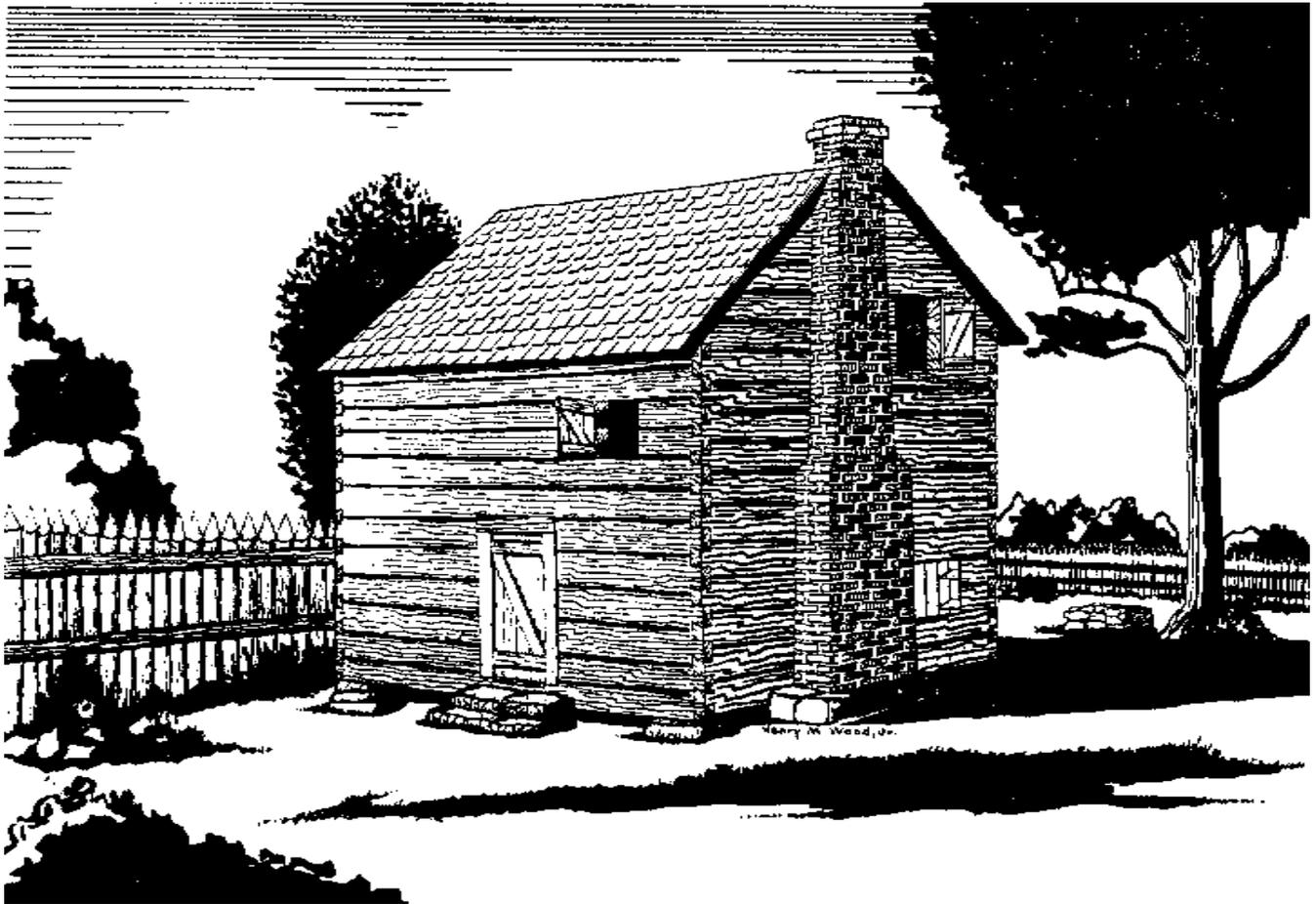


Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER ONE

OCTOBER 2000



October Ramble

Sunday, October 22 at Fort Yargo State Park
Meet at Entrance A at 2:30

(See back for more information and a full description of our ramble)

NEWSLETTER

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly and mailed before the next meeting. Back issues can be obtained for \$1.50 each plus postage. Please send your Jackson County family connections with your dues and they will be published in the next newsletter.

QUERIES

Send queries to be published the month before the next issue. Next deadline December 1, 2000.

DUES

The Jackson County Historical Society's Dues Year runs from July to July. Checks should be written to the Jackson County Historical Society and mailed to the address shown below.

