

CHAPTER III

TRAILS

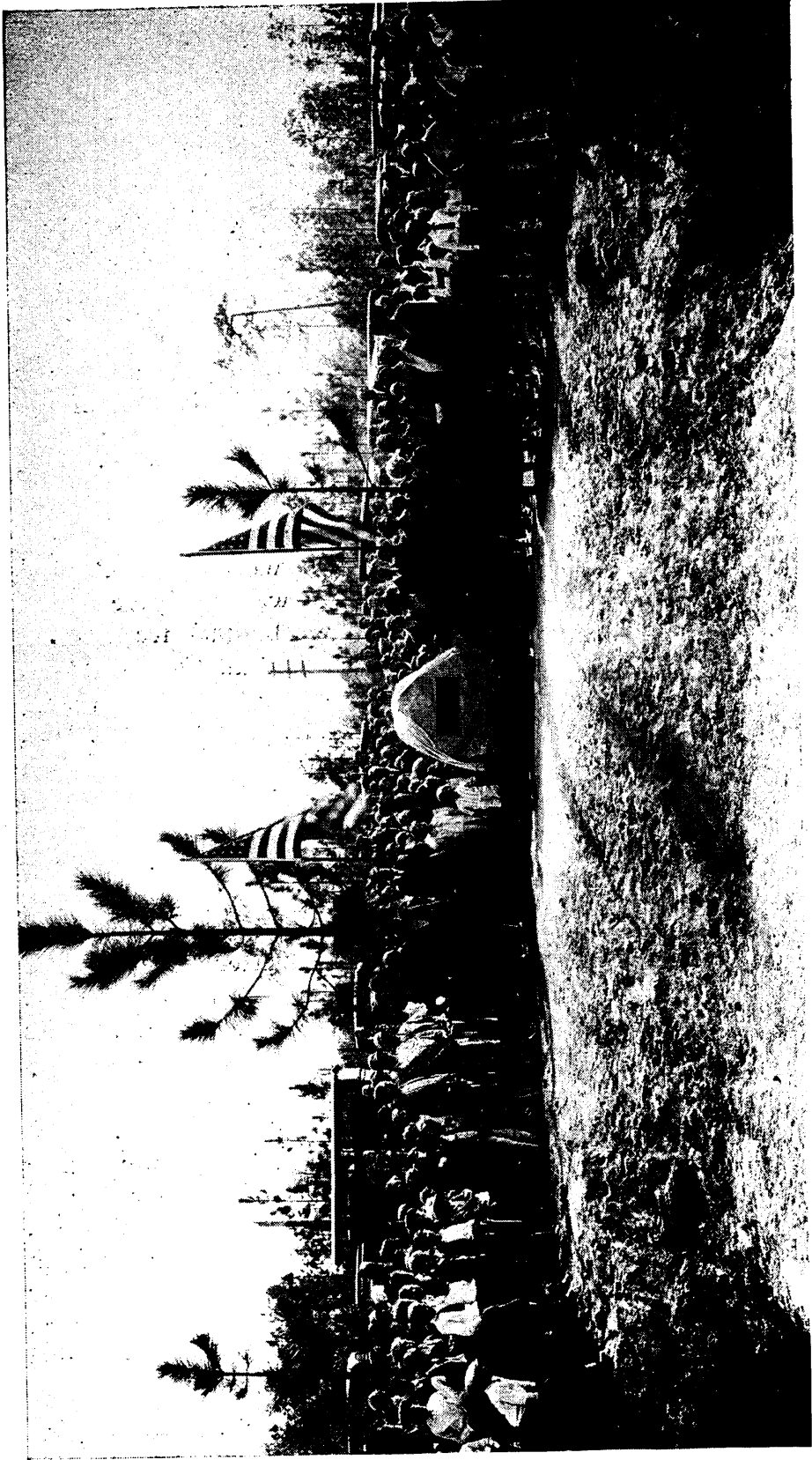
Thigpen Trail, the First Military Road Across Georgia

In looking up the history of the Thigpen Trail we visited many old settlers, and heard their stories of this old trail, over which many of their ancestors moved into this part of the state.

Mr. Joel J. Culpepper, of Doles, and the late Mr. George Sumner, of Isabella, have been most helpful in tracing it across the county.

It passes through Arabi, east of Doles, west of Isabella, and crosses the paved highway a few miles west of Sylvester, at which point it is marked by a granite boulder from Stone Mountain, placed there by the Barnard Trail Chapter of D. A. R., of Sylvester, with the material aid of ex-Governor Chase Osborn, Dr. J. M. Sutton, and Mr. J. M. Bullard. Mrs. Mattie Alford Gulley gave the land of 100 feet front to a depth of about 45 feet between the highway and the A. C. L. Railway. To the Highway Department we are indebted for transportation of marker and erection. Especially are we indebted to Hon. Sam Tate, at the head of the Highway Department, and to Mr. Ed J. Gissendanner, who had this division of the road, to Mrs. P. A. Coram, who looked after the details of securing and placing this beautiful marker, to Mr. George Sumner and Mr. J. O. Holamon for tracing the old trail across a long stretch of country and finding the spot where it crosses the highway.

Thigpen Trail passes west of Parkerville into Colquitt County, near Doerun, where it is still used as a public highway. Many old settlers remember when it was a much used road across this county, passing from northeast to southwest. This old trail came into the State above Broad River from South Carolina, and passed along the Chattahoochee water divide to the Gulf, thus avoiding all great swamps and rivers. It was a well beaten trail of the Indians from the mountains to the sea before the coming of the white man.



MARKER ON THIGPEN TRAIL. UNVEILING CEREMONY

In 1922 Mr. Joel J. Culpepper, of Doles, wrote Judge Frank Park, then Congressman from this district, to find records, if any, of this road. In substance this is the reply printed in *Worth County Local*, Dec., 22, 1922:

"The Thigpen Trail was a road cut through the states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida 219 years ago. The road was built by James Thigpen, of North Carolina, hence its name. The North Carolina colonial records give James Thigpen as appointed Overseer of the Highways in 1703-04."

This aroused the interest of the Barnard Trail Chapter, D. A. R., and a committee was appointed to do the research work.

From the American Bureau of Ethnology, in Bulletin 73, pages 121, 122, 123, of "Early Creek Indians and Their Neighbors," we find an account of the struggle between the Spaniards, who claimed this territory as Florida, and the English, who claimed it as Carolina, (The Carolinas had not been divided at that time).

There were English traders and Spanish traders along this old trail. The friendly Creeks notified the English of a plot of the Spanish and their allies, the Appalachees, to come upon the English and kill them out. The English traders, with the friendly Creeks, had the first encounter in 1702 on the east bank of the Flint River. The English traders, with five hundred Creeks, fell upon the Spanish and their allies, the Appalachees, and entirely routed them.

(This from history of South Carolina): "Colonel James Moore, who had been Governor of Carolina from 1700 to 1702, being apprised of this trouble the English traders were having, persuaded Governor Nathaniel Johnson, then Governor of Carolina, to let him attack the Spanish and Appalachees, who lived in what is now the State of Georgia. In 1703 and 1704, Moore raised some troops (50 soldiers), and, with 1000 Creek warriors, marched into the heart of the wild country of the Appalachees. With fire and sword, he struck terror into the souls of the Indians and drove the Spanish forever from this part of Georgia." This is known as the Appalachee disaster.

The best account of this is given in a letter from Col. Moore to the Governor of Carolina, Bulletin 73. "Dated in the woods fifty miles from the coast northeast of the Appalachee." The

following is an excerpt of his letter: "On the 14th of Dec., 1703, we came to a town, strong and almost a regular fort, about Sun rising, called Ayaville. At our first approach the Indians in it fired and shot arrows at us briskly, from which we sheltered ourselves under a mud walled house until we could take a view of the fort and consider the best way of taking it. We concluded to break the church door, which made a part of the fort, with axes. My men ran up to it, (the enemy shooting at them all the time) fourteen white men were wounded, and we were beaten off without effecting it. Two hours after that we set fire to the church, our Indians aiding us. The Indians inside obstinately defended themselves. After the burning of the church, when we were in the fort, a Spanish friar, the only white in it, came forth and begged mercy. We took twenty-six men alive and fifty-eight women and children. The friar said twenty-five men were killed.

"The next morning the Captain of St. Lewis Fort, with twenty-three Spaniards and four hundred Appalachee Indians, came to fight us. We beat them and took him, together with eight of his men, prisoners. Many of his men and Indians were killed. After this I marched through five towns, which all had strong forts and defenses against small arms. They all submitted and surrendered their forts to me without condition.

"I am now on my way home, but do not expect to reach it before the middle of March (1704) notwithstanding my horses will not be able to carry me to the Cheeraque Mountains.

"The number of free Appalachee Indians that are now under my protection and bound with me to Carolina are 1300 and 100 slaves.

"We have regained our reputation, the Indians having a mighty value of our whites.

"In short, we have made Carolina as safe as the conquest of the Spanish and Appalachee can make it."

We believe we have proof that this old trail, called the "Thigpen Trail," is the military road cut by James Thigpen for Col. James Moore to move his supplies over and it is the oldest military road in Georgia.

By a map furnished by Bureau of Ethnology, called the Mitchell map of 1755, this old trail is shown with signs showing where the great battles were fought. The first sign showing

the battle at Ayaville is positive proof that it was within the present boundaries of Worth County.

The taking of this territory for the English is very important as it favorably predisposed all the Creeks to Oglethorpe at his coming thirty years later. Without doubt the Creeks in this section were among the eight Creek Chiefs that made the treaty with Oglethorpe at Savannah. Moore's breaking up the Spanish conspiracy enabled Oglethorpe to pass unmolested to Coweta town, where he made the great treaty with the whole Creek nation of Upper and Lower Creeks.

