

# *Jackson County Historical Society News*

VOLUME SEVENTEEN, NUMBER TWO

JANUARY 2010



*The Crawford W. Long Monument was erected by the Medical Association of Georgia on April 21, 1910. Emma Long is to the left of the monument, Edward C. Long III and Edward C. Long Jr. are on the right. Photo courtesy of Richard B. Russell Library.*

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Crawford Long Museum in Jefferson, Georgia on Sunday, January, 24 at 2:30 p.m. for a tour of the newly renovated facility and exhibits. A donation will be taken at the door.

*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 \$3.00 each plus postage. Some of the past newsletters can be viewed online at: [rootsweb.com/~gajackso/](http://rootsweb.com/~gajackso/)

The Historical Society's collection of books, files and research materials are housed in the Heritage Room of the Commerce Public Library.

Queries will be published in the next issue. Please send by March 1, 2010.

## Dues for 2009–2010 year

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 –\$25  
LIFE member –\$100

## JCHS Officers 2009-2010

President:	Caine Campbell
Vice-President:	Shirley Wilson
Recording Secretary:	Doris Lord
Corresponding Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Ann Jarrett Jerry Legg
Past Presidents:	Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett Richard Chambers Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis James Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks Tina Harris Charlotte Mealor
Newsletter Editor:	Tina Harris

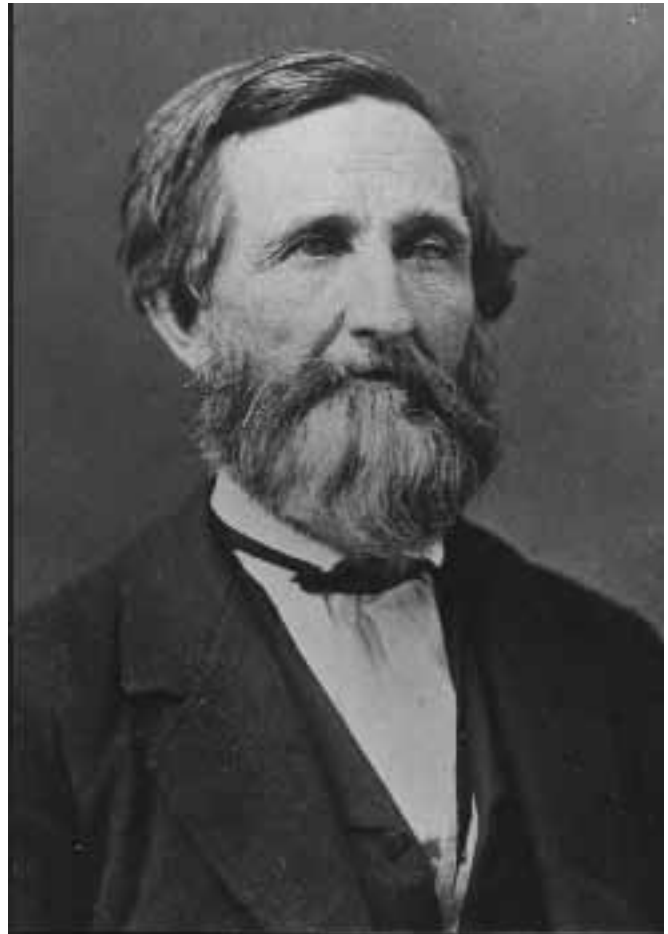
## Museum Tour

The Crawford Long Museum has reopened after a year undergoing major renovation to the interior and exterior of the 1880 brick Medical Gallery and the foundation of the 1858 Pendergrass Store building.

Lesa Campbell, Museum project manager, has been overseeing the structural rehabilitation of the museum's three historic buildings and planning of new exhibits. She will lead a tour for the Jackson County Historical Society on Sunday, January 24, at 2:30 p.m. A donation will be accepted at the door.

### Directions:

Take I-85 North to Exit 137. Turn right and travel 5 miles on U.S. Highway 129 South (Damon Gause Bypass). Turn left onto Ga. Hwy 11 North and travel 1.6 miles to the center of town. The Crawford W. Long Museum is on the east side of the Square. The large white Greek Revival building on the left.



*Crawford W. Long, discoverer of anesthesia*

Crawford Williamson Long was born on November 1, 1815, in Danielsville, the seat of Madison County, to a wealthy merchant and planter. (He was also a cousin of famed gambler John Henry “Doc” Holliday). At the age of fourteen he exhausted the resources of the local academy and applied to the University of Georgia in Athens. There he met and became lifelong friends with Alexander Stephens, who would later serve as vice president of the Confederacy during the Civil War (1861-65). Long received his A.M. degree from the university in 1835. In the fall of 1836 he began his medical education at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, where he studied under Benjamin Dudley, a renowned surgeon. There, Long had the opportunity to observe and participate in several surgeries, but these were harrowing experiences, as patients were not sedated and often experienced excruciating pain. At times doctors used alcohol, hypnotism, or other means to try to relax patients before surgery, but these remedies merely affected the patient’s mental state and did little to relieve pain.