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Life Member	\$100.00

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OBITUARIES

Excerpts Jackson Herald

June 25, 1886 – Mr. John B. Betts, who has been sick so long, died last Saturday evening. His funeral was preached by Rev. Mr. Reeves, at the Methodist church, yesterday at 8 o'clock, and his remains laid to rest in the Jug Tavern Cemetery at half past 5 o'clock. He leaves a widow and several children to mourn his lost. A very large crowd attended his funeral and followed his corpse to the grave.

October 7, 1881 – Carter Hill Lodge No 268 F. A. M., in meeting assembled, September 10th 1881, acknowledge

the heavy but merciful hand of a wise Providence in taking from us Carter Hill our first and our only Master, our father, our brother and our friend... Brother Carter Hill was born within the present limits of Walton County, on the 18th day of March in the year 1805, and died on the 30th day of July 1881 aged 76 years, four months and twelve days. He was made a mason in Rockwell Lodge, No 191 F. A. M. while the Lodge was held in Jug Tavern.

March 20, 1913 – Mrs. H. N. Rainey, Jr. of Winder, wife of Hon. H. N. Rainey, Jr., One of the representatives from this country, is dead.

In her home, in Winder, on last Tuesday, she breathed her last. For some time she had suffered with pulmonary malady, and the end was not unexpected. She was buried in Winder.

She was the daughter of Mr. H. J. Randolph, of this city, and a sister of Mrs. A. M. Flanigan, and Miss Kate Randolph and Messrs. J. E. and F. H. Randolph.

Besides father, brothers and sisters and a devoted husband, she leaves two children, to mourn her untimely demise.

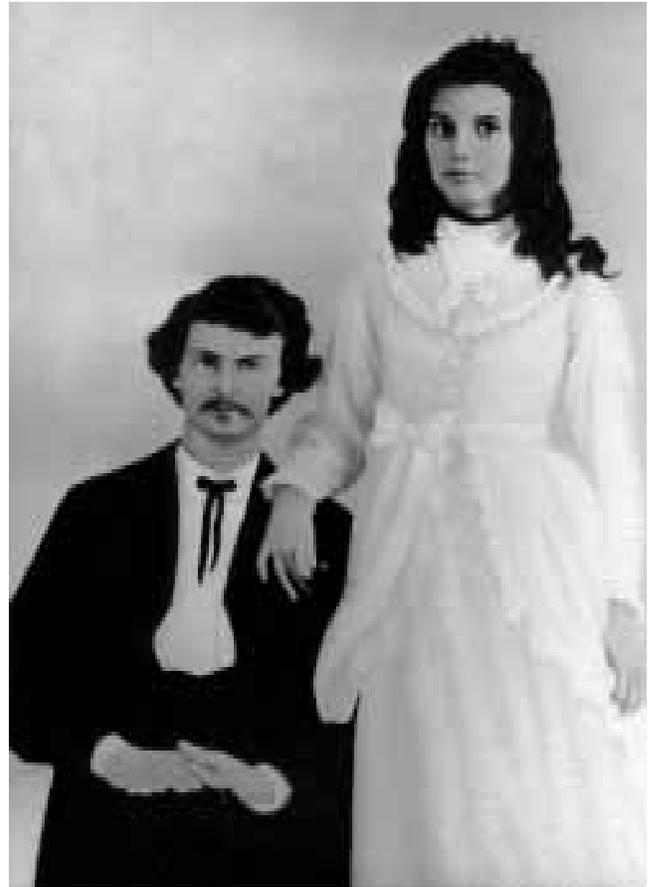
She was a sweet-spirited and noble woman, and her death has caused great sorrow with those who knew her.

June 10, 1915 – On Saturday night at 10 o'clock, at the home of his parents in Winder, the soul of Mr. H.V. McElhannon passed from time to eternity.

The funeral took place at the home on Sunday afternoon, and was conducted by Reverends Yarbrough of Winder and DuBose of Jefferson, and the body was interred in the Winder Cemetery. Six Jefferson friends of the family acted as paul bearers—Messrs. Homer Hancock, M. D. Holliday, Emory Lord, H. H. Storey, A.H. McRee, W.D Dadisman.

The deceased was about 30 years of age, and had been in failing health for several years. For some time he was a resident of Jefferson, and was mail carrier on Route 3. He moved this place to Gainesville, and was residing there at the time of his death, although during his last illness he was at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McElhannon, in Winder.