This treaty enabled him to hold this territory against the Spanish.

The conquest along the Thigpen Trail made the battle of Bloody Marsh possible.

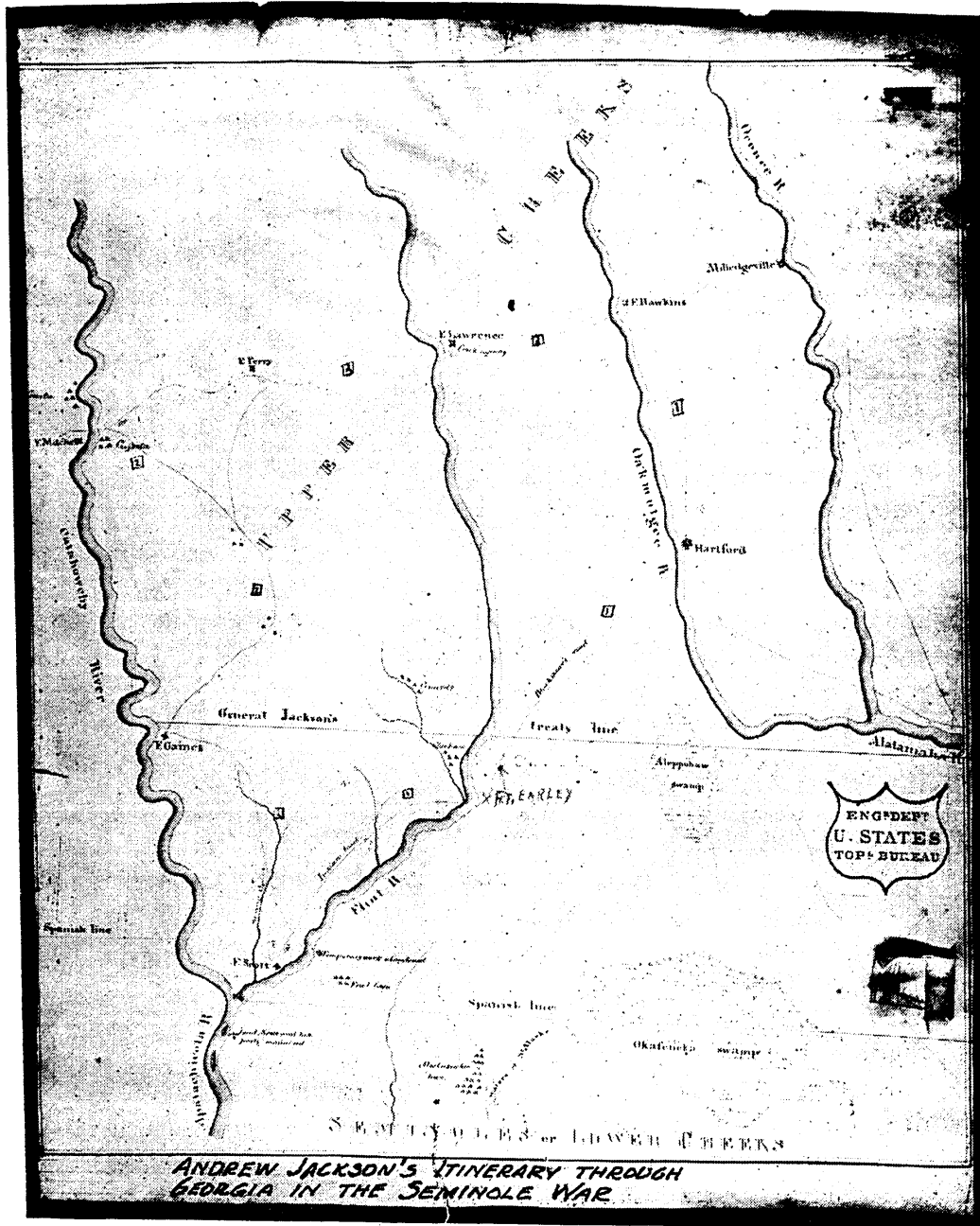
Unveiling the marker of Thigpen Trail took place in Feb., 1930. Mrs. Mildred Steed Holmes, the Regent of Barnard Trail Chapter, made the dedicatory speech. Mrs. Clifford Grubbs gave the history of the trail as secured by the committee. Rev. E. L. Baskin gave the invocation. The standard bearers were Jack Tipton and Edwin Gulley, Jr. The unveiling was by little Barbara Camp and Eugene Alford Mann. The closing prayer was by the Rev. H. W. Joiner.

Jackson's Trail

Gen. Andrew Jackson, with the Tennessee Riflemen, was sent to put down the Seminoles that were massacring the white settlers and Creek Indians in southwest Georgia in 1818. He passed across the Northwest part of what is now Worth County.

On another page is shown a photostat copy of his itinerary across Georgia, furnished by the United States War Department.

Extracts from letters written to the Secretary of War by Andrew Jackson and reports of his topographical engineers, found in L. L. Knight's "Georgia and Georgians" Vol. 1, gives Jackson's letters dated Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 20th, 1818—Fort Hawkins Ga., (now Macon) Feb. 10, 1818—Hartford (now Hawkinsville) Feb. 14, 1818—Fort Early (just over the line in Crisp County, near Warwick) Feb. 26, 1818. (This is quoted from Jackson's letter at Fort Early): "The Georgia detachment marched from their encampment, near Hartford on the



No. 1 is Jackson's Trail. No. 2 is the Trail of a detachment of Jackson's men under Col. Hayne.

19th instant. The excessive rains have rendered the roads so bad that I ordered the troops on their march here, to take their baggage on the wagon horses, and abandon the wagons. We reached this place today; and eleven hundred men are here without a barrel of flour or bushel of corn."

The following from topographical Engineer:

"From Fort Early to Fort Scott."

"From Fort Early the path runs through sand and pine to the Flint River, which it intersects $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles below this fort, crossing a creek in the second mile" (which must be Swift Creek that makes the North boundary of Worth) "and a small branch $\frac{1}{4}$ mile further. Thence to the crossing place of the river. The Flint, at the ferry is a hundred and eighty yards wide."

This is positive proof that Jackson's Trail crossed Worth County somewhere near or through Warwick.

Barnard Trail

On a map in Brook's "History of Georgia" of Indian Land Cessions from 1733 to 1835, Timothy Barnard's settlement is found on the Flint River almost due east of Columbus, and a little southeast of Butler, Ga. He lived in what is now Macon County.

A trail is seen to pass from Ft. Mitchell on the Chattahoochee to Timothy Barnard's place and from there on down to a point east of Albany where it divides, one path going to St. Marys and one to Beard's Bluff on the Altamaha River. It passes between the Flint River on the west and the Little River on the east. These rivers make a part of the boundaries of Worth County, therefore, this trail must have passed north to south across Worth County.

Hawkins, Indian Agent for Georgia, in the Bulletin 73, of Early Creek Indians, says: "This Indian gentlemen, Timothy Barnard, lives on the right bank of the Flint River fifteen miles below Pad-jee-li-gua. He has eleven children by a Uchee squaw, and they live with and around him, and have fine stocks of cattle in an excellent range. He has a valuable property. His farm is well fenced on both sides of the river. He has a peach orchard of fine fruit, and some nectarines, a garden well stored with vegetables, and some grapes. He is an assis-

tant and an interpreter, and a man who has uniformly supported an honest character, friendly to peace during the Revolutionary War, and to man, and keeps a very hospitable house."

Over this trail he carried on a trade with the coasts and middle Georgia. The deeds to land in Macon County still have Barnard's Reserve marked on them. He is featured as a hero in Macon County History.

Tradition says that one of his camping and hunting grounds was on this trail just west of where Isabella is now, and this camping ground was later called by the whites San Barnard. At any rate, there was a famous camping ground in Worth called San Barnard, and it was the first county site of Worth.

The Barnard Trail Chapter, D. A. R., of Sylvester, when casting about for historical names for their chapter, sent "Thigpen Trail," "Barnard Trail." "San Barnard" to the National Organization of D. A. R., for their approval. They sent back the names, "Thigpen Trail," and Barnard Trail," for the chapter to select from. "Barnard Trail" was voted the name of the chapter by its members.

The Ten Mile Trail

The Ten Mile Trail was a well beaten trail from Pinder Town on the Flint River to the Ocmulgee River. It ran almost due east and west across the upper part of the county. Only about ten miles were used by the whites. The rest of the way was beaten out by Indians.

Kennard's Trail

The southern part of this old trail from Jack Kennard's place on the Kinchafoonee Creek, in Dougherty County, passed eastward through the lower part of Worth, thence on to Trader's Hill, an old trading post, on to St. Mary's. Kennard's settlement and trail have no place in history except on a map of "Indian Land Cessions of Georgia" in Brooks' History of Georgia, and a mention of it in one of General Blackshear's old letters, and in a letter from Colonel Hawkins to Jack Kennard.

Jack Kennard was a half-breed Indian Chief of great influence with both whites and other Indian Chiefs, judging from Hawkins, the Indian agent's letter to him, on the occasion

of General Blakshear's trip down the Flint River in 1815 to put down Indian massacres and plundering. The following is from Hawkins' letter to Kennard at that time:

"General Blakshear is sent to protect and secure the friendly Indians and to punish the mischief-makers. You are one of our great chiefs. You know all the mischief-makers and all your neighbors and can give good information to the General. You know the country and you are a man to depend upon. Go to the General and keep with him till I see you."

Blakshear writes that one evening after this message was sent Kennard, an Indian was seen across the river Flint from his camp with a white flag. This Indian brought the message that Kennard would be with him next morning.

Kennard's Trail probably extended as far north as Cusseta, Ga.

