, Mr. Olliff, Mr. Shorter, the Groovers, the Hodges, the Hagins and the Cones.

While the early settlers in St. Philip's Parish were establishing themselves as hardy frontiersmen, the Colonies to the north were becoming dissatisfied with their treatment by Great Britain.

It seemed that these settlers in Georgia, upon whom the Trustees and later Parliament had spent a great deal of time and attention and money, might have been grateful enough to remain loyal.

But the wrath of many of these people was encouraged by the other twelve Colonies. Then settlers, who thought of themselves as Americans rather than English, moved into Georgia from other Colonies where there was discontent and they brought their feelings with them. And England had begun to tax the Colonies without consulting them in order to raise money to pay the large debt incurred in the defense of the Colonies against the Indians, French and Spanish.

All these conditions combined to build up an organized resistance in Georgia which took form as the "Liberty Boys." The situation worsened and on July 27, 1774, every patriot in Georgia was called to come together at a tavern in Savannah kept by Peter Tondee. The leaders of this group were Archibald Bulloch, John Houston, Noble W. Jones and George Walton.

Because this meeting was not truly representative of the Colony another meeting was called for August 10 with delegates coming from all the parishes.

In January, 1775, this radical group held the first of a series of meetings which they called "Provincial Congresses." They finally took over the authority of the Colony and drove the English governor, James Wright, out.

On July 4, 1775, the Second Provincial Congress met in Savannah and was attended by more than a hundred delegates from every parish in the Colony. They elected Archibald Bulloch president and George
Walton secretary. They pledged to import nothing from England, to give up the custom of wearing mourning for the cloth could be secured only from England, to drink no East Indian tea, and to promote manufacturing and the raising of sheep.

The Third Provincial Congress met in April, 1776. The framework of government was changed. A temporary written document was drawn up. The Congress would elect a president and commander-in-chief to serve six months. A Council of Safety, composed of thirteen men, would advise the President. The Congress elected Archibald Bulloch, who had been President of the other Congresses.

In February, 1776, the Georgia delegates appointed to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia were Archibald Bulloch, John Houston, Lyman Hall, George Walton and Button Gwinett. They were given no further instructions than to do what they thought best for the Colony. When independence was voted in the Continental Congress, the signers from Georgia were George Walton, Button Gwinett and Lyman Hall.

Up until this time Georgians had been slow to rebel in great numbers against the British. But now the patriots began to feel bitter toward those still loyal to Britain.

With the signing of the Declaration of Independence Georgia turned quickly to the business of organizing a state government. A convention produced a constitution which was adopted in February, 1777. It provided for a governor, a legislature and courts. Since they had repudiated the government of England they wanted to abolish the parishes which represented the Church of England. To take the place of the parishes the counties of Burke, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Richmond, Wilkes and Liberty were created. What was to become Bulloch County was included in Effingham at that time. Archibald Bulloch was asked to serve as governor until the Legislature could meet and elect a governor. Bulloch died before this could be done. Button Gwinnett was acting governor until the election of John A. Treutlen in 1777.

For the most part the American Revolution was a dreary war for Georgia. A battle was fought at Brier Creek in what later became Screven County. This battle was disastrous to the patriots. No doubt some patriots from the south side of the Ogeechee River took part in this engagement.

The organized strength of the patriots in the new state of Georgia gave way to small guerilla bands of frontier fighters who hid in the woods, struck out from time to time and then hid in the woods again.

In addition to the patriots living in Bulloch County, then Effingham, there were some Tories who supported Britain.

It is recorded that one of these patriots turned Tory and became an officer with the British troops. He was Daniel McGirth who was born in South Carolina and moved to Georgia. A natural woodsman, he was one of the best scouts in the American Army. But because of an unjust demand that he surrender his horse, "Gray Goose," he became bitter against the Americans and joined the Tories. The British recognized his worth and made him an officer. He kept the Colonists from Middle Georgia to the coast in constant terror. The section, which later was to become Bulloch County, was a favorite resort of this Daniel McGirth.

A man named Cargile lived here and it was known that he harbored Tories and gave them information about the patriots. He had been warned that it meant death for him to be seen with Daniel McGirth. William Cone, hunting deer on the Ogeechee River one day, saw McGirth and Cargile together in the woods. He shot and killed Cargile. McGirth escaped. Some say that Cone allowed McGirth to escape because of the warm spot in his heart for the American scout, turned Tory.

At another time the Tories stole the horses of a group of settlers and carried away all they could get their hands on. Headed by Captain William Cone the
settlers pursued the thieves. Of this incident L. L. Knight wrote:

"Finding, after a shower of rain, that they were close on their heels, they sent forward one of their number to reconnoiter. The approach of this man became known to the Tories, one of whom, starting out to make investigations, was killed by the scout who was concealed by a log. This was the signal for an attack, whereupon the patriots rushed forward, drove the Tories into the Ohooppee River and recovered the stolen goods. It is said that this raid ended the power of the Tories in this neighborhood."

William Cone came from North Carolina to South Carolina and then to Georgia. He was born about 1745 and died in 1822. He served in the American Army during the Revolution under McLean and Francis Marion. The latter part of the war he fought Tories in this section of Georgia. He lived in what is now Bulloch County and died at Ivanhoe. His grave is east of Joe Cone's field in a thickly wooded section between the Old River Road and the Ogeechee River. It is identified by a marker erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. He was married to Kesiah Barber.

One of the most far-reaching laws passed during the Revolution dealt with the Tories. Because they had supported the British their property was confiscated and they were banished from the state under penalty of death if they should return. The law, passed May 4, 1782, was known as the Act of Attainer and Confiscation and was administered by a central board of commissioners. They moved from one part of the state to another, selling these confiscated properties to those who had fought for independence.

Out of particular respect for certain Revolutionary heroes the state made them gifts of land from time to time. Captain William Cone was granted land confiscated from a Tory, William Powell, in Effingham County, now Bulloch County, in 1785. Several other grants were made to Captain Cone in 1786, 1788 and 1793.

A deed, dated December, 1793, recorded in the Clerk's office of Bulloch County, shows that 200 acres of land, originally the property of Joseph Johnson, a Tory, was confiscated under the Act and sold to Charles Odingsell, then sold to George Threadcraft.

And so the foundation of what was to become Bulloch County was laid.
CHAPTER 2

Bulloch County is Created

The war was over.
Georgia had a vast area of land and wanted good people to come into the state to settle.

Under the land law of 1777, called the “Head-right Plan,” the head of a family could have up to 200 acres of land for himself and fifty acres for each one of his family, counting his slaves, but no family could have more than one thousand acres.

During the war Georgia had promised lands to all Revolutionary soldiers who could produce certificates signed by their commanders attesting to their service. This promise became law by an act of the Legislature in 1783.

One of the most important groups of settlers to come into Georgia was a group including people of Scotch, Irish and Welsh extraction. These were people of strong character. Some of them had previously migrated from Pennsylvania and Virginia to North Carolina and South Carolina. Soon after the Revolution they came in large numbers into the section of Georgia that became Bulloch County. Indicative of this type of settler is James Stacy’s description of Francis Kennedy. He wrote:

 Francis Kennedy, whose ancestors came from near Belfast, Ireland, was a genuine patriot and knew how to estimate civil liberty and to resist foreign oppression. He claimed Virginia as his native place but through the guidance of Divine Providence he united in marriage with Sarah Meges of Marlborough Dis-

district, South Carolina, a most excellent lady. The happy couple were destined to pass through a severe ordeal. When in 1776 the War of the Revolution was waged, Francis Kennedy, as a brave man, roused with indignation at the aggressive movements of the English Government resolved to unite with the American Army in resisting the haughty and insolent foe.

“In this conflict, through the perfidy of the Tories and the rapacity of the English Army the ample estate of the family was greatly reduced. Still Mr. Kennedy never received reimbursement or pension from the United States Government. The close of the Revolution found him unsettled in life with a crippled fortune.

“From the southwestern section of North Carolina, which in 1790 was ceded to Tennessee, the family returned to Marlborough District, South Carolina, and after a few years settled in Bulloch County, Georgia.”

Others who were in this group of early settlers in Bulloch County were John Neville, John Everett, William Brannen, Robert Donaldson, John Fletcher, William McElveen, Henry Farrish, Bridger Jones, William Bland and others.

John Neville served in the Second South Carolina Regiment in the Revolution and came to Bulloch County shortly thereafter. Neville’s Creek was named for him and since Neville’s Creek Church was founded in 1790 it can be assumed that he lived in the county before that date.

John Everett, born in Terrell County, North Carolina, March 16, 1754, was a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Hillsborough in 1775 and received a grant of land in Effingham, later Bulloch County, in 1787.

William Brannen served as lieutenant in the First North Carolina Regiment during the American Revolution and moved to a plantation in Bulloch County near Blitch in the 1780’s.

Robert Donaldson was living in Bulloch County in the 1780’s and served for many years as a Primitive Baptist preacher.
John Fletcher was born in South Carolina in 1765 and served in the Revolution under Francis Marion until 1782. He married Susannah Mizel, daughter of William Mizel, who moved his family to Bulloch County in the 1770's. John Fletcher moved with his parents to Effingham County in 1784 on grants of land there.

William McElveen was the first of this clan to settle in Bulloch County. He came from the Scotch settlement of Waxhaw Creek, North Carolina, and settled on Black Creek, Bulloch County, Georgia, in 1787.

Henry Parrish (1740-1800) did Revolutionary War service in North Carolina. He moved from North Carolina to Wilkes County, Georgia, and from there he moved into Bulloch County. His will is recorded in Bulloch County and is dated in 1800. Two of his sons, Ansel and Absalom, lived their lives in Bulloch County.

Bridger Jones served as a Revolutionary soldier in North Carolina. In 1804 he sold his North Carolina property and brought his family and eight slaves to Bulloch County.

William Bland moved his family from North Carolina to Bulloch County in 1815. He loaded his belongings in water-tight hogheads and came overland with his brothers. They sent their wives by sailboat to Savannah.

Some of those who came to Bulloch County later were the Alderman's who came in 1816 and the Rigdons who came in 1820. It was this same year that Purnell Franklin moved to the county.

The population of this section increased rapidly with settlers who came in bringing evidence entitling them to grants of land in Georgia.

Representative of evidence of this sort is a record dated April 13, 1803, in the Bulloch County Clerk's office which reads:

"Personally appeared before me Joshua Hodges who being duly sworn maketh oath and saith that some time in the year 1785 as near as he can recollect he obtained from the land office of the state of North Carolina as brother and heir of Hardy Hodges, a warrant for 1,000 acres of land No. 15 which this deponent afterward transferred to his son Joseph Hodges. This deponent further saith that he obtained the said warrant from the State of North Carolina in right of his brother, Hardy Hodges, for military service of said Hardy Hodges during the Revolutionary War, and this deponent is the elder and only surviving brother of said Hardy Hodges."

By 1793 the growth in population justified the creation of a new county in the area. In this year the County of Screven was formed out of Burke and Effingham Counties. Roughly this included the land from the mouth of Rooty Branch on the Savannah River to the mouth of the Little Ogeechee where it runs into the Big Ogeechee and from the Big Ogeechee to the Canoochee River. Included in this new county were the sites of what later became the towns of Statesboro, Metter and Twin City.

It was also in 1793 that the County of Bryan was formed. For a short period the area of what was to become Bulloch County was included in Screven and Bryan Counties. The next year, 1794, Effingham County assumed the boundaries which have existed since.

It must have been difficult for the settlers on the south side of the Ogeechee River to cross the river to get to court sessions held in Screven County. It is believed that out of this difficulty grew the agitation for a new county which resulted in the act of the Legislature in February, 1796, as follows:

"One new county is hereby laid out from the counties of Screven and Bryan in the following manner and form, to wit: to begin at John Lanier's including the same on the Ogeechee River hence in a direct line to where Lotts Creek empties into the Canoouchee, thence up the Canoochee to the Montgomery County line, thence along said line to the Ogeechee River,"
thence down said river to the beginning; which said county shall be called and known by the name Bullock.

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the county surveyor of said county shall be and is appointed to run and place by mark the artificial line agreeable to this act for the aforesaid county of Bullock and the county surveyor shall be allowed by the county court of said county a reasonable compensation for such service to be levied on said county and shall be subject where collected to the order of the court for the purpose aforesaid.

"And be it further enacted that Drury Jones, John Mikell and Israel Bird be and are hereby appointed commissioners for fixing on a proper place to erect a courthouse and jail for said county and until such buildings are completed the courts for said county shall be held at the house of Stephen Mills,

"And be it further enacted that the county of Bullock shall be allowed one member to represent it in the House of Representatives.

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the justices of the Inferior Court be and are hereby empowered to levy a tax upon the inhabitants of said county for the purpose of erecting a courthouse and jail within same."

The act was signed by Thomas Stevens, Speaker, and Ben Taliaferro, President of the Senate.

Israel Bird, John Rawls and James Bird were appointed Justices of the Inferior Court by the Legislature. The duties of the Inferior Court included attending to all matters affecting Bulloch County proper; such as assessing taxes, probating wills, bonding administrators, building roads and public buildings, swearing in officials, filling vacancies which might occur in public office and making provisions for the indigent. The broad scope of the court's duties is illustrated by an entry in the Inferior Court minutes of July, 1825, which reveals that Thomas Mills, an alien, appeared in open court and took the oath of citizenship. The Court also had concurrent jurisdiction with the Superior Court in actions of debt, trespass and similar cases.

The first Justices of the Peace named by the Legislative Assembly were John Douglas, John Everett, Robert Scott, William McCall and Mark Pridgeon.

The first county officials were: Charles McCall, sheriff; Andrew E. Wells, clerk of the Superior Court; George Elliott, clerk of the Inferior Court; Francis Wells, register of probate; James Bird, surveyor; and Garrott Williams, coroner.

In the Act of the Assembly creating the county the name was spelled "Bullock." Properly this should be "Bulloch" since the county was named for Archibald Bulloch, a native of South Carolina who came to Georgia in the late 1750's and purchased a plantation on the Savannah River. He became one among the most active of the illustrious band of patriots who opposed the arbitrary measures of the British Parliament. His name is signed to a call made in the Georgia Gazette on July 14, 1774, to the inhabitants of Savannah to take into consideration the propriety of resisting the oppression of Great Britain. This required a great deal more courage than most people possess since the outcome of this move was very precarious. He was made president of the Provincial Congress of Georgia. When a copy of the Declaration was received in Georgia in Savannah on August 10, 1776, Archibald Bulloch read the copy to the council and then went to the public square where the document was read to a gaping multitude. He then carried it to the Liberty Pole where it was read again and the importance of the document emphasized by thirteen booming rounds from a cannon.

Bulloch died in the early part of 1777 while holding the title of first governor of Georgia.

Dr. J. E. McCroan, son of the late J. E. McCroan who for many years was Ordinary of Bulloch County, has suggested that on every August 10, during the annual tobacco market season, the citizens of Bul-
loch County celebrate “Archibald Bulloch Day” and read from the balcony of the courthouse the Declaration of Independence to remind the people of the county of the greatness of the man from whom the county is named.

The first Superior Court held in Bulloch County convened at the house of Stephen Mills on May 16, with Judge Stevens presiding. The attorneys present were: D. B. Mitchell, Solicitor General, and Jeremiah Cuyler and William E. Bulloch, lawyers. The grand jury was composed of John M. Burkharter, James Jackson, John Fletcher, Samuel Peacock, James Webb, Jacob Huffman, George McCall, A. Hagan, Isaac Carter, John Rawls, M. Pridgeon, M. Carter, James Bird, M. Driggers, Francis Webb, R. Albritton, Joshua Everett, N. Stewart and William Cone, foreman.

In the beginning Bulloch County was forty miles in length and thirty miles in width with a total area of 1,200 square miles.

In 1812 a part of Bulloch County went into the new county of Emanuel. Then in 1905 another part of Bulloch went into the formation of the new county of Jenkins. In 1914 Candler and Evans Counties were created and a part of Bulloch County went into each of these two new counties. Since that year Bulloch County has maintained its present area of 684 square miles.

Soon after the creation of Bulloch County a convention was called by the State of Georgia to draw up a new constitution since the Constitution of 1789 was not entirely satisfactory.

On May 8, 1798, fifty-six delegates assembled in Louisville, Georgia, and adopted Georgia’s third Constitution. It gave the vote to all white male citizens over twenty-one years of age, whether or not they were property owners and tax payers. It was considered to be a good constitution. With twenty-three amendments it continued effective until the outbreak of the War Between the States. Bulloch County’s delegates to this convention were James Bird, Andrew E. Wells and Charles McCall.

Some of the earliest members of the House of Representatives in the State Legislature from Bulloch County were:

Andrew E. Wells, Lewis Lanier, John Everett, Jehu Everett, Samuel Lockhart, John Burnett, Sherrod McCall, R. T. Standland, Malachi Denmark, James Rawls, James Williams and Bulloch H. McLean.

Some of the earliest members of the Senate were:

Charles McCall, John Jones, Shepherd Williams, Samuel Lockhart, John Groover, Allen Rawls, Michael Young, Malachi Denmark and Francis McCall.

These representatives and senators served until 1830.

It was in 1830 when Peter Cone entered the arena of Georgia politics. He was a dominant figure in the politics of the state and was returned to the Senate at each successive election, with one exception, until 1852 when he voluntarily withdrew from public affairs. It is said that his sister, Kesiah Hagin, managed his political campaigns.

Because part of Bulloch County was three years a part of Screven County it is evident that the people then living in that part of Bulloch County should have been connected with Georgia history as Screven County citizens.

From early days in Screven County the Laniers were prominent in state and county affairs. Benjamin Lanier was a representative on the Executive Council of the State in 1782, 1783 and 1786. At this time Bulloch and a part of Screven were known as Effingham. Lewis Lanier represented Screven in 1795 and Bulloch from 1801 to 1804. There is a record of deed in the Bulloch County Clerk’s office showing in 1800 Lewis Lanier purchased 4,100 acres of land from William Kirby for $1,200, part of the land lying on Spring Creek.

Lewis Lanier was born in Virginia and entered
the Revolutionary War there. He was immediately elected captain and later promoted to the rank of major by General Washington. He lost his sword crossing the Delaware and General Washington presented him with another. After the war he went to North Carolina and was a member of the House of Commons of that state during 1787 and 1788. In 1790 he left North Carolina and came to this area where his services were sought and his career continued until his death in 1839 at the age of 83. Lewis Lanier played an important part in the Yazoo fraud, that scandalous chapter in Georgia history.