Besides his parents, he leaves a wife Mrs. Ruby McElhannon, and a sister, Mrs. Omie Richardson of



Carter Hill and Dorcas Hosch Hill

Gainesville, and a brother Mr. Emory McElhannon of Florida; to whom extend our deepest sympathy in their hour of sorrow.

September 27, 1917 – In the death of Hon. Thomas Niblack, Georgia lost one of trustworthy, honest and solid sons.

On last Saturday night in the home of his son, Mr. Carl O. Niblack, at Winder, Judge T. H. Niblack breathed his last. While he had been somewhat indisposed for several days, the end came unexpectedly to his family. On Sunday at 5 p.m., in the Methodist Church at Winder, his funeral obsequies were conducted by Rev. H. Mashburn, after a fitting tribute was paid to his life and memory by Judge Richard B. Russell, who served as judge and solicitor during Mr. Niblack's term as clerk of the superior court and county treasurer of Jackson county. He also served with him in the House of Representatives of Georgia.

His remains were then interred in the Winder cemetery.

Judge T. H. Niblack was born and retired in Jackson, and was a member of that patriotic, influential and powerful family known as the "Camp Sisters." He was 77 years old.

When the tocsin of war sounded, and the South called for volunteers to fight for her, Thomas H. Niblack responded to his country's call, and for four years served in the army of Lee and Jackson and Gordon. In that sad conflict, he received a severe wound.

After the war, he used his efforts for rehabilitation of his wounded and weeping land. In 1866, his fellow citizens called him to serve them as clerk and treasurer of Jackson County. With conspicuous credit to himself, and honor to the County, he filled this office for twenty years, after which he voluntarily returned to the inviting shades of private life. Not long however, was he allowed to remain a private citizen, for he was in 1886 chosen as one of Jackson county's representatives in the Lower House. Only one term he served, when he voluntarily again retired from politics. In 1890, he was again elected clerk of the superior court and county treasurer. He served one term. In 1900 he was again elected to the house, where he served with ability his county and his state. This was the last office he held. In 1904, he moved from this county, and has since lived in either DeKalb County, in Atlanta, or in Winder.

On June 28, 1876, he united in holy wedlock with Miss Julia C. Lyle, and their home was blessed with four children—Mr. C. O. Niblack, Misses Selma, India Niblack and Mrs. Goldsmith.

He has three brothers—Messrs. Z. T., H. R. and V. A. Niblack, all residents of Jackson County. He has four sisters living - Mrs. Lanier of Winder, Mrs. J. N. Hardy, Mrs. Nelie Bell, and Mrs. Ada Niblack, of this County.

Judge Niblack was a member of the Methodist Church. The same Preacher Rev. J. H. Mashburn, who received him into the church here in 1895, conducted the funeral of this distinguished son of Georgia. He was a Mason. For several years he was a trustee of Martin Institute.

Judge Niblack was a man of integrity, and would suffer to be thrown into the fiery furnace of defeat or despair before he would bend the knee to the golden image of disloyalty and dishonor.

FORT YARGO

Excerpt from The Fort Yargo Epic by L. G. Marlin

The settlement of Spaniards and the English in the Southwest had thrown the Indian occupants out of balance and created uneasiness among them. A battle had occurred between the two tribes sometime before the War of the Revolution, probably about 1760.

At the Talassee Colony a study blockhouse was built, called Fort Strong.

It is probably true that one reason why the Indian tribes struggled so fiercely for the Snodon territory was for the possession of a peculiar shrine situated at Nodoroc.

The last active volcano east of the Mississippi was near there. It was located about three miles east of Winder on the John L. Harris farm, near Christian Chapel Church. Up until the 1790's it was a small lake of bubbling hot mud from which issued sulphurous vapors. There are similar lakes in Yellowstone National Park and in some places in Burma today.

Officers, corresponding to sheriffs, brought treacherous criminal Indians of their tribe, or dangerous prisoners from other tribes and threw them into the molten lake. Death was almost instantaneous. It was the tribal method of execution. West of Nodoroc, about fifty paces away was a triangular stone structure, each side facing the volcano was a window. The stone above this was well dressed. No doubt a roof once covered this shrine. There is evidence that some kind of ritual was observed here, for there were traces of fire on the stones. Inside the building was an altar, having three steps.

This shrine stood until 1837, when former governor George Gilmer purchased the altar and moved it to his home in Lexington, Georgia. In 1900, during the lifetime of "General Wilson" it was still there. In 1914 Dr. W. H. Reynolds occupied the house.

