

“GREENE COUNTY HISTORY”

Laid out from Washington, 1786. A part set off to Hancock, 1793; part to Oglethorpe, 1794; a part added to Clarke in 1802, a part taken from Wilkes, and a part added to Clarke in 1802; a part set off to Taliaferro in 1825. Named after Major-General Nathaniel Greene. Length, 22 m.; breadth, 17 m.; are square miles, 374.

The rivers are the Ogeechee, the Oconee, and Appalachee. The first rises seven miles N. W. of Greensborough.

There is much worn-out land in this county; but it is confidently believed that, by judicious management, it may be redeemed; and it affords us much pleasure to state, that many of the planters are turning their attention to this subject.

The earliest settlers of this county were: THOMAS HARRIS, THOS. HORTON, DAVIS GRESHAM, Wm. FITZPATRICK, HENRY GRAYBILL, OLIVER PORTER, JOHN BAILEY, CHARLES CESSNA, THOMAS BALDWIN, M. RABUN, JOHN GEORGE, ALEXANDER REID, MICHAEL ROGERS, PETER CURTWRIGHT, G. W. FORSTER, JOHN AMOUR, MAJOR POUILLAIN, JESSE PERKINS, JOEL NEWSOME, JAMES ARMSTRONG, MAJOR BEASLEY.

Extract from the Census of 1850. -- Dwellings, 854; families, 854; white males, 2,420; white females, 2,324; free coloured males, 28; free coloured females, 30. Total free population, 4,802; slaves, 8,266. Deaths, 242. Farms, 512; manufacturing establishments, 47. Value of real estate, \$1,800,000; value of personal estate, \$4,116,000.



GREENESBOROUGH is the county site, forty miles from Milledgeville. The **Greenesborough Female College** is located here. It was founded by the **Synod of Georgia**, and opened in **January 2, 1852**. The building, of which we give a representation, cost **\$13,000**.

Penfield is the seat of **Mercer University**. In **1829**, **Mr. Josiah Penfield** bequeathed to the **Baptist Convention of Georgia** **\$2,500** to aid in the education of poor young men for the ministry. Other funds were obtained for the same object, and in **January, 1833**, a **Literary and Theological Institution**, with a department for manual labour, was established. In its progress, the character of the institution became elevated, and in **1838** it received a charter from the Legislature, with the title of **Mercer University**.

Besides its valuable buildings, and an extensive tract of land, the **University** possesses funds to the amount of **\$138,200**, for which it is chiefly indebted to the liberality of the late **Rev. Jesse Mercer**.

The library contains **2,000** volumes and the philosophical and chemical apparatus continues to receive additions.

The two literary societies have valuable libraries.

White Plains and Union Point are small places.

The climate is mild, and as healthy as any portion of Middle Georgia. The following are some of the cases of longevity; -- Wm. HARRIS died at 100; A. PERKINS, 94; Mr. STEWART, 90; Mr. SHAW, 87; Mrs. Elisabeth Daniel died on the 4th of October, 1819, at the age of 85.

Mr. Alexander Gresham died on the 23rd of February, 1823, aged 70. During "the times which tried men's souls," he was an active officer. At the commencement of the last war with Great Britain, when the Silver Greys, or old men, were tendering their services to defend their country, he was the first that offered. On the day of his death he was uncommonly cheerful; while sitting at dinner, application was made to him for assistance by a distressed traveler, whose wagon and horses were stalled near the house. His servants being all out of the way except one, he called on him to go, and observed he would go himself; and accordingly went and aided the man up one hill, but in attempting to help him up another, having taken hold of the wheel, he made an exertion to start the wagon, let go, and immediately sunk to his knees, and expired in about one minute.

THOMAS FAMBROUGH died in the 80th year of his age. A paper of the day says, "There is no doubt that he was in nine as tough battles as were ever fought in the Revolution."

Captain JOEL PARISH, who died at the advanced age of 73, was one of the few remaining patriots of '76 who commanded a company of infantry during the Revolutionary War.

EZEKIEL E. PARK, an old Revolutionary Soldier, and respected citizen of Georgia, died in this county.

Mrs. MARY HOBBS living last year, 93 years of age. Her husband, Robert Hobbs, was 90 at his death.

Mrs. CATHERINE FREEMAN, the widow of Colonel John Freeman, is living at Penfield, over 86 years of age.

Mrs. HOGG, now living is 90 years old.

GREENESBOROUGH MANUFACTURING COMPANY. -- Situated at Greensborough; motive power, steam; cost \$70,000; spindles, 4,000.

SCULL SHOALS MANUFACTURING COMPANY. -- Situated at Scull Shoals, on the Oconee River. Cost, \$50,000. Spindles and looms, 2,000. Annual

consumption of cotton, 4,000 bales. Annual value of goods produced, at present prices, \$200,000.