The Yazoo Act was passed by the General Assembly of Georgia on January 7, 1795. This act provided for the sale of some 35 million acres of land (Georgia's public domain which extended to the Mississippi River) to four large private companies. Stockholders in the companies included some of the most prominent people in political life—judges, state officials, and officials of the United States Government. Patrick Henry was involved but later withdrew. All kinds of pressure was brought to bear on the Legislature to pass the act. Bribery was used extensively. After an investigation a member of the U. S. Congress said, "Suffice it to say that every vote given for the law save one, that of Robert Watkins, undeniably is a corrupt vote purchased either with money or a gift of sub shares in the speculation or both."

At the time of this fraud Bulloch County had not been created, but Lewis Lanier was a member of the Senate from Screven. He fought very hard and voted against the measure and was most active along with Clement Lanier in bringing about the passage of the rescinding act by which Georgia's reputation was redeemed.

An interesting Revolutionary grant to land in Bulloch County was to Nicolas Anciaux who came to America with Lafayette with a commission as captain signed by Louis XVI of France. He served in America under the command of Count Dupont, was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and later settled in Savannah where he established N. Anciaux and Co. and Anciaux's Wharf.

Anciaux got his grants in Bulloch County in 1807. The deed is dated July 22, 1809 for 1,200 acres within four miles of Statesboro, located on Mill Creek. His wife was Lydia Richardson from Newport, R. I. The graves of Col. Anciaux and his wife are on the old homestead. Their daughter, Eliza, was the wife of John McPherson Berrien who served as U. S. Senator, was appointed Attorney General in President Andrew Jackson's Cabinet and exerted a great influence in Georgia politics. Berrien's daughter, Mrs. Margaret Berrien Echols, married Eli Kennedy, son of Francis Kennedy, on August 20, 1839.

Lydia Anciaux resided in Bulloch until her death in 1838. Berrien administered her estate in 1839. She was a wealthy woman of her time. She belonged to the New Hope Methodist Church.

In the "History of Methodism in Georgia and Florida" by Geo. C. Smith, Jr., a letter from the Rev. J. Knowles, dated 1835, says that at New Hope Church he found a brother of Rev. William Kennedy, Eli Kennedy, who was recording steward and a "most efficient co-laborer and that he had a worthy and efficient advisor in the sainted Mrs. Lydia Anciaux. More than three score years of age she was teaching in the Sunday School and active in other lines of Christian service in the church and community." In this same history there is a reference to a legacy left by her to the General Conference and in the quarterly records of 1814-1828 there are other records of her generosity.

The spelling of this name was corrupted into "Handshaw" which some colored families in the community have borne as a result of the custom of slaves taking the names of their owners.
In 1803 a new law for giving land was made. This was the land lottery. Various treaties were made with the Indians which extended the public lands of Georgia, a strip of land west of the Oconee River (1802), to the Ocmulgee River (1806), to the Flint River (1821), to the Chattahoochee River (1826). After each session of these lands the Legislature would pass a new lottery act laying out and dividing the territory into 202 1/2-acre tracts. After this land was surveyed and properly charted, it was offered to the public in the form of a lottery, in which each citizen should have one chance. If he were the head of a family he was given two chances. From 1820 on an invalid or veteran of the Revolution was allowed two additional draws. As there were many more citizens in every lottery than there were parcels of land, it happened that many people drew blanks and therefore received no land. By 1839 most of the free land in the state had been given away to fortunate entrants and the number of counties in Georgia had increased to ninety-two.

The following residents of Bulloch County drew lottery grants in Gwinett County: James Hendrix, Margaret Lanier, Redick Thornton, John Futch, Mathew Jones Jr., Sherrod McCall, Ansel Parrish, and Carmice Self; in Irwin County: Archibald Cannon, Sr., Simeon Gay, Sr., and Ephraim Rigdon; in Lee County: Samuel Davis, Andrew Golding, Joseph Hodges, John Hudler, David Lee, David Pridgen, George Rodenberg, John Royalston and George Royalston; in Muscogee County: Benjamin Giddings, Andrew Golding, David Lee and William Woodcock; in Troup County: John Sheffield and Abigail Turner.

This is by no means a complete list of Bulloch Countians who drew land in the state lotteries. It is only a list of veterans and former soldiers of the U.S. Army of the American Revolution who drew in the Third Lottery (1820), the Fifth Lottery (1827) and the Sixth Lottery (1832).

A news item in the July 23, 1807 issue of The Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, a newspaper published in Savannah, stated that 837 names of people in Bulloch County were listed as being entitled to draw in the state lotteries and that the chances of winners were three and one-half to one.

One of the earliest deeds of purchase, dated September 11, 1795, appearing in the deed book A of the clerk's office of Bulloch was 350 acres of land on Ironmonger Creek for 100 pounds sterling bought by William Wise from John Martin. This was a good quality of land and sold for about $1.50 per acre.

William Wise was a neighbor of Lydia Anciaux already mentioned. His children married into the Groover family, the Bridger Jones family, the Goodman family, the Denmark family, the McElveen family and the Cone family.

Deeds for lands purchased in Bulloch County as early as 1793 are recorded in the names of Malchi and Redden Denmark. William Denmark lived in Effingham County about a half mile below Hickory Bluff on the north side of the Great Ogeechee. Malachi and Redden Moye were his stepsons. On November 18, 1802, the State Legislature passed an act as follows:

WHEREAS: Redden and Malachi Moye have generally been called and known by the names of Redden and Malachi Denmark, and under those names have made various contracts and engagements; And whereas, it is their wish and desire to bear the name of Denmark, and to be authorized and confirmed therein by law,

BE IT THEREFORE enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same that the said Redden and Malachi, be fully authorized to bear, use and retain the name of Denmark, and they are hereby confirmed therein. And all contracts and engagements made by them or either of them under that name shall be equally valid to all intents and purposes as if the same had been or were
made in the name of Moye, anything to the contrary notwithstanding."

Signed: Abraham Jackson, Speaker.
David Emanuel, Pres. of Senate.

Malachi Denmark was a member from Bulloch County of the State House of Representatives from 1823 to 1827, when he entered the Senate for one term. He lived on a plantation located on upper Black Creek and Poplar Branch below Brannen "Old Mill" near Brooklet, adjoining the lands of his brother Redden. Some of their neighbors were: Sherrod McCall, William McNeeley, John Rawls, Jehu Everett, David Lastinger, Seth Williams, John Green, William Brannen, Abel Lee, James Lewis Sr., James Lewis Jr., Ephraim Chambless, and Francis Akins.

Redden Denmark died in 1813 and his widow and family moved to Lowdnes County, Georgia.

The early settlers of Bulloch County were stockmen for the most part. In the appraisals of estates in the ordinary's office the records indicate that the greater part of an estate was in cattle. A yeoman's estate, for instance, lists twenty-three head of cattle values at $84.50 and nine head of hogs at $18. A small slave holder's estate in 1800 showed cattle valued at $3,500 and hogs valued at $50.

Stock brands are registered in the ordinary's office from 1796. The first one listed is the mark of Cornelius Lofty, a "crop split and upper bit in one ear and under bit in the other, "branded thus "CM."

The first entry related to cotton in the county shows one cotton gin valued at $50 in 1807 as a part of the estate of Francis Kennedy.

In 1809 John Burkhalter's estate shows one bale of cotton valued at 12½ cents per pound. In 1809, the estate of Samuel Ryall lists six bales of cotton valued at 14 3/4 cents per pound. In 1817 a return of a business transaction relative to the estate of John Lanier shows cash received for cotton in the amount of $810.

So by 1817 cotton was being produced in Bulloch County in sizable quantities.

However, from 1800 to 1825, according to some recorded inventories of estates, farmers in the county had not acquired slaves in large numbers as shown by the following entries:

The estate of John Mikell lists thirteen Negroes, John Tomlinson lists one Negro boy, John Oliff lists one Negro, Henry Parrish lists one Negro woman, John Kirkland lists one Negro woman, Francis Kennedy lists one Negro woman, Elizabeth Gwinn lists two Negroes, Archibald Carr lists one Negro woman, Ezekiel Selph lists four Negroes, William Johnson lists five Negroes, John Lane lists three Negroes, Samuel Ryall lists Eleven Negroes, Redden Denmark lists three Negroes, Benjamin Morris lists thirteen Negroes, Stephen McCoy lists one Negro, Philip Griner lists ten Negroes, Elizabeth Ryall lists one Negro woman, Sam Williams lists two Negroes, Drury Jones lists fourteen Negroes, Stephen Denmark lists sixteen Negroes, John Lanier lists twenty-two Negroes, Thomas Rawls lists twenty-one Negroes, David Goodman lists eight Negroes, James Jones lists thirty-four Negroes, Bridger Jones lists eight Negroes and Nathaniel Hall lists fifteen Negroes.

The value of these slaves varied according to age and condition but the average value placed upon them was between $400 and $500 each. However there is a record in Book 3-A in the Ordinary's office of two slaves belonging to the estate of William McElveen having been sold at public outcry, before the courthouse of Chatham County, which were bid off by John DeLoach, February 6, 1838, "Adam" selling for $985 and "Monday" selling for $1,455.

As the production of cotton became more and more general in the county more and more available capital was invested in slaves.
Early Manners and Customs

In the piney woods section of Bulloch County land was cheap. Many early settlers acquired holdings, valued at about twenty-five cents an acre, on which they built their cabins and put their cattle out to feed on the abundance of wiregrass.

These people had a strong feeling of independence which developed with the ownership of the land on which they lived.

The life of these yeoman settlers was simple, difficult and rugged. Getting to and from markets was hard.

They raised, for home use, upland rice and corn, making as much as eight to ten bushels of corn to an acre. Cattle and hogs furnished meat for the family. Syrup and sugar were home made with every farmer owning his own syrup kettle and sugar mill, producing up to five barrels of sugar from three-quarters of an acre of sugar cane.

The forests and streams and ponds furnished game and fish to supplement the family larder.

These farmers began life on their new lands in their one-room cabins built by themselves. Their womenfolk did the family cooking in an open fireplace in which iron cranes held cooking kettles. Roasting ears of corn were cooked in the shucks and sweet potatoes were baked in the hot ashes on the hearth.

As a family increased a shed was added to the main room of the cabin. Sometimes the family spread out, building a kitchen and dining room in a separate cabin in the yard, usually at the rear of the main cabin.

This yeoman class of farmers had few, if any, slaves. They had little or no formal education and many could not read nor write as the number of "X" marks used as signatures by them found on the earliest records of deeds in the County Clerk's office testify.

These people were proud and independent. They married early and had large families. They had an abundance of plain food. They worked hard and lived hard and did not hesitate to take a dram when they felt they wanted it. If, on occasion, they got too much they would acknowledge the sin at the next monthly church meeting.

White, writing in 1849, said of Bulloch County: "The Bulloch farmer would get rich while others would starve because of his economy and industry. Much to the credit of the people it is said that indisposition to contract debts is a peculiar trait of their character and debts when contracted are honorably and punctually met. Whilst awarding praise to the inhabitants of this section of the state for many good qualities it is our duty to say that so far as temperance is concerned they are behind the times. Whiskey has its votaries. Those who have attempted to show the citizens the folly and ill consequence of intemperance have been insulted and threatened."

One source of income was timber from the forests. Logs were taken from the swamps, floated down the Ogeechee and marketed in Savannah.

Another money crop was cotton. The farmer who grew cotton averaged about 400 pounds to the acre. This together with hides, tallow, beeswax, fruits, etc. he carried to Savannah and sold for enough money to buy calico, cotton and woolen cards and nails. These were about the extent of his purchases.
Here is an inventory and appraisal of the property of a yeoman farmer of Bulloch made in 1798:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 head of cattle</td>
<td>$112.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 head of hogs</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 mare and colt</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 chairs, 1 spinning wheel and cards</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pots, 1 kettle and hooks</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 axes and 2 hoes</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ploughs</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 cow hides</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One woman’s saddle and triddle</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 guns</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 tub, 1 pail, 1 seive, 1 pigeon, 1 tray</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 earthen plates</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 tins and 1 teapots</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 chest, 1 feather bed</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 knives, 4 forks, 2 gimlets</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 bottles</td>
<td>.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 head of sheep</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot of books</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 waistcoat pattern, 2 pair shoes</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 case knives and forks</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot tin ware, glasses, sundry articles</td>
<td>5.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 trunks</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 coffee mill, tea kettle, piggard</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 smoothing iron, 1 jug, 2 bottles, 1 chamber pot</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 wooden wheel, 1 keg, 1 pair pincers and nips</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pot and hooks, skillet</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 old stay and harness, old chair</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$308.87

Interesting also is the inventory of a Bulloch County woman who died in 1809:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 head of cattle</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bed and pillow, 2 sheets, counterpane and bedstead</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 sheets—1 counterpane</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 petticoats, 2 skirts, 2 pair of pockets with sundry trifles</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 counterpanes, 2 blankets</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19¾ yds. calico</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3½ yds. Irish linen</td>
<td>2.62½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 yds. hem trim</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1½ yds. linen—1 apron pattern, 2 lawn handkerchiefs</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 habits, 7 petticoats, 6 wrappers, 3 aprons</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 large trunk, four shifts, 12 caps</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb of crockery ware</td>
<td>4.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8¼ lbs. spun cotton</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1½ dozen table spoons</td>
<td>1.12½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 table—1 box with sundry trifles</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 counterpane</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 set curtains, 1 coverlet, 1 cloak, 2 coats</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 yds. coarse linen</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1½ yds. silk, 2 shawls, 5 handkerchiefs</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 aprons, 2 wrappers, 2 caps, 2 pr. gloves</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 waistcoat pattern, 2 pair shoes</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 case knives and forks</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot tin ware, glasses, sundry articles</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 trunks</td>
<td>3.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 smoothing iron, 1 jug, 2 bottles, 1 chamber pot</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 wooden wheel, 1 keg, 1 pair pincers and nips</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pot and hooks, skillet</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 old stay and harness, old chair</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$250.25

In Bulloch County there were families who had settled on the oak and hickory lands of the river, and had built up wealth and lived in decided comfort. About twenty slaves was considered a large number for one family to own in this section of the state. A man usually designated himself as “Planter” when he had as many as twenty slaves; otherwise he was called “Yeoman” or “Farmer.”

The social system was by no means rigid in the cotton belt. The average slave holder encouraged his Negroes in the fields by following his own plough or by setting the pace for the cotton choppers in the cotton fields. The hard working foreman was recognized by and held the respect of the planter.

On the plantations, which consisted of two or three thousand acres, were field hands and household and kitchen servants. The plantation house was usually a two story frame structure with a drawing room, a large dining room and a large bedroom downstairs and about four or more rooms upstairs for the children. The kitchen was connected with the house by a sort of breezeway; this was of course a protection for the house if fire should break out in the kitchen.

The gardens contained, in addition to live oaks and magnolias, crepe myrtles, gardenias, sweet shrubs and spirea. Avenues led from the plantation house to the road. This might be a quarter or half mile from the house. On each side of the avenue were parks of beautiful trees.

There was a spring house near the kitchen to keep food fresh and cool. There were no screens to protect liquids from flies so the pitchers were covered with tiddies ornamented with crochet. Fly brushes, three or four feet long with peacock feathers on the end, were gently waved back and forth by little Negro girls to keep flies from the food as people ate.

The earliest method of getting from place to place was by horseback. Inventories of the earliest estates in the county list men’s saddles and women’s saddles with
a good horse valued from $80 to $150. Horse carts are listed in the early 1800's as well as riding chairs and harness. By 1819 an inventory shows a gig and harness valued at $175. An interesting item of a will made in 1834 states: “I give and bequeath to my wife, Rhoda Lockhart, my largest mahogany bedstead, bed, (this referred to feather beds) and furniture and other household furniture she may select to the amount of $50, and my gig and $80 to purchase a gentle horse for her use.”

Travel before the 1830's and 1840's was by stage coach. Maude Brannen Edge tells of the stage coach traveling on the old River Road from Milledgeville to Savannah. Every fifteen or twenty miles relay stations were located where the tired horses were relieved by fresh ones. The stage coach hauled mail and passengers. These stations were probably at Blitch, Mill Ray, Ivanhoe and Haskell Simmons’ place near Stilson.

Freight was carried for long distances by trains of wagons. It was customary for neighbors going to market at Savannah to form a party and go together setting up a camp for the night somewhere along the way. Traveling alone could be dangerous especially when returning from Savannah with money from the produce taken down and sold there. Several Bulloch County citizens were murdered in that section called Shivers Swamp not too far out of Savannah.

Concerning the climate of Bulloch County, White says that it was healthy and pleasant and there were few diseases, that he knew of no section of Georgia in which there were more chances for health than among the pine forests of Bulloch County. The cases of longevity which he reported in 1849 in the county were Mrs. Driggers and Mrs. Cannon said to have been 104 at their deaths, Mrs. Everett 106, Mr. Rimes died at 92, William Kerby at 90, Mrs. Hagan at 80, Joseph Hodges at 80, Mrs. Shepherd at 106, Nathan Brewton at 90.

White also reports that in 1849 there were 8 sawmills and 12 grist mills in the county. He observed that the roads and bridges were kept in good order.

There were few newspapers circulating in the county in these days but people got together at their regular church meetings, camp meetings and other occasions and learned a great deal by personal contact and word of mouth. At camp meetings they heard from great men such as George F. Pierce, Methodist Bishop, and Jesse Mercer, the Baptist preacher. Also at political barbecues they listened to political orators.

Social life and customs were carried into the occupations of the people. When time came to shuck corn the owner of the field or plantation would give a “corn-shucking” to which the neighbors would be invited. This was followed by a feast. There would be a “log-rolling” when new ground was cleared. While the men were log rolling the women would have quilting parties after which they had a fine country dinner—chicken cooked in various ways, fried, stewed with dumplings, in a pilau, boiled or fried ham, roasted quail, wild turkey, venison, biscuits, thin hoecakes, corn pones, fresh vegetables from the gardens, sweet potato pie, custard pies, cake, syllabub. Often a pig or deer would be barbecued in a pit.

The families living near the river usually had landings on the river where they would congregate for fish fries.

After the Revolution and the organization of our government the militia of the state was an important part of the national defense and careful attention was given to it up to the time of the War Between the States. The men were organized into companies, battalions, regiments, brigades and divisions officered by lieutenants, captains, majors, etc. Important posts in the militia were often stepping stones to political office. Many of the inventories of estates in Bulloch County carry the item “Militia Sword.”

