

1987

# A Bulloch Tapestry

Charles Bands

Daniel B. Good

Bill Lovejoy

Evelyn Mabry

C. D. Sheley

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Charles Bands, Daniel B. Good, Bill Lovejoy, Evelyn Mabry, C. D. Sheley, Rita Turner Wall, and David Williams



Readings in Bulloch County History: Book 6

INTRODUCTION

Our title, A Bulloch Tapestry, was inspired by the  
poem by Society LIFE member, Rita Turner Wall. Our  
articles in this Sixth Book of Readings in Bulloch County  
History provide a continuing opportunity for recording our  
heritage, giving individual effort, and recognizing

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Using letters submitted by LIFE member  
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Compiled by

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Charles Bonds  
Dan Good  
Bill Lovejoy  
Evelyn Mabry  
C. D. Sheley  
Rita Turner Wall  
David Williams

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By

Julius Ariail

Evelyn Mabry  
President

AUSPICES

BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 42  
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30458

1967

Readings in Bulloch County History: Book 6

# A BULLOCH TAPESTRY

AUSPICES  
BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Compiled by

Charles Bonds  
1987  
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Rise Turner Wall  
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By

Julius Arslan

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## INTRODUCTION

Our title, A Bulloch Tapestry, was inspired by the epic poem by Society LIFE member, Rita Turner Wall. Our articles in this Sixth Book of Readings in Bulloch County History provide a continuing opportunity for recording our heritage, giving expression to our members, and recognizing individual efforts.

At press time, the Old Bill Olliff House, Halcyondaze, home of C. D. and Lois Sheley, has received nomination from the state committee for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Sheley has written the history for us.

Dr. Dan Good edited papers on three Bulloch communities written by students in his Urban Geography class at Georgia Southern College.

Dr. Charles Bonds wrote short biographies of two outstanding Black citizens. These papers were read before the Historical Society in 1987.

Using letters (1862-1864) submitted by LIFE member Smith Banks from Asbury Wesley Hodges, a Confederate soldier, and extensive research in the State Archives, Georgia Tech student David Williams developed his narrative and transcription.

We have placed letters written (1864-1865) for Perry Lovejoy, Union soldier, in chronological order after the Hodges letters. Dr. Bill Lovejoy, longtime ornithology professor at Georgia Southern College recently retired, submitted these letters written for his great grandfather. The letters offer "a view from the other side." As with many of this era, including my own great grandfather, Perry Lovejoy could not read or write. He had to rely on others in his company to write to his wife for him. Spelling was highly "individualized."

War is exactly what Sherman said it was. Perry Lovejoy expressed the yearning of soldiers on both sides: "i wish this crouel ware was over so that we cold met to part no more for ever."

Kemp Mabry  
President

Statesboro, Georgia  
July 1987



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Statesboro, Ga  
February 23, 1987

Dear Dr. Mabry,

It began like this. When we bought this place in 1935, we put a little cabin on it to store our belongings in and to come to when we were in the area. Ernest worked with a construction company, roads, bridges, dams, which kept us on the road most of the time, but when they had to close down for business reasons or impossible weather, we would come here for a rest. We built the cabin close upon a depression that was plainly an old road. My mother who was born in 1896 knew nothing about the road though it was on land that formerly belonged to her father. So I began asking the older generation about it and learned it was indeed an old trace, a thoroughfare used by the old settlers who would gather up one another and travel in a caravan for safety when they went to Savannah town to trade. Statesboro was a n'uthin-burger at that time. Later I found the old trace plainly drawn on an old 1869 plat.

Months ago when I was working late at night in my cubby hole (Ernest napping by the kitchen hearth) I began thinking about that old trace and the old people traveling along it in the wee hours of the night. Thus the first episode, a caravan of old settlers on a forgotten trace a few paces from my front door. The second episode is a narrative about an infamous black sheep of an old founding family who was never seen again after the scene I described; it was said that he "went west." The third is about John Abbot. I don't know whether or not he watched sunsets, but being such an artist as he was, there is a 99 percent chance he was very aware of all of them. And of course no one knows when he died. His self-portrait is so over-powered by that stripped shirt I could not overlook it.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Rita Wall



## TAPESTRY ON A GEORGIA LOOM

By Rita Turner Wall

The night is still and dark,  
And I am quite alone,  
But in the light and shadows of my room  
    crowd a nameless, vicarious host.  
Pointed faces, anguished eyes, rounded visages uncouth,  
Pursed bloodless lips o'er snag-infested gums,  
Hollow, wiry necks; shoulders burly and humped and thin,  
Feet aristocratic and splayed and sparrow-toed.  
Hands knotted with infirmity and specked with sun,  
    palm-soled with grime, tapered, and fine-veined in  
    pedigree.  
The young and the old, stripling and maiden, man and matron  
    and burbling child,  
In homespun white and starched and mingled, hues of indigo  
    and walnut and pomegranate,  
Cambric and broadcloth and cotton from India.  
Of plenty and impoverishment.  
The thrifty and prodigal and parsimonious banded together,  
    for safety on the long trek to the distant coast.  
Their leader astride his horse, his jaw unhinged  
    'fore e'er he was born, giving him the look of an  
    idiot which he never was, gives the signal to move on.  
  
And now I hear their slow approach along the sunken road,  
Lost there three-quarters of a century.  
The heavy-wheeled hooded carts behind Georgia-bred mules,  
The chairs and buggies and loaded wagons, slow oxen tied  
    behind,  
Mount my sacrilegious lawn with grunts and squeaks.  
Kinsmen of King Alfred all, they would speak with him  
    and understand, across a thousand years,  
    as to me across one hundred.  
their forebearers were at Runemede and Crecy and Agincourt,  
    and they know it not.  
I hear their voices low in conversation discreet,  
Lest they rouse the sleeping bandits by the way,  
Talk of religion and court-scrapes, the price of eggs,  
Tales of ghosts and jack-o-lanterns fortelling death,  
Robbery in old Shivers Swamp,  
Gold in a shot sack folded for a pillow,  
    the take from a load of beaten rice.  
Mahogany sideboards, shoemakers and runaway slaves,  
Daniel McGirth, Wheeler's Cavalry, and demijons of apple  
    brandy,  
The good years of wine from muscadines,  
And Billy Sherman's locust hordes.  
And down the draw the conveyances lurch,  
Uncloven hooves squatter the waters of the shallow ford,

Mules and horses stop to drink, one by one,  
bringing "ho's" along the line,  
The humble oxen plaintively low.  
And now they go away, up the hill, each in his place  
after his fill,  
And at the crest a voice calls the signal to the house  
on yonder,  
Where gleams that feeble 'fore-dawn breakfast light,  
"Hel-lo, hel-lo up there ahead," and is answered back,  
"Hel-lo, hel-lo."  
The wheels creak and groan, the leather strains and on,  
Voices grow faint and are gone.  
Off in the distance stop some blind hill, another faint  
"Hel-lo,"  
And the sougning of the pines o'erwhelms all.  
The year is eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

The night is still and dark,  
And I am quite alone,  
But out of the blackness a signal light,  
Atop that distant highest hill,  
A little wax candle's obscure glow.  
And now--by telescopic sight--the open-shuttered window  
draws nigh, comes to me,  
And I see a coffin open wide, its tenant within,  
The aged patriarch who many a time tried it,  
lest his ebb and flow miscarry a fit.  
His shrunken visage and copper-weighted eyes,  
and wispy hair like bleached floss,  
His shrunken hands folded across his breast.  
And whisper quiet the voices of the waking few,  
who keep the cats away.  
A glitter of light on waxed mahogany and beaten silver,  
and filled decanter,  
Against the stolid backdrop, logs square-hewn and raw.  
And now from out of the density of the night comes a  
shape,  
Stealthily approaching the lighted window, and stands  
to gaze.  
His hands he loosely clasps behind his back,  
As he looks on all the furnishings within.  
All he remembers from daily familiarity,  
The splendor of accumulation against the rustic wall  
that was the start half a century back, and ne'er  
replaced,  
A beginning in the hinterlands of wild new Georgia  
in old Indian Times.  
He reckoned not how the flowering came from this embryo,  
The care, the thought, the plan that made it,  
The endless labor through endless decades,  
And miraculously escaped the ravages of War,  
And took naught from the pictured lesson.



He glanced on the sleepy-faces keeping watch,  
Heard their voices low, voices of his siblings.  
Heard his name, the name Mal, black Mal, Mal accursed.  
Saw the Will on a table spread, and by it ink and quill,  
Listened to the muffled lamentations of the freed slaves  
in their quarters,  
Dreading the future without their master's promised care.  
He turned and spit in hate and shook the dust from his  
soles, approached the lot.

In the dark he felt his way and the best saddle,  
Listened to the snores of the slumbering in the loft  
above,  
In silence saddled the finest mare and led her out.  
In the swamp he dismounted,  
Seized the piggin half-filled with gold, under a poplar  
tree.  
Last winter he had watched the old man inter it,  
When word came of Billy Sherman's march,  
Even as the slaves husbanded the sheep and mules and  
kine,  
Deep in Lotts Creek swamp, to the safety of the hummocks.  
He had retrieved it just past sunset.  
And now he dumped the heavy coins into his saddle bags,  
And flung away the piggin that was his dead mother's  
possession,  
From her Progenitor in Scotland,  
thus the black sheep son, Black Mal, returned home,  
And gone away again, all in the same night,  
Cut off by Will with an English coin, one shilling.  
the year is eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

The night is raw with scudding cloud,  
And mist blows in o'er the pine-bejeweled plains,  
And I enfolded in walls and silence am wrapped about  
in shrieking sound.  
The shrilling March wind wails and keens beneath the  
eaves.  
Subdued the great hoot owl in his swamp,  
Silent the shivering screech owl braced to a thrasing  
limb.  
The wrinkle-browed swine and winter-lean kine vie out  
in the barn,  
The sound of great freighters on the distant artery,  
Raise the blustery night to crescendo .  
But at will am deaf to boasting Nature,  
In this noisy animate throng alone.

The great half-disk of the sun floats in a blazing sea,  
Awash in blue icebergs and purple mist,  
A ship in the lee with a single lantern in her shrouds.  
Below in the darkening landscape, squashed in his  
corpulence,



An old man sits in his dooryard and watches the western  
line.

He thinks how he an Englishman from great London,  
A man schooled in Law,  
Came to the wilds of wild Georgia,  
A Province under King George turned State under a Republic,  
In pursuit of lepidopterous insects and butterflies,  
Sank his roots and ne'er retraced his steps.  
Gone his wife, his son, gone his land round which dynasties  
peak,

Now he is guest of a generous landlord for life,  
With promise of a place in the family's burying yard.  
His will is made. His chosen grave site waits.  
Behind him the shadows fill his lonely cabin, creeping  
down on mahogany cabinets filled with priceless  
hoard,

Begrudged the Royal Society in London, and never sent,  
Filched for his own hunger, for an artist must hold his  
creations.

Amazing spiders and butterflies, and rare flowers wild.  
The shadows creep down on myriad birds and moths.  
Fixed on vellum in rainbow hues, and hung on the rude  
walls.

His assigned servant comes forth, her tasks done,  
And goes in the gathering dusk to the quarters of her  
master's slaves.

His cat wakens, comes to the door and winds about his  
aged legs,

And wanders off for her nightly prowl.  
The buzzing flies settle for the night, and are still,  
A cow bell rings rapidly in the distance as the herd  
feeds fast in the fading light.

He sits and waits. John Abbot waits.  
About the little yard, inclosed with woven pales,  
Crowd multitudinous rampant flowers, and weeds high  
and rank,

In soil dank and rich from human habitation,  
The emptyings of all the pots, the dogs, the cats.  
Even as the lots of swine.  
The old man sits and waits.

Atop the rise lights spring up in the open windows  
of the high plantation house,  
And a man in his prime walks out,  
To escape the din of his howling brood and peevish wife,  
The shuffling heavy-footed slaves.

At a distance he stops and watches the old one  
watching the teeming phenomena in the west,  
the conflagration of sea and ship.

He thinks how the old one is content among his bugs and  
moths, his flowers and herbs, his dearth.  
He himself is a mercenary planter, his contributions  
only men.

The old one is an artist, his contributions rare art.  
He thinks how he could never be in the old one's place,  
And the old one could not be in his.  
He wishes peace from the bedlam of his house,  
and descends to the quiet cabin,  
Motioning the old one to sit still in his homespun breeches  
and stripped shirt,  
And himself sits down beside him, on the steps recently  
steadied to hold the great water-logged weight.  
He was conscious of the stench of old age, and turned his  
head away.  
They spoke of trivial things, the unceasing rains, crops.  
The old naturalist begrudged the loss of his musing,  
but was glad of company.

The moon is high and round above the trees,  
The ghostly ship has sailed away,  
A lone goatsucker fills the night with raucous warbles,  
A dog howls mournfully near at hand,  
Beginning the beat for a host of accompolises  
spread away and away,  
A round, unlearned counterpoint.  
The young corn blades are glossy,  
Gargantuan magnolia leaves cast back to the moon metallic  
light,  
Plate-sized flowers stare, and enhance the clean smell  
of night,  
John Abbot's days are numbered down.  
The year is eighteen hundred and thirty-nine.



## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE OLD BILL OLLIFF HOUSE

By C. D. Sheley

### The Land

In the beginning was the land and the land was given to John Tilman by Governor David B. Mitchell, who served a second term from 1809 to 1813. The land was registered November 13, 1812. A survey has been made in 1798 and mentioned John Tilman as the owner.

Why was the land given to Mr. Tilman? Mr. Marion R. Hemperly, Deputy Surveyer General for the Georgia Department of State, answered this way: "We have no record of reasons why our headright and bounty land grants were given. No formal applications were submitted by individuals, but they simply stated on ORAL oath to the land court. Therefore, we have no way of knowing what they might have said about themselves."

The land was a tract of four hundred acres of pineland on the Ten Mile Creek waters of the Canoochee, bound on the southeast and south by land owned by Gideon Tilman. The land on the northeast and northwest was vacant and not owned at the time Tilman received his grant.

John Tilman owned a toll bridge across the Canoochee which saved travelers many miles. The property, including the toll bridge, was sold to Jimirson Kennedy in 1864.

Bill Olliff, the Man

According to a deed found in the Bulloch County Clerk's office, William W. Olliff acquired part of the land from his father-in-law. The deed reads: "One hundred acres of 400 originally granted to John Tilman (note change in spelling from Tilman), on the east side of Ten Mile Creek. The deed was signed by Jimirson Kennedy and was given to Bill Olliff for \$100.

Interview with Mrs. W. A. Hammack

at her home, May 15, 1985

Mrs. W. A. Hammack is the former Miss Janie Eason, a great granddaughter of the original grantee, Mr. John Tilman. She said that Mr. Tilman once operated a ferry across the Canoochee River which saved miles of travel for the people of this area. He then constructed a long rickety bridge and charged a toll for those using it.

Mrs. Hammack remembered that Mr. Tilman built an inn for travelers on the Bulloch County side of the present Kennedy Bridge. However, no record has been found of an inn there. Newspaper accounts at the Statesboro Regional Library go back no further than 1892 and are not complete.

Mrs. Hammack remembers hearing that Jimirson Kennedy, the father-in-law of Bill Olliff, bought the land and the bridge from Mr. Tilman in 1864. However, no record could be found of that transaction.

The record of the deed transferring the property from Mr. Kennedy to his son-in-law is the first recorded account



found at the Bulloch County Courthouse. A fire at the Courthouse in the early 1900's destroyed tax records.

Bill Olliff had married Miss America A. Kennedy in 1868. Folklore has it that Bill and America lived in a log cabin from the time they were married until aforementioned 100 acres of land were acquired.

Bill Olliff started with nothing but at his untimely death in 1893, he was one of the richest men, if not the richest, in Bulloch County. He owned 30,000 acres of land, considerable livestock, had constructed a railroad through Adabelle to Register to Manassas and on to Glennville.<sup>1</sup>

He was instrumental in beginning the Excelsior Academy. In a document found at the Bulloch County Clerk's office, the wording says that the school "will be constructed at our own expense," and was signed by Reamer Franklin, W. W. Olliff, Jeff G. Williams, Jimirson Kennedy and John G. Jones. Mr. Olliff also signed a note to buy the school a "magic lantern" for \$40.

Bill Olliff became a "mercantile prince," with a store across the road from his house which approximated a modern department store. Citizens from all over the area came to trade and socialize.

According to research done by Miss Dorothy Brannen, prominent local historian, it is likely that William McKinley attended a picnic at Excelsior and spent the night at "Uncle Bill Olliff's House."<sup>2</sup>

On March 14, 1893, W. W. Olliff was taken ill suddenly and died six hours later.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Olliff died intestate and his son, John W. Olliff, was appointed as administrator for the estate. The petition to the County Ordinary stated that the estate left was worth \$132,000.

The Olliff family moved to Statesboro in 1897. Mrs. Olliff died June 22, 1900, and her share of the estate was also administered by John W. Olliff.

From Miss Dorothy Brannen's clipping from the Bulloch Herald, June 22, 1900: "Mrs. W. W. Olliff died yesterday evening about seven o'clock. The body was carried this morning to Excelsior for interment, where it was laid by the side of her husband and two sons, Jimps and W. W., Jr., all of whom have died within the past seven and a half years. She was the mother of Messrs. John and Lester Olliff, and of Mrs. W. Manassas Foy (Maxie) and Mrs. R. L. Sample (Janie), all of whom were present at her death. The three younger girls, Lucy 15; Allie, 13; and Annie Mae; were taken into her home by their sister, Maxie Foy."

#### The House

Bill Olliff and Eli Kennedy, his brother-in-law, hired Edward Ringwald, said to be an immigrant from the Black Forest, Germany, to build their houses. The census of 1880 shows that Edward Ringwald was a housebuilder from Prussia.

Interviews with direct descendants of Mr. Ringwald, Susie Mae Stephens and Judge Jerrell Davis, brought forth



the fact that he was known as a "master-carpenter." Judging from the artistry and craftsmanship found in the two houses, he was indeed a master builder. Mr. Ringwald's life ended in tragedy as he was shot in the back as reported in the Statesboro News, December 27, 1901.

Folklore has it that "Miss America" (Mrs. Bill Olliff) planted the huge magnolia tree shading the south side of the house as soon as it was feasible after the house was constructed.

It is obvious that Mr. Olliff wanted the finest house available for his wife. Still visible as a part of history is the fact that he used the best materials available. All of the building items possible were taken from the farm. Near the Ten Mile Creek is the excavation where he dug the clay to make the bricks used in the construction. He used heart-of-pine for lumber. It can be seen by the "bubbly" effect that some of the panes of glass were those placed when the house was built. A unique feature of the house was the installation of "hurricane bars." These bars were steel beams running the entire length of the house from north to south and from east to west.

The first official record of the sale of the house indicates that J. C. Mincey sold the property to J. H. Rushing on January 18, 1916. No document could be found which would indicate how Mr. Mincey came into ownership. However, his daughter, Mrs. Harold Smith (Miriam Mincey),

was interviewed during a visit to the house in 1986. Her father had never lived in the house. Mrs. Smith remembered that her mother told her that Mr. Mincey was able to start his department store in Claxton with the proceeds from the sale of the house.

According to Mrs. Smith, her mother, Fannie Myrtle Olliff, was 15 years old when she married James Mincey (J. C.).

There are four other families who have lived in the house.

#### The Tucker Family

According to Mrs. Nettie Tucker Lott, who was interviewed in Claxton, her father, Mr. Dimps Tucker, rented the place in 1897 and lived in it until it was sold in 1916. Nettie said that she was born in the house in 1900. "I loved it," she said, but her family was unable to buy it.

#### The Rushing Family

Mr. Kelly Rushing was interviewed during the '84 tornado and held a flashlight so I could see what I was writing. According to Mr. Rushing, who now lives two houses east of Highway 301 on the road to Nevils, his father, J. H. Rushing, bought the Bill Olliff property when it was put up for sale by Mr. Mincey, January 18, 1916. Mr. Rushing had health problems and lived in the house only three years. His widow inherited the property. Julia



"Sis" Rushing lived in the house until she sold her property, January 2, 1941, to Mr. Joe Emerson Durrence, father of the present owner.

#### The Durrence Family

Joe Emerson Durrence and Beulah Woodrum Durrence lived in the house until their deaths in 1974 and 1977, respectively. They appreciated its value and contributed a great deal to its upkeep and preservation. Mr. Durrence's farm was the last one needed by our government for training grounds at Fort Stewart.

#### The Sheley Family

Lois Durrence Sheley inherited the house from her father with the provision that it be shared with her mother until her mother's death. Lois Sheley named the house after the first part of her husband's original mailing address, Halcyondale, and the first part of her original mailing address, Daisy, thus producing "Halcyondaze."

Lois Sheley resigned her position at Headmistress of the August Country Day School (Elementary Form) in 1976 and began work on restoring the house in July 1976, with the help of Architect Fred Curlin. Her husband, C. D. Sheley, came from Augusta on weekends until July 1977, when he retired and joined her in the restoration of the house. The Sheleys had lived in Augusta and worked in the school system for 31 years.

## Spirit of Restoration

The spirit of restoration, rather than renovation, was transmitted to everyone concerned, especially to the physical workers. Everything in the old house had to be used in the restoration; nothing was to be discarded.

### Humor in History?

The workers were amazed at the little lady scampering about the rooftops, into the attics, and supervising every act of restoration. One ancient Black worker said to a youngster who was tossing the Olliff-made bricks from under the house, "Now you be careful with those bricks. That old lady loves this house."

Lois lived in the rather primitive circumstances for 12 months and did the dirty job of sandblasting inside the house. However, the miseries were offset as the beautiful grains of the old heart of pine timber shown forth from under numerous coats of paint.

### Solid Walnut

The biggest morale boost, according to Lois Sheley, was when she found the walnut staircase. She was so excited that she rushed out in her dusty sandblasting outfit and raced her farm truck to the Glennville Nursing Home to tell her mother that the stair rail was solid walnut. Her mother, Mrs. Joe (Beulah) Durrence said, "Oh, my goodness, I must have put 19 coats of paint on that thing myself." They were very happy and proud as they shared the moment.



## Discovered

The house was discovered in 1983 by Don Rooney, who was at that time historic preservation planner for the Altamaha-Georgia Southern Area Planning and Development Commission.

Rooney told Lois Sheley, "I stopped dead in the road when I saw it and almost caused a wreck." The time was National Historic Preservation Week and Rooney submitted an article to the Statesboro Herald in which he said, "The house possesses a unique character and personality."

The article continues, "The Sheleys have been careful to maintain and preserve the character and historic fabric of the house. A tour of the home shows the interior woodworking is essentially intact." His account continues, "The stairhall is the finest of its period in the area. Carved scroll brackets follow the curve of the solid walnut railing up to the second floor. The materials throughout the house are well crafted and unique. The mantels throughout the house are well crafted and show the work of a master artisan. As the custom dictated, the mantels in the front of the home are of higher style. The front rooms have panelled wainscoting and rich crown moulding. Pine flooring was used throughout the farmhouse."

The article continues, "The Sheley farmhouse shows traces of the Italianate style of that time as seen in the many uses of the arch on the front door, porch and chimneys. Another distinguishing characteristic of the

style is the use of the ornaments in pairs as seen on the brackets under the roof eaves and also decorating several of the mantels."

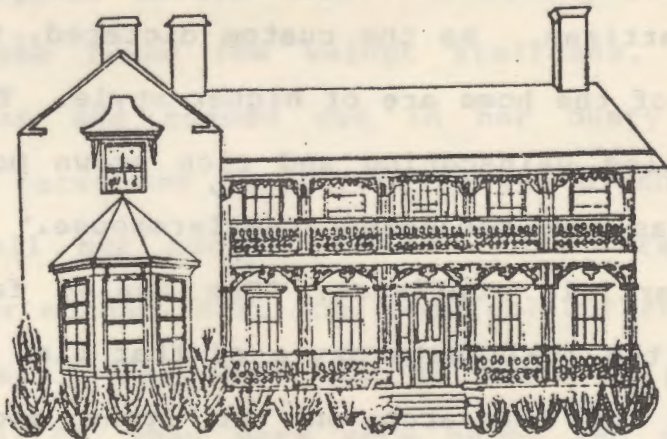
The Bulloch County Historical Society's 1984 Heritage Tour of Homes on June 3, featured the Old Bill Olliff House and the Eli Kennedy House.

Miss Robin Brown, Historic Preservation Planner, Altamaha-Georgia Southern Area Planning and Development Commission, has worked closely with the Sheleys for two years and has filed an application for the house to be named to the National Registry of Historic Places.

#### The Future

We know the meaning of the word "love" and it is our prayer that this old house will be as well loved and preserved in the future as it is now.

## 1984 HERITAGE TOUR OF HOMES



Olliff-Rushing-Durrance House (circa 1870)



AN HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY SURVEY OF  
ARCOLA, NEW HOPE, AND DENMARK, BULLOCH COUNTY, GA

By Daniel Good

Georgia Southern College

Bulloch County was once the scene of dozens of small, rural agrarian communities. A few, like Statesboro, Brooklet and Portal, grew into towns. Others, which once served a rural heavily populated agricultural hinterland, declined in population. Some are now characterized by abandoned stores, empty streets, silent railroad sidings, ramshackle houses, and some have completely disappeared. In the countryside surrounding them, pine forests mask evidence of old cotton fields. Empty tenant houses or a pile of brick that was once a chimney are mute evidence of a once densely inhabited rural countryside. These once thriving towns are now mere crossroads that we pass on to someone else.

One such community that declined in importance was Arcola, located east of Brooklet. Here the railroad caused the rise and fall of this community. Still standing in the town are a few houses. Gone are the depot, the still, the lumber mill and the Post Office.

Unlike Arcola, New Hope, a small black community south of Register, has survived the dramatic changes taking place in rural Georgia. New Hope, centered on a church of the same name, began as an agricultural community after the

Civil War but today serves primarily as a bedroom community for the local Black population. The All-Black rural community is unique and seems to be a growing phenomenon in parts of the rural Georgia.

The third paper deals with Denmark, Georgia, a community which has experienced many transportation innovations over the years. Originally, a small agricultural community based on horse and wagon transportation, Denmark's greatest boom occurred during the heyday of the Sherwood Railroad. The bankruptcy of the railroad in the 1930's, mechanization of agriculture and de-population of rural areas led to its demise. Today, Denmark is greatly influenced by Statesboro, located 10 minutes away.

All papers were completed by students in an Urban Geography class under the direction of Dr. Daniel Good at Georgia Southern College. It is hoped that additional research will be done on these communities and that more small communities in Bulloch County will be examined.



## ARCOLA, GEORGIA

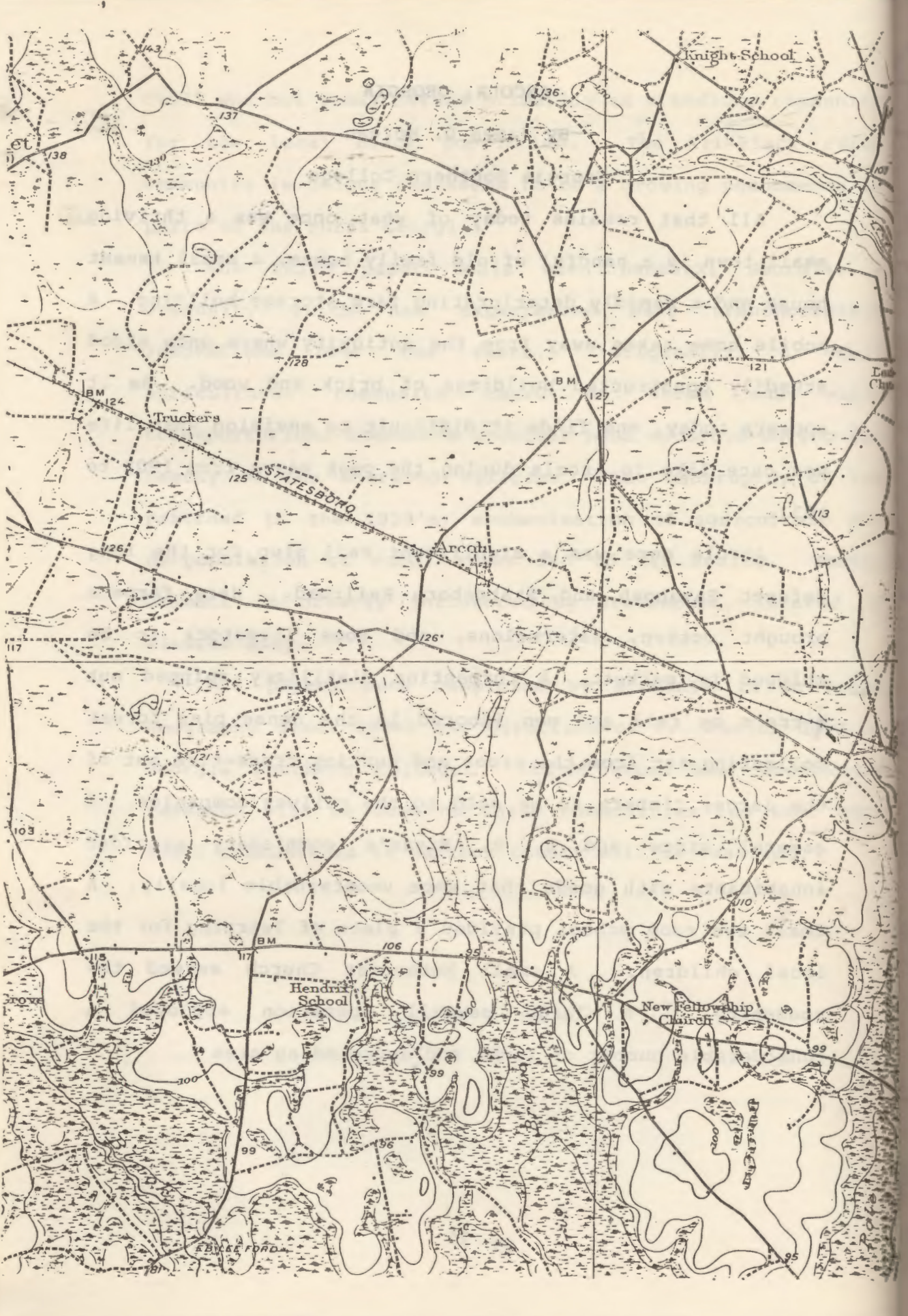
By James D. Morgan

Georgia Southern College

All that remains today of what once was a thriving small town is a handful of old family homes, a small tenant house and a rapidly deteriorating farm storage building. A mobile home takes away from the antiquity where once stood sturdily constructed buildings of brick and wood. As it appears today, one finds it difficult to envision what life was once like in Arcola during the peak years from 1902 to 1933.

Arcola once was a significant rail stop for the long defunct Savannah and Statesboro Railroad. Here farmers brought cotton, watermelons, and some livestock to be shipped to market. A turpentine distillery shipped out barrels by rail and men labored in the dense pine forest collecting tar from the trees and cutting cross-ties out of the larger timbers to be sold to the railway companies. A general store and R. R. Bryan's commissary provided inhabitants with goods that were unobtainable locally. A small two room school provided a place of learning for the local children. A small Methodist Church served the community. A large sawmill operation employed a considerable number of local and surrounding area







inhabitants. It was a bustling small town at one time, but now it is mainly a memory in the minds of women and men who lived their childhood years in Arcola. The purpose of this study is to examine the location and subsequent growth and decline of Arcola.

## History of Arcola

Arcola is the name of a northeast Italian town where Napoleon's troops encountered and defeated an Austrian force. The name is said to be a favorite railroad company coined name for numerous towns throughout the United States! It was thought that perhaps the Arcola of Bulloch County was so named, but information obtained from Bulloch countians contradicts this opinion. The S&S railway, from 1902 until 1933 connected Statesboro to a Seaboard line below Blitchton and provided a major freight and passenger line service to a terminus in Savannah. Old post office records indicate that Arcola was a registered post office in the year of 1877<sup>2</sup>, and this predates the construction of the S&S line. (See Fig. 1)

Through interviews with Lenwood McElveen and Wilford L. Hagin, (both men spent their childhood years living in Arcola) it was uncovered that Arcola was the name of the 47th district polling place (commonly named the "Briar Patch District"). Mr. McElveen's great grandfather lived in this Arcola and was the proprietor of a store that also served as a post office. The location of this Arcola was about seven or eight miles west of what now is known as Arcola (approximately two miles from Akinsville on Mr. F. C. Rozier's farm). In 1902 P. R. McElveen moved his family and business to the present site and perhaps also brought



Fig. 2  
1909





the name with him.<sup>3</sup> Mr. McElveen's business flourished and was passed on to his son, William L. McElveen, who was Arcola's last postmaster and ticket agent. He maintained a thriving retail business from the family store and successfully ventured into other enterprises during Arcola's peak years. (See Fig. 2)

#### Commercial Activity

Arcola had several commercial operations of significance that included McElveen's General Merchandise, T. R. Bryan's turpentine distillery, a cotton gin and the Zicgraft sawmill. The proximity of such operations to the rail line was necessitated by the lack of transportation routes to market areas and the limited capacity of a horse or mule drawn wagon. More rapid transportation to markets was provided by the rail service for such perishable goods as watermelons. Cotton was ginned and bailed nearby because of its weight and bulkiness. Pine tree forests were abundant and provided the pine tar necessary for the production of turpentine as well as a source of timber for the sawmill. Much horse trading and bartering of goods were carried on among local folk.

#### Functions of Arcola As Related By Interviews With Lenwood McElveen And Wilford L. Hagin

From personal interviews with Lenwood McElveen and Wilford Hagin, as insight into the daily life of Arcola as it was during its peak years can be basically reconstructed.

According to Mr. Hagin, who lived and worked in Arcola, on one given day, he, as a young man, assisted in loading 150 train cars with watermelons. The watermelons brought a price of between 300-400 dollars per car load, a considerable sum of money for the times. The cars were backed up all the way to Truckers<sup>4</sup> (Shearwood). Mr. Hagin further relates that a roundtrip ticket to Savannah cost about \$1.50, which he paid each day as a teenager to attend business school in Savannah.

Mr. McElveen reveals activities concerning his father's mercantile business. He describes the store as being a two story brick structure, complete with its own hand crank elevator. In the store, a wide variety of goods were sold. Lenwood tells of fresh fish arriving from Savannah by rail to be iced down and sold by Saturday. Customers bought live chickens and milk cows from his father. Mr. McElveen remembers his father and a prospective customer bickering over the price of a hog. The elder Mr. McElveen was asking 2.5 cents per pound for his hog and the customer offered 2 cents per pound. No compromise was reached as the last offer was 2.25 cents per pound, and Mr. McElveen decided to keep his sow.

The turpentine still owned by Mr. T. R. Bryan provided around 100 jobs at the height of its operation and continued production until 1942. During the interview I learned that at one time my great uncle, Wiseman White, was one of T. R.'s "stillers." (still operator)



## Reasons For Arcola's Decline

Arcola, like so many other small towns, owed its existence to the railroad. With the coming of the federal highways, the alternate mode of transportation provided by the automobile, the railway fell into a steady decline. Other factors included out migration of the young people who were seeking an education or a more meaningful way of life that the larger cities offered. The boll weevil wrecked the cotton industry. Over harvesting of pine timber caused a decline in production of lumber and turpentine. Automation of farming techniques took jobs away from tenant farmers. The great depression of the late 1920's and 1930's further doomed any growth in Arcola. Ironically the last run on the S&S tracks was made by trains carrying gravel to speed the completion of U.S. Highway 80. The last year of operation, the S&S showed a profit for the first time in several years of \$8,000. (See Fig. 3)

## Personal Glimpses

I came to live in the Arcola area at the age of 13. By that time the "town" was much as it is today with little evidence of its past indicated by its present appearance. It was as it is now, only a handful of family homes and a few farm workers' houses. This was in 1962, and still Mr. William L. McElveen, by this time quite elderly, ran a small store from his home.



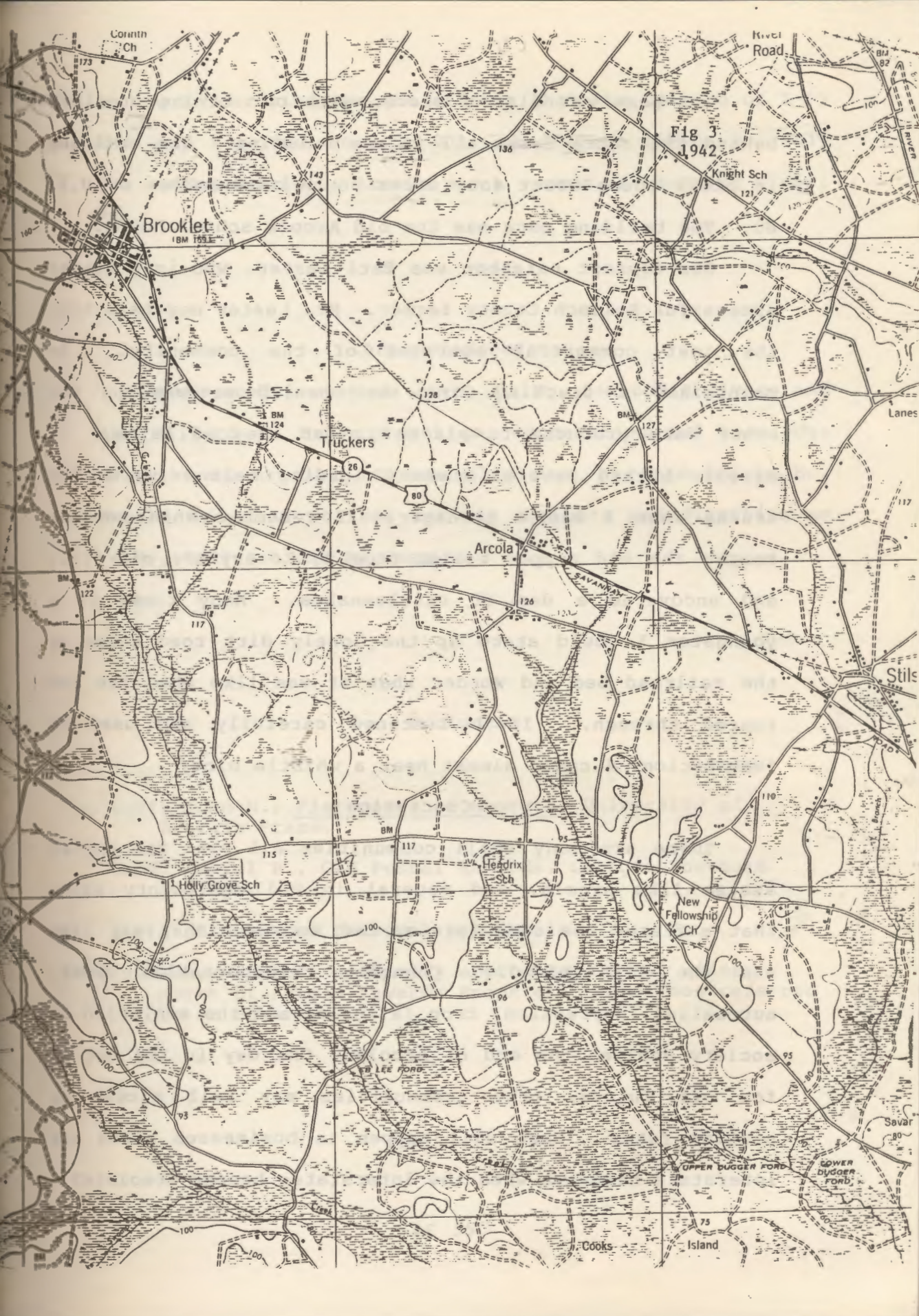


Fig 3  
1942

Brooklet  
BM 159

Truckers  
26

Arcola  
80

Holly Grove Sch

Hendrix Sch

New Fellowship Ch

Cooks

Island

Stiles

Knights Sch

Corinth Ch

River Road

LEE FORD

UPPER DIGGER FORD

LOWER DIGGER FORD

SAVANNAH

CREEK

CREEK

ROAD

ROAD

Lanes

117

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Our home was also a store, with our living quarters behind the store front all in one building. The building is still there about four miles south of Brooklet on U.S. 80. The building once was the old Arcola school house.

Our closest neighbor was Earl Lester, who is a rather successful Bulloch County farmer. Mr. Lester may have been the last commercial operator of the community. He maintained a trucking line that hauled watermelons and other farm products to places as far away as Maine. I, myself, worked several summers loading melons on to the trucks when I was a teenager. I remember when someone bought the old copper boiler from T. R. Bryan's old still and uncovered a den of rattlesnakes. Many times as a youngster I would stare up the lonely dirt road known as the railroad bed and wonder what it was like when the S&S roared through. If I listened carefully and used my imagination, I could almost hear a whistle blow.

#### Conclusion

There are many small communities all over the United States like Arcola, and several in Bulloch County alone that suffered the same fate as did Arcola. The rail line was the life blood. Changing transportation modes, automation, depression, crop failures, and the evolution of society spelled the end of Arcola. One day in the not so far off future, other communities may fall victim to similar fates. What will happen to businesses along our interstate highways when the interstates become obsolete?



We can in our time see the effects that the opening of I-95 and I-16 have had on U.S. 301. As far as cities go, only the strong survive. Arcola was a victim of changing times.

### Acknowledgements

Much credit must be given to Mr. Lenwood McElveen and Mr. Wilford L. Hagin for time, cooperation and knowledge relative to Arcola. Thanks also must be extended to Mr. Gerald Brown of Stilson for his insights and directing me to Mr. McElveen and Mr. Hagin.

### Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup>Goff, John H., Placenames of Georgia, University of Georgia Press.
- <sup>2</sup>Good, Daniel B., Old Postal Records, Georgia Southern College.
- <sup>3</sup>Non substantiated personal hypothesis.
- <sup>4</sup>Truckers--a small community approximately two miles north of Arcola towards Brooklet. Sometimes referred to as Shearwood.

## NEW HOPE, GEORGIA:

### FROM A FARMING COMMUNITY TO A BEDROOM TOWN

By Gregory Alan Baker

Georgia Southern College

New Hope, Georgia, is the all-Negro community to be discussed in this paper. The discussion of the community will be in two parts: first, the discussion will center around New Hope's history, second, the discussion will focus on New Hope as the community with emphasis placed on factors that may account for its present status.

New Hope is located 2 miles southwest of Register, Georgia, on what was once a major transportation route through the Bulloch County area along the Burkhalter Road. The present population cannot be specifically determined but it is estimated that 200-300 residents live in the area.

The above facts were stated in an attempt to place the all-Negro town in perspective. The fact that so many have survived for so long supports a quote by Kilian and Grigg:

For over two hundred years the Negro has not been a stranger in the land. He has nonetheless found himself isolated economically and socially in the land of his birth. Whether on the plantation of the Old South, in the Smokey Hollows of southern towns, or in the Black Belts of the cities, Negroes have created and sustained Negro communities which are enduring, not evanescent realities.<sup>2</sup>



## Limitations of the Study

The limitations of the study were:

- 1) The unwillingness of older residents of the New Hope community to submit to interviews.
- 2) The unwillingness of the residents to answer questions truthfully.
- 3) Time was not available to interview as many residents as the researcher would have liked to have interviewed.
- 4) Because of the lack of basic knowledge about the community, it will sometimes be difficult to talk about specific occurrences.
- 5) No documented material was found that pertained to the New Hope Community.
- 6) All conclusions were drawn from personal interviews with residents.

## Need for the Study.

The need for this study was based partially on the fact that it was conducted as partial fulfillment for Urban Geography 452/652 and secondly, there have been numerous articles written on place names, old central places, etc. in Bulloch County; however, nothing is documented pertaining to Black history in Bulloch County. Hopefully, this study can be used by another researcher with time and the resources to delve into more detail and properly record Black history in Bulloch County that appears to have been ignored!

## Historical Glance at New Hope

New Hope appears to have emerged during the post-Civil War period. From 1840 up to the War Between the States

cotton became more and more favorable as a money crop for farmers in Bulloch County. As the more prosperous farmers made money off their crops, many invested in slaves. In 1850 there were 1460 slaves in Bulloch County and in the 1861 tax digest, this had grown to 2,164 slaves. New Hope, Georgia is located in the 45th Militia District where there were 297 slaves recorded in 1861<sup>3</sup> (See Fig. 1) With the emancipation of the slaves, many of the former slaves remained in the area because of the lack of money to move elsewhere and loyalty to former slave owners.<sup>4</sup>

New Hope Church was organized in 1874 as a black church under the leadership of Father Styles<sup>5</sup> under the "brush harbor". Honoring a dream that one church member had while<sup>6</sup> under the "brush harbor" the congregation built their first church in the late 1870's on land donated by "Mr. Olliff" on a sand ridge, probably not good for farming. This church was the hub of the farming community for many years. Late in 1908 there was disagreement among the church members resulting in the organization of the New Bethel Church, a black congregation, about 250 yards away.<sup>8</sup> New Hope Church has been the center of the community for as long as most members that were interviewed for the study could remember. As the community grew the name New Hope was adopted as the community's name,<sup>9</sup> perhaps reflecting the aspiration of the citizens living there.







The community's first school, an old wooden structure, was located next to the old New Hope Church, but this school was torn down and moved across the street to where the present brick structure now stands. Before the brick structure that presently stands, there was a second wooden school built on the same location.<sup>10</sup> (See Fig. 2)

An educational survey was conducted in Bulloch County in 1915 describing the Negro Schools in Bulloch County:

Beyond the fact that an effort is being made to put the emphasis on sanitation, and to introduce certain forms of light industrial work into the Negro Schools, there is nothing particularly deserving notice. The schools were photographed and the pictures<sup>11</sup> will serve to show their general physical condition.

