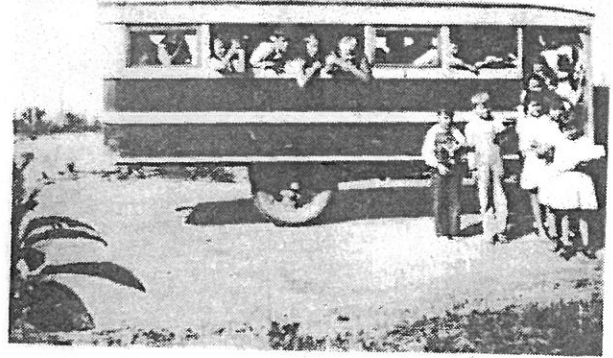


History Of Bleckley County Schools



1933 school bus owned and driven by
Mrs. Ruth Barlow.

During the early years there were some twenty small schools in Bleckley County. This large number was due to the transportation problem so each community had its own school. Gradually busses were bought and schools began to consolidate. Eventually we had four white schools and five negro schools. In January 1963 the four white schools were consolidated and moved into a new and modern building known as Bleckley County Elementary School. This school has experienced remarkable growth from a faculty of 18 teachers, one librarian and a principal to 26 classroom teachers, one librarian, 5 special education teachers, band director, principal, PECE coordinator, counselor and school secretary with 3 teacher aides. Mr. Jack Lucas has served as principal since the school opened in 1963.

In addition to growth in student body and school personnel the school has added two new wings and three portable classrooms. A new gym was constructed and was open in the fall. Bleckley County Elementary enrolls students in grades one through six.

A new junior high school which is Bleckley County Junior High School began operation in 1970. This was the first year of total integration and students in grades seven and eight attend the junior high. The school is located on the west side of Cochran and approximately one-half mile from the city limits. Besides the principal, the school has 11 classroom teachers, librarian, teachers aides (3 part-time, 2 full-time). A counselor, curriculum director and visiting teacher works jointly with both schools.

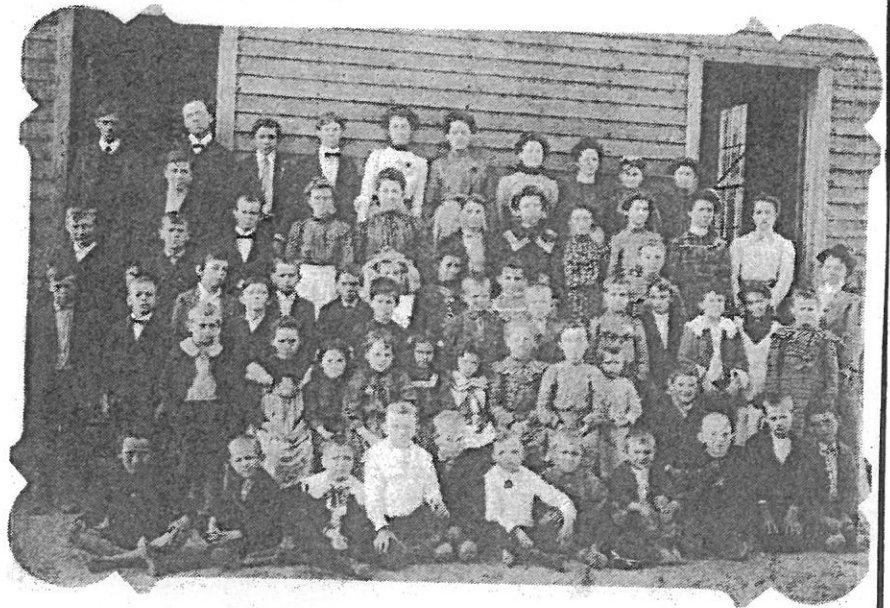
Both schools have excellent lunch rooms. They are staffed with efficient managers and personnel. The libraries in both schools are up-to-date in every respect; ample books and reference materials are available for each child. Both schools have adequate multimedia equipment consisting of a film library, a dry mount press, opaque projector, overhead

projector, movie projector and each room has film strip projectors and record players. Each school has an adequate number of TV sets and has a planned program from the educational TV (channel 15) for each grade.

The school system works to improve its curriculum each year and keeps abreast of each new innovation in education. Its staff attends district and state meetings and in-service meetings are held regularly. An adequate testing program is provided, including the testing of pre-school children. Adequate records for each child are kept on file and the school officials work diligently to provide the

best faculty available. Every effort is made to provide the best educational opportunity for each child in Bleckley County. For a number of years the Bleckley County Schools have been accredited with and meet state requirements in every area.