CHAPTER IV

TOWNS

Pinder Town and The Old Stage Coach Road

After the Indian land cession at Indian Springs in 1821, the white settlers bought the village of Pinder Town from the Indians.

It became a town of considerable importance. For a long time it was the only postoffice between the Ocmulgee and Flint Rivers, south of Macon.

This postoffice was established in 1825. It was the postoffice for Albany until 1836.

Below is a list of postmasters of Pinder Town, Dooly County, Ga., from 1825 to 1856, furnished by the Post Office Department at Washington, D. C.

“Pinder Town, Dooly County, John B. Coleman, June 13, 1825.

Pinder Town put into Lee County, no date given.

M. G. Lefoy, Aug. 19, 1833.

Simeon L. Holiday, Mar. 8, 1834.

Wm. J. Ford, March 5, 1839.

Andrew I. Tison, Jan. 13, 1840.

Jackson J. Williams, Oct. 14, 1840.

Andrew I. Tison, Feb. 9, 1841.

Jackson J. Williams, Apr. 23, 1842.

John A. Graham, Nov. 25, 1842.

Name changed to Hollidaysville, Oct. 23, 1844 with Abner Holliday as postmaster.

Benomi O. Pearson, Feb. 21, 1848.

J. J. Williams, July 5, 1849.

Discontinued Apr. 17, 1856.

These postmasters show some of the first settlers, but to these should be added many more.

When Newton and Palmyra arose it was for years a recognized rival of these towns.

Pinder Town was at the head of navigation on the Flint. This gave it fine prospects. The white settlements were made in and around this place.

The late Mrs. Elizabeth (Vines, Kemp, Westfall), Forehand, the mother of Mr. John H. Kemp, near Isabella, said her father, Hiram W. Vines, moved to Pinder Town when she was about five years old or about 1839. She said, as they were moving into that section, he asked someone how far it was to Pinder Town. The reply was, "You are in Pinder Town now."

She said for about ten miles up and down the river was called Pinder Town, or as far as the white settlements extended. Her father brought slaves and stock. He bought the Ford Mill. The school she attended was a log house with dirt floor, puncheon seats, a shelf around the room for the books, and on which the advanced pupils learned to write. She was considered too young to learn to write. Because she was so anxious to learn to write her father secured a teacher from Albany that came about once a week to give her writing lessons.

The Stage Coach Road from Milledgeville to Tallahassee went through Pinder Town. The following is copied from "Sherwood's Georgia Gazetteer, "third edition, Washington, 1837.

"Schedule of Stage Coach from Milledgeville to Tallahassee.

Milledgeville to Hartford (near Hawkinsville).

Hartford to Slade's.

Slade's to Gay's.

Gay's to Tison's (Pinder Town).

Pinder Town to Bainbridge.

Bainbridge to Tallahassee.

This is a stage road over which the stage passes once a week. Fare \$25.00. Leaves Milledgeville on Wednesdays. The third day reaches Pinder Town, on the east bank of the Flint River, nine miles below Fort Early. Fare to Pinder Town \$12.00. The next three days reaches Tallahassee, fare \$13.00."

This stage road passed a few miles east of Albany, where it was met by an intersecting road from Albany, and mail and passengers to and from Albany were exchanged.

This old stage road is still traveled as a highway. It passes through Oakfield and Warwick and is the highway to Cordee.

Mr. John Clements, who lived in the western part of the county a few miles below Acree, said his ancestor was one of the stage coach drivers, and the land he lived on was a draw. It has never been owned by any other family but his.

The Pinder Town Cemetery is thought to be one of the oldest in the country. Below we give inscriptions on tombstones found there today:

John Jackson Ford, died 1836.

Nancy Graham Ford, wife of John Jackson Ford, died 1836.

In memory of Gary Green Ford, Sr., born Aug. 4th, 1805, died Sept. 11, 1859.

In memory of Silvia Eason Ford, wife of Gary Green Ford, born July 10, 1818, died Feb. 20, 1863.

Robert Graham Ford, born Aug. 21st, 1834, died Aug. 6th, 1875.

Rebecca Ford, daughter of Gary Green and Silvia Eason Ford, born March 1st, 1847, died Sept. 20th, 1864.

Elzy Jones Ford, son of Gary Green and Silvia E. Ford, born July 9th, 1853, died Jan. 26th, 1885.

With the coming of the railroad to Albany, Pinder Town began to decline and there is nothing to mark the spot where the white civilization in this section had its beginning except the large beautiful spring, still called the Indian Spring.

The old site is on land lots 200 and 185. It is owned by Atlanta Trust Company. It is a waste spot absolutely useless in an agricultural way. It is only a few hundred yards from the Albany and Cordele Highway.

NOTE—The Postoffice Department spelled this 'Pinder Town;' The State Archives spells it 'Pindar Town;' The old residents spell it 'Pindertown.'

Bureau of Ethnology says of it: "Pinder Town is possibly identical with Fulemmy's Town. It was inhabited by Chiaha Indians. In 1817 it was on the Suwannee River."

These Indians moved, probably. But it is a peculiar coincidence that just across the Flint River from Pinder Town in this county there was an Indian village called Fulemmy Town, and later when the Indians moved it became a white village of some importance and the spelling was sometimes Fulemny and later Philemma and now it is a railroad station on the railroad from Albany to Cordele on the west bank of the Flint River and is spelled Philema.

Pindartown to Irwinville Mail Route**Resolution 1840**

A resolution approved by the Legislature, December 24, 1840, provided that Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested and earnestly solicited to procure the establishment of a mail route from Irwinville, in the County of Irwin, to Pindartown in Lee County (Pindartown for a while was put into Lee, but was later put back into Dooly, which in time became Worth). This route extended to Troupville, in Lowndes County.

This mail to be carried on horseback or otherwise, as may suit the convenience of contractors, at least once a week from each one of the aforementioned places to the other.

Resolution 1859

A Resolution approved December 17, 1859, requested Representatives in Congress to use their influence to have mail routes through Worth, Irwin and Wilcox counties, changed so as to facilitate the transmission of mail, as the condition of mail routes through said counties are in a wretched condition.

SAN BARNARD**FIRST COUNTY SITE OF WORTH**

By act of the State Legislature, after the organization of the County of Worth, San Barnard was made the county site until the public site should be located by the Inferior Court, and the elections of the county, generally, and all public business should be done at San Barnard.

It was located almost on the spot where the Isabella Cemetery now is.

San Barnard was a summer resort for Albany. It was in a most healthful location. Albany, before the deep wells, was very sickly. The people would come out and spend several months. Mr. Gordon Sumner, father of the late Mr. George Sumner, grandfather of Dr. Gordon Sumner, of Poulan, and of Mr. Gordon Paul, of Isabella, kept the inn at this place for a good many years. It was a great camping and hunting ground.

Mr. George Sumner said the first school in this section of

the county was in a horse stable at San Barnard. His father, Gordon Sumner, had it cleaned out, sand put on the floor, with a table in the center. He hired a young lady from Albany to teach and boarded her. Mr. Sumner thinks it was first a camping ground of the Indians. There was a fine spring of water at this place, and some clearing when his father settled there. He felt sure it was a camping ground on the Barnard Trail through this county.

Mr. Joseph S. Davis writes an article published in the Albany Herald of San Barnard as follows: "Groups of men in Albany, who loved the chase by experience, found the best hunting ground in Worth at a camp known as San Barnard. It occupied a little eminence in a most healthful location and was the center of a splendid territory for game.

"Here, men like D. A. Vason, John A. Davis, George Collier, Paul Tarver, and others of like ilk, would assemble on vacation times and enjoy to the fullest the social pleasures and sports that such occasions afforded.

"We remember to have heard one of that party of sportsmen tell of one July morning in the 50's when the cronies met and went out to San Barnard. The hunters, under the direction of Mr. Hampton, hastened to surround a "ty ty" pond not far distant.

"Mr. Hampton was the driver and into the pond he went with his best trained dogs. The huntsmen surrounded the pond. The deer began to run, shots were heard on every side, and six deer were killed and collected in wagons as the result of a two-hour drive. San Barnard was not abandoned until the Civil War broke out. It was one of the most famous hunting camps ever established in Georgia."

This hunting probably continued until the enactment of a law by the Legislature, which reads as follows: "Be it therefore enacted, that from and after the first day of March, 1856, it shall not be lawful for any non-resident of the county of Worth, to camp out and hunt deer or any other species of game within the limits of said County."

When Isabella was chosen as the county site, just across the branch to the east of it, San Barnard was deserted.

“OLD SANGUINARD”

By John L. Herring in Saturday Night Sketches

Sounds romantic, doesn't it? Better than that, it is the Cracker name for Georgia's first summer resort.

We know the place from childhood days, but we would, perhaps never have known its real name and origin had it not been for Miss Emma Sutton and her delightful little publication, "The Azilian." From the March issue we quote:

Not many people now living remember San Barnard. It was about eighteen miles from Albany, in what is now Worth County, and was said to be the highest point in South Georgia. There were no Artesian wells at that time, and Southwest Georgia, in the immediate vicinity of Flint River, was supposed to be the unhealthiest piece of land that white people ever inhabited. So the people who could afford summer homes, proceeded to build cottages at San Barnard, marking the corners of each lot with plum trees. A few years ago, maybe now, these plum trees were still in good condition.

The name? No, it was not given by the Spaniards, who came this way in 1665. Sounds like it, but General Brisbane was the sponsor. He was a devout Roman Catholic, and it was his intention to build a Monastery there. The ground was consecrated, and part of it is occupied by an old graveyard, but this plan, like the railroad he hoped to build, came to naught.

General Brisbane spent all his money in South Georgia, and, for several years, his widow taught a private school in Albany.