In the minutes of the Inferior Court of July, 1823, assignments for educational supervision are made in
Captain Hagin's district, Captain Wise's district, Captain DeLoach's district, Captain Fagan's district, and Captain Lockhart's district. Our voting districts still carry two of these names, the Hagin district, and the Lockhart district.

Men amused themselves at the military musters, shooting matches and horse races. A favorite race track in Statesboro was what is now North Main Street. But for those who liked to see the horses run in circles there was the race track around the Race Pond located near the site of the Ogeechee School, just southwest of the Willie Zetterower home. The race track, which gave the pond its name, was exactly one mile around. Here many a horse race was held. Bulloch and Tattnall counties boasted of having some of the swiftest horses in the state and they contested many a derby not only at home but in Savannah and Augusta.

The area also served as a muster ground for the State Militia and here troops gathered for muster drill.

Weddings in early Bulloch County were important social functions. Here is an account of a wedding in 1793, written by Clyde Hollingsworth which includes names of citizens of what three years later became Bulloch County.

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF 1793

"This is the story of the most exciting Christmas Party that was ever held in the pinelands of frontier Georgia. The characters are real and their names have not been changed. The main facts are historical, some details are fictional. The time is Christmas, 1793. The place is the commodious, two story, log dwelling of Benjamin Lanier, the region's most powerful political figure. It was located on the Louisville-Savannah road about midway between the two cities and near the rocky ford over the Ogeechee River.

"The first plans, made mostly by the interested ladies, were for a party combining the festive spirits of Saint Nicholas and the elfin Cupid to honor a newly-elected bride and groom. Bird Lanier, the handsome and promising young son of Benjamin and Susannah Lanier, had won the heart and hand of the region's most beautiful belle, the vivacious and charming Elizabeth Dixon, the daughter of the deceased Robert Dixon, and his widow, Sukey Jones Dixon, who had at this time married Luke Mizell. The wedding was to be December 22, 1793. The party, to which the wedding couple would return from a short honeymoon spent with nearby kinsmen, was to be held on Christmas Eve.

"Even while Susannah Lanier and Sukey Mizell were planning for the Christmas-Wedding festival Benjamin Lanier was in Louisville, the State Capital, on an important mission. About a week before Christmas came the news that the General Assembly of Georgia had passed an Act, on December 14, creating a new county to be named "Screven" and including a large area between the Savannah and Canoochee rivers. An election was to be held on January 19, 1794, to elect the county officers. Added dignity and importance now attached to the Lanier home for it had been designated in the Act as the Capitol Building of the new county.

"That which was planned to be a joyous wedding party, honoring a popular bride and groom, would also become a social and business function of state. Romance would now share honors, not only with Saint Nicholas, but with that which was rapidly becoming the great American pastime—politics! Proud pioneers were eager to establish a new government in the pine barrens, and a culture founded upon the ideologies being rapidly molded as the American way of life. "We must ask everybody!" exclaimed the determined and jubilant Benjamin Lanier to the demurring Susannah and Sukey, whose timidity was soon turned to enthusiasm when they had offers of help from the neighbors, and widows, Elizabeth Mills, Vera Hollingsworth, and Elizabeth Huckabee Jones, and their female slaves. To the rear of the Lanier dwelling was an open court surrounded by the slave quarters. It was in this court that the men dug a barbecue pit, cleared a place for a
bonfire, and had a large pile of oak and hickory wood placed to be used for the barbecue. There was a large pot hanging in the trivet. The dutch oven, and the large fireplaces were in the kitchen and the main part of the house.

"The wedding was in simple dignity as was customary with woods people. The vows were spoken before the groom's great uncle, Justice Lemuel Lanier, at the home of the bride's mother in the presence of a few relatives and friends. Sukey lived on the Louisville road a few miles southeast of the Ben Lanier residence. The lone exception to the simple homespun and hand woven garments of those present was the beautiful wedding dress of the bride. It had also been the wedding dress of the bride's mother, and of Elizabeth Huckabee, her grandmother, when she was wedded to Francis Jones back in North Carolina. It was the family's sole possession and symbol of a social culture several generations removed from the hard and rugged pioneer life deep in the Georgia back woods.

"For the honeymoon the couple went by horseback to spend the night with relatives west of the Ogeechee River. They crossed the river at rocky ford where it was legendary for the girl, if she loved the boy, to feign fear of her horse stumbling so that the one she loved could take her in his arms, and step by step, from rock to rock carry her to the opposite bank. As they had done before, they crossed with Elizabeth held closely to the heart of Bird, and they, as many couples to follow, knew the thrill of crossing upon the rocks of the Ogeechee.

"Great preparations were made for the large crowd expected at the Lanier home which included many slaves and their children. Several acres, to the front and rear of the Lanier manor was cleaned of debris and swept with gallberry brooms. Hogs, lambs, deer and wild turkey were butchered and made ready for the barbecue pit. The house was cleaned and decorated from front to back. The men brought holly, mistletoe and bamboo from the swamp for decoration. A row of stockings was hung from the long mantle in the living room for the Lanier grandchildren who would spend Christmas Eve in the Manor House.

"By sundown all guests had arrived. The bride and groom were the center of attention for the admiring crowd and received many gifts and warm felicitations from everyone. The house was jammed with a crowd that overflowed to the kitchen and dining room outside of the main house, and to the bonfire in the court and around the barbecue pit where they enjoyed the savory fumes from the roasting meat. The guests included, besides those already mentioned, Luke Mizell, Anthony Bonnell, John and Winefred Bonnell, James and Elizabeth Jones, Francis and Polly Jones, Ben and Mary Womack, Joseph and Sarah Jackson, Clement and Sallie Lanier, Robert and Sarah Dixon Williams, Stephen and Jane Mills, Abraham Lane, Drury Jones, Abraham and Patience Mincey, William and Anne Blackman, Richard and Letitia Cooper, William Coursey, Michael Dixon, Thomas Hylton, Lewis Lanier, William Cooper, John and Sarah Lanier, Lemuel Lanier, and a score or more of the 'younger set,' besides many children.

"Following the sumptuous feed, the younger contingent, led by Bird and Elizabeth, gathered in the living room to dance. William Blackman and Abraham Mincey were the fiddlers. The white children and pickaninnies played by the light of the bonfire. The men gathered around the fire, each bringing his seat, a block of wood from the wood pile, to make plans for the formation of government in a large section of Georgia.

"Ben Lanier led the discussion. He had already received from the Governor his commission as Chairman of the Justices of the Inferior Court. It was this court's duty to plan the election and handle the fiscal affairs of the county. The men proceeded with dignity and earnestness. None of them had much formal education. Theirs was the job to establish law and order in a large area far removed from the centers of govern-
ment. Lawlessness, illiteracy, and immorality were factors against which they must plan. While there is no record of their thinking it must have been decided that the county officers should, for the most part, be men who lived near the home of Ben Lanier, which was the capital of the county. Probably no other Screven Countian has had so much responsibility as did Benjamin Lanier. The force of his power is attested by the results of the election on January 19 when Lewis Lanier was elected to the Senate, Clement Lanier, Ben’s son, was elected to the house, William Coursey, a close neighbor, was elected sheriff, Thomas Hylton, a neighbor, was elected Clerk of Superior Court, Robert Williams, who married a sister of the bride, was elected Clerk of the Inferior Court, Lemuel Lanier was elected Probate Judge, and Luke Mizell, Justice.

“In spite of the vicissitudes of the era these strong men, and their women, established in Georgia’s forest a society, which preserved for us, in decency, the home as a sacred institution, government as a protection to liberty and justice, under a God that we can worship in complete mental freedom.”

Another interesting wedding account quoted from “Out of the Past” by Maude Brannen Edge follows:

“My great grandfather, John F. Brannen, lived very near Lower Lotts Creek Church on the old Burkhalter Road. His daughter, Amelia Ann, married a Tootle from Tattnall County.

“On the day of the wedding it began to rain and when the feasting was over the guests couldn’t go home. It rained for a week and the guests remained for the entire time.

“The sad part, the Infare was to be held next day at the groom’s home over in Tattnall. This Infare was a great occasion—almost like a second wedding. The groom’s relatives all came bringing gifts and they would feast for sure.

“The gifts from both sides of the family were feather beds and pillows, pillow cases and shams, home-made quilts, iron kettle, pots and pans, a skillet, a spider, flat irons, and a bread tray of fine wood.

“One father would give a mule and wagon. The groom’s father would give land for the new home. The neighbors would gather for the log rolling and that was a time of great rejoicing. The women barbecued whole pigs, and had all the good things to eat. When the land was cleared and the trash burned in a great bonfire the foundations and frame for the new home were laid. Solid logs were cut from the long-leaf pine.

“Often the father of the bride gave the daughter a maid for full measure.”

The log houses gradually gave way to houses built out of dressed lumber from the saw mills. The Georgia Senate Journal November 22, 1805, passed an act to authorize John London to clear and keep in repair at his own expense a road from his landing on the great Ogeechee to John Everitt’s saw mill.

An inventory of Arthur Bain’s property made at his death in 1827 lists, 4 kegs of blue paint, a demijohn of turpentine, a box of Spanish whiting, part of a barrel of Spanish brown, a lot of window glass, a paint stone, lamp black, 1 lot of folding blinds, 1 lot of old sashes, partly glazed. He was no doubt one of the earliest house painters of the county.

By the 1820’s the well-to-do families of the county were buying more expensive items of furniture for their homes. Some of the items mentioned are mahogany beds, mahogany tables, side boards, buffets, writing desks, bookcases, windsor chairs, arm chairs, common chairs, chests with drawers, candlesticks and snuffers, wash stands, looking glasses, china ware, crockery, glass ware, kitchen furniture and pot ware, dressing tables, andirons, tongs, fenders and bellows, waiters, glasses and decanters, silver table spoons and silver teaspoons, knives and forks which were not silver, an occasional lot of silver plate, rather much pewter, and in one instance a bathing tub was mentioned.
The plantations were almost self sustaining. Food was grown in abundance. Every plantation had a fine fruit orchard and enough sugar was made from the sugar cane to supply their wants. Cotton was grown and each place had a number of sheep. In one inventory as many as five spinning wheels are listed, also looms appear among the household goods. The slaves did a lot of this spinning and weaving. There are still in the county some fine old bedspreads woven by slaves.

These people were beginning to find what they had sought when they came as pioneers into a wilderness in the 1780's and 1790's, a life that was bountiful, pleasant and rewarding.

Statesboro

There is no resemblance in the county seat of Bulloch County of 1957 and the county's first town of 1803, which came into being only nine years after there was a Bulloch County. Though located on the same site the city we know as "Statesboro" today came into existence as "Statesborough."

An Act of the Georgia Legislature, signed by Governor John Milledge, created the town of Statesborough on December 19, 1803.

It is not known why a man, living in Augusta, Georgia, in 1801, three years before the town of Statesborough was created, should have been so friendly to a community, which in 1880, seventy-seven years after its creation, had a population of only twenty-five. But there was such a man.

George Sibbald, whose name came to be spelled "Siebald" was so generous that he gave the land on which Statesboro now stands. A man of wealth, he had large holdings in Bulloch County and on November 7, 1801, he presented a 200-acre tract to Bulloch County on which to establish a county seat.

The deed as recorded in the clerk's office reads:

"This indenture made the seventh day of November in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and One, between George Sibbald of the City of Augusta, of the one part and Joseph Rogers, Drury Jones, Stephen Denmark, John Cook and John Everett, Commissioners of the County of Bulloch of said State, of the other part:"
"WITNESSETH that the said George Sibbald, actuated by friendship toward the citizens of said County of Bulloch and for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar, to him in hand paid at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, and sold and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell unto the said Joseph Rogers, Drury Jones, Stephen Denmark, John Cook and John Everett, Commissioners as aforesaid, in trust for the County of Bulloch, a certain tract of land containing two hundred acres, situate, lying and being in the said County of Bulloch, at the place selected by the said commissioners for the seat of public buildings and which said two hundred acres shall be there admeasured and laid off out of any lands in the said County belonging to the said George Sibbald and which are known in said County by the name of Ryan Survey in such form as said Commissioners shall order it and think proper. To have and to hold the said two hundred acres of land and the appurtenances unto the said Commissioners and their successors for the use of the said county forever.

"And the said George Sibbald the said two hundred acres of land with the appurtenances ceded to the said Commissioners and their successors and;

"WITNESS whereof the said George Sibbald hath herewith set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year first aforesaid.

"Written, signed and sealed and delivered in the presence of JOHN HAMILL, GEORGE WALTON, Judge; LEWIS LANIER, Justice Inferior Court.

"Signed by GEORGE SIBBALD.

"Recorded the 30th Day of July, 1804. William Kennedy, Clerk Superior Court, Bulloch County."

Evidence of the immensity of the land holdings of this George Sibbald is revealed in the October 4, 1806 issue of The Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, a newspaper published in Savannah. It printed a "Lands for Sale" ad concerning 1,049,908 acres of land in Georgia belonging to George Sibbald to be sold for taxes by the state on November 26, 1806. An item in this advertisement states that 523,874 acres, including 319,874 acres in Bulloch County are described in a pamphlet called "Notes and Observations on the Pine Land of Georgia" by George Sibbald. This told that on the tract in Bulloch County a summer residence had lately been formed by a number of gentlemen from Savannah.

Josiah Everett, the county surveyor, drew up a plan for the town of Statesborough which is recorded in Record Book A in the clerk's office as of February 11, 1806. According to the recorded plat two size lots were laid out. The large lots contained one acre or 132 feet square. The small lots contained one-half acre and were sixty-six feet by 132 feet. The streets were also laid out in two sizes. The large ones were sixty-six feet wide and the small ones were thirty-three feet wide.

The County Commissioners, at the time the town was laid out, were T. Kennedy, Hustus Studstill, James Williams and John Everett.

And so the town of Statesborough became a reality.

According to a statement by the late Mr. J. A. Brannen there is no record of how the new town came by the name "Statesborough." He said the best theory was that Thomas Jefferson made a great fight in Virginia in behalf of States' Rights and the rights of the people for local self government. He became president in 1801 when this question was a burning issue in politics and so "Statesborough" was so named in honor of States' Rights.

With the town now laid out in lots by the County Commissioners they were sold and the funds from the sales provided for the erection of a courthouse.

This first courthouse was a log house which was burned by the Yankees in 1864. When the present courthouse was erected in 1894 it replaced the two-story frame courthouse building which was moved down
West Main Street. There it became “The Opera House” where entertainment of the times was presented. At the rear of the courthouse site were two small brick buildings, one occupied by the sheriff and the other by the clerk of the court.

In the town’s original charter, granted in 1866, “Statesborough” became “Statesboro.” This charter is recorded on pages 197 and 198 of the Acts of Georgia, 1866 and reads as follows:

“AN ACT TO MAKE PERMANENT THE COUNTY SITE OF BULLOCH COUNTY, AND TO INCORPORATE THE SAME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES:

“SECTION 1. Be it enacted, etc., that the town of Statesboro in the County of Bulloch, shall be and the same is hereby made the permanent seat of public building of said county.

“SECTION II. That W. H. Myley, W. H. Coleman, C. Pretodius (Preetorius), J. Zetomer (Zetterower) and C. E. Fletcher be and they are hereby appointed commissioners of said town with power and authority to make such by-laws for the government and good order of said town as may be necessary: provided that such by-laws are not repugnant to the Constitution of this State and the United States.

“SECTION III. That the said town of Statesboro be and the same is hereby incorporated and the limits of said corporation extended one mile in every direction from the courthouse square.

“SECTION IV. That the said commissioners and their successors in office so appointed by this Act be a body politic for the purposes set forth in this Act and that they or a majority of them have power to fill all such vacancies as may occur between the periods of their appointment and the regular terms of the election for commissioners as pointed out in this Act.

“SECTION V. That the commissioners herein named and appointed shall hold their office until the first Monday in January, 1868, when an election shall

be held in said town, and at such place as may by said commissioners be appointed and regulated by such by-laws as they think advisable and be from year to year as long as said corporation be in existence.

“SECTION VI. That all persons entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly residing within the corporate limits of said town shall be entitled to vote for commissioners and other officers necessary for the government of said town.

“SECTION VII. That said commissioners or a majority of them shall have power to enforce obedience to the by-laws and regulations of said corporation and to punish for a violation of the laws by fine and imprisonment in no case to exceed twenty dollars and such imprisonment in no instance to exceed ten days.

“Assented to 20th of December, 1866.”

Statesboro has had four charters. The first in 1866, the second in 1889, the third in 1902 and the fourth in 1912. It is the charter of 1912 that Statesboro now operates under.

J. A. Brannen was the first mayor, having been elected under the second charter granted in 1889 when the name of the community was changed from the “Town of Statesboro” to the “City of Statesboro.”

For many decades the new town did not attract people and its growth and development was slow. One or two small log residences where travelers could spend the night and a grocery store where one could buy rum and tobacco constituted the whole town for many years.

By 1880 the population of Statesboro was only twenty-five people and its reputation was likened into that of Jacksonborough, the county seat of Screven County—“a good place to stay away from.”

The Ordinary’s Court was held on the first Monday of each month and so was a general gathering day at the courthouse.

Superior Court, known as “Big Court,” convened twice a year when the entire male population for miles
around came to town. Here they would attend to business, talk politics, swap horses, run races and settle disputes.

Tales are told of many a fight under the old Walnut Tree which marked the center of town and stood for scores of years on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. The fighting was all fisticuff, however. The man who drew a knife or a gun was considered an arrant coward. Men would meet in hand-to-hand combat for no other reason than to prove one was the better man physically.

A stranger was regarded with suspicion. He was quizzed about his business and his destination. If he became obstinate in answering he was ridden around the courthouse square on a rail. If he repented his folly and begged pardon for refusing to answer he was allowed to go his way after he had treated his hecklers to at least a quart at the little grocery store on the corner. If he stayed overnight he might discover that the practical jokers had suspended his buggy from the tallest sapling in the neighborhood and to get it down would require another quart or two as recompense.

Some of the citizens of the county would come to town on “Big Court” days barefooted and wearing home woven clothes. Some of the women wore homespun bonnets and dresses.

With all their rough ways and manners these people, as a whole, had a great sense of honor and a fine feeling of respectability. A man’s word was his bond and if he failed to keep it he lost the respect of his fellow citizens.

