

OUR HERITAGE

BICENTENNIAL

1776 ★ 1976

OUR HERITAGE



BICENTENNIAL
1776 * 1976

BICENTENNIAL PICTORIAL HISTORY



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COCHRAN-BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA

MAY 1976

Cochran-Bleckley Bicentennial Committee



P. O. BOX 288
COCHRAN, GEORGIA 31014
March 23, 1976

As the United States of America celebrates its bicentennial, let us pause to reflect on the period spanning 200 years during which our country has become the most modern nation in the history of the world. Our ancestors and citizens who have gone before us met the challenges of their day to build a nation which affords its peoples the highest standard of living that mankind has ever attained. In the past two centuries, the people of the United States not only developed an industrial society, but they also preserved for us today the freedoms of democracy. As we enjoy these freedoms, let us renew our pledge to preserve, protect and defend our government and its democratic institutions so that we may leave to our children and future generations a nation of which they can be justly proud.

The opportunity to participate in the 200th birthday of the United States is a once in a lifetime event for all of us. The response of the people of the City of Cochran and Bleckley County has been overwhelming and exhibits the pride of all citizens in our nation's heritage. The Cochran-Bleckley Bicentennial Celebration has brought each of us to focus on the past in order that we may appreciate our nation today and more readily accept our future responsibilities in her behalf.

In expressing appreciation to all our citizens, I would especially acknowledge the hard work and devotion to the celebration contributed by Co-Chairman Billy Fernell and by all the division chairmen and all committee members. Their work has made this celebration a memorable success for all of us to remember as we enter our third century.

Carlton Lawson
Carlton Lawson
Chairman



MIDDLE GEORGIA COLLEGE

COCHRAN, GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

The observance of the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of our nation is an occasion which deserves the participation and support of everyone of its citizens. It is a wonderful opportunity for our community to join in celebrating the American Bicentennial.

The first settlers of this area brought with them a spirit of enthusiasm, determination, and cooperation—qualities which not only have helped to build a community with a rich heritage, but also have contributed to the growth and prosperity of the United States as a great Nation.

America needs these same qualities as it looks to the future. I feel confident that the people of our community will continue to develop these qualities with renewed vigor and dedication as the nation begins its third century.

Our community is a classic example of the advantages of the American way of life—good people; a strong religious heritage; excellent educational opportunities from elementary school to college; a seat of learning and culture; a thriving economic center based upon diversified agriculture, industry, and commerce; democratic government; and a pleasant, friendly way of life.

I wholeheartedly join in congratulating the people of Cochran and Bleckley County who have had so much to do with making this community one of the best places to live in the Nation. I extend my best wishes for a meaningful and long-remembered Bicentennial Celebration.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Alderman, Jr.
Louis C. Alderman, Jr.
President
Chairman
Cochran-Bleckley Bicentennial Committee



Cochran-Bleckley Bicentennial Committee



P. O. BOX 288
COCHRAN, GEORGIA 31014

March 25, 1976

Dear Friend:

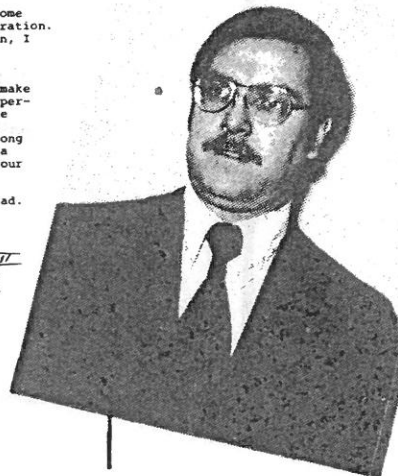
It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome you to the Cochran-Bleckley County Bicentennial Celebration. As chairman of the revenue division of the celebration, I wish to extend to each of you a warm "Welcome" and a hardy "Hello".

Many individuals have labored long and hard to make the celebration a success. However, I would like to personally "thank" Toni Johnson, Linda Lander and Wylene Redmond, for their untiring efforts in the compiling, editing and lay out of this booklet. Without their long hours of work and dedication, we would not have such a uniquely presented booklet containing the history of our area for generations to enjoy in years to come.

May God richly bless your life in the years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Giddens III
John M. Giddens, III
CHM Revenue Division



Cochran-Bleckley Bicentennial Celebration, Inc.

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HIGHLIGHTS

COCHRAN - BLECKLEY HISTORY

1776

1976

Georgia history has its beginning with the Indians, who occupied all the territory now within its borders prior to the arrival of the white man. The lands of Pulaski County were given to the settlers by Indian treaty in about 1821. The Indians migrated westward around 1827, leaving the state free for development.

Pulaski was divided from what was then Laurens County by an act of the Georgia General Assembly in 1808. The line was drawn running north and south midway between the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers. Pulaski County became all the land east of the Ocmulgee to this line.

In 1826 the General Assembly enlarged Pulaski to include a portion of Houston County on the west bank of the river.

Old Hartford was a bustling center of commerce and a busy ferry crossing in the early years of the county. It had sprung up at a point on the river used by the Indians as a trading place. It was not until 1836 that the town of Hawkinsville was incorporated. Another 33 years was to pass before Cochran was to officially become a town. On March 11, 1869 the bill was passed to incorporate the town of Cochran in the county of Pulaski.

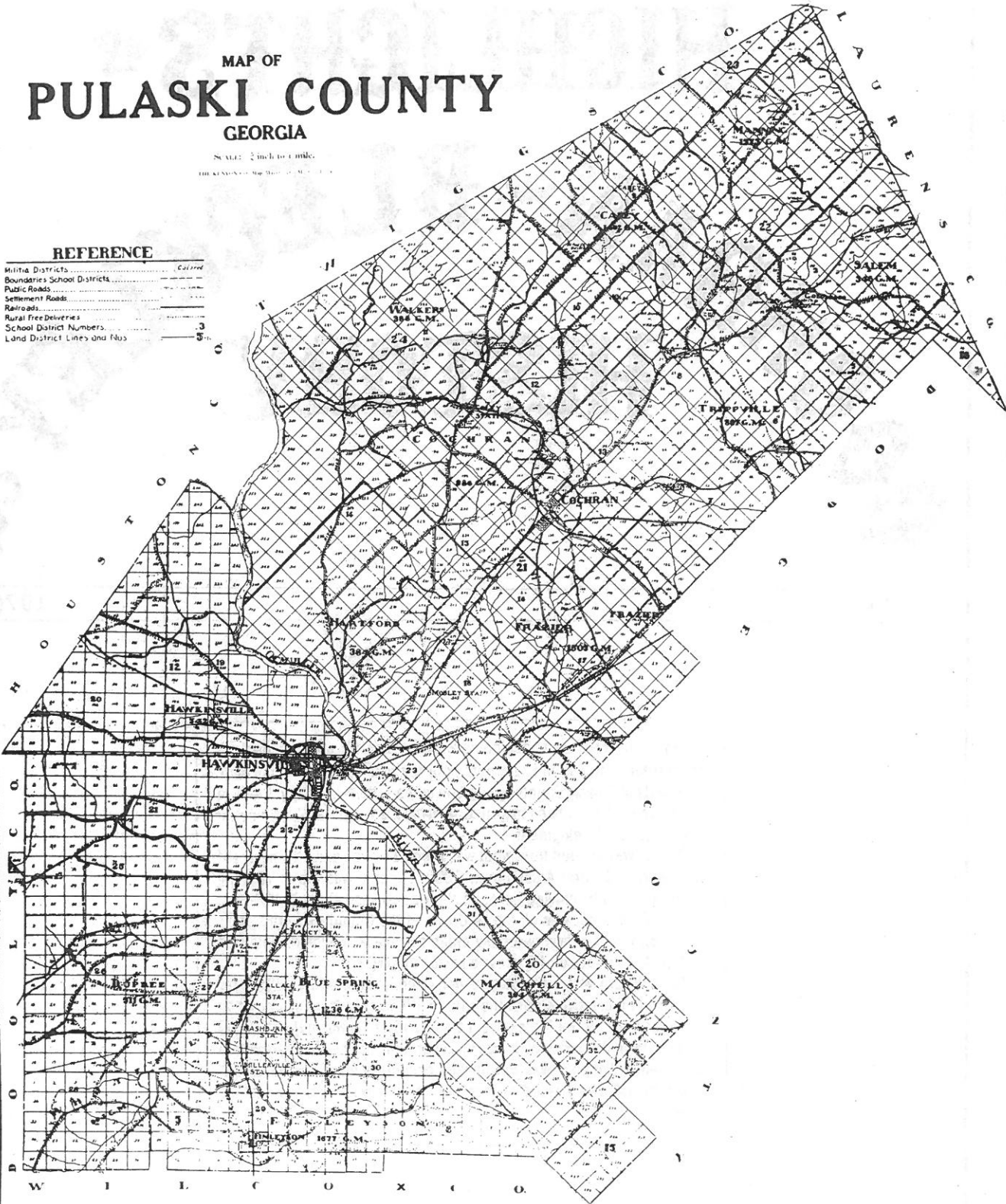
MAP OF PULASKI COUNTY GEORGIA

SCALE 2 inches to a mile

THE KENTON COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

REFERENCE

Militia Districts.....	.....	.....
Boundaries School Districts.....	.....	.....
Public Roads.....	.....	.....
Settlement Roads.....	.....	.....
Railroads.....	.....	.....
Rural Free Deliveries.....	.....	.....
School District Numbers.....	.....	.....
Land District Lines and Plus.....	.....	.....

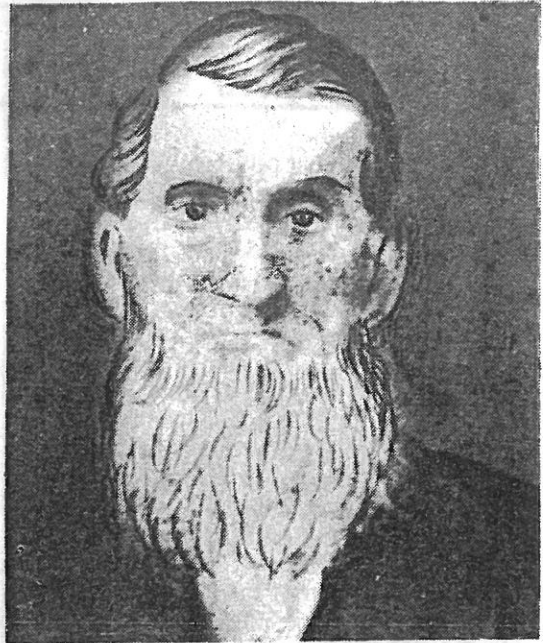


Printed 1905

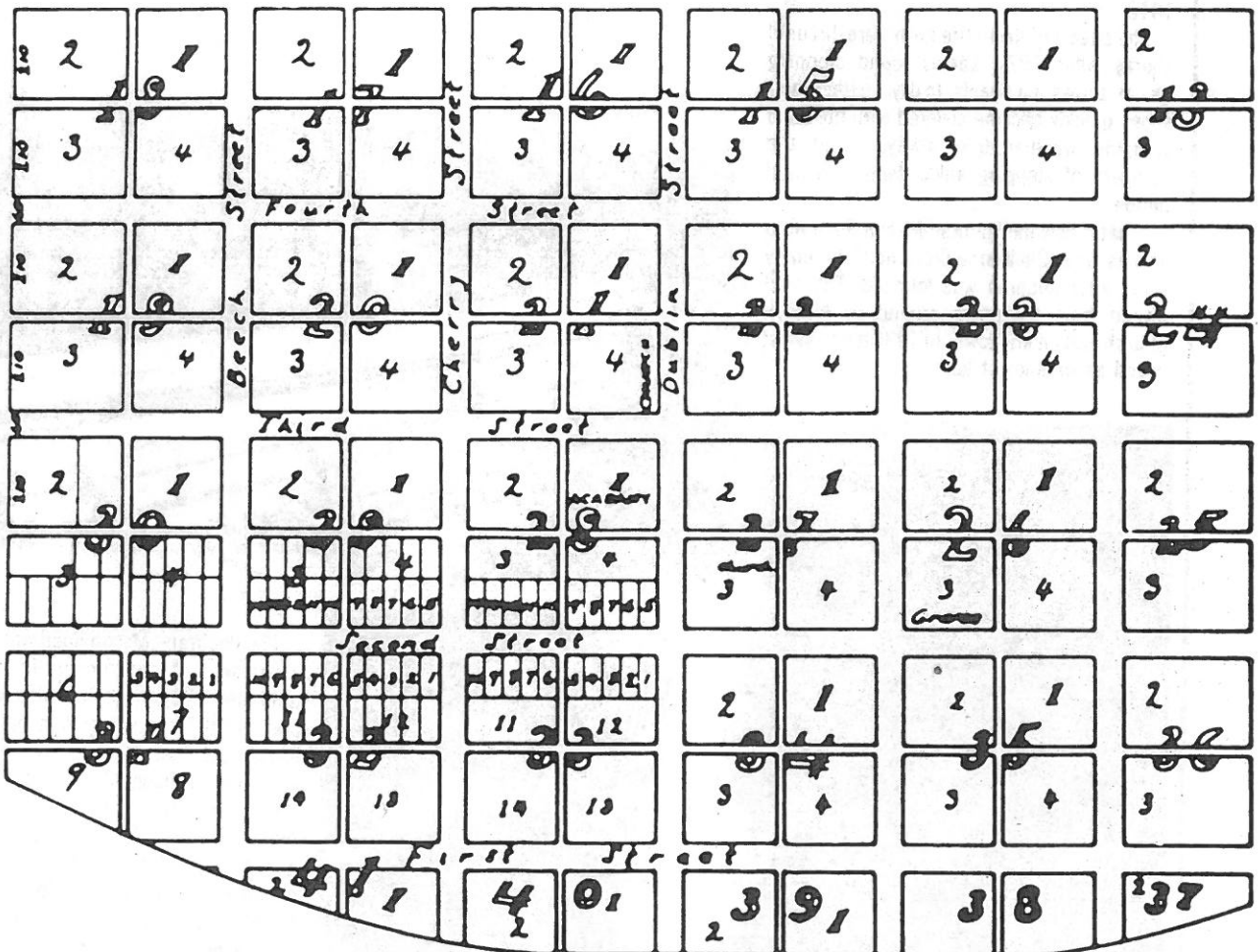
Dykesboro Is Born

Around 1850 land lot 158 in the twenty-first land district was virgin forest. This 202 acres finally became the property of Burrell B. Dykes. A settlement sprang up and was named Dykesboro in honor of its owner. Burrell Dykes was said to be a very progressive, public minded gentleman. This information is supported by the fact that he donated land for churches, a school and railroad right-of-way. His home was located on the hill where Cochran High School is today.

The map of Dykesboro, a sketch of which appears on this page, was originally drawn on a piece of fabric. It appears that over the years the ink with which it was drawn caused the fabric to deteriorate, so it was later mounted on a larger square of cloth by hand. This map is in use today in the Bleckley County Superior Court Clerk's office.



Burrell B. Dykes



Dykesboro Map

Copied by Mr. Lee Howard, Jr.
Atlanta, Ga.

Economic Growth and Development

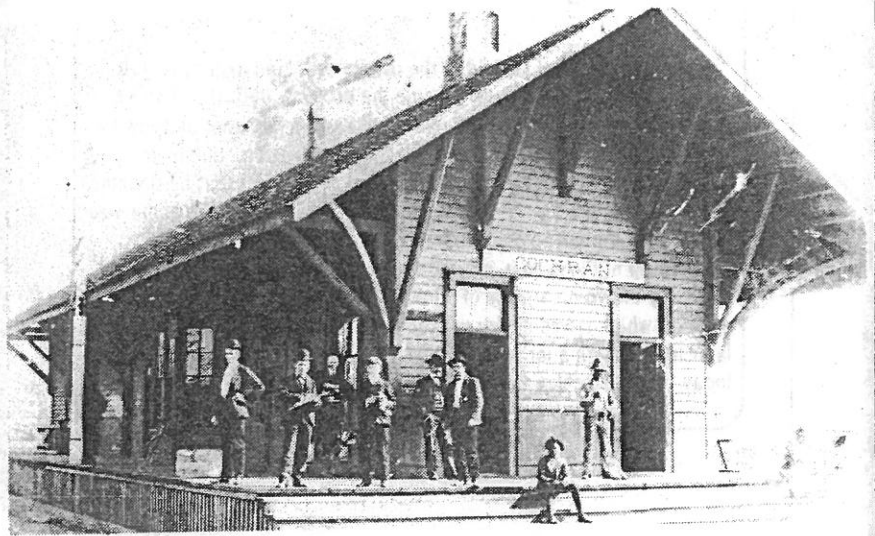
As the town of Dykesboro developed the business district seemed to spring up around the railroad depot and spread south down Second Street. Beech Street was the next street to experience commercial development.

Unlike the business sections today, the stores did not spring up in solid blocks, but rather as individual wooden structures interspersed with vacant lots and "wagon yards". These "wagon yards" were the forerunners of today's parking lots.

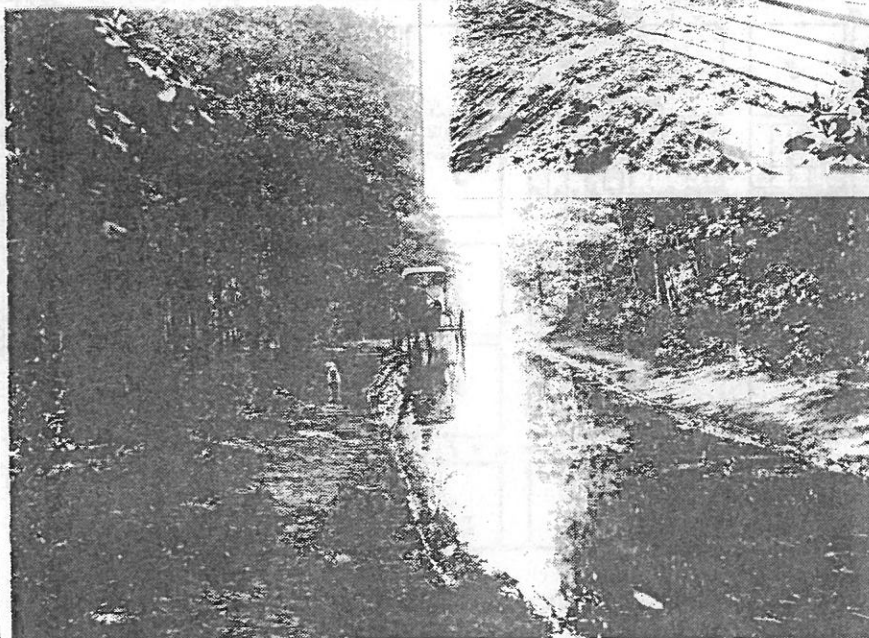
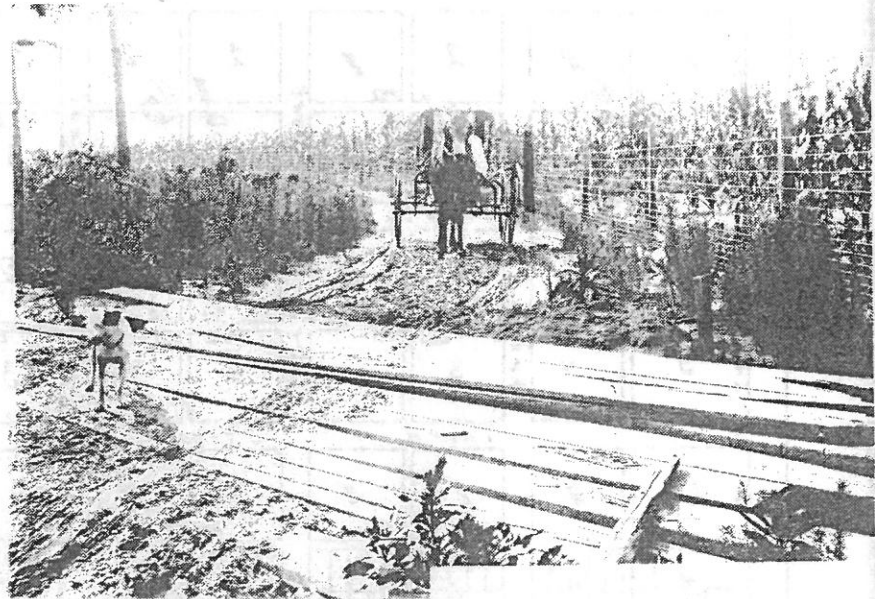
Over the years all of the first buildings either burned or were torn down to make way for brick structures. The first brick building to be erected stands today at the corner of Second and Beech Streets and is now occupied by Allied Department Store. It was built in 1879 by Maas Brothers. The Cook Banking Company building appears today just as it was built, except for the columns which were added in 1918.

The streets of the entire town were dirt until shortly after 1920. Ladies found stepping stones across the streets. In dry weather their shoes quickly became covered with dust and in rainy weather they always faced the prospect of stepping ankle deep in a mud puddle.

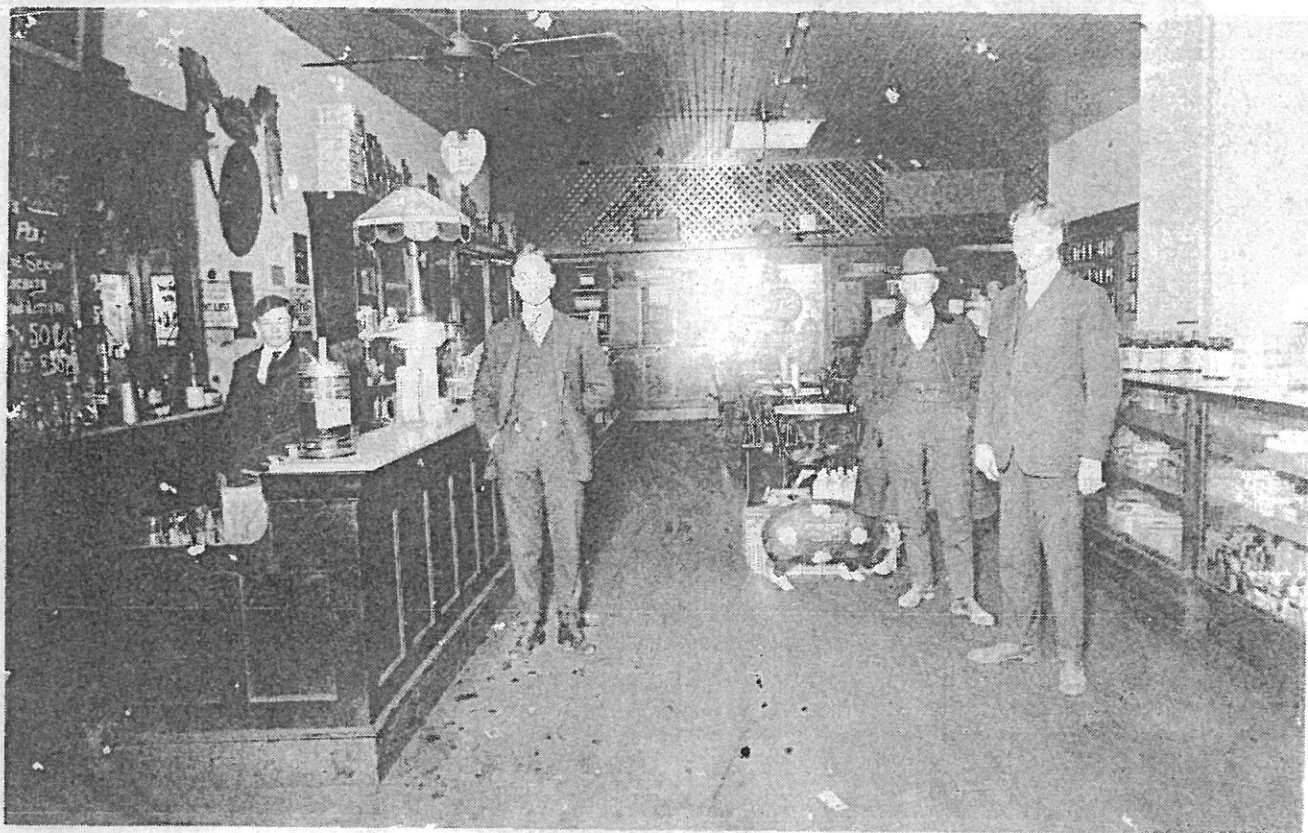
What is now the Cochran-Macon Road went only as far as Shellstone Creek north for many years after Cochran was founded. The road wound from the creek around by Antioch Church and on into town. In 1935 it was at last paved as we know it today.



From the depot the town spread southward.



The Cochran - Macon Road was nothing but a narrow path cut through the virgin forest until after 1930. In both photos we see horse and buggy proceeding from north to south toward town. Due to these rough paths a trip to town was probably a days excursion through these forest and farms which we see in the photos. On the left it appears to have rained and the "road" is half filled with water which meant a muddy, rougher trip. At top right the board bridge and dry "road" made for a dusty, bumpy ride.



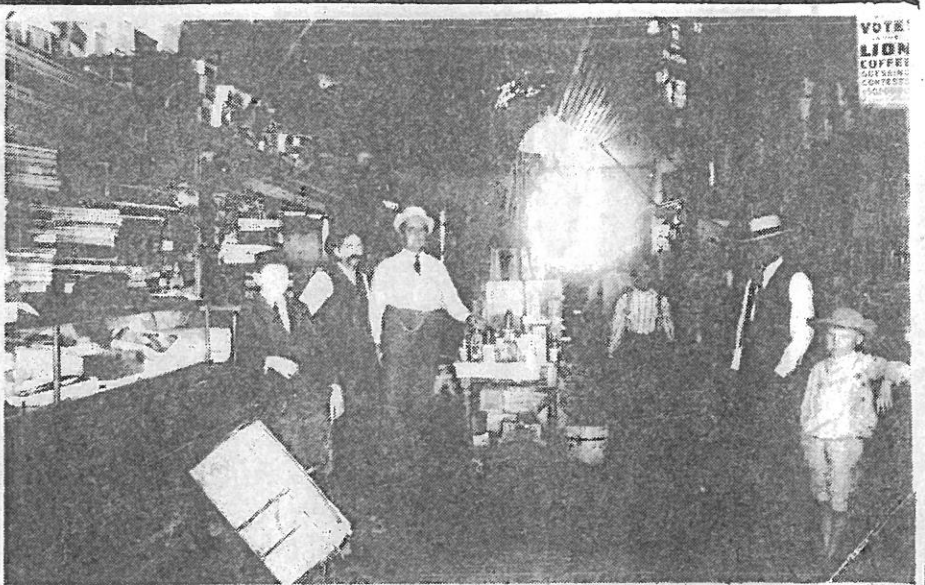
The Pharmacy was not only the place to go to buy drugs but to "catch up" on the news. This early picture of McVay's Pharmacy shows from L to R: unknown, Jessie Wynn, R. N. Lupo, Dr. F. L. McVay.



The store was modernized some years later. The employees were from left to right: Lawton Wimberly, Harry Anderson, Dr. Frank McVay.



Business may have been bustling, but there was always time for checkers. This was outside J. E. Reeves Grocery. Barney Hendricks, Sr. is at far left.



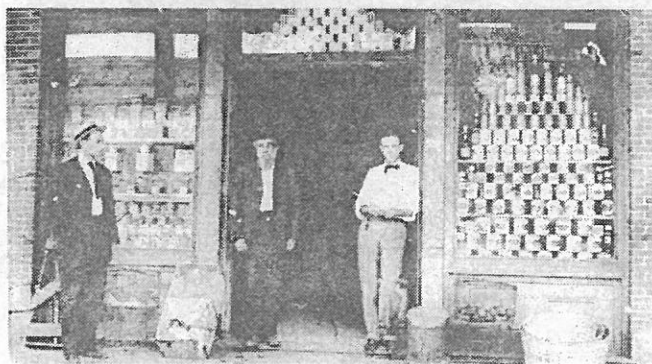
About 1900 J. E. Reeves Grocery, on the corner of Second and Cherry Streets, was owned and operated by Willett Reeves father, Mr. J. E. Reeves.



Mr. B. J. Wynn, Hazel W. Cooper's father, came to Cochran Pharmacy from Hawkinsville. He was one of our first pharmacists. This picture was taken before the Civil War.



Remodeling took place and Willett Reeves took over the business. This picture was taken in 1940.



Madge C. Kimbrough's grandfather, E. Cook, and uncle, Jim Cook, operated this grocery. It was located where Western Auto is today.



In 1928 we see the college girls going to the barber shop. Mr. John Lee Fordham is working at the third chair from the front. The shop was located where McVays Pharmacy is today.



Mr. and Mrs. Orr Davis operated one of the first cafes in Cochran. This one was located on Second Street about where Duross Fitzpatrick's office is now located. L to R: Mrs. Orr Davis and Mrs. Gus Faulk. Photo made in 1910.



This drugstore was built on the Allentown-Cochran Road in Cary in 1914. Left to right, J. F. Armstrong, Dr. Jamison, Mark Crutchfield, Lem Coley and Max Richardson.

Transportation

Prior to mid 1800's transportation in this area of the state was limited to wagons, stage coaches, and boats. Then came the railroads which literally revolutionized travel. Moving overland far from the waterways, railroads encouraged settlement, commercial development and growth of towns and cities.

On March 1, 1856 the Georgia Legislature passed an act to charter the Macon and Brunswick Railroad now the Southern. Track laying actually began in the summer of 1860. By 1863 it had reached Coley's Station (5 miles north of Cochran); and by 1865 reached Dykesboro; now known as Cochran.

It is not known what the original population of Dykesboro was, but by 1879; ten years after it was chartered as Cochran; the population had risen to an official count of 1011.

Commerce began to flourish with the arrival of the train. People also became more mobile than ever before.

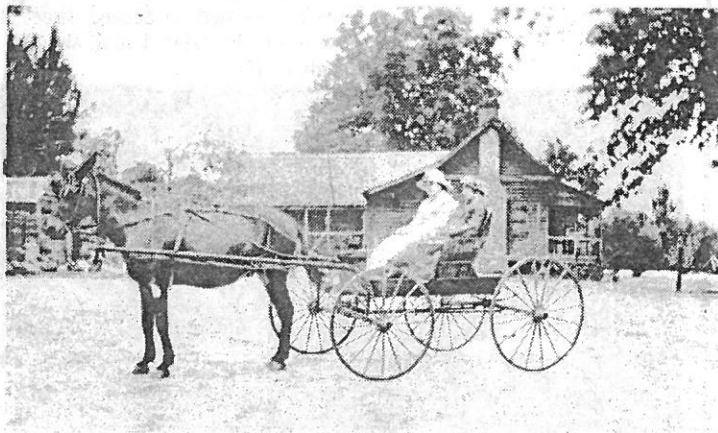
In 1902 the Oconee and Western, later to be known as the Wrightsville and Tennille; built a "short line" from Hawkinsville to Tennille. This "short line" connected with the Central of Georgia and Augusta Southern railroads at Tennille.

Even though trains were now available to and from these main cities it was still necessary for the people to travel by horse and buggy to visit neighbors or other small towns. It was not until 1914 that the first automobile arrived in the county. This was to again revolutionize travel for individuals. With the advent of the automobile came the need for more streets and eventually in 1921 Cochran's main street was paved.

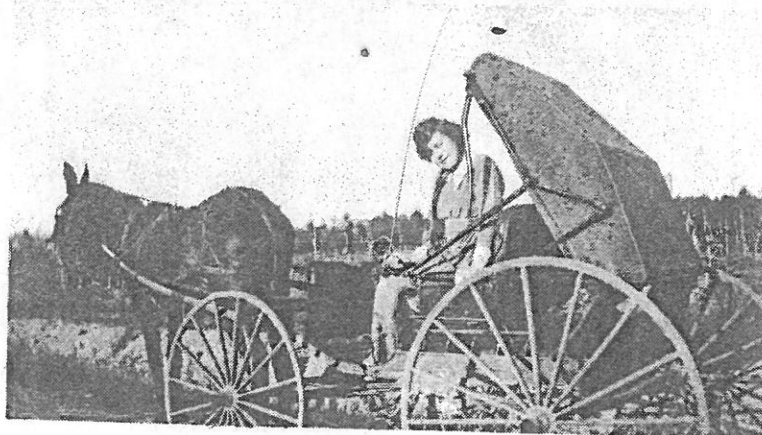
Trains are not as widely used for travel now for individuals, but industry still depends on them for transportation of goods. Today a family can hardly live without one of these twentieth century innovations. But gas is a bit more expensive! Nowadays motorcycles are more economical.



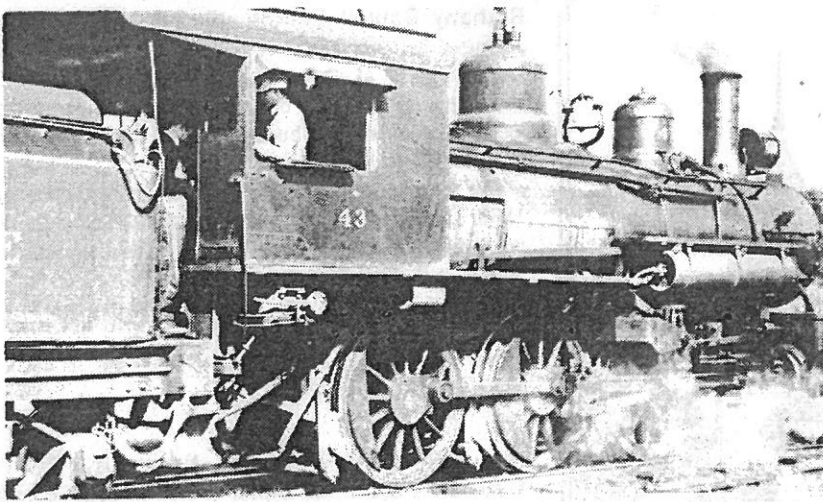
Surrey with fringe on top. Front, right, Mattie Lee Dunham Mullis. Back seat, two teachers from Ebenezer. Willis was the driver.



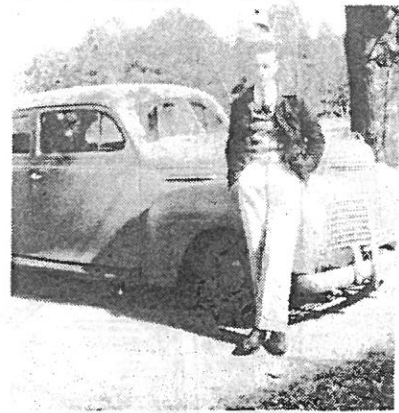
Simple Buggy - Left, Mrs. Kinchen, right, Mrs. Bob Hendricks. This rig was parked in front of the old Sanders home. A funny story has been handed down about the house. When Bleckley County was divided from Pulaski the house was located in Blecklev and the "outhouse" in Pulaski.



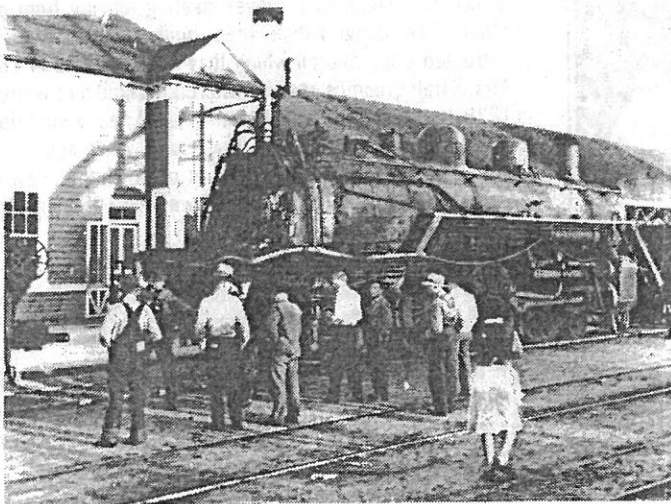
Horse and carriage - Mrs. Gladys Sanders.



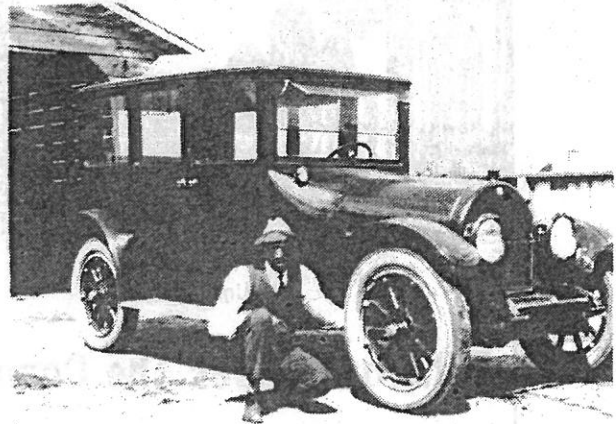
Hawkinsville "short line".



Pete Petty and his 1941 Plymouth.



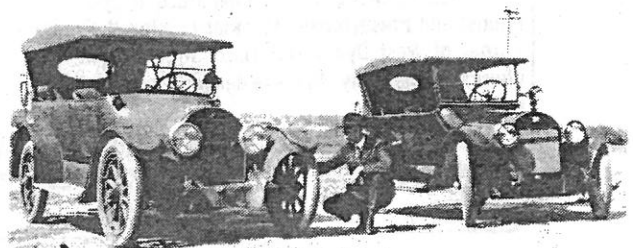
First diesel locomotive to come to town.



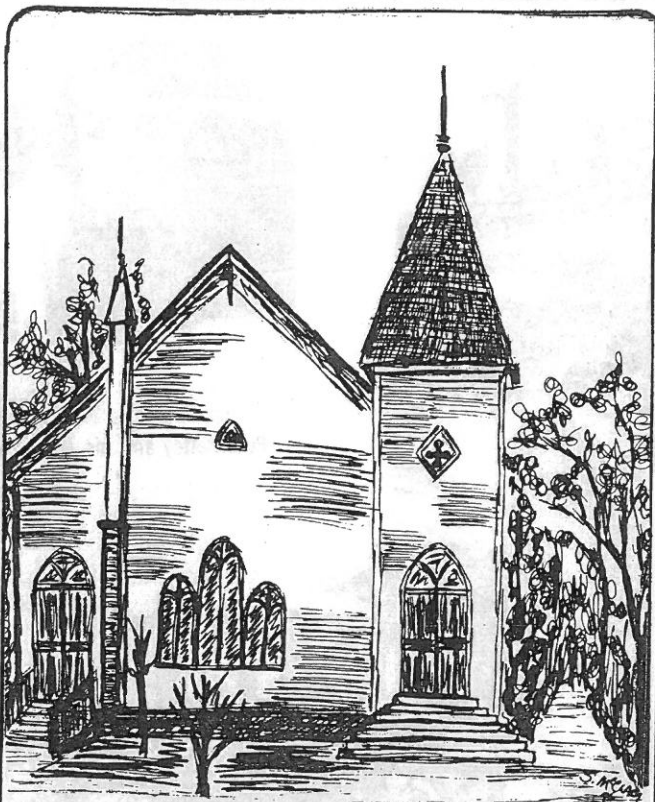
Those who owned the early cars took great pride in them.



The Georgia Cracker passenger train - first stop in Cochran.



Almost a matched pair.



Union Church

Religion Shapes The Community

Since this country was founded by people seeking religious freedom, it is not a coincidence that the church has been, from the beginning, the center of the community. It was around the church that many communities sprung and in many instances, the church and its activities have held some of the "outlying" communities together.

Evergreen Baptist Church is the oldest church in the county, having originally been a part of Mt. Horeb Church which was constituted in 1809. The present church was constructed in 1844.

In 1868 an interesting situation arose in Dykesboro. The Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterians together erected the Union Church on the corner of West Dykes and Third Streets where the First Methodist Church stands today. All these denominations worshiped in this church until 1879.

The churches which exist today stand as monuments to the dedication of the people of this county to the principle of religious freedom.

Antioch Methodist Church - In 1881 the congregation of the Antioch Methodist Church assembled under a brush arbor for its first service. Some years later a small church was erected, and in 1896 the present church was constructed, but because the church was built too close to the road it was moved. Later, while Rev. Dewitt Shippey was pastor the church was turned around to its present position and some remodeling was done.

The church was abandoned in 1928 and was reorganized some time later. Mrs. Jessie Collins Hall is presently the oldest living member of this church and Paul Mosser is the present pastor.

Bethany Baptist Church - Some years prior to 1868 a group organized Bethany Baptist Church in a log building. This structure was located on part of what is now the Theo Williams farm. Later, a frame building was built, also before 1868, where the pastorium is now located. The sills of this building, 40 and 60 feet long were hand hewn from towering pines.

The present church building was constructed on its present site in 1868. The educational building was constructed in the 1960's. It was not until the early 1970's that the main building was bricked.

George W. Stapleton donated land adjacent to the church for a community cemetery. Today people of all faiths continue to be buried there.

The membership of the church has risen to 450. Rev. Tommy McConnell is presently the pastor.

Brown Hill Baptist Church - A negro slave, Rev. Cuffy Jackson founded the Brown Hill Baptist Church in 1854. During the time of slavery the negroes were usually members of their master's church. Since they were not allowed to take an active part in the services, it was inevitable that separate negro churches would spring up.

Brown Hill began as a prayer meeting, moving from one cabin to another. The congregation then built a brush arbor and later constructed a log church which they used from 1854-1879.

Mrs. Sarah Croombs gave the church the land for the present church in 1879. It was constructed that same year. A heavy wind ripped some of the roof away damaging the interior some years ago.

The church is now in the process of building a new edifice. It is located on Highway 112 near Allentown. The 105 members are led by the pastor, Rev. E. T. Jones.

Church of the Nazarene - The Cochran Church of the Nazarene held its first services at the Cochran Community House on Third Street August 11, 1963.

In May 1964 property was acquired on First Avenue in Lakeview subdivision and the present church was erected. Because of growth, they are now in the process of building a new sanctuary on the same location. Rev. John W. Dye is presently pastor, with a current membership of 50.

Cochran Church of God - Cochran Church of God, organized March 3, 1946, had 14 charter members. The church was organized as a result of a tent revival sponsored by The Church of God headquarters.

The church sanctuary was built this same year on property at 511 Oak Street; the site of the present church. Shortly after the sanctuary was constructed a 4 room building was added behind the church to serve as a parsonage. Later in 1958 a new parsonage was erected across the street from the church and the old parsonage was converted to Sunday School rooms.

The sanctuary was enlarged in 1970. The old Sunday School rooms were razed and a new annex erected.

The membership has grown to 100. Rev. David Debter is presently the pastor.

Evergreen Baptist Church - Part of the congregation of Mt. Horeb Baptist Church, founded in 1809, because of differences within the church, erected a new church. Thus, Evergreen Baptist Church was constructed on its present site in 1844. This same building is in use today.

Slaves attended the church and in 1864 the negro members outnumbered the white members by 130 to 86. These slaves formed their own church in 1870.

First Baptist Church - In 1868 a group of seven members united to form the Dykesboro Baptist Church. Rev. D. N. Fann was the first pastor.

Until 1877 the membership worshipped at the Union Church where the First Methodist Church now stands.

In late 1877 a wooden structure was built on 2 acres of land given by Burrell B. Dykes. This is now the corner of 2nd and Dykes Streets and the church is still located there.

The present brick sanctuary was constructed and the first services held in the new edifice in July 1917.

The years 1948-1954 mark years of building and growth: a new pastorium, a three-story educational building; an increase in church membership characterized the ministry of Roy Peyton.

A second educational building was constructed in 1975 at a cost of \$377,000, and was dedicated October 12, 1975.

Virlon H. Griner, beginning his eighth year this month, is pastor of the 965 member congregation.

First United Methodist Church - Under a huge spreading oak tree the first Methodist Church of Cochran was organized. This tree was on the corner across the street from the Dave Walker home. (Now the home of Mrs. Wilbur Jackson Thompson).

The first church building was erected in 1868. This was known as Union Church and served the Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians. In 1879 the Methodist bought the structure. In 1883 this church was improved and a belfrey was added. In 1890 a new church building was begun. The building committee was composed of four men: Andrew Jackson Thompson, Joseph J. Taylor, Sr., A. P. Urquhart, and Will E. Dunham. The pastor, Rev. Charles Adams, served as honorary member.

In 1916 the present First Methodist Church was built. Rev. Charles W. Curry was pastor.

The newest addition to the Methodist Church was under Rev. A. Jason Shirah. In 1951 the Official Board launched a Building Program for a \$75,000 educational building. This building was completed during the pastorate of Allen V. Johnson and dedicated in March 1962 during the pastorate of Rev. Ted Griner. Rev. John McGowan is the pastor at the present time. There are now 584 members.

Free Providence Baptist Church - This church was organized under a tree in 1873 by Rev. Abram Dennis and 7 men. The place of this original meeting was on Highway 26, five miles west of Cochran.

The members of the church constructed the first building in the early 1900's and used this edifice until 1955 when the present church was built.

There are 175 members today. The church is presently pastored by Rev. J. D. Grier.

Lakeview Baptist Church - Lakeview Baptist Church was constituted August 28, 1960 with 31 charter members. It sprung from the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church which was built in the late 1800's and disbanded.

The original building for the present church was built in about 1961. An addition to the church and a new educational building were completed in 1971.

The church is located just north of Cochran approximately one block east of the Macon highway.

Rev. Buddy York now serves as pastor for the congregation which numbers 250.

Limestone Baptist Church - One of the oldest churches in the county is Limestone Baptist Church, constituted in 1833. The first church was a log building measuring 16 x20 feet and had a stick and

mud chimney. Some "old timers" believe this structure burned, while other think it was simply torn down and replaced.

A second church building was constructed in 1850 directly across the road from the original building. This location is at the junction of Limestone Road and State Highway 257 on Limestone Creek.

By 1856 the church membership had increased to over 100 members. This second church structure burned in the 1870's and was replaced by another frame building on the same site.

In 1960 a brick church was constructed, again on the same site, and has grown to a membership of 500 today. Rev. P. J. Baker is the present pastor.

Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church - Little Bethel Church was originally known as Rebie Free Will Baptist Church, and was started as a "brush arbor church" in 1913. The church was officially organized in 1914. The Reverend John Holmes was pastor and helped to organize it. Mrs. Lou Peacock, now a resident of Providence Nursing Home, is the oldest living charter member.

In 1914 Mrs. Sarah A. Davis donated land to build the church. Trees to be used for lumber were given by Mr. Henry Davis. Mr. Willie Barron cut and sawed the trees for \$4.00 per thousand. The men of the community gave their time and were supervised by Mr. Charlie Darsey, a carpenter. The exact time the church was finished is not known, as the original papers have been lost.

The first revival was held in 1915. Regular services were held on the second Sunday in each month, with conference on the Saturday preceding the second Sunday. Sunday School was organized some years later.

Improvements have been added from time to time. Sunday School rooms, bathrooms, a social hall and central heating and cooling are some of the additions. Services are still held in the original structure and on the same location.

There are now approximately 115 members on the church roll. Reverend Elbert Powell is the present pastor.

Longstreet Baptist Church - In 1880 Longstreet Baptist Church had its first meeting under a brush arbor and in 1873 constructed its first church building.

Two years later in 1873 this structure was destroyed by fire and it wasn't until 1895 that another church was built.

This structure stands today 6½ miles northeast of Cochran off Highway 112. Today the membership consists of 350.

Longstreet Methodist Church - Longstreet Methodist Church, one of the oldest churches in Bleckley County, was organized and built in 1812. The original structure is being used today and is located north of Cochran, off US highway 129 and US 23 on the Longstreet-Jeffersonville road.

Through the years most of the ante-bellum homes along Longstreet road have burned and many families have moved away. The oldest living member of the church is J. F. Armstrong, 92. As a result the church has become inactive on several occasions. The last period of inactivity was in the late 1920's. The church was reorganized in 1927.

In 1955 Sunday School rooms were added to the church and in 1974 a deep well, pump and restrooms.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church - Mt. Calvary Baptist Church was organized on June 12, 1840 and consisted of seven charter members. Dedication services were conducted by Rev. C. A. Tharpe.

A Sunday School was organized in the late 1870's for the summer

months only. In 1885 an active all year Sunday School was started, and has continued to the present time.

Soon after the church was founded, it became and remained a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Association until 1906 when it joined the newly formed Pulaski-Bleckley Association.

The first church was located approximately one-fourth mile east of its existing location. Because of the admission of slaves as members of the church the initial building soon became too small so the church was moved to its present location, 10 miles northeast of Cochran in Cary, Georgia and enlarged. The church continued to grow and in 1890 a new and larger building was erected that still serves as the main sanctuary. In 1955 the building was turned, renovated, and enlarged. The last church annexation was completed in 1962. A new pastorium was built in 1974 and dedication services were held on March 23, 1975.

Membership has grown from seven in 1840 to approximately three hundred resident and nonresident members. Mt. Calvary Church has made much progress in its one hundred and thirty-six years of existence and the Cary Community has been built around it as a Christian Community. Rev. Leon Dame is the present pastor.

Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church - Oak Grove Baptist Church is located 6 miles east of Cochran on the Chester Road.

According to the church records, the first services were held February 11, 1888. The present church building is believed to have been built about the same time.

An addition to the church was constructed in 1954 and the lunchroom added in 1972. There are 80 members at this time.

Piney Grove Baptist Church - A brush arbor served as the first meeting place for the Piney Grove Baptist Church when it began on November 3, 1887.

The first building was constructed some years later and razed in 1970 to make way for the present building.

Piney Grove Baptist Church is located on Highway 112 five miles from Cochran. There are 600 members of the church today.

Ruth Baptist Church - Dr. John S. Wilder was the first pastor of Ruth Baptist Church when it was founded in 1903.

The church, located 8 miles northeast of Cochran in the Ruth Community, still stands where it was originally built in 1903-1905.

Since then, Sunday School rooms were added in 1935, an educational building in 1964, a prayer room in 1973, and a library also in the 70's.

The interior of the church was remodeled in the 1960's and the extension is presently undergoing renovation.

There are 111 resident members at the present time under the leadership of Rev. James L. Palmer.

Salem Baptist Church - Salem Baptist Church was constituted and the original building was constructed during the first year of the Civil War, 1861. Slavery, being a prominent factor in the Old South, had its bearing upon the church. There was a section of seats reserved for the slaves and these seats remained in the church until some remodeling was done inside the church in 1952 and the pulpit was moved to the other end of the building.

Sunday School rooms were added in 1954, and in 1956 a baptistry was built inside the church, replacing an outside pool. A pastorium was built by the church in 1960 and in 1963 part of the Salem School buildings were purchased to be used for Sunday School rooms and a cafeterium.

There are no written records of the church prior to 1925 because they were destroyed by fire in the home of the church clerk at that time.

Therefore, it is not known how the church was founded or who the first pastor and members were.

In 1969 a new brick church building was constructed and the old church was torn down. The present church building was dedicated May 25, 1969 and the present pastor is Rev. English Byrd.

Southside Baptist Church - "Upon this rock I will build my church," said Jesus nearly 2,000 years ago. In 1958 this verse became a reality in our community with the constituting of the Southside Baptist Church. Bro. Bob Ballard, a young Christian, and a student at Middle Georgia College, having a desire to serve the Lord, inquired of the pastor of the First Baptist Church about the possibilities of beginning a mission for another Baptist Church in Cochran.

A house was rented at 613 Peach Street, and the mission was given the name of "Peach Street Mission." The first service was held on Sunday morning, March 10, 1957, under the leadership of Bro. Bob Ballard; approximately 12 people were present that first Sunday. The following Lord's Day the number present was doubled and from that day forward there was a constant growth. Bro. Ballard was leader until June 1957, when Bro. Kelly Pritchett, Jr. was called as Pastor.

Plans were then started for the construction of a building for the new church. The land was donated by J. T. Edmondson, and the foundation was laid in August of 1957. On January 24, 1958, the building was more than half completed when a tornado completely destroyed it.

The members were not discouraged. They began working harder than ever to get the building underway again, and completed as soon as possible. Donations from churches, businesses, families, and individuals were made and within four months the building was ready.

On June 8, 1958, the mission was constituted as a New Testament Church. The church was to be named "Southside Baptist Church." There were 85 who presented themselves for membership in the newly organized Baptist Church.

The church grew from a membership of 85 members to its present membership of 450. The present brick building consists of a sanctuary has recently been completely renovated. The pastorium has also recently been renovated and enlarged. Additional land has been purchased and this places the church in the center of the block on Jessup Street. Rev. W. E. Flanders now serves as the church's pastor.

Tabernacle Baptist Church - Tabernacle Baptist Church is one of the youngest churches in Cochran and Bleckley County. The organizational service was held Sunday, February 21, 1965. A council composed of seven ministers was elected to present the resolution for organization. At this meeting, the name of the church and the church covenant were officially adopted. Rev. Randolph Shaylor was called as the first pastor, and church officers were elected.

At this time, the membership was too small to consider building a church. The property on the corner of Fifth and Cherry Streets was purchased in June, 1965, and the house already located there was remodeled to include a sanctuary and Sunday School rooms.

On February 1, 1968, the church was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia and became known as Tabernacle Baptist Church of Cochran, Georgia. Incorporated.

Rev. Shaylor continued as the church's pastor until June, 1971. Rev. Herbert Williams, the present pastor, was called in November, 1973.

Early in 1975, a decision was made to begin the construction of a new church building. Groundbreaking services were held in February, and the work continued throughout the year. The building, located behind the old church, faces Fifth Street. It contains a sanctuary with a seating capacity of approximately 235, pastor's study, one Sunday School room, nursery, and restrooms. Dedication services were held Sunday, March 14, 1976.

Trinity Episcopal Church - Trinity Episcopal Church was organized on Trinity Sunday, May 21, 1950 in the Cochran First Methodist Church under the leadership of Rev. Jack H. Pace.

In 1951 a building was begun on Cherry Street near 6th street. The property was donated to the church by J. T. Edmondson, Jr.; a good Baptist friend of the Episcopal Church.

The first confirmation class, consisting of 9 members, was held in the building on May 10, 1952 with Bishop Barnwell officiating. At the same time the first baptism was held for Stuart Thorp, grandson of Ms. L. S. Leach and the late Lewis Leach.

The church now has seventy-five members.

Turner Chapel A. M. E. Church - The African Methodist Episcopal Movement was started under a brush arbor in the section of town known as "Black Ankle" and served by Rev. Anthony Brown.

The first church was organized and built by Rev. William Askew, in 1867, with the assistance of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner. It was built on land given by the John Henry (Bluegrass) Mullis family. This was then Pulaski County, and the land was located beside the short line of the Southern Railroad. The church was rebuilt in 1890 by Rev. J. A. Hadley, and remodeled in 1918 by the Rev. J. W. Hall.

Several years later a movement was started to move the church to a new location and a plot of land on Seventh Street was donated by Mr. Jordan Fisher. The new church was built in 1958. Rev. E. O. Benefield was pastor at that time.

The church has been under the leadership of five (5) bishops and many presiding elders. It was paid for, and dedicated in 1973 while Rev. W. C. Roberson, the present pastor, was serving.

Fisher Howard is the oldest living Steward, and Mrs. Beulah Pitts is the oldest woman member. The membership at this time is about 40.

Union Hill Baptist Church - In 1894 Union Hill Baptist Church was begun with services under a brush arbor. The church was founded in September 1895 and the first building erected. Rev. Eli Thompson served as pastor. In 1910 space was added to this structure. Sunday School rooms were built later in the early forties.

Buck Giddens gave land and the church built a parsonage in 1960.

In 1966 construction began on the present building on Airport Road. The parsonage was replaced with a new more modern home on the same site as the first house in 1973.

Rev. James Burleson has served as pastor since May 1968. There are 350 members of Union Hill Baptist Church.



Bethany Baptist Church - est. 1868



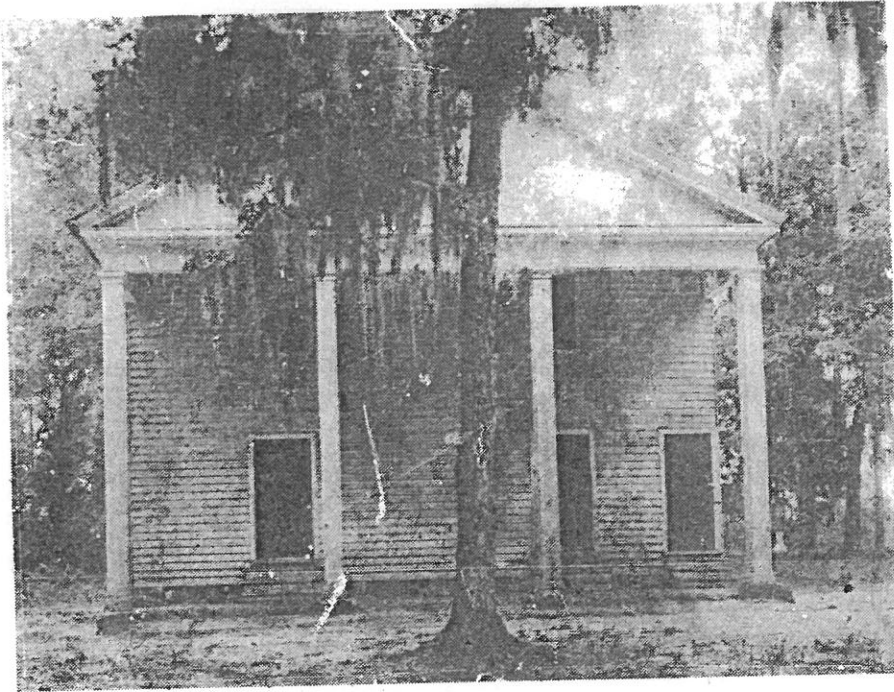
Church of the Nazarene - est. 1963



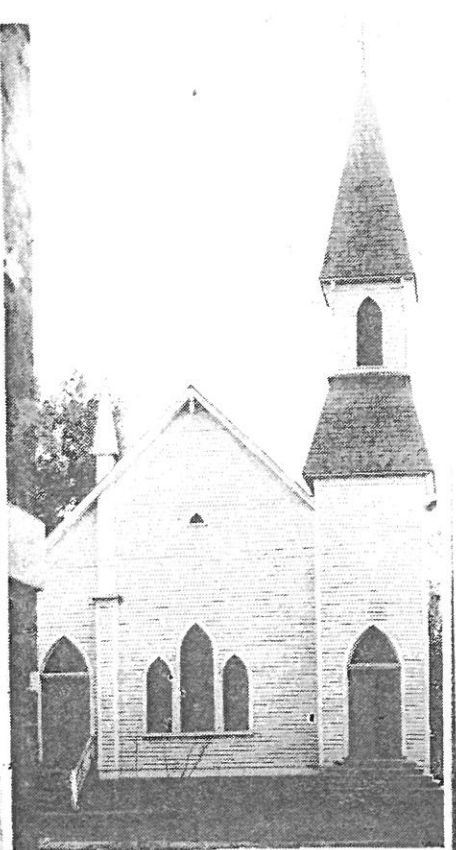
Antioch Methodist Church - est. 1881



First Baptist Church - est. 1868



Evergreen Baptist Church - est. 1809



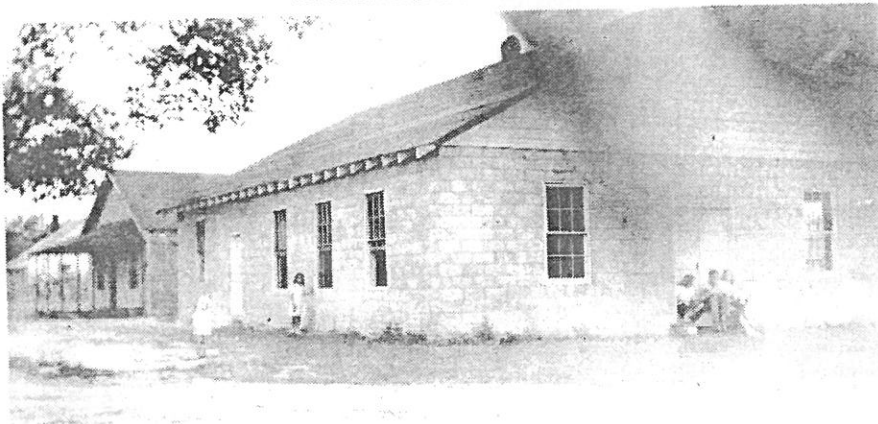
First United Methodist Church - est. 1879



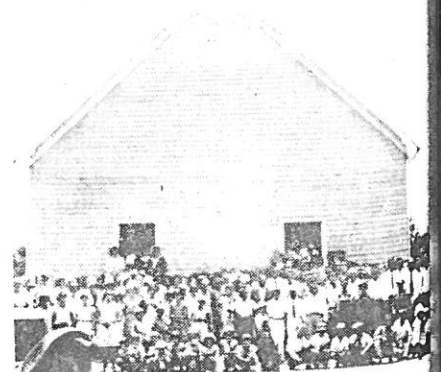
Lakeview Baptist Church - est. 1960



Free Providence Baptist Church - est. 1873



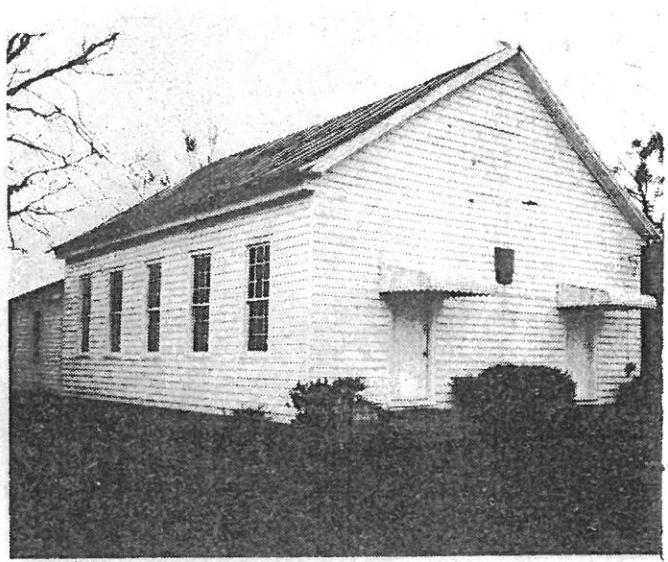
Cochran Church of God - est. 1946



Union Hill Baptist Church - est. 1894



Mt. Calvary Baptist Church - est. 1840



Longstreet Methodist Church - est. 1812



Limestone Baptist Church - est. 1833



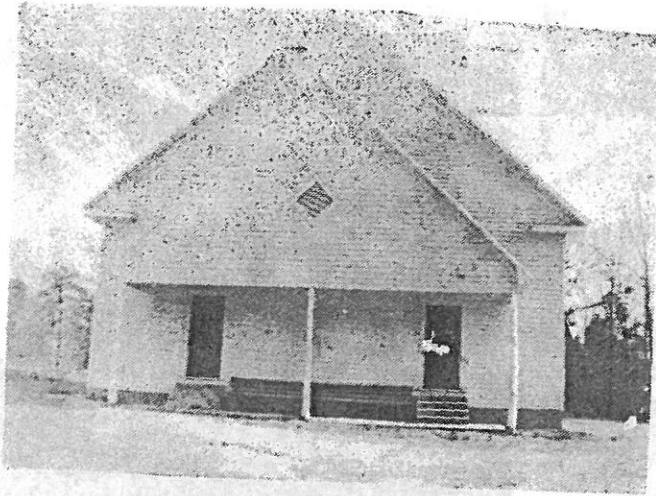
Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church - est. 1888



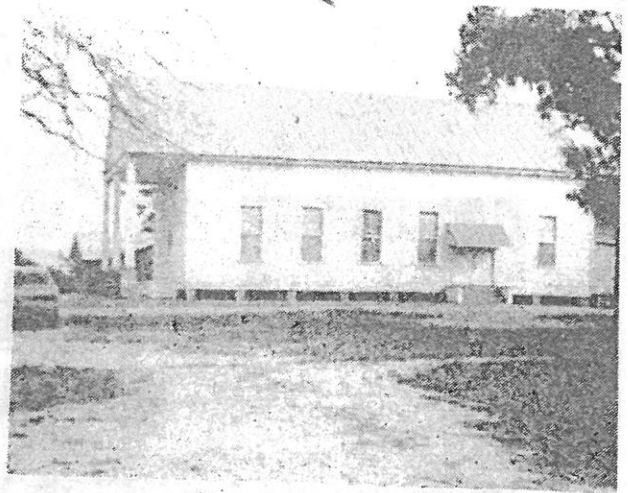
Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church - est. 1913



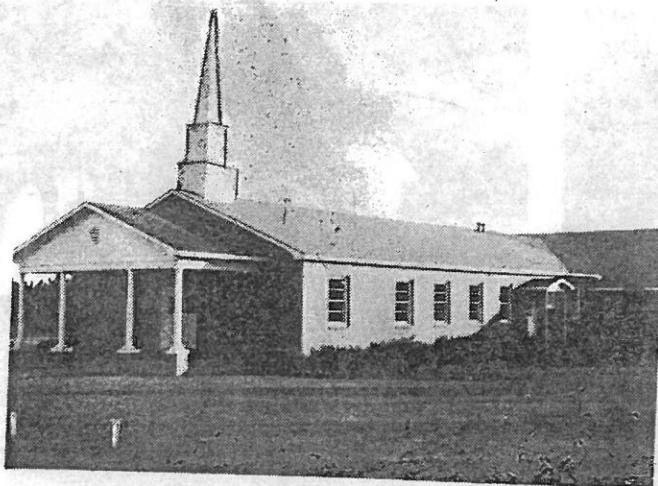
Piney Grove Baptist Church - est. 1887



Ruth Baptist Church - est. 1903



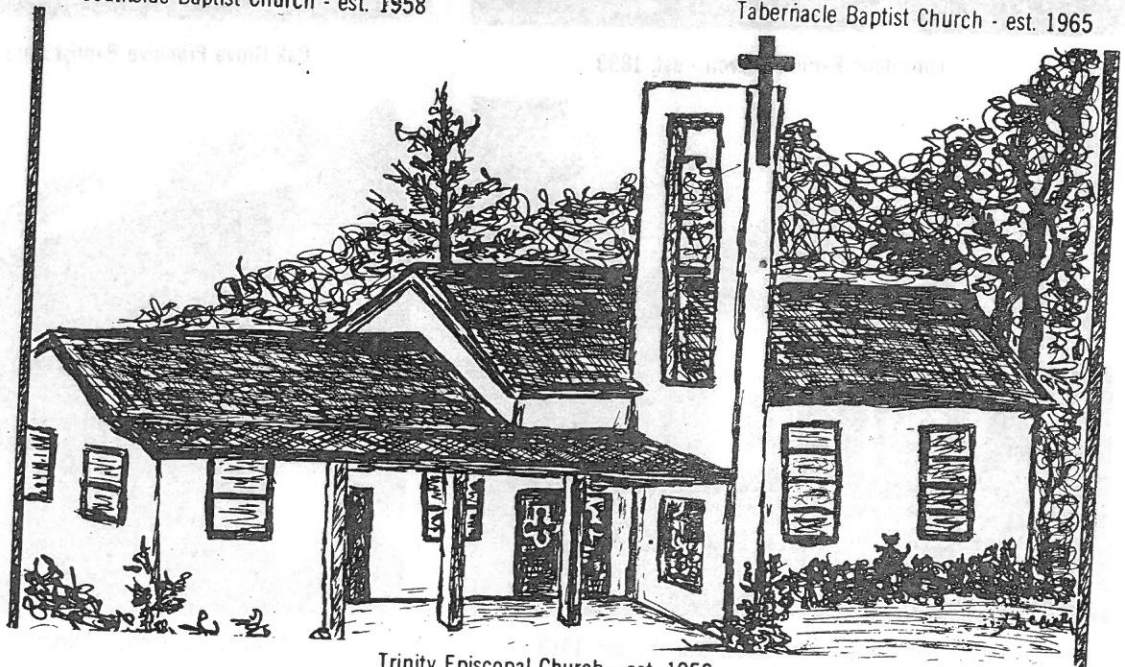
Salem Baptist Church - est. 1861



Southside Baptist Church - est. 1958



Tabernacle Baptist Church - est. 1965



Trinity Episcopal Church - est. 1950

City Government



Charles D. Killebrew
1971-

Former Mayors

Dr. Thomas D. Walker

W. B. Watts
1893-1895

Z. V. Peacock
1896

J. H. Mullis Jr.
1897

W. B. Watts
1898

Z. V. Peacock
1899

J. B. Peacock
1899-1900

Z. V. Peacock
1902-03

J. B. Peacock
1904-1906

W. M. Wynne
1907-1910

J. H. Mullis Jr.
1911-1914

J. C. Urquhart
1915-1922

H. F. Bullard
1923-1925

J. E. Cook
1926-1936

I. A. Poole
1937-1946

James M. Dykes
1947-1950

A. A. Holcombe
1951-1952

James M. Dykes
1953-1956

J. T. Edmondson
1957-1958

W. C. Dykes
1959-1960

James M. Dykes
1961-1962

A. Robert Holcombe
1963-1964

W. C. Dykes
1965-1966

J. M. Bohannon
1967-1968

Buddy M. NeSmith
1968-1969

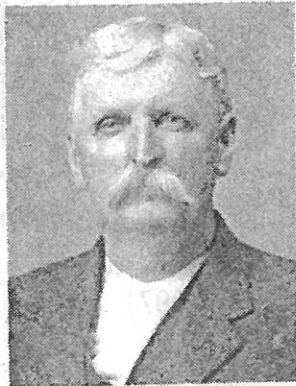
A. Robert Holcombe
1971

C. H. Dillashaw
1971 acting mayor

Bleckley County Commissioners



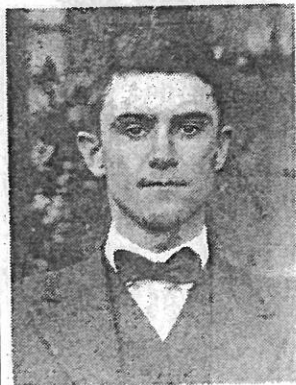
Bleckley County Courthouse



J. B. Hinson
Jan. 1913-Nov. 1914



Ivy M. Smith
Jan. 1949-Dec. 1961



R. H. Peacock
Dec. 1914-Dec. 1920
Jan. 1929-Dec. 1948



Algie Jones
Jan. 1961-Jan. 1973



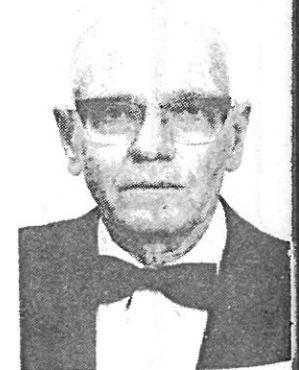
James P. Dykes
Jan. 1921-Dec. 1928

Official Ballot January 1st, 1913

For Ordinary
W. M. WYNNE
For Commissioner of Roads & Revenues
J. B. HINSON
For Clerk Superior Court
JOEL T. DEESE
For Sheriff
(vote for one)
M. A. SMITH
J. A. FLOYD
T. J. ABNEY
A. V. HORNE

For Tax Receiver
JAMES E. HOLLAND
For Tax Collector
W. D. PORTER
For County Treasurer
J. R. TAYLOR
For County Surveyor
W. H. BERRYHILL
For Coroner
MORGAN BARRS
For Superintendent of Education
I. A. WILLIS

First ballot printed
for first Commissioners' race - 1913



F. A. Scarborough
April 1973-