So the name is San Barnard. It came to us localized into "Sanguinard." Half a mile west of old Isabella, the former County seat, of Worth County, is the site of this, Georgia's first summer resort, now the center of a cultivated field.

Forty years ago, the ruins of the cottages built by Col. Brisbane and the wealthy citizens of Dougherty County, were still in evidence, surrounded by a growth of young pines, plum and fruit trees, among those best remembered, a haw tree. The cottages had been built of logs, and half a century left a portion of them standing. But it was a deserted looking, rather ghostly place.

San Barnard was admirably chosen. It lay on the crest of a range of hills, marking the apex of a dividing ridge be-

tween the Ocmulgee and Flint rivers, one a tributary of the Atlantic Ocean and the other of the Gulf of Mexico. One of the highest points in South Georgia above sea level, surrounded by many miles of almost trackless pine forest, carpeted with velvety wiregrass; in a region unexcelled for hunting and fishing—those who selected it for a summer resort used rare judgment.

In those days the valley of the Flint was almost a death valley during the hot days of summer. Yellow fever was prevalent, and usually fatal. Underneath the surface soil is a strata of porous limestone, and those who drank surface water, invited fever in its worst form. Artesian water has wiped all this out, but in those days it was in self defense that Colonel Brisbane and his associates searched out a place to find health and pleasure.

Later when the county of Worth was laid out and the county site chosen, the range of hills immediately east of San Barnard, where the public roads from Drayton to Thomsville and from Irwinville to Albany intersected, was chosen. Had Mr. Brisbane's railroad been completed, both Isabella and San Barnard would tell a different tale today.

"Sanguinard" breathes to us of a summer eve at sunset. Sunday eve, and Youth in a dress of lawn, seated on a log from a ruined cottage. On the ground at her feet a callow lad and on a handkerchief between them a collection of haws—shaken from the tree, and jointly gathered a few moments before. Great yellow globules, those haws were, tinged with red, as her lips. An odor appetizing, and in the mouth they melted as juicy and delicious as a peach. But had they been bitter as wormwood and sour as a crabapple the lad would not have known the difference. While he looked at her nothing else mattered, for he was not conscious of it.

"Old Sanguinard" with its ruins, is gone. In the cemetery near by **She** sleeps; the blue of her eyes has long since been born again in the violets of spring; the pink of her cheeks has its re-incarnation in the first rose of summer; the perfume of her breathes from the for-get-me-nots when first the dusk of evening falls. Otherwise, like old "Sanguinard" she is a memory.

ISABELLA

(By J. H. Tipton)

By the Act creating Worth County it was provided that San Bernard (a settlement located on the next hill west of the present town of Isabella) should be the temporary site for the transaction of the public business of the county until the Justices of the Inferior Court (the authority then having jurisdiction of the county affairs) should select and locate a site for the public buildings of the county—(Acts 1853-4, pages 308-9, Sections IV and V). By this Act the Justices of the Inferior Court were “to purchase a tract of land for the location of the county site, to divide the same into lots and sell the lots at public sale, for the benefit of said county, or to make such other arrangements or contracts concerning the county site, or location of the public buildings as they may think proper.”

Under the authority of said Act the Justices of the Inferior Court obtained deed from Gordon Sumner to fifty acres of land in a square, located near the center of lot number 424 in the 7th district of the county, which was platted and laid off into blocks for the town site, the public square (one acre) being located in the center of this tract, with streets on all four sides, the plan providing for business lots around the public square and residence lots back of those, streets radiating from this square and conforming thereto. The public sale of lots was conducted and a large number of the lots sold then, and from time to time all of them; and in this way a large portion of the money used to erect the courthouse on the said square reserved therefor was raised.

At the time, Gordon Sumner lived on the hill northwest of the new county site—several hundred yards away—at what was later known as the Martha Cox place, and he was postmaster and kept the post office, San Bernard, then the only post office between Albany and Irwinville, at his home. The new county site town was named Isabella, and the new post office by that name was established and superseded San Bernard. The new county was organized on April 7th, 1854, with the following officers: William A. Johnson, clerk superior court; James N. Ford, ordinary; James G. Brown, sheriff; Jeremiah Spring, tax-receiver; W. B. Mattox, tax-collector; Thomas B. Arline, surveyor; James A. Oliver, coroner. Marion Simmons was the first representative and William A. Harris the first

senator to go from Worth County to the Georgia Legislature. The new county was attached to the Macon circuit, of which Abner W. Powers was judge and William K. de Graffenreid solicitor-general, but we find no record as to when the first court was held.

The new town of Isabella grew rapidly for a few years. Gordon Sumner built a new home and took up his residence on the corner northeast of the public square, and he and Rachel Sumner, his wife, ran the inn or hotel. James Cox and his wife, Martha, took the place vacated by Gordon Sumner, and also ran a boarding house, entertaining visitors and those attending the courts. James N. Ford established his home on the east side of the Warwick public road north of town. A few hundred yards east of the James N. Ford house Gary Green Ford, the first, built a new home, where he lived for a few years, and was succeeded in this home by Daniel Henderson. Between the G. G. Ford place and the Irwinville road, which ran east from the public square, William A. Johnson, William Whiddon and one or two others built residences. Further east were the places of James W. Rouse and William Henderson.

On the eastern side of this lot of land, No. 424, and south of the Irwinville road, was built the schoolhouse, where William A. Johnson taught school until the Civil War came on, when he joined and went with the Yancey Independents, as first lieutenant, this being the company of which William A. Harris was captain. Johnson was succeeded as teacher by Harry Kirkendall, who came from Mississippi, and taught at this place during the war. Later teachers were James Jessup and Thomas G. Westfall. A new school house was built a few years after the war on a site about two hundred yards west of the William A. Harris residence. John A. Ford established his home on the hill southeast of the town, where he lived for a few years, and later married the widow of Luke S. Thompson, who lived on the hill across the branch south of town, and they later moved to a new place about two miles southwest of town on the Thomasville road. William Paul acquired the John A. Ford place, and was succeeded by his son, Andrew Jackson Paul. Daniel Henderson came in from his farm near where the town of Sycamore now stands and built and occupied a home a few hundred yards southwest of the public square on the Thomasville road, and, after he moved to the G. G. Ford place, this became the home of Royal Robert Jenkins. Across

the branch on the west side of town there stood the homes of Marion Simmons and Mrs. Mary Vick, and Further south in a position southwest of the town stood several log huts, which had been built by parties residing at Albany, for use as hunting camps. There were others who came into the new country town during this period, but those named are among those who became leaders in the public affairs and development of the new county. In the mean time the business section had developed. The court house in the center of the public square was a large frame two-story building, the lower floor being divided into four commodious corner offices by two wide halls crossing through the center; and the upstairs carried the court room, and the jury rooms. Some four or five substantial store-houses had been built on the corners northwest of the square. James N. Ford and Daniel Henderson, under the firm name of Ford & Henderson, ran a general store on the corner northwest of the street (or road) crossing. Stephen Pearce and Edward Barber, and later R. R. Jenkins, had stores east of the road crossing and north of the Albany and Irwinville road. The county jail was built on the west side of the Warwick road some two hundred yards north of the court house square. No churches were built at the new town before the Civil War, the people going out to the several nearby country churches to worship. At frequent intervals church services were held in the court house, and after the Civil War a Sunday School was organized and met in the courthouse, probably the first Sunday school organized in the county, sponsored by William (Uncle Billy) Clements, a widely known and much loved itinerant Methodist preacher.

The war came on, and the growth of the new town was interrupted and little, if any, progress was made during the several devastating years that followed. After the war the community was quick to revive and take on new growth, and soon became a village of some two or three hundred people.

In 1872 the Brunswick & Albany (now the Atlantic Coast Line) railroad was put in operation, this railroad passing some three miles of Isabella, and immediately towns began to spring up along the line of railway, and this and other things retarded the growth of the county town, though it continued to be a substantial business and social center, as well as the seat of county government, until the county site was moved to Sylvester in 1904.

On January 26th, 1879, the old courthouse was destroyed by fire, and thus the county was without a courthouse for a time, using the schoolhouse for the purpose; and in the fall of 1879 the schoolhouse was destroyed by fire. Immediately there sprang up strong sentiment in favor of moving the courthouse to one of the new and prosperous towns on the railroad, and for several years the town of Sumner, Poulan, and Sylvester waged a bitter, hard fight for the county site, elections being held at different times, but the old site successfully resisted the movement for the time. A new frame courthouse was erected, very similar to the original one that had been burned. This served until August 9th, 1893, when it met with the same fate as the previous one. A temporary single story building was put up and used for a few years, when a brick structure (which still stands) was erected, and this served until an election brought on by those favoring removal to Sylvester proved successful, and the county site was removed to Sylvester, the act of the Legislature moving the site being approved July 1st, 1904 (Acts 1904, pages 294-295). Thus it happened that the town of Isabella became, and still remains, a small community center, with modest church and school facilities, two or three small stores, and the small farm homes of a few happy and contented families. In the meantime, throughout the fifty years that Isabella enjoyed the prestige of being the county town, populated by as fine a folk as ever breathed the breath of life, there grew into the fibre of the body politic of the great county of Worth a deep and abiding favor for the old town—its physical and spiritual being—that still lives, and will ever live, vitually.

NOTE:—This old court house should be preserved and made into something useful for the County as a monument to Gordon Sumner who donated the grounds and much of the funds.

“BIG COURT” IN THE OLDEN TIME

By John L. Herring

Hark, from the court, the sheriff's call;

Jurors attend the cry,

Come lawyers now, into the hall—

Where you shall shortly lie.