At this period there were no lawyers to handle the court business in Statesboro. They all came from afar, most of them riding horseback from Savannah. Occasionally one would come from Sylvania, Waynesboro, Sandersville or Hinesville. Considerable revenue was earned by the citizens of the town who provided lodgings for these lawyers at $2 per day while they were in town on court business.

The first store in Statesboro during the early days was kept by Mr. B. J. Sims. His stock consisted of a few canned goods, one or maybe two dozen pairs of shoes, a few bolts of cloth and plenty of whiskey. He was a good citizen and lived to see the town grow and change.

Sally Fletcher operated a public dining room located about where the rear of the Minkovitz store building now is.

Some of the first citizens of the new town were Mr. Charnock Fletcher, Mr. W. B. Griner, Mr. Dave Proctor, Mr. Joe Zetterower and Mr. Jake Neville. Mr. Fletcher, considered a “great character,” lived about where the Alfred Dorman home now stands. Mr. Griner lived about where the McLellan’s store is now located. Mr. Proctor’s home was on the west side of town. Mr. Zetterower lived in the southeastern section of the community and Mr. Neville lived about where the Statesboro Buggy and Wagon Company now is.

During these early years a man’s horse was his most valuable possession and a horse thief was considered the meanest of criminals and when caught was handled as such.

Not long after the War Between the States a man by the name of Johnson, said to have been a member of a gang of horse thieves in South Carolina, came into the Statesboro area. He was caught here and after a conference held by the “boys” a death sentence was pronounced upon him. He was given a good supper, ridden down the road and swung to a persimmon tree growing about where the Smith-Tillman Mortuary now is. This persimmon tree stood there for a long time but its fruit was considered undesirable. The Negroes of that time told many a blood curdling tale about how they could see Johnson swinging from that tree limb on dark, dark nights.

This was Statesboro’s first lynching and over it there developed a wide split in public opinion. It became the subject of political division and resulted in splitting
some of the leading families of the county, with the bitterness lasting for several years.

Statesboro's first legal execution took place in 1879 when Drew Holloway, a Negro, was hung for the murder of another Negro. The citizens of the town insisted that the scaffold on which Holloway was to be hanged should be way out of town, so it was erected about half way between the courthouse and the site on which Georgia Teachers College was to be established. This was a public hanging. People came from miles around to witness the gruesome sight.

The next legal hanging was in 1889 and was also a public affair. The third and last legal execution in Statesboro was private and took place in the county jail yard.

The last lynching in Statesboro was in July, 1904. Two Negroes, Reed and Cato, were burned to death on the northwest side of town for having murdered an entire family of white people who lived on the edge of the town.

After the early 1870's trading in real estate in Statesboro became active and many interesting transactions were completed.

One involved Mr. W. B. Griner, his neighbor, Mr. Jake Nevils, and Mr. Solomon Olliff. It was said that Mr. Griner and Mr. Nevils could not get along together as neighbors, and Mr. Nevils decided to sell his property. He sold his 300 acres, which included everything from the courthouse to about where the present U. S. Highway 80 crosses East Main Street, to Mr. Solomon Olliff for $1,500 and gave him seven years in which to pay for it. The general opinion at that time was that the price was extremely high and that Mr. Olliff had been robbed.

Mr. Lonnie Brannen and Mr. R. F. (Bob) Lester bought what was known as "The Barnard Property" which included eighty acres of land in what is now the principal section of Statesboro. They paid $10 per acres for the property and this too, was considered a very high price for land. Mr. Brannen took the section down West Main Street and Mr. Lester took that section out Savannah Avenue. A few years later Mr. Lester sold one acre of his section for $5,000 without any improvements on it.

Mr. B. E. Turner moved in and bought 400 acres of land, known as "The Granny Nevils Place," from Dr. A. L. R. Avant for $700. Dr Avant had paid $400 for it a few years before. Mr. Turner sold off a number of lots and then, a few years later sold the remaining land for $24,000.

In the year 1880 the total population of the town of Statesboro was only twenty seven. That decade saw the town grow until the population, on June 9, 1890, had increased to 525. In the same ten years the population of the county had grown from 8,053 to 13,709.

It was about this time that the County Commissioners felt the need of a city jail and so on May 30, 1879, they advertised in the Excelsior News, the only newspaper published in the county and printed at Excelsior, asking for sealed proposals and set forth the specifications.

The jail was to be 22 by 23 feet, with 8 feet between joints, outside dimensions. The flooring, walls and top were to be of planks 2 inches by 8 inches, "laid flat on each other and nailed in diamonds with 400 nails so close that a 1 1/2-inch auger hole cannot be made between them." The rooms were to be 7 feet by 10 feet and an aisle of six feet. There were to be four inside doors with good substantial iron hinges bolted on and nuts bradded. One window was to be in each room and each window grated with one and one-quarter-inch bars of iron up and down in double line so that "an inch bar cannot pass through the windows."

The jail was to be placed on solid brick walls nine and one-half inches thick and ten inches above the level of the ground.

It was to be completed by January 1, 1880. A. R.
Lanier, as clerk of the County Commissioners, signed the legal advertisement in April, 1879.

It must have been during this decade that the early leaders had visions of what the future of Statesboro held. For it was in these years that the first businesses here were established.

In the early 1880’s Mr. J. A. (Lonnie) Brannen put up a store building and put his brother, Bill Brannen in charge. Mr. R. F. (Bob) Lester and his brother, D. B. Lester, built a wooden store and hotel where the Sea Island Bank now stands. Mr. W. B. Griner and Mr. B. J. Sims operated what passed for hotels.

In 1881 R. F. (Bob) Lester and J. A. Brannen built the first two-story building in town. In 1886 there were three “store houses” operated by R. F. Lester, W. B. Griner and R. Simmons. In 1889 the business section had grown and now included Blitch and Blitch who sold dry goods, groceries, hardware, furniture, etc.; Smith and Turner who sold groceries, dry goods, hardware, tinware, farming utensils, etc.; Mrs. J. V. Langford who sold “fine millinery goods, stylish hats, flowers, birds and ribbons”; John A. Smith sold horses and mules and “boarded stock”; Mr. J. A. Brannen sold real estate; W. D. Davis sold cotton gins “guaranteed to gin 800 pounds of lint a day”; Dr. M. M. Holland operated the Statesboro Drug Store and Tom Newsome was his clerk.

In 1889 Statesboro received its second charter and Mr. J. A. Brannen was elected the first mayor. It was that year that the first meeting to take steps in “locating a place for the burial of the dead” was held on Friday night, May 17, and Mr. J. E. C. Tillman was named chairman. A board of trustees was named including D. C. Proctor, B. E. Turner, D. R. Groover, Jos. Zetterower, R. L. Lester, J. E. C. Tillman, Wm. Huggins, H. S. Blitch, John A. Smith and S. F. Olliff. Col. D. R. Groover was made chairman of the trustees.

On April 18, 1889 it was announced that “a neat picket fence now surrounds the courthouse square. Mr. Gus Waters did the job.”

In 1890 the business section of Statesboro was limited to North Main Street, South Main Street and the south side of East Main Street.

At the corner of South and East Main Street, R. F. Donaldson conducted a merchantile business. Next door to him on East Main Street was a two-story boarding house operated by Hiram Franklin. East of this boarding house, Mr. E. L. Smith operated a grocery business and next to Mr. Smith was a general store operated by J. F. Fields. A small brick store, the first brick store built in Statesboro, was located on the present site of W. C. Akins and Son Hardware Company and was occupied by S. T. Chance.

Another brick store on the corner of South Main Street and West Main Street was operated by the firm of Ellis and Outland. Next to them on South Main was a millinery store operated by Mrs. A. J. Wimberly, a sister of the Ellis brothers. Adjoining the millinery store was a furniture store operated by M. T. Hardee. Next to the furniture store Dr. J. C. White had a small stock of drugs. And on the site of the down-town office of the Statesboro Telephone Company Walter Reeves ran a restaurant and cool drink establishment.

On North Main Street, where the Bulloch County Bank now stands, was another brick store occupied by J. F. Fulcher and C. A. Lanier. Next to them was Ben Mercer’s furniture store. Then came a drug store occupied by L. D. Strutton. Next was a clothing store operated by C. W. Enneis, located on the site where the Fair Store now stands. J. W. Olliff and Company occupied two stores on the site of the McLellan’s Store of today.

Dr. J. B. Cone practiced dentistry in a small frame building on North Main Street at the south corner of what is now the Simmons Shopping Center. Today, not a single building that was here in 1883 still stands.

During the three years before 1890 new homes

J. B. Lee's home, then located on the corner of present Savannah Avenue and Donaldson Street, was the eastern limit of the town. B. E. Turner lived on present South Main Street where the Roy Beaver Home now stands, opposite the Statesboro Regional Library, and operated a small farm. The R. Lee Moore Home at 231 South Main Street, built in 1893, was the southern limit of the town and still stands and is the present home of Miss May Kennedy. On North Main Street at where the present Cross Roads Motel is the J. B. Cone house stood alone. And on West Main Street there was nothing but farm lands beyond the "Big Ditch."

On the corner of our present East Main Street and Seibald Street, where the Bank of Statesboro building now stands, was the Hall Hotel owned by Mr. W. M. Hall. This property was sold in 1900 to Mr. J. W. Olliff. East of the hotel was the home of Mr. S. F. Olliff. At the corner of present Courtland Street and Seibald Street stood a two-story building known as "Fields Hall," the second story of which was the only auditorium in town. The first floor was divided into offices. On North Main, north of the present courthouse was a long building known as the "Lee Hotel."

In 1893 a big fire destroyed the entire block of buildings from the present site of the Sea Island Bank to the present site of the Singer Sewing Center on the south side of East Main Street.

It was in this decade, about 1883, that Captain John Stone and the Rev. W. M. Cowart conceived the idea of establishing a newspaper in the new town. Together with some of their friends they managed to get up a few handfuls of type and an old army press, built on the principle of a grind stone. They got a load of fence rails and built a small building and opened up what was then considered a first class printing office and thus the Statesboro Eagle was established.

By the time the newspaper was established the county courthouse had deteriorated and was in a bad state of repair. Encouraged by a group of enterprising citizens who had raised $5,000 and contributed it as an incentive to build a creditable structure in Statesboro, the Grand Jury recommended at its spring term of 1894 that a new courthouse be erected. Judge J. S. Martin, county ordinary, advertised for bids and the contract was let to Messrs. J. H. McKenzie and Son of Augusta for $17,000. The building was completed and turned over to the county in 1894. With its furnishings, the total cost was $20,000. It was paid for with money raised out of the taxes levied for two years.

The Courthouse is situated on the highest ridge between the Ogeechee River and the Canoochee River. It marked then, as it marks today the center of town. It is a fact that the water that drips off the northern eaves of the building finds its way down the little stream by the Central of Georgia Railway depot to Mill Creek and thence to the Ogeechee River. That which drips off the South side runs down the little branch by the old Savannah and Statesboro depot into Little Lotts Creek and thence to the Canoochee River.

The year the new Courthouse was completed the following lawyers were practicing in Statesboro: J. A. Brannen and S. L. Moore Jr. as Brannen and Moore; H. B. Strange and Geo. W. Williams as Strange and Williams; Dan R. Groover and G. S. Johnston as Groover and Johnston; H. G. Everett and Robert Lee Moore.

During this year while the Courthouse was under construction business in town continued to flourish. Mrs. Emma Griner was operating the "Rustin House" and Margaret Lee was proprietress of the "Lee Hotel."
D. P. Averitt was operating as a wholesale and retail manufacturer of and dealer in yellow pine lumber. A. M. Johnson was agent for the New Home Sewing Machine Company, and J. W. Olliff and Company sold W. L. Douglas shoes. S. W. Sutton was operating the “Statesboro Barber Shop” and J. F. Fields was dispensing ice cold soda water. W. T. Smith was running a livery, feed and sale stable and Wm. Huggins was a practical brick layer. George J. Davis was painting buggies and carriages and repairing them “good as new.” Mrs. S. A. Wilson was making hats for the lady folk and R. F. Donaldson was operating a general merchandise store handling clothing, dry goods, notions and groceries. And for those who would go to school Parker and Smith sold school books.

Doctors in Statesboro who were attending the sick and afflicted during this year included Dr. M. M. Holland, Dr. J. H. Chandler, Dr. A. H. Mathews, Dr. J. S. Dusenburg, J. B. Cone, surgeon dentist and L. J. McLean, dentist.

By 1897 the late Gus Floyd, one of the town’s leading Negro citizens, had established his barber shop where Lanier Jewelers now stands and haircuts were twenty-five cents and a shave was only 10 cents. G. L. Davis had opened a gunsmith, sewing machine and bicycle repair shop. Mr. J. L. Mathews had been named superintendent of the Dover and Statesboro Railway which had been completed on November 16, 1889, and made the ten miles between the two stations in forty-five minutes.

In 1897 long staple (Sea Island) cotton was selling for 91/2 to 10 3/4 cents per pound and short staple cotton was bringing 4 1/4 to 4 1/2 cents per pound. Mrs. Sarah E. Brannen re-opened “The Drummers’ Home” on North Main Street near the courthouse square and was offering rooms for $2 per day and furnishing free hack service to and from the railroad depot and a free sample room. H. B. Franklin was offering the newest buggies and the fastest horses at “The Bon Ton Stables,” and advertising teams and drivers furnished at all hours, day or night. “The Racket Store” was offering a good black clay worsted suit for $6, “worth $10.” A bargain in ladies’ shoes were offered for $2 reduced from $2.50. “A nice line of all wool red and white flannel from 12 cents to 24 cents a yard” was offered by this store. C. A. Lanier was offering capes at a bargain as well as stock food for making hogs fatten in a hurry.

Mr. J. Z. Kendrick was the agent for the Rocky Ford Brick Company and J. G. Mitchell announced that he was ready to “build anything from a baby carriage to an omnibus.”

In the last week in November of 1897 the Kell Rifles put on a big entertainment at the opera house and paraded the streets in dress uniform and practiced volley firing. On November 27, 1897, Miss Minnie Mathews and Mr. W. L. Zetrouer were united in the bonds of wedlock by the Rev. J. A. Scarboro.

At the year’s end in 1897 Maxey E. Grimes had firmly established his jewelry and optician business which he began in 1892. W. W. Ward set up a shoe repair shop and S. B. Kennedy opened a new dental office in the Olliff building.

And on December 17, 1897 a play entitled “Ten Nights in a Barroom” was presented in the Academy.

While the new Courthouse was in the process of construction in 1894 the businessmen of the town began feeling the need of a place to bank their funds and that year the Bank of Statesboro was organized with a capital stock of $50,000. D. R. Groover was made president and H. S. Blitch, cashier. The board of directors included B. T. Outland, J. C. White, J. C. Jones, J. A. Fulcher, J. W. Olliff, D. R. Groover and H. S. Blitch.

By 1900 the population of Statesboro had increased to 1,150 and the need of another bank was felt resulting in the organization of the Sea Island Bank in 1901 with capital stock of $25,000. Judge John F. Brannen was named first president with Mr. R. F. Donaldson,
cashier. The directors were R. Simmons, J. A. Brannen, S. F. Olliff, F. D. Olliff and M. M. Holland.

Three years later in 1904 the First National Bank was organized with capital stock of $25,000. Brooks Simmons was named the first president with J. E. McCroan, cashier. The board of directors were F. P. Register, W. W. Williams, F. N. Grimes, M. G. Brannen, Jas. B. Rushing and F. E. Fields.

In 1902 Statesboro’s water supply came from W. D. Davis’ Water Works. He had an artesian well about 400 feet deep and because there was no natural flow from the well water was pumped into all sections of the town through a system of pipes. In 1903 a stock company was organized with a capital of $20,000 for the purpose of improving the water plant and to put in a system of electric lights. However there was a delay in securing the franchise from the City Council made up of J. G. Blitch, J. C. Jones, W. H. Simmons, J. L. Olliff and A. J. Franklin and Mayor G. S. Johnston, and it was not until later that the system was installed.

That year the tax digest for the town showed $352,528 of which $348,308 was returned by white citizens and $4,220 was returned by Negro citizens.

Residents of the town that year could purchase ice from the Statesboro Ice Manufacturing Company “manufacturers of hygenic ice from distilled water and bottlers of high grade soda waters” or from the Statesboro Bottling Works, “D. Barnes and Company, proprietors, manufacturers of high grade soda water.” The plant of the Statesboro Ice Manufacturing Co. was located on the site where now stands the old Savannah and Statesboro Railway depot at the foot of East Vine Street. J. Gordon Blitch was president. David P. Morgan, vice president and J. Landrum George, general manager and treasurer.

It was during 1902-03 that Statesboro’s first “industry” was established. “The Oil Mill” was located on fifteen acres of land on the Southeastern border of the town, on the site of the present Darby Lumber Company. The cotton seed mill was erected by a group of local “capitalists” who put up $30,000 for the plant. J. W. Olliff was president and J. W. Wilson was general manager.

In the early 1900’s Statesboro claimed to be one of the great dry goods centers in this section. Merchants here bought all the staple lines of dry goods such as domestics, sheetings, shirtings, ticking, jeans, by the carload. The three largest dry goods houses in town sent buyers every fall to the Boston markets to renew their stocks. There was little demand for the cheaper grades of goods for the lady folk dressed in “something better than the shoddy stuff found in other towns the size of Statesboro.” Flannels, worsteds and cashmeres were in heavy demand.

Indicative of the status of Statesboro is an editorial in a 1903 issue of the Statesboro News:

“It was an everyday sight to see farmers’ wagons from Tattnall, Emanuel, Liberty, Screven, Bryan and Effingham counties here. There were few business failures here and a warm feeling had grown up between the town and the county.”

In the first decade of the 1900’s Statesboro was recognized as the leading Sea Island cotton market in the world. Cotton was hauled into Statesboro from all the neighboring counties. Figures revealed that the Statesboro market bought from growers ten bales to the Savannah market’s one bale. Prices in Statesboro equaled those anywhere. Eight thousand bales of Sea Island cotton was an average year’s crop in Bulloch County. In addition to Sea Island cotton, about 10,000 bales of short staple cotton were sold here annually.