Students in grades nine through twelve attend the Cochran High School in Cochran. The County Board of Education has a joint contract with the City Board of Education to provide for the education of these children. Cochran school officials operate the school, while the County Board furnishes all transportation.



An early class picture of Cary School. Left to right, 1st row: Tom Meadows, Rufus Wade, Olen Richardson, Denson Wade, Morgan Sapp, Norman Wade, Tom Green, Cecil Armstrong, Howard King, Jim Wade, John Love. 2nd row: Joe Richardson, Ruth Meadows, Aria Pritchett, Mary Eliza Lee, May Bell Hendricks, Hennie Hendricks, Lucia Sapp, Ethel Pritchett, Nannie Wade, Chapman Green. 3rd row: Raymond Richardson, Willie Richardson, George Love, Walter Pritchett, Grady Richardson, Dupree Lee, Julia Wade, Joe Meadows, Nora Hendricks, John Wade, Ruby Armstrong, Horace Wade, Bell Johnson, Honor Johnson, Tommy Wade, Syble Coley, Maude Richardson, Lizzie Sapp, Roda Hogue. 4th row: Bertie King, Oliver Johnson, King Richardson, Calhoun King, Sudie Wade, Mary Crumpler, Homer Wade, Sallie Lou Porter, Maude Meadows, Beatrice Lee, Annie Dennard, Miss Charlotte McDuffee. 5th row: Walter Hendricks, Professor E. L. Fields, Perry Coley, Dallas Green, Gertrude Love, Edna Crumpler, Eva Burney, Lizzie Coley, Nellie Petty, Hattie Mae Wade.

Bleckley County School Superintendents



Tom Watson Dykes
1965-



I. A. Willis
1913-1916
1925-1928
1933-1946



Harris E. Harville
1917-1920



Roy W. Coley
1956-1964



W. B. Brady
1947-1956



L. A. Whipple
1921-1924
1929-1932

Community Schools



STUDENT
Ruth Barlow Bollinger
1919-1920



TEACHER
Mrs. (Ruth) Tom Bailey
1919-1920



Martha Anne Academy - 1888.

One room school located across from First Methodist Church. Teacher, Fred R. Martin. Students, marked with v's, left to right, Dr. Robert L. Whipple, M.D., L. A. Whipple, Dr. Oliver J. Whipple (dentist) and Clifford T. Whipple.



Bunker Hill School - 1905: Teacher, Miss Minnie Ryan. Students, Lola Barlow, Leo Manning Bozeman, Wilbur Jones, Minnie Manning Dixon, Alpha Sanders, Lucille Lamb, Frank Richardson, Alfred Barrs, Robert Lamb, Henry Lamb, Railey Barlow, Wilton Richardson, Dewey Sanders, Philip Jones, Bob Purser, Welton Barrs, Ruth Richardson Barrs, Lucy Sanders Smith, Pauline Purser Butts, Martha Sanders Bracewell, Williamena Richardson Collins, Gussie May Sanders, Pete McNair, Joe Taylor McNair, Carrie Sanders.



Cary School - 1914
R. E. (Emmett) Dykes marked daddy.



Ruth School, 1920-21, grades 1-9, Miss Levie McGlaun of Cusseta, Georgia, teacher. Front row, left to right, Claude Walker, Leona Smith Fanny Purser, Louise Purser, Hudson Jones, Cecil Bozeman, Bernice Barlow, Mary Barlow (Sanders), Elton Peacock (back of Mary), Harry Barlow with dog, Wheeler. Second row, Lewis Barlow, W. C. Bozeman, Robert Barlow. Hudson Padgett, Charlie Carr, Joe Barlow. Cliff Barlow.

Clara Bozeman, Sam Purser, Rosetta Smith, Ruth Bollinger. Third row, Sam Padgett, Cora Defore, Velma Rackley, Willie Mae Smith, Anna Padgett. Fourth row, Mary Barlow Hooker, Alma Bozeman, Ethel Peacock, Horace Defore, Edward Barlow, Ida Walker, Adele Carr, Evelyn Barlow.