The courthouse was a square building, set in a public square that was the nucleus of the town. People were on the square in those days. It was a two-story building, substan-

tially constructed of wood. The lower floor was divided into four sections by two cross halls, east to west—north to south—cool in the summer and preventing congestion when crowds were on hand. Up stairs, all the space was taken by the main courtroom except a room each for the grand and petit juries. Around the square were catalpa trees, and a few hundred yards away, in a hollow, was the jail. Likewise it was a two-story structure, built of hewn pine timbers, the lower floor a dungeon, to be entered only by means of a trap door in the second-floor.

Around the square were grouped two or three grocery stores and a number of dwellings, the latter occupied by the county officers, or farmers whose lands were near by.

The presiding judge, the solicitor-general and the members of the bar traveled on horseback, for there were no railroads and very few roads then. The first two and the most prominent among the lawyers were veritable circuit-riders, for about three months in the spring and an equal length of time in the fall. The terms of court never lasted longer than one week for each term in a county and there were only two terms a year. Called or special terms were unheard of. The judge, solicitor and members of the bar (except the usual resident lawyer, one to each county seat), usually traveled in company, and the rounds of the circuit were enlivened by many anecdotes and amusing experiences.

To practice at the bar a man had to be a lawyer in those days. And the judge was necessarily a man of deep learning and wide experience. He had to judge the law, therefore know the law, for there were no elaborate libraries and court reports then at each county seat for reference. The judge usually knew his business, as attested by the fact that there were so few appeals, and when there was, a small number of reversals.

“Big Court” was a festal occasion for the county seat village. For weeks preparations were active. The house, always spotless, was thoroughly gone over, from steps to roof; the floors fresh sanded, the chimney facings blue-clayed, the yards clean-swept, the cedar water-buckets and drinking gourds scoured and sunned. Hogs were killed, a beef butchered, chickens by the dozen penned and fattened; eggs and butter saved up, ginger-cakes, pound-cakes, turn-overs and potato custards cooked to feed an army.

Every house within two miles of the courthouse was a boarding-house, limited only by its capacity to spread mattresses in every room, including the dining-room, and on the broad piazzas where the only room each sleeper was entitled to in return for his quarter was as much as he could lie in sardine-wise. The best that could be done for the judge was two to a bed and he usually shared with the solicitor-general.

There was big eating and much coffee-drinking for the week, and the price was only a quarter. Few boarding-houses made money, for the visitor usually regarded the quarter as a tax and tried to get the worth of his money—and succeeded.

Not all the attendants on "Big Court" boarded. The jurors usually rode out a few miles at night to the home of an acquaintance, but the great mass of the attendants camped. They came prepared with wagons, rations and bedding, and around the nightly campfires there was much yarn-spinning and merry-making. Those from one section of the county would usually camp together. Many fights, always "fist and skull," enlivened the camp.

Not one-third of the attendants at "Big Court" had business in the courthouse. They were the great semi-annual business gatherings. Had a merchant in a neighboring city business with a man, he went to "Big Court" and found him. They were semi-annual clearance weeks, when contracts were made or filled, accounts opened or settled, and after commercial fertilizers came into use, note-taking occasions of spring and note-paying times in the fall. The newspaper men also made their semi-annual visits to the counties then, sat under a convenient shade-tree and wrote receipts for appreciative and prompt-paying subscribers. In these records the horse-swappers must not be forgotten, for horse-swapping and horse trading were going on all the time, so long as court was in session.

The busiest men were probably the storekeepers. There were rarely more than three of these, and usually only two. The stores were oblong buildings, a row of shelving along one side containing a miscellaneous stock of dry goods, notions and a few canned goods—the variety was not great then, cove oysters being the great favorite. Across the end was a counter mid-waist high and behind this the bar. Every grocery store had its bar in those days, even though the stock

consisted of only a jug each of corn and rye. The most elaborate had only a little more variety with much greater quantity and beer (lager then) was counted only a drink for sick folks, women and preachers—and these not “hardshells.”

The fiddlers were there in force, as well as the horse-swappers, and from morning to night and far into the night, the violins were going. Seated on the dry-goods counter (the other was busy) with an admirer to beat straws, there was

*“Hitched my horse to the grocery rack,
He got loose, and broke his back!
Susie! And what are you about, Susie!”*

Until tired ears wondered if they never wearied.

Inside the big, square building, the legal grind went on. Not monotonous, for there were lightning-like flashes of wit, and speeches that were master-pieces of eloquence, often the most trivial cause bringing out a pyrotechnic-like display. For many of the lawyers of that day were the statesmen of the next, and the veterans in the service, men who carried the scars and laurels of many hundred legal battles.

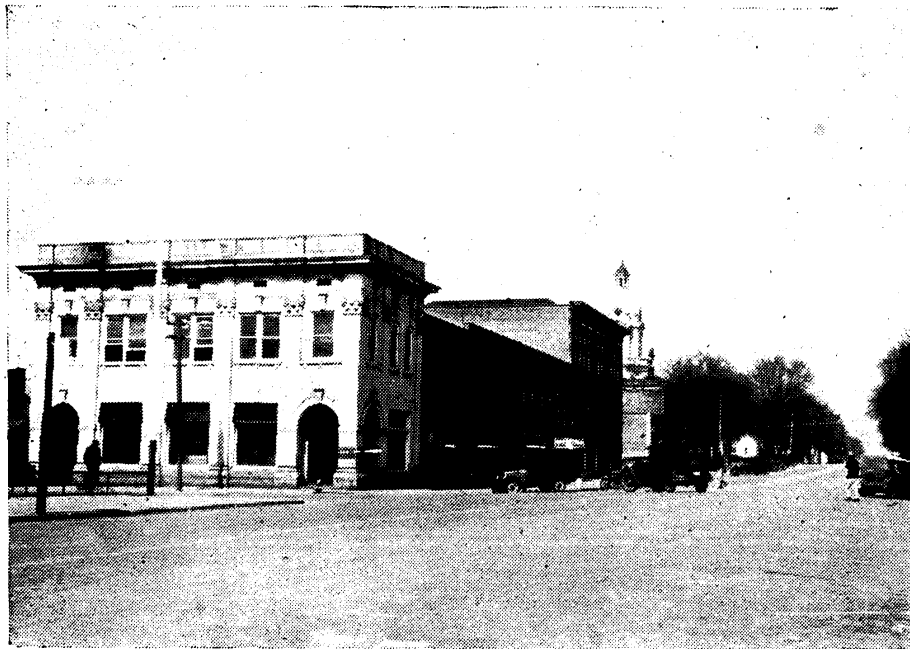
Great men they, of an age that was great. An age when an empire, that of the South, was in the making and whose people were strong because to the pioneer, strength is essential. To call a roll of the lawyers attending “Big Court” then would be to repeat a list of many men who have made South Georgia great. In themselves disciples of the written law, they were a part of the great scheme of nature :

*“That very law which moulds a tear,
And bids it trickle from its source
That law preserves the earth a sphere
And guides the planets in their course.”*

CITY OF SYLVESTER

Sylvester, the present county seat and chief trade center of Worth County, has a population of about two thousand. It is located on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the Georgia, Ashburn, Sylvester & Camilla Railway. It has an excellent train service, many of the through trains from the north and west passing through on the Atlantic Coast Line

going south, and is therefore easily accessible. It has many modern business houses representing all lines of trade, among them several large department stores, one of the strongest and best conducted banks in South Georgia, an up-to-date moving picture theater, fire department, electric power and water works, sufficient electric power for all purposes being available from the Georgia Power Company's hydro-electric plant on the Flint River near Albany, sanitary sewerage system, and paved streets.



STREET SCENE IN SYLVESTER

Sylvester is a beautiful little city located at the intersection of two of the main trunk highways from north to south and from west to east, and has many beautiful and attractive homes, with lovely parks and gardens. Its modern churches, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian, and schools are among the best in the state—commodious and well equipped in every way. McPhaul Institute, named for W. H. McPhaul (familarly

Legend for cut on page 43.

Top row, left to right: W. T. Davis, and N. M. Rhodes.

Center: Mayor, C. W. Monk; Second Row. D. B. Gleaton, and J. T. Cochran, Councilmen. Bottom row: Chief Police, John F. Deariso and Fire Chief, W. Hugh Conoly.



MAYOR ANND COUNCIL WITH THE FIRE AND POLICE CHIEF, OF SYLVESTER. (See legend on page 42).

known as Uncle Bill, founder of Sylvester) has an enrollment of about six hundred pupils and employs twenty-two teachers. It is an accredited school.

The Sylvester Local, one of the best weekly newspapers in the state, is published at Sylvester.

The foundation of the present city was laid out in 1893, and was called "Isabella Station." In 1894 the name was changed to Sylvester, and in 1898 the town of Sylvester was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature. Its name comes from the Latin words "silva" meaning wood, and "vester" meaning your.

The first mayor, and one of the earliest settlers, was W. H. McPhaul, and the first councilmen were C. W. Hillhouse, W. A. Jones, J. G. Polhill and Dr. W. L. Sikes.

City Officers of 1933

Mayor, P. M. Lancaster; Councilmen, W. T. Davis, John T. Cochran, N. M. Rhodes, D. B. Gleaton; Clerk, R. B. Pollard; City Recorder, Clifford Grubbs; Electrician, Curtis Bennett, Sr.; Chief of Police, John F. Deariso; Chief Fire Department, Hugh Connoly.

City Officers Elected to Take Office in 1934

Mayor, Judge Chesley W. Monk; Councilmen, Clerk, Recorder, Electrician, Chief of Police and other officers the same as in 1933.

WORTH COUNTY DOTTED OVER WITH BEAUTIFUL LITTLE TOWNS

While Sylvester is the county seat and the largest city in the county, yet the entire county is dotted over its entire area with beautiful villages and towns, all of them having good schools and churches, and all of them having free schools supported by the collection of an ad valorem tax.

