

# CHAPTER VIII

## OFFICERS

### COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS OF WORTH COUNTY

Name and Address	Profession	Date
R. T. Ford, Isabella, Ga.	Farmer	1882-1884
W. L. Sikes, Sumner, Ga.	Doctor	1884-1885
J. B. Pickett, Sumner, Ga.	Doctor	1885-1893
J. G. Polhill, Sylvester, Ga.	Lawyer	1893-1904
L. D. Passmore, Sylvester, Ga.	Lawyer	1904-1912
W. R. Sumner, Sumner, Ga.	Lawyer	1912-1916
B. L. Jones, Sylvester, Ga.	Teacher	1916-1920
W. R. Sumner, Sumner, Ga.	Lawyer	1920-1931
M. C. Owen, Sumner, Ga.	Teacher	1931 to present

### WORTH COUNTY, COUNTY OFFICERS

	Commissioned—Succeeded
James G. Brown, Sheriff.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 11, 1856.
Wm. A. Johnston, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 11, 1856.
Wm. A. Johnston, Clk. Infr. Ct.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 11, 1856.
James N. Ford, Ordinary.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 11, 1856.
Jeremiah Spring, Tax Rec.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 9, 1855.
A. B. Mattox, Tax Col.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 9, 1855.
Thos. B. Arline, Surveyor.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 11, 1856.
Jas. A. Olliver, Coroner.....	Apr. 7, 1854-Jan. 9, 1855.
Lewis Simmons, Tax Col.....	Jan. 9, 1855-Jan. 11, 1856.
William Spring, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 9, 1855-Jan. 11, 1856.
Malon Monk, Coroner.....	Jan. 9, 1855-Jan. 11, 1856.
Stephen W. Pearce, Sheriff.....	Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 27, 1858.
John J. Willis, Clk. Sup'r. Ct.....	Jan. 11, 1856-July 14, 1856.
Wm. F. Bynum, Clk. Inf. Ct.....	Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 27, 1858.
Jas. M. Rouse, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 11, 1856-Jan. 12, 1857.
Daniel S. Sumner, Tax Col.....	Jan. 11, 1856-Jan. 12, 1857.
Milner Holliday, Coroner.....	Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 27, 1858.
Thos. H. Westfall, Surveyor.....	Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 27, 1858.
Robt. D. Sinclair, Ordinary.....	Jan 11, 1856-
Edward Barber, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	July 14, 1856-Feb. 27, 1858-1860.
James M. Rouse, Rec. & Col.....	Jan. 12, 1857-Feb. 27, 1858.
Asa M. Giddens, Sheriff.....	Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1860.
Daniel S. Sumner, Clk, Infr. Ct.....	Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1860.
William M. Davis, Coroner.....	Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1860.
White Land, Rec. & Col.....	Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1859.
Michael J. Horn, Surveyor.....	Feb. 27, 1858-Jan. 10, 1860.
James M. Rouse, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 10, 1859-Jan. 10, 1860-1861.
White Land, Tax Col.....	Jan. 10, 1859-Jan. 10, 1860.
James N. Ford, Ordinary.....	Jan. 10, 1860 to 1864.

	Commissioned—Succeeded
Robt. J. Weeks, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Jan. 10, 1860-
Thos. G. Westfall, Clk. Infr. Ct.....	failed to qualify.
Louis G. Simmons, Sheriff.....	Jan. 10, 1860-
White Land, Tax Col.....	Jan. 10, 1860-Jan. 10, 1861.
Thos. G. Westfall, Surveyor.....	Jan. 10, 1860-1864. to 1873.
Michael Deariso, Coroner.....	Jan. 10, 1860-
R. J. Weeks, Clk. Inf. Ct.....	Aug. 13, 1860-
J. R. Bozeman, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 10, 1861-
White Land, Tax Col.....	Jan. 10, 1861-
W. L. Hunt, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Jan. 24, 1862-Feb. 16, 1864-1866.
W. L. Hunt, Clk. Infr. Ct.....	Jan. 24, 1862-Feb. 16, 1864.
Royal R. Jenkins, Sheriff.....	Jan. 24, 1862-Aug. 4, 1863 to 1864.
J. P. Cox, Treasurer.....	Jan. 24, 1862-Feb. 16, 1864.
James W. Rouse, Ordinary.....	Jan. 26, 1862-Feb. 16, 1864-1873.
White Land, Rec. & Col.....	Mar. 1, 1862-Feb. 16, 1864.
William Keen, Sheriff.....	Feb. 16, 1864-May 1, 1866-Sept. 20, 1870 (Res.)
R. P. Porter, Clk Infr. Ct.....	Feb. 16, 1864-May 1, 1866.
R. R. Jenkins, Tax Rec.....	Feb. 16, 1864-May 1, 1866.
G. W. Sumner, Tax Col.....	Feb. 16, 1864-May 1, 1866.
A. M. Smith, Coroner.....	Feb. 16, 1864-May 1, 1866.
J. W. Fowler, Treasurer.....	Feb. 16, 1864-May 1, 1866.
Jas. A. Fortner, Clk. Infr. Ct.....	May 1, 1866-Aug. 22, 1866.
W. J. Hodge, Tax Rec. May 1, 1866-White Land, Sept. 9, 1867.	
James J. Willis, Tax Col.....	May 1, 1866-
	Asa Rooks, Feb. 26, 1868.
Peter T. Everett, Coroner.....	May 1, 1866-
John T. Brooks, Treasurer.....	May 1, 1866-
Wm. L. Hunt, Clk. Infr. Ct.....	Aug. 22, 1866-
Henry R. Joiner, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	June 23, 1869-
White Land, Tax Rec.....	Oct. 12, 1868-1875 to 1879 to 1881- 1885 to 1887.
	qualified
Wm. Henderson, Sheriff.....	Feb. 9, 1871-
Joel W. Joiner, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Feb. 9, 1871-
Virgil S. Holton, Tax Rec.....	Feb. 9, 1871-
	qualified
Gary G. Ford, Tax Col.....	Mar. 7, 1871-
John M. Kennedy, Treas.....	Mar. 7, 1871-
A. M. Giddens, Tax Rec.....	Apr. 8, 1872-
Chas. G. Tipton, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Jan. 24, 1873 to 1883-Jan.-1895 to 1896.
Henry H. Rouse, Sheriff.....	Jan. 30, 1873-
David Champion, Tax Col.....	Jan. 28, 1873-
Daniel S. Sumner, Treasurer.....	Feb. 1, 1873-
Wm. O. Watson, Surveyor.....	Feb. 10, 1873.
Harrison O'Neal, Coroner.....	Feb. 17, 1873-
Wm. J. Ford, Ordinary.....	Jan. 21, 1873-Mar. 1877, (Res.).
W. J. Gregory, Sheriff.....	Feb. 2, 1875-
J. L. Sumner, Tax Col.....	Feb. 2, 1875-
Daniel S. Sumner, Treas.....	Feb. 15, 1875-
Wm. O. Watson, Surveyor.....	Failed to qualify.
Harrison O'Neal, Coroner.....	Failed to qualify.
	commissioned
Wm. J. Gregory, Sheriff.....	Jan. 19-Dec. 21, 1877. Resigned.
	qualified
Geo. W. Sumner, Tax Rec.....	Feb. 5, 1877-

	Commissioned—Succeeded
Joseph Z. Ross, Tax Col.....	Mar. 13, 1877-
Michael W. Deariso, Treas.....	Feb. 5, 1877-
Wm. W. Watson, Surveyor.....	Failed to qualify.
Harrison O'Neal, Coroner.....	Failed to qualify.
Thos. M. Lippett, Ordinary.....	Apr. 23, 1877 to 1893.
Wm. J. Ford, Sheriff.....	Feb. 4, 1878-
Jno. D. Houston, Sheriff.....	Feb. 15, 1879-
Henry H. Rouse, Tax Col.....	Feb. 15, 1879-
Wm. F. Tanner, Treas.....	Feb. 20, 1879 to 1883.
H. J. Marsh, Surveyor.....	Jan. 16, 1879-Mar. 4, 1880. Res. qualified
T. M. Cherry, Coroner.....	Jan. 2, 1880-
Geo. W. Spring, Sheriff.....	Feb. 1, 1881-Apr. 29, 1882, Resigned
James Young, Tax Rec.....	Feb. 5, 1881 to 1885.
Wm. Jackson Story, Tax Col.....	Feb. 5, 1881-
W. Jackson Davis, Surveyor.....	Jan. 26, 1881 to 1885.
Niles Perry, Coroner.....	Mar. 12, 1881-
Geo. W. Spring, Sheriff.....	June 5, 1882-
J. J. McDowell, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Jan. 30, 1883 to 1894, (Res.)-
S. W. Holten, Sheriff.....	Feb. 1, 1883-
J. J. Ross, Tax Col.....	Jan. 30, 1883 to 1887-
Jesse Turner, Treas.....	Feb. 6, 1883-
S. M. Cox, Coroner.....	Feb. 6, 1883-
S. W. Holton, Sheriff.....	Feb. 4, 1885-Sept. 9, 1885. Resigned
J. M. Turner, Treas.....	Jan. 17, 1885-
C. C. Walters, Surveyor.....	Feb. 12, 1885-
Josh Adam, Coroner.....	Feb. 13, 1885-
J. W. Davis, Sheriff.....	Oct. 26, 1885-Feb. 7, 1887-
Calvin C. Walters, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 21, 1887 to 1891-1895 to 1898-
W. J. Storey, Tax Col.....	Apr. 9, 1887-
Geo. S. Sumner, Treas.....	Feb. 7, 1887-
C. W. Hillhouse, Surveyor.....	Jan. 18, 1887-
J. N. Odom, Coroner.....	Feb. 5, 1887-
S. M. Cox, Sheriff.....	Feb. 1, 1889-Jan. 30, 1891-
A. P. Smith, Tax Col.....	Jan. 22, 1889 to 1894-
B. F. Sikes, Treas.....	Jan. 22, 1889-
E. Lindsey, Surveyor.....	Feb. 4, 1889 to 1893-1900 to 1906-
J. W. Hobby, Coroner.....	Jan. 25, 1889-
Mark Tyson, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 27, 1891-
J. M. Turner, Treasurer.....	Jan. 29, 1891-
Cornelius McCowey, Coroner.....	Feb. 2, 1891-
W. J. Sumner, Ordinary.....	Jan. 20, 1893-
G. S. Nelson, Sheriff.....	Jan. 16, 1893 to 1895-
C. W. Graves, Tax Rec.....	Jan. 18, 1893-1895-1900-1905-
R. K. Young, Treasurer.....	Jan. 17, 1893-
Z. W. Mathews, Surveyor.....	Jan. 27, 1893 to 1900-
Edd Eady, Coroner.....	Jan. 21, 1893 to 1898-
J. W. Price, Ordinary.....	Dec. 16, 1893 to 1904-
Wyatt A. Hall, Tax Col.....	Jan. 12, 1894-1898.
B. F. Sikes, Treas.....	Jan. 19, 1895-
Jas. W. Warren, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Oct. 30, 1896-1898-1916 to 1924-1928 to 1937.
H. S. Story, Sheriff.....	Nov. 12, 1896-Nov. 16, to 1898.
B. F. Sikes, Treasurer.....	Nov. 7, 1896-
D. A. McGirt, Tax Rec.....	Nov. 14, 1898-
N. G. Houston, Tax Col.....	Nov. 9, 1898 to 1902-1906 to 1912.

	Commissioned—Succeeded
J. W. Aultman, Treas.....	Nov. 10, 1898-
A. J. Paul, Coroner.....	Nov. 8, 1898 to 1904-1912 to 1916.
John N. Sumner, Sheriff.....	Nov. 2, 1900-1908 (Res.)-1916 to 1937.
J. W. Aultman, Treasurer.....	Nov. 29, 1900-
J. R. Willis, Tax Col.....	Nov. 24, 1902-
B. F. Sikes, Treasurer.....	Nov. 30, 1902-
W. W. Tison, Ordinary.....	Nov. 2, 1904 to 1916.
W. D. Brady, Tax Rec.....	Dec. 2, 1904 to 1908.
J. R. Willis, Tax Col.....	Dec. 15, 1904-
B. F. Sikes, Treasurer.....	Dec. 15, 1904-
T. M. Coram, Coroner.....	Oct. 17, 1904 to 1912-1916 to 1921. qualified
J. W. Aultman, Treasurer.....	Dec. 1, 1906-
W. J. Davis, Surveyor.....	Dec. 13, 1906 to 1916.
L. A. Potts, Sheriff.....	Nov. 3, 1908 (apptd. for unexpired term).
L. A. Potts, Sheriff.....	Nov. 12, 1908 to 1916.
Thyal Holton, Tax Rec.....	Nov. 19, 1908 to 1912.
J. W. Aultman, Treasurer.....	Nov. 17, 1908-
S. S. Story, Treasurer.....	Dec. 15, 1910-
L. A. Potts, Sheriff.....	Dec. 13, 1912-
J. B. Sikes, Tax Rec.....	Dec. 13, 1912-1916.
Mack J. Bass, Tax Col. ....	Dec. 30, 1912 to 1937.
W. H. Powell, Treasurer.....	Dec. 16, 1912-1916.
W. K. Stewart, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Dec. 14, 1914 to 1916.
W. J. Davis, Surveyor.....	Dec. 22, 1914-
S. S. Story, Ordinary.....	Dec. 27, 1916 to 1937.
W. B. Holton, Tax Rec.....	Dec. 14, 1916 to 1933.
A. F. Champion, Treasurer.....	Dec. 29, 1916 to 1920.
C. M. Medders, Surveyor.....	Jan. 4, 1917 to 1935-1929 to 1937.
W. E. Watson, Treasurer.....	Dec. 15, 1920 (died Dec. 6, 1923).
Mrs. W. E. Watson, Treasurer.....	(Appointed to fill his place)
J. H. Carter, Coroner.....	Jan. 10, 1921 to 1928.
John L. Tipton, Clk. Supr. Ct.....	Jan. 1, 1924 to 1929.
W. C. Moree, Surveyor.....	Jan. 1, 1925 to 1928.
T. A. Spurlin, Coroner.....	Jan. 1, 1929 to 1937.

**COUNTY OFFICERS ELECTED TO SERVE FOUR YEARS. BEGINNING JANUARY 1st, 1933-1937**

S. S. Story, Ordinary	C. W. Monk, Judge City Court of Sylvester
J. W. Warren, Clerk Superior Court	Joe L. Houston, Solicitor City Court of Sylvester
J. N. Sumner, Sheriff	Clifford Grubbs, Probation Officer
D. B. Gleaton, Tax Receiver	W. C. Tipton, Health Officer
M. J. Bass, Tax Collector	T. R. Perry, Sr., County Attorney
Henry J. Sumner, Surveyor	M. C. Owen, School Superintendent
T. A. Spurlin, Coroner	

**Board of Education**

C. H. Strangward, Chairman, Sylvester, Ga.	C. A. Thompson, Sumner, Ga.
I. J. Hancock, Doerun, Ga., R.F.D.	G. M. Green, Sylvester, Ga., R.F.D. No. 4
W. W. Tison, Doles, Ga.	

### Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues

F. M. Kimble, Chairman, Poulan, Ga.	George L. Tatum, Gordy, Ga.
C. H. Forshee, Poulan, Ga., R.F.D.	F. C. Hall, Oakfield, Ga.
J. I. Langdale, Sumner, Ga., R.F.D. No. 2	R. B. Pollard, Sylvester, Ga., Clerk Board of Commissioners

### Tax Assessors

C. A. Thompson, Sumner, Ga.	J. S. Hancock, Sylvester
J. F. Bryan, Vickers	

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Since the fiscal affairs of the county have been placed by Statute in the hands of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues, the County has been peculiarly fortunate in the selection of this Board from August 29, 1904, until date. Were there a roster of "Who's Who in Worth County" the personnel of the Boards would be found on this roster, and their names would be near the top in all achievements going to make up good citizenship.

The first Board consisted of D. H. Davis, T. J. Pinson, H. C. Woolard, J. S. Westberry and J. D. Bridges. At their first meeting, T. J. Pinson was elected Chairman with J. W. Price, Clerk of the Board. All of the above Commissioners have passed to their reward except D. H. Davis, who is now living at Ashburn, Ga., and is seventy-two years old. Mr. Davis was born in Worth County, and has lived in the county all his life until a part of the county was cut off to make the County of Turner. In a recent interview with Mr. Davis, he said that Worth County was not only the best county in the State of Georgia, but was the best county in any state. Mr. Davis is one of the outstanding citizens of this section, and, while his legal residence is in Turner County, we still claim him as our own. He is one of the largest real estate owners of the county.

Mr. Davis is a product of Worth County. He was an orphan boy, his mother having died when he was one year old, and his father at five years old. There were no free schools then, and all the education he received was paid for by himself. He would work on the farm for six months and send himself to the country schools for six monthhs. There are few, if any,

boys in Worth County at this time who are more handicapped than was D. H. Davis, but Worth County always has had, and still has, many gifts in store for the boys who have inspiration, imagination, and determination and who are not afraid of perspiration. When a caesarian operation brought forth from old Mother Worth her youngest offspring, the county of Turner, immediately thereafter Mr. Davis was drafted in her service as Commissioner and held the position until voluntary retirement on account of approaching old age.

What is true of D. H. Davis is also true in a large measure of the rest of the personnel of Worth's first Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues. They were all self-made men; they were all successful; they all exemplified what is best.

They were all outstanding citizens of Worth County. However, a short biography of the others will be found in this History.

While the personnel of every Board since has been noted for the character of its roster, yet the achievements of the first Board possibly stands out in review. They financed the beautiful courthouse and jail that we are using at this time, and during their administration there were many complex and controversial questions that required tact, firmness, and understanding. They were peculiarly the storm center of controversial questions of finance, administration, and policy, and yet through it all they kept their poise, going the even tenor of their way, courteously kind to all, yet firm in what they deemed right. We place a wreath of most beautiful flowers on memory's page as a token of their patriotic and unselfish service.

In writing the history of the County and its Commissioners of Roads and Revenues, your historian would receive and deserve the censure of the citizens of the County should we fail to refer to the right hand of the first Board during the parlous times of that day. We refer to the building Committee, composed of J. W. Price, T. C. Jefford, Frank Park, and T. R. Perry, who had charge of erecting the beautiful court house at Sylvester, and were called the Building Committee. The beautiful building that we now own will ever be a monument to their acumen, wise supervision, and judgment.

On February 15th, 1905, J. W. Price resigned as Clerk of

the Board and the Commissioners elected J. H. Tipton as Clerk, and Perry & Tipton as attorneys for the Board.

On Jun 8th, 1905, Dr. H. M. Jefford was elected County Physician.

January 1st, 1907, the personnel of the Board was as follows: J. S. Westberry, Chairman, R. K. Young, D. H. Powell, W. H. B. McKenzie, and W. S. Long, Commissioners. This year the Commissioners adopted the alternative road law and worked the convicts on the public roads of the County. Until this date the convicts were sold to individuals for the highest bid. C. F. Wall was the first Superintendent of the chain-gang. At the first meeting in January, W. E. Grubbs was elected Clerk of the Board. T. R. Perry was elected County Attorney, or rather was re-elected.

On April 19th, 1907, Dr. L. F. Grubbs was elected County Physician at a salary of three hundred dollars per year. On December 1st, this year, G. S. Nelson was elected County Warden. At this meeting the Commissioners passed an order requiring all stumps to be pulled from the public roads of the county.

On March 3rd, 1908, Dr. T. J. Bridges and Dr. Mack Jefford were elected County Physicians at \$25.00 per month, payable quarterly.

On June 30th, 1908, G. S. Nelson resigned as County Warden, and G. L. Hammond was elected to succeed him. On October 6th, G. W. Sizemore was elected to succeed G. L. Hammond, resigned. Application was made to the Prison Commission for forty felony convicts.

On January 5th, 1909, the personnel of the Board was changed, J. S. Westberry and R. K. Young retiring, and G. W. Chapman and J. T. Thornhill taking their places. The Board organized by electing W. S. Long chairman and W. E. Grubbs clerk. The board consisted at this time of the following members: W. S. Long, D. H. Powell, W. H. B. McKenzie, G. W. Chapman, and J. T. Thornhill. At their first meeting Polhill & Tison were elected county attorneys at a salary of one hundred dollars per annum. On April 6, 1909, Capt. W. E. Sams was elected deputy warden and given charge of camp No. 2. On the same date G. M. Pinson took the place of W. S. Long on the Board and was elected chairman. On the same date Rev. Sam Eady was appointed to preach a sermon at

each camp once a month at a salary of \$15.00 per month, and Dr. M. J. Crockett was elected County Physician at a salary of \$360.00 per annum; G. W. Chapman was appointed as a committee of one to have oats at the poor farm cut, and on June 1st a committee was appointed to have the oats threshed. On April 6th, same year, the convicts were divided into two camps, with W. E. Sams in charge of Camp No. 2. On April 6th, 1909, G. M. Pinson was commissioned as a member of the Board, to take the place of W. S. Long, and at the same time was elected chairman of the Board, the Board at this time consisting of G. M. Pinson, chairman, G. W. Chapman, D. H. Powell, W. H. B. McKenzie, J. T. Thornhill, and W. E. Grubbs, clerk.

On December 7th, 1909, W. E. Sams was elected county warden at a salary of \$100 per month. On May 3, 1910, Dr. M. J. Crockett was elected county physician at a salary of \$25.00 per month.

On January 3, 1911, the Board was composed of J. A. Haines, J. T. Thornhill, G. W. Chapman, I. J. Hancock, and J. W. Young. At their first meeting J. A. Haines was elected chairman, with W. E. Grubbs as clerk, and W. E. Sams was re-elected warden for another year.

At a meeting of the Board on December 16, 1912, the following resolution was passed: "Upon motion and unanimous vote, it was ordered that the following taxes be relieved on account of error in digest: Sam Smith, two dogs: M. W. Webb, one dog."

On January 7, 1913, W. S. Hufstetler and S. F. Whidden, two newly elected members of the Board, were sworn in, and the board organized by electing J. A. Haines chairman, S. F. Whidden, vice chairman, and W. E. Grubbs, clerk. The board at this time consisted of the two newly elected members and I. J. Hancock, W. S. Hufstetler, and J. W. Young.

At a meeting held on May 6, 1913, Crisp County was offered the cash sum of one thousand dollars to reimburse them for work done on Worth County roads. This payment was justified for the reason that a year or more earlier, by an Act of the Legislature, a large portion of Worth County, including the town of Warwick, was cut off into Crisp County, and later the courts held the Act illegal. In the mean time, Crisp County had been maintaining the roads, had built some new



roads, and this appropriation was to reimburse them in part for money expended in this way.

At a meeting held on July 12, 1913, it was moved and un-animously voted that every member of the board appear before the house committee of the Georgia Legislature to oppose cutting off a portion of Worth County to create a proposed new County of Griggs.

On January 15, 1915, the personnel of the board was changed, the members being at this time as follows: J. S. Westberry, S. F. Whidden, W. S. Hufstetler, J. B. White, and J. M. Watson. At their first meeting J. S. Westberry was elected chairman, and R. B. Pollard, clerk.

At a meeting January 19, 1915, Captain W. E. Sams tendered his resignation as warden, which was accepted, to take effect as soon as he could be released by the prison commission and his successor elected. At the same meeting the salary of the county warden was fixed at \$90.00 per month. At the same meeting T. R. Perry was elected as county attorney at a salary of ten dollars per month, and the salary of the clerk was fixed at \$40.00 per month.

At a meeting February 2, 1915, President Cleveland was relieved of paying poll tax on account of over age. In 1915 the board was buying kerosene at nine cents per gallon, and during this year the old obsolete cannon were mounted on the court house lawn, the city of Sylvester paying half and the county the other half of the expense. On September 7, 1915, the resignation of Dr. M. J. Crockett as county physician was accepted, and Dr. W. C. Tipton was elected in his place.

On November 17, 1915, S. M. Davis was elected to fill the unexpired term of W. S. Hufstetler, resigned.

In the year 1916 the personnel of the board was as follows: J. S. Westberry, chairman, J. M. Watson, J. B. White, S. M. Davis, and S. F. Whidden, with R. B. Pollard as clerk, T. R. Perry, county attorney, and G. S. Nelson, warden.

On January 2, 1917, the personnel of the board was as follows: J. S. Westberry, chairman, S. M. Davis, J. B. White, J. M. Watson, and E. J. Gissendaner, with R. B. Pollard,

Legend for cut on page 69.

Top row left to right: Geo. L. Tatum, C. H. Forshee. Center, F. C. Hall. Second row, left to right: F. M. Kimball, Chairman of Board. J. I. Langdale, Sumner. Third row, left to right: R. B. Pollard, Clerk of Board, and R. J. Free, Warden.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (See legend on page 68).

clerk, M. J. Crockett, county physician, at a salary of \$35.00 per month, and Perry & Williamson, county attorneys for a term of two years.

At a meeting held April 16, 1918, J. S. Westberry tendered his resignation and it was accepted. It was decided not to elect another member to fill this vacancy until the regular primary election to be held in September following, and that the nominee at this primary might be elected to serve during the interim before taking office as a result of the primary. S. M. Davis was elected chairman to fill the unexpired term of J. S. Westberry, resigned. This time the board took up the task of tick eradication in Worth County, and vats were ordered built and men employed to look after the work. This work was to be done with the assistance of the state. Prices were good this year, and the board sold to M. J. Bass a lot of second hand or used oat sacks at 30 cents each. On September 16th the clerk was ordered to advertise for good corn in the ear and authorized to pay \$1.25 per bushel for same; also a lot of native hay at \$27.50 per ton.

On January 7, 1919, the present heating plant for the court house was bought and installed. On January 9th the new commissioner, F. M. Kimble, was sworn in and elected chairman, with E. J. Gissendaner as vice chairman. R. B. Pollard was re-elected clerk at a salary of \$50.00 per month, G. S. Nelson was re-elected warden at a salary of \$150.00 per month, this to include the use of his automobile. T. R. Perry was re-elected county attorney at a salary of \$25.00 per month, and Dr. W. C. Tipton, county physician, at a salary of \$50.00 per month.

On October 7, 1919, E. M. Aultman was elected to fill the unexpired term of S. M. Davis, resigned. The salary of warden was increased to \$200.00 per month, beginning with October 1st.

At the first meeting in 1920 all officers of the board were re-elected for another year, including clerk, attorney and warden. On June 1st, 1920, the board consisted of F. M. Kimble, chairman, E. J. Gissendaner, G. G. Young, H. A. Land, and E. M. Aultman, with R. B. Pollard, clerk, T. R. Perry, county attorney, and W. C. Tipton, county physician.

On September 15, 1920, the resignation of G. S. Nelson as warden was accepted, and C. E. Jordan was elected warden

at a salary of \$175.00 per month, and the upkeep and use of his automobile. On January 18, 1921, the same officers were re-elected with a reduction in salary of 20 per cent. On January 4, 1921, E. J. Gissendaner was retired and L. D. Mathews sworn in to take his place as a member of the board.

On July 1st, 1921, the services of the Home Economic Demonstration Agent was dispensed with, and the farm demonstrator was dropped from the pay roll of the county on July 5, 1921. On October 4, 1921, a health officer was employed at a salary of \$2400.00 a year.

On January 3, 1922, the same officers were re-elected for another year.

On January 2, 1923, H. A. Land and G. G. Young, having been retired, and E. W. Fenn and J. M. Watson having been elected to succeed them, the new board was organized with the following members: F. M. Kimble, chairman, E. M. Aultman, E. W. Fenn, L. D. Mathews and J. M. Watson. R. B. Pollard was re-elected clerk, T. R. Perry, attorney, and Chas. E. Jordan, county warden.

On January 1st, 1924, H. J. Prance was employed as county agent, the county to pay half of his salary and the state the other half. The board was composed of the same members as in 1923, and was organized by electing F. M. Kimble, chairman, R. B. Pollard, clerk, T. R. Perry, attorney, and Chas. E. Jordan, as warden.

On February 3, 1925, three new commissioners were sworn in, as follows: M. S. Aultman, to take the place of E. W. Fenn, resigned and moved to Florida, G. E. Gissendaner and C. R. Varnadoe, and the same chairman, clerk, attorney and warden were elected for another year.

On January 5, 1926, the board met with no changes in its personnel, and the same officers were elected for another year. On March 22, 1926, J. R. Free was elected as county warden to succeed Chas. E. Jordan, resigned.

January 7, 1927, the board was organized by the election of F. M. Kimble, chairman, G. E. Gissendaner, vice chairman, and M. S. Aultman, C. R. Varnadoe, and J. M. Watson, commissioners. R. B. Pollard was re-elected clerk, T. R. Perry, attorney, W. C. Tipton, county physician, and R. J. Free, warden.

On January 3, 1928, the board met and re-elected the same

officers for another year. At this meeting a county wide school tax of five dollars on the thousand was ordered levied and collected by the tax collector.

March 16, 1928, the potato plant was sold for one thousand dollars, the same having been previously bought in by the county at a tax sale. On July 3, 1928, a resolution was passed to the effect that the county not buy any more lands sold for taxes.

On January 1, 1929, the board re-elected all the same officers for another year at a salary cut of 10 per cent.

On January 7, 1930, the resignation of C. R. Varnodoe was accepted, and H. A. Land sworn in to take his place. On account of the depressed financial condition of the county the county health officer was discontinued, to take effect July 1, 1930.

On January 6, 1931, F. C. Hall and J. I. Langdale were sworn in as new members, taking the places of J. M. Watson and M. S. Aultman, retired. The board organized by electing F. M. Kimble, chairman, G. E. Gissendaner, vice chairman, with F. C. Hall, H. A. Land, and J. I. Langdale as the other members. The same officers were re-elected for another year, and R. B. Pollard was made purchasing agent for the county.

On January 5, 1932, the board met and re-elected all the old officers for another year. On June 10, 1932, all salaries were slashed, the warden being cut to \$100.00 per month, and others in the same proportion. September 6th a resolution passed not to collect any road tax for 1932.

January 3, 1933, H. A. Land and G. E. Gissendaner having been retired, George L. Tatum and C. H. Forshee were sworn in to take their places.

Worth County has been exceedingly fortunate in the personnel of this board since the affairs of the county have been handled by a Board of Commissioners. They have at all times been men of high character and unimpeachable integrity. Especial attention is called to the present chairman of the board, Hon. F. M. Kimble. He served as chairman of the board for a long number of years, with honor to himself and profit to his constituency through some of the most trying times in the history of the county. He is peculiarly a self-made man, but inherited those sterling qualities that commend him to all who know him. He was inducted into office at the

very peak of our country's unprecedented prosperity, but, beginning about 1920, the ever increasing demands of government, with the ever decreasing revenues, have made the problems confronting the board most trying. During his incumbency of office the tax returns of the county have declined approximately two million dollars, and the people voted nearly unanimously four hundred thousand dollars of bonds, a county-wide school tax of five dollars a thousand, and consolidated school districts, all of whom have taxing powers. The people have demanded county agents and farm demonstrators, welfare workers, health department, tick eradication requiring thousands of dollars for dipping vats, all of which increased demands, with the steadily decreasing tax values, placed on the shoulders of this board exceedingly heavy burdens, but through it all, chairman Kimble, with the other members of his boards, have managed to carry on with remarkable ability and poise under such trying circumstances. The long and faithful services of R. B. Pollard, clerk, T. R. Perry, county attorney, and W. C. Tipton, county physician, are also to be commended.

## CHAPTER IX

### WORTH'S RESOURCES

#### WORTH COUNTY, THE DIAMOND OF SOUTH GEORGIA

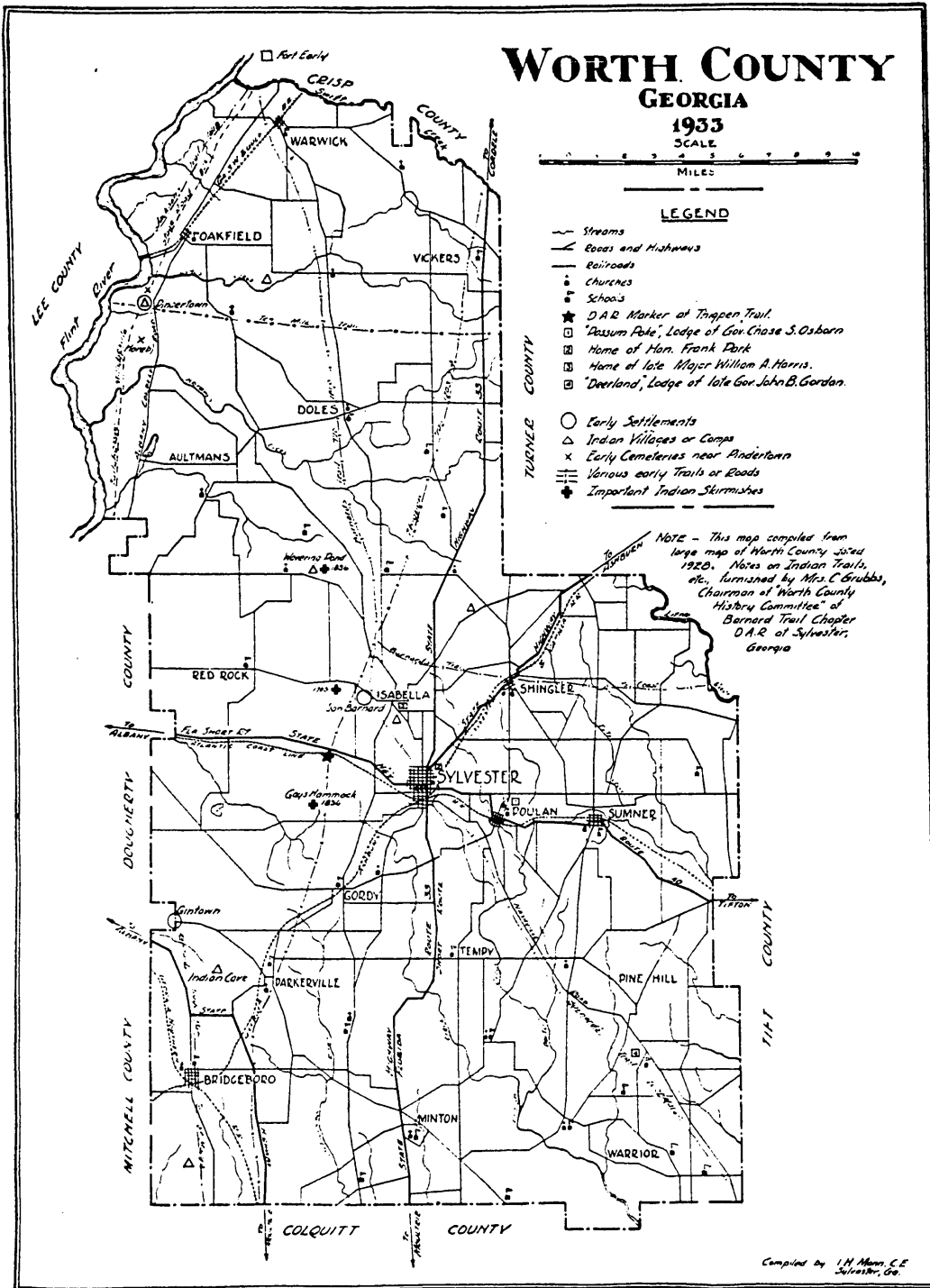
Every opportunity to prosper in any of life's activities, is ever present in Worth County. Would you turn to manufacturing, the City of Sylvester and the county give free sites and freedom from taxation for five years. This was done by the voluntary suffrage of the people. There are plenty of raw materials in the county for many enterprises. Having two railroads gives us competitive rates that guarantee the movement of freight in a most satisfactory manner.

We have electric power in abundance to meet the needs of many times our population and present demands. Here is the heart of the cantaloupe industry and we ship more each season than any other place in the world. Here is the home of the famous Georgia water melon, in the heart of which one may drown the cares of life. These and other products would support a crate factory. There is raw material here in abundance for such a factory.

Our soil is peculiarly adapted to the succulent peanut. A peanut hulling plant here would be a paying proposition. Our soil and climate is the natural home of cotton, and while Worth could not be called a one crop county, yet her farmers raise large amounts every year and it grades up with the best short staple.

Worth County is in the heart of the pecan belt. Here the paper shell pecan, whether it is the staple Stewart or other varieties, comes to its highest perfection and productiveness. Around nearly every home in the county will be found state-ly pecan trees that make splendid shade, and are as beautiful as the trees usually used for shade, and their productivity but adds charm to their beauty.

The finest sweet potatoes in the world are raised in Worth County. The same can be said of the fig and the oriental per-





simmon. And then tobacco—tobacco growing experts say we have as fine tobacco lands as can be found anywhere. Tobacco growing has come to be one of the staple crops of the county. On account of mild and short winters, Worth is especially adapted to cattle raising. Here one can have green pastures the year around, and with very few days in the year when there will be need for shelter for cattle. On account of the long growing season, two and three crops can be grown on the same land each year. Worth County has the highest altitude of any county in South Georgia and probably for this reason has been thus far free from destructive storms.

Here in Worth County we have a wealth of soil, fit almost for an Empire's sustenance, with much of it newly from nature's hand. It's call to the industrious, the law abiding, the country loving, goes no longer unheeded.

Yearly few are leaving and more are coming. The side partner of material advancement, enlightenment, keeps steady pace. Educational facilities, a few generations ago negligible, are now extended with the tenderest solicitude to the humblest of our children. Good roads have brought the churches to the doors of the former back woodsman. And the automobile chants a song of prosperity as it makes a figment of distance.

No one need blush for Worth's past, and none that are wise will discount her future.

We give the Soil Survey of Worth County as classified by the United States Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. This work, with maps, was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Sylvester.

### THE SOILS OF WORTH COUNTY

The soils of Worth County have been classified by the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils into fourteen series, which are represented by eighteen soil types and four phases of types, in addition to the miscellaneous separation of swamps. Of these soils, eleven types and the four phases represent the upland soils, three types are second bottom soils, and three types are first bottom soils.

The total acreage of good agricultural soils in the county is considerably larger than the acreage of soils which are poorly drained or are not desirable for agriculture. The good agricultural soils occur in large areas, so that it is not unusual for an entire farm to consist of but one or two soil types.

Most of the soils which are not desirable for tillage can be converted into excellent pasture areas, although very little has been done along this line to date.

The most extensive soils, the soils which dominate the agriculture of the county, are Tifton sandy loam and Tifton sandy loam—deep phase. These two soils occupy 38.3 percent. of the total area of the county. They have brownish gray or gray surface soils overlaying yellow or ochreous yellow friable sandy clay subsoils. Scattered over the surface, through the surface soil, and usually to a less extent through the subsoil, there is a large quantity of small rounded iron accretions. The quantity is commonly sufficient to give a distinct brownish coloration to the surface soil. These soils are known locally as the red pebble lands and are considered among the most desirable soils for general agriculture that occur in the county or in this section of the state. The Tifton sandy loam occupies smooth, gently rolling and undulating ridge crests and inter-stream areas. It is well drained, lies well for agricultural use and occurs in broad areas well adapted to the use of improved farm machinery. About 95 percent. of this soil is under cultivation, being used primarily for cotton and corn, but the soil is adapted to a wider range of crops.

Norfolk soils occupy 27.5 per cent. of the county area, and include the sandy loam, the deep phase of the sandy loam, the sand and the mixed phase of the sand. Norfolk sandy loam occupies 8 per cent. of the county area. It has a light gray surface soil with a pale yellow friable sandy clay subsoil. This soil occurs in many fair sized areas in small areas scattered throughout the county. It occupies flatter topography than the Tifton soils. It is somewhat lighter in texture both in the surface and in the subsoil than the Tifton soils from which it is readily distinguished, also by the absence of the small iron pebbles. About 65 per cent. of this type is under cultivation, being used for cotton, corn, peanuts, tobacco, sweet potatoes, velvet beans and a variety of truck crops. The deep phase of Norfolk sandy loam is more extensive than the typical sandy loam, occupying 15.2 per cent. of the area of the county. About 60 per cent of it is under cultivation and a limited amount has been abandoned after a period of cultivation. It is used for all the general crops, but is inherently less productive than the Norfolk sandy loam. It is

considered, however, to produce the best quality of bright leaf tobacco. Norfolk sand and the mixed phase of Norfolk sand are relatively inextensive, occupying but 4.3 per cent. of the county area. These soils consist of deep sands of very low agricultural value, best adapted to forestry.

There are two brown soils—Ruston fine sandy loam and Ruston loamy sand, together occupying 2.4 per cent of the area of the county. The surface soil of Ruston fine sandy loam is gray or grayish brown, overlying a subsoil of yellowish brown or yellowish red, friable, fine sandy clay. This soil occurs only in scattered small areas in the southwestern and northwestern parts. It has about the same agricultural value as Norfolk sandy loam except that it is not suitable for bright tobacco. However, only about 15 per cent. is cultivated, principally to corn and cotton. Ruston loamy sand is inherently less productive than the sandy loam, but occupies smooth topography in the northwestern section of the county. About 65 per cent of this type is cultivated, principally to corn cotton and peanuts.

There are two soils having red subsoils—Magnolia sandy loam and Greenville sandy loam, both of which are inextensive, together occupying but 1.3 per cent. of the area of the county. Magnolia sandy loam has a grayish brown surface soil overlying a red, friable sandy clay subsoil. It occurs mostly in the northwestern part where it occupies undulating or gently rolling topography. Inherently this is a productive soil, and about 80 per cent. is under cultivation. Greenville sandy loam has a reddish brown surface soil underlain by a red, friable heavy sandy clay subsoil. This type also occurs in the northwestern part where it is all under cultivation. It is one of the most productive soils in the county.

Susquehanna sandy loam occurs in a belt crossing the southeastern part east of Sylvester, extending in a northeast-southwest direction and comprising 4.1 per cent. of the county area. It has a gray surface soil with a subsoil consisting of heavy and gray plastic, impervious dull red clay mottled with yellow, purple and gray. It occupies topography varying from hilly to undulating or gently sloping. A small proportion is cultivated, but about 85 per cent. is in forest. Crop yields are low and the soil is not desirable for tillage, due to the plastic impervious character of the subsoil. This soil is best suited to forestry and pastures.

There are two light colored soils of the uplands which resemble Norfolk somewhat—the Blanton sandy loam—deep phase and Blanton sand. They occupy 3.2 per cent of the area of the county. Blanton sandy loam—deep phase has a gray or a grayish yellow surface soil of loamy sand which is underlain at about 15 to 30 inches by a subsoil of dull yellow or creamy white, friable sandy clay. It is a soil with a seasonal high watertable. None of this soil is farmed except marginal strips which border other soils and are used for corn, cotton and sugar cane to a very limited extent. The productivity is inherently low and crop yields vary with seasonal conditions. A small amount of Blanton sand is cultivated but yields are low, most of the type being used for, and best adapted to forest.

There are three poorly drained upland soils — Plummer sandy loam, Grady clay loam and Grady sandy loam which together occupy 16.7 per cent. of the area of the county. Plummer sandy loam occupies 10.9 per cent. of the area. It has a dark gray surface soil with drab gray sandy clay subsoil, mottled with yellow. The type occupies the base of slopes adjacent to drainageways. It is poorly drained and is rarely used for cultivation. The type has proved best adapted to carpet grass pastures for which purpose it constitutes one of the best pasture soils in the state.

Grady sandy loam has a gray surface soil with a subsoil consisting of light gray, compact impervious, heavy clay. It occurs in low sink areas and depressions in the upland soils, many of which have no drainage outlets. Where these areas can be drained, they will produce good yields of corn and forage crops and will also make excellent carpet grass pastures. Grady clay loam is usually more subject to continued inundation in shallow ponds than the sandy loam. Drainage is necessary before most areas can be utilized for carpet grass pastures to which they are best adapted.

Second bottom or terrace soils occupy 1.3 per cent. of the county area. Of these soils only Kalmia fine sandy loam is sufficiently well drained for cultivation. This soil has a gray or grayish yellow surface soil underlain by a light yellow fine sandy clay subsoil mottled with gray. It occurs in scattered small areas, very little of which is farmed. It is used to some extent for pasture, but is mainly forested. Myatt fine sandy loam and Leaf fine sandy loam are poorly drained ter-

race soils which are best adapted to pasture and forestry. They occur in small scattered areas along the streams of the county and practically none of these types are cultivated.

The first bottom soils, including Swamp, occupy 5.2 per cent. of the total area. None of the first bottom areas are cultivated. Congaree silt loam and Congaree sand occur along Flint River where they are subject to heavy overflows of rather long duration, which precludes their use for cultivation. They are the best suited for pastures and forestry under present conditions. Chastain fine sandy loam occurs along the bottoms of some of the creeks which flow through the section of the county containing Susquehanna soils. This bottom soil is wet most of the year, is of little value for pasture and is best adapted to forestry. Swamp is a miscellaneous classification of variable bottom soils which are wet the greater part of the year. Swamp provides range pasture and is suitable for forestry.

### **CARRYING THE COTTON TO MARKET**

By John L. Herring

Mid-afternoon the start was made. The bale of cotton, brought from the gin several days before, was loaded on the wagon; tucked in around it a supply of forage for the oxen; in a cheesebox a grub stake for the round trip. Perched on top of the bale, the Boy, in his Sunday best, drove, the Father riding and walking—usually the latter.

The first part of the road was lonely; out by the village cemetery; then miles and miles of unbroken pine forest, before first the small farms and then the large plantations along the river bottoms were reached. Long before this, night had fallen, and one part of the journey was as lonely as the other. Both travelers were accustomed to self-entertainment; the oxen patiently plodded off the long miles, and man and boy took naps, trusting to their team to "keep the road."

Some time after midnight, but before the morning star shone in the east, they arrived at the crossing of an old stage road, two miles out from the city. Here was the last timber, and camp was made. The oxen were unyoked, tied to saplings and fed, and on quilts spread beneath the wagon man and boy slept until morning. With daybreak they were up, the

oxen hitched and the outskirts of the city reached in time for an early cup of coffee at a lunch stand near the bridge entrance.

This bridge, spanning a broad and rapid river, was an object of dread both to the boy and to oxen. Snorting in fright, the team was with difficulty urged up the long approach; under the hollow, resounding, covered and walled bridge proper, they pulled in the yoke against each other—their hoofs slipping on the floor, while the Boy clung to the cotton bale, momentarily expecting the wagon wheels to run off the end of the flooring and plunging wagon and all into the rushing waters thirty feet below. Out from the covered bridge at last the oxen rushed down the incline at the farther end, being stopped with some difficulty by the toll-keeper under the arched entrance at the bridge house. Here they were passed on the promise to pay the toll when they came back; a common custom, for few going into town had money, and safe enough, for over the bridge was the only way home.

At last they were "in town" and the boy shrank down a little on his high perch at the noise around him. To the big brick cotton warehouse, where negroes threw the bale off the wagon and rolled it under the warehouse shed and with a long augur a sample was taken. Back into the wagon-yard the team was driven, unyoked and installed; the "things" stored in the common camping-house under the eye of the negro care-taker, the price of whose services was a dram of "busthead" before departure. Out man and boy went to sell the cotton.

It appeared to be by common consent that no bidder would offer what he expected to pay, but each would start with a low figure, expecting to be raised—which was done. It was a matter of much walking, much dickering, and many inquiries as to how much "trade" was in it, before what the seller saw was the top price was reached, and the deal closed.

Then, an orgy of buying! Women are not all the bargain hunters in the world. As a reward for much toil in the cotton field under a hot summer sun, the Boy was to have his first "storebought" suit, and the purchase was an event. The proper color—a compromise between a desire for the gaudy on the part of the prospective wearer and a careful precaution against early fading by the wary parent—was found after a while.

Then the size—it must be large enough “to allow for growth” (with a consequence that the suit never fit, being too large when new and shabby from age when at last the boy grew to it). Last, the price; rock-bottom being finally struck after much palaver.

Then there were the hickory checks, the calico, the “narrowed homespun,” the thread and card of buttons, the shoes, and finally the bundle of spun thread to fill Mother’s list. The sack of flour, the coffee, the “sure nuff” crawling sugar, for the family larder. Father perhaps got a new hat, a pair of brogan shoes, and a caddy of tobacco for his part. Even into luxuries they went. A pound of beautifully striped candy, a section of cheese for the home table and for lunch enroute, and, crowning luxury, a can of cove oysters! The mouth waters now at the remembrance of the appetite-inspiring label.

The great wealth that in one bale of cotton lay! For then there were no notes for mules, or guano, or farm supplies to be met, and what was paid for the single bale of the year’s crop of cotton, belonged to the grower.

Back to the wagon yard, walking on air in a dream of riches; the oxen watered and yoked, the homeward journey began as the lengthening shadows told that another night was near. The toll man was paid at the bridge, and still Father jingled silver and put away a few bills against a time of need. Even the bridge had no terrors now, the oxen pacing over, with heads lowered, as they recognized the homeward trail.

No need to drive—the team knew the way and nothing could turn them from it. No stop for camp tonight—home was the goal of travelers and team. When night fell the precious can of oysters was hacked open with a hatchet and the contents devoured; the last drop of juice soaked up with soda crackers. Then cheese and candy and crackers to wedge it down, and Father and Boy stretched themselves in the wagon and slept away the homeward journey. The arrival was during the early morning hours; first care for the tired and panting team; then the loud call to the Mother who waited, the proud exhibition of the purchases of the trip; then sleep until the breakfast summons. The Day of the year was over.

## 'SIMMON BEER, 'POSSUM AND "TATERS" A RESOURCE OF WORTH

### WORTH FURNISHED "POSSUMS AND TATERS" FOR THE BANQUET OF PRESIDENT TAFT IN ATLANTA

(Worth County Local, Jan. 8th, 1909.)

The County of Worth has volunteered—nay, has asked the honor—of furnishing, free of charge, the one hundred fat 'possums necessary for the great supper to be given President-elect Taft on the occasion of his visit to Atlanta, the aforementioned animals to be served in accordance with the expressed wish of his Honor.

The following telegrams speak for themselves: "Sylvester, Ga., Jan. 2nd, 1909.—E. C. Caverly and Mr. Wilkerson, 'Possum Committee, Atlanta: Worth County asks the honor of being allowed to furnish free to the 'possum and 'tater supper, the one hundred fat 'possums required. Answer promptly, so we can unloose the 'possum dogs.

"Frank Park."

"Frank Park, Sylvester, Ga.: We accept with pleasure and gratitude your offer to furnish 'possum and 'taters. Unleash your discriminating 'possum dogs.

"C. E. Caverly, chairman 'Possum committee," 'taters, 'possums, and simmon beer.

"Atlanta, Jan 4th,—Not only has the committee been assured on the personal honor of Harry Fisher of Newnan, Judge Frank Park of Sylvester, and others, that all the 'possums desired will be in attendance, even to the elimination of this product from the Georgia woods, but assurance came today from a lady admirer of Mr. Taft, that 'simmon beer will not be lacking. She is now making first preparations for brewing a barrel of this exhilarating Georgia drink, for exclusive use of the Taft banquet. There'll be no champagne or other liquid from foreign vineyard—the Georgia prohibition law forbids."

"The deed is done! The suspense is over! The slaughter of the innocents is accomplished! The largest and most varied collection of 'possums ever accumulated in the 'possum state of the South, went to their fate Wednesday morning, not exactly like lambs led to the slaughter, because they were 'pos-



sums; and a 'possum is not like anything else under the sun, except another 'possum. Neither is there any other creature whose execution is along such utterly original and outlandish lines.

"No stately guillotine towers above the prospective victim—no dangling noose awaits his cringing neck—just a broomstick and a colored gen'man.

"How the deed was done. The 'possum, grasped firmly by his rat-like tail, is flopped with some enthusiasm, upon the ground chin down. Across the nape of his neck, is placed a broomstick, upon either end of which the executioner places a number 11 foot (the number is important). Without delay (for the 'possum does not take kindly to this procedure) the southern extremity of the animal is smartly elevated by means of that convenient handle, his tail, and—"snick!" It is all over. Another 'possum has been gathered to his fathers in the great beyond, where perennial persimmon trees flourish, and there is no happy hunting ground.

"Such is the manner of his taking off by Levi Colbert, imported for the purpose from Worth County and retained at the Piedmont, as consulting cook, to assist in the post mortem preparation of a hundred 'possums for the table of the great. With Levi came Annie Daniels and Mahala Bennett, all of them from the Worth County plantation of Judge Frank Park.

"Immediately after the execution, the 'possums are plunged in boiling water to remove the hair, dressed and placed in a cold salt water bath for twelve hours, "to kill de animal taste, and bring out de 'possum taste," says Levi. Then they are parboiled 'twel day is f'ree thirds done," (some authority), after which they are baked with the time-honored sweet potatoes; being basted during this process, with a special sauce prepared after a formula newly invented by Signor John Blocoki, chief cook at the Piedmont Hotel."

(Note:—"Possums and Taters" are a real resource of Worth County. They are most delicious when cooked together and are the finest in the fall and winter months, persimmon beer comes along with 'possums and taters in the fall months. What better feast could any one ask?)

## CHAPTER X

### INDUSTRIES

#### ABSTRACT OF BANKS AND BANKING HISTORY IN WORTH COUNTY

The first bank organized in Worth County, and one of its leading institutions in 1934, is The Sylvester Banking Company, which was originally organized in 1897 as a private bank. It was owned and operated by J. S. and J. H. Westberry and began business with a capital of only \$5,000.00.

This private bank was converted into a state bank, in July, 1898, with the following officers: W. H. McPhaul as president, C. W. Hillhouse as vice president, and J. H. Westberry, cashier, with the following directors: W. H. McPhaul, C. W. Hillhouse, J. S. Westberry, T. R. Perry and Dr. W. L. Sikes.

On the passing of Mr. McPhaul, in the year 1900, Mr. J. S. Westberry succeeded him as president.

In 1901, the resignation of J. S. Westberry as president was accepted, and he was succeeded by Mr. C. A. Alford, who held this office until his passing in 1908, when the Hon. G. G. Ford, a native of Worth County, was elected to the presidency.

Mr. Ford held this office until his death in 1916, when the present incumbent, Dr. T. C. Jefford, was elected to fill the vacancy. Mrs. C. W. Hillhouse held the office of vice-president from the time of the bank's organization until his death in 1931.

The Sylvester Banking Company is now thirty-five years old, having served its patrons and community with safety and confidence, lending an influence that has meant much in the growth and progress of the county.

Since the organization of this first bank, six other banks have been organized in the county as follows:

Bank of Poulan, Poulan, Ga., organized in 1902; failed in 1930.

First National Bank, of Sylvester, Ga., organized in 1903; failed in 1924.

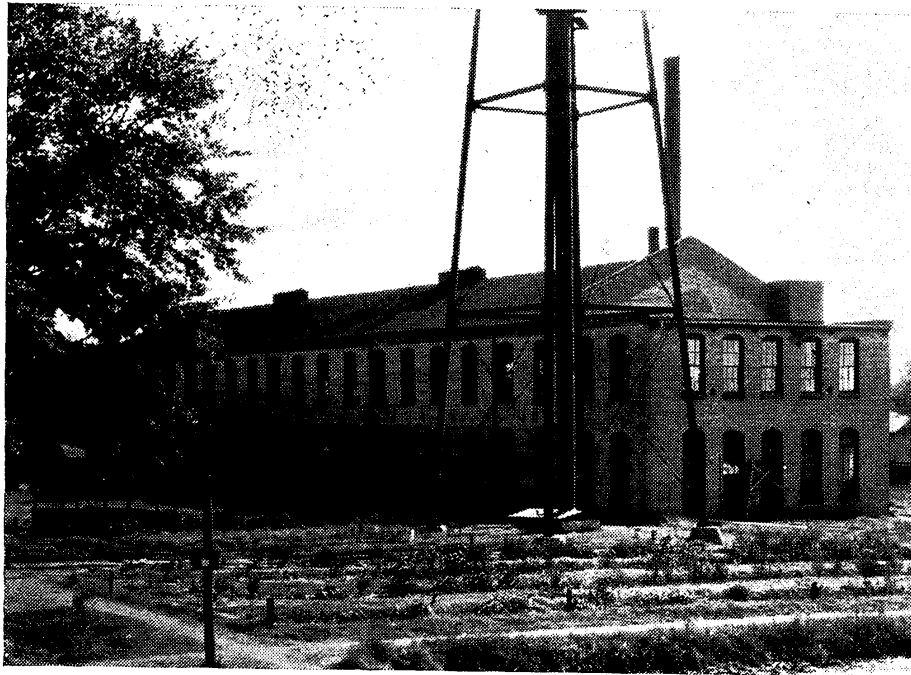
Bank of Warwick, Warwick, Ga., organized in 1910, failed in 1929.

Farmers and Merchants Bank of Sylvester, Ga., organized in 1911; failed in 1926.

Bank of Ty Ty, Ga., organized in 1912; failed in 1926.

Bank of Oakfield, Oakfield, Ga., organized in 1912; failed in 1915.

It will be seen that these banks ran from three to 28 years, and while the depression finally got them, during their activities, they were wonderful factors in the upbuilding of the county.



POULAN COTTON MILLS

### POULAN COTTON MILLS

Poulan and Worth County's greatest manufacturing enterprise is the Poulan Cotton Mills.

It is one of the very best equipped small factories in Georgia, with 6032 spindles and 186 looms. It gives employment to one hundred and twenty-five people, who receive wages running from one to three dollars per day.

It is a white man's mill, equipped with fire apparatus, a

Grinnel system with ten plugs, and one force pump having a capacity of seven hundred and fifty gallons a minute.

The officials are W. J. Vereen, President; L. J. McPhaul, Vice President; F. M. Kimble, Secty-Treas.

The mill is a handsome brick structure, fifty-eight by two hundred thirty-four feet and two stories high.

The Poulan Cotton Mill has been the greatest of all agencies in wafting the fame of Poulan and Worth County to the four corners of the earth as it manufactures a superior brown sheeting which is sold in the United States and Canada.

The demand for its output has exceeded the supply ever since the wheels began to turn.

It was organized by stockholders in the year 1902. The following were the first officers and directors: W. C. Vereen, President; C. A. Alford, Vice President; G. B. Dean, Secty; J. G. McPhaul, Treas. Directors in addition to above were J. W. Tatum, H. C. Woolard, J. L. Sumner, J. S. Westberry and W. W. Monk.

Stockholders now are, The J. G. McPhaul Co., W. J. Vereen, L. J. McPhaul, W. C. Vereen, Est. Mrs. H. G. Ellis, F. M. Kimble, Mrs. J. B. Myers, Mrs. Ada White.

The employees of this factory enjoy a measure of security that any people get from living in small towns. They can have gardens, chickens and cows and are not entirely dependent on the wages at the factory for a livelihood.

This plant is especially fortunate in management which has been in charge of Mr. F. M. Kimble for twenty-five years. He keeps in touch with all his people, knows them, and looks after their welfare as he does the commercial welfare of the plant.

## **OCMULGEE TO FLINT RAILROAD OR CANAL**

### **Story of A. H. Brisbane's Railroad, Graded Through Worth County, But Never Completed**

The State Archives of Georgia gives the following facts regarding the old railroad grading through Worth County, signs of which may still be seen near Isabella and other places through the county:

"In December, 1827, the Legislature had granted to Thomas Spalding, of Darien, the right of building a railroad of wood, or

digging a canal from the Ocmulgee to the Flint River. Spalding was empowered to do this individually or with associates in a company, as he might see fit. Several years having passed without developments, the charter was renewed by an act of 1834, which authorized a railroad of either wood or iron. The route contemplated lay from the Great Bend of the Ocmulgee, some sixty miles south of Macon, in a line westward to Albany on the Flint. There was little progress until about 1840. At that time a certain General Jones Lee, a resident of the Flint River district, took up the project, promoted a company to utilize the charter, and was himself made the first President. By April, 1841, subscriptions had been secured to the amount of \$250,000, and installments amounting to 15 per cent. had been paid in in the form of notes of hand from the subscribers. No cash had then been received; but the contracts had already been let for grading the eastern half of the route, and those for the western half were then advertised. The contractors agreed to take preferred stock, guaranteed to yield 8 per cent. in payment for work. In that level country the work was, of course, extremely light."

"An Irishman and devout Catholic, A. H. Brisbane, from Savannah, was its "Engineer Agent." Later he became its president and chief promoter. Nelson Tift, the founder of Albany, was also interested. They each secured land grants from the State of Georgia for this purpose. Brisbane secured 124,950 acres and Tift secured 4,900 acres in Irwin County (Now Worth). Tift persuaded Brisbane to begin the grading at Albany. The road was to go from Albany to Waresboro and connect with other railroad projects there. Brisbane procured a force of Irish laborers—some from New York, some from Ireland direct, and the road was graded, bridges built, cross ties laid, and many hewn stringers were placed, which were to be used in place of iron rails.

"In November, 1841, the grading had been two-thirds completed; but the company was in great need of funds. A meeting of the directors at Albany decided that it was useless to call for cash from the stockholders, and sent a call for help to Savannah. To their temporary relief, the city council of Savannah indorsed the company's note for the sum of \$5000. Brisbane now hit upon a new idea. He appealed to the Catholic prelates for charity on behalf of the starving Irish laborers

whom the company was unable to pay or feed. Aid came in response from Bishop England at Charleston and Bishop Hughes of New York. This, however, was hardly a sound basis for railroad progress. Brisbane reported in February, 1843, a total expenditure to that time of \$9000, and an outstanding debt of \$15,000, with no visible assets but the naked road-bed which the contractors really owned. On a subscription of \$300,000 the cash payment had been only \$3000 Brisbane, with his talent, was still able to describe the situation as hopeful. But a short time afterwards the starving Irish mutinied and beat the plausible Brisbane with stones and cudgels. Brisbane fled for his life, and that is the end of the Ocmulgee and Flint River Railroad story."

The following from John Ben Pate:

"Brisbane having secured aid from the Catholic Church promised to name every station for some Catholic, and to establish Catholic colonies along this railroad.

"Mr. Joseph S. Davis of Albany, whose father was a member of the Albany bar at the time, told him that it seemed that the financial arrangements were never completed, and as they were grading east of Isabella the laborers rebelled and tried to mob the officers of the road, who barricaded themselves in an old shanty and bravely held the mob at bay until Rev. Jonathan Davis of Albany quickly raised and led a company to the rescue.

"Mr. D. H. Davis of Ashburn, remembers hearing his grandparents tell of the rescue of Brisbane and his party from the Irish mob. 'I have heard that on each pay day, they would leave their money with Mr. Brisbane for safe keeping, and you can imagine their feelings when they learned that their money was all gone.' Mr. Samuel Young of Wilcox County, Mr. Nas Henderson of Irwin County and Mr. Samuel Story, the grandfather of Mr. D. H. Davis and a resident of Worth County, managed to get Mr. Brisbane away from the mob and he was hidden for several months in Mr. Sam Story's home.

"Mrs. Brisbane was a very stout Irish lady and would drink lots of water. As the old settlers used gourds she would very frequently call for a calabash of water.

"Dr. F. W. Schnauss, writing in the Valdosta Times, says that he interviewed one of Mr. Brisbane's Irish laborers, by name of McCartney, who lived near Turner's Ferry, adjoining

the lands of preacher Thomas Young, and procured from him information to this effect: That Mr. Brisbane went before an Irish society in Charleston, S. C., and unfolded his plan of making this a great Roman Catholic settlement. The society gave him five hundred dollars to get grants for one hundred lots, each to be granted in the name of some particular Irish Catholic.

"Brisbane procured the money and went to Milledgeville, but the Secretary of State, McCartney said, was an honest man and wouldn't grant the land to Brisbane in his own name, but after seeing the governor of the state, who at that time was Governor C. J. McDonald, and as the financial condition of Georgia was not very good, Mr. Brisbane finally got the land granted in his own name and went to the Catholic Bishop at Charleston, S. C., and unfolded his plans of a Roman Catholic settlement, and mortgaged one hundred lots of land for ten thousand dollars. He then came back and paid the laborers off who readily had rather have the money than the land.

"Many years afterwards a Catholic Bishop from Charleston, S. C., came down and sold thirty of these lots of land to Mr. H. H. Tift for ten thousand dollars. It seems the Catholic Church came into possession of nearly all of the Brisbane land. Mr. A. J. Wilson, of Rebecca, Ga., heard Mr. Smith Turner, who for a number of years before had been sheriff of Irwin County, say that the east end of the old Brisbane railroad was graded by a rich slave owner near Savannah, Ga., who used as laborers his negro women and children, and the people who lived along the proposed line, to help the cause along, would sell them provisions for which they were never paid."

Many of these Irish laborers settled in Wilcox, Coffee, Worth, and Irwin, and many of them petitioned the courts to become naturalized citizens of the United States.

The Hugh McCartney referred to above came to the United States in 1838 and petitioned the Irwin County Court, in 1842, for naturalization papers. He was the father of Henry Hugh McCartney, a substantial farmer and dairyman who lived a few miles west of Sylvester.

Mr. McCartney, Sr., was married twice, and Mr. Henry Hugh McCartney, Jr. is the son of the second marriage. His mother was Nancy Minix, born in 1856 and died in June, 1927.

Hugh McCartney, Sr. was born in Ireland in 1810, died in 1896. He helped survey the streets of Brooklyn, N. Y. Mr. McCartney, Sr. gave the following to the Valdosta Times as the reason for the uprising of the Irishmen:

“Brisbane went to Ireland and secured Irishmen to build this road. The work was begun at Albany. After considerable grading had been done Brisbane’s funds ran low, and he began using scrip to pay the laborers so they might buy provisions from the few farmers scattered along the way. Soon the scrip was found to be no good, and the farmers refused to accept it as pay. These starving Irishmen revolted at such treatment from Brisbane.”

The following are the names of some of the Irishmen who petitioned the Irwin County Court and were made naturalized citizens of the United States in 1841-42:

Patrick Gaugh	Michael Moore
Patrick McDonald	James Moore
Francis Cannon	Michael King
Thomas Mathews	James Golden
Patrick Mathews	John Thomas
Timothy Ward	James Brady
Thomas Ward	E. Courtoy

It is said that a great many of the deeds to lots of land in this and adjoining counties go back to the Brisbane grant.

### **ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILROAD COMPANY**

The records of Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company show that in December, 1835, the Georgia Legislature chartered the Brunswick and Florida Railroad Company. Between 1855 and 1860 this company constructed the line of railroad from Brunswick to Waresboro, Georgia.

In December 1861, by Act of the Georgia Legislature, the name was changed to Brunswick and Albany Railroad Company. In 1869 and 1870 this Company reconstructed the line from Brunswick to Waresboro which had been dismantled by the Confederate Government in 1863, reopened the line the latter part of 1870, and extended it from Waresboro to Brunswick by 1871. In Oct. 1871, John Screven was appointed Receiver of the company in foreclosure suit. The property was



sold under foreclosure sale in 1874 and operated by a trustee for the bondholders until February, 1879, at which time the company was reorganized under the general laws of Georgia, under certificate issued by the Secretary of State. February 22, 1879, and the property was turned over to the new company with same name as the old company, "Brunswick and Albany Railroad Company."

In December 1892, by resolution of the stockholders, the name was changed to Brunswick and Western Railroad Company.

By agreement dated May 10, 1901, this company was absorbed into the Savannah, Florida and Western Railroad Company, and April, 1902, the property of the Savannah, Florida and Western Railway Company was absorbed into the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, which now owns and operates the lines.

The above information was secured through the courtesy of J. C. Kirkland, agent for the A. C. L. at Sylvester.

### **THE GEORGIA NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY**

The Georgia Northern Railway is a short line railroad sixty-eight miles in length operating between Albany, Georgia, and Boston, Georgia. Affiliated with this company is also the Georgia, Ashburn, Sylvester & Camilla Railway Company, which is owned largely by the shippers located in the three principal towns it traverses; namely, Ashburn, Sylvester, and Camilla, and the Flint River & Northeastern Railroad Company, which is owned by the Hand interests at Pelham, and the Ashburn interests at Moultrie, and various others.

The Georgia Northern Railway Company was chartered in 1893, having been purchased at a receiver's sale that year. This road originally started from Pidcock, Ga., a town located in Brooks County, and was named for the late James Nelson Pidcock, of Whitehouse Station, N. J., and ran a distance of fourteen miles to Pavo, Ga., it not being at that time a chartered railroad, but the tram road of the old Quitman Lumber Company. It was about this period that Mr. C. W. Pidcock, now president of the Georgia Northern Railway Company, began his services with the road. This tram was later operated

under a charter, which had previously been secured, as the Boston and Albany Railroad of Georgia, this company going into receivership early in the year 1893.

By February, 1894, the Georgia Northern Railway Company was extended to Moultrie, Ga. The next building program took place in 1896, at which time the road was extended four miles further to Oris, in Colquitt County. Then again in 1898 it was extended to Doerun, Ga. In 1899 the road was extended from Doerun to old Carlyle in Worth County, this point being about a mile south of the present location of Bridgeboro.

In the fall of 1901 the road was extended through Worth County into Dougherty County and reached Darrow Junction on the Atlantic Coast Line about two miles south of Albany in the summer of 1902. The road began operating trains into and out of Albany in October, 1902.

In 1905 this company built its own tracks into Albany and changed its line south of Oaklawn, Ga., from Pidcock to Boston, the trackage between Oaklawn and Pidcock being abandoned at this time.

#### G. A. S. C. R. R.

#### WORTH COUNTY'S HOME-BUILT AND HOME-OWNED RAILROAD

In 1905 the late Hon. C. A. Alford conceived the idea of building and connecting up short line railroads into a through line to operate trains in connection with the Southern Railway from Washington, D. C. to the Gulf, through Augusta, Ga., Hawkinsville, Sylvester, and Bainbridge.

Arrangements were made whereby J. S. Betts & Co. would build from Ashburn to Sylvester, and C. A. Alford would build from Sylvester to Bridgeboro, which plans were consummated in 1906.

March 1st, 1906, operations were begun under the name of the Flint River & Gulf Railway Company.

Early in 1907, with the co-operation of the citizens of Camilla and a few in Sylvester, an interest was purchased, a new charter secured under the name of "Gulf Line Railway Company," a lease was secured on the Hawkinsville & Florida Southern Railway extending from Hawkinsville to the town

of Worth, on the G. S. & F., trackage was secured over the G. S. & F. Ry. between Worth and Ashburn, and on May 1st, 1907, through train service was inaugurated from Hawkinsville to Bridgeboro, with C. A. Alford as president, and J. H. Hillhouse as traffic manager and treasurer, with general offices at Sylvester.

The untimely death of C. A. Alford in September, 1908, caused the plans for a trunk line railway to the gulf to be abandoned.

After the death of his father, G. F. Alford was elected president, and soon thereafter, on account of the falling off of traffic, mostly forest products, the management decided to sell the road, and a sale was negotiated with the banking firm of Kissell Kennicutt & Co., of New York, for cash. This firm operated the road under the name of the Hawkinsville & Florida Southern Railway Company from 1909 to 1912, when they sold to the Southern Railway which continued its operation in the same name.

In 1921, application was made to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to junk and abandon the line on account of continued losses from operating. Permission was granted, and it was advertised by a receiver for sale. The portion between Worth and Hawkinsville was sold and junked, but a movement was started to save the line from Ashburn to Camilla. Committees were appointed to canvass the cities of Ashburn, Sylvester, and Camilla, and subscriptions were secured to cover half the sale price fixed by the courts, and the Pidcocks of Moultrie, and others, agreed to raise the other half, with the understanding that the road was to be operated by and under the management of the Pidcocks from Moultrie.

A new charter was obtained in the name of "Georgia, Ashburn, Sylvester & Camilla" in 1924, with directors in Ashburn, Sylvester, Camilla, and Moultrie, with the general offices in Moultrie, Ga., and the present stock is owned jointly by business men and property owners along the line and the Pidcocks of Moultrie. The road's operation under the management of the Pidcocks has been highly successful, and it has been paying handsome dividends to its stockholders every year.

# CHAPTER XI

## EDUCATION

### WORTH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SECOND TO NONE IN THE STATE

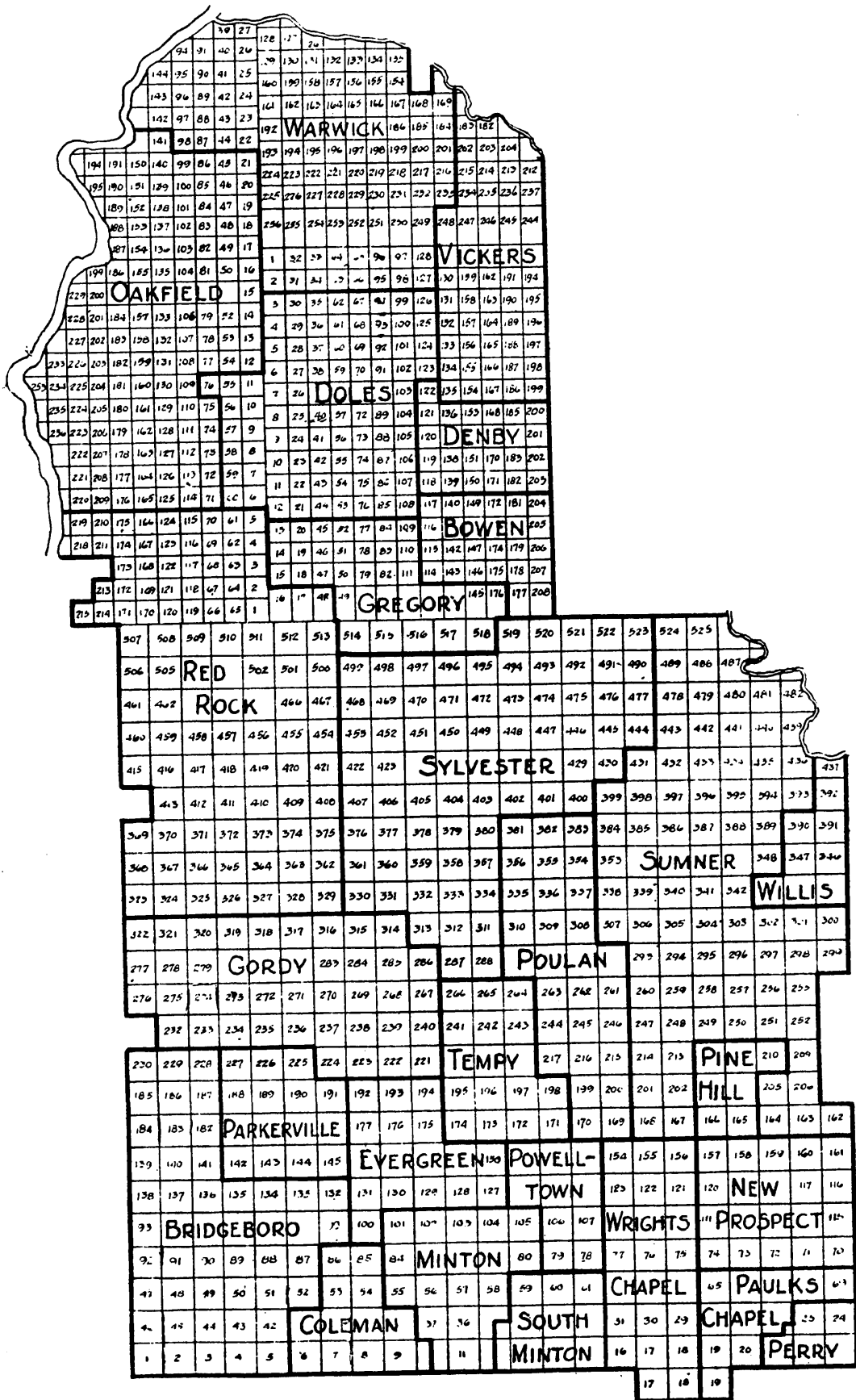
Worth County schools of the pioneer days were log-cabin school houses, many with white sand floors and big fire-places squatting in the pine forest, equipped with rude seats, and occupied by a few children, the teacher working under many difficulties, with short terms, no equipment, but having the undivided support of his patrons. Yea, more! for he was revered and looked up to by the whole community. He managed to instill into the pupils not only the three R's, but ambition, integrity, and the principles that have made Worth County great.

The trend to modern schools has been gradual. One by one the communities built better and more comfortable houses, better trained teachers were employed, and longer terms secured.

In the last decade several large consolidated school houses of brick have been built, and the county is taking the lead in the educational awakening of the age.

This county has the most capable, most conservative, and most considerate men on her county Board of Education, who are constantly striving to give a square deal to each school, and who have endeavored to plant schools on a solid foundation. The members of the Board this year, 1934, are Charles Strangward, of Sylvester, chairman; W. W. Tyson of Doles; I. J. Hancock of Minton; C. A. Thompson of Sumner; and G. M. Green of Red Rock, with M. C. Owen, county superintendent. The present Superintendent taught in the County for several years as Superintendent of the Sumner School. He knows all the problems of teaching and is ever ready, and knows how to guide, aid, and supervise his teachers.

The trustees of the various schools in the county have always done their best to secure the most competent teachers in their



MAP OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

respective schools and cooperate with the County Board and Superintendent in every way.

The pupils of our white schools are, with few exceptions, the purest Anglo-Saxon blood. They are apt in learning, and possess a splendid school spirit. Many of these have risen high in the educational world.

Contests are held in Agricultural Classes and many prizes have been won by Worth County boys. We have had the Master Vocational Agriculture teacher of the South, George I. Martin, as teacher of Agriculture in our Sylvester High School, and he does much work in the county along this line with adults. A more extensive write-up of his work may be seen elsewhere in this volume.

Home Economics is taught in all the Consolidated schools. Contests are held in the county, and our Home Economic classes rank second to none in the state. The county term is six months, but many of the schools add one, two, and three months.

The total number of white school children in the county is 3237. Total number of teachers is 106. Total number of schools is given below with number of teachers to each school.



REYNOLDS SCHOOL

**CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**

School	Teachers	No. on Roll	School	Teachers	No. on Roll
Sylvester .....	24	553	Evergreen .....	2	66
Sumner .....	11	374	Tempy .....	2	45
Warwick .....	8	214	Coleman .....	3	93
Poulan .....	6	201	Paulk's Chapel	2	53
Red Rock .....	4	129	Bowen .....	2	68
Bridgeboro .....	9	318	Davis .....	1	30
Vickers .....	4	143	Denby .....	2	75
New Prospect	4	118	Parkersville ..	1	28
Minton .....	5	119	Perry .....	2	71
South Minton	2	48	Pine Hill .....	3	83
Gregory .....	2	51	Powelltown ..	1	16
Doles .....	3	91	Willis .....	2	59
Oakfield .....	2	46	Wright's		
Gordy .....	3	92	Chapel .....	2	53

**NEGRO SCHOOLS**

The Negro Schools of our county are among the best in the state. The patrons appreciate the opportunity of an education for their children. A special feature stressed in the negro schools is industrial work. Many teachers have had normal training and graduates of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial College have been employed to teach in the county. In the employment of teachers the point of securing those that have had industrial training is kept in view.

In the years 1911 and 1912, through the generosity of Dr. James H. Dillard, President of the Negro Rural School Fund, New Orleans, a teacher was employed to travel over the county from school to school, giving lessons in sewing, cooking, needle work, basketry, wood work, and various other handiwork. This did lasting good to our colored citizens.

The number of colored schools is 40. The number of teachers is 48. The number of colored children in school in the year 1932 was 2364.

**McPhaul Institute, Sylvester's High School**

The first school that Sylvester had was a little one-teacher school. The building was on the lot where the home of Dr. T. C. Jefford now stands. It was very similar to the schools throughout the county at that time. Then a larger house with several rooms was built and several teachers were employed. This building was located where Miss Alice Tipton's home now stands. In 1903 McPhaul Institute opened its doors to the youth of Sylvester. The land, four acres, on which the new school building was placed, was given by Mrs. T. C. Jeffords as a memorial to her first husband, William H. McPhaul. In recognition of this generosity the school was named McPhaul Institute. In 1932 Mrs. T. C. Jefford gave eight acres of land northeast of the present building for a basket ball shell and for a new High School Building when the district sees a fit time for its erection.

The school boards worked for an increased efficiency of the school from the very first. Through their efforts and that of the teachers, pupils and parents, the school has become one of the outstanding schools in the State. It started with ten grades, superintendent, and six teachers.

The faculty for the first year it operated as McPhaul Institute is as follows:

Byron R. Collins, Supt., teacher of ninth and tenth grades.

Miss Lucy Mell Overby (Mrs. W. L. H. Alford) seventh and eighth grades.

Miss Alice Tipton, fifth and sixth grades.

Miss Mary Mangham, third and fourth grades.

Miss Bennie Watkins (Mrs. Clyde Wall) first and second grades.

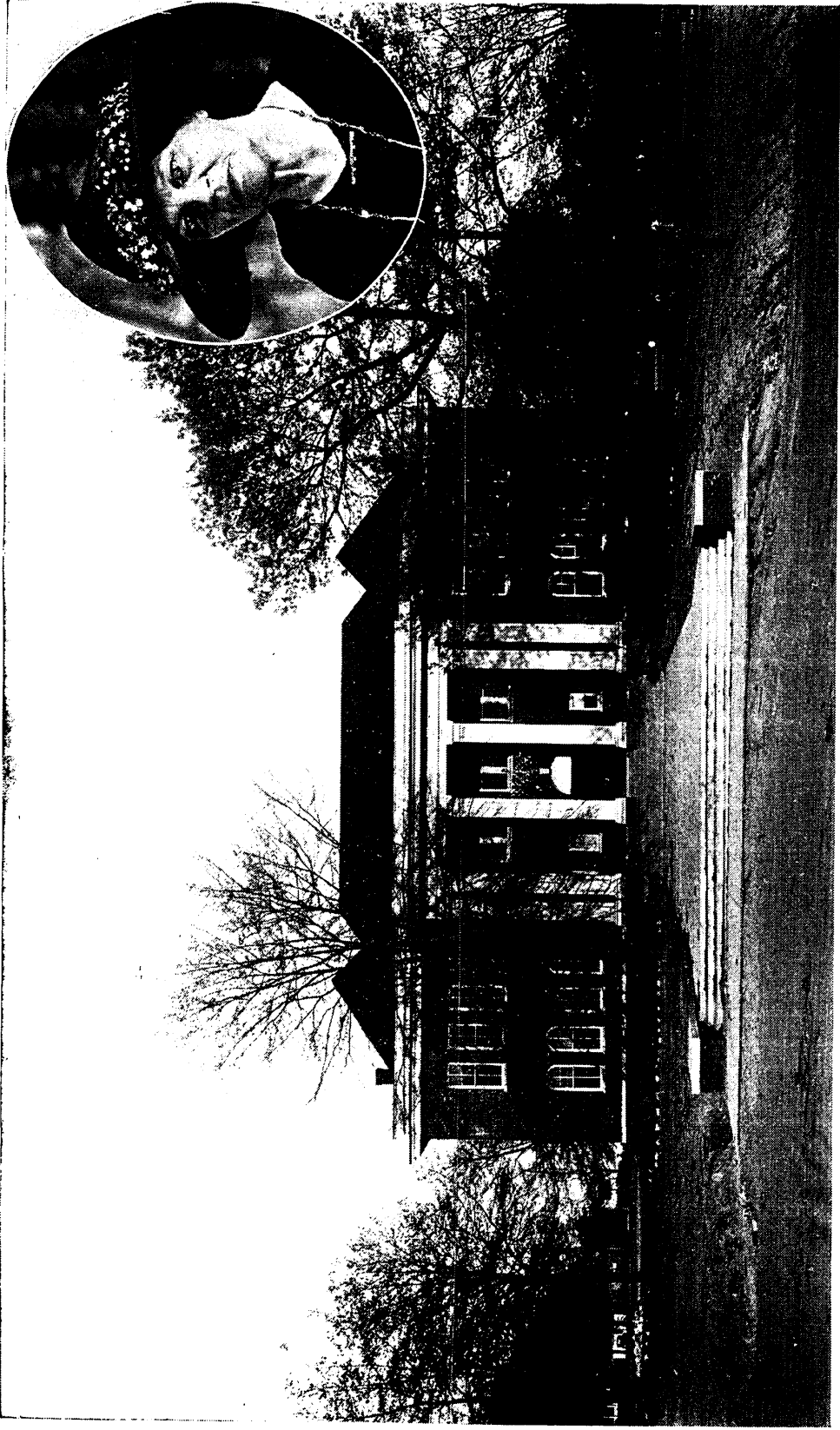
Miss Lois Allen, Music.

Miss ——— Jones, Expression.

Today it is an accredited school on the A-1 list with twenty-three teachers. It became accredited in 1916 and has remained on that list since that time. Its graduates may enter the colleges and universities without examinations.

In the school year of 1920-21 vocational work was introduced into the school. Home Economics and Agriculture have formed a regular part of the curriculum since then. Our Home Economics department has won many trophies in the





MRS. MAMIE (McPHAUL) JEFFORD AND McPHAUL INSTITUTE

District High School meets. Our Agricultural department is especially outstanding, first because of the teacher we have at the head, Prof. George I. Martin, he having won the distinction of being the Master Vocational Agriculture teacher of the South.

This school has extension courses in Agriculture that reach the farmers in the county through night classes. McPhaul has been used as a training center in Vocational Agriculture for the graduating students of the State Agriculture College since 1929. Two students are sent here each year for three months to get their practice teaching before graduating. McPhaul Institute is the only school south of Macon with this rating in Vocational Agriculture.

In the fall term of 1933, a commercial course in Bookkeeping and stenographic work with splendid equipment and an expert teacher has been added. The music department has varied courses, public school music, piano, violin, wind instruments and orchestra.

The student body is composed of most capable boys and girls and a fact worth mentioning is that only a very few students who have taken a collegiate education have failed to be splendidly prepared for the work, showing the ability of the student and the splendid work of the teachers. These facts taken from a census furnished by the heads of colleges.

McPhaul Institute is noted for employing home teachers, and those that live elsewhere, when employed here finally come to make Sylvester their home. It is also noted for the long service of its teachers, some having served more than twenty years. Among those are Mrs. R. A. Holmes, who resigned in 1933, Miss Elizabeth Norwood, who resigned in 1927, Miss Mary Mangham, Miss Alice Tipton, Mrs. Clifford Grubbs.

It has been fortunate in having school board members who served the community for a long term of years. Some of those who served in this capacity for a term of at least ten years are W. R. Johnston, A. H. Pinson, J. H. Westberry, J. S. Westberry, and R. L. Deariso. The last named has served continuously as secretary and treasurer since 1907.

McPhaul numbers among those who have passed through her graduating classes, scores of sons and daughters in all walks of life, who have brought honor to their High School Alma Mater. Many of these, too numerous to mention by name,

have become educators. Among these are Wylie Hollingsworth, Ph.D.; Riley Hollingsworth, Ph.D.; Sam Tipton, Ph.D.; Fulton Sikes, Ph.D.; Brooks Ford, LL.D., State Senator; Ralph Flanders, a writer of note; Lester Hardwick, who held the chair of English in Tulane University, now a writer; Rev. Guy Hicks, Louie D. Newton, D.D.; Walsey Hamby, M.D.; J. L. Tracy, M.D.; Frank Hillhouse, Lieutenant in the Navy; Merwin Shiver put Sylvester on the map in athletics at the University of Georgia; Kay Tipton, A.B. and LL.B., Manager of office of Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, Springfield, Mo.; Bob Heinshon, head office, New York Life Insurance; Miss Evelyn Deariso, A.B. Degree of Library Science; James Tipton, teacher of Math. in Tech High; Miss Elizabeth Foy, M.A., Science teacher in the Government School in Panama Canal Zone; Miss Janie Gulley, head of Welfare Dept. in St. Augustine, Fla. Many of the teachers of McPhaul belong to its alumni.

The faculty of McPhaul for 1933-34 is given below:

Eugene Attaway, B.S.A., Ph.B. ....	Superintendent
George I. Martin, B.S.A. ....	Principal
Milledge White, B.S.A. ....	Science and Coach
Miss Lizzie J. Deariso, B.S. in Ed. ....	History H.S. Sr.
Miss Josiebel C. Johnson, A.B. ....	Latin
Miss Winnie Overstreet, B.S. ....	Mathematics and French
Miss Nellie Pye, B.S. in Ed. ....	English H.S. Sr.
Miss Dorothy Randolph, B.S. ....	Home Economics
Miss Nancy Frazer, B.S.C. ....	Commercial
Miss Annie Mae Melton, Diploma Music ....	Piano
Miss Evelyn Strangward ....	Public School Music
Mr. H. M. Percilla, B.S.M. ....	Violin and Wind Instruments
Mrs. Earl Park, A.B. ....	Expression
Mrs. Clifford Grubbs, Life Professional	
Normal ....	Geography and History, Jr. H.
Mrs. E. J. Williams, Normal ....	English and Math., Jr. H.
Miss Marjorie Combs, Collegiate	
Normal ....	Reading and Geography, Jr. H.
Mrs. Lucy Mell Alford, Normal ....	overflow of sixth in Jr. H.
Miss Alice Tipton, Professional Normal ....	Fifth grade
Mrs. Mary Hillhouse, Normal ....	Fourth grade
Miss Mary Mangham, Life Prof. Normal, Normal Diploma,	
L.I. Degree ....	Third grade

Miss Adelaide Deariso, Collegiate Normal .....	Second grade
Mrs. M. P. Majors, Normal .....	First A class
Miss Mary Catherine Burts, Professional Normal .....	First B class
Mrs. J. L. Johnston, A.B. ....	Supply Teacher

**JUDGE PARK'S OLD FIELD SCHOOL**

In 1916 Dr. P. P. Claxton, Commissioner of the Bureau of Education, put on foot an investigation of methods used in any part of the United States and in foreign countries for teaching illiterate adult men and women to read and write. This committee, in making its report to Congress, reported that Worth County, Georgia, and Rowen County, Kentucky, had already been doing work of this kind, and that it had passed beyond the experimental stage and was a great success. The one in Rowen County, Ky., was a moonlight school which had done much creditable work, but Worth County's school was the first of its kind in America, and it had been successfully running for ten years. It was known as Park's Old Field School, and was first organized, taught, and financed by Judge Frank Park, himself, who was at that time Congressman from this district.

Copying from reports made to Congress, printed in bulletin form under title of "Park's Old Field School," is given the following from Hon. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior:

"The Old Field School of Worth County, its founder Frank Park, a member of Congress from Georgia, was begun in 1906, when he was judge of the superior court of the Albany Judicial Circuit. It has a picturesque history. It is in reality a homeless school, where Webster's blue back speller is the principal text book and where sex and age lose their perspective as they fuse into the desire and thirst for knowledge. Higher education there is an unknown quantity, because where an individual of 67 is busy mastering the intricacies of A. B. C.—side by side with a child of 10 years, higher education loses its importance in favor of elemental education. The school term begins as soon as crops are laid by and ends when the students must return to harvest them."

"Out of his salary Judge Park paid expenses, bought books, paid teachers, although the first year he taught the school himself.

“The school in Worth County shows that it is possible to bring help to illiterate men and women even in the most difficult and adverse circumstances. This school shows that the school can succeed whether the pupils be few or whether they run into hundreds. It shows that the spirit of seeking knowledge is paramount regardless of age and sex.”

The best report of the school in this bulletin was by Miss Edna Cain, who visited the school and made the report to the Georgia Educational Association. This report was printed in the Macon Telegraph and given to Congress by Hon. Dudley M. Hughes, of Georgia.

Below is given excerpts from her report made in 1916:

“Judge Frank Park seems to be the only man in Georgia who has hit upon the simple plan of establishing a school and paying for it himself, while waiting for the state to organize its educational forces, so that no man need be unlettered and no child turned away from the door of opportunity because it lacks trained and alert faculties.

“This Old Field School was primarily meant for adults who had never had the opportunity of going to school, but it became an opportunity school for those young men who had to work during the regular term of public schools and the children above 12 years of age who would like to add another month to the short county term. It often reached the hundred mark, and sometimes as many as three teachers were employed. The pupils of regular school age were taught in separate rooms or classes from the older ones. This school continued until the World War came on. Then Judge Park hired one of the county teachers to give all her time to hunting up illiterates or those who had little opportunity and were adults, and secured the services of the teachers in the respective communities to teach night schools. Some work of this kind has been done in the county ever since. George I. Martin, principal of the high school in Sylvester, who also has charge of the vocational work, has a night school about two nights each week composed of farmers who study agriculture and do some work along school lines.”

Report of Miss Edna Cain to the Georgia Educational Association.

#### **How the School Began**

Frank Park was Judge of the City Court of Worth County

when the idea of establishing this school first occurred to him. Before him came all sorts of people, many of them in trouble of some kind. He knew practically everybody in Worth County by name; he knew their family histories and the handicaps many of them worked under on out-of-the-way farms. He looked back of the evidence of legal cases to the causes and beginnings, and dealt with the people, not in the law's cold formulas altogether, but in terms of human understanding. In many of the adults who came before him he saw not stupid or vicious men, but rather a generation which had grown up just after the War Between the States and in those poverty-stricken and troubled times in the South which had not had opportunities for education.

He got into the habit of asking them if they could read and write, and in the cases of those who had apparently had little opportunity, penalties imposed were made as light as possible. A youth convicted in his court of some minor offense was asked the usual question, and when he said he could not read, Judge Park said: "I will suspend sentence against you if you will come to my house and let me teach you." The boy presented himself that evening, and there began his complete reclamation. Out of this sort of thing the school just developed logically.

Judge Park saw the great need of it, and when the idea had ripened in his consciousness he announced one day that he would conduct a free school for one month at the Worth County courthouse for everybody who wanted to come to it, just as if gathering in the country-side for tutelage was nothing unusual in the routine of a busy professional man. Over 50 pupils presented themselves on opening day. Among them was a Confederate Veteran who learned to read and write at the age of 61. Mothers and fathers, and even grandparents, came to the school, and at this first term, 21 persons learned to read and write.

It was evident from the beginning that the school was popular with the people and was doing a real definite good. Judge Park taught the school himself at the courthouse for several summers, and later, after he was elected to Congress, when his increasing duties made it impossible for him to give the time to it, he employed some of the best of the county teach-

ers, paying their salaries and buying the supplies for the school out of his own purse.

In response to a popular demand, the school was moved from the courthouse out to the country districts. Each year after the crops are laid by it is conducted for one month at one of the school houses, preferably in a remote community, where the school has not flourished as it should. It has been found that the school stimulates community pride and the regular school begins to improve and is better attended after a session of the "Old Field School," due to increased interest of the older members of the community in education.

### **The Blue Back Speller Used**

I spent one day at the "Old Field School" during the last session, and I recommend a similar visit by anyone who may have an idea that a school of this kind is a dull, behind-the-door, sort of place of which the community is not exactly proud. It was one of the happiest schools I ever saw. The day was hot and the ride long and dusty, and the school house was a little gray building with pine woods and fields around it over which the heat waves shimmered.

Judge Frank Park was hearing the morning spelling lesson when I arrived; it was not a written lesson, if you please, according to modern pedagogy; it was the kind of spelling lesson that goes with the "old oaken bucket that hung in the well" days, when we all stood around the room in a long line and the teacher gave out the words.

You have guessed by this time that Judge Park was using Webster's blue-back speller for that class. It was a large class standing up all around the room, all sizes and ages of boys and girls and grown folks. At this term of the school 167 pupils were enrolled and the services of three of the county teachers were engaged. With the teachers setting the example, the uniform adopted for the school was blue overalls and gingham dresses. The school room would not hold the students and out in front a brush arbor had been built to accommodate the overflow.

### **Practical Education Here**

All the lessons in mental arithmetic dealt with the practical every-day problems of farm work, the marketing of produce, estimating the amount of timber in a tree or the cost

of cutting a drainage ditch. Government bulletins selected by Judge Park with a view to the needs of his pupils were among the text books and the people became acquainted with the practical value of these bulletins and learned how to secure others they may need. One day in each week at the "Old Field School" is devoted entirely to farm-demonstration work, and one or more of the field agents in the employ of the Government come to give lectures on tick eradication, seed selection, and similar subjects in their propaganda of scientific farming.

### SUMNER SCHOOL—ITS EARLY HISTORY

Among the most distinguished early educators of Worth County was Prof. John Brantley. He came to Worth County from Hawkinsville, and first taught at Ty Ty, about 1880, later becoming Superintendent of the Sumner School. So outstanding was his work at this place that the school attracted students from different sections of South Georgia, and it became necessary to erect a more adequate building. In 1882 a large two story building was completed, which contained a large auditorium, class rooms, music department, and an apartment for the superintendent's family. The upper story was divided into rooms and used to accommodate the boarding students attending the school, and who lived in the school building under the supervision of the superintendent and his family.

The largest contributors to the building of the Sumner School were A. J. and C. A. Alford, who were residents of Sumner and extensive sawmill and turpentine operators.

Many of Mr. Brantley's students living in the county at this time (1933) bear testimony to the efficiency and thoroughness of the educational work done by this masterful teacher, among them being Mrs. F. B. Pickett, of Ty Ty; Mrs. W. R. Johnston, of Sylvester; Miss Alice Tipton, of Sylvester, and her brothers, J. H. and J. L. Tipton. The course of study planned and followed under his instruction was equal to an academic course. The thorough instruction given by him and the high principles instilled in his pupils continue to be of lasting benefit to them.

Other superintendents of the Sumner School in the early



days were Professors Witherspoon, H. A. Smilie, A. B. Greene, L. D. Passmore, J. W. Edmonson, Charles E. Grubbs, Clifford Grubbs, Walter Sumner.

The large wooden structure was burned about 1895, and was replaced with another commodious structure. At the present time (1934) it has a modern brick school building, well equipped in every way, and is one of the best accredited High Schools in South Georgia. Bonds were floated for \$27,000 to build this splendid school. It is on a six-acre lot and two building lots across the street from the school on which a home for teachers was built. \$26,250 was used for the school and \$750 for the home. It has since built a fine shell. It has a Home Economic and Agriculture department. It has eleven teachers with Superintendent John Etherage, a son of Worth County at the head in this year, 1934.