

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER FOUR

JULY 2005



If our town had a park we are satisfied that a great many people would come here to spend the summer. There are several visitors here now; and there is no reason in the world why a good many of the people from South Georgia and Florida that pass through our town en route to Mr. Airy and other places should not stop. There is a beautiful place for a nice little park at the end of Central Avenue, down below where Mr. C. W. Hood had his fish pond. —Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, July 13, 1894

The Jackson County Historical Society will hold the annual Hot Dog Picnic at Willoughby Park in Commerce on Thursday, July 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. Members and their family are invited. A program will follow on early Merchants of Harmony Grove by Jean Booth. For more information call Tina Harris at (706) 757-3750.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529

(706) 335-5946

Newsletter

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly and mailed before the next meeting. Back issues can be obtained for \$3.50 each plus postage. Past newsletters can be viewed online at: rootsweb.com/~gajackso/

Queries

Send queries to be published before the next deadline, September 15, 2005. Send requests for information to the address below with a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Membership Dues

The dues year runs from July to July. Checks can be mailed to:

Jackson County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529:

Individual –\$15
Family –\$20
LIFE member –\$100

JCHS Officers 2004-2005

President: Tina Harris
Vice-President: Jerry Mealor
Recording Secretary: Nora Tolbert
Corresponding Secretary: Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer: Tommy Benton
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Thad Richey
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Richard Chambers
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James Mathis
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Newsletter Editors: Tina Harris
Jean Booth

Queries

Looking for parents of JOHN ANDERSON MORGAN born Maysville, GA, November 22, 1861. (This information is from a delayed birth certificate for his daughter.) Could he possibly be the son of Ann Haseltine Whitmire and Samuel Morgan? However, their son John is listed as born in 1856 in the 1860 Gwinnett census and the 1870 Jackson County census. John Anderson Morgan in question was enumerated as Miller Morgan in the 1900 Lincoln County census, city of Chandler, Oklahoma. Would also like to know the pages of the 1860 and 1870 census records that include Maysville residents. Contact: Georgia Daniel Cavanaugh, 890 Wetland View, Fallon, NV, 89406-6817, 775-867-3890. georgiac@cccmm.net

Looking for the parents of LEVI MILTON MORGAN buried at Attica Baptist Church, 1875-1951. Married Nancy Melinda Pirkle, born 1875. Their son Alvin Milton Morgan, born 1904 married Jessie Ruth Williams. Alvin said that his grandparents were Charlie Levi and Mary Molly Morgan. However, the 1880 Jackson County census lists Levi M. Morgan in the household of William Charlie Morgan and Mary Molly Streetman, as one month old when he should have been 5 years old. William C. Morgan would have only been 12 years old when Levi was born if he was 5 years old in 1880. Mary Molly Streetman's sister Manerva married George Blackmon who was Alvin's wife Jesse's grandfather. Family members say Charlie was a preacher and had a store that was destroyed in the 1939 tornado (probably in Gainesville) or maybe he was in prison for several years before being found innocent!!! Also, looking for the grave of Charlie and Mary Molly Morgan. Contact: Karen Maurizi, 103 Gale Vista Drive, Bonaire, GA 31005, 478-328-0556. maurizicp@aol.com

Obituary

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, January 20, 1910

Mr. C. W. Hood, the oldest merchant and the wealthiest and most prominent citizen of Commerce, died at his residence at that place Wednesday of last week. His remains were interred in Gray Hill cemetery, the funeral services taking place from the First Baptist church. Mr. Hood had reached the ripe old age of 84 years, and has been a long and consistent member of the Baptist church of this place, and in all respects was an ideal citizen, noted for his charity and Christian fortitude.

Mr. Hood was the first merchant who opened up a store in Commerce, when it was a cross roads village, and he has seen the then little village of "Harmony Grove" grow and prosper and develop into the present thriving commercial metropolis of Commerce. Mr. Hood probably has sold more people goods than any one man who ever lived and carried on business in Commerce, and he was noted far and near for liberal dealings with his customers and for his straight business integrity and absolute honesty. He knew nothing of the "tricks of the trade," but, by fair dealings with his fellow-men and promptly meeting every honest obligation, he has built up and retained a reputation for business honesty and integrity equaled by few and excelled by none. In this way he accumulated a handsome fortune of several hundred thousand dollars and was at the time of his death among the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest citizen of Commerce.