After one year at Transylvania College, Long transferred to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. There he had the opportunity to study with some of the greatest medical scholars of the day and to witness new medical techniques firsthand. He received his medical degree in 1839. After a hospital internship in New York City, Long returned to Georgia to take over a rural medical practice in Jefferson (in Jackson County) in 1841. During his medical school years Long observed traveling showmen who demonstrated hypnotism and sometimes the effects of nitrous oxide, or “laughing gas,” on the crowds. At school Long had also witnessed antics at laughing gas parties and “ether frolics,” in which participants would inhale nitrous oxide or sulfuric ether for entertainment. He observed that attendees often fell or bumped into things but seemed to feel no pain until the effects of the gas wore off.

As he established his medical practice, Long began to experiment with sulfuric ether as an anesthetic. He performed his first surgical procedure using the gas on March 30, 1842, when he removed a tumor from the neck of a young man. Though he performed more surgeries using anesthesia over the next several years and began using it in his obstetrical practice, Long did not publish his findings. Many doctors were skeptical that the use of gases or other chemicals during surgery would provide pain relief, and Long wanted to be sure of his discov-

ery. He made no secret of his investigation among his colleagues and friends in Jefferson, however. Some local residents thought that Long was engaging in witchcraft. Others believed that he was disturbing the natural order of things and that pain was God’s way of cleansing the soul.

An editorial ran in the December 1846 issue of *Medical Examiner* about a Boston dentist named William Morton who claimed to have used ether as an anesthetic. The January 1847 issue featured several articles about various experiments in etherization. After reading these accounts, Long began writing his own account of his discovery and collecting notarized letters from former patients. In 1849 he presented his findings to the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and while there he learned of two others who also claimed to be the discoverers of surgical anesthesia—Horace Wells and Charles Jackson. The ether controversy was well under way before Long made his claim. Although the others sought wealth and fame for the discovery, Long simply wanted the recognition of his peers and to alleviate the suffering of patients. An article about his discovery, along with copies of affidavits, was published in the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal* in December 1849, but Long did not receive full recognition for his discovery in his lifetime.

In the intervening years his family and his medical practice grew. Long married Caroline Swain in 1842, and together they had twelve children, seven of whom survived to adulthood. In 1851 they moved to Athens, where Long opened a practice and pharmacy with his brother, Robert. During the Civil War he remained in Athens and served as a surgeon to soldiers on both sides of the conflict. He died on June 16, 1878, shortly after helping to deliver a baby.

On June 18, 1879, the National Eclectic Medical Association (an organization that advocated using the best remedies that could be found, from many different sources) passed a resolution declaring Long as the discoverer of anesthesia. Since that time he has been recognized by medical bodies all over the world and has been memorialized by monuments, statues, paintings, a U.S. postage stamp, and Doctors’ Day, celebrated every March 30. A museum in his honor stands at the site of his medical practice in Jefferson.



*Before picture of the clock works at the Old Courthouse*



*Picture of the clock works after renovation.*

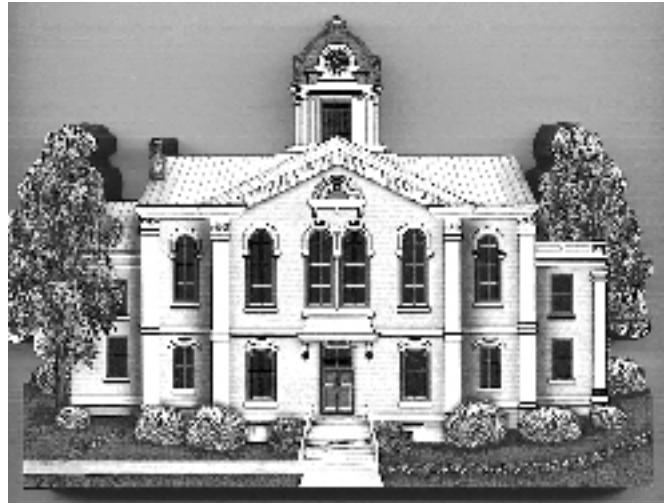
Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529



## Portraits of a Southern Place

This is a reprint in paperback of our 2007 hardback publication. The price of \$25.00 includes tax. Checks and money orders can be made to The Jackson County Historical Society. The book is available in Jackson County at special locations or send a check to JCHS, P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529, Shipping cost is \$3.00 per book. Call Tina for special deliveries (706)207-6889 or [tina313@mindspring.com](mailto:tina313@mindspring.com)



## Jackson County Historic Courthouse Replica

The Jackson County Historical Society is selling an architectural replica of the Jackson County Historic Courthouse with proceeds going to the restoration project. Replica's can be purchased at Genuine Jefferson on Washington Street, Jefferson. For more information call Charlotte Mealor at 706-757-2471 or [cmealor@uga.edu](mailto:cmealor@uga.edu).

## Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529