General Wilson continues to recount that about 1793 this place was owned by Mr. John Gassett. One day the vapor ascended in a great cloud, resembling a dense fog. There was a rumbling sound like distant thunder. The whole surface of bubbling mud arose in the air to a great height, darkening the sun. After a

time all was clear. That was the final eruption.

The whole place cooled off and finally after Mr. Harris acquired the land, the volcanic ash leached out and was cultivated.

The Indian name of this favored locality was Snodon. Later a worldly minded pioneer put up a tent near where the present courthouse now stands and sold whiskey by the jug full. Hence Winder's first name was Jug Tavern. This was replaced later by a tavern. As the town grew and the Seaboard Airline Railroad asked for the right away for their railroad, Dr. Wiley Bush contributed the land and proposed that the town be named Winder in honor of one of the officials of the railroad, if they would take this site instead of a shorter one. His offer was accepted, so in 1893 this city became Winder.

There are two other versions of the Jug Tavern appellation. One is that jugs were manufactured and sold at an early date. This kiln for making jugs was located on the Bell farm, east of Bethlehem. Traces may still be seen of it, but it belongs to a much later date.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—Historian, John Burrison says that Edgefield trained, Charles Ferguson had set up a "jug factory" near Statham by 1847. He began the

pottery dynasty that, through marriage, included the DeLay, Archer, Dial, Robertson and Hewell families.]

Another tradition is that pioneer Alonzo Draper cleared a tract of land in Snodon, resembling a jug shape. The mouth was the Draper home at one end. The doughty old pioneer wanted this land clear in front of his home so he could detect the approach of Indians or dangerous wild beasts. One severe winter wild hungry wolves prowled over the cleared land.

After the lands became more thickly settled, however, the Cherokees began to look forward to making another effort to drive out the Creeks and perhaps the white settlers too. That was about 1790. At that time Fort Yargo was built.

The four Humphrey brothers, entered the epic at this time. Joseph Humphrey's name occurs on deeds and markers in Franklin county as early as 1786. Later he was Justice of Peace in Jackson County and a Judge of the Inferior Court. We have it on reliable information that these Humphreys who were large landowners, supervised the building of four forts. One called Yargo, another east of Bethlehem on what is now the Thomas farm, another at Sorrell Springs and another across the Apalachee River in the Doster neighborhood near Gratis. There were three blockhouses, one at Talassee, called Fort Strong one at Thomochogins or Jefferson, and another at Groaning Rock, now called Commerce.

During this time Able Trent visited the Yargo Fort to secure an alliance for the colonies, assure them of his assistance at any time needed and to obtain any information that would pertain to their mutual interest. He found that the Fort Yargo people though few in numbers, were well armed and ready to come to the aid of Talassee at a moment's warning. This condition of insecurity lasted for several years, but about 1810, it seemed to be over for Fort Yargo; the land about it was sold to John Hill, with George Humphreys acting as auctioneer, authorizing the sale, 121 acres of land were sold for \$167. As previously stated records are not easy to interpret in present day terms for "stumps," "post oak trees" and similar boundaries are gone, but Marbury Creek is mentioned as one boundary of this tract. We are reasonably certain that this was the Yargo tract.

John Hill having purchasing the land, including the fort, lived there for years. (According to family tradi-