Mr. Hood was noted for his business enterprise; and it was largely through his efforts that the Northeastern Bank was established in Commerce several years ago, and he was one of the largest stockholders in that institution. He was also largely instrumental, both in a personal and in a financial way, in organizing the Harmony Grove Cotton Mills, and both of these institutions, as well as everything else which Mr. Hood was connected with, have met financial success from the very beginning and are living monuments to his business sagacity and public spiritness. Mr. Hood leaves a wife, who was Miss Alice Owens, daughter of Col. John W. Owens, of Toccoa, Ga., and three children, Mary, C. W. Jr., and Ruth, who have blessed this last union, besides Mr. C. J. Hood, cashier of the Northeastern Banking Co., who is the oldest son of Mr. C. W. Hood, by a former marriage and has followed in his father's footsteps and is indeed "a worthy son of a worthy sire."

Excerpt from Jackson Herald, 1881

Hood's New Mills

Last Wednesday, in company with Mr. A. H. Brock (and Charlie), we had the pleasure of visiting and looking through the old Burns' Mills, situated on the North Oconee River.

The property was purchased several years ago by Mr. C. W. Hood, of Harmony Grove. We suppose from the surroundings, that it was at one time the best merchants' mills in the county, and one amongst the first built in this section. At the time Mr. Hood bought it the property

was considered to be in very fair condition, but it was far from the standard that its owner desired, who realized the fact that in order to make it pay a profit on the investment, he must put it in first-class order in every respect.

Securing the services of Mr. T. A. Panel, of Gainesville, who is known as the best millwright in this section of country. Mr. Hood went to work, and has re-built the mill over from top to bottom. Nothing remains of the old machinery except a few iron wheels. To commence at the bottom, Mr. Panel has put in four new turbine wheels, of his own pattern, each on running a separate set of rocks, two for wheat and two for corn. Mr. Panel claims that he can get better work when each set of rocks is geared separately. The husk frame is a splendid piece of workmanship, and is as steady when the mills are in motion as it is possible to get them. He has introduced several new improvements in the adjustments of the spindles, so that the best and most perfect balance can be obtained in the running of the rocks. In the management and handling of the grain the arrangements are complete, and leaves nothing to be desired. Everything is made so as to avoid the heavy lifts that the miller usually has to undergo from the time the grain gets in to the mill house.

In the mill the ground flour is on a level with a wagon body, the grain is carried in on a truck, weighed, and minus the toll, is emptied into a hole in the floor, from whence it is carried, by elevators, either to the wheat or corn mills. After undergoing the necessary cleaning in the upper stories, it is by the same means carried to the rocks. From the time it leaves the sack until it comes back it is under the most perfect control of the miller, who, by the mechanical arrangements, can stop its progress should he so desire.

We noticed that in every part of the construction special care was given to prevent the least possible degree of waste, and, as far as we are able to judge, the end has been attained. So that any one can, with safety, send to Hood's Mill with the positive knowledge that they will get back all they send (of course minus the toll, as we presume he will want a little pay; if he don't, he will be the first man that ever ground without taking toll.)

All of the gearing that runs the elevators, bolters, smutters, and, etc. is entirely new and works like a charm, securing better results in every way. It is all run by a turbine wheel of Mr. Panel's construction, doing the work more satisfactorily than the three old ones, and making at the same time a great saving in water.

On the second floor a large granary has been constructed, so that wheat or corn can be placed in the elevators and carried up to it and emptied out each day, without any labor whatever, thus preventing its heating, and at the same time securing it from exposure.

With the improvements made, Mr. Hood has increased the value of his property at least fifty per cent, and we expect it has cost him every dollar of it, but he has the consolation of knowing that he has the best mill in the county, and we expect in several adjoining ones; that it is capacitated to keep at least one-half of Jackson county in meal and flour with case and dispatch, and we trust that the increased custom, by reason of its superiority, will amply repay him for the investment.

Excerpt from the Jackson Herald, February 1894

Jeff Hood of Harmony Grove, Ga., has gone to New York and Boston to buy stock of goods for the new firm of J. H. & C. W. Hood. The new firm will occupy the new building next door to the bank building. They will make

a specialty of shoes and ladies' dress goods. Be sure to call and see their large stock of goods and get their prices.

Excerpt from History of Harmony Grove-Commerce

C. W. Hood, Sr., who was born in 1827, was the grand son of William H. Hood and Winifred Hood who were charter members of the Beaver Dam Baptist Church in 1826. Mr. C. W. Hood, Sr., was reared near Apple Valley and while a young man came to Harmony Grove and entered into the mercantile business which he conducted for more than forty years. Mr. Hood was a man of retiring disposition, limited education, but with great business qualifications, noted for his economy and thrift. Having large farm interests, he accumulated a princely fortune for those days. Mr. Hood was very active in church and school affairs and contributed largely to these institutions, donating land and money in a liberal way. He had a large part in building the Northeastern Railroad, subscribing stock and giving the site for the depot.

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P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529