Among these little cities are Gordy, four miles south west of the county site, with two churches, public schools, and a black smith shop, a splendid mercantile establishment and having a hundred or more population.

Parkerville, another little city about nine miles southwest has a church, public school and about a hundred population.

Bridgeboro, sixteen miles southwest, has two churches, a fine consolidated public school with large brick school house, several stores and has about three hundred population.

Minton is a village ten miles south with two churches, public schools, stores and has about two hundred population.

Shingler is the newest city of the county five miles northeast, and though small in number of her citizens, what she lacks in quantity she makes up in quality. She has two churches, a large warehouse, a number of business houses. lots of pluck and ambition.

Doles is a beautiful little city about twelve miles north with a sawmill, ginnery, a church and splendid public school. There are about five hundred inhabitants.

Oakfield is another one of Worth's little cities. Built on the old Stage coach road—now a highway, eighteen miles northwest. Oakfield has two churches, public schools, a large ginnery, turpentine still, five or six business houses, a warehouse and about five hundred citizens.

SUMNER

Once the Metropolis of the County

With the coming of the railroad in 1870, Sumner, Poulan, and Ty Ty were the stations along the road in the county at first.

Sumner was located on land belonging to John C. Sumner, (Jack) the father of the present sheriff of Worth County, John N. Sumner, and it was named for him.

The families of Joseph M. Sumner, George W. Sumner, Daniel S. Sumner, William Garrett, Derrell H. Herrington, Bluford Pittman, L. S. Thompson and Isaac Rooks lived on nearby farms and many members of these families moved into the village.

Immediately, almost as if by magic, streets were laid off, trees planted that still beautify and furnish shade and comfort to the people, sawmills, turpentine stills, mercantile establishments, post office, doctors' "shops," schools, and two churches were built.

A large number of people from North Carolina came soon after the operating of the road began. The first of these were Columbus Alford and brother, Jack Alford, who were large sawmill and turpentine operators. Their kinspeople soon fol-

lowed. The Jones families and the Sinclair family from North Carolina, then A. C. Douglas and family who was supervisor of the railroad, Dr. Warren Williams and family, Prof. Williams M. Clements and family, (he taught the school), Mr. John McCranie, depot agent, Dr. J. W. Perry and D. W. McLeod, naval stores operator. The Sumner Free-Trader was established and financed by Hon. A. J. Alford, edited by W. M. Clements and Walter A. Allen in charge of the mechanical department. A few months later Allen succeeded Clements as editor. Associated with them was John L. Herring who became the noted editor and writer of South Georgia. Others were Jim Lane and family, Alex Holt and family, J. B. and H. B. Davis families, Dr. W. L. Sikes and family, Wm. Sikes and family, W. E. Sessions and family, S. E. Blich and family, Dr. R. R. Pickett and family, C. G. Tipton and family Joseph Fannin Kimble and family, Dr. J. B. (Jack) Pickett and family. He was County School Superintendent. Malcolm C. Lemmons and family, G. Washington Edwards and family. He was depot agent for about thirty years and his daughter, Mrs. Ibbie Pierce, was postmistress for as long; J. Dan Bridges and family, Charlie Pittman and family, Willis Haisten and family, the La Seurs, Ellis families, Z. C. Allison and family, Daniel W. Sumner and family, Sparks Anderson and family, Jessie Spurlin and family, T. D. Smith and family. Aurelius Bass and family, Wm. Hay and family, J. H. Pate, D. C. Strickland and others we failed to get.

With all these good citizens and enterprises with her splendid schools and churches Sumner soon became the metropolis of the county. Her citizenry have always been of a high order and have put first things first. In her cultural advantages she has held a high standard.

Sumner has the largest business house in the county. It was built for a mercantile and warehouse combined by J. Daniel Bridges, the financial genius, who in the days of his prime did the largest business in the county and was one of the wealthiest citizens. His sons John B., Will, Hugh, and "Buster" and one of his sons-in-law, Harry Jenkins, are among the leading business men of Sumner in 1934. They are the managers of his estate.

Among the older citizens that have made Sumner a delightful place to live and who are there today are, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Sumner, Mrs. Charlie Pittman, Mrs. Frances Sumner Lem-

mons, Mrs. Dan Bridges, Mrs. Ibbie Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gleaton, Mrs. Dan Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Z. C. Allison, Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Sessions, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Sessions, Mr. C. A. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McGill, Mrs. Rhodes Ellis and Miss Ina Ellis, Miss Maude La Seur, and Mrs. Tom B. Jenkins and family. While the last named family do not live right in the city they have contributed so much to the life of this community they are a part of it. Hon. Tom B. Jenkins was elected to represent the county in the legislature but died before he took his seat.

Through the recent years of depression Sumner floated bonds of some \$27,000 and built a splendid brick school house with basket ball shell and Teachers' home. The present generation are largely descendents of the first settlers and splendidly illustrate their ancestors.

From the earliest settlers to this generation she has the finest school spirit. If it takes self denial; if it takes work; if it takes unity of spirit to achieve anything for the school, Sumner has it.

From this community citizens have gone to make their homes all over our country and wherever they are you find this same fine spirit.

WARWICK

Warwick is probably the most historic town in Worth County, at least it has seen more changes than any live town in the county. Probably the first white man to pass through its site was Andrew Jackson when he was sent to put down the Seminoles on the southern border of the state. These Florida Indians, with runaway slaves, were making marauding expeditions, killing the friendly Creeks and white traders of this section. He came from Tennessee to Ft. Early, down across the county, led by the Creeks, and crossed the old ferry probably below Oakfield. He camped some where in or near Warwick, leaving Ft. Early Feb. 1818. Then came the Old Stage Coach road to Pindertown in 1825. Through its site the Old Stage Coach passed twice a week carrying its passengers and mail from Milledgeville to Tallahassee. Sometime after its beginning, not long, a little village begun to build up on the old site of Warwick. Lewis Minor had the first store, followed by

Pleas Cox. After his death Mary Jane Cox carried on the business. Then Capt. James M. Rouse, Benjamin Gleaton, Warren L. Story, the Odums, Poseys and later Dr. Nicholas Ridley who were outstanding citizens, and many others. Goods were brought in covered wagons from Montezuma on account of the shoals in the river. No goods were brought by water. Mr. Abe Odum ran a regular schedule of covered wagons to Montezuma for freight for the settlement.

After the coming of the railroad the town moved down to its present site.

Near Warwick, now, is the great Crisp County power dam, on the Flint river. Warwick has recently built one of the largest and handsomest brick school houses in the county; has a large new basket ball shell, recently finished and a large canning outfit. It has Home Economic and Agriculture departments. It is a large consolidated school.

This inscription is found on the corner stone.

“Warwick Consolidated School, W. A. Aultman, Chairman, Warren Maken Story, Martin S. Aultman, Francis Marion Hall, Ed. W. Fenn. W. H. Little, Contractor.

This gives some of the names of its leading citizens. It has many pretty bungalow homes and is in a splendid section of the county.

TOWN OF POULAN

Poulan, nestling among the whispering trees near the center of the county, was named for Judge W. A. Poulan, and was settled about 1877. Those families who lived within a radius of two or three miles, and most of whom were originally from North and South Carolina, were B. T. Collier, who was the oldest settler and among the first to be buried in the Poulan cemetery, W. A. Lancaster, Newell Thornhill, Samuel and Amanda Castleberry, the Sumners, Hobbys, Monks, Hancocks, and Fords.

In 1877, W. H. and J. G. McPhaul came from North Carolina to Worth County. J. G. McPhaul and a negro boy camped in the fall of that year on the banks of the Warrior Creek, near the site of Poulan and made the boards used in building the first house.

Mr. McPhaul later enlarged his sawmill and turpentine in-

dustries, and in 1885 the Presbyterian Church was erected on its present site by W. H. and J. G. McPhaul, Walter and Lawrence McNeill, and Major Peter Pelham, with a few others. That same year a planing mill was put in operation by George F. Montgomery & Company, of Indiana. The next year the first school house, a one-room building, was built. Later this was moved to the present school campus and additions were made as needed. In this year, 1933, Poulan has a consolidated school in a modern brick building. The church and school attracted people to the town, and by 1889 there were several nice dwellings in Poulan.

It was about 1895 that J. G. McPhaul looked ahead and saw the possibilities of a manufacturing industry at Poulan, and built the Poulan Cotton Mill. This mill did not begin operation however, until some time later, when a stock company was formed. This is the only enterprise of the kind in Worth County.

Poulan's population was greatest in the years between 1902 and 1905. For a short time a large sawmill, planing mill, and overall factory were in operation in Poulan, but these were closed for various reasons and the population began to decrease. However, the spirit of progress in the hearts of the people was on the increase, and in 1903 the Baptist Church was built. Mr. Moats, Mr. Peckham and Mr. W. C. Underwood were the members of the building committee, and Mr. D. A. McGirt, who had lived in Poulan since 1882, was in charge of the construction work.

During the last few years Poulan has been awake and keeping up with the times. The Bank of Poulan was soon established in the office now used by the cotton mill, and was later moved to the building which Chase S. Osborn, ex-Governor of Michigan has, since the closing of the bank, bought and now occupies as an office. Then came the public library which was backed by such men as Mr. Osborn, Mr. Cram and Mr. Kemp. This library grew steadily, and is now one of the smallest chartered libraries in Georgia.

In 1924 the Poulan School District voted bonds and erected an excellent modern school building under the name of Poulan Consolidated School, and is now considered one of the best schools in the county.