CURTWRIGHT MANUFACTURING COMPANY

This factory is situated at Long Shoals, on the Oconee River. Cost of property, \$140,000; spindles and looms, 4,000. The Company owns an elegant stone bridge across the Oconee, with flouring and saw mills, and a large tract of land.



Miscellaneous.

This county suffered much from the Indians. Besides burning Greensborough, the savages committed many other acts of violence.

On the 31st of May, 1787, a party of Upper Creeks came to the frontiers of Greene County, killed and scalped two men, and carried off a negro and fourteen horses. Some of the militia crossed the Oconee in pursuit of the murderers (Indians), overtook them, and killed twelve who happened to

belong to the lower towns.

In a talk, the Indians demanded the officer who commanded, and as many men as would satisfy them for the twelve. Governor Matthews, in his reply said, "We will deliver up none of our people, and if the Indians spill a drop of blood, we will lay their towns in ashes, and sprinkle their land with blood."

June, 1787.-- In this month the Creek Indians carried off a negro, the property of Mr. Lang, and were closely pursued by Mr. McMichael and a lad, who unfortunately fell in attempting to rescue the negro, and was scalped. Captain Alexander, with a small party of volunteers, went in pursuit of the Indians, overtook, and killed six of them.

In April, 1793, six persons, --a man, a woman, three children, and a negro, -- residing near the Scull Shoals, on the Oconee River, were killed by the savages.

On the 22nd of April 1793, the Indians, numbering thirty-seven, made a sudden attack upon the house of Mr. Richard Thrasher, two children, and a negro woman. Mrs. Thrasher, to avoid, if possible, the fate with which she was threatened, fled with her infant, five or six weeks old, in her arms, and reached the river. The savages pursued her, shot her through each thigh and the right breast, stabbed her in the left breast with a knife, cut her arm nearly off, and then scalped her. In this dreadful situation she remained until the neighbors could assemble in sufficient numbers to cross the river and pursue the Indians. As the first canoe was crossing, she had strength sufficient to call for assistance. The poor woman was found hanging by a bush, in water up to her chin, her infant at the bottom of the river, a few yards from her. She lived nearly twenty-four hours, and when informed by her physician that it was impossible for her to survive much longer, she, with a fortitude that is rarely met with, called her friends around her, and in a calm manner gave her hand to everyone, wishing them a better fate than that which had befallen her and her family. This lady was twenty-five years old, of highly respectable connections, handsome, and well educated.

In September of this year, a young lady by the name of Catherine Cessna was cruelly murdered by these ruthless demons.

On one occasion the Indians crossed the Oconee River, and came to the house of Mr. Fielder, a celebrated scout and hunter, who happened at this time to be absent. Thirteen of them came into his lot, and were about to carry off his horses, when Mrs. Fielder and her negro woman, the only persons upon the premises determined, if possible, to save the horses. As the negro woman was making her way to the dwelling, she received a shot in the thigh and fell. Her mistress immediately dragged her within the

house and barred the door, whereupon the Indians attacked the house. Mrs. Fielder resolved at all hazards to defend herself; and there being four or five guns ready at hand she fired upon the savages, the negro woman aiding her to load. To induce the foe to believe that there were many other persons in the house, they made a great noise, shouting and calling upon each other to fire. After discharging nearly twenty-five rounds, the Indians abandoned the attack, from an impression, as it was afterwards ascertained, that the building was filled with armed men.

Extract from a Muster-Roll of a Detachment of Militia Troup of Dragoons of the Greene County Regiment, under the command of Captain JONAS FAUCHE, stationed at sundry posts, Feb. 25, 1794.

Names -----	To Whose District Belonging
Jonas Fauche, Captain	Captain Armor's
Peyton Smith, Cornet	"
George Phillips, Sergeant	"
Wm. Browning, Sergeant	Captain Browning's
Charles Harris, Corporal	Captain Taylor's
John Young, Corporal	Captain Armor's
Samuel M. Deveraux, Gent. Armes	Columbia Ct.
John Harrison, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
Abner Farmer, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
Isaac Stocks, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Samuel Dale, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Josiah McDonald, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Jesse Standifer, Gent. Armes	Captain Beard's
William Scott, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Arthur Foster, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
William George, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
John Capps, Gent. Armes	North Carolina.
Micajah Wall, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's.
Robert Patrick, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's.
Jesse Jenkins, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Charles Watts, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Terrance Byron, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
Joseph White, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
James McGuire, Gent. Armes	Captain Taylor's
Robert Finley, Gent. Armes	Captain Taylor's
William Curry, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
Joseph Shaw, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
John Pinkerd, Gent. Armes	Captain Armor's
Little B. Jenkins, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's
Presly Watts, Gent. Armes	Captain Browning's