Sea Island cotton—the long staple—was worth more than twice as much per pound as short staple. Until the boll weevil wrecked havoc with the Sea Island cotton crops in the 1920’s it grew to perfection in this county and found a ready market all over the world. Manufacturers of very fine quality cotton goods and spool cotton men used a great deal of the cotton
grown here. A large portion of the crop was shipped to Liverpool, England, and to countries in Europe. Clark's Thread Company and J. P. Coats Spool Cotton Company, in the United States bought thousands of bales of Bulloch County's Sea Island cotton.

Cotton was moved from the market here by two railroads. Shipping reports by the railroad officials reveal that 12,000 bales of cotton were shipped from here during the 1902 season, which at that time, was one-eighth of the entire cotton crop of the world.

One of the biggest cotton operators of this decade was the late Raiford Simmons. A newspaper publisher of that time wrote of him, "He was not born with a bale of Sea Island cotton in one hand and a stock of goods in the other, but has handled many of them since. Rafe Simmons has been worth thousands of dollars to the farmers of Bulloch County. He has been responsible as much as any man for the establishment and maintenance of our great cotton market, a market that furnishes the farmer a half cent more on the pound for his cotton than any other market in the state. Mr. Simmons has always been a boomer of prices and has kept the local market up to the boiling point."

During the same period there was a great market here for the sale of buggies. It was an acknowledged fact that more top buggies were sold in Bulloch County than any other county in Georgia. A writer of the day suggested that "if this be doubted one should visit a Baptist Association meeting in the county and see for himself." The writer continued, saying that the average young man of that decade was not satisfied until he got himself a red-wheeled top buggy. Buggy dealers said that they sold twice as many high priced buggies here as they sold cheap ones.

Statesboro ranked second to Atlanta as a market for mules. In the early 1900's there were three large sale stables here with each one handling hundreds of mules and horses every year. The leading dealers were W. T. Smith, J. W. Olliff, R. Simmons and B. T. Out-

land. It was said that mules and horses, moved into Statesboro from Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, were sold cheaper than in any other section of the state. Dealers here sold to out-of-state buyers as well as people in neighboring counties.

And so Statesboro began shaping up into the city it was to become. The steady increase in its population was established during this decade when the number of citizens here increased from 1,150 in 1900 to 2,930 in 1910.
Early in the 19th Century Georgia became politically a one party state. This party was the Jeffersonian Party. However there were two State parties which bitterly opposed each other. These parties centered around personalities and took the names of their leaders. They were the Troup party whose leader, George M. Troup, represented the large land-owning class and the Clark party whose leader, John Clark, represented the small farmer.

An important political question among Georgians in the 1820's was getting the Indians completely out of Georgia and opening up their lands to white settlers. The United States Government had succeeded in securing a treaty with the Creeks in 1821 in which they gave up a great stretch of territory from the Ockmulgee River to the Flint River. Two years later the Creeks refused to cede any more territory. The people of Georgia were determined to put the Creeks out and in this year Troup became governor. He was willing, if necessary, to involve the State in a war with the National Government in order to have the Indians removed from Georgia. Due to much pressure from Troup, President Monroe appointed in December, 1824, two Georgians, James Merriweather and Duncan Campbell to treat with the Creeks for the cession of their lands. They persuaded 400 Creek Indians to sign a treaty in which they were committed to give up all their lands in Georgia in return for an equal amount of land in the West and in addition they were to receive $400,000.

The Bulloch County Grand Jury presentments of November 28, 1825, reveal how the county felt about the Clark Party as well as how they stood on the Indian question. The presentments read:

"Whereas, it has been generally understood that the county of Bulloch has been in favor of the election of General Clark ... we approve the firm action taken by Governor Troup to obtain for the State of Georgia a portion of land which is so necessary for the civilization and increase of said state and moreover we approve the conduct of our commissioners, James Merriweather and Duncan Campbell. We further express a hope that the present legislature of the state of Georgia will pursue such course as will most effectually secure to us the ratification of said treaty by the Senate of the United States.

"These, our presentments, we request to be published in the Savannah Republican."

The Indian question was brought to a successful conclusion when a treaty was made with the Creek Nation in 1827 while John Quincy Adams was president.

The tariff issue was another political controversy which was a matter of interest. Georgia at one time just after the war of 1812 had favored a protective tariff. Having been saddled with it, the Acts of 1816, 1824, 1828, and 1832 raised the tariff higher and higher. Since Georgia had not developed manufacturing to any great extent and had become chiefly agricultural the people realized that the tariff was taking money from the State and enriching the Yankee manufacturers.

The Troup party began suggesting that Georgia should no longer obey the tariff but should nullify it. Leaders in the nullification movement were Wm. H. Crawford, John M. Berrien and Augustus S. Clayton.
The Clark party supported John Forsyth who opposed nullification.

The nullification movement came to nothing in Georgia, but following the split on the question two parties arose. The Troup party, which had stood for nullification for the most part, resented the way Andrew Jackson had treated South Carolina, became the enemy of nationalism and took the name of States Rights Party, soon becoming part of the Whig Party. The Clark party supported Jackson, took the name Union Party and soon became the Democratic Party.

Bulloch County fitted into the pattern of this Democratic Party and through good times and bad times he remained faithfully in the party's ranks.

In 1832 presentments of the Bulloch County Grand Jury state: "We consider it a privilege and duty to say we are opposed to a re-establishment of the Penal Code and request our senator and representative to oppose such a measure. We also oppose a court for the correction of error and appeals."

This referred to an attempt to re-establish the State Penitentiary which the Clarkites claimed did nothing but furnish jobs for the Troup political pay-off.

The Troup party had sponsored the establishment of a Supreme Court, guaranteeing uniformity of law for appealed cases. The Clark following opposed this. They urged that it would be too expensive to travel to a large city for their appeals. Furthermore they wanted the jurisdiction to remain in the local Superior Courts where the jurors would be of their own group.

The Bulloch County Grand Jury of 1837 felt that "Because of the unusual and oppressive course pursued by the several Banks of Georgia we instruct our senator and representative that we consider the banks have violated their charters and oppose any law to relieve them."

Georgia received from the Federal Government some of the surplus from the tariff which was put into the state banks. These banks discounted notes requiring a minimum of $2,000 collateral. The small farmers in Bulloch County, as well as those in the other counties felt that this gave a definite advantage to the large planter and consequently disapproved.

In the 1830's there was an effort to reapportion the members of the State Legislature. The counties of Middle Georgia had increased in population and the tidewater counties had not. Two conventions called "Reduction Conventions" met, the first in 1833, the second in 1839. Malachi Denmark represented Bulloch County in both of these. The new counties that came in from the Cherokee lands and the older counties with small populations of which Bulloch was one were afraid the reapportionment would give too much power to the rapidly growing counties of Middle Georgia and together they were able to defeat the attempt.

For over twenty years Peter Cone represented Bulloch County in the Senate of the State. All the constructive things he did while in office have been overshadowed by the one thing for which he is remembered unkindly to this day—the fact that the main line of the Central of Georgia railway does not run through Statesboro and Bulloch County because of him.

Savannah, wanting to tap the rich cotton trade of central Georgia, secured a charter in 1833 to run a railroad to Macon in the center of the state. The proposed route would have crossed the Ogeechee River and come through Statesboro and Bulloch County. Peter Cone told the people of the county that if the railroad came through Bulloch the sparks from the engine would burn up the county. He certainly did not stand alone in this opinion for he carried a petition opposing the proposed route to the Legislature signed by just about every constituent in the county. And so today the Central of Georgia railway hugs the north side of the Ogeechee swamp for about a hundred miles, bypassing Statesboro by about ten miles.
Slavery, Secession, War

During the period from 1840 up to the War Between the States cotton became more and more favored as a money crop. In the Piedmont section of the State the large slaveholding planters were acquiring larger and larger plantations. They were buying up the lands of the small farmers who had no slaves and these small farmers were moving farther west. The large plantation owners were devoting their land to the culture of cotton.

This was not true in Bulloch County. There were many small farmers in the county and their crops were diversified. Even the large planters in the county did not raise cotton to the exclusion of other crops. One of the plantations in Bulloch County was referred to as “Egypt” by the planters from up the state who sent to this plantation to buy corn with which to feed their slaves.

In 1848 appraisals of inventories show beef cattle valued at $9.50 per head, stock cattle at $4.62 per head, meat hogs at $3.00 per head, sheep at $1.30 per head. Corn was valued at 72 cents per bushel. The price of land varied. One tract of 1,275 acres in the county was valued at $4,000 while another tract of 710 acres was valued at only $21.

Running timber on the Ogeechee River, the Canouchee River and Lott’s Creek was an important industry. These streams were kept free of fallen trees and logs so that timber rafts could be floated on them. Many a tale of danger was told by the raftsmen who piloted the timber rafts down the Ogeechee River to Savannah by way of the Ogeechee Canal which connected the Ogeechee River to Savannah. A toll was collected for the use of this canal.

Large white oaks were often dug up for ship keels leaving the large root to be sized with the tree trunk for the bow end of the ship. Ship ribs were sized from white oak and rafted to Savannah. Large yellow heart pine and cypress were cut and squared and pegged or tied together and floated to the Savannah market. Some went to Europe.

The government compelled Mr. Abe Riggs to put in locks at Riggs Old Mill (now called Cypress Lake) so that timber could be floated past his dam across Lott’s Creek.

The passing of the wooden ships, the expansion of the railroads and the coming of the portable steam saw mills meant the end of this river transportation.

As the more prosperous farmers of the county accumulated capital they invested it in slaves. The census of 1850 counted the white population of Bulloch at 2,840, the slave population at 1,460. The same census shows however that our neighbor, Burke County, had 5,288 whites and 10,832 slaves.

The value of slaves according to appraisals had increased. In 1853 Negro men in Bulloch County were appraised at $900 and $1,000 each and generally sold for more than their appraisal value. The approximate price of slaves was sometimes determined by multiplying the price of cotton per pound by 10,000. Ten cent cotton meant the average slave would sell for $1,000.

It stands to reason that generally slaves were treated well. There was usually a direct relation between master and slave. In Bulloch County there were only a few who had enough slaves to hire overseers for them. Aside from a humane attitude, the slave holder had all his capital tied up in the Negroes and having
them well cared for was important. No man was well thought of by the community who mistreated his slaves. The worst social stigma that could be applied to a person was, "He is not good to his Negroes."

There were not many laws governing the management of slaves. However, one provided that a woman slave and her children under five could not be sold separately. Another was that an overseer or employer of slaves who treated slaves cruelly by unnecessary whipping, beating, withholding proper food, etc. was guilty of misdemeanor to be punished by fine or imprisonment or both.

The wife of a plantation owner had no easy task. To manage a household consisting of 30 or 40 slaves required good management. Besides being responsible for her own children it was her duty to supervise the physical and spiritual welfare of slaves. The sense of moral duty engendered by the teaching of the Primitive Baptist, Methodist and Baptist churches would not let her conscience rest unless she had discharged this duty to the best of her ability. She had to be instructed in first aid treatment and be able to diagnose minor illnesses. She usually had a doctor's book and a medicine cabinet. She conducted a Sunday School for the slaves, teaching them Bible verses and setting an example in right living.

Besides this she had to see that the women slaves were trained. The slaves themselves had to be clothed and fed and this was the task of the women slaves. They were taught to spin, weave, sew, and quilt. Young girls had to be trained to cook, wash, iron and act as cleaning maids.

The white child had a small Negro child assigned as a companion and was taught to feel his or her responsibility for this child.

A slave might obtain his freedom by provision in his owner's will that he be freed or he might be given his freedom for some especially courageous service or he might buy his freedom if, by his skill he had been able to accumulate money in his spare time. The tax digest of 1861 of Bulloch County lists one free person of color, Rachael Guar. Free Negroes were required to pay an annual tax of $5.

Runaway slaves could be committed to any jail in the state and the jailer would advertise for the owner.

Purchases of goods by free persons of color and slaves were limited. One could not sell them liquor, printed matter, ink, writing paper, etc. In the minutes of the Superior Court of Bulloch County cases appear against individuals in the county for violating these laws.

One case recorded in the minutes of the court for March 27, 1860, is that of "The State vs. Nance, a slave." The jurors for this case are named: Enoch Beasley, Henry Parrish, Daniel Brower, David Bell, Jr., William Alderman, Riley Mercer, Malachi Parrish, Alderman Franklin, William A. Cannon, Noah Nesmith, Mitchell Pridgen, John Mikell. The verdict was: "We the jury, find the defendant, "Not Guilty."

The tax digest of 1861 for Bulloch shows these figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polls</th>
<th>613</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Persons of Color</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Slaves</td>
<td>2,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money and Solvent Debts</td>
<td>$409,937.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise</td>
<td>$7,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Land</td>
<td>545,811½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Land</td>
<td>$816,024.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Slaves</td>
<td>$1,196,871.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of household furniture over $300</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Value of All Property</td>
<td>$2,795,046.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860 Census</td>
<td>5,610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to this tax digest there were ninety-six
landholders holding under 300 acres of land, 800 landholders holding between 300 and 800 acres, 84 landholders holding between 800 and 1,500 acres, 46 landholders holding between 1,500 and 2,500 acres, 25 landholders holding between 2,500 and 4,000 acres, 13 landholders holding between 4,000 and 6,500 acres, and four holding over 6,500 acres. These four were A. J. Brewton, 6,635 acres; James Young, 6,973 acres; M. A. Grimes, 2,890 acres at $12,000; and L. C. Belt, 9,142 acres.

The average land valuation on the tax digest was from one to two dollars an acre. The highest land valuations were:

- Thomas Young, 2,200 acres at $12,000;
- John Grimes, 2,890 acres at $12,000;
- Aaron Cone, 2,000 acres at $8,000;
- J. W. Wilson, 502 acres at $1,506, and
- Owen Gibson, 285 acres at $1,000.

The Slave owners listed in the tax digest of 1861 according to districts were:

120th DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Slaves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akins, Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brannen, Mrs. Nan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brannen, Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brannen, Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowen, J. J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dasher, Mrs. Eliza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domidson, R. R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew, G. M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodges, J. F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huzzy, J. B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanier, Mrs. Cath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard, A. Lanier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanier, Lemuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, W. N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manes, Mrs. E. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McElveen, W. E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, J. W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axt of R. More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevils, Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliph, Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretorius, Charley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riggs, Dempsey</td>
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</table>

44th DISTRICT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No. Slaves</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riggs, A. B.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slater, G. B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walters, Isaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson, Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson, Benjamin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alderman, Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewton, S. J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adm. Est. N. Brewton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brannen, J. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brannen, Edmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeLoach, William, Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeLoach, Jno. Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeLoach, G. W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeLoach, Jno. Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeLoach, W. W.</td>
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<td>DeLoach, W. H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeLoach, J. H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellis, Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groover, Mrs. S. H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heimuth, E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevils, Thomas</td>
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45th DISTRICT

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<tr>
<th>No. Slaves</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brannen, J. H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams, B. W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams, J. G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bland, Wm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beasley, Enoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beasley, Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belt, L. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownell, W. B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowen, Hezekiah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daughtry, Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughtry, Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donaldson, Mathew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finch, Mrs. Susan</td>
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<td>Finch, Oliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agt. S. F. Finch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin, Pernell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay, B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigdon, M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendrix, Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stringer, W. F. M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapnell, Algie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodrum, Balta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young, Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young, James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard. L. &amp; M. Williams</td>
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47th DISTRICT

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<tr>
<th>No. Slaves</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, W. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bennett, Zachariah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brannen, W. A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brannen, R. G. F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brannen, U. M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adm. Est. E. M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parrish, H. J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrish, Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrish, Absolom Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parrish, Mikail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrish, E. J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrish, Ansell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summerlin, Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tillman, Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner, Elisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner, Benjamin</td>
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free labor would have. The entire capital of the slave owners was tied up in human beings who had to be fed, clothed and housed. An epidemic of some sort might wipe out one’s wealth in a few days.

The invention of the cotton gin in 1793, together with the technical improvements of manufacturing, made the production of cotton very worthwhile and gave the cotton producing states a monopoly in producing raw material for clothing a great part of the world. Big plantations and Negro slavery were especially adapted to producing cotton.

This economy was dependent on slaves and the interests of this agricultural slave economy conflicted with the interests of the manufacturing economy of the northern section of the country.

In the 1830’s the abolition movement began. For two hundred years slavery had existed in America, and few people had questioned it. William Lloyd Garrison, in his newspaper, “The Liberator,” began to criticize the government violently for allowing slavery in the United States. Harriet Beecher Stowe’s book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” was a bit of propaganda which greatly inflamed the Southern slaveholders and the Underground Railroad was a deliberate attempt to encourage the slaves to run away from their owners.

As the abolition movement grew in the North, the South grew more and more bitter. Understanding between the two sections was out of the question. They had no political interests in common. Each section wanted control of Congress so that its advantage would not be jeopardized by the other section.

Politically it was worse. The sections felt that they had no political interests in common. Each section wanted control of Congress so that its advantage would not be jeopardized by the other section.

After the Mexican War in 1848 when the great Southwest territory was added to the Union the non-slave holding states tried to pass the Wilmot Proviso which stated that no territory secured from Mexico was to be included in any slave state.
should be open to slavery. This bill did not pass but it made the Southern States very apprehensive that the balance of power in Congress would be destroyed. If this happened they would have no recourse. They began to talk of secession.

National leaders such as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Alexander H. Stephens and others worked out a compromise called the "Compromise of 1850" making some concessions to the South but this was not really satisfactory. It was accepted by Georgia as the only alternative to secession. This split Georgia into the Constitutional Union Party and the Southern Rights Party. The Southern Rights Party was the same group which had been the Democratic Party.

After John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in the summer of 1859, when this mad man tried to free the slaves by force, the patience of the South was at its end.

The presidential election of 1860 was coming up. Peter Cone of Bulloch County presided over a legislative caucus meeting in Milledgeville on November 21, 1859, which called for a State Democratic Convention to meet December 8 in Milledgeville to name delegates to the Democratic convention which was to meet in Charleston, S. C.

This convention in Charleston split on the question of slavery in the territories and the Northern group called a convention at Baltimore and the Southerners called one at Richmond.

The Northern wing nominated Stephen A. Douglas; the Southern Rights wing of the party, the extreme defenders of slavery, sometimes referred to as "fire-eaters," nominated John C. Breckenridge. Another group of Southerners, calling themselves the Constitutional Union Party, nominated John Bell of Tennessee.

Peter Cone of Bulloch was the elector from the First District on the Breckenridge ticket. Georgia's vote went for Breckenridge.