Rebie Elementary School, 1928-29, grades 1-7: front row, left to right, Alvin (Sonny Bo) Mullis, Collins, Alvin Bryant, R. W. (Shine) Parker Jr., Leandus Mullis, K. D. Davis, Marvin Garrett, E. E. (Buddy) Parker, Merrell Walls. Second row, left to right, Collins, Dorothy Mullis, Evora (Dinkle) Smith, Minnie Lee Parker, Leola Sirmons (Collins), Minnie Knighton (Faircloth), Myrtie Fountain, Collins, (Do not know), Delores Hinson, Lillie Bell Davis, Rosa Lee Hinson, Lucy Davis, Milton Mullis, William Hinson, D. C. Gilbert. Third row, left to right, Walker Walls, Morris English, Claudus Collins, Florence Mullis (Johnson), Evelyn Bush, Erslee

Hendrix, Kathleen Smith (Hinson), Sadie Parker (Davis), Ruth Mullis (Coody), Joe Smith, Jay Hendrix, Fred Garrett, Jack Gilbert, Louise Coley (Dallenbach), Corine Gilbert (Peacock). Fourth row, left to right, Alice Petty, Principal, Vera Wade (Kelly) teacher, Edna White (Mullis), Mattie Gilbert (Snow), Tiny Davis (Lord), Ernest Sirmons, Lillian Parker, Warren English, Thelma Parker, A. A. (Son) Mullis, Irene Davis (Smith), Vivian Bush (Manning), Estelle Knighton (Meadows), Christine Mullis (Twyman), Lorriene English (Durden). This picture was made back of the Little Bethel Church.

History Of The Cochran City Schools

The Cochran City Schools of Georgia came into existence in a special election on August 7, 1903. The Cochran City Public Schools have been operated under the system of Public Schools of Georgia from 1903 to the present date.

The Cochran City Schools were first placed on the State accreditation list in 1909 while Mr. Leo Browning was superintendent. During the administration of Mr. H. S. Burdette the first indoor basketball court was built. Mr. T. M. Purcell was superintendent for 23 years, and many major changes were made during the time of his service. In 1929, the auditorium and four classrooms were dedicated. In 1942, eight classrooms were built to serve the Cochran Elementary School. The lunchroom was started during the tenure of Mr. Purcell. In 1949, when Mr. M. S. McDonald was superintendent, a football team was started. In 1956, during the administration of Mr. G. R. Porter the present Cochran City School property was obtained and the present Cochran High School building was dedicated. Since 1967, under the administration of Mr. John T. Groover, the enrollment of the Cochran City Schools - kindergarten through adult education - has increased to around 1600. The present faculty consists of 83 professional people - with over one-half either working toward or having completed their master's degree, 9 teacher aides, 6 secretaries, 1 maintenance man, 5 janitors, and 28 part-time workers making up a total of 150 people employed by the Cochran City Board of Education.

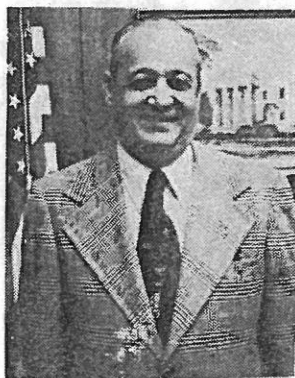
The present members of the Board of Education are: Mr. W. D. Bar Jr., chairman; Mr. Barney W. Hendricks, Jr., vice chairman; Mr. W. Brantley, secretary; Mr. F. Z. Southerland, treasurer; Dr. Harold Waters, member.

The administrative staff is composed of: Mr. John T. Groover superintendent; Mrs. Mary M. Dykes, assistant superintendent; I Algie Jones, Jr., principal, Cochran Elementary School; Mr. Ben Dykes, principal, Cochran Middle School; Mr. Harvey K. McNeal, principal, Cochran High School.

In the past few years many improvements have been made. They include a new Middle School building, a new school library, additional classrooms, and a new field house. Now under construction is Cochran Elementary School costing over \$1,000,000, and a Vocation School costing around \$550,000. The elementary school and the vocational school were made possible by the passing of a \$325,000 bond by the citizens of Cochran.

The educational programs of the Cochran City Schools are among the best in the state. The schools are fully accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, and the Cochran High School is accredited by the Southern Association. The schools are rated Standard schools by the State Department of Education. The Cochran Schools have won many honors and athletic awards, literary meets, musical awards, and honors in all areas of academic excellence.