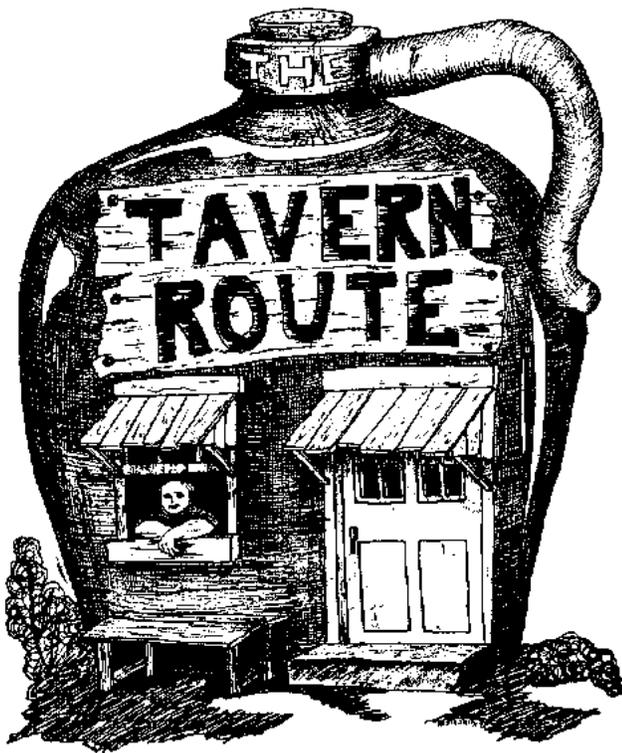


illustration by Rusty Smith

tion, Ralph Freeman says that their house was not in the fort, but next to it. The fort was used as a tenant house later) There is a Hill family graveyard on the park tract. The Carter Hill's and Tucker's have monuments and inscriptions. A grave marked by stone, but no inscription, is pointed out as the resting place of pioneer John Hill, who made Fort Yargo a dwelling place.

NEW COUNTY OF BARROW

Excerpt from *Beadland to Barrow* by Fred Ingram

The earliest attempt to create the county now known as Barrow was made in 1835. According to Jones Sells, born about 1830 and living near Winder all his life, an effort was made in that year to form a county around Jug Tavern and another effort was made in 1855-56. Representatives of Jackson and Walton favored the division, but nothing was done.

The State Constitution of 1877 specified that no new counties should be created and for a quarter of a century this law was followed. In 1904, Hon. J. A. Cromartie of Appling County introduced an amendment to form eight new counties. In the same year an intense effort was made for a new county with Winder as its capital.

An unusual situation obtained in the town of Winder. There the counties of Jackson, Gwinnett and Walton met or cornered at a point virtually in the center of the town. This caused much confusion, especially in a situation such as the one in which two men became involved in a fight. One of the men, standing in Gwinnett County, shot another man who was standing in Jackson County. The unhappy victim of this affair fell and died in Walton County.

The bill to form a new county of Barrow was authored by Col. G. A. Johns in 1911 and finally passed in a Constitutional Amendment on July 7, 1914. The county was named for David Crenshaw Barrow, Chancellor of the University of Georgia.

Forest News Aug 6, 1880 – Beech Creek Column

We paid a visit to Jug Tavern last Saturday and found the denizens of that ancient burg in a happy and cheerful state of being. And exceedingly sanguine as to the

future prominence of their town, and we trust these dreams of future prosperity may be fully realized for there can be no question of the fact that those citizens living immediately in the place are displaying an energy and enterprise which deserves to be crowned with success.

Improvements — We notice that Mercer Jackson Esq. son of Rev. Hartwell Jackson has in course of erection a neat and handsome 1 1/2 story cottage of six rooms below besides an upstairs. The well bracketed piazza below with the elegantly finished dormer windows and veranda above presents a very fine appearance. Mess. Stanton & Kelley are laying down lumber for a large and commodious store house just in front of Mr. Jackson's store so that the hammer and the hatchet the saw and the plane are bound to make the welkin ring for some time to come.

By means of a race which they are having cut, a bold stream will be turned into the mill pond of Mess. Bowman & Smith and thus a plentiful supply of water will be secured to run their mill machinery regularly.

July 15, 1881 – Jug Tavern is still hopeful of her railroad. Capt. John C. Sage has been at work yesterday and today laying off streets also business and building lots. Mr. W. H. Bush will sell his lots at public outcry on the 20th of this month. Any one wishing to purchase one or more lots will do well to attend the sale.

W. H. Bush caught a German Carp in his fish pond the other day thirteen inches long, it being one year old. The carp certainly are the fish for ponds in this country.

Mar 21, 1884 – Jug Tavern — The train now gets here from Social Circle after dark. It ran off between that place and Monroe a few days ago and arrived here rather late. No serious damage resulted from the accident.

A cotton planter was the first thing shipped over the road from Social Circle. It was shipped by Mr. Wm. M. Watkins to Mr. W. H. Kimbell, who has the agency for this place.

Apr 25, 1884 – Jug Tavern – Number 2 train has been passing to and fro repairing the washes on the Mulberry and Cedar creek trestles. Trains were delayed only one day.

Sept 20, 1895 – Winder – The bank for Winder is an assured fact. Mr. Witham, who has been the means of establishing quite a number of banks in the State, came a short time since, and he, with a number of citizens of our town and Hoschton, contributed enough money to inaugurate the enterprise. The bank will be ready for business this week, or at the very latest by the last of next week. Mr Witham also subscribed a considerable amount to the capital stock of the projected factory, and quite a number of others have done the same.