The split in the Democratic Party allowed the Republicans with Abraham Lincoln to win the national election. The Republican Party was the undisguised enemy of the South. This was the cue for secession.

The cause of secession was promoted and fanned into white heat in many ways. One of the methods of exciting Southerners to the cause was by song. For example, Hassie Davis who lived in Bulloch County, wrote a song which she called "Wait for the Waggon" for Miss Elizabeth Waters, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos V. Waters, and the mother of Mrs. H. A. Deal of RFD 2, Statesboro. The song ballad was subtitled "The Secession Song." Mrs. Deal has the original manuscript and the lyrics are as follows:

**Wait For The Waggon**

Come all ye sons of freedom and join our Southern band,

We're going to fight the enemy, and drive them from our land,

Justice is our motto and Providence our guide,

So Jump into the waggon and we'll all take a ride.

Chorus

Wait for the waggon, the great Secession Waggon

The South is our waggon and we'll all take a ride.

Secession is our watchword, our rights we all demand,

And to defend our firesides we pledge our heads and hands.

Jeff Davis is our president, with Stephens by his side,

Brave Beauregard our general will join us in the ride.

Our Waggon's plenty big enough, the running gear is good,

'Tis stuffed with cotton around the side and made of Southern wood.
Carolina is our driver, with Georgia by her side, Virginia will hold up the flag and we'll all take a ride.

There is Tennessee and Texas, are also in the ring, They would not have a government where cotton is not king.

Alabama too, and Florida have long ago replied, Mississippi is in the waggon, and anxious for a ride.

Missouric, North Carolina and Arkansas are slow, They will hurry or we'll leave them and where will they go?

There is old Kentucky and Maryland will not make up their mind,
So are all I reckon we must take them up behind.

Our cause is just and holy, our men are brave and true,
And to whip the Lincoln cutthroats is all we have to do.

God bless our noble army, in Him we will confide,
So jump into the waggon and we'll all take a ride.

Chorus
Wait for the waggon
The great Secession waggon
The South is our waggon
And we'll all take a ride.

Governor Joseph Brown of Georgia seized the United States arsenals at Savannah and Augusta. He urged the state to secede. He sent a message to the State Legislature requesting the calling of a state convention. After long debate the Legislature approved a bill calling for the election of delegates on January 2, 1861, and the assembling of a state convention January 16, 1861. The convention was held at Milledgeville, Georgia. Out of 301 delegates to the convention 259 were slave holders in 1860. There were a few very large slave holders there but it may be said that the typical delegate to this convention was the small slaveholder.

The delegates from Bulloch County were Samuel Harville, 33 years old, born in Georgia, whose occupation was listed as merchant and whose real property was valued at $2,000 and his personal property at $6,000; and S. L. Moore, 46 years old, born in Georgia, whose occupation was listed as farmer and whose real property was valued at $5,000 and personal property at $7,290. Both of these delegates voted in favor of secession. The secession motion was carried by a vote of 208 to 89.

A few days later the convention appointed delegates to meet with delegates from other seceded states at Montgomery, Alabama, to organize the Confederate States of America.

Following this action the minutes of the courts of Bulloch County record the oaths of the county officials to support the Confederate States of America rather than the United States of America as they had done previously.

There were some in Bulloch County whose hearts were saddened at secession but they, with the others, sent their sons to the Confederate army and supported the cause of their state and their county.

The contribution of Bulloch to the armies of Lee and Jackson was made without hesitation by the young men and the old men alike. No group of men offered themselves more freely or conducted themselves more bravely than those of Bulloch County. The population of Bulloch was small, yet about 600 of her sons took up arms to defend the new government. Several companies were made up in the county.
From the records available there were five groups of troops organized from Bulloch County. They were the Toombs Guards with the 9th Regiment of the Georgia Volunteers, The Bulloch Troops with Company E of the 5th Georgia Cavalry, Company D of the DeKalb Guards, Cone's Company who enlisted with the 11th Battalion of the 47th Georgia Regiment, and W. W. Williams' Company which also served with 47th Georgia Regiment.

The muster roll of the Toombs Guards of the 9th Regiment of the Georgia Volunteers as recorded by Samuel Harville, Clerk of Superior Court of Bulloch County on August 19, 1861, in the Bulloch County records is as follows:

**Officers**

L. Carlton Belt, Captain; Matthew Talbot, First Lieutenant; Thomas Knight, Second Lieutenant; John B. Connelly, Third Lieutenant; Allen J. Gibson, First Sergeant; Patrick H. Hendrix, Second Sergeant; Zackariah H. Bennett, Third Sergeant; William A. Hagan, Fourth Sergeant; W. A. Davis, First Corporal; James Hendrix, Second Corporal; Martin V. Fletcher, Third Corporal, and Henry A. Phillips, Fourth Corporal.

**Privates**


Recruits For Toomb Guards


The Bulloch Troops were organized before the bombardment of Fort Sumter. This group assembled at the place of W. D. Brannen on October 6, 1861, left for Savannah on October 7, and was mustered into the Confederate service on October 10 by Colonel Rockwell for a term of twelve months. They were under the command of Dr. A. I. Hendry, Captain.

Before the expiration of its term it was reorganized and enlisted for the duration of the war with Captain George B. Best.

The company was first attached to the Second Georgia Battalion with Lieutenant Colonel Montgomery Cummings as commanding officer.

After about twelve months these troops were attached to the 5th Georgia Cavalry Regiment, commanded by Colonel B. H. Anderson. This regiment did picket duty on the coast of Georgia and South Carolina and was ordered to the Olustee fight in Florida but railroad facilities were so poor that it arrived a day or two after the fight.

They returned to the Georgia front and met Johnston's army at Kennesaw Mountain. Sergeant
Marion Miller was killed at the Chattahoochee River by a fragment of a shell, the first casualty. A young man by the name of D. E. Mercer from Tattnall County was killed at Newnan, and Captain George Best was killed in the streets of Waynesboro in Burke County. Captain W. N. Hall took over command and was the leader of the Company until its surrender at Company Shops, North Carolina.

The members of this Company of Bulloch Troops were:


The muster roll of Company D of the DeKalb Guards was included in a book entitled "From a Soldier's Story of His Regiment, the 61st Georgia," written by Private G. W. Nichols of Jesup, Georgia. In addition to the names of the company, the writer of the book makes a brief statement about many of the soldiers. The DeKalb Guards from Bulloch County served from September 9, 1861 to April 9, 1865. The roll, with the comments by Private Nichols, is as follows:

Captain Henry Tillman, resigned after the Seven Days' Battle Richmond.

First Lieutenant S. H. Kennedy, promoted to captain after Seven Days' Battle, wounded at Manassas; promoted to lieutenant colonel in January, 1865; severely wounded at Deep Run on February 6, 1865. He was an excellent officer and brave soldier.

Second Lieutenant J. H. Wilkinson, resigned in 1862.

Third Lieutenant J. Hoyt DeLoach, discharged in 1862.

First Sergeant J. E. C. Tillman, transferred to Company K., elected third lieutenant.
Second Sergeant James Mincey, elected to lieu-
tenancy, wounded at Manassas, Gettysburg and Mono-
cacy.

Fourth Sergeant J. L. B. Nevils, killed at Manassas.
First Corporal E. J. Martin, wounded on Three
Tops Mountain. A most excellent soldier.

Second Corporal William Lee, killed at Spotsyl-
vania, courthouse.

Third Corporal W. A. Woods, wounded at Frederick
City, Maryland.

Fourth Corporal William Holloway, faithful soldier,
captured on the last retreat before the surrender.

J. W. Alderman, promoted to sergeant; missing at
the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. John Anderson,
killed at Gettysburg. J. R. Beasley, wounded at Gaines
Mill; came home on furlough and never returned.
Thomas Boyet, was in nearly all the battles and was
never wounded; surrendered at Appomattox, a faith-
ful soldier. John Brannen, promoted to lieutenant;
killed at Manassas.

W. H. Bland, captured at hospital in Frederick City,
Maryland, in 1862, but was exchanged; was captured
again at Morton's Ford in 1864; paroled March 7, 1865.
Isaac Barrow, killed at Fredericksburg in 1862. B. F.
Bird, died in a hospital at Staunton, Virginia in 1862.
Adam Bird, detailed to a government bakery. Frank
Butts, killed at Manassas in 1862. Banks died at Brun-
swick or Bethesda in 1862 (Note: The writer of the book
must not have known the first name of this soldier
Banks, since it is not given in the book.)

J. A. J. Bruce, promoted to sergeant in 1861; killed
at North Anna. Timothy Connell, missing in 1863. W. H.
Collins, faithful soldier. Ziba J. Collins, transferred to
Company K and killed at Monocacy, Maryland, July
9, 1864. G. A. Collins missing and supposed to have
been killed at the Battle of Manassas. M. V. Collins,
enlisted at the age of 16, and was the company's pet.
He was in most of the battles. He was sick and got a fu-
rlough just before the war closed. Drew Chenutt, de-
etailed for a drummer and was transferred. J. J. Col-
lins, wounded at Gaines Mill.

A. J. Collins, transferred to Company K; wounded at
Gaines Mill and Winchester. Berrin Collins, killed at
the second battle of Manassas. R. J. Collins, captured
on the retreat from Petersburg. Neal Collins, died in a
hospital at Jekyl Island or Bethesda. Williams Cartee,
discharged from the hospital and returned home. Ruben
Cartee, died in a hospital in Richmond in July, 1862.
John Cartee, died in a hospital in Richmond in July,
1862. Malichi Cartee, died in a hospital in Richmond
in July, 1862.

Henry Davis, put in a substitute and retired.
Lemuel Davis. Japster Dixon, killed in government
machine shop in 1861. Henry Driggers, killed in Brun-
swick in 1861 by an assassin named Peterson. Joshua
Ellis, wounded at Manassas, promoted to sergeant,
secured a furlough and was at home at the close of the
war. Mitchell Franklin died in a hospital at Charlottes-
ville, Virginia, in June, 1862. Hiram Franklin, promoted
to lieutenancy, wounded at Fredericksburg in 1862;
totally disabled for service and retired. Remer Frank-
lin, detailed for ambulance driver, wounded at Fort
Stephens, near Petersburg and surrendered at Appoma-
tox. Hardy Franklin, died in Valley of Virginia in 1862.
Daniel Frawley, missing. P. Fitzsimmons, missing.
Charlton Green, detailed in government bakery. M. J.
Green, captured at Spotsylvania in 1864; remained in
prison for the rest of the war. Sol Green, discharged in
1861. M. B. Hendrix, crippled and disabled at Brun-
swick. J. J. Hendrix, detailed to litter corps, severely
wounded in the leg at Monocacy, Maryland, captured
and remained in prison until the close of the war.

A. W. Hodges, discharged from the company, after
going well from illness, joined the First Georgia Regi-
ment and was killed at Peachtree Creek near Atlanta on
July 22, 1864. Wesley Hodges, killed at Gaines Mill
in 1862. S. W. Hodges, discharged in 1861. J. C. Hodges,
promoted to sergeant, mortally wounded at Sharpsburg,


D. Summerlin, left, sick by the roadside, never heard from again. Jackson Turner, killed at Manassas. Sam Turner, detailed to litter corps, captured at Rockville, Maryland, in 1864. Wyley Underwood, killed at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. Sim Warren, got sick and retired. Irvin Warren, died in Richmond hospital in 1862. Madison Warren, severely wounded at Fredericksburg, went through the rest of the war, surrendered at Appomattox. F. M. Warren, wounded and totally disabled at Gaines Mill. R. J. Williams, wounded at Gaines Mill, went home on furlough, elected third lieutenant, and promoted to first lieutenant; was at home on a furlough at the close of the war.

James Williams, killed at Manassas on August 29, 1862. Walsh Waters, got sick and retired on furlough in 1864. T. A. Waters, wounded at Manassas, disabled and discharged. Williams Wilkinson, transferred to Company K, severely wounded, place not remembered. B. W. Wilkinson. John Yeomans, killed near New Market, September 24, 1864, while on retreat, shot through by a cannon ball.

Surrendered at Appomattox, April 9, 1865, armed and in line; Remer Franklin, Thomas Boyet, Ives Summerlin, Madison Warren.

Corporal William Holloway was captured two days before surrender.

This Company of Bulloch County men served with the 61st Georgia Regiment in Brigadier-General J. B. Gordon's brigade with Major-General J. A. Early's division of the Second Corps with Lieutenant-General R. S. Ewell in command. They fought valiantly with the 61st Regiment and a granite pedestal with bronze brigade tablet was erected to their memory by the Gettysburg National Park Commission on East Confederate Avenue, south of East Middle Street in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Cone's Company, under the command of Captain John DeLoach, First Lieutenant J. S. Cone, Second Lieutenant David Beasley and Third Lieutenant James Miller, enlisted in the Confederate Army in the summer of 1861. It was mustered into service as a part of the 5th Georgia Regiment but when its term of enlistment expired the entire company re-enlisted with J. S. Cone the Captain. The other officers were First Lieutenant J. G. Cone, Second Lieutenant David Beasley and Third Lieutenant James Miller. Under the new officers, Cone's Company became a part of the 11th Battalion of the 47th Georgia Regiment.

W. W. Williams' Company enlisted the latter part of 1861 under the command of Captain W. W. Williams, First Lieutenant W. W. Summerlin, Second Lieutenant R. J. Williams and Third Lieutenant D. Proctor. This company also became a part of the 47th Georgia Regiment.
No complete roster of these two companies of Bulloch County men who served in the Confederate Army was found.

According to an account written in the November 28, 1902, issue of the Statesboro News, these two companies served with the 47th Georgia Regiment until the surrender in 1865.

After joining the regiment they served on the coast of Georgia until May, 1862, when they were ordered to move to Charleston, South Carolina. On June 10, 1862, they fought the first battle on James Island in which Captain Cone, with detachments from his own company and Williams' Company, was ordered to drive through the line of fire of enemy sharpshooters to determine the position of the Federal forces.

The action was short but extremely bloody with forty of the seventy men killed or wounded. Among those killed was Captain Williams whose courage was said to have amounted to rashness. Cone was wounded. In the winter of 1862, P. R. Cone, John Cone, Helmouth Wylly Martin and others were killed.

Cone's Company did duty on the coast of North Carolina and in May, 1863, was ordered to the relief of Vicksburg, Mississippi, forming a part of John C. Breckenridge's Division of Joseph E. Johnston's Army.

They took part in the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, inflicting on General Grant's attacking column a bloody repulse and captured three of his battle banners.

A personal account of this battle is included in a letter written by R. H. Bland to his father, Simeon Bland, a relative of Mr. Dan Bland of Bulloch County who has the original of the letter. It is dated in Mississippi on May 19, 1863, and is as follows:

"Dear Father,

"I seat myself today to inform you I am still in the land of the living, but I regret to have to inform you the sad news of my brother's death. He was killed on the 14th (here the month is indistinct on the original). We arrived in Jackson on the morning of the 13th and hurried off to meet the Yankees. We marched about 10 miles that day and took our position in line of battle but did not get into a battle that day. We retreated back to Jackson that day and arrived there about 1 o'clock that night and was called on the next morning very early to meet the Yankees again. We marched about two miles from town and took up our position in as hard a rain as I ever saw fall; and soon the Ball opened. We held our position for a while when we commenced to retreat. I had charge of one gun and Simeon was in my detachment.

"He was bringing shells to the gun when he fell. It was a six-pound ball that struck him. The ball struck him in the left shoulder and went clear through and he died in a short time afterward, and what hurt me to the very heart we had to leave him on the field and he fell into the hands of the enemy. Oh! if I could have got him away and buried him, I would have been much better satisfied, but we had no time to take care of him as the Yankees were so close on to us.

"We have been on the road every day since through the mud and the worse road I ever saw. We are now camped here in the swamp where we can't get but little to eat and hardly any water to drink. What little water we get, we have to get it out of clay holes and are too glad to get it. We have been cut off from all communications from home and are till yet. I do not know when this will reach you. No other of our boys were killed. Two of them slightly wounded; some 18 or 20 missing. I think they will tell Simeon's wife soon. Probably you will hear of brother's death at home. You'll hear from me if you do not. Do let his wife know it. I will write more soon." The letter is signed, "R. H. Bland."

In August, 1863, the 47th Georgia Regiment, including the Bulloch County soldiers, was ordered to report to General Bragg at Chattanooga and there it became the vanguard of the Army of Mississippi, later to become the Army of Tennessee.

Captain Cone was promoted to Major just before
the Battle of Missionary Ridge in Tennessee. When the 47th was ordered to Charleston, South Carolina, Major Cone reported with 150 men for duty. The troops there were engaged at Johns Island, then ordered to Secessionville where they remained until November 29, 1864. On the next day they met the Union troops at Honey Hill where half of the casualties were in the 47th. It was at Honey Hill that Major Cone was wounded during an advance on a Federal battery. A few days later they again fought the Federal troops at Coosawatchee. On December 5, 1864, Major Cone was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and J. S. Hagns became commander of Cone’s Company and J. R. Miller of Williams’ Company.

These Bulloch County soldiers shared all the dangers and hardships of the Carolina Campaign with the 47th Georgia Regiment and surrendered at Greensboro to General Sherman in 1865.

The writer of the newspaper account of the campaigns of these two Bulloch County companies, in writing of all the men who served in the Confederate Army wrote:

“This virtually furled the Confederate banner which was certainly one of blood. Its sacred folds had floated over the grandest Army the world ever saw. Take its members into consideration and the obstacles it had to overcome and its victories gained, the exploits of Caesar’s Legions and the Old Guards of Napoleon sink into insignificance.”

During these war years the families of the Bulloch County men who were serving in the Confederate Army were suffering. Recognizing this the Grand Jury presentments of March 21, 1862, recommended that “the justices of the Inferior Court levy an extra tax for the support of the families of soldiers that are now or hereafter may be called into the service of the Confederate States.” Two years later on March 26, 1864, the grand jury asked for aid. “We, the Grand Jury of Bulloch County, do petition the post quarter-

master of this district to detain in the county a sufficiency of corn of the government to supply the destitute families of soldiers now in the service of the Confederate States, believing it to be next to impossible to get it otherwise."

On September 3, 1864, Sherman occupied Atlanta. He called for the evacuation of civilians and burned the city. Then, with 60,000 picked troops, five thousands of which were cavalry used for foraging, he began his March to the Sea.

Some of Bulloch County’s men were among the first to warn the people of Sherman’s movement.