Cochran City School Superintendents



John T. Groover
1967-

A. W. Jackson 1903-1904
J. P. Lawson 1904-1905
W. M. Holsembeck 1905-1908
Leo H. Browning 1908-1913
Rufus Monts 1913-1917
W. E. Monts 1917-1922
H. S. Burdette 1922-1925

T. M. Purcell 1925-1948
M. S. McDonald 1948-1951
Frank Taylor 1951-1953
G. R. Porter 1953-1957
Howard S. Peek 1957-1958
N. R. Hayworth 1958-1964
M. E. Nichols 1964-1967

“Readin’, Writin’, ‘Rithmetic” Begins in Cochran



Professor C. W. M. Wynn

The people of this county have always taken great pride in their schools. They have made every effort to make sure that their schools met the personal and collective needs of the people. A study of the history of schools reveals evidence that much progress has been made toward achieving this goal.

Throughout the development of the two school systems constant attention has been given to providing quality education in the best possible facilities. Consistent with this goal we find evidence of a highly competent professional staff and sound, progressive administrative leadership. Both school systems have had school board members dedicated to delivering high quality education to the young people of this county.

The schools had a humble but very important beginning. Old Longstreet Academy on the “Federal Stage and Post Road” or “Longstreet Road” was well known in this area.

To Professor Morgan Wynn goes the honor of being Bleckley County’s first teacher. There is an interesting story about how he got into education.

According to one of Professor Wynn’s granddaughters, he was so short in stature that as a soldier his rifle was longer than he was tall. He tripped over it so often that the military told him he’d better just go home and teach.

He began teaching in 1846 in Pulaski County before Bleckley County was constituted. He came to Cochran in 1873 and established a school which was first called Wynn’s Academy and then Magnolia Institute. He continued to teach for 53 years.

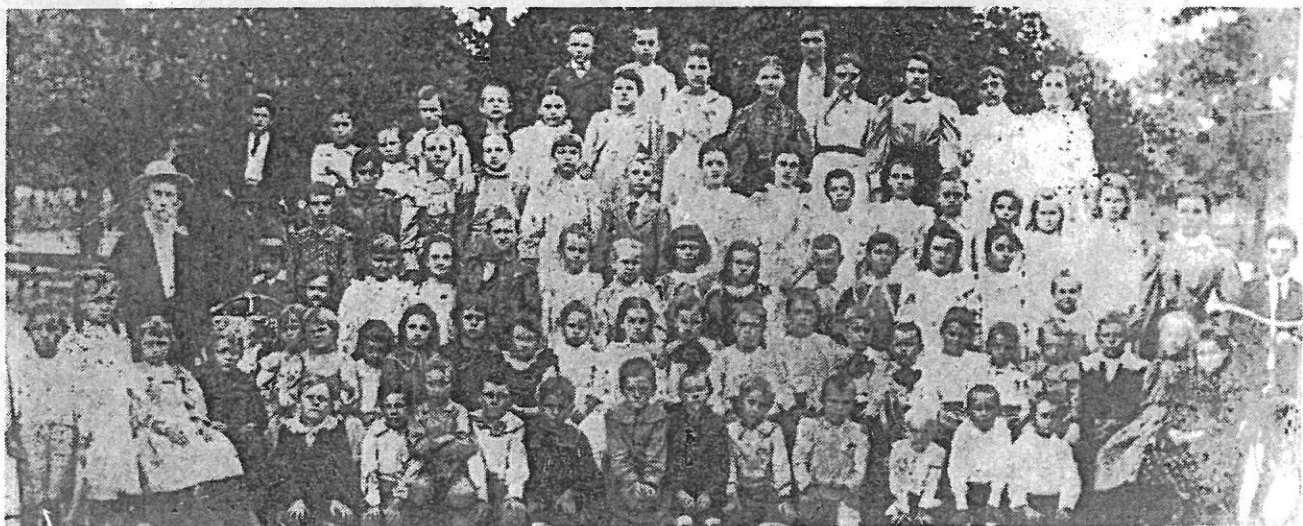
In 1872 Burrell B. Dykes gave an acre of land on the corner of Third and Dykes Streets for school purposes. A frame building was erected on this site. Prior to the construction of this building, classes were held in the Union Church, on the site now occupied by the First Methodist Church.

The opening of New Ebenezer College represented a milestone in the development of education in this area. It opened in January 1887 with 100 students. Even though it was called a college, it actually had pupils at the primary, intermediate and college levels.