HEADS OF FAMILIES OF WORTH COUNTY WHEN IT WAS ORGANIZED

Given by Hon. William Henderson, of Ocilla, who lived in the County at the time.

Hon. William Henderson, of Ocilla, was the son of Daniel Henderson, one of the men who secured from the Legislature the organization of Worth County. Mr. Wm. Henderson stated that these Districts may not always be right but are nearly so. As he was for several years Sheriff of Worth, this information is reliable.

<p style="text-align: center;">Second District</p> <p>Daniel Henderson George Spring Andrew B. Hobby Alexander Hobby Maxey Pate</p>	<p>Hyle Aultman Daniel Willis James P. Cox (Kept the Hotel)</p>	<p>George Houston Dr. Terrell T. Monger Rev. Warren P. Dykes (Primitive Preacher) W. L. Hunt</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sixth District</p> <p>James Ross George Warren James Gibbs John McLellan John Willis Benjamin Willis Johnson Brooks Joseph Sumner, Sr. Seaborn Land White Land John M. Kennedy Robert R. Jenkins A. J. Ammons Parish Register Luke Jenkins James T. Hancock Rev. Peter S. Lunsford (Baptist Preacher) George Green Joseph Land</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Seventh District</p> <p>James N. Ford Elihu Thompson Jackson Land Robert Graham Ford Gary Green Ford Elzy Ford John A. Ford Isaac Porter Malon Monk Henry Hollingsworth, weight 400 pounds Gordon Sumner Green B. Williams Adam J. Fowler Alfred Moree Henry O'Neal Harrison O'Neal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fifteenth District</p> <p>David Ridley William W. Tyson Dr. Theophilus W. Tison Dougal McLellan William Vines Hiram W. Vines Thos. G. Westfall Barney Ross Alfred J. Davis</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Fourteenth District</p> <p>Solomon Rouse Capt. James M. Rouse William Posey Jim Posey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sixteenth District</p> <p>Buchanan Jeater Madison Goughf Holly K. Goughf Asa M. Giddens James Giddens William Whiddon Rev. James M. Cham- pion David Champion</p>

CHAPTER V

COURTS

JUSTICES OF THE INFERIOR COURT, WORTH COUNTY

Created December 20, 1853

WORTH COUNTY'S INFERIOR COURT JUDGES

By acts of the Legislature of 1798, the Inferior Court was the court of Ordinary.

The Inferior Court had jurisdiction over all county matters that are now the work of the County Board of Commissioners.

They also had criminal jurisdiction over slaves and misdemeanors of whites. Could try persons with or without a jury. They were elected for a term of two or three years.

Below we give a list of the Inferior Court Judges from the time of the organization of Worth until the abolishment by the Legislature in 1867.

William Posey, Apr. 7, 1854-Feb. 12, 1857.
Luke M. Jenkins, Apr. 7, 1854-1856.
Joseph Sumner, Apr. 7, 1854-1856.
Daniel Henderson, Apr. 7, 1854-Feb. 12, 1857.
David Smith, Apr. 7, 1853-Feb. 12, 1857.
John Turner, Jan. 11, 1856-1856.
Seborn Land, Apr. 21, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857.
Benjamin T. Collier, July 14, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857.
William Augustus Harris, Feb. 12, 1857-1858, resigned.
William Posey, Feb. 12, 1857-1858, resigned.
Thomas H. Kendall, Feb. 12, 1857-1858.
William L. Hunt, Feb. 12, 1857-1859.
Henry O'Neal, Feb. 12, 1857-1858, resigned.
David Smith, Feb. 27, 1858-1858.
Dougald McLellan, Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1861.
James W. Rouse, Feb. 27, 1858-1860.
Elihu Thompson, Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1861.
Hardy F. Fortner, Sept. 13, 1858-Jan. 10, 1861.
John J. Willis, Feb. 15, 1859-Jan. 10, 1861.
T. T. Mounger, Aug. 13, 1860-Jan. 10, 1861.
James W. Rouse, Jan. 10, 1861-1864.
J. M. C. Holamon, Jan. 10, 1861-1862.
Robert G. Ford, Sr., Jan. 10, 1861-1862.
William W. Poulan, Jan. 10, 1861-1862.
Eli Sikes, Jan. 10, 1861-1862.
Newel Thornhill, Feb. 4, 1862-Jan. 21, 1865.
Daniel S. Sumner, Feb. 4, 1862-Jan. 21, 1865.
James J. S. Young, Feb. 4, 1862-1862.

Edward Barber, Oct. 15, 1862-Jan. 21, 1865.
 Greene Barry Williams, Oct. 15, 1862-1864.
 Benjamin T. Collier, Mch. 26, 1864-Jan. 21, 1865.
 George W. Spring, May 7, 1864-Jan. 21, 1865.
 Edward Barber, Jan. 21, 1865-
 Robert G. Ford, Jr., Jan. 21, 1865-
 George W. Spring, Jan. 21, 1865-
 J. C. Sumner, Jan. 21, 1865-1866.
 William Augustus Harris, May 1, 1866, Res. resigned May 1866-68.
 County Court Judge.
 Mitchell G. Fortner, May 1, 1866-
 Benjamin Collier, Feb. 16, 1867-1868.

WORTH COUNTY JUDGES AND SOLICITORS

Judicial Circuits

Macon Circuit, 1853-61
 Southwestern Circuit, 1868-70
 Albany Circuit, 1870-1916
 Tifton Judicial Circuit, Aug. 19, 1916-1937

MACON CIRCUIT

Judges

Abner P. Powers,	Nov. 28, 1851-1857 (res)	W. K. deGraffenreid— Dec. 8
Richard H. Clark,	Sept. 1, 1857-1859	1851-1855
Henry G. Lamar,	Feb. 1, 1859-1861 (died)	Theodore W. Montfort, Nov. 11, 1855-61

SOUTHWESTERN CIRCUIT

Judges

J. M. Clark,	Aug. 19, 1868-70.	R. H. Whiteley, Aug. 19, 1868-70
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Solicitors

ALBANY CIRCUIT

Judges

Peter J. Strozier, Oct. 19, 1870-75.
 Gilbert J. Wright, Feb. 19, 1875-1880.
 Wm. O. Fleming, Jan. 1, 1881-1881 (died).
 L. P. D. Warren, Nov. 5, 1881-1882 (died 9-14-82).
 C. B. Wooten, Sept. 14, 1882-1882.
 B. B. Bower, Nov. 11, 1882-1896 (res. effective Apr. 9, 1896).
 W. N. Spence, Apr. 9, 1896-1909.
 Frank Park, Jan. 1, 1909, 1913. (res. effective 11-17-13).

SOLICITORS, ALBANY CIRCUIT

R. H. Whiteley, Oct. 25, 1870-1871
 W. P. Sims, Mar. 9, 1871-1872. (Res. Jan. 10, 1872).
 J. C. Rutherford, Feb. 3, 1872, Dec. 31, 1872.
 B. B. Bower, Feb. 22, 1873-Dec. 31, 1876.
 Wm. O. Fleming, Feb. 15, 1877-Dec. 31, 1880.
 J. W. Walters, Jan. 1, 1881-Dec. 31, 1884.
 W. N. Spence, Jan. 1, 1885-Apr. 9, 1896, resigned.
 W. E. Wooten, Apr. 10, 1896-Dec. 31, 1912.
 R. C. Bell, Jan. 1, 1913-1921, Jan. 1.

TIFTON CIRCUIT**JUDGES**

Eugene E. Cox, Nov. 17, 1913-1917
R. Eve, Jan. 1, 1917. Continued to date.
R. Eve, elected for 1933 to 1937.

SOLICITORS

R. S. Foy, Jan. 1, 1917-1932.
W. Clyde Forehand, elected for 1933-1937

COUNTY COURT OF WORTH**JUDGES**

James J. McDowell, Term from Dec. 28, 1894-Dec., 1898.
Frank Park, Term from Dec. 28, 1898-Aug., 1904.
Court abolished Aug., 1904.

SOLICITORS

T. R. Perry, Term from Aug. 8, 1896-Aug., 1898.
J. H. Tipton, Term from Aug. 8, 1898-Aug., 1900.
A. J. Davis, Term from Aug. 8, 1900-Aug., 1904.

CITY COURT OF SYLVESTER

Established August, 1904

JUDGES

Frank Park, Aug. 11, 1904, Res. to take effect Jan. 1, 1909.
Julian B. Williamson, Jan. 1, 1909, Jan. 1, 1912. Act passed Aug. 17,
1911 to abolish Court to take effect Jan. 1, 1912.
C. W. Monk, Jan. 1, 1917-'32. Act re-establishing Court approved Aug.
8, 1916.
C. W. Monk, Re-elected to serve 1933-1937.

SOLICITORS

J. H. Tipton, Aug. 11, 1904-Jan. 1, 1912.
W. C. Forehand, Jan. 1, 1917-Jan. 1, 1921.
W. C. Forehand, Jan. 1, 1921 to 1932.
Joe L. Houston, Elected to serve from 1933-1937.

CHAPTER VI

MILITIA DISTRICTS

BOUNDARIES, 1931 OF WORTH COUNTY'S MILITIA DISTRICTS

1594: Bridgeboro

Bounded on west by Mitchell County; south by Colquitt County; East by W. Line of land lots 8, 39, 54, 85, 100, 131 and 146 and 7 in 1592 d. militia district; north by S. line of land lots 178-184, inclusive, in 1124th militia district.

1592: Minton

Bounded on west by E. line of land lot 178 in 1124th militia district, and E. line of land lots 145, 132, 99, 86, 53, 40 and 7 in 1594th militia district; south by Colquitt County; east by line running through center of land lots 16, 31, 62, 77 and 108 in 1576th militia district, and Warrior Creek; north by S. line of land lots 154 (portion of) 153, 152, 151, 150 and 149 and W. line of land lot 149 and 174 in 1806th militia district, and S. line of land lots 194, 193 and 192 in 1124th militia district.