JACKSON COUNTY DIVORCES

Feb 1888—

Mary Ann Bailey vs. Samuel Bailey Total
 Elizabeth A. Hudson vs. Samuel S. Hudson Total
 Plaintiff's name restored as Elizabeth A. Wilson
 Ann Hunter, colored vs John Hunter colored Total
 M. S. Johnson vs. Sallie Johnson 1st Verdict
 B. J. Pressly vs. Laura E. Pressly Total
 Jonas Strickland vs. Nelia Strickland Total
 W. B. Short vs. Sallie J. Short Total

Aug 1888—

Martha E. Mote vs. Charles G. Mote Total
 Mary T. Park vs. A. B. Park Total
 Plaintiff's name restored as Mary T. Sharp
 M. w. Peppers vs. Martha L. Peppers Dismissed
 Eveline Sharpe vs. Green Sharpe Postponed
 Newman Watson vs. Clementine Watson Total
 George W. Watson vs. Phebe Watson
 Mary Ann Bailey vs. Samuel Bailey Total

Feb 1889—

George A. White vs. Martha A. White Total
 Susan T. Williams vs. T. B. Williams Dismissed
 Gus Shields vs. Sarah Shields Total

Feb 1890—

Haygood Morris vs. Margaret Morris Dismissed
 Martha Roberts vs. Charles Roberts

Aug 1890—

Minnie Hunter vs. R. H. Hunter Temporary alimony
 Mary H. Hill vs. William Hill Total
 W. L. Hood vs. M. E. Hood. Total
 A. J. Herndon vs. F. m. Herndon Total

Feb 1891—

J. O. Hopkins vs. M. J. Hopkins Total
 Thomas J. Scott vs. Martha L. Scott Total

Apr 1891—

Josie T. Bacon vs. A. T. Bacon 2 concurring verdicts.
 Control of minor children, Laura and Fred, to plaintiff
 R. C. Chancy vs. Augusta Chancy Custody of child 6
 years old to plaintiff

Feb 1892—

Solonia Rainey vs. William Rainey

Aug 1892—

Estelle Brooks vs. Will Brooks Alimony
 Ida Graves vs. J. B. Graves name to be restored to
 Ida Ritch
 Mary Moon, colored vs. Edd Moon, colored
 Temporary alimony

Feb 1893—Leona Maxey vs. George Maxey Alimony
 Charlotte Walters, colored vs. Thomas Walters Dismissed
 June 1893—M. E. Morris vs. R. G. Morris Alimony

Aug 1893—Levi T. Deaton vs. Sarah A. Deaton 2nd
 verdict for plaintiff

E.L. Harris vs. Hattie Harris 1st verdict
 Reese (Dock) Smith vs. Louisa Smith Total
 W.F. Cartee vs. M. A. Cartee Dismissed
 E. L. vs. Hattie Harris Total

Aug 1894—

Sallie T. Busby vs. John Y. Busby (non-resident)
 Sallie Reed vs. Charles Reed 1st verdict for plaintiff
 Alice Booth vs. J. H. Booth 1st verdict for plaintiff
 George Smith, colored vs. Amelia Smith, colored 1st
 for plaintiff
 Lucy F. Ariel vs. Oscar L Ariel Alimony, fees
 Martin Phillips vs. Florence I. Phillips 2nd for
 plaintiff

Apr 1895—

Fannie I. McRee vs. R.L. McRee
 George Smith vs. Amelia Smith

Feb 1896—

Lucy F. Smith vs. W.A. Smith Verdict for plaintiff
 Name restored as Lucy F. Harville
 Walter M. Stewart vs. Lizzie Stewart dismissed
 Caroline E. Tuck vs. Joseph E. Tuck (non-resident)

**JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAMBLE
TO FORT YARGO AND CARTER HILL CEMETERY**

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at Fort Yargo State Park on October 22, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. There will be a \$2.00 fee per car for admission to the park at the gate entrance. Ranger Harris will meet members at Gate A and lead us to the Fort where he will do a presentation on the history of Fort Yargo. Following the presentation, members will proceed by car to the Carter Hill cemetery where Ralph Freeman will tell about the Hill families residence on the site. No refreshments will be served. Please bring whatever you might need for yourself.

Follow Highway 11 south to Winder. Highway 11 changes to Highway 81 in the Winder city limits. Park entrance A is within the city limits on the south side of Winder just off Highway 81.



JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
— c/o Crawford W. Long Museum —
28 College Street
Jefferson, Georgia 30549