Samuel Harville who lived in the section of the county where Harville Church is now located enlisted in Company D in the 2nd Georgia Infantry. He fought in the Battle of Atlanta and crawled three miles after the battle to give advance warning of Sherman’s March to the Sea. With him were Jordan Rimes and C. W. Zetterower who had just enlisted as teen-aged boys. They were successful in their mission. It was Jordan Rimes who later, riding horseback, burned the bridges in Savannah to cut off Sherman’s Army which was close behind him.

Terror spread among the people as the news of the destruction wrought by Sherman’s army preceded him.

It was during the early days of December, 1864, that Sherman’s plundering army advanced toward Savannah. His 17th Corps followed the course of the Ogeechee River on the north side while his 15th Corps in two columns, was on the south side. The most southern column passed through Statesboro.

The official account of the Statesboro phase of the March to the Sea is related on a marker erected by the Georgia Historical Commission on the northwest corner of the courthouse yard. It reads:

“While on their march through Bulloch County the Union soldiers plundered and destroyed everything they could get their hands on, much of which was unjusti-
fiable waste. They took barrels of sugar, all the meat they could find in the smoke houses, butchered every live animal found on the plantations, piled everything in wagons and put the torch to all things that would burn."

The respect commanded by the Masonic Order was demonstrated during the army's march through the county for some of the property here was protected when the owners gave the Masonic sign to the Yankee officers.

Knowing in advance of the army's approach, many who had bales of cotton on their places hauled them into swamps to be hid. The most valuable livestock was driven into the swamps for safe keeping. Barrels of syrup were buried in holes dug in the ground and covered with trash and brush. All sorts of deception were used in attempts to save lives and property.

Miss Inez Williams' aunt, Mary Ann Williams Boykin, wishing to save her jewelry, went out to the fowl house and dug a hole in the ground into which she put her valuable trinkets. She filled the hole and put a hen's nest of straw on top and placed a rotten egg in the nest. Her trick worked for the Yankees did not find them and after they were out of the county she retrieved her jewelry.

Sometimes these ruses on the part of homeowners failed to save their valuables, for Negroes who had helped bury the things for safekeeping would reveal their hiding places to the Yankees. However, most of the Negroes were loyal to their owners. Many of them were commandeered and forced to go with the Yankee soldiers as drivers of their wagon trains. Some few went along by choice.

A letter written by a Yankee officer to a member of Miss Inez Williams' family tells of a Negro servant named "Augustus" who was commandeered into service as a team driver on an ammunition train. The letter is written on the letterhead of the United States Sanitary Commission and is dated May 30, 1865, from the headquarters of the 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, near Washington, D. C. It reads:

"Mrs. Jones,
"Madam
"I am requested by 'Augustus,' a former Servant of yours, to write these lines to inform you of his whereabouts and his present condition.

"When our army encamped near Buckhead Church he was brought in with some mules and compelled to go along from thence to Savannah. He drove a team in the Ammunition Train. As we were about leaving Savannah he came in my service and has been with me up to the present time performing the services required of him in an acceptable manner. His health has been good with the exception of about 10 days Malarious fever. He desires that I assure of his kindest regards towards you Yrself & family & and begs to be remembered to them all and also that his mother be informed of his health and position. He likewise says that he intends to return home as soon as a convenient opportunity affords Viz if his presence is desired. An early answer to this will be most agreeable direct to my care.

"I am Madam Yr obdnt Savnt
"Jno A. Miller, 1st Lieut. & Quater Master, 33rd Reg. N. J. Vols."

There is an aura of adventure and glamour in the stories of action told and written by the men who were in the midst of battle in wars of all times. But the horror, the monotony, the deprivation of dignity and the soul-searing effects of war are best told by those who spent long periods of time in war prisons.

B. W. Darsey of Bulloch County, a pastor of the Eureka Methodist Church, who served with Company D of the famous 5th Georgia Cavalry, tells of this side of the Civil War.

He was captured near Murfreesboro, Tenn., on September 6, 1864, and was held prisoner at Camp Chase, Ohio, for nine months until June 11, 1865, when he
was released. Thirty-six years later he put his experiences in a little book which he titled "A War Story, or My Experience in a Yankee Prison."

Mr. Darsey wrote vividly of the hunger, the cold, the mental anguish which are all a part of the war.

He suffered from the severe cold. He described 200 men trying to keep warm from the heat of one stove. Two days rations consisted of eight hard tacks and a piece of mackerel about the size of his hand. The mackerel was salty and the men drank a lot of water with it and would become sick and vomit for hours.

Theft was common in the prison. Mr. Darsey wrote of someone stealing his two-day ration on one occasion and his having to go four days without food until the next ration was issued, except for a portion shared by two of his prison friends.

Keeping clean was a problem. Prisoners had no other clothes to wear in the cold while trying to wash out the thin summer uniforms they were wearing at the time they were captured.

Disease was rampant in the prison camp with smallpox the "specialty." Thirty or forty dead were carried out of prison some days.

Mr. Darsey wrote that John Geiger and Wm. Strickling, both natives of Bryan County, and friends he knew before the war, were in the prison with him and that he saw them from time to time. Geiger had enlisted in a Florida regiment and was captured before Darsey. Strickling had once lived with the Darseys and had enlisted with the 25th Georgia Regiment.

One of the strangest coincidences of the Civil War is told by Mr. Darsey in his book. This is how he relates the story:

"I, with some others of my regiment (5th Georgia Cavalry) was captured near Murfreesboro, Tenn., and among the captives was Mathew Miller of Company E of our regiment, and who is a well known citizen in Bulloch County. Our horses were captured too, and of course became the property of the U. S. Government. This was the 6th day of September, 1864. We were carried to Camp Chase, near the city of Columbus, Ohio, and there held as prisoners of war until we were released by parole on the 11th day of June, 1865.

"Mr. Miller reached his home about the 25th of the same month, and to his great delight found his horse at home in his lot, the very identical horse which had been captured with himself by the enemy nearly ten months before. Now the question will naturally arise with some as to how the horse came there. Well it happened in this way.

"P. C. Hagins, a step-son of Mr. Miller, who was quite young then, had served a short time in the war and honorably discharged at the surrender, while on his way home through the county of Burke, this state, saw the horse and recognized him as being the same horse his step-father had rode to the war. Cone made inquiry of the man as to how he came in possession of him and was told that the Yankee cavalry had left him there as a broken down horse, and that he was now the proper owner. Cone laid claim to him but was refused.

"He came home and with the shrewdness of a man obtained witnesses, went and identified the horse and led him home to the great delight of the family. But while they rejoiced at getting the horse home again, they were grieved at not knowing the fate of the rider, their father and husband; neither did they know until Mr. Miller reached home the time above stated. Much kindness was lavished upon Jack (for that was his name) and soon he became a serviceable horse again, and lived to do the family faithful work until he died at the age of 24 years. I doubt there being a survivor of the war, North or South, who can tell a similar tale and substantiate it by living witnesses."

The fact that the Bulloch County Courthouse was burned by the Yankees on their way through Statesboro in their March to the Sea is substantiated by the
minutes of the Ordinary Court which are filed in the vaults of the office of the Ordinary Court.

The minutes of the Ordinary's Court on December 5, 1864, record this notation:

"This being the day appointed by law for holding the Court of Ordinary of Bulloch County, but the Yankees were here at Statesborough and burnt the courthouse and that day as such there was no court held."

The next court was held at the home of David Beasley, Ordinary, as established by the following entry in the minutes of the Ordinary's Court on January 11, 1865:

"This being the day appointed by law for holding the Court of Ordinary in and for Bulloch County in consequence of the Courthouse being burnt and the critical situation of the county, Court was opened by John Denmark and held at the residence of the Ordinary, David Beasley, Ordinary."

Statesboro proved a disappointment to the Yankees during their brief stay here. The story is told that on a bleak December day in 1864 a Yankee officer rode up to the front gate of Mr. Charnock Fletcher's home and asked how far it was to Statesboro. When informed he was in the heart of the city he looked around in disgust. The town at that time consisted of the courthouse, two boarding houses and a whiskey store or two.

The soldiers drank all the whiskey there was in the saloons, caught all the chickens in the yards and set fire to the courthouse.

The only known account written about an attempt to stop Sherman's Army in Bulloch County on its March to the Sea is by the late Jim Miller, well remembered for his colorful way of telling a story. Mr. Miller wrote:

"Word reached Statesboro that the army was coming. You have no doubt read of the people abandoning their homes when they heard of Sherman's army coming. Well, it was not that way in Statesboro, No Sir! For there were some patriotic citizens in the South living in and around Statesboro at that time.

"Charnock Fletcher, when he heard about the Army's approach, got out and organized himself an army of his own. It consisted of all the old men too old to go in the regular army. He had about 30 men while General Sherman had about 60,000. But these thirty were going to protect their homes. So they armed themselves with some old muzzle loading muskets and set out to make a brave stand against the Yankees.

"They made their stand at about the place where highway 80 comes into Statesboro on Savannah Avenue, thinking there would be only a handful of Yankees coming through Statesboro with most of them with the main army. They did not know that they were getting half of it.

"After seeing how many there were and that the courthouse was in flames, General Fletcher decided he had better take his brigade and head for Mill Creek in order to evade the Army."

By Christmas, 1864, Sherman had completed his march and had captured Savannah.
CHAPTER 7

Schools

The development of formal education in a pioneer community is bound to be beset by many problems. In Bulloch County in the early days the population was sparse and the people were engrossed in the business of clearing a wilderness and earning their daily bread the hard way. Many of the earliest families had to forego education for their children except when some member of the family could fill the role of the teacher.

These settlers brought books with them when they moved into this county. Ever present in the earliest inventories included in the county's records is "one lot of books." This "lot" was valued from 50 cents to $60.

Mrs. Luther McKinnon and Miss Susie Hodges, both of Statesboro, have a few very old books from their family library, including the family Bible which was bought in Savannah in 1793. There are some very old hymn books. The library included John Wesley's Journals (1806) and a book of John Wesley's Sermons. There is a book called "The Saints' Everlasting Rest" with the subtitle of "A Treatise on the Blessed State of the Saints in Their Enjoyment of God in Heaven," written by Mr. Richard Baxter. Some of the others are "Life of Darcy, Lady Maxwell of Pollock, late of Edingburg," "Voluminous Diary of Correspondence" by the Rev. John Lancaster, "A Polemical Essay on Twin Doctrines of Christian Imperfection and a Death Purgatory" by the Rev. John Fletcher in 1809. There is a very old copy of "The Odyssey" and an old book on "The Doctrines and Discipline of the M. E. Church."

The changes of place and fortune involved in the moving of the pioneer families thwarted the plans of many parents for their children's education. Occasionally a family history would reveal that in the late 1790's a member of the family was sent to Savannah to school.

There was a real concern among some of the early settlers of Bulloch County that their children should have an education. For example, in 1814 Nathaniel Hall's will states: "I wish my children to have a good education given them by my executors." In 1819 the will of Bridger Jones sets forth: "First, all my just debts and demands are to be paid and schooling provided for my younger children, the money to be raised out of my hogs and cattle for same."

On November 29, 1804, a bill was authorized by the State Legislature to grant land warrants to the amount of 5,000 acres of land to commission the Academy of Bulloch, and on November 24, 1810, the Governor signed an act appointing Samuel Lockhart, Sheppard Williams, Charles McCall, John Rawls and William Holloway as Commissioners of the Academy for the county of Bulloch.

In an article on Bulloch County published in the Centennial edition of the Savannah Morning News in June, 1950, there was a reference to the first Bulloch County Academy built in 1822, but the location of it is undetermined.

The academies charged tuition. In 1818 William Coursey, filing an administrator's report for William Miller, orphan of Benjamin Miller, deceased, lists expenditures for boarding and schooling of William Miller at $8. Another return made in 1818 by Stephen Denmark, guardian of Richard Lane, includes an item of $81.18 for boarding, schooling and wearing apparel. In a report for 1820 to the Inferior Court, Marjorie Sim-
mons, administrator for the estate of Brice Simmons, accounts for $18 for board and tuition paid to James Young for Haskell Simmons. She also lists $7.00 for tuition and board paid to Aaron Everett for Mary Simmons. She further shows that she paid $5.75 to George I. Walsh for board and tuition for Haskell Simmons. In 1822 an administrator’s statement for the estate of Benjamin Morris shows expenditures of $421 for boarding and clothing for four children and schooling for two of them for a period of four and one-half months. In 1823 John Wise, guardian for Nancy Jones, shows expenses for schooling amounting to $25.

One phase of the school system as it was operated in the mid 1800’s is illustrated by a bill made out to the “Commissioners of the Common School Funds” by Burrell Richardson for teaching the children of James Cone, Barbee Cone and Aaron Cone from March to October in 1845. The bill is itemized as follows:

James Cone for Martha Cone, 65 days, $3.00; Susan Cone, 65 days, $3.00; George Cone, 65 days, $3.00; R. C. Cone, 65 days, $3.00; Barber Cone for Aaron Cone, 50 days, $2.00; John Cone, 45 days, $2.07; Georgianna Cone, 65 days, $3.00; America Ann Cone, 15 days, 69c; Aaron Cone for Robert Cone, 65 days, $3.00. This bill is in the present possession of Mr. W. L. McElveen at Arcola.

The records show many similar reports, revealing the extent of education children received during the early days of the county.

Dr. John DeLoach tells of schools called “Old Field Schools” in Bulloch County. He remembers having heard them spoken of by many of the people of a generation or two before his time. These were neighborhood schools located in some unproductive field contributed by the owner. The neighbors would come together and build a one-room log schoolhouse on the site. Of very crude construction, its floor was the earth upon which it was built.

Parents in the community would then hire almost anyone who would take the job as schoolmaster.

The subjects taught were rudimentary. After learning to read, write, spell and do simple figuring, school days were over. Dr. DeLoach has in his possession a “book” made by his father. He says that it was frequently required that the pupils make a “book” as part of the course of study.

These “Old Field Schools” were tuition schools supplemented by county funds as the Commissioner of Education for the county saw fit.

In 1858 the Ogeechee Lodge No. 213 Free and Accepted Masons built a two-story building one and one-half miles West of Union Church at a cost of $700. The lower floor of this building was used as a school and was known as the “Masonic Hall and Academy Building.”

The children of poor parents had not been able to pay even the small fees charged by the academies. The State Government, in 1817, set up a fund of $250,000 called the “Poor School Fund.” This was followed in 1821 by an endowment of $500,000, divided between the poor schools and the academies. The state did not regulate these poor schools. They could be set up by anyone willing to teach and who could collect a group of pupils. The state would pay from the poor school endowment the tuition of children whose parents were too poor to meet the expense. These children might have three years at public expense if they were between the ages of eight and eighteen and did not go beyond reading, writing and arithmetic.

An attempt was made in 1839 to combine all school endowments into a common school fund to instruct all alike but the State Legislature shied away from the undertaking and in 1840 repealed the law before it had an opportunity to become effective and again offered to educate the poor children only.
Some people were too proud to accept education under these terms, preferring that their children be illiterate rather than admit to being a pauper.

In July, 1823, the Justices of the Inferior Court, in order to make arrangements for the education of the poor children of Bulloch County, ordered that Sheppard Williams in Captain Hagan’s district, John Everett in Captain Wise’s district, Henderson Fryer in Captain DeLoach’s district, Michael Young in Captain Fagan’s district and Henry Parrish in Captain Lockhart’s district “be and are hereby appointed as fit and proper persons to superintend the education of the poor children of Bulloch County.”

In May, 1827, the Inferior Court appointed Sheppard Williams, David Kennedy and Edmund Warren Trustees of the poor school fund. They gave bond and security and swore that “to the best of their ability they would distribute the monies that came into their hands in a manner that would most conduce to the education of poor children in Bulloch County and make a true return agreeable to the regulations of law.”

A will recorded in March, 1863 made by Benjamin Pearson bequeathed to his wife, Sarah, a half of all his possessions. The third item stated: “I give and bequeath to the Poor School of Bulloch the other half of all I possess.” At public sale the estate brought $894.89. The 500 acres of land was sold later for $1,000.

There is a complete record of the handling of the poor school funds from 1846-1859 in the office of the Ordinary. Receipts show payment made to various teachers for teaching the children of specific families under the poor act. The amount received from the executive of the state as poor school money was anywhere from $94.18 to $146.25 per year. The number of pupils named in the poor schools list were:

- 1846, 128; 1847, 136; 1848, 150; 1849, 163; 1850, 210; 1851, 242, 1852, 223; 1853, 177; 1854, 185; 1855, 221; 1856, 202; 1857, 207; 1858, 330.

Attached to the names listed in 1858 is a note made by the Ordinary, David Beasley, January 6, 1859, stating that he had copied the list of names of poor children and mailed them to his Excellency Joseph E. Brown, the number returned being 330.

Following this is a statement that a return of children between the ages of 8 and 18 years as taken down by the Tax Receiver in the year 1853 and taken from the tax digest of said year in the county Bulloch, totaled 864.

This would indicate that those 864 children would not be entitled to be educated with poor school funds since a person whose tax was over 50 cents was not eligible under the poor school law.

Two Yankees, a Mr. Blessing and a Mr. Turner, came down to Bulloch County in the 1850’s and set up a private school in the Mill Ray community. In this school also was a teacher named Miss Mississippi Miller. A highly thought of teacher in the 47th District (Briar Patch) was Mr. Stephen Thorne.

The presentments of the Grand Jury made March 27, 1860 recommends that the Inferior Court levy a tax of 12½ per cent upon the state tax to be added and disposed of in the same way as the appropriation made by the legislature for educational purposes.

Some of the families employed tutors who lived in the homes and taught the children and the children of close neighbors. Others sent their children away from home to schools with good reputations for scholarship.

One of the well-known schools was the Female Academy at Madison, Georgia.

Here is an interesting letter, dated April 12, 1853, written at Madison, Georgia, from a lady concerning her niece, Margaret Hodges, Margaret’s maid, Lizzie and the chaperone, Mrs. Lines, who accompanied her to Madison via the Central of Georgia Railroad. Mr. Robertson, the husband of the lady writing the letter, had gone to Augusta to meet the folk from Bulloch County. The letter was written to her brother-in-law, Hardy B. Hodges:

Attached to the names listed in 1858 is a note
"Dear Brother:

"Mrs. Lines and Margaret arrived here safe last Thursday morning week quite different however from the way I was expecting them.

"Mr. Robertson went down Tuesday morning so as to be there in time to meet them, went immediately to Mrs. Kent's thinking they had arrived. Not finding them he concluded they had not left Mrs. Carswell's as soon as they had expected. Next day he went and sent frequently through the day. Towards night after the cars had left for Madison he heard they had been to the United States Hotel; so he had to wait until the next morning. They had come on the night train and were here when he got there.

"It was all owing to their going to the hotel instead of Mrs. Kent's. Sara Carswell persuaded Mrs. Lines to go there because she was not acquainted with Mrs. Kent. Mrs. Lines should not have minded Sarah's foolishness because that was the understanding with us, and of course Mr. Robertson would not think of going anywhere else to look for them. Mrs. Kent was expecting them too.

"They got along as well as they could alone. When they got here they got someone to show them the way to the hotel. The next morning just as we had got through breakfast they came. I was never more astonished in my life to see them coming at that hour and alone. I had set up that night till the cars came expecting them which was between eleven and twelve o'clock.

"Two of the young men went to the depot to meet Mr. Robertson. They saw Mrs. Lines and Margaret get off the train but not seeing Mr. Robertson did not think they were the ladies he went to meet. When they came back and said Mr. Robertson had not come I was disappointed but I concluded that they had not got to Augusta as soon as they expected so I went to sleep thinking they would certainly be up on the 12 train the next day, little dreaming they were in town that night not a great way off.

"Margaret and Lizzie seem to be well satisfied so far. Margaret gave me $50. I paid Mrs. Lines $8.50 out of it for her expenses up here. She told me the rest was to buy her clothes. I went and brought her some dresses and other little things that she will need when she goes to school. The balance I have and will use as you direct. I will not get anything more than she needs and will be as economical with her money as I can in a place where everything is so high. Of course you wish Margaret to appear as some of the girls. I won't say as any of them for dressing is carried to a great extent with most of them and it would require a large sum to carry out such extravagance which I should not think right for her to do if she was worth thousands.

"I shall endeavor to instill in her mind the necessity of improving her mind while she has the opportunity, but still not to neglect neatness in her appearance. I shall do the best I can toward her and keep account of every cent I pay out for her.

"It is required for her to go to church and Sabbath School every Sunday. She will necessarily require more clothes than she did at home in the country.

"I intended to have gone to see Mr. Wittich before I wrote you but he has been very sick. He is better this week. I intended to see him this morning but I have not been well enough to go out today. If I put off writing any later this week you will not hear from us on Friday. I want to see him about what books she will need and get them and let you know what they cost.

"Margaret intended to write you in this letter but it is so late and time it was in the office. She will write next week.

"I will see Mr. Wittich in a few days. I could see the professors anytime but Mr. Wittich is the President and I'd rather see him.

"Mr. Robertson got your letter. I have not time to say more now. Margaret sends her love, says she wants to see you all but is not homesick yet.

Your sister, 
L.A. (Lydia Anciaux) Robertson."
In the 1850's there was agitation again to set up a state school system, free to all. In 1858 the state provided for an annual appropriation of $1000,000 from the rentals of the Western and Atlantic Railroad for the establishing of free schools. The War Between the States ended this program. Schools were closed in this emergency.

Following Sherman's devastating march through Bulloch County poverty and scarcity prevailed to such an extent that for the time all effort was spent in feeding and clothing families rather than providing for their education.

But as families began to regain some financial security they sent their children out of the county to recognized schools including Bradwell Institute in Liberty County, Reidsville Academy in Tattnall County, Chatham Academy in Savannah and to the Monroe Female College in Forsyth Georgia.

A receipted bill from R.T. Asbury, president of the Monroe Female College, dated December 1, 1877, for Miss Rena Hodges shows the following items:

Tuition, $50.00; music, $50.00; French, $17.00; incidental expenses, $2.00; ornamental lessons, $27.00; books, $10.35; picture frames, $5.75.

The first graduates of liberal arts colleges from Bulloch County were: Daniel Groover, University of Georgia, 1873; John Slater, University of Georgia, 1881; D.N. Nichols, Kentucky School of Medicine, 1886 and S.L. Moore, Emory, 1887.

An advertisement appearing in the “Excelsior News” for July 18, 1879, announced that the Academy was for males and females, the scholastic year being divided into three terms, each consisting of sixty-seven days. The first term would open the second Monday in January; the second term would open Wednesday, April 23; the third term the second Monday in September. Between the first and second terms there would be a vacation of one week only. The rates of tuition per term were $6.70 for the primary class, $8.35 for the Intermediate Class, and $10.00 for the Advanced Class. Music was $10.00 per term and incidental expenses were fifty cents. Incidental expenses must be paid in advance and there must be prompt settlement for tuition at the end of each term. Board including lights and washing, etc., could be had in the town at $7.00 and $8.00 per month. The teachers listed in this advertisement were the Rev. J.T. Smith, principal; Rev. J.C. Brewton, assistant; Miss G.A. Padgett, music teacher; Elder W.L. Geiger, general superintendent. The trustees were J. Kennedy, president, J.G. Jones, Dr. J.G. Williams, J.F. Alderman, Remer Franklin, secretary.

There was also nine month’s school at Eureka; the post office for which was Zoar. This was near the Clito community. Later when some of the county schools were consolidated Eureka, Beaver Pond, and Clito were joined under the name Cliponreka.

Another school in the county in the late 1800's was the Macedonia Academy, a nine-month school located in the 48th District. Miss Abby Dudley, one of the county's best known teachers, taught at this school.

One of the most vivid and delightful pictures of these early schools in Bulloch County is depicted in a letter written by Mr. M.C. Jones, county school commissioner, to the editor of the Excelsior News and published in the May 9, 1879 issue. The letter reads:
Mr. Editor:

This beautiful May day morn while all nature seems to be so lovely, I have taken my pen in hand to give your many readers a sketch of my visit to the Eureka High School. About two weeks ago I received a message from Parson Rogers asking me to visit his school on Saturday the third inst., and you may be well assured that I looked forward to that day with much pleasure because I always enjoy myself so finely while at his school.

On last Friday evening I had closed the exercises of my school for the week and I immediately set off for Eureka knowing that the distance was too far to get there in time if I left home Saturday morning. Having a desire to get my mail and also the mail for the settlement I went via Statesboro. After a pleasant ride of two hours in the cool of the evening I found myself in Statesboro. I spent the night very pleasantly with Aunt Sallie. I had a long and I believe profitable talk with that handsome gentleman, Mr. Solomon Olliff. He is a sober, moral, upright young man. I think he is worthy of the hand, heart and affection of some accomplished and beautiful young lady.

After partaking of a hearty breakfast (you may feel confident, Mr. Editor that Aunt Sallie knows how to prepare a meal that is fit for a king) I found myself again on the road for Eureka. In about two hours I drove up to the gate of Mr. Henry Kicklighter. Cousin Laura met me with a smile and asked me to get down and come in. By the by she is one of the most pleasant ladies that I ever knew. Cousin Henry soon came and made me promise I would come back there for dinner. Cousin Henry would have me go out and see his garden. He is a very industrious man and you can always find him at home where every good, contented farmer desires to be. I left my mule and buggy and walked over to the Academy it being only about one-fourth of a mile. The honored teacher saw me coming and met me about twenty yards from the door. After shaking hands and passing compliments he invited me in. As we passed along he told me he would give me an introduction to the school. As I stepped into the school room he very politely said: 'Mr. Jones, our County School Commissioner, scholars', and everyone arose. You could hear their sweet voices all over the house, 'Good morning, Mr. Jones' and 'Welcome, Mr. Jones.'

He asked me to go up and take a seat upon the stage, and about the time I was seating myself the sweet little girls and young ladies came and strewed roses and bouquets about my feet. They all took their seats again for about one minute and then the whole school arose and sang that beautiful hymn, 'Ring the Bell.'

After the singing the teacher carried the school through one of the best examinations that it has ever been my lot to witness. Every student took a pride in trying to excel in everything. I saw some of the best grammar scholars and heard some of the best reading; in fact the recitations were really excellent.

"For want of space and time I must soon close, and in conclusion I would say that the memory of Saturday, the 3rd, will ever be with me. I would advise anyone wishing to send to a good school and teacher not to leave Eureka out. 'May the Lord enable the scholars of Eureka to fill honorable positions in life and find a home at His right hand."

"Yours very affectionately,

M.C. Jones, County School Commissioner.

The Statesboro Academy was a wooden three-story building located on the north corner of what is now Church Street and North Main Street. This was constructed about 1890 when the population of Statesboro was about 520 people.

The Academy had twenty pupils at this time. The faculty for the 1891-1892 term was a Mr. Walsh, a Canadian, Miss Etta Lanier Oater (later Mrs. Seckinger) and Miss Hattie Wood of Scarboro. For the term of 1892-93 the faculty was W.H. Cone, Miss Alderman and Miss Hattie Wood. In 1893-1894, John Davis, Miss Lee Camp and Miss Hattie Wood composed the faculty.
In 1895 Mr. Ewell Brannen bought the school building and with a school mate, Mr. T.A. McGregor, operated the academy until 1898. Dr. R.J.H. DeLoach taught here in the spring of 1896 and in 1898-1899 Dr. DeLoach was co-principal with Mr. Brannen.

About 1899 the people of Statesboro began to realize that the town had outgrown the Academy. It was in the fall of 1901 that a new building was erected at a cost of $10,000 on the corner of what is now South College Street and West Grady Street. This was called the Statesboro Institute and is known today as the "Old Grammar School Building." In addition to the town students there were perhaps twenty-five or thirty boarding students who came from the regions around the community and boarded with residents in the town while attending the Institute. From this grew the present grammar and high school of the City of Statesboro.

Provisions were made in the State Constitution of 1877 for free schools. The first provision did not create the office of county school commissioner but did provide for a state school commissioner who had in keeping school funds as were provided. Provisions were made later empowering the county grand jury to appoint a County School Commissioner. Dr. G.W. Sease was the first to serve in this capacity in in Bulloch County. He was succeeded by Mr. M.C. Jones whose combined terms of service were from 1877 to 1882. There were no banks here and the funds were paid in cash to the commissioner who distributed the funds among the teachers long after the schools had been taught and closed.

At the beginning of the system only a few schools were established. The teaching dealt mostly with the three R's and the old "Blue Back Speller." The terms were short and the pay poor. No effort was made to instruct the language.

In 1882 Captain J.S. Hagin began his long term of eighteen years as County School Superintendent of Bulloch County. It was during this period that a fuller curriculum was added to the free schools and the subject of grammar was given some consideration. The schools were always taught in the summer months and the buildings were not built for protection against the winter weather.

From the year 1900 to 1904 W.H. Cone served as County School Commissioner. During these years more interest developed in the schools and matters pertaining to them. Plans were made for better buildings, better attendance and better teaching.

Ewell Brannen served as County School Commissioner from 1904 to 1912. During this time more substantial buildings were constructed for the schools and some modern equipment was obtained. The schools were put into districts and an official school map was made showing the locations of the several public schools established. Quite a number of these districts voted the district tax for school maintenance and for lengthening the public term.

The title, County School Commissioner, was changed to County School Superintendent in 1912. Mr. B.R. Olliff was the first official to serve under this new title.

In 1914 there were 56 county schools. For the operation of these the county received from the state $30,764.85 which was supplemented by local taxation in four districts.

Box suppers and other devices were used widely to make up deficiencies.

Georgia Southern College, today one of the leading teachers colleges in the nation was not always Georgia Southern College.

The college's history begins as one of ten district agricultural and mechanical schools established under a legislative bill introduced by H.H. Perry of Hall County and supported by Governor Joseph H. Terrell and signed into law on August 18, 1906.

To assure the location of the First District school in Statesboro the citizens of the county and the town, under the leadership of Colonel Albert M. Deal, offered 275 acres of land, $25,000 in cash, and free electricity and water for ten years.

In the beginning there were no appropriations made by the state for maintenance of the new school, however provision was made that all funds derived from fertilizer and oil inspection fees would be utilized for the support of the district schools. This arrangement was unsatisfactory.
and was replaced in 1911 by an appropriation bill for maintenance.

The Board of Trustees of the First District Agricultural School, with Jefferson Randolph Anderson as chairman, met in 1907 and elected J. Walter Hendricks principal and Otto T. Harper professor of agriculture.

The new high school opened on February 8, 1908. Principal Hendricks' record book for March 25, 1908, shows the enrollment as follows:


Eighth grade—Gorden Williams, Hubert Jones, Grady Johnson, Mark Lively, Willie Cox, Paul Simmons, Fred Kennedy, Rastus Brannen, James Donaldson, Hubert Kennedy, George (Pete) Donaldson, Ivy Everitt, Naughton Mitchell, Gordon Donaldson, Dan Rigdon, James Blitch, Elma Smith, Mamie Newsome, Annie Waters, Josie Olliff, Minnie Reed Beasley, Sara Parker.

According to the recollection of Dan E. Bland, Lanie Rushing, John Rushing, Brantley Blitch and Grover Johnson had enrolled at the beginning of the school on February 8, but had withdrawn before Principal Hendricks' records of March 25.

Principal Hendricks, a graduate of the University of Georgia, taught English, history, spelling and physics. Prof. Otto T. Harper of the University of Georgia, taught agriculture, plant life, botany and geography. He was born in New York and lived at Dalton, Georgia before coming to Statesboro. Prof. F.M. Rowan of Cartersville, a Georgia Tech man, taught arithmetic, Algebra, shop work, carpentry and forage practices. Miss Josephine Schiffer, who was born in Java, and lived in New Jersey, taught domestic arts and domestic science. George Kicklighter was the farm superintendent.

That first term only three girls lived in the school dormitory. They were Elma Smith, Mamie Newsome and Annie Waters. They were under the care of Mrs. Nina Hendricks, the wife of Principal Hendricks.

Of the more than forty students enrolled during the first term about one-third were "day" students.

The first buildings of the new First District A. and M. School were the administration building, East Hall and West Hall which were erected at a total cost of $45,000.

The school existed as a high school from 1908 until 1924. Mr. Hendricks was principal in 1908 and 1909; E.C. Dickens, 1909-1914; F.M. Rowan, 1915-1920; and E.V. Hollis, 1920-1926.

It was during Mr. Hollis' administration in 1924 that the need for teachers began to concern the people of Georgia and of the State Department of Education. He proposed that the school be made into a Normal School to train teachers. His proposal had the backing of the board of trustees. J.E. McCroan was chairman at that time and Howell Cone, legal counsel. On August 18, 1924, Governor Cliff Walker signed a bill passed by the General Assembly, which created the Georgia Normal School at Statesboro. Ernest V. Hollis was named president. In 1926 the first class of five students, Lucille Dekle, Lucy Rhea Rushing, Annanella Screws, Janie Warren and Bernice Wilson received diplomas from Georgia Normal School.

Professor Hollis resigned in 1926, and Guy H. Wells became president and served until 1934.

On August 24, 1929, the General Assembly passed a bill changing the name of the school to South Georgia Teachers College. Zulie Me Lane, Ada Lou Roe, Dorthy Thomas and Earl Wood received the first Bachelor of Science in Education degrees in the class of 1929, from the South Georgia Teachers College.

On August 28, 1931, Governor Dick Russell signed a bill which abolished all boards of trustees and substituted a Board of Regents. Among the institutions affected was South Georgia Teachers College in Statesboro.
On April 12, 1934 the new Board of Regents transferred Guy Wells to the presidency of Georgia State College for Women and Dr. Marvin Pittman, a former director of education for Michigan State College at Ypsilanti, Michigan, was named president.

In 1936 the college was admitted to membership in the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

In 1939 the Board of Regents changed the name of the college from South Georgia Teachers College to Georgia Teachers College.

Dr. Pittman was replaced as president of the college in 1941 by Albert M. Gates who served until 1943 when Dr. Pittman was renamed president. On September 1, 1947, Dr. Pittman retired and Judson C. Ward was named president. On April 1, 1948, he was named assistant chancellor of the University System of Georgia and Zach S. Henderson, who had been dean of the college since 1927, was named president and is still serving that capacity.

On Friday, November 15, 1957, the Board of Regents approved the granting of master of education degrees in seven fields for Georgia Teachers College.

And on February 7, 1958 the college celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with Dr. Robert Strozier, president of Florida State University the principal speaker.

It was on December 9, 1959 that the name of the college was changed from Georgia Teachers College to Georgia Southern College by the Board of Regents.

In recent years the objectives of the college have been enlarged to include programs leading to degrees of bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of science in recreation, and master of education, as well as the degree of bachelor of science in education. The new name more adequately reflects the function of the college.

One of the earliest organizations in the county was the Ogeechee Lodge No. 213 Free and Accepted Masons.

OGEECHEE LODGE No. 213, F. & A. M. ORGANIZED.

This lodge, which in 1858 is one of the strongest and most active lodges in the state, was organized under the dispensation granted by Most Worshipful Grand Master W.S. Rockwell on April 27, 1857 and received its charter in October, 1857.

The first meetings of the lodge were held in Union Church until late in 1858, when a two-story building was erected at a cost of $700 on lands belonging to James Young Sr. The lower floor was used for a school room and church and was known as the “Masonic Hall and Academy Building.” It was located about one and one-half miles west of Union Church on “The Old River Road.”

By an act of the General Assembly of Georgia on November 30, 1958, and upon payment of $100, James Young Jr., and John Cameron, administrators, conveyed title to twenty acres of land upon which the Masonic Hall and Academy Building was located, to the Worshipful Master of Ogeechee Lodge No. 213, and his successors in office. The deed was recorded in May, 1860 in Book F-K, Page 63, in the clerk’s office of the Bulloch Superior Court in Statesboro.

Charter members of the lodge were: J.B. Hussey, Worshipful Master; John I. Brown, Senior Warden; Richard Gay, Junior Warden; the Rev. J.R. Miller, treasurer; Richard Edenfield, secretary; Wiley W. Williams, Senior Deacon; Jas. Woods, Junior Deacon; the Rev. Jas. R. Miller, Chaplain; Daniel Brower, Tyler; Wm. S. Moore, Wm. Simmons, Green R. Slater, John Munn, George W. Williams, Dr. Geo. W. Stotesbury, Bat Gay, Zechariah Lewis and Dr. Edward W. Lane.

Members of the Ogeechee Lodge No. 213 organized in Bulloch County on April 27, 1857 and chartered in October, 1857, frowned upon and considered desertion from the Confederate Army by one of its members a serious business.