1576: Warrior

Bounded on west by a line running through center of land lots 108, 77, 62, 31 and 16 in 1592d. militia district; south by Colquitt County; east by Tift County; north by S. line of land lots 116-122, inclusive, and portion of 123 in 1655th militia district.

1655: Pine Hill

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 215, 200, 169 and 154 in 1806th militia district, and Warrior Creek; south by N. line of land lots 108 (portion of) 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115 in 1576th militia district; east by Tift County; North by S. line of land lots 298, 297 and 296, E. line of land lots 258 and 249, and S. line of land lots 249, 248 and 247 in 1346th militia district.

1806: Tempy

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 267, 240, 221 and 194 in 1124th militia district, and E., line of land lots 175 and 148 in 1592d militia district; south by N. line of land lots 128, 127, 126, 125, 124 and 123 in 1592d militia district; East by W. line of land lots 155, 168, 201 and 214 in 1655th militia district; North by S. line of land lots 246, 245 and 244 in 1590th militia district, W. line of land lots 244 and 263 and S. line of land lot 289 in 1590th militia district, and S. line of land lots 288 and 287 in 1124th militia district.

1346: Sumner

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 399, 384, 353, 338, 307, 292, 261, and 246 in 1590th militia district; south by N. line of land lots 214, 213, and 212, W. line of land lots 250 and 257, and N. line of land lots 257, 256 and 255 in 1655th militia district, and Tift County; east by Tift County; North by S. line of land lots 437, 431, inclusive, in 1701st militia district.

1590: Poulan

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 403, 380, 357 and 334 in 867th militia district, and E. line of land lots 311 and 288 in 1125th militia district; south by N. and E. lines of land lot 264, E. line of land lot 243, and N. line of land lots 217, 216 and 215 in 1806th militia district; east by W. line of land lots 247, 260, 293, 306, 339, 352, 385 and 398 in 1346th militia district; North by S. line of land lots 430, 429, 428 and 427 in 1701st militia district.

1701: Shingler

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 518, 495, 472, 449 and 426 in 867th militia district; south by N. line of land lots 402, 401, 400 and 399 in 1590th militia district, and N. line of land lots 398, 392, inclusive, in 1346th militia district; east by meanderings of Daniels Creek; North by Turner County and S. line of land lots 208, 177 and a portion of 176, in 1044th district.

1044: Doles

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 17, (portion of) 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, and 7 (portion of) in 512th militia district, and E. line of land lots 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 in 1602nd

militia district; south by N. line of land lot 512 in 1428th militia district, N. line of land lots 513, 518 inclusive, in 867th militia district, and N. line of land lots 519 and 520 in 1701st militia district; east by Turner County; North by S. line of land lots 195, 190, 163 and 158 and W. line of land lots 158, 159, and 160 in 4724 militia district, and S. line of land lots 248-256 inclusive, in 1121st militia district.

1724: Vickers

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 152 (portion of), 169, 184, 201, 216, 233, and 248 in 1121st militia district, and E. line of land lots 129, 130, and 131 in 1044th militia district; south by N. line of land lots 157, 164, 189 and 196 in 1044th militia district; east by Turner County; North by meanderings of Swift Creek.

1121: Warwick

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, and 17 (portion of) in 512th militia district; south by N. line of land lots 1, 32, 33, 64, 65, 96, 97, 128 and 129 in 1044th militia district; east by W. line of land lots 247, 234, 215 202, 183 and 170 in 1724th militia district; North by Swift Creek and Crisp County.

512: Oakfield

Bounded on west by Flint River; south by meanderings of Abrams Creek; east by W. line of land lots 10, (Portion of), 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 in 1044th militia district, and W. line of land lots 256, 225, 224, 193, 192, 161, 160, 129, 128 a portion of 97 in 1121st militia district; North by Flint River and Swift Creek.

1602: Aultmans

Bounded on west by Flint River and Dougherty County; South by Dougherty County and N. line of land lots 507, 508, 509, 510 and 511 in 1428th militia district; east by W. line of land lots 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11 and 10 (portion of) in 1044th militia district; north by meanderings of Abrams Creek.

1428: Red Rock

Bounded on west by Dougherty County; south by N. line of land lots 277-282, inclusive, in 1124th militia district; east

by W. line of land lot 316 in 1124th militia district, and W. line of land lots 329, 362, 375, 408, 421, 454, 467, 500 and 513 in 867th militia district; north by S. line of land lots 17 (portion of) and 16, in 1044th militia district, and S. line of land lots 1, 65, 66, 119, 120, 170, 171, in 1602d militia district.

867: Sylvester

Bounded on west by E. line of land lots 512, 501, 466, 455, 420, 409, 374, 363 and 328 in 1428th militia district; south by N. line of land lots 316, 315, 314, 313, 312 and 311 in 1124th militia district; East by W. line of land lots 335, 356, 381 and 402 in 1590th militia district; and W. line of land lots 427, 448, 473, 494 and 519 in 1701st militia district; North by S. line of land lots 176 (portion of) 145, 144, 113, 112, 81, 80, 49 and 48 and 17 (portion of) in 1044th militia district.

1124: Gordy

Bounded on West by Mitchell and Dougherty Counties; south by N. line of land lots 139-145, inclusive, in 1594th militia district, W. line of land lot 177 in 1592d militia district, and N. line of land lots 177, 176 and 175 in 1592d militia district; east by W. line of land lots 195, 220, 241 and 266 in 1806th militia district, N. line of land lots 266 and 265 in 1806th militia district, and W. line of land lots 289 and 310 in 1590th militia district; North by S. line of land lots 334-329, inclusive, in 867th militia district, E. line of land lot 317 in 1428th militia district, and S. line of land lots 317-322, inclusive, in 1428th militia district.

CHAPTER VII

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

STATE SENATORS

Worth Co., 1853-1861	1892-3 Wm. E. Wooten
1855-6 Wm. A. Harris, (Succeeded A. J. Shine, elec. but died)	1894-5 W. L. Story
1857-8 Wm. A. Harris	1896-7 Philip Cook, Jr.
1859-0 Wm. A. Harris	1898-9 Ed. L. Wight
10th Sen. Dist. 1861-	1900-1 G. G. Ford
1861-2-3 Ex. D. A. Vason	1902-3-4 A. B. Duncan
1863-4 Ex. 4-5 Ex. Fred H. West	1905-6 Cruger Westbrook
1865-6 P. J. Strozier	1907-8 Ex. W. L. Sikes
1868 Ex. 9-0-Ex. F. O. Welch	1909-0 J. P. Callaway
1871-2 F. O. Welch	1911-2 Ex. 2. J. S. Shingler
1873-4 Wm. A. Harris	1913-4 L. L. Ford
1875-6 Wm. A. Harris	1915-5 Ex 6-7 Ex. Mark Tison
1877 C. Wessalowski	1917-18 Sol. J. Yeomans
1878-9 I. P. Tison	1919-0 J. S. Shingler
1880-1 A. C. Westbrook	1921-2 Dennis Fleming
1882-3 Ex. 3 A. C. Westbrook	1923-3 Ex 4. L. D. Passmore
1884-5 H. L. Long	1927-28 P. B. Ford
1886-7 W. E. Smith	1929-31 Ex.—G. H. Richardson, Lee County
1888-9 C. A. Alford	1932-33 J. R. Pottle, Albany, Dor- oughty County.
1890-1 W. C. Gill	

Judge Frank Park of Worth County, represented the Second Congressional District in Congress from 1914-25. Judge E. E. Cox Congressional Second—Congressional District 1925 to date.

WORTH COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

1855-6 M. Simmons	1886-7 J. H. Pickett
1857-8 Henry O'Neal	1888-9 David H. Champion
1859-0 Daniel Henderson	1890-1 J. W. Perry
1861-2-3 Ex. Daniel Henderson	1892-3 J. M. Sumner
1863-4 Ex. 4-5 Ex. Daniel Henderson	1894-5 J. L. Sumner
1865-6 R. G. Ford	1896-7 G. G. Ford
1868 Ex. 9-0 Ex. James M. Rouse	1898-9 G. G. Ford
1871-2 Royal R. Jenkins	1900-1 W. L. Sikes
1873-4 D. McClellan	1902-3-4 W. L. H. Alford
1875-6 Daniel Henderson	1905-6 W. L. H. Alford
1877 J. M. Rouse	1907-8-8 Ex. Claude Payton
1878-9 G. G. Ford	1909-0 G. G. Ford
1880-1 J. M. Sumner	1911-2 Ex. 2. Claude Payton
1882-3 Ex. 3. W. J. Ford	1913-4 Dr. G. S. Sumner
1884-5 W. J. Ford	1915-5 Ex. 6-7 Ex. G. S. Sumner
	1917-8 G. B. Williams

1919-0	G. B. Williams	1928-29	W. Jewel Crowe
1921-2	Mark Tison, deceased	1928-29	O. M. Thomason
	G. R. Nottingham, resigned,	Oct. 1930	Thos. B. Jenkins died
	Apr. 1922.	Jan., 1931.	
	W. O. Bozeman, elec. June 1, 1922	1931	P. M. Lancaster to fill unex-
	C. W. Hillhouse, elec. June 1, 1922		pired term.
1923-3	Ex 4. W. O. Bozeman	1933-1935	J. H. Tipton, Sylvester,
1923-24	C. W. Hillhouse		Ga.
1925-6	C. W. Hillhouse	1933-1935	Gordon S. Sumner,
1925-26	L. D. Passmore		Poulan, Ga.
1926-27	C. W. Hillhouse		