<i>Theodore Scott, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
<i>Robert Watson, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Browning's</i>
<i>Henry Potts, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Cameron's.</i>
<i>Dennis Lynch, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Cameron's.</i>
<i>Skelton Standifer. Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Beard's</i>
<i>Joseph Heard, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Browning's</i>
<i>James Moor, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Browning's</i>
<i>Humphrey Gibsons, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Elbert Ct.</i>
<i>Robert Grimatt, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Melton's</i>
<i>George Reid, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Melton's</i>
<i>Duglas Watson, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Captain Browning's</i>
<i>George Owen, Gent. Armes</i>	<i>Wilkes Ct.</i>



HONORABLE WILLIAM C. DAWSON
Sen. Of Greene County, GA

PROMINENT PERSONS.

Hon. William C. Dawson was born in Greene County, Georgia, of respectable parentage. His academic course was first taken under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Cummins, and afterwards at the County Academy in Greensborough. At an early age he entered Franklin College, and was graduated in 1816.

Upon leaving college he immediately commenced the study of law in the office of the Hon. Thomas W. Cobb, at Lexington; and at the expiration of a year, he entered the Law School at Litchfield, Connecticut, under the care of Judges Reeve and Gould. After taking a full course of lectures, he returned to Greensborough, and was admitted to the bar, and in a short time ranked very high in his profession.

In 1821, he was elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State Legislature; and it is a proof of his fidelity as an officer, and his amiable character as a man, that through frequent changes of party supremacy, he filled that office for ten or eleven consecutive years.

In 1828, he was appointed by the Legislature to compile the statutes of Georgia, which duty he performed to the satisfaction of the General Assembly, and the legal profession. In 1845, he was appointed by Governor Crawford to fill a vacancy on the bench of the Ocmulgee Circuit. His patience, urbanity, and frankness, are remembered with pleasure by his cotemporaries.

In 1834 and 1835, he was elected to the State Senate from the County of Greene, and gave his efficient aid to promote all the great interests of Georgia.

In 1836, he was elected, by general ticket, to Congress, being the only Whig returned, prevailing over a popular Democratic majority. General Coffee, a member of congress from Georgia in 1836, having died, he was also elected to fill his unexpired term, and took his seat, in the winter of that year, in the House of Representatives.

The Creek and Seminole Indians in Florida, and on the line of Georgia, becoming hostile, in 1836 Judge Dawson raised a company of volunteers, to the command of which he was elected, and, under the authority of the State Government, took the field. General Scott, who had at that time taken

the conduct of the Florida war, gave him a separate command, and detailed upon him a special service, which he performed to the satisfaction of that gallant soldier.

Having faithfully discharged the duties of his new post, he returned home.

He was re-elected to Congress in 1838, and also in 1840. In 1841, he was nominated for Governor by the Whigs, and was beaten, on account, it is believed, of a vote which he had given, at the extra session of Congress in 1841, to increase the duties on tea and coffee. Believing that his defeat was a disapproval of his course in Congress, Mr. Dawson resigned his seat in November, 1841. In the autumn of 1847, he was elected to the Senate of the United States, of which body he is now a member. His character in Congress is that of a vigilant, industrious man of business. He seldom speaks, and when he does, it is upon a question requiring action. Good sense and independence characterize his speeches.

In the course of his Congressional career, he has been associated with the most important measures. Whilst a member of the House, he was a chairman of the Military Committee, and also chairman of the Committee on Claims -- the latter, one of the most laborious and useful positions appertaining to the National Legislature. At the opening of the XXVIth Congress, he was put in nomination for the Speaker's chair. Upon the first ballot he received a flattering vote; but discovering that two of his colleagues had voted against him, he requested his name to be withdrawn.

Against the absurd theories, and indelicately selfish, not to say imprudent demands of Kossuth, Mr. Dawson was the first to take ground.

He is eminently social in his nature and habits. For harmless fun and innocent frolic he has a keen relish; and his associates cherish with fond recollection his anecdotes, his pleasantry, and his practical jokes.

Dr. FRANCIS CUMMINS died in this county. He was one of the oldest and most respectable Presbyterian ministers in the Southern States. He preached to his congregation for more than twenty-three years.

Major OLIVER PORTER was four times elected Elector of President and Vice President, and frequently a member of the Legislature of Georgia.

Colonel JONAS FAUCHE, in the early settlement of Greene, bore a conspicuous part in the defence of the frontiers against the Creek Indians. He was a remarkable man in every respect.

Captain Stokes was an active officer during the Indian Wars.

(Transcribed & Scanned by Chuck & Brenda Pierce - 1/13/2004 llfiro@bellsouth.net - llfbit@mindspring)