In 1955 the brick school was constructed and all the other schools in the area were closed and consolidated. During the early 1960's this brick school was closed and consolidated with the Register, Georgia Schools and eventually with the Statesboro Schools.<sup>12</sup>

There is one paved road in New Hope. The New Hope Road, formerly called the old Burkhalter Road, was paved soon after the school was built in 1955.<sup>13</sup> This road serves as the main transportation artery into New Hope.

The New Hope Community was once a large farming community with both black and white families farming in the area.<sup>14</sup> In 1913, Fred (Fed) Lanier had a large store which the community supported. The farmers in the community grew corn, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, and soybeans. Times were not always as prosperous as they were in the earlier days.



Fig 2  
1918 a.m.



118 SCOTT GREEN



One resident can remember working for \$.30 a day. Mrs. Washington remembers times as being hard during World War II when sugar and leather goods were extremely difficult to obtain.<sup>17</sup>

In November 1901, the Perkins Lumber Company announced that the Glennville/Register Railroad would be completed.<sup>18</sup> The railroad ran through the New Hope Community but did not stop for passengers. Most residents that remember the train stated that they had to walk to Register in order to catch the train. Train service continued until about 1915 when the Glennville/Register Railroad was acquired by East Georgia Railway.<sup>19</sup>

The New Hope Community experienced most of its growth during the late 1950's. During this period and into the early 1960's the farmers began to sell land, which was eventually used to construct homes upon.<sup>20</sup> Population census data on New Hope is not available. However, the population is estimated to be between 200-300 people.<sup>21, 22, 23</sup> During the mid 1960's an exodus from the farm into the surrounding cities began as farmers sought better wages and working conditions.<sup>24</sup> Then, between 1969-1981 the population of New Hope tripled as conditions improved. During the late 1960's New Hope Market/Laundry was constructed by Edwin Akins and Mr. Wigfall. This structure was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Washington in the early 1970's and is operating today.<sup>25</sup> The Big "O" and Joe's Place serve as



two places of social function within the community.<sup>6</sup> The school that was constructed in 1955 still stands but has been abandoned. All the school children are bused to Statesboro to attend school. Most of what was farmland around the original New Hope is now residential with single family dwelling units consisting of mostly mobile homes. The farmland that is still available is white-owned and one resident stated that the "rent is just too high to farm profitably."<sup>27</sup>

Today New Hope is an all-Negro community that serves as a "dormitory town" with many of its residents working with firms outside the area such as Brooks Instrument, ITT-Grinnell Corporation, Cooper-Wiss, Claxton Poultry, and independent tree harvesters.<sup>28</sup>

#### Urban Geographical Concerns

New Hope Community as it stands today could be considered a suburb. The suburb is chiefly a sleeping place for its residents who work in nearby towns or cities, and characterized by large portions of the population commuting out of the community to work and then returning to the suburb in the evenings. Murphy also states that suburbs are "suppliers of labor and consumers of commodities whereas satellites are consumers of labor and suppliers of commodities."<sup>29</sup>

The sphere of influence of New Hope, Georgia reaches into the Statesboro and Claxton areas as a provider of

laborers for the major manufacturers and producers in these areas. It is in the opinion of the author that the future of New Hope will be dictated by the success of major employers in the area such as Brooks Instruments, Cooper-Wiss, ITT-Grinnell, Georgia Southern College, T.J. Morris Company, and Royden Wear, Inc.

New Hope has no central business district or any other basic economic functions which brings money into the community. Therefore, if the community is to grow, the firms that employ its residents have to continue growing.

Murphy states that "one of the most substantial and practical concerns of human geography research in recent years has had to do with urbanization of the country's minority groups especially its black population." Along with the urbanization has come residential segregation which in the words of Murphy "has become a common characteristic of American life."

Blacks and other minorities are forced to live where they have some control over their lives. There are numerous forces that may affect the growth of black suburbia. These are: (1) racial - "birds of a feather flock together" and (2) economic - people live where they can most afford to live. These factors have affected New Hope, and more importantly in the New Hope case is that most of the residents that are living in the area where they grew up and which will be home for some time to come.



## Appendix

Personal Interview, Judge Frances Allen, May 11, 1981,  
5:30 P.M.

Community is fairly new, formed during 1950's.

Population not exact 200-300 residents.

Community started as farmland: both black and white families.

Community name probably came from church.

3 churches in area: New Hope, St. Paul, Adabelle.

From farming community to bedroom town.

Early 1950's school built.

1960's land owners began to sell farmland, construction of homes began about this time.

Late 1960's store/laundry built by Akins & Wigfall sold to the Washington's 1970's.

During last 12 years town (community) has tripled in population size.

Exodus from farms, time? Reasons plants opened: better wages, better working conditions.

Violence in Area - quieted last 5 years.

Residents of community now work:

Claxton Poultry

ITT-Grinnell

Brooks Instruments

Cooper-Wiss

Georgia Southern Ccllege

Farm

Forestry

Social places:

The Big "O"

Willie Joe Grant's Place

Personal Interview, Willie Belle Brunson, Juanita Washington  
Alma Mincey, Estelle Ellis, May 14, 1981, 3:00 P.M.

Community grew up around the church.

3 New Hope churches. First one built around 1874, 106  
years old this year.

- 1) Church large wooden structure blown down by wind  
storm.
- 2) Church rotted torn down early 1970's.
- 3) Present church built in early 1970's.

Old School/hall used to be located near old church.  
In 1914 torn down and moved across street and second  
wooden school built. Second church torn down to construct  
present brick building.

Old paved road after new school built 1955.

Railroad did come through area, however, it did not stop.  
Stopped in Register.

1913 Fred (Fed) lanier had large store in area to serve  
residents.

Turpentine Industry was big business in Bulloch County  
- New Hope area until 1975.

Not many farms left in the area - those left white-owned,  
rent very high.



Personal interview, Girtie Mae Johnson, May 14, 1981,  
2:45 P.M.

Road paved in 1955 after school was built.

Two Churches, first torn down, parts sold to build second.

New Church building constructed in 1973.

Personal Interview, Jennie Lee, May 14, 1981, 2:30 P.M.

Member of New Hope Church for 54 years.

Mother of the church; husband Deacon, died in 1969.

Old school located near church.

New wooden school was built where present block school  
now stands.

Personal Interview, Mr. and Mrs. Washington, May 15,  
1981, 3:30 P.M.

WWI times were very hard, ration food (sugar & leather  
goods hard to acquire).

Depression time hard - no money.

Farmers moved to city for jobs better wages mid-60's.

Mr. Washington remembers working for \$.30 a day.

Whites owned many farms/rent now - rent extremely high.

Personal Interview. Tim Minson, May 11, 1981, 3:15 P.M.

Most people that live in the area, born there, parents lived there!

Population: 300+

Population works:

Cooper-Wiss  
ITT  
GSC  
Farm

Personal Interview, Delois Johnson, Secretary New Hope Church, May 15, 1981, 4:30 P.M.

Church Organized in 1874.

Organized under leadership of Father Styles - meeting place under "Brush Harbor".

Presently Membership of Church - 112.

Land Church was built on was given by a "Mr. Olliff".

Pastors - 1874-1936:

Father Styles  
Rev. J.D. Douse  
N.H. Whitmere  
W.W. Witherspoon

- 1936-1938

Jones

- 1938-1961

Johnson

- 1962-1967

J.B. Bates

- 1967-

Lee Hunter

1962-1967 - J.B. Bates started new church but it was not completed under his leadership.

Church name: was a dream "under brush harbor" - was New Hope Church emerged from dream.

School closed in 1965 (approximately).

New Bethlem Church is a branch of New Hope Church. Was disagreement among members, some left started new Church 73 years ago 1908.

3 social places in the area:

Joe's Place  
Big "O"  
Robinsons 1950 thru 1967

Population of community 250-300.



## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup>Personal Interview. Frances Allen, May 11, 1981.
- <sup>2</sup>Harold M. Rose. Geographical Review. vol. 55. p. 370.
- <sup>3</sup>Coleman. Story of Bulloch County, pp. 64-75.
- <sup>4</sup>Personal Interview.
- <sup>5</sup>Personal Interview, Delois Johnson, May 15, 1981.
- <sup>6</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>9</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>10</sup>Personal Interview, Washington, Mincey, Brunson, Ellis, May 14, 1981.
- <sup>11</sup>M.L. Duggan, Educational Survey of 1915, p. 72.
- <sup>12</sup>Personal Interview, Washington, Mincey, Brunson, Ellis, May 14, 1981.
- <sup>13</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup>Personal Interview, Mr. & Mrs. Washington, May 15, 1981.
- <sup>15</sup>Personal Interview, Washington, Mincey, Brunson, Ellis, May 14, 1981.
- <sup>16</sup>Personal Interview, Mr. & Mrs. Washington, May 15, 1981.
- <sup>17</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup>Coleman, Leodel, Century of Progress: Statesboro 1866-1966, p. 502.
- <sup>19</sup>Personal Interview, Washington, Mincey, Brunson, Ellis, May 14, 1981.
- <sup>20</sup>Personal Interview, Frances Allen, May 11, 1981.
- <sup>21</sup>Ibid.

- 22 Personal Interview, Tim Minson, May 11, 1981.
- 23 Personal Interview, Delois Johnson, May 15, 1981.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Personal Interview, Mr. & Mrs. Washington, May 15, 1981.
- 28 Personal Interview, Frances Allen, May 11, 1981.
- 29 Personal Interview, Delois Johnson, May 15, 1981.

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## DENMARK, GEORGIA

By Paul T. Marlatt

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### Introduction

There is an urgent need to preserve the history of the small largely unincorporated towns of early Georgia that make up much of Georgia's heritage. The reason for this urgency is that the primary resources - the people that lived in these towns and areas - are passing on. Without their knowledge being recorded, their passing would mean the loss of portions of Georgia History.

The purpose of this study is to preserve the history of Denmark, an unincorporated rural town, in the southwestern corner of Bulloch County. Harville, for the purpose of this paper, will be considered part of Denmark due to the fact that their histories at various times are inseparable.

The site of Denmark is on a hilltop on the lower coastal plain. Harville is on the southern side of this same hill. The elevation of Denmark is 181 feet and Harville is at the 147 foot elevation. Geologically, Denmark is located where the Okefenokee and Hawthorn marine terraces meet. (See Figure 1-1)

Denmark is located 12 miles south of Statesboro, 12 miles southwest of Brooklet, 10 miles north of Pembroke, 14 miles northeast of Claxton, and approximately 45 miles

northwest of Savannah. Denmark owes its existence to the Sherwood Railroad and conforms to the central place theory that was developed by Walter Christaller in 1933. Basically, this theory states that people will buy everyday low order goods from the closest central place and will travel farther to purchase one time, more expensive goods.

The major limitation to this study is the lack of records and the fact that the older people have either moved away or passed on. What literature is available, is located in the Statesboro Regional Library in the form of letters and newspaper clippings. This source and interviews with present and former Denmark residents and the geography professor at Georgia Southern College are the only sources used in this study.

This study is broken into three major eras. The first being the pre-railroad years. This era covers up to the year 1912. The second era is the railroad years. The time frame here is 1912-1937. The third and final era is from 1937 through the present. This era is called the post-railroad years.

Figure: 1-1 Soil Survey

SOURCE:

Reprint from  
geologic map of  
Bulloch County,  
Georgia

LEGEND		
MARINE TERRACE	ELEVATION	SOIL PROVINCE
	125 - 170	Mobile Coastal Plain
	170 - 180	Atlantic Coastal Plain
	130 - 80	Atlantic Coastal Plain
	100 - 70	Atlantic Coastal Plain
	70 - 40	Atlantic Coastal Plain
	40 - 25	Atlantic Coastal Plain





## Pre-Railroad Years

In the years prior to the coming of the railroad, there is no mention of a community called Denmark. There are several instances where different people with the name of Denmark are recorded in the history of Bulloch County. For example, Stephen Denmark was one of the first commissioners of the county of Bulloch when the town of "Statesborough" was created by an act of the Georgia Legislature on December 19, 1803.

Stephen Denmark bought a tract of land on February 10, 1803, originally belonging to John Adams Treutlen on September 2, 1765, and located in St. Philips Parish on Ironmonger Creek, in what later was to become Bulloch County. Stephen Denmark listed "sixteen Negroes" as part of his estate as recorded in the ordinary's office here in Statesboro.

Malachi Denmark was a member from Bulloch County of the State House of Representatives and the Senate from 1798-1830. He lived on a plantation located on Upper Black Creek and Poplar Branch below Brannen "OLD MILL" near Brooklet, adjoining lands of his brother Redden. Redden Denmark died in 1813.<sup>1</sup>

William Denmark resided "partly opposite Flat Ford on the Great Road on the north side of the great Ogeechee, about a half mile below Hickory Bluff." (opposite Stilson, Georgia). Other neighbors of William and Malachi Denmark in 1820 were: William McNeeley, Williams, John Green,

William Brannen, Abel Lee, James Lewis Sr., James Lewis Jr., Ephraim Chambless, and Francis Akins.<sup>2</sup> It is not certain if this is a complete list or not. Nor is the area involved able to be defined. In those days, it is generally assumed that a neighbor was someone who lived within a day or two ride.

In the early years there were few roads. Communities generally located themselves along traveled trails so as to provide a service to the traveler. The area that is to become Denmark had such a location. Harville, was located on the old Mud Road, which was an important road in Georgia to both the Indian and the white man. Another important Indian trail led from Statesboro to Pembroke, the old Pembroke Road, which went through what is later to become Denmark.<sup>3</sup>

Back in the second decade of the nineteenth century people in Bulloch County had a rough time getting their mail because the first post office in the county was not established until June 11, 1823. Before that time, citizens in the town of "Statesborough," later changed to "Statesboro", and in the county had to journey to Savannah to get their mail. The only way they knew that there was mail for them was to watch the columns of the newspaper published in Savannah.

A notice appeared in the October 2, 1819 issue of "The Georgian," a newspaper published in Savannah, in which the



names of the following citizens living in Bulloch County were listed as having letters in the Savannah Post Office on September 30, 1819. Included in the list is the name of Allen Denmark. Others who had mail there at the same time, according to the list were William Prather, James Lastinger, Isem Roberts, Josiah Sasser, Jonathan Robinson, and David Summerall.<sup>4</sup>

Mail was another indicator of where gathering places sprang up. Some were rural post offices before rural routes were established. There were at least twenty of these places served twice a week with locked leather mail pouches by carriers. These carriers came on horseback, two wheel road carts, and some by buggy. They would leave a pouch and pick up a pouch. David Rigdon was postmaster to serve those places from Statesboro. Thomas E. Watson was later to be founder of the Rural Free Delivery in 1904. Two of these places served by carriers were Harville and Deloach.

One early postal map of 1859 (See Appendix A) shows Harville as one of four postal services in Bulloch County. On June 13, 1888, F. P. Lee applied to the Post Office Department for a Post Office named Harville. On June 16, 1888, A. L. Deloach applied to the Post Office Department for a Post Office named Deloach. (See Appendix B) Evidently Deloach was granted a Post Office from 1888-1888 with Alexander L. Deloach as its first and last Postmaster. (See Figure 2-1)

POST OFFICE	DATES ESTABLISHED	FIRST & LAST POSTMASTER
DeWitt	1884-1886	L.F. Wood
Flatford	1885-1886	Benjamin J. Simmons
Gem	1886-1904	David B. Ridgon - Wm. F. Womack
Black	1887-1904	Winfield S. Lee - Emma L. Bradley
Deloach	1888-1888	Alexander L. Deloach
Brag	1888-1905	William A. Waters - Geo. A. Beasley
Clark	1889-189	Wm. P. Brannen - Frank D. Olliff
Siko	1890-1890	John Ander - Calvin Deal
Clito	1890-1939	Benj. F. Hogan (or Hagen) - Walter McDougald
Rufus	1890-1904	Zacheus A. Rawls
Fly	1891-1904	Martin A. Woodcock - Madison P. Ma
Arlen	1891-1904	Curtis S. Martin
Proctor	1891-1904	Henry J. Proctor, Jr.
Requisite	1891-1891	Henry C. Carr
Emit	1891-1904	Emit M. Anderson
Sam	1892-1904	Moses A. Newton - John Campbell
Akin	1893-1896	Josiah G. Williams - C.B. Johnson
Portal	1893-	J. Edgar McCroan -

Figure: 2-1 Early Post Offices in Bulloch County

SOURCE: People, places, and things.

Later postal route maps dated 1890, 1894, and 1900 show Harville, but do not show a Deloach or Denmark. Bulloch County map dated 1909 shows a Harville School and Harville Church, but still no community with the name of Denmark. (See maps Appendix A)

During this time period, it is assumed that the white children of the Denmark area attended the Harville School. The black children probably attended the colored school to the northwest of the Harville School. (See 1909 Map Appendix A)



## Railroad Years

Denmark as a community came into existence with the railroad. In 1912 the Secretary of State, Philip Cook, accepted an application from John N. Shearouse of Brooklet to charter the Sherwood Railroad Company. It was to run from Claxton to Brooklet to Egypt and to Clyo in Effingham County. The charter was granted and the right of way was projected through the area which is now known as Denmark. When Mr. Shearouse began purchasing the right of way John C. Denmark whose name is shown on the 1909 map and who owned a *grat deal of land in the area, offered to give the railroad the right of way through that part of his property needed, provided that a stop be scheduled and the station be called "Denmark."* Mr. Shearouse agreed and hence the name Denmark as a community arrived.<sup>1</sup> It is also of interest to note that Denmark arrived during the steel epic of transportation. This epic lasted from 1870-1920. During this period, railroads used steel rails and much heavier loads could be moved. (See Map Appendix A)

With the stop at Denmark, the people now had a way to ship their products to market. The railroad was faster and larger quantities could be shipped. As a result Denmark began to grow. As a town Denmark boasted such businesses as a cotton gin, grocery store, dry goods store, blacksmith shop, grist mill, and turpentine still.<sup>5</sup>

In 1920, Arnold Deloach applied to the Post Office Department for a post office in Denmark called Deloach Post

Office. This application was granted and Arnold Deloach was Postmaster from 1920-1929 (See Figure 3-1). Along with being Postmaster, Arnold Deloach also ran the railroad depot. A 1920 map of the area (See Appendix A) shows the Deloach P.O. listed with Denmark. By 1929, the Deloach P.O. was terminated and no other post office came into the area. By this time the rural free delivery was in operation and several small post offices were forced out of existence.<sup>6</sup>

Denmark has had two schools in the community of Denmark. One burned down and the skeleton of the second still stands on the east side of highway 67 in Denmark. In conversation with Mr. Jim Murphy, he said that Denmark had trouble keeping school teachers. He said that the children were too rowdy. Than one day a Mr. Findley was hired to teach in Denmark. Mr. Findley soon had to give one boy a whipping and sent the lad home from school. Directly the young lad's father showed up at school and confronted Mr. Findley about whipping his boy. When Mr. Findley explained the situation, the boy's father told Mr. Findley that he would have to whip him also. Mr. Findley calmly invited the father to step down from the buggy so he (Mr. Findley) could give him a whipping also. Then according to Mr. Murphy, the boy's father laid the buggy whip to his horse and left. Mr. Findley stayed as school teacher.



POST OFFICE	DATES ESTABLISHED	FIRST & LAST POSTMASTER
Adelaide	1900-1905	Everette A. Hendrix
Adabelle	1900-1907	John W. Williams
Jay	1900-1905	Moses J. McElveen, Jr.
Ludovic	1900-1904	Andrew J. Knight
Anita	1900-1904	William M. Simmons
Roselane	1900-1901	Remer Y. Lane
Keel	1901-1904	Keel W. Waters
Gooding	1902-1910	Sula Oglesby - Seaborn Oglesby
Essielee	1902-1903	Annie Beasley
Lucetla	1903-1912	Viola C. Adams
Grimshaw	1903-1915	Ander J. Water - Amy E. Kicklighter
Ketus	1904-1905	John R. Martin - Adin B. Stansell
Omie	1904-1905	Eli P. Kennedy
Waters	1904-1905	Frank S. Thompson
Aaron	1909-1920	Charles B. Aaron - Herbert G. Aaron
Olney (late Lucetta)	1912-1920	Viola C. Adams - David C. Bell
Colfax	1913-1915	Jasper N. Akins
Deloach	1920-1929	Arnold Deloach
Leefield	1920-1930	Emmet S. Coursey - Ellis R. Grooms

Figure: 3-I Post Offices in Bulloch County, Georgia

SOURCE: People, Places, and Things

Mrs. Royal, first cousin of Arnold Deloach, stated that the first school was started in 1923. This school house burned down after Christmas in 1933. Mrs. Royal was in the eighth grade when this happened and said that the children went to Emit until the new school was built. The children went back to school in Denmark in 1935. Mrs. Royal graduated from high school in Brooklet in 1938. Mrs. Royal also stated that Denmark never did have a high school.<sup>8</sup>

The Denmark Garden Club was organized in the mid-1930's and held its meetings in the Denmark School. Mrs. J.M. Lewis served as first president. Other early members were Mrs. Anna Woodward, Mrs. Arnold Deloach, Mrs. Willis Waters, Mrs. J.A. Denmark, and Mrs. T.A. Hanna.

Denmark has been an active club over the years. The club has a "Community Homemakers Day" every year and invites all the ladies in the county clubs and community to share in fellowship and arts and crafts ideas. Some of the current members are daughters and granddaughters of early members.

Mr. A. B. Burriss told the story of a man that walked a mile every day for a coca-cola. It seems that this man whose name was Levi would, at noon every day, put three eggs in his hip pocket and walk a mile down the tracks to the store in Denmark to trade the eggs for a coca-cola. One day some men saw Levi coming and decided to play a joke



on Levi. As Levi was passing the men, one man asked Levi how he was doing and patted Levi on the hip pocket breaking the eggs. The man then bought Levi his coca-cola after the joke.

Denmark as a town, at best, only had from 75-100 people living it it.<sup>7</sup> The majority of the people lived in the surrounding area as the Denmark community was and still is primarily an agricultural community. Most of the people recall railroad cars being loaded with cotton, watermelons, and lumber. The largest population was just before the railroad was dismantled around 1937.

In 1926 J. N. Shearouse was killed on his train when the trestle across the Ogeechee collapsed in a flood. Although the railroad continued to operate until 1937, the railroad's doom was started in the 1920's. This was the beginning of the auto epic. The development of the internal combustion engine was beginning to starve the small railroads out. Private companies and individual farmers were beginning to use trucks instead of the railroad. Then in 1937 the Sherwood Railroad was dissolved. The rails were ripped up and the Leefield/Denmark road was laid down in its place.

## Post-Railroad Years

With the tracks of the Sherwood Railroad ripped up the new era that had already seen its beginning was underway. The automobile was rapidly being improved. The roads were being improved and more roads were being built.

Statesboro was becoming a dominant central place. The people of Denmark could go to Statesboro in a short period of time. At the larger stores, goods could be purchased at a lower price. Thus, for Denmark, Statesboro became a higher level central place. Denmark still retained the stores that required a low threshold for its existence.

Along with the transportation improvements taking place in the county, the county itself was growing. According to the 1930 Bulloch County census, the population of Bulloch County was 26,509. During this same period, Denmark had a population of around 100 people. Some of the businesses in Denmark at this time were: a cotton gin, a grocery store run by Robert Aldredge, a dry goods store run by Rod Griffin, and a gas station/hardware store run by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Royal.

In conversation with Mrs. Royal, she stated that Mr. Royal and she built the station themselves. This building still stands, unused, on the northwest corner of the intersection of highway 67 and Leefield/Denmark road. Mrs. Royal said that when they ran the station, they pumped



as much as 6,000 gallons of gas a week. As their son grew older, he became interested in the tractor business, so they branched off into the tractor business also. After Mr. and Mrs. Royal left Denmark the station was let go and their son went into the tractor business full time. This business is still in operation in Denmark today under the name of Roy's Equipment Company.

During the years, Denmark has been served mainly by three area rural churches. Harville Church, which was Methodist prior to 1930, but is now a Baptist church, Upper Black Creek, and Red Hill Church. Mr. John C. Denmark, founder of Denmark, is buried in the Red Hill Church cemetery with his wife, Alice, lying beside him. It is interesting to note that there is no mention on the gravestone of his being founder of Denmark.

The 1940 census showed a small decline in the county population. The county population now was down to 26,010. Denmark was also showing a decline in population. One of the major reasons for this decline was the mechanization of farming. Fewer people could now do the work of many. People were moving on to other places such as the Northeast U.S. where manufacturing was dominant or into the larger cities, such as Atlanta or Savannah, to seek employment.

During this time, two major events took place in Denmark. First, the old Pembroke Road, now highway 67, was

paved in the first couple of years of the 1940's. This road was not over the old existing road. The new road was a more direct route to Statesboro. The second event was the closing of the Denmark School for the last time. This occurred in the mid-40's.

As the population and mobility of the county began to climb and increase, the population of Denmark continued to decline. Today, Denmark has only four retail businesses that remain in operation. The population of Denmark has been reduced to a fraction of what it once was. There is a trailer park that has changed the scenery from the past. The majority of the people, as in the past, live on the outskirts of town in a country setting. The town of Denmark has been reduced to a bedroom town. Basically, a bedroom town is where the inhabitants live and sleep in Denmark, but go elsewhere for work.



## Summary

Denmark owes its origin, growth, and decline to the Sherwood Railroad. When the railroad disappeared, Denmark was left with no solid foundation to grow on. With all of the major transportation avenues of the county converging in Statesboro, Denmark was left in Statesboro's shadow. Since transportation truly is a maker or breaker of towns, Statesboro grew and Denmark declined. This turning of events left Denmark, as many other rural towns, a bedroom town.

Denmark, with the passing of time, has lost its identity. There is only one traffic sign that marks the whereabouts of Denmark. That sign is located on the westbound side of highway 46. There is no sign to indicate that one is entering or leaving Denmark.

One not familiar with the area would be led to believe that the town of Denmark is part of Brooklet where Denmark's Furniture Store is located. This store is well known in the area for higher order goods and has wide advertisement as Denmark's. Thus the confusion can occur. One final note on the store is the grandson of John C. Denmark, founder of Denmark, is the originator of Denmark's Furniture.

For now, all that remains of Denmark's once thriving central business district are four retail establishments.

The Harville area has a minit mart on the corner of 67 and

46. Denmark proper, has three establishments: a gas/grocery store run by Emory Deloach, Bill's Feed and Seed run by Bill Zetterower, and Roy's Equipment Company run by Roy Royal.

#### Reference

1. Letters from Leodel Coleman editor of the Bulloch Herald July 2, 1969.
2. Letters from E.O. Parker 1789-1846.
3. Letters compiled by Dan Bland 1973.
4. The Georgian, October 2, 1819.
5. Conversations with former Denmark residents Jim Murphy and A.B. Burris now of Pembroke.
6. Lectures from Professor Good in Urban Geography.
7. Conversations with Ada Mae Anderson Purvis now of Savannah.
8. Conversations with Mrs. Walter Royal now of Statesboro.

#### Appendix A

##### Maps

1. Postal 1859
2. Postal 1890
3. County 1920

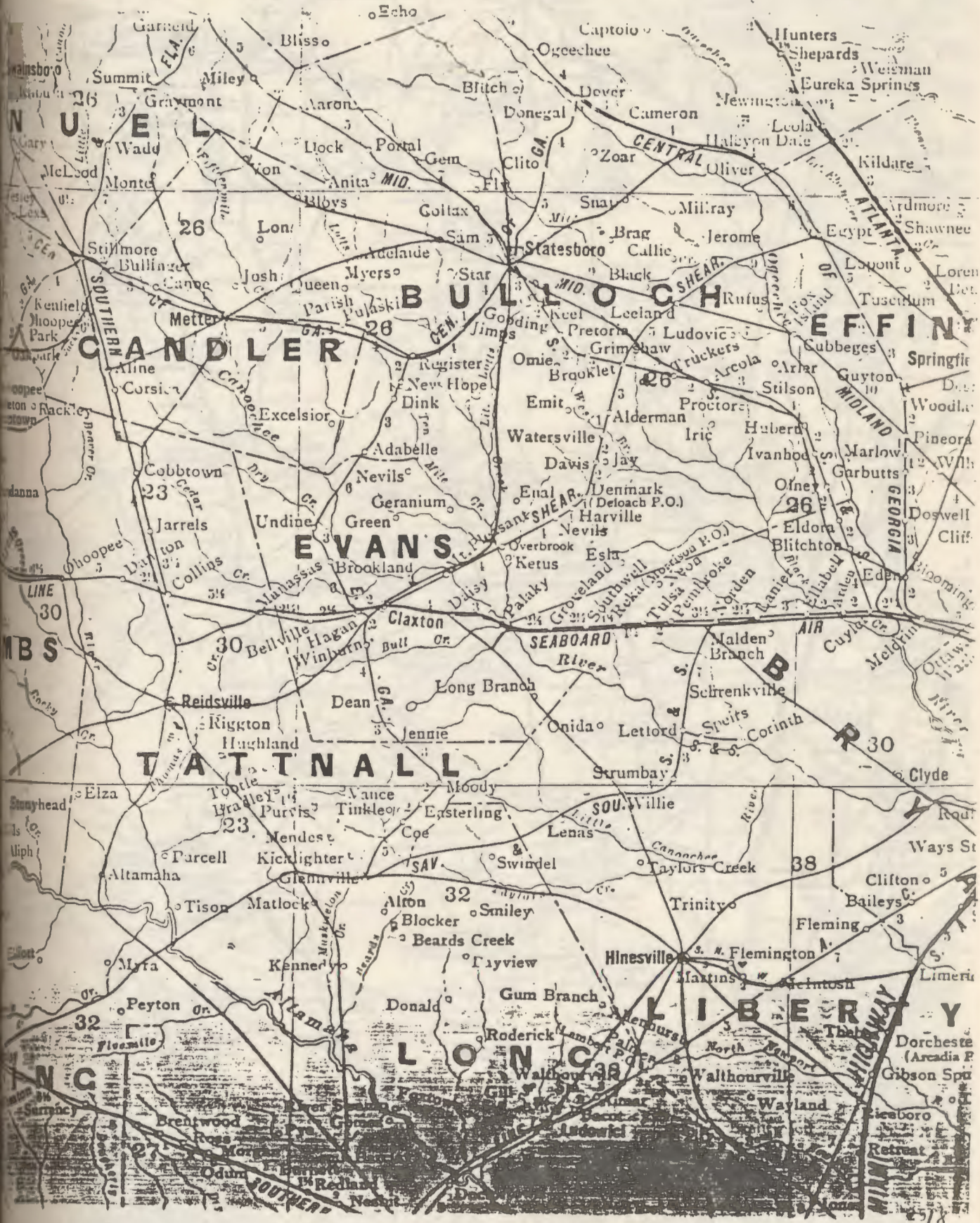
#### Appendix B

##### P.O. Applications

1. Harville-----June 13, 1888
2. Deloach-----June 16, 1888
3. Deloach-----June 2, 1920



County  
1920





Count 1909



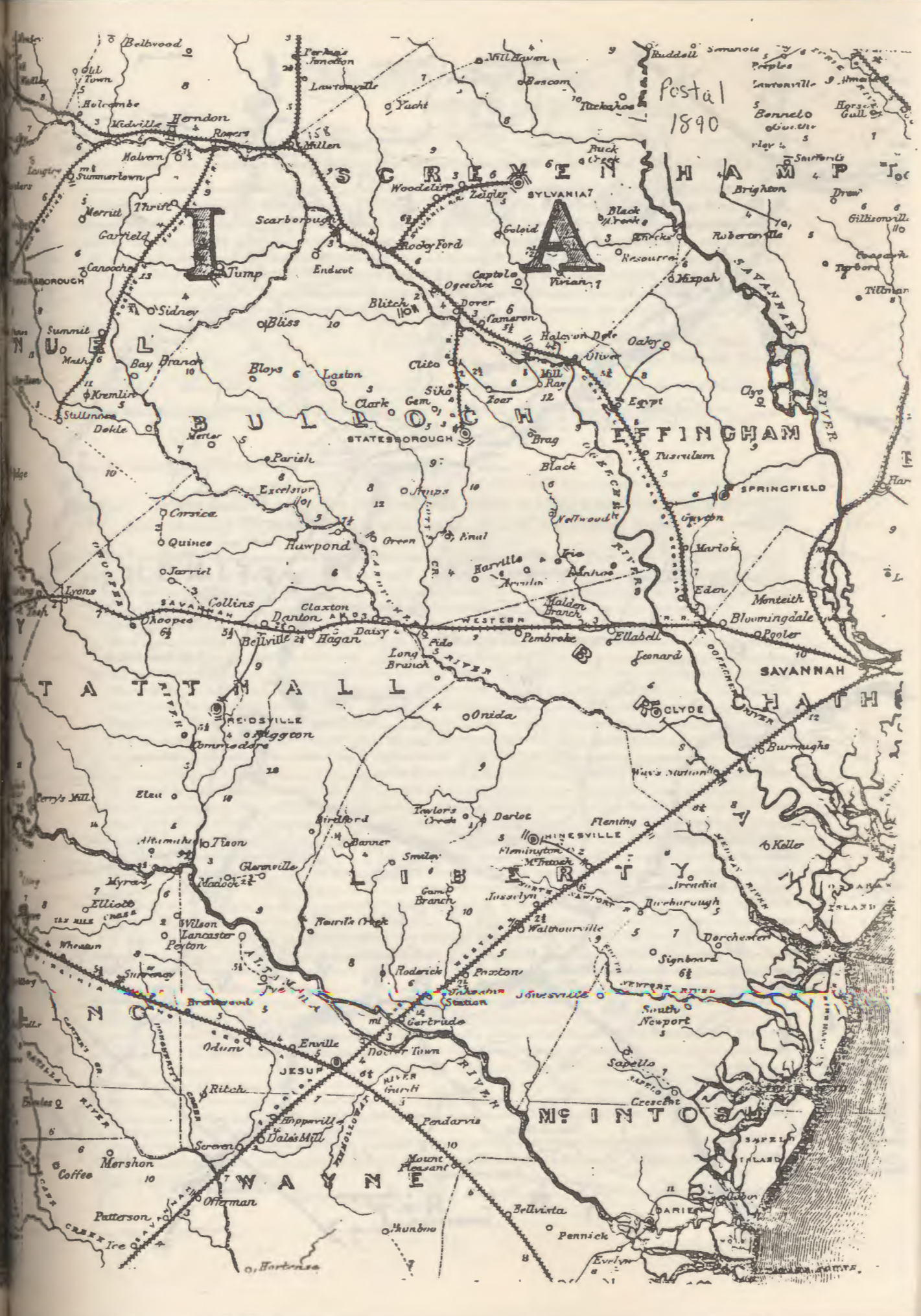
**E M I T**  
**1547 G.M.**

**ENAL**

**BA**  
**1340 G**

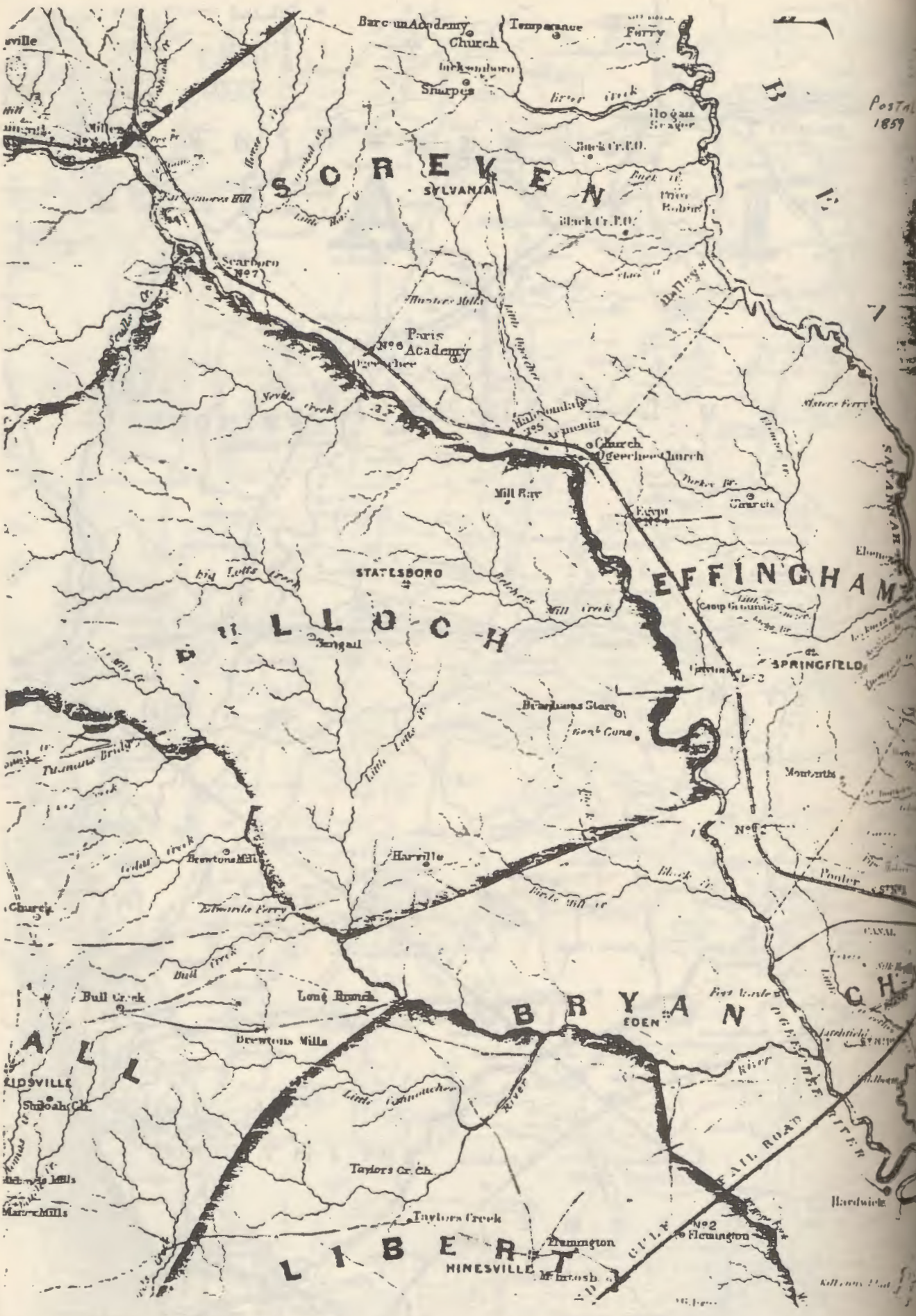


Postal  
1890





Postal  
1859





Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, D. C. June 13, 188

SIR: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for a new post office at Norville

County of Bulloch State of Ga.

in which you are recommended for postmaster, he requires that the blanks in the following statement be filled, and the questions carefully and correctly answered; verified by your signature, certified by a neighboring postmaster, and returned to this Department, addressed to me. The contractor should be informed of this application; and if the site of the proposed office be off the mail route, you will forward his certificate as to the practicability of supplying it, and also as to the increase of distance. If the proposed office is not on any route now under contract, it can only be established as a "Special Office," to be supplied without expense to the Department other than net proceeds.

Be careful to designate the post offices by their true official names; and answer the subjoined queries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

Very respectfully, FRANK HATTON, First Assistant Postmaster General.

To Mr. F. P. Lee are of the Postmaster of Arcola who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.

The proposed office to be called Norville

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States.

It will be situated in the        quarter of Section        Township        (North or South),        (East or West), in the County of Bulloch State of Georgia

It will be on or near route No.        being the route from Eden Arcola on which the mail is now carried Two times per week.

The contractor's name is        Will it be directly on this route? - Ans. 6 Miles beyond the present terminus.

If not, how far from, and on which side of it? - Ans. 6 Miles west.

How much will it INCREASE the travel of the mail one way each trip? - Ans. 6 miles.

Where will the mail leave the present route to supply the proposed office? - Ans. At Arcola.

What respect the route again? - Ans. At Arcola.

What post office will be left out by this change? - Ans. None.

If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted? - Ans. Yes. To be supplied from Arcola.

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on the same route, is Arcola distance is Six miles in a West direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is        distance is        miles, in a        direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, not on this route, is Arcola distance by the most direct road Six miles, in a West direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is Ogeechee.

The name of the nearest creek is Black Creek.

The proposed office will be Fifteen miles from said river, on the West side of it, and will be Three miles from said nearest creek, on the West side of it.

The name of the nearest railroad is Central R.R.

If on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located; how far from the track; and what is, or will be, the name of the station? - Ans. Twenty three miles from R.R.

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest station? - Ans. 23 Miles.

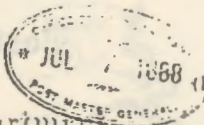
State name of station: Eden or #2 C.R.R.

If the proposed office is located where it can be supplied from a train or flag station, or located over 20 rods from the station where mail is made regular stops, will the mail be carried to and from the proposed office without expense to the Department? - Ans. 20 rods

If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants.        Also, the population to be supplied by proposed office. About fifteen hundred.

A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads, and other post offices, maps, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired. A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department. ALL WHICH I CERTIFY to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this Twentieth day of June 1888 Frank P. Lee Proposed P. M.





Post Office Department

OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 16, 1888

Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at

*Deloach*, County of *Bulloch*, State of *Ga.*

It will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department, addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier, for which service a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid.

You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the inclosed certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very respectfully,

*A. C. Stevenson*  
First Assistant Postmaster General

To Mr. *A. L. Deloach*

care of the Postmaster of *Green*, who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.

The proposed office to be called *Deloach*, *Deloach*

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State.

It will be situated in the \_\_\_\_\_ quarter of Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ (North or South) \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ (East or West) \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of *Bulloch*, State of *Ga.*

It will be on or near route No. *15374*, being the route from *Deloach* to *Green*, on which the mail is now carried *twice* times per week.

The contractor's name is \_\_\_\_\_

Will it be directly on this route?—*Ans. near*

If not, how far from, and on which side of it?—*Ans. East*

How much will it increase the travel of the mail one way each trip?—*Ans. non*

Where will the mail leave the present route to supply the proposed office?—*Ans.*

When intersect the route again?—*Ans.*

What post office will be left out by this change?—*Ans. non*

If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted?—*Ans. To be supplied from*

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on the same route, is *Green*, its distance is *4 1/2* miles in a *South East* direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is *Green*, its distance is *5* miles in a *North West* direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office in the proposed one, not on this route, is *Green Branch*, distance by the most direct road *10* miles in a *South* direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is *Green River*

The name of the nearest creek is *Green Creek*

The proposed office will be *1 1/2* miles from said river, on the *West* side of it, and will be \_\_\_\_\_ miles from said creek, on the *East* side of it.

The name of the nearest railroad is *South East Mail Road*

If on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located; how far from the track; and what is, or will be, the name of the station?—*Ans.*

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest flag station?—*Ans.*

State name of station: \_\_\_\_\_

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest station at which mail trains make regular stops?—*Ans. 2 1/2*

State name of station: \_\_\_\_\_

If the proposed office is to be supplied by \_\_\_\_\_ from the station where \_\_\_\_\_

Be careful to answer the inquiries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants.—*Ans.*

Also, the population to be supplied by the proposed office.—*Ans.*

A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads, and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.

A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

ALL WHICH I CERTIFY to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this *16th* day of *July*, 1888

(To Sign full name.) *A. C. Stevenson*, Proposed P. M.

I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*A. C. Stevenson*  
Postmaster General



LOCATION OF PROPOSED POST OFFICE

DIVISION OF  
POSTMASTERS' APPOINTMENTS

IN REPLYING  
MENTION INITIALS AND DATE

Post Office Department

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON  
TELEGRAPHY BRANCH  
AUG 11 1920  
DIVISION OF EQUIPMENT  
AND SUPPLIES  
POST OFFICE DEPT.

FIRST ASSISTANT  
MAILS OF  
POSTMASTERS' APPOINTMENTS  
JUN 2 - 1920  
RECEIVED  
POSTMASTER GENERAL

Sir: With reference to the proposed establishment of a post office at the point named below, and in order that the office, if established, may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you furnish accurately the information called for below and prepare a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Postmasters' Appointments, as soon as possible.

Respectfully,  
*Deloach* FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Proposed post office, *Amniak* *Bulloch* *Pa*  
(Name) (County) (State)

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here: *A*

The post office would be situated in the \_\_\_\_\_ quarter of section No. \_\_\_\_\_ in Township \_\_\_\_\_ (N. or S.)

Range \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ principal meridian, County of \_\_\_\_\_ (E. or W.)

State of \_\_\_\_\_

The name of the nearest river is *Lanochee* and the post-office building would be at a distance of *1 1/2 miles* on the *North* side of it. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest creek is *Black Creek* and the post-office building would be at a distance of *1 1/2 miles* on the *South West* side of it. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this proposed post office is *Brookly* and its distance is *7* miles, by the traveled road, in a *North East* direction from the site of this proposed office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is *Claxton* and its distance is *16* miles, in a *South West* direction from the site of this proposed office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this proposed post office is *Graveland* and its distance is *10* miles, by the traveled road, in a *South* direction from the site of this proposed office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The post-office building would be on the *North* side of the *Amniak* Railroad, and at a distance of *1 1/2 miles* from the track. The railroad station name is *Amniak*. (N., S., E., or W.)

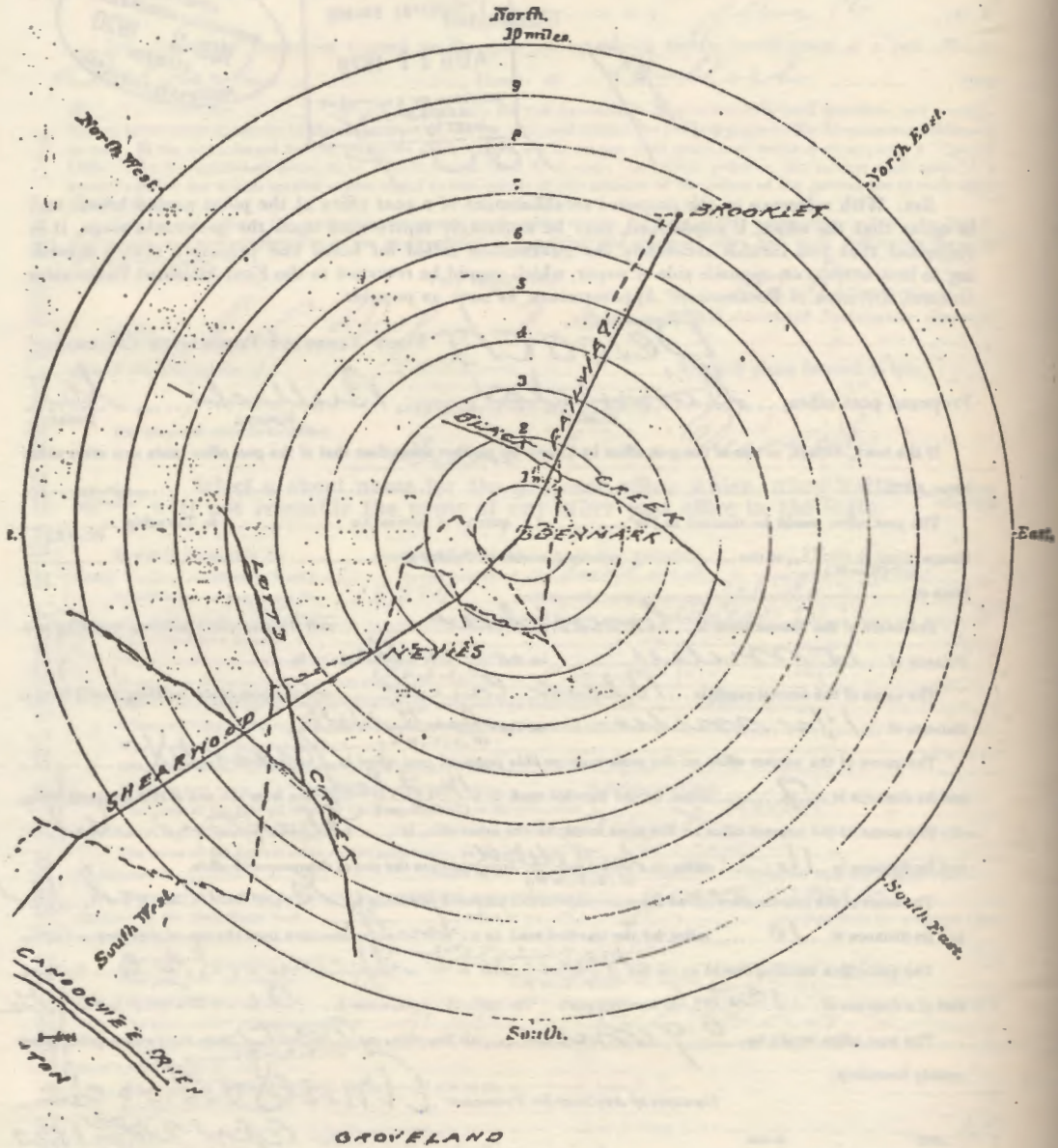
The post office would be *0 9 miles* air line distance *North* from the nearest point of my county boundary. (N., S., E., or W.)

Signature of Applicant for Postoffice: *Amniak*  
Date: *Apr 26 1920*

If the State is not surveyed designate the site of the proposed office on this page.

DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS

The dot in the center of the 1-mile circle represents the proposed site of the post office.  
The surrounding offices should be carefully located by placing dots on or between the mile circles at the exact distance, and in the right direction, from the post office, and their names plainly written.  
Draw distinctly the railways, roads, rivers, and creeks.





## LUETTA LEVERETTE MOORE

Recreation Pioneer

By Charles Bonds

(Please note that portions of this biography are taken from the Statesboro Herald and a personal interview with Mrs. Moore's husband, Mr. Jesse Moore and her two children, Marcia and Michael of Statesboro).

"Don't believe you're better than anyone else, but always believe you are as good as anyone," is a bit of philosophy that governed the life of Mrs. Luetta Moore, a woman who has made outstanding achievements and contributions in the Statesboro-Bulloch County community in her lifetime.

This philosophy is one which Luetta and her husband, Jesse, a bricklayer, have endeavored to instill in their seven children: Joyce and Michael, Statesboro; Jo Ann Pointer, Atlanta; Cornell, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Bernard, Virginia Beach; Kenneth, Stillwater, Oklahoma; and Marcia Moore-Foster, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Born Luetta Leverette on October 17, 1920, in Lincoln County, Georgia, but reared in nearby Wilkes County, to Anthony Leverette and Sally Will Bates, she was one of 13 children.

Mrs. Moore attended schools in Wilkes County for her early education, and for her education beyond the elementary level, she attended Brewer Normal School in Greenwood, South Carolina, and Savannah State College.

Luetta set goals for herself early in life. This is reflected in a quote from the Statesboro Herald, "I was determined to outshine my older sister whom I adored," she said. "I didn't consider myself pretty, so I turned to books. By nature, I'm curious." she noted. Being from a large family, she learned to get along well with all ages and groups.

In 1940, the Moores moved to Bulloch County. They had two children at that time, and Luetta became interested in scouting and became an assistant leader. In 1947, the family suffered a severe setback. A house fire destroyed most of their belongings and Jesse, her husband, was severely injured. "It was tough" she admitted, as she reflected in an interview in the Statesboro Herald. Jesse was hospitalized, and Luetta had the sole responsibility of supporting the family for 13 months while Jesse remained in the Bulloch Memorial Hospital. Meanwhile, to support the family, Luetta did domestic work. This was her first work outside the home to earn a living for her family. Jesse had always managed to support the family comfortably until his accident.

The tragedy of the accident was lessened by the caring concern and support of friends from the community. Friends and relatives gave Luetta and her family much support. Luetta was a determined woman. She was determined not to surrender to welfare by taking a variety of jobs. A quote of hers was, "Don't ever say 'I can't or won't do this or that,'" she counseled. "If you need to, you can do



anything." These quotes also reflect insight that Luetta gained in her personal perseverance during a trying and tragic period of her life. She believes that many times people can help themselves if they are not stubborn.

In 1956, the Statesboro Recreation Director, Max Lockwood, hired Luetta to organize a recreation program at a site on Blitch Street. She saw this request to work with the recreation department of Statesboro as a challenge and opportunity to influence the lives of young people. She agreed to take the job although it meant giving up her studies at Savannah State College to become a teacher. Part of her reason for taking the position at the Blitch Street Center was that she believed a recreation center would be beneficial for Blacks in Bulloch County.

When Mrs. Moore accepted Mr. Lockwood's offer to become the first director of the Blitch Street Recreation Center, she stipulated that she be given autonomy in establishing the regulations, rules and recreational programs of the center. This autonomy was granted Luetta for the nearly 17 years she was director of the center. She retired from the position of directress of the center in 1970 because of health reasons.

Under the guidance and direction of Mrs. Moore, the Blitch Street Recreation Center became the nucleus for youth activities and character building in Statesboro. Many programs and activities were planned and implemented under her guidance including the following: a beauty pageant held every summer with high school students

participating in categories of talent, beauty, and poise. She believed that such activities helped develop qualities of character, friendship, trust, love and caring in young ladies. These pageants were usually held around the pool of the center. Other activities sponsored by the center were Teen Town, the Miss Blich Street Beauty Pageant, a water show, golf clinic, day camp, and many team sports.

Mrs. Moore's ability was not limited only to sports and recreation, she also possessed a keen sense for business. This ability was evident in her operation of her own business as a Mary Kay Cosmetic Consultant. However successful her cosmetic business, her heart was always with developing character in young people. She took much pride in the Blich Street Center because it was "...such an integral part of our community. Recreation is my heart," she once said. Noteworthy among her work with youth was her job as a substitute teacher in Bulloch County for many years.

In 1965, the Georgia Recreation and Parks Society recognized Luetta Moore's "dedicated and loyal service" to recreation. This recognition reflected not only her involvement and promotion of efforts of the local Statesboro Recreation Program, but also her influence and recognition in the state as an outstanding leader in the field of public recreation.

Mrs. Moore was appointed to the Advisory Board of the State of Georgia Recreation Department in 1976. Until her



death, she continued her interest and service to the recreation department and youth of Bulloch County. She served 29 years on the Statesboro Recreation staff and effected many positive changes in the department and on the lives of many people with whom she was associated.

Mrs. Moore was also very active in community affairs and activities. She was a member of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church; Chairperson of the Altamaha Area Communities Action Authority, and the Board of the United Way of Bulloch County. One of her most beloved civic organizations was the Garden Club Association of Georgia. She was President of the local Garden Club and held offices at the District and State levels.

To commemorate the noteworthy contributions of Luetta to the Statesboro-Bulloch Community, the organization Sta-Buc, Inc., a civic organization comprised of men, named its highest Scholarship in her honor. The Luetta Moore Memorial Scholarship was first presented in June, 1986 to Julius Abraham, Jr. an honor graduate of Statesboro High School. The Statesboro Recreation Department recognized Luetta's contributions by naming the major baseball field at the Blich Street Center in her honor. The commemoration is noted by a granite historical marker located at the field.

## AMANDA LOVE SMITH

Humanitarian and Educator

By Charles Bonds

Among Bulloch Countians there lives and walks a giant among women--a quiet giant whose contributions and achievements are noteworthy and of essence to the history and development of Bulloch County. This personality, Amanda Love Smith, epitomizes and embodies the characteristics of a genteel, caring, and Christian woman.

Amanda Love Smith was born in Bulloch County on July 5, 1888 to the late Alf and Reta Love. The oldest of five children, all of which were girls, and presently the only living child, Amanda enjoyed the closeness of the Love family unity, along with the responsibilities, merriment of childhood joys, family gatherings, and special occasions.

Amanda received her early elementary education in a small one room school fondly remembered as "Pretoria School" near Pretoria, Georgia, with her high school education continuing at Dorchester Academy.

Amanda realized early that it was her ambition in life to become a teacher. Her love for children and her desire to help children learn led her to further her education. Through courses taught by commuting teachers from Georgia State College, she satisfied and completed requirements needed to apply for a teaching license. Georgia State College, now Savannah State College, was then a two year institution. Later Amanda continued her studies at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.



Amanda's abilities in the classroom were very diverse as indicated by the various age levels and subjects she taught. After receiving her teaching license, she taught home economics for eleven years at the William James School in Statesboro. She also taught elementary school in Metter and Brooklet, Georgia. She recalls that in Brooklet her husband, H.W.B. Smith, Sr., taught upper elementary students while she taught in the lower elementary school. Her love for teaching young children was not for the monetary rewards but for the joy it brought to her life. The intrinsic rewards for teaching outweighed the inadequate tangible rewards. She humorously reflects on her salary during those early years as being meager, around the amount of \$15.00 per month, ". . . hardly enough to help maintain a family of four," she recalls.

Amanda's impact and inspiration were felt by numerous youngsters until her retirement in 1945, after 40 years of dedicated service to teaching. Though retired from the school system as a teacher, Amanda did not relinquish her goal of educating young children. After retirement, she missed teaching and continued to reflect on how she could help educate young children for success upon entry to formal schooling at age six. Realizing the importance of early intervention, she organized and opened in her home the first kindergarten for Black children in Statesboro-Bulloch County. She reflects that initially,

she opened with only eleven children. At this time in history, the middle 1940's, it was unusual for children to attend kindergarten. Heightened interest in her kindergarten program was generated when parents began to hear how successful children attending her school were upon entrance to first grade. Mrs. Smith operated and taught in her kindergarten for over nine years until she was required at home to care for her husband who had been injured in an automobile accident. During this period, the kindergarten closed and was never reopened.

Through her many years as an educator, Mrs. Smith found time to work in various organizations and give of her service to others. Indicative of her qualities and characteristics, a number of plaques, recognitions, and awards presented her speak for the service she has rendered throughout Bulloch County. She has received recognition from organizations which include a plaque presented her in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the March of Dimes for service rendered as chairperson of fundraising for her ward. She has been presented a plaque in recognition of her service by the Cancer Crusade Society for her 40 years of service as a volunteer worker and the City of Statesboro presented her with the Citizen's Award of Merit. She was honored by the William James High School PTA at a special event called Founder's Day and presented with a plaque for her dedicated and unselfish service as PTA President for 30 years. In 1983, a reception honoring this humanitarian and educator was hosted by the civic



organization Black Women of Profession. Mrs. Smith was again recognized publicly for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the Statesboro-Bulloch County community. The occasion was attended by representatives from Georgia Southern College, and representatives from both the Statesboro City and Bulloch County governmental bodies. Each segment of the community desired to demonstrate to Amanda its appreciation for her dedicated and unselfish service to mankind. At this occasion, she received a commemorative plaque for her outstanding service.

Amanda's beliefs and convictions are predicated on her religious faith. Possessing a strong Christian background, she believes that faith carries one, and that one must believe that a task can be accomplished once one sets out to undertake it. A member of the Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church, Mrs. Smith served for a number of years as President of the Women's Society. This position afforded her travels to many states and to attend the General Assembly for Women of her denomination. Places traveled to represent her church include: Iowa, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. She continues to be actively involved in church work and is a member of the Women's Society. She was presented a token of recognition by the Brannen Chapel Methodist Women for her many years of service to the church and its state and national organizations.

At the young age of 98, Mrs. Smith continues to be a very active and energetic person. She is president of the Senior Citizens Council at Jo-Li Cottage of Bulloch County where she enjoys the fellowship and participation of close members and longtime friends. She is a member of the Royal Savings Club of Statesboro.

Mrs. Amanda Smith is the mother of one son, H.W.B. Smith, Jr. a retired teacher and principal, and a daughter Annie Mae Belle.

In the seventeenth century, Robert Burton wrote, "I will spend my time and knowledge, which are my greatest fortunes for the common good of all." Mrs. Amanda Love Smith is to be saluted as she stands tall among the rich and remarkable women who have so done. "Let us, then, be up and doing, still achieving, still persuing."



**ASBURY WESLEY HODGES**

*A Study of His Letters (1862-1864)*

Presented to  
**Dr. Robert C. McMath, Jr.**  
in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements  
of History of the Old South to 1865  
**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

by  
**David R. Williams**

**December 1, 1986**

## THE NARRATIVE

On November 15, 1829, Joseph Caruthers Hodges and his wife Mary Ann of Bulloch County, Georgia, had their first of thirteen children, a boy named Asbury Wesley Hodges. Very little is known about Asbury's early life, but he eventually grew up, started a family, and became a private in the Army of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. Very little is known for certain about Asbury's death, except that he died while in the army sometime in 1864. But a great deal is known about Asbury Wesley Hodges from the letters that he wrote to his family while he was serving as a soldier in the war. These letters have been kept by his descendants through the years, and when examined together with other historical documents, they create a picture of the character of Asbury Hodges and of what life was like in the Old South before and during the war.

Asbury Hodges lived in Bulloch County and was a farmer before the war, following the example of his father. In 1850, according to the census, he was still a part of his father's household at age 20, and he had attended school sometime during that year. The value of his father's real estate was \$200. The next census indicates that by 1860, Asbury had left home to start a family of his own. His real estate was valued at \$1000 and he had a personal estate worth \$278. In 1854, he married Ruth Hendrix, and by 1860 they had three children, all boys: Harmon, age 4, Henry, age 2, and James, age 10 months. Asbury and Ruth would have one more child, Mary, in 1862.

Although his parents were Methodist, and even though his first son Harmon later became a Methodist minister, Asbury in 1849 became a member of the Bethlehem Primitive



Baptist Church.<sup>1</sup> It is quite clear from even a casual glance at his letters that Asbury was a deeply religious man, since most of his writings deal with religious topics. In view of the fact that the period before the war was a time of great religious awakening in the South, it is not surprising that Asbury would be so religious. Furthermore, it is reasonable to think that during a time of war, with the violence and destruction that accompany it, more people would try to become more faithful to their religion than they might otherwise. In the case of Asbury Hodges, however, there is evidence to suggest that he was perhaps more religious than most of his peers, even before the war.

For example, since Asbury Hodges became a Primitive Baptist when his family was Methodist, and since it was very common for children to profess the same religious beliefs and belong to the same denomination as their parents, there must have been a compelling reason for Asbury to change. Although we cannot be certain why Asbury switched denominations, it could have been because he sincerely believed the doctrine of the Primitive Baptist Church to the point that he would be willing to differ from his family in matters of religion. He became a member at Bethlehem, a church that his family did not belong to, at the age of nineteen, before he got married, even while he was still living with his parents. And Asbury remained a faithful member of this church for the rest of his life. Even during this time of religious revival in the South, such a commitment required a great deal of conviction.

But regardless of what denomination he belonged to, Asbury Hodges was generally more religious than most of his peers. In one of his first letters, Asbury writes that "it is a man with a strong faith that will stand in war, for I do think that there is the most heard swaring, a(nd) some of it brought out in the queerest manner that I ever have heard."<sup>2</sup> Even though he was constantly aware that he might die in battle, Asbury encourages his

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<sup>1</sup>Church Records of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Georgia State Archives, page 22, June 16, 1849.

<sup>2</sup>Letter from A. W. Hodges to R. H. Hodges, June 15, 1862.

wife to remain faithful to God. "But we dont know, Rutha, whether we will meet again or not, but the thing for us to do is to put our trust in God ... I think if we do this it will be in our favor."<sup>3</sup> In the following year, he comments on how the attitude of those around him concerning religion had eventually changed over time. He tells his wife, "... I was at the baptism of four to day ... The way I am glad to see the people trying to do right. There is a great alteration in the people now to what there was six month(s) ago."<sup>4</sup> It should be clear therefore, that Asbury Hodges was deeply religious before the war and remained devoted throughout the war, and he was perhaps more religious than most of those who were with him.

It was not until Asbury Hodges enlisted in the Confederate Army that information about him detailed and extensive enough to make any conclusions began to be recorded. The information contained in his Civil War service record provides the background for the letters that he wrote.

Asbury Wesley Hodges enlisted as a private in Company D of the 61st Regiment of the Georgia Infantry on May 12, 1862, at Camp Bethesda, Georgia, near Savannah, not far from Bulloch County. He was physically ill for most of the time he was in the army. In fact, in his Certificate of Disability for Discharge, written in late October, 1863, it is stated that Asbury "was unfit for duty at the time of his enlistment". This statement is supported by the fact that Asbury stayed in hospitals in Virginia for most of the time between his enlistment in May to the end of 1862. By the beginning of 1863, however, Asbury was well enough to return to his company, at Camp Lawton, where he remained for all of January and February. His company apparently did not engage in battle during this time, as there is no mention of any fighting in Asbury's letters from this period.

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<sup>3</sup>Letter from A. W. Hodges to R. H. Hodges, June 15, 1862.

<sup>4</sup>Letter from A. W. Hodges to R. H. Hodges, September 13, 1863.



Sometime in April of 1863, Asbury was allowed to return home to Bulloch County on a sick furlough. He remained there with his family until July of 1863, when he was reported as present with his company. The first letter in this collection written after Asbury returned to duty in Virginia was dated September 13, 1863. At some time in late September or early October, Asbury became sick once again and was reported absent from his unit. Finally, in November of 1863, Asbury Hodges was *apparently* discharged from the army due to disability. Since the last part of his discharge papers was never completed and signed, it is not certain whether he was actually discharged or not.

From this point on, the life of Asbury Hodges becomes more difficult to follow. According to his service record, he stayed in a military hospital in Virginia until April 30, 1864. There is no original record of any association of Asbury Wesley Hodges with the Confederate Army dated any later than the spring of 1864. However, there are letters from Asbury in this collection that are dated as late as June of 1864. There are some from April of 1864 in which Asbury claims to be in a military camp near Savannah. There is little question that Asbury served in the military in some capacity after his alleged discharge in 1863. However, in the last letter of this collection, dated June 5, 1864, Asbury gives his address and claims to be a member of the 1st Regiment of Georgia Volunteers, Mercer's Brigade, Walker's Division, Army of Tennessee. Despite diligent searches by the author, no official record of this enlistment can be found, although the movement of this military unit agrees with the dates and the locations of the letters that Asbury wrote.

It is unclear, therefore, exactly what happened to Asbury Hodges after his apparent discharge in November of 1863. One source states that he reenlisted at some time and was killed at Peachtree Creek, Georgia, in July of 1864.<sup>5</sup> The most popular theory concerning the death of Asbury Hodges was that he was killed in the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in June, 1864. Information from the Bulloch County Historical Society maintains that a copy

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<sup>5</sup>*Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865*, Volume 6, page 231.

of his last letter, dated June 15, 1864, just before his death at Kennesaw Mountain, as it were, was sent to the State Historian in September, 1931. The author was unable to find this letter in the State Archives, even with the faithful assistance of several of the Archives personnel. The fact that Asbury's body was never recovered from the battlefield makes it even more difficult to conclude exactly how and where he died. All that is really known with any certainty is that he died on the battlefield in the summer of 1864.

From a macroscopic viewpoint, the preceding paragraphs tell the story of Asbury Wesley Hodges from what information is available today. But there is much more to the life of Asbury Hodges than what is included in this narrative. The everyday details of life in the Old South and how ordinary Southerners dealt with the problems caused by the Civil War, as seen in the example of Asbury Hodges, have been left out thus far. This part of the story has been left for Asbury to tell himself. The entire annotated text of all the letters has been included as part of this paper. With the background information provided by this narrative, the reader can approach the letters with the knowledge he needs to understand them.



## THE LETTERS

The following section contains the letters of Asbury Wesley Hodges as collected, edited, and annotated by the author. A few words of introduction are necessary to explain the content and the format of the text.

In this collection, there are a total of twenty letters. Seventeen of these letters are from Asbury Hodges to his wife, Ruth Hendrix Hodges, and his children and other relatives at home. One of the letters is from Ruth Hodges to her husband. There is one from William Alderman, Asbury Hodges' uncle, to Ruth Hodges, and there is one from Asbury to his father, Joseph C. Hodges. The letters are presented here in chronological order, with dates ranging from May 25, 1862, to June 5, 1864.

The text of the letters presented here was compiled from a variety of different sources, all of which have a reasonable degree of authenticity. All but one of the letters were provided in some manner by the Bulloch County Historical Society, which acquired them from Mr. Smith Banks of Statesboro, Georgia, one of the descendants of Asbury Hodges. Most of these letters were given in the form of photocopies of the original letters themselves. Many of these photocopies had already been copied into typewritten form, and it is from these typewritten copies that the text of these letters was taken, using the photocopies of originals for verification. The typewritten copies of these letters are available in the Original Documents section of the Georgia State Archives. The photocopies of original letters that had not already been copied were transcribed by the author. A few of these photocopies were so illegible or incomplete that they were not included in this collection. In addition, however, there were a few letters that were given

only as typewritten copies, without photocopies of the original letters. These include all of the letters from 1864. The accuracy of these letters could not be verified by the original documents. Finally, the one letter in this collection not provided by the Historical Society, which was dated September 15, 1863, from Asbury to Ruth, was taken from a volume in the State Archives published by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. No photocopy of the original letter was available.

The author has attempted to preserve the original spelling of the text as much as possible. Words in parentheses have been added to make the text more understandable when necessary, and when it is fairly obvious what the writer meant to say. A certain amount of punctuation and structure has been added, breaking the text into sentences and paragraphs, to make the text more readable. The reader should be aware that the author has discovered that many of the typewritten copies of the letters that were accompanied by photocopies of the originals did not preserve the original spelling and in some cases, the original wording. The text presented here has been corrected to follow the original letters whenever photocopies of the originals were available. However, for those letters mentioned above which did not have any verification from photocopies of the originals, but were provided merely as typewritten copies, the text in this collection may not accurately follow the text of the original letters.

The author estimates that there could be as many as twenty other letters written by Asbury Hodges in addition to the ones in this collection. Thus, this collection is by no means a complete record of Asbury's correspondence. The other letters are said to be in the possession of other descendants of Asbury Hodges. However, the author believes that this collection contains more of the letters than any other single publication, especially since some of them are printed here for the first time.

The author has annotated this collection of letters to clarify the text whenever possible. For a more complete understanding of the individuals and the circumstances of these letters, the narrative preceding this introduction has been provided. Reading the



narrative before reading the letters will place the reader in a better position to understand the content of the letters.

I hope this my pen is hard to write you but I am weary with writing this and I hope these lines will find you all well and happy and doing well and in good health please do not stop your work for I expect that the best looks well in Old Dutch County at this time as well as in other parts etc.

Well, Dear Rutha, I have not much news to tell you at this time, but I am going to my Company tomorrow morning. I am tired of all this business and I am going to my Company tomorrow morning. I have had clothes and the Company wanted me to stop here. I thought I would stay and I thought myself I was best for me, and I think I have been in my favor. I hope that I will be improving very fast, and I hope that God will bless me the great blessing of health and hope that He will preserve me to go through all this war and bring me home again when I shall have the great reward that I shall receive for my services. I have not much news to tell you at this time, but I am going to my Company tomorrow morning. I have had clothes and the Company wanted me to stop here. I thought I would stay and I thought myself I was best for me, and I think I have been in my favor. I hope that I will be improving very fast, and I hope that God will bless me the great blessing of health and hope that He will preserve me to go through all this war and bring me home again when I shall have the great reward that I shall receive for my services.

My Dear little Penny,  
I will try to get a letter to you in a few days and I will tell you how the boys are doing. I will try to get a letter to you in a few days and I will tell you how the boys are doing. I will try to get a letter to you in a few days and I will tell you how the boys are doing.

I will try to get a letter to you in a few days and I will tell you how the boys are doing. I will try to get a letter to you in a few days and I will tell you how the boys are doing. I will try to get a letter to you in a few days and I will tell you how the boys are doing.

Georgia Chatham Co May 25th 1862  
Camp Bethesda

Dear Ruth,

I take my pen in hand to drop you a few lines to inform you that I am well and hearty and in good spirits willing to discharge my duty with a brave heart, hoping to be protected by grace Divine upheld by the living God who has all Power over all and is able to protect all that put there trust in Him. and blessed be his name for evermore. I fell that my trust is in Him alone. and I hope that you will be strong and faithful in Him who will bless us both with Divine grace and I want you to remember me in all your prayers and supplications and I will do the same on your part. I want you to be strong brave and tru for I can not tell when I shall ever see you again. for we are all ordered off to Charleston to fight. but I cant tell how it will be with me but I hope and trust in God that (He) will protect me from all the firy darts of satan. If I do get into a battle I trust that God will save me from all harm but (if) it is his will for me to fall in battle His Holy will be done. I hope that God will enable us and our little children all to meet in heaven. I hope that you will be enabled to raise our little children to do the things that is right in the sight of God. I pray that God will bless them with grace Divine and save us all in Heaven forever to praise Him in heaven there to dwell in everlasting day our troubles at this time is great indeed but one thing I am glad of that is this God is able to help us through it all let them be great or small I feel strong and brave in this matter. I dont feel at all daunted I put my trust in God alone and I believe that he well protect me and I want you to be shure to take it faithful I dont want you to grieve Rutha if you can help it I do hope that you will be strong faithful and true if you can it will be abundance the best for you. I want you to take good care to your sweet bod, your health. for I hope that your and I will be protected all through this troublesom war I hope that God will bless us with spiritual blessings and bring the time around that we may dwell together again and walk together in Christ — as I hope that we have done in days gone by I feel to be thankful to God for the happiness that I have had with you in past days. I pray God to bless you with spiritual blessings to dwell with Christ in heavenly places. I hope that our little children will be blest in Christ to rest with him in light. And may God bless us all as a little family to dwell and walk in his holy name and be everlastingly saved in heaven is my prayer for his name sake. Amen.

Rutha the Captain has ordered us all to get a suit of uniform and we have to get gray. He told us to have one thread black and the other white and the warp(?) white the filling to be wool. I want you to be shure to make it if you can it will save twenty five dollars. and it will be better cloth. Now Rutha make it as soon as you can be shure to have the warp white the filling must be wool one thread white and the other black and will make gray cloth. This leaves me well and hearty and I hope these few lines will find you in good heart and a well contented and a satisfied mind in good health with a brave and a true Christian heart and the dear little children so farewell my dear Rutha, with a hope of meeting again.

A W Hodges

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Lynchburg, Va June the 15 1862

Dear wife,

I again take my pen in hand to inform you that I am tolerably well at this time, and I hope these lines will find you all well and hearty and doing well and in good heart getting along well with your work for I expect that the corn looks well in Old Bulloch County at this time as well as as potatoes, cain, etc.

Well, Dear Rutha, I have not much news to tell you at this time, only I am going to start to my Company tomorrow morning. I am tired of this place. The Hospital is not a very good place to live in. I have had diarrhea and the Company wanted me to stop here. It was cold rainy weather, and I thought myself it was best for me, and I think it has been in my favor. I know that I feel like I am improving very fast, and I hope that God will bless me the great blessing of health. I do hope that He will preserve me to go through all this war and bring the time soon when I shall have the great opportunity of going to my lovely home to dwell with my dear wife and little children the balance of my days let them be long or short. But we dont know, Rutha, whether we will meet again or not but the thing for us to do is to put our trust in God, and not only our trust to be put in Him but we must live in fasting and prayer and I think if we will do this it will be in our favor. I want you to be just as brave as you possibly can. I want you to get along and I expect you to get along first rate. I have often thought of Bethlehem<sup>1</sup> yestidday and today. I have been thinking, I wonder if Rutha went to meeting (to)day and the children. I dont know but I expect they did. I like mity well to been there too. Rutha, it sooted me much better to heard some preaching for I tell you my Dear Rutha that this is not a Christian life for I tell you that it is a man with a strong faith that will stand in war for I do think that there is the most heard swaring a(nd) some of it brought out in the queerest manner that I ever have heard.

But we must all look well to ourselves for every one has to give an account in that great day of accounts and I want to watch myself and be particular how I do and act for I know (I) do desire to do the thing that is rite in the sight of God so Rutha let us persevere stronly in the cause of Christ let us try to remember each other often at a throne of rich grace where all goodness flows and all blessings flows.

Well, Rutha, I want you to write to me often for your letters are all the enjoyment that I get these days. I read them over time after time. The last letter that I got from you it was a noble letter it chered me up lots it was wrote the 30th of May. I received it on the six of June. But I tell Rutha I dont mind receiving any letters for I know it is the case with me some times I have to write in a hurry but let us both do the best that we can while we live in this world. After death, I hope that we will join to sing praises to God forever and forever. So farewell Dear Rutha for this time.

Rutha Hodges

A W Hodges

My little Harmon,

I try to write you a few lines to let you know that (all) is well at this time and father is in hopes this little leter will find all you litte boys well. I want you to be mity smart and tend to your hogs good and I want you to write to father and tell him how your hogs comes on and how many and how fathers comes on. Tell him if there is any pigs. Be a smart boy and tend too them well.

My Dear little Henry,

I will try to give you a few lines to tell you to tell father some things father wants you to tell him, how his cows all comes on. Tell him if they come up good and if they give a heep of milk and make lots of manure. You must be a good smart boy and you and Harmon help poor mother at the cow pen and be smart boys to one another all the time.

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<sup>1</sup>i.e., the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church in Bulloch County, Georgia, of which Asbury was a member.



My Dear little James,

I will (try) to tell you to tell father some thing father wants to know, if them sheep lies at the pens yet, is there a big bunch of them. Father wants to know how little Mary comes on. Has she got big and fat and pretty? Do you kiss Mary? James, I expect you do.

A W Hodges

. . . . .

Lynchburg, Va June the 15 1862<sup>2</sup>

Dear wife,

I again take my pen in hand to inform you that I am tolerably well at this time, and I hope these lines will find you all well and hearty and doing well and in good heart getting along well with your work for I expect that the corn looks well in Old Bulloch County at this time as well as potatoes, cain, etc.

Well, Dear Rutha, I have not much news to tell you at this time, only I am going to start to my Company tomorrow morning. I am tired of this place. The Hospital is not a very good place to live in. I have had diarrhea and the Company wanted me to stop here. It was cold rainy weather, and I thought myself it was best for me, and I think it has been in my favor. I know that I feel like I am improving very fast, and I hope that God will bless me the great blessing of health. I do hope that He will preserve me to go through all this war and bring the time soon when I shall have the great opportunity of going to my lovely home to dwell with my dear wife and little children the balance of my days let them be long or short. But we dont know, Rutha, whether we will meet again or not but the thing for us to do is to put our trust in God, and not only our trust to be put in Him but we must live in fasting and prayer and I think if we will do this it will be in our favor. I want you to be just as brave as you possibly can. I want you to get along and I expect you to get along first rate. I have often thought of Bethlehem yestidday and today. I have been thinking, I wonder if Rutha went to meeting (to)day and the children. I want you to remember me in your prayers a great deal. It will comfort me.

The hospital here is intended for convalescents until they are strong enough to return to their command. I have met men from many different states. This is a beautiful section of country, with high mountains and swift rivers, with no swamps along banks and no long moss hanging from the trees. These are "flowers that I have never seen in Georgia." How I would love to smell your cape jessamines.

I suppose you are thinking now of something to feed the children on and I think you are very brave and competent but I have always trusted you.

Give all the relatives my love and keep much for your self and the poor little children. Dont let them forget.

Father

Dear little Harmon,

I hope to be with you soon but I want to let you know that I have not forgotten you. Your Father wants you to write a letter. Tell me if you are going to school. You must be a smart little boy.

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<sup>2</sup>Asbury Hodges apparently wrote two letters dated June 15, 1862. The first part of both letters is the same up to the phrase "I wonder if Rutha went to meeting (to)day and the children." No photocopy of this version of the letter was available. This version was probably written after the previous one since he states at the end, "I have not heard from you since 19th of June." (see next page).



and learn all you can and write me a letter. Tell me how your hogs come on and how many pigs they have. You must feed them good. Help Mother all you can and you will be a smart boy.

A. W. Hodges  
to his son Harmon

Dear little Henry,

Your Father will write you a little letter too. Your Father wants you to be a smart little boy and help Harmon feed his hogs and help Mother all you can. Mind little Mary and take good care of her and kiss her for Father heap of times, and help Mother feed the cows and turn in the calves. Play with little Mary. You must write a little letter to Father. Love from

A. W. Hodges  
to Henry R. Hodges

Dear little Jimmie,

Your Father will try to write you a little letter too with the rest of them. Your Father is well this morning, setting by his little bed. Father has a pretty little bed to lie on nights. Father wants you to be a smart little boy and help Mother put the cows in the pen and mind your little sister Mary. Kiss her for me and play with her. Give her my love and keep a lots for yourself. Dont forget your Father.

A. W. Hodges  
to Jimmie Hodges

Address: Mr. A. W. Hodges. Coldfield, P.O. Va.  
Huguenot Springs Hospital  
In care Dr. W. T. Wilkes

Rutha, I give you this address to direct your letters to me while I stay here. Write your letters soon for I want to hear from you very bad. I have not heard from you since 19th of June. But it is because I have been in the Hospital so much but dont let this discourage you at all, for I have been treated very kindly.

May the God of all grace be with us and our children. Prepare us for His kingdom above is my prayer, for Christ sake.

Rutha, send me a needle and a little thread in your next letter.

A. W. Hodges to  
Rutha Hodges  
Harmon Hodges  
Henry R. Hodges  
James W. Hodges

• • • • •

Huguenot Springs, va Oct 2nd 1862

Dear wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to drop you a few more lines to inform you that I am about in the same condition of health except I have took a little cold. I hope that this letter will find you in good health and all the children. I received your kind letter yestidday, Oct the 1st, which I was mity glad to get you may be shure for it had been so long since I heard from you that I was glad to hear from you one time more and I hope that it is not the last time yet. But I hope that by the Great help of God I will be spared and blessed to go and see you in time to come and to live with you the



balance of my days in this world and to spend our days in the service of our God, who is able to bless us if we will put our trust in him. and dear Dear Rutha, let us with all our might try to do what He has commanded us and live in fasting and prayer for each other that we may meet one time more for there is no other help under Heaven or among men whereby we can be saved, only in and throu(g)h him. Let us put our trust in Him alone and pray in faith to Him and say the will of our God be done. So let us be resigned to his holy will for his will must be done.

May the Lord grant us good health, give us strong faith in Him to live and die and to bless our little children to be raised to love and serve Him all there day(s) on the earth and save us all in that happy world that has no end. Amen.

I wrote you a letter the 9th which I gave to a man to carry on as far as the 79 mile station. I hope you will get it.

I guess you want to know about the money that you sent me. I have got it that I got five dollars which I was glad to get. I (---) was sorry that I did not get the money and socks that you sent me for I am glad to get anything that you send to me from home for anywhere else in old Bulloch you wanted to know of me if it done me any good I find friends anywhere I have been. I want to see the day come that I can have the chance to go to the Lodge and enjoy it the balance of my days while in this world if I have long to live here but I hope it will prosper (---) well.

Rutha, tell me if you hear of any going into Masonry and who they are for for I would be glad to hear from it. You stated in your letter that father had got a letter from James<sup>3</sup> and it stated four killed and several wounded I would be glad if you could tell me who who was killed and wounded. Tell me where Mitchell F. died for I cant hear a(?) thing in the papers nor get my knews from the company. I dont know where they are. I have the chance to get a plenty tobacco and I am about 15 miles west of Richmond, about six miles from the old field P. O. Rutha, I am glad to hear that Harmon learns so well. Help him in(?) school anywhere you can get (---) him. So farewell for the time

A W Hodges

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Huguenot Springs, va Oct the 20th 1862

Dear wife,

I do with pleasure take my pen in hand to drop you a few lines to inform you that I am about the same. I cant say that I mend very fast but I mend some and I am in hopes that I will get well after a while if the Lord will look on me in this matter which I hope and trust that He will bless me with good health and strength for without His great help I can do nothing. I hope that this letter will find you all in good health and prosperity with strong, brave hearts and a well contented mind getting a long finly with all your business and with faith in Christ pressing forward to the m-- of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

Dear Dear Rutha, I want you to tell me all the news about the association, where will it be next year and who is to preach the introductory sermon. Tell me all the good news about your metings generally and how do you enjoy yourself in these times of trouble.

Dear wife, I want you to write as often as you can for I tell you I love to get leters from you and it does me lots of good to hear that (you) are geting a long so well. I hop(e) that you will get along finly, so I will try to come to a close for this time unless I could do a little better I hope this letter will find all doing well, family connections all doing well. Give my best respects to father and all enquiring friends so farewell for this time.

Yours respectfully,  
A. W. Hodges

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<sup>3</sup>James C. Hodges, one of Asbury's brothers, who was in the same Company as Asbury. At the time he wrote this letter, Asbury was separated from his Company while he was sick at Huguenot Springs. The individuals that James mentioned in his letter to his father were soldiers that Asbury probably knew; hence, his interest in their identity.



Dear Sons, Harmon, Henry and James,

Father is going to write you a few lines to let you know that father has not forgotten you. Father wants you all to be good boys to each other and help mother get wood and take good care of that sweet little Mary. Dont let her cry get prettier for her . . . so she can grow big to help mother.

A W Hodges

. . . . .

Oct the 22nd, 1862

Dear Rutha,

I will again this morning to let you know that I am in a good way of mending and I hope that these lines will find you all in good health and prosperity. I have the chance of sending this letter part of the way by hand. There is some of the sick men here got furlows and is going home to Atlanta and he will put it in the office there, so I am in hopes that you will get this letter tolerable soon. I am in hopes that I will get a furlow before long to go home but I dont know whether I will or not for I have asked the Doctor time after time and they wont give me narry one yet but they gives to some every week and I feel like that I will come in after awhile. Well Rutha I will have to hope and read a letter from you this morning dated Oct 11th. I tell you that I was powerful glad to get it for I was glad to hear the knews but I was sorry to hear that father was under the Doctor. I was sorry to hear the knews about Uncle Wm and the boys but I hope that is not so but cant tell for I am where I cant hear the news. Rutha you ought to put up Six hogs anyhow if not Seven. (Three sows and 14 pigs). (---?) but this much for five to be equal to share but I ought not to say anything about it no how you will do well I am in hopes. So my dear Rutha, I will try to pray for you as often as I can for I try to pray both day and night. So dear Rutha, pray for me that I may get home to you all. Farewell wife and children.

A W Hodges

Dear Sisters, Catharine & Penny,

I will try to drop you a few lines which I hope will find you all in good health and doing well, except father whom I hear is under the doctor but I hope that he will soon get well. I would be mity glad to see you all one time more in this life but the Lord is the only One that knows whether it will be so or not but let us all try to live in faith and prayer for each other as long as we live. I feel in hopes that the Lord will bless me to go home to live with you all again in this world but we must not have a dead hope in this matter. We must be strong in faith, hope and prayer and come before God in fasting and prayer and with all the humility that our poor sinful hearts can possess so let us not be weary in well doing in the service of God. So dear sisters be faithful, pray for my protection that I may come out safe and sound. So farewell to you both for this time. Hoping to hear from you before long. So remains your brother,

A W Hodges

Dear Brothers all at home,

I will not leave you out although I have not any thing to write to you more than is already wrote but to say to you all be good boys and try to take good care of your selves as long as you live, for we must all be seperated sometime for good and us as brothers try to be good ones as long as we live so When we come to die it then will be a good happy time with us. I want you all to write me as often as you can.



A W Hodges

Dear little Harmon, Henry and James,

Be good sweet little boys to help mother. So farewell.

A W Hodges

. . . . .

Huguenot Springs  
Sunday Morning Nov the 2nd 1862

Dear Rutha,

I now take my pen in hand to inform you that I am getting a long tolerably well as yet and I hope that these lines will find you and the little children all in good health and prosperity and all in good heart blessed with a plenty to eat and to wear and doing well in the service of our God and after being blessed with all these great blessings it is rite that we should be contented (is it not Rutha). I think so if we could only have peace in our country. I think if we could get to have peace one time more, I could get to go home to live with you all again. I dont think that I will be heard to please in any thing. I think that I could take everything easy, as it came to hand, and not grumble at all, but try to do the thing that would be right in the sight of God.

Dear Rutha I have not got anything worth your attention. It seems like every thing is old and dull here. We cant hear nothing but war news and that I am tired of. I have heard it and nothing else so much untill I want to hear something new. I had the oppertunity of hearing some good preaching the other day by one old man from Georgia that came here to see his son and there is preaching here to day and I will stop and go here the Sermon.

Well Rutha, I have been to meeting and I had the chance of hearing a good Sermon to day and I would be mity glad to hear such every day. We have the chance of hearing preaching mity every week. I have had the chance to hear Presbyterian, Mishinary Baptist and Primitive Baptist and they all preach well. I tell you I love to hear them it does seem good to hear good preaching.

Dear Rutha I have not got to write you this monday morning. I feel sorter out but how so be ever I will tell you that we have got some cold weather and I expect it will be mity cold weather here this winter. But we will have to have to build us some good winter quaters to stay in where I hope that we may fare first rate in the winter season. But I am in hopes that I will have the great oppertunity of being with you and my dear little children for the way I do want (to) see you all is the way. But let us trust in that God is able and myty to save all them that put there trust in Him and if it is his Holy will for us all to meet again in this life I shall be very thankful to Him for such a great blessing to be bestowed upon us poor mortals. I would be mity glad (to) hear that peace was made so we could all go home to our friends, wives and children to live with (them for the) rest of our days.

Kind and dear Rutha I want you to be strong and brave and trust in God for Divine blessing. Lets pray for each other in earnest of the Spirit that we may be built up in the beauty of holiness and may we be steadfast in the faith of Christ if we never meet here on this earth no more. Let us try to be satisfied with whatsoever the will of the Lord is, hopin to enter into his rest for there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Therefore let us hold fast to our profession, runing with pacints the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the auther and finisher of our faith that when we are called away from this troublesom world I hope that we may all meet in that happy world above where parting will be no more, sorrow will be known no more. So let us be faithful in the cause of Christ while we live here below.

My dear Rutha let us try to do all that we can in trying to live up to our duties and by so doing we will be enabled to enjoy ourselves more fully in the service of our God. Let us look unto Him for our safe defense both day and night that He may protect us from all harm, danger and difficulties, keep us and help us to meet again here on this earth to live and serve God together as we have in days past by and gone to be seen by us no more. Although we are seperated and we cant tell how long it will remain so, but let it be long or short, let us try to be faithful in that God is



able to help us to meet again and I hope and trust that we will do what is right in His sight and bless us with Spiritual blessings to sit with Christ in heavenly places. Let us pray for each other continually. So remains your Husband,

A. W. Hodges  
(to) R. H. Hodges

Dear brother Samuel,

A few lines to you. I received your kind letter Oct the 30th which was wrote the 24th and Rutha wrote the 21st. I got them in nine days. I am glad that you have the chance to send your letters to Ogeechee P. O. for I can hear from you all so much sooner. I will send all my letters to the same office.

I was glad to hear that you all got along with your work so well. I want you to do all you can in geting along with the work. Sow lots of oats, rake up lots of straw and hall into the Cow and horse lot and stables to make lots of manure for it is the mane thing for making of corn and potatoes for I am in hopes that you will get a long finly and have good health and Prosperity. So write soon and often. Tell father to write again.

Yours truly,  
A. W. Hodges  
to Samuel W. Hodges

. . . . .

Huguenot Springs Va  
Dec 5, 1862

Kind and dear Father,

I now take my pen in hand to inform you that I am yet improving in health, and I hope these lines will find you all in good health and prosperity, having a plenty to eat and to drink and with well contented minds.

I was glad to receive your kind letter which afforded much satisfaction to hear that you are all well. I am sorry to hear that sister Sarah was sick, and poor Rutha, who is my hearts delight

It would be a great satisfaction to me if I could see you again in good health. I do hope and trust that God will look on us in much mercy and protect us all until we can meet again in this world. If not, may the will of the Lord be done. Let us all try to be engaged in fasting and prayers for each other. We are taught that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. I hope that you are a righteous man. As such, I call on you and all others to try to remember me at a throne of rich grace. If we meet no more here on earth, I hope we will meet in Heaven.

Dec 6, 1862

Dear Father,

I take my pen this morning to inform you that I am still tolerably well and I hope that I will continue so. I have not much to write this morning, only I wanted to try to finish my letter to you. I have not anything else to do here, but to eat, drink, write letters, for myself and other people, and I do a lot of it here lately. I am writing letters most every day for somebody here.

I have the opportunity of going to hear preaching every Sunday and prayer meeting twice a week. It comes on every Sunday evening and Wednesday evening at 1/2 after three o'clock. Preaching is at eleven Sunday morning. I feel like I enjoy myself first rate in that part of my duty. It is a glorious thing that I have the opportunity but I would enjoy myself much better if I could only go with my little family to meeting, and be with them at all times, like I used to in by gone days, but it is not the case.



Father, write me as often as you can, and let me know how you and family get along. Tell Elic and Sarah to write me a letter. Tell them to write me all the news that is going on in old Bulloch County. So farewell.

A. W. Hodges  
to J. C. Hodges

. . . . .

Dear Rutha,<sup>4</sup>

I am happy to say to you that I received a letter from your kind hand dated the Feb the 2nd and you may be shure that I soon found out the contents of it. it was a good letter I was glad enough to read such a letter I want you to keep writin such encouraging letters altho I was sorry to hear of your suffering with boils. but I would be mity glad if you was bothered with nothin worse than boils. I am well pleased that you have the good Book for I think as much of it as any Book that I ever saw. I want you to take special good care of it for I do hope that I shall have the glorious oppertunity of reading of it again before long. if I never have the the chance of going home I want you to teach them little children the way and plan of salvation and I hope that God will help you to go through with it and bless you with the same. I am in hopes that when they come to years of accountability that they will hear the instructions of that good and holy book and be led by the Holy Spirit of God. but I am in hopes the Lord will send me home to see you all again I do want to see you and all the children I do want to see that little fareskin blue eyed Mary for I cant draw no (—) how she looks unless she favers Henry but then I dont know it so I am in hopes that I will see all there favors some day before long yours too my lovly Rutha Hodges.<sup>5</sup>

Rutha you may tell your kind mother that I received her love and respects with much satisfaction and I would be truly glad to see her and stay all day with her and eat some of her good bacon and collard(?) pork and turnips scallions and sausages butter and milk if it was the time of year for all these things tell her to remember me in all her prayes and supplications for I believe that she is a righteous woman and the fervant prayers of the righteous avaieth much I am in hopes that we will all be blessed with grace divine tell Moses and Betty and Dorah to write to me as soon as they can and not to be so lazy for I would be mity glad to get letters from any of them up there in that settlement. Rutha I am mity glad that you have bought the part of the shop from Samuel I want you to hold on to it as long as you live, if it does me no no good may be it will do the boys some good in days to come do as you see proper with the mare as to selling of her I want you to carry on your business the best way that you can and yet along with the farm the best way that you can I am glad that you hav got Antiny(?) to work with you this year for I think that He is a splendid hand to work plant all the corn and potatoes that you can for I am in hopes the Lord will help me to get home to enjoy some of your labor before this time of another year. O dont you want to see the time come when I can go home.

. . . . .

Camp Lawton Febuary the 13th 1863

Dear Rutha,

While all nature lookes so beamingly bright and bespeaks the goodness of a God and it has pleased Him to give me a reasonable portion of health I have seated my self this friday morning to let you know how I am at this time I can say to you that I am tolerably well as much so as I am for

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<sup>4</sup>Asbury did not indicate the date or the location that this letter was written. He does say in the first sentence that it was written in response to a letter from Rutha dated Febuary 2. Thus, it has been placed here on the assumption that is was written sometime in Febuary of 1863.

<sup>5</sup>Mary was less than two months old when Asbury entered the Confederate Army.



common I can not say say that I am as well as I use to be but my trust is still in my God for his Divine protection thro(?) this troublesom war and I do hope and pray to Him that He will bless us both and our dear little children all to meet again to see each other and enjoy ourselves together for days to come and that in the service of our God. O the way I would be glad if I only could be at home tomorrow morning I would try one time more to go with you to old Bethlehem to meeting I often of the good meetings in Bulloch County that I have enjoyed in gone by days but now I donot hear no good preaching now most every is nonsense of Some Sort and hard swearing so you may know that I dont see much satisfaction here for it is none as to christian conversation the most that I see and enjoy is in secret that is to myself but I am in hopes that I will come out in the end like good old Bunyan and be saved in the end from all pain sorrow and distress.

Rutha you told me in you kind letter not to study no more about home then I can help I tell you Rutha I try to take it all the very best that I can and I think that I have got along first rate concidering my long Spell of Sickness and being awa from my company and loosing my dear brothers and being so far from home in a strange country but out of them all the Lord has delivered me and I feel to thank His holy Name for all these kind blessings and I pray to Him to be with me and deliver me through all the troubles and trials that may come upon me here in this lonsom country and give me grace for days to come and be with all His people save us all in His kingdom is the prayer of your most unworthy husband. So dear Rutha let us do what we feel our duty to do as near as we can while we live in this life. Pray for me and I will try to do the same though unworthy as I feel to be so farewell for this time.

A. W. Hodges

Dear sons, Harmon, Henry and James

Father has not forgot you yet father wants you all to be mity good little boys and try to be smart boys and help poor mother all you can and take good care of that pretty little sister Mary and kiss her for father so be good boys.

Father

. . . . .

Camp Lawton Feb 19th 1863

Dear Rutha,

I received your kind letter last night. It found me well and hearty and I was glad to hear that (you) and the little ones was well. I am in hopes that this letter will find you all well and hearty as it leaves me. I have been verry poorly since I have been in camps and expected that I would have to go to the hospital to do duty there but I have mended up. I have got nearly well of that pain in my side and I am in hopes that I will get finly well of it for I do love to feell good. I have felt bad so long that when I feel well I think I feel mity good and so it is a well man feels mity good to what a sick man does. Dear Rutha you said that you had concluded to cowpen land this year. I am mity willing to it myself. Cowpen all you can and take in about an achor with the cow lot and plant all the potatoes that you can for I want you to make all the potatoes that you can and all the turnips that you can for I do hope to be with you by that time, if not before and I want a big chance of turnips and potatoes for they are a thing that we dont get here at all. The way I would be glad of some good pork and turnips. I think it would help me mityly if I just had a big bole of pot liquor and bread. But let us both be strong and brave and take all our troubles with patients and I am in hope that we will be carried through them all and meet again. I am in hopes that we will meet again although I have suffered a great deal. I have not been much uneasy of leaving of you. I have felt very well satisfied all the time and I am so yet. Sometimes they talk of sending me off to do duty in the hospital but I dont know whether they will or not. I told you in the last letter that I wrote to you that I was going but my Capt told me to stay longer and I may not go at all. Just as I get along in my health but be as it may I want to do the best that I can and I want you to do the best that you can and not grieve after me no more. Then you can help for I intend to let you know how I am and where I am just as long as I live or stay away from you, if I can get paper and ink. And I want you to do the same for it does me so



much good to get letters from you and to hear that you are getting along so well. I just want you to go ahead with the work as you think best and do the best you can while we are separated but I hope God will spare us to meet again in this world to enjoy ourselves together and raise our little children to praise Him and to love him.

Dear Rutha I have not got no news to write to you. I expect you hear all the news that is going. I am glad to hear that you got your shop work done. I want to know if you have got plows a plenty to work with this year. I have to know all about your work. I cant help asking you some questions every now and then. I want you to be bold and strong and faithful and I hope the Lord will help us to do the thing that is right. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and all my little children and receive a portion yourself. Yours truly,

A W Hodges to  
Rutha Hodges

. . . . .

Camp Lawton Feb 24th 1863

Dear Wife,

I have seated myself this morning to drop you a few more lines to inform you that I am tolerably well at this time and I hope that these lines will find you and the little children all well and hearty, with a plenty to eat and to wear, and enjoying all the comforts of life that is necessary for you to enjoy in this world.

I hope the time is not far distant when we will be blessed with a great opportunity of meeting again, to live together again, to enjoy the pleasures of this life for a while.

I long to see the day to see you all in full prosperity and share with you in the same kind blessings of heaven. I want to see the day when all will be peace and prosperity. I want to see the day when poor soldiers can return to their kind homes to lovely families and dear friends and relatives. I want to see the day when I can hear the gospel preached in its purity and enjoy the same with much satisfaction among the children of God, where there will be peach and prosperity.

I have heard some good preaching since I have been in this state, especially at the Springs where I stayed so long. I was blessed with the one thing, that I did delight in, and I think there is any that loves to go to meeting, I do, but I am debarred from that opportunity now for we dont have preaching here in Camp. I have no opportunity of hearing anything in the line of worship but I hope the Most High will bless me with the opportunity of hearing his gospel trumpet blow before long.

I wish to do all my duty as far as I can, but I know that I am careless in some things, but I feel like trying to do the best I can, while I live here below in this world of sin and of sorrow, for we have to go through with many a trouble in this world, but we must look to God for help. For his grace is sufficient for us, and he is willing to protect and help all those that put their trust in him for protection.

Dear Ruthie, I want to know how much money that I owe at this time. I want to get out if I can. I will try to send you some more the next time I draw if you need it. I want you to write to me and let me know when ever you want money and if I have got it you shall have it, if I can get it to you, for it is no use for me to spend it here when every thing is so high it is like throwing it away almost. Sugar is two dollars a pound, corn meal is seventy-five cents a quart and everything according.

I try to keep a plenty of tobacco, paper and ink, so I can write to you for I will write as often as once a week, and oftener if it is needed, for I want you to have and know how I get along.

This leaves me and Co. well. Give my respects to father and family, Ruthie Hodges and children.

A. W. Hodges

. . . . .



February the 27th<sup>6</sup>

Deare Husband,

I take my pen in hand to write you a few more lines which will inform you that we are all in good health, hoping this to find you doing well. We get along very well considering the hindrence that we have. Three log rollings this week, last saturday at your fathers and the cowpen logs here thursday, at grand mothers friday, at Rebecca and Pridgens saturday, at Nancy Warters, and I hope that will end the log rollings for this spring. Antinny has split 12 hundred and 50 railles. I had him to patch up and raise the old fenceing. It is too late to up set it. I thought it would do a year or too longer.

The old field is broke up, is all the plowing that is done yet. I want to put Antinny to riding the the house field next monday and then plant the old field, then plant the house peice and then throw off the new ground and plant it, then hall out the manour. I hope that I will get along well every way that is right. I have not paid Mother yet. I have not got that ten dollars yet that uncle Pernel brought. I have got just 40 dollars now. That aint quite enough. Elis will pay me for his and Billy smith work. I guess that will be enough to pay her. I have got some eggs to sen off and about 6 hens. They ar a dollar a peice and eggs 50 cts per doz. I think I will pay all that we owe and then if you only could get home, how glad and thankful we should be.

So farewell for this time,

Rutha to Asbury

.....

Hamilton's Crossing  
March 24th 1863

Dear Rutha,<sup>7</sup>

I thot I would write you a few more lines to let you no I received your kind & cheering letter a few days ago, but has not had a chance to answer it till since drill this morning. I have put on my dinner & thot I would write home while it is cooking. Perhaps you would like to no what I am cooking for dinner. Well, I've bought some peas & has just washed(?) them and put them in the pot with some bacon that we drewd but I've got no good corn bread to eat with them when they get done. It will be fat, meat, peas & biscuits for dinner. I would be mity glad of some of your good bread.

Rutha, I dont no that I ever told you anything about the money you sent Asbury last summer & how it went. I think I rote to Penny<sup>8</sup> about it if I didnt to you. I was present when Jimmie<sup>9</sup> opened the letter, & there was ten dollars in it, & he asked me what to do with it, & I told him to keep it & maybe Bury would come back some time & want it, & Bury never came during his<sup>10</sup> lifetime, & when I got to Jimmie after he was wounded & took his Pocket book from his pocket, he was able to tell me there was ten dollars for Bury. He said he had saved it for him & he

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<sup>6</sup>Although Ruth did not specify the year that she wrote this letter to her husband, it was probably 1863.

<sup>7</sup>This letter is from James T. William Alderman, Asbury's uncle (his mother's brother).

<sup>8</sup>Penelope S. Hodges, one of Asbury's sisters.

<sup>9</sup>James C. Hodges, one of Asbury's brothers, who was in the same Company as Asbury. James died in September of 1862, as William Alderman describes in this letter.

<sup>10</sup>i.e., Jimmie's.



had never come & he says, Uncle Wm., you must take care of it for him. Well, Jimmie, I will do that if I live to get back to the Co. & when I got back to the co., (I) didn't no anything of Bury, & I didn't no that I ever would see him anymore. So I thot it best to send the money with Jimmie's & I put it in the Capt's hands to send home. I want you to have your money if you have not got it for that was Jimmie's dieing request & it was my promis & I do believe he put all confidence in me that I would do what was right, & that is the way I wish to do at all time. The old man Joseph<sup>11</sup> may think it belonged to Jimmie as it was put with his. I dont no that I ever told you about it but I think I did Penny or some of the family. Jimmie was always such a good boy to me. I want his affairs fixed right & more especially, what he left in my care. I guess I've rote enough about that for you all to understand it, if not, & any of you wish to ask me any questions about it, do so, for I think I'm calculated to answer correctly, for I knew more about Jimmie's affairs that anybody else in the Co.

Well, Rutha, I've not heard from Bury lately as he is gone to the hospital again, but I guess he has rote to you all about that. My health is very good yet, also the rest of the Co. G. W. Nickles<sup>12</sup> is quite harty, he has bin washing today. The weather is pretty cold yet, & it looks very much like snow today. This is the coldest country I ever was in. I see no preparations at all for another crop.

I'm glad to hear of you and all the rest of the neighbours getting along so well. The last letter you sent Bury came here day before yesterday bearing date the 13th. I broke it and read it & it done me most as much good as if it had bin for me. I tell you it was a cheering letter. Bury told me to read them & then send them or their contents to him.

I dont see no more prospect of peace now than when I first come to Va. The yankeys are up in the balloon most every day. It seames like I get almost out of hart sometimes of ever having peace while I live. Oh! how I want peace & (to) go home to my Dear friends. May the Lord give us strength to bear our troubles with patience.

I remain as ever your friend & Affinity,

William Alderman

Do write soon & tell Sarah<sup>13</sup> to write for I think the time long.

. . . . .

Orange Court House, va Sept 13th 1863

Dear Rutha,

I will try this Sunday evening to drop you a few more lines to let you know that I am well and harty I wrote to you in my last letter that I had the bowel complaint. I am well of it now. and I am doing well. and I can tell you why I am doing well I get a plenty to eat. I have the great oppertunity of hearing good preaching and I can tell you more than that I have the chance of seeing some baptized I was at the baptism of four to day and among them was George W. Nichols. The way I am glad to see the people trying to do right there is a great alteration in the people now to what there was six month ago.<sup>14</sup> I tell you that it is a great satisfaction to see the people trying to do right. we

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<sup>11</sup>Joseph C. Hodges, William Alderman's brother-in-law and Asbury's father.

<sup>12</sup>George W. Nichols, a neighbor of Asbury Hodges. The Hodges family and the Nichols family were listed only two houses apart in the 1860 census.

<sup>13</sup>Sarah Jane Alderman, one of William's sisters.

<sup>14</sup>According to his Confederate service record, Asbury was sent home to Bulloch County on a sick furlough sometime in March or April of 1863. He did not return to his Company until sometime in July or August of the same year. His mention of "six month"s probably refers to the period during which he was away from the Company.



are here in the defence of our country and I do hope that our whole trust will be in God. and my desire is that he may by his strong arm of Power protect us from all harm of the enemy. but if it is not his holy will for me to get home any more I trust that I may have grace to bear me away beyond the bright regions in that eternal world on high where peace will for ever reign where I will be blessed through that eternal world on high. this is not all my desire I tell you that it would be a great thing to meet you all in heaven this is my desire it is a good one too and and Oh may we all be blessed in having this desire accomplished. Rutha it does do me so much good to see poor sinners coming to fountain of life inquiring for the way of salvation it looks so delightful to see them march down into the water and to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I tell you it is delightful. I have had the oppertunity of seeing of several baptized since I have been here and I hope and trust that the work of Christ may prosper every where. I long to see the time that it may be the case at home where you and (I if I)? should Should have the chance of giting there which I trust the Lord will help me so to do. Dear Rutha I hope the lines will find you and all the children well and hearty and geting along well with all your work I want you to do well in every respect put your whole trust in God pray for me that I may be enabled to get through all my troubles. Uncle William is well and hearty and good company. G W Nichols is well and is my mess mate and brother in Christ. I hope this leaves me well and hearty.

A W Hodges to Rutha Hodges

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Co. D. 61st Reg. Va.  
Sept 15th, 1863

Dear Ruth,

I have just received a letter from you bearing the date Sept the 4th and 5th which I was glad to get hold of. The name of the place I do not know for we are now in a line of battle to be ready at any moments warning, but I cannot tell you what the consequence will be. The Artillery are firing continually, far and I hope they may keep them off, but if not I feel willing to do my part in the defence of my country.

I am well as to health but I feel sorter drowsy this morning, on the account of being up most all night cooking for the company. I will tell you all about it. I wrote you a letter late Sunday evening and the soon Monday morning between midnight and daylight we got orders to be ready to march by light. We all went to work to try to get something to eat. We left soon and marched down here, on the Rappadan River, to meet the foe and staid here all day and until in the night we got orders to send out a detail for to cook for the Regiment. Myself and three more went out of my company. We was up all night cooking and we had to go about three miles and had to be back here by eight o'clock this morning. This makes me feel sorter sleepy but I stand it very well so far.

Ruthie, you must not be discouraged in this matter for we must all try to do the very best that we can while we live in this world, for we are travellers from this world, and it would be all of our duties to try to put our trust in God alone for our help and for our protection, praying to him that he would be our help now. I feel like I deserve his help an my part it will make most any one feel awful to march into a field of battle to fight against the ball and cannister but it is the way of war and we will have to put up with it, but it need not make those that loves the Lord any worse off, they will be blessed any how.

I feel and hope that he is with me here and I hope that he will be with me in this battle and carry me through in safety. I want you to take this matter the very best and not be uneasy at all. I dont know that we will fight, but there is a prospect of it.

You wanted to know how much Antiny's work come to. The amount is \$77.50 and you can do as you see proper about paying up Hiram with the note or money.

As to getting along in my religious matters, I do first (rate). I hear some mighty good preaching in this part of the world.

You must excuse bad writing this time for I am writing on my knee, in an oak thicket, listening at the big guns popping. This leaves me well. I hope it will find you and the children the same.



A. W. Hodges

. . . . .

State of Va.

Sunday morning Sept the 20th 1863

Dear wife,

I take my pen in hand this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am in good health at present, blessed and greatly blessed by the hand of God. Rutha, I know that you must feel uneasy about me, that is, if you got my last letter. I wrote to you that we was living in a line of battle, but it is not the case now, we was expecting a fight but it did not come an it is said that the yankeys are moving off and I am not sorry of it. I would be mity glad if it would be the case that we would have no more fighting among the children of men. I would be mity glad if we could all live in peace the ballance of our days and time in this world.

Rutha, the way I would be glad to see you and the children again, but I feel abundance better satisfied by going home and stay(ing) with you as long as I did. Rutha, I must stop and go to meeting and hear some Preaching. I guess that you are fixing(?) to go down to Bethlehem this beautiful Sunday morning.

Rutha, I have got back from meeting and I will try to finish my letter but I have a mity bad chance to write. I have to write on my knee seting by a fire. I have got no news to write to you that would be Interesting. I would not write so quick after the other but I know that you would like mity well to hear from me soon on the account of the other one that I wrote to you. When you get it I know that you will be uneasy untill you get another. When I wrote the other one I had no other expectation but what we would go into a fight immediately but it did not be the case.

Rutha, I want you to write to me as often as you can and let me know how you get along with all your business, for I do love to hear that you are geting a long well. I want you to write how Hiram Bland does about Antiny, if he wants you to take him any more but I guess he will have to keep him as long as you have got Step(?). I want you to tell me how long you kept Mr. Pelot's negro. I want to know if you have got the road fill from home to Mr. Pelot's. I hear that the conscripts are taking the tenth whenever they come to you. You must take it the best you can and try to git along the best that you can. I hope the day will soon come when this trouble will be done with. You must tell me how Harmon gets a long in his school, tell how you get along in sowing your oats, tell me how Sara and the colt gets along. I will have to quit my sorry(?) without I could do better. I hope this letter will find you all well and hearty with a plenty to go upon, so farewell for this time.

Yours truly,  
A. W. Hodges  
to Rutha Hodges & children

. . . . .

Camp Warner, Savannah, Ga.

April 17, 1864

Dear Rutha,

My highly esteemed, sweet loving wife, which I have often enjoyed myself within days that are past and gone. I would be best pleased this morning if I only could be with you and the children to talk awhile. I am in good health, as to my health, but have taken cold and have a bad cough. I am going up to the Hospital to get a cough medicine. I am too hearty to go into the Hospital. I am tired of such places.

Rutha, I have no news to write you, only to say that Elic is going home. His furlough has come, and I guess he will start this evening for home. I want to reassure you again, if I had the power, I would come home and help you if I could. There is no chance for me to get off, unless I



could be elected Justice of the Peace, and I dont know if that could bring me out, but I would be glad if I could.

Rutha, I hope these lines will find you and the children doing well. I am mighty sorry you are so badly disappointed on getting some one to work. I feel in hopes that you will get along. I am not uneasy at all about you getting on. I do honestly believe that God will be with us both and help us in this world. We have got to see trouble in this world and we should not repine. Let us try to be faithful to Him, who is faithful. I hope to see the day when I shall have the chance of living with you and the children, if only a few days in this world. The way I do want to see the time when I can return.

Rutha, dont get out of heart about your work. I believe the Lord will be with you and help you along in this life. I want to go home as soon as I can get a furlough and spend a few more days with you in this life. I will close for this time.

Yours truly,  
A. W. Hodges to Rutha Hodges

. . . . .

Camp Cobb April 20th, 1864

My dear Beloved Wife,

It is to write her that I take my pen in hand this morning to drop a few lines to let you know that I am well as to my health, but have a hard cough yet. I have had a cold, but now it is better. I am in hopes that these lines will find you well and happy, and all the children. I want to hear from you all mighty bad. I want to know how you get along with the work. I dont know when I will have a chance to come home. You are so far away. I am in hopes they will let me off again so I can come home and see you. I want to know how you are getting on with the work. I was glad to get little Harmon's letter the other day, but I dont know how it would be to see you now.

We are in Whitman's Retreat, about 7 miles from Savannah. We have to go on the Picket, every 8th day, and stay a week. We get plenty to eat. We hope we will get (—) as long as the war lasts.

Dear Rutha, take encouragement and try to get along as well as you can. I am not uneasy about you, but what you will get along well. I would like to be with you to help you along. If you take a notion to come see me, before I go home, I want you to let me know. Let me know time enough to meet you in town as I dont want you to have to come by yourself. I am in hopes that I can get a furlough. They have all been stopped until they could find out who has to go to Virginia. They have sent up some more, but I am in hopes that we wont have to go. They have sent us over here to take the places of some sent to Virginia.

Remember me in your prayers. May God keep and preserve us.

As ever your husband,  
A. W. Hodges

. . . . .

Army of the State of Georgia  
June 5th, 1864

Dear Rutha,

It is with much pleasure that I avail the opportunity of addressing a few lines which will inform you that I am well and hearty, as to my health, but that I have a bad cold. We have been marching and lying out on the cold ground so much until it gave me a cold. I am mighty tired at this time. I am sitting down in the woods by my gun with the rest of the boys. We have had no fight yet. The Yankees appear to be afraid to fight us. I would like it mighty well if we would not have a fight. I do hope it will be the pleasure and the will of the Lord to keep me as the apple of His eye and under the shadow of His wings. He will protect me.

Rutha, I hope and trust that these lines will find you and the children well and hearty. The way I do want to see you and the little children. I want to hear from you mighty bad. I want to know how you get along with your work. I hope you may do well, if I cant have the opportunity of staying with you. It would seem so good if only I were with you now this beautiful Sunday evening. I could see much more pleasure if I could be with you to read that good Bible that lies on the mantel shelf. I hope it will be the case some day before long.

Rutha, tell Grandmother that I saw uncle Mitchell<sup>15</sup> today. He looks well only mighty tired. If you see Sarah or Jincy, you can tell them that their husbands are well. I want you to write to me as often as possible and let me know how you get along in these times of trouble. Direct to

A. W. Hodges  
1st Regt. of Ga. Volunteers  
Mercer's Brigade, Walker's Division  
Army of Tennessee.

Give my best love and regards to all inquiring friends. So, farewell, dear Rutha.

Your loving husband,  
A. W. Hodges

P.S. Tell Harmon, Henry, and James that they must be smart little boys and do all the work they can. Attend to the cow pen and take care of that sweet little sister Mary, and give her a kiss for me. Farewell, boys.

Your father,  
A. W. Hodges

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<sup>15</sup>i.e., Mitchell A. Alderman, another of Asbury's uncles.



**LETTERS WRITTEN FOR PERRY LOVEJOY,  
UNION SOLDIER, TO HIS WIFE, 1864-1865**

Submitted by Bill Lovejoy  
Transcribed by Evelyn Mabry

Following are seven letters written for Perry Lovejoy, Union soldier, by his fellow soldier(s) to his wife, Eliza E. Lovejoy at Shields, Belmont County, Ohio, as he passed through Georgia in Sherman's March to the Sea. Shields, Ohio, was in Pultney township, a political subdivision of Belmont County. Shields is now Neffs, Ohio. Perry Lovejoy could not read or write, hence his dependence on fellow soldiers to write letters for him. He had been a railroad man before he went to war.

Perry Lovejoy was the great grandfather of Bill Lovejoy, Georgia Southern College professor emeritus.

september 17 1864

Dear wife i am glad to right thoas few lines to you to let you now that i am well and hope this will find you well at this time and we are at Chatsworth in the forest lands and we got hear safe and we are in line to get your guns all day and it is hote (hot) hear to Day and we are all hear to gethe (together) but gorge we left hime in Clumbs we don't now where he is yet Roney Mack Cleon and sam we are all in won camp and we don't now wher we are going to yet I want you to kepe in good hart and tell all the peple that me and all the rest of the Boys and you ned not right till i no whir we go to and i will give you the drickson (direction) and you will no whear to right to no mor at present from your dear husband peare lovejoy and tell absidy (?) Anderson to tell John Bain that Richard Henley is well to and is my partner with me. no more at present good Day

\* \* \* \* \*

Dec the 22 1864

Dear wife I thought I would write you a few lines more to let you know that I am well, and are in camp in about 15 miles of Savannah, our men took Savannah yesterday and all their big guns. We expect to be moved their any day. We have not had any fighting to do yet and I am in hopes we wont till we come home. Kilpatric drive the Johnnies right before him we left Chatnuga on the 22nd of October and reached here on the 15 of dec. we were all that time amarching it was a long and a wearysome march we stopped at atlanta 2 day and 2 nights and it was a beautiful place and we burnt and distroyed evrything as we went and tore up railroads. there is some beautiful railroads down here. it is said to be the biggest raid that has been made during the war. we burnt houses mills factories cotton and took all horses cattle hogs sheep and niggers that was before us and we burnt up millageville the Capitol of georgia we had plenty of evrything to eat on our march and that of the very best but we had it purty hard here for a few days for something to eat until we took fort maccalister and opene a base of supplies and now we get plenty to eat and drink except whiskey and that we get none. Make Jim drugon (?) get you a quart of brandy and make a good bale (bate) of appletody and say if Pary was only here to take some of this, tell bobby to load the old gun and have one good crack I hope I will be home with you all before this time next year. we have just three months in today and I wish it was twelve months for I want to see you all very bad. Keep in good spirits and take good care of yourself and the children nine months will soon roll round and then I will



be home with you all. the soldiers of Ohio say that a (volunteer ?) or drafted man's family draws so much a month for their families and if it is so you must get squire anderson to draw it for you. You can get robert clark to see squire anderson for you. Sam and bill McClend and billy James and Prather vales and myself are all in one camp together. we are seeing bully times now and I hope it may continue so. and are all in good health thank the lord for it. let me know if you have heard from George since we left or not we have not seen him nor heard anythink of him since we left Chattagnuga give my love to nimrod and sally and sam and i are in good spirits and are well. give my love to robert Clark and his family and tell him to write to me and give me all the news and also for him to send me the gernal evry now and then. we cannot get any news here. give my love to Mrs. Cane and John and to all inquiring friends and what I have seen since i left home is worth more than a thousand dollars to me. give my love to fred garloch and his family. give this 50 cents to lissy Now I must close with my love to you and the children. I want you to write to me as soon as this comes to hand and give me all the news.

Direct your letter to P G lovejoy In care of Capt. Roots detailed Commissary sherman's headquarters

I am anxious to hear from you all

here is some secesh (?) money for you to look at

I have got but one letter from you yet

\* \* \* \* \*

Near Savannah Ga

January 1st 1865

Dear wife

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hope when this reaches you it will find you and the children well. We are still at camp near savannah. I seen sam the 28 and he was well This is the ninth letter that I have sent you and have received but one letter. I want to hear from you and the children very bad. I dram (dream) about you evry night but I hope you are all well. we are just cooking dinner rice and beef, pork and hard tack and coffee, sugar. We have just drawed a drink of whiskey and I tell you it was good for it is the first we have drawed for 2 months.

I would like to see you all very much. I hope i will before long. there is a rumor of armistice for 60 days. let me know what the news is there. we was mustered yesterday for pay. I hope we will soon get it for we have to buy a Goodeal of our rations. let me know when you write whether they have had any run offs on my section or not and how many men is at work on his and when you have heard from James or billy (mount?) and how nimrod and sally comes on and let me know what became of billy rothwell I heard he run off, and what Jim drugon and george is a doing and tell the children to go to school evry day they can. I want to see how much better learning they have. tell nimrod he must write to me. send me the Journal whenever you can I never herd the returns of the election yet we hear that uncle abe had five hundred thousand of a majority with out the Soldiers votes I hope it is so bully for uncle abe the majority of the soldiers think the war is pretty near over. give my love to robbert Clark and all the family. tell him he must write to me and let me know what the Copperheads think of the down fall of millageville and fort mccalister fort Jackson and savannah. give my love to all enquiring friends.

and my best love to you and the children and take good care of your self and the children till I come home. I hope it will not be long.

from P G lovejoy to his wife

and children

Direct Co D 38 (?)

3 brigade 3 division

14 Army Corps

via savanna Ga

send me some postage stamps for they can not be got here.

\* \* \* \* \*

Savannah Georgia

January 17th 1865

Dear Wife. I write to let you know that I am well with the exception of a bad cold and hope that these few lines will



find you all enjoying good health. I have received but two letters from you since I left home. I want to hear from you all very much. we are going to leave here tomorrow but I do not know where we are a going. I will let you know as soon as I can. Mr. Vail started home yesterday. He got his discharge he is to have a commishion in the 180th as Chaplain. I want you to write to me often and let me know all the news let me know what jim Drugan and George are doing and whether they have had any run offs on my Section or not and whether Mr. Lee or John Hart has been to see you since I left or not. I hear that there is to be another Draft in Ohio and when it comes of (off) send me a list of all that is drafted in Pultney township. Sam is well he is running a stationery engine for the government in Savannah. I give my love to Mrs. Cone (Cane ?) and all the family and to Robert Clark and family. and keep the best share for your self.

I want you to write soon for you know that I like to hear from home.

I will close this time.

Direct to 28 O V P 3 div 3 brigade

14 Corps

Perry

\* \* \* \* \*

SEE INTERPRETATION WHICH FOLLOWS

Janeary the 22nd 1865

Dear Wife

I tack the pleasher of righton thoas few lines to let you now how i am i have been sick with that miseray in my head but i am geting well a gain and i hope this will find you and the chidren i receved you kind and welcomb leter on the 21 and was glad to hear from you an the childron and was glad to hear of Jave (?) bean at your hous and sory that he cant stay with you if he cold i wold liked beter for i no he would bean good compeny for you and we have had Marchen orders and Marched 10 mils and the order was countermanded and we are camped in the wood and thir is some talch of us goin back to town a gain but we ant tell evything a bout it we hear to much hear and i though iwould right thous few lines to you to let you no whear i



am for we have not the same cance you have at home tow  
right and you can give my best respets to all incuireing  
finds (friends) give my love to the childron and i am glad  
that you ar all right and hope every thing will go of right  
i have reseved 3 leters from you but i have not got that  
you sent the money in yet i got post staps in tow leters  
and you said some won told you i had sold my watch but  
thats not so for i have got it with me all safe yet and  
will kep it safe if i can and you said sam wife though hard  
of him not righten to hir but he has sent several leters to  
her i now and he is in sivaner on detail onder Capten routs  
and Bill McClean and him is well and give my best respet to  
hire and the childron and if you can send me som as  
ausefitey if you can i thing it wold dwo me som good for it  
all ways Did it is raingin hear a good Deale that is all  
the winter hear they have it is not coald hear most of the  
time we can go with out your coats the sun shines prety hot  
hear when it is not cloudy and i am uneasy to hear of you  
bean sick and well again the I will be at rest for a while  
and let me now as quick as it coms of i lick to hear from  
you if it was every day and i now you ar the same i have to  
get some won to right for me when i right but you can right  
your self and right as often as you can and i will dow the  
same and tell me all about the draft that is goin of on the  
15 feberary you said you thought the ware wold soun be over  
now for old Aberaham is elected a gain and you hoped that i  
voited for him i did tha shour and i want you to let me now  
if thir is eney talch of peace for thire is som talch of it  
hear Among us but we can hear eney think hear a tall we  
want to but tell me all the neous you can that gois on and  
give my love to all the childron and Atacke the most to  
your self Dear wife right as often as you can for i lick to  
hear from you and the famely give my love to all my  
incquireing frends i wold have sent my watch home with  
precher vails onely he was fraid som won mit steail it  
from him and i thout i had beter kep it with me No mor from  
you Dearest Husbend peary lovejoy the dearest of all to you  
and you the same to me.

you wanted to now who rought my leters it is won of my mess  
maits and his Name is Richard Heslop his wife lives with  
John Bairs he works at Jackebit Hetherentoings on the river

\* \* \* \* \*

#### INTERPRETATION

January the 22nd 1865

Dear Wife

I take the pleasure of writing these few lines to let you  
know how I am. I have been sick with that misery in my



head but I am getting well again and I hope this will find you and the children. I received you kind and welcome letter on the 21 and was glad to hear from you and the children and was glad to hear of Jave (?) being at your house and sorry that he can't stay with you. If he could I would like it better for I know he would (have) been good company for you. And we have had marching orders and marched 10 miles and the order was countermanded and we are camped in the woods and there is some talk of us going back to town again but we can't tell everything about it we hear too much here, and I thought I would write these few lines to you to let you know where I am for we have not the same chance you have at home to write, and you can give my best regards to all inquiring friends. Give my love to the children and I am glad that you are all right and hope everything will go off right.

I have received 3 letters from you but I have not got that (one) you sent the money in yet. I got post stamps in two letters and you said some one told you I had sold my watch but that's not so for I have got it with me all safe yet and will keep it safe if I can. And you said Sam's wife thought hard of him not writing to her but he has sent several letters to her, I know, and he is in Savannah on detail under Captain Routs and Bill McClean and him is (are) well and give my best respect to her and the children and if you can send me some asafetida if you can. I think it would do me some good for it always did. It is raining here a good deal. That is all the winter here they have. It is not cold here most of the time we can go without our coats. The sun shines pretty hot here when it is not cloudy (and) I am uneasy to hear of you being sick and well again then I will be at rest for a while and let me know as quick as it comes off. I like to hear from you if it was every day and I know you are the same. I have to get someone to write for me when I write but you can write yourself and write as often as you can and I will do the same. (And) tell me all about the draft that is going off on the 15 February. You said you thought the war would soon be over now for old Abraham is elected again and you hoped that I voted for him. I did that sure and I want you to let me know if there is any talk of peace for there is some talk of it here among us but we can hear any thing here at all we want to but tell me all the news you can that goes on and give my love to all the children and attach the most to yourself Dear Wife. Write as often as you can for I like to hear from you and the family.

Give my love to all my inquiring friends. I would have sent my watch home with Preacher Vails only he was afraid someone might steal it from him and I thought I had better



keep it with me. No more from your Dearest Husband Peary  
Lovejoy the dearest of all to you and you the same to me.

You want to know who wrote my letters. It is one of my  
mess mates and his name is Richard Heslop, his wife lives  
with John Bairs he works at Jackebit Hetherentoings on the  
river.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEE INTERPRETATION WHICH FOLLOWS

February the 6th 1865

Dear wife

With much plesher i recved your kind and welcom leter and  
was glad you and the children was all well and it found me  
in prety good helthe and when you get this i hope it will  
find you the sam i received your leter on the 4 of this  
Month and (and) we had Marchen orders when i got it and on  
the 5th we Marched a cross the sirvaner and are in camp in  
southcarlino and we don't no what day we will leave it  
mitt be in half a day it mite be 3 or 4 Days

Well dear wife you said you sent me some Money and som  
stamps i goot the stamps and for the money i only goot 10  
cents in the first leter i got from you and you said you  
som think about som tobacko but i have not saw it yet and i  
wold lick to see it for it is the schearses thing thir is  
to get hear we get plenty of rashings now and we just  
drawed tow days rashings to day and got (whet tofe) sugar  
to and tea will i got a leter from robert clarck on the  
5the the day we started a cross the river and you must  
right as often as you can for i long to hear from you to  
now andif you see Robert Clark tel him i am all right and  
was glad to get his leter and the list of the last draft  
and his famely bean all well and when the next draft coms  
of let me know who all is drafted

Well dear wife its prety near six months in now and i wish  
it was all in till i cold get home to see you all wonst mor  
a gain i have just got a par of new pants to day and i  
neaded them and but i donet now how sown we mit stop som  
plase and i mit neaid them well dear wife i send you som  
rebel money and you can give som of it to robert clarcks  
childron and som to him self and tow som others you see fit  
andp leas your self and keep up your hart hear wife i hope  
this thing will soun be over with and we call will get home  
to you famelys to in Joy you home wonst mor tell...



Well dear wife i will have to bring my leter to a close it is raingen to day yesterday it was veary hot hear well dear wife i send my best love to and all inquiren frends and the Most of that to you and the children well now mor from your dear husband pearey lovejoy this is to Eliscia E. lovejoy

good Day Dear wife  
for this time right  
soun as you  
can dear  
wife

i wish this crouel ware was over so  
that we cold met to part no more  
for ever

\* \* \* \* \*

#### INTERPRETATION

February the 6th 1865

Dear wife,

With much pleasure I received your kind and welcome letter and was glad you and the children was all well and it found me in pretty good health and when you get this I hope it will find you the same. I received your letter on the 4th of this month and (and) we had marching orders when I got it and on the 5th we marched across the Savannah and are in camp in South Carolina and we don't know what day we will leave, it might be in half a day, it might be 3 or 4 days.

Well, dear wife, you said you sent me some money and some stamps. I got the stamps and for the money I only got 10 cents in the first letter I got from you and you said (you) something about some tobacco but I have not saw it yet and would like to see it for it is the scarcist (?) thing ther eis to get here. We get plenty of rations now and we just drawed two days rations today and got (whet tofe ?) sugar too and tea. Well, I got a letter from Robert Clark on the 5the the day we started across the river and you must write as often as you can for I long to hear from you to know if all things goes off right with you and when it does, you must let me know right away for I long to know. And if you see Robert Clark tell him I am all right and was glad to get his letter and the list of the last draft and his family been all well and when the next draft comes off let me know who all is drafted.

Well, dear wife, its pretty near six months in now and I wish it was all in till I could get home to see you all once more again. I have just got a pair of new pants today and I needed them and (but) I don't know how soon we might stop some place and I might need them. Well dear wife I send you some rebel money and you can give some of it to Robert Clark's children and some to himself and to some others you see fit and please yourself. And keep up your heart dear wife. I hope this thing will soon be over with and we all will get home to you families to enjoy your home once more...

Well dear wife I will have to bring my letter to a close. It is raining today, yesterday it was very hot here. Well dear wife I send my best love to (and) all inquirng friends and the most of that to you and the children. Well now no more from your dear husband Perry Lovejoy, this is to Eliza E. Lovejoy.

Good day Dear Wife  
for this time. Write  
soon as you  
can dear  
wife

i wish this cruel war was over with so that  
we could meet to part no more forever.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEE INTERPRETATION WHICH FOLLOWS

Apréal the 2 1865

Dear wife

it was with much pleasher i receved your kind leter just com to hand and wone from Robert Clarck and was glad to hear from you that it was all right with you a gain and hope this will still find you still geting beter and glad to hear of you having a fine daughter and hope you will Have good luck with it till i get home and we will have a good time then well dear wife we are at goldsberowh northcarliner we was not in the fight all of our core was in it but our bregaid and it was in the rear of our train and it was luckey for us for our cor sufered a grat deal but nothen what the rebels did thire lose was put dwon at 6,000 and ours at 600 for thay charged our works 7 times and thay must have lost a grat deal mor. i hope not eney how we are not more then 80 Miles from richmond bey rail road and 100 and 40 bey land so the rebels is pend (penned)



prety close now we have got clothen now and we well rest  
awhile and we donet now whear we will go next for we have  
had a hard march of it but we had all the counter  
(country?) cold eford for we tuoke every thing as we went  
on our March for 40 Mils wide and burnt all of thire houses  
it \_\_\_\_\_ for them it is hard for them but we had to  
live too we onely had 10 days rashings with us and thire  
was 85 (five) thousand men and had that much for so meney  
men for so long a time a bout 2 months we landed hear on  
the 22 of March and left sirvaner on the 20 of Jeneary.

well you said you sent me som Money and som tobackey i did  
not get now tobackey and for the money i got non but 25  
(five) cents shin plasters in the first leter from you and  
tell me how much you sent me for that is all i got from you  
it is veary warme hear to Day it has been coule hear that  
is what thay call cold is nothing to our cold wehether in  
the north it will be warme from this out you now well tell  
Robert Clarks famely i send my best respet to thema nd all  
the folks a raound hear i have bean sick all the way throu  
this campain but i was not in the hospitall as you hard  
but i was prety sick but i am getin well a gain thank god  
for it and i hope this will find you the same well we have  
plenty to eait hear and i hope you have the same tell the  
children that pap wold licck to see them all and wold lick  
to see the youngest to see how it sucks well you say the  
hands is skirs at home well our times is over half in now  
well der wife i will have to stop at this time from your  
husbend Pearey g lovejoy to E. E lovejoy

Writing? right soun as you can in place  
goldsbrow of savaner  
Northcarliner gorgey

but i have plenty of tobackey hear  
now i have had more then i cold carry  
donet send no mor till i tell you

Billey Joanes tents with me his is well and stands it as  
well as eney man in the regement tell is Mother and is a  
good Boy

\* \* \* \* \*

#### INTERPRETATION

April the 2 1865

Dear wife,

It was with much pleasure I received your kind letter just  
come to hand and one from Robert Clark and was glad to hear

from you that it was all right with you again and hope this will still find you still getting better and glad to hear of you having a fine daughter and hope you will have good luck with it till I get home and we will have a good time then. Well dear wife we are at Goldsborough, North Carolina. We was not in the fight. All of our corps was in it but our brigade and it was in the rear of our train and it was lucky for us our corps suffered a great deal but nothing what the rebels did. Their loss was put down at 6,000 and ours at 600 for they charged our works 7 times and they must have lost a great deal more. You know they was bad whipped and they cannot stand it long. I hope not anyhow. We are not more than 80 miles from Richmond by railroad and 100 and 40 by land so the rebels is penned pretty close now.

We have got clothing now and we will rest awhile and we don't know where we will go next for we have had a hard march of it but we had all the country could afford, for we took everything as we went on our march for 40 miles wide and burnt all of their houses it \_\_\_\_\_ for them. It is hard for them but we had to live too, we only had 10 days rations with us and there was 85 (five) thousand men and had that much for so many men for so long a time about 2 months. We landed here on the 22 of March and left Savannah on the 20 of January.

We you said you sent me some money and some tobacco. I did not get no tobacco and for the money I got none but 25 (five) cents shin plasters in the first letter from you and tell me how much you sent for that is all I got from you. It is very warm here today, it has been cold here, that is, that they call cold is nothing to compare to our cold weather in the north. It will be warm from this out you know. Well tell Robert Clark's family I send my best respect to them and all the folks around here. I have been sick all the way through this campaign but I was not in the hospital as you heard but i was pretty sick but I am getting well again, thank God for it, and I hope this will find you the same. Well we have plenty to eat here and I hope you have the same. Tell the children that Pap would like to see them all and would like to see the youngest to see how it sucks. Well you say the hands is scarce at home. Well our times is over help in now. Well dear wife I will have to stop at this time from your husband Perry G. Lovejoy to E. E. Lovejoy.

Writing (?)  
Goldsboro  
North Carolina

Write soon as you can

In place  
of Savannah  
Georgia

But I have plenty of tobacco here now, I have had more than I could carry. Don't send no more till I tell you.



Billy Jones tents with me, he is well and stands it as well as any man in the regiment. Tell his Mother and is a good boy.

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