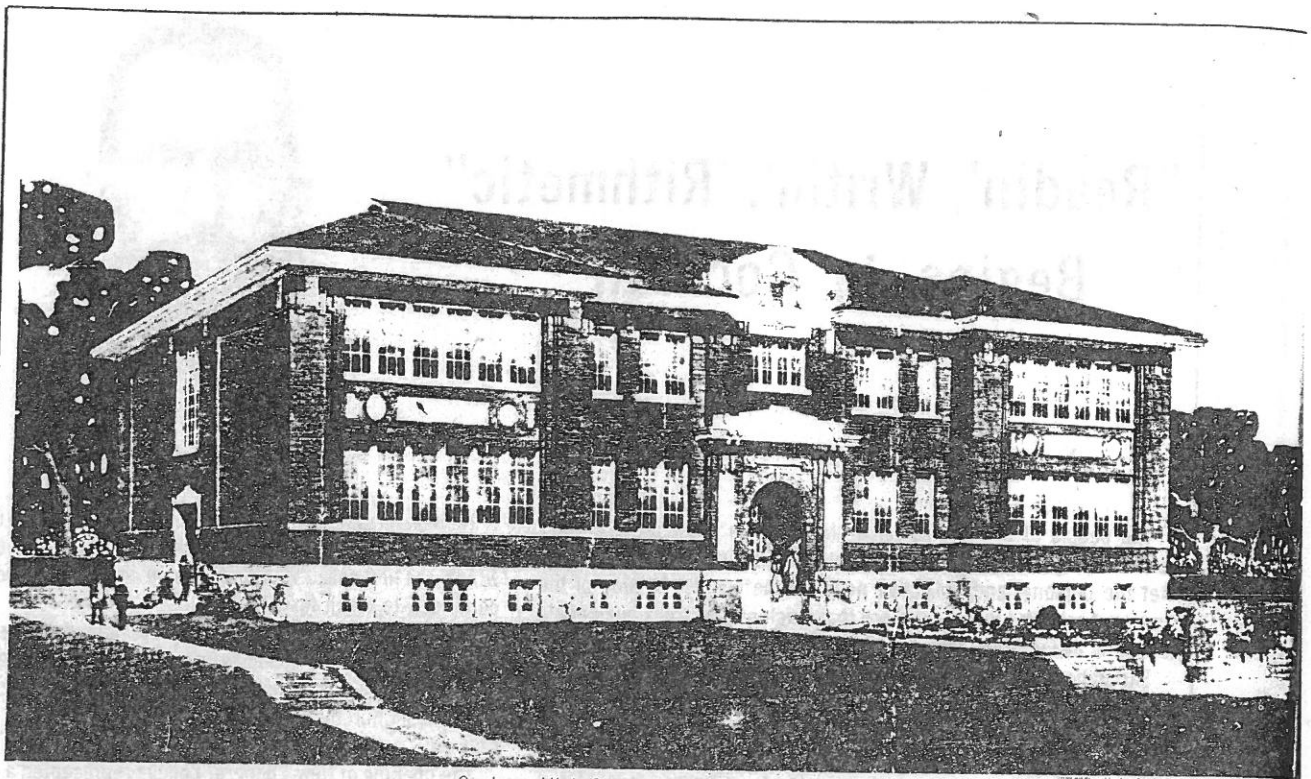
After New Ebenezer College closed its doors in 1898, it became Cochran College. The facility continued to be used as a high school for many years.

In 1903 in a general election, the Cochran Public Schools System was established operating under the System of Public Schools in Georgia. In 1909 the system was placed on the accredited list.

The Bleckley County School System was not created until 1913 after the county of Bleckley was constituted. On March 10, 1913 a new brick building was dedicated on the site of the first school.



Professor C. W. M. Wynn and his pupils in early 1900. Professor Wynn appears at the far left.



Cochran High School - Dedicated 1913.



Old Ebenezer Class of 1908: Teachers, Professor U. M. Holsenbeck, Misses Carrie Villard, Mildred Blair, Rosa Walker, Laurie Wynne. Students, Rosa Lee, Louis Alderman, Cherry White, Ruby Taylor, Hennie Collins, Ethel Fowler, Jim Powell, Pearl Horne, May Powell, Marguerite Urquhart, Lucy Powell, Hennie Hendricks, Susie Forehand, Riddly Bollinger, Lillie Hendricks, Essie Crumpler, Annie Mae Wynne, Mattie Fowler, Joe Taylor, Charlie Lyles, Ora Raiford.

Class Exercises
Cochran High School

Monday Evening, May 22nd, 1916
Eight O'clock, School Auditorium

MOTTO—SCIENTIA EST POTENTIA
COLORS—GREEN AND WHITE
FLOWER—WHITE CARNATION

Trio.....Gavote
Jewell Coody, Pauline Pannell, Sara Brown
Chorus—Spanish Gypsy.....Watson
Salutatory.....Robert Garner
Class History.....Nettie Arnold
Siegmond's Love Song.....Wagner
Evelyn Lee
Class Prophecy.....Lillian Willis
Class Poem.....Ruth Yancy
Pollacca Brilliante.....Merz
Jewell Wynne
Class Will.....Evelyn Taylor
Valedictory.....Linton Urquhart
Duet—Concert Polonaise.....Engelmann
Jewell Wynne, Julia Mae Brown
Delivery of Diplomas.....Mr. T. L. Bailey
Announcements

Local Citizens Saved College

College On The Hill Changed With The Times

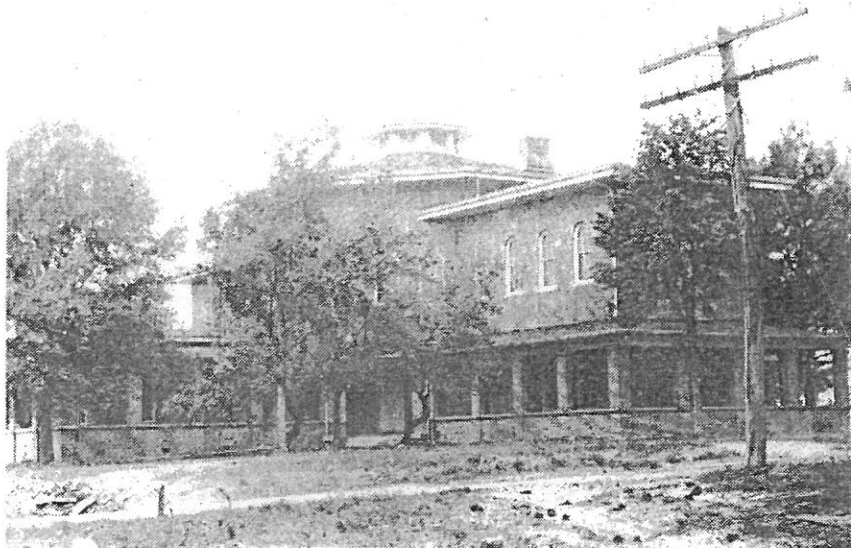
It was only eighteen years after the founding of Cochran in 1869 that an educational institution was first established on "the hill" on the southern edge of the city. This institution, first established as the College of the New Ebenezer Association, has undergone several changes in its function to meet the changing times. The story of this institution, which has evolved to the present-day Middle Georgia College, is not without threats to its very existence and heroic efforts to save it.

Educational opportunities, especially for youngsters in the rural areas of Georgia, were not great in the late 1800's. Historically, churches have always been leaders in education, and it was the Baptist churches of the New Ebenezer Association that took the lead in providing educational opportunities for the young people of the middle Georgia area. This association was composed largely of Baptist churches in Pulaski, Dodge, Laurens, and Telfair counties.

The type of institution that this association envisioned was not unusual for the times: a combination high school and the first two years of college to bridge the gap between local educational opportunities and universities, which only the most fortunate were able to attend. The school was to have boarding facilities, so that it could serve students of the entire area covered by the association, and those from outside the area as well.

Planning began in 1883. A committee to supervise establishment of the college was appointed in 1884. The first building was constructed in 1885 and 1886. Instruction began on January 10, 1887, with approximately one hundred students enrolled.

The purpose of the College of the New Ebenezer Association ... later shortened to simply "New Ebenezer College" ... is described in the first catalog: "... to prepare pupils for business or for the Junior Class in universities. This includes Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Natural Science and several modern languages, with English studies and Music." The purpose for which the Baptist churches established the school was the same as the mission of the present-day junior or community college: to offer career-type programs for students who do not plan to pursue their



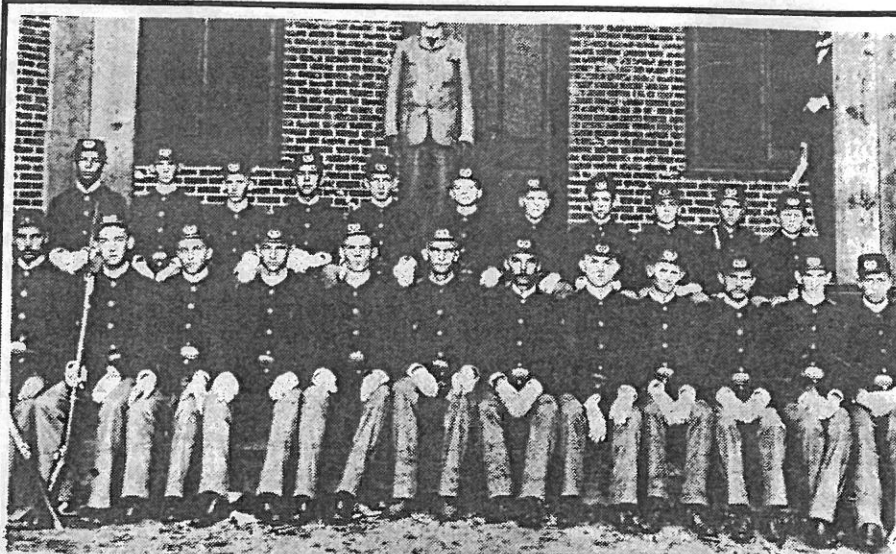
education beyond the junior-college level and to offer the classical transfer program for those who intend to continue their education to the baccalaureate level or beyond. New Ebenezer College and its successor institutions on the same site, then, have a legitimate claim to being one of the first junior colleges, if not the first, in America.

In 1917 the General Assembly of Georgia passed an act establishing an agricultural and mechanical school for what was then the Twelfth Congressional District of Georgia. It was at this point that Cochran came close to losing the institution.

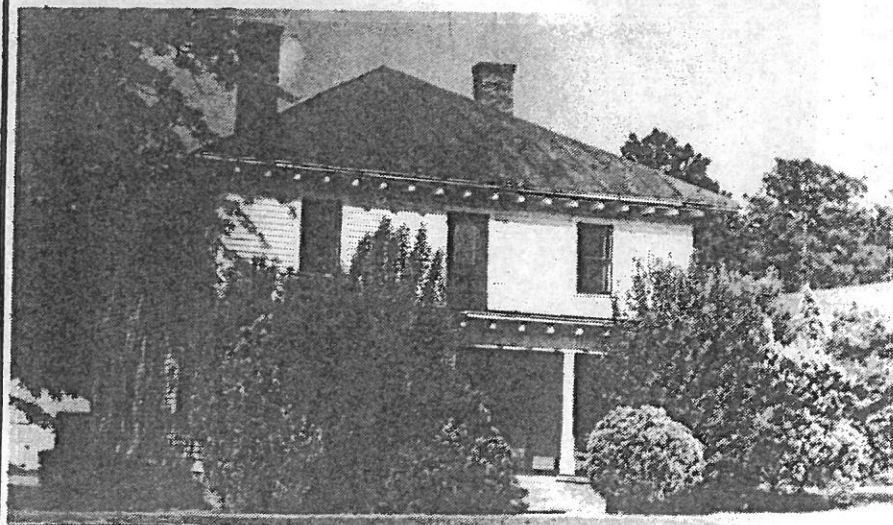
A meeting was called at Dublin, where towns in the district interested in obtaining the A & M school were to submit bids. According to eyewitness accounts, Dublin was represented by a large and enthusiastic delegation. Cochran was represented by three men: Dr. T. D. Walker, Sr., T. L. Bailey and Guy Jackson Sr. Dublin's bid, including property to be deeded

to the state, was \$110,000. Cochran's bid, including land and the New Ebenezer College buildings, was \$110,500. The trustees visited both sites and were divided on which bid to accept. They finally voted in favor of Cochran, but that decision only led to another problem. Cochran's bid was to include \$25,000 in cash ... a fortune in that day ... in addition to the property.

After visiting the two proposed sites, the Board of Trustees voted to accept Cochran's bid. Cochran was given thirty days in which to produce the deeds to the property and the \$25,000 in cash. Citizens of Cochran and Bleckley County met at the court house and elected a steering committee to head the effort. Guy Jackson, Sr. was chairman and the other members were Dr. T. D. Walker, Sr., T. L. Bailey, John Mullis, and F. D. Wimberly, Jr. The committee organized five committees of three members each to call on every property owner in the city and county to ask for donations.



The above pictures are from the catalog of New Ebenezer College for the 1892-93 academic year.



This house served as the home of presidents of the institution for many years. Although the building has been demolished, the garden that surrounded the house is a focal point of the central campus today.

After thirty days of unceasing effort, they were still short of the required amount, so they requested and were granted a thirty-day extension. The land and buildings included in the bid was acquired. Much of the property was donated by the owners, Dr. R. D. Walker, Sr., the Reverend P. A. Jessup, E. Cook, Sr., and Mrs. Walton Wiggs. Additional property was purchased at a nominal price from Walter Hunt Peacock.

On the day before the expiration of the time extension, the committee met and discovered that it still needed \$7,000 to make good Cochran's bid. To present the cash and deeds to the Governor and Board of Trustees in Atlanta the next day, someone would have to leave Cochran on the train at 2:30 that afternoon. The committee members called fourteen prominent citizens and asked them to meet immediately at the Cochran Bank. The fourteen were asked to donate an additional \$500 each; the alternative was that Cochran would forfeit on its bid and the A & M School would be located elsewhere.

The men came through and the committee caught the train at 2:30 that afternoon. At 10:00 the next morning they laid the deeds for the property and the check for \$25,000 on Governor Hugh Dorsey's desk in the presence of the trustees of the school.

The risk of losing the school was not over, however. Some opponents of having the school located on the New Ebenezer site challenged the ownership of the sixteen acres on which the college had been located - the land originally donated by Peter L. Peacock and James Oberry to the New Ebenezer Association for the college, with the provision that the land would revert to them if it ever ceased to be used for educational purposes.

The committee appointed Hezzie McWhorter, Lucian A. Whipple, Warren Grice, and Guy Jackson, Sr. to prepare a brief contending that the property had continued to be and would continue to be used for school purposes. Attorney General Clifford Walker approved the brief, and the way was clear for the establishment of the Twelfth District Agricultural and Mechanical School.

The old college building was renovated and a new dormitory built in time for classes to begin in October 1919. Again, the institution in Cochran served the needs of the times. Agricultural and mechanical schools were established throughout the country to help educate students for the age of technology in agriculture and mechanics. Thus, the college was able to continue serving the area in a new way, but with the same campus and physical facilities that were created for New Ebenezer College. It was chartered as one of the

branches of the Georgia State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, a department of the University of Georgia. That the school's colors of red and black are the same as those of the University of Georgia is no coincidence; it entered this new era as a branch of the university.

Another crisis occurred in 1926. Again, some of Bleckley County's leaders acted with extraordinary speed to insure the continuation of the institution. On a Saturday night in 1926, the original New Ebenezer Building burned to the ground. While the building was still burning, Guy Jackson, Sr. called Governor Clifford Walker and asked that the leaders of the House and Senate meet at the Governor's Mansion at 3:00 the next afternoon. Mr. Jackson was a member of the House of Representatives and, fortunately, the Legislature was meeting in an extra session.

After a long Sunday afternoon session, Mr. Jackson and the legislative leaders worked into the night to prepare a bill for introduction on Monday morning. The governor amended the extra session ... despite some contention that he was exceeding his authority ... and the bill was introduced. Mr. Jackson handled the bill personally through the committees and votes of the House and Senate. By Friday afternoon, it has been passed by both houses and Mr. Jackson carried it to the governor for his signature. The state treasurer immediately issued a warrant for \$110,000. The legislature appropriated \$95,000 to replace the building and the insurance carried by the state provided another \$15,000. Mr. Jackson caught the train to Cochran Friday afternoon and handed it over upon arrival in Cochran to Dr. T. D. Walker Sr., chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Jackson recalled that he was met at the train station by "most of the people of Cochran." The people then built a bonfire in the center of town for the celebration.

Work began immediately on the replacement of the building, which was named for Dr. Walker and is still in use by Middle Georgia College.

In 1927 the Board of Trustees voted to make the A & M school a junior college, and in 1929 the annual appropriation was raised from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Again, it was Guy Jackson, Sr., then a member of the House appropriations sub-committee, who sponsored the increase in appropriations. The next year construction began on Peacock Hall, another building still in use.

The school faced another challenge when Governor Richard B. Russell sponsored the reorganization of the state government. One item of this reorganization was the creation of the Board of Regents that would control all state colleges and universities. The board,

which assumed this control in 1931, soon abolished several of the A & M schools, but Middle Georgia College was retained as an original unit of the University System of Georgia.

Middle Georgia College was fully accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges in 1932. In 1958 it was the first public junior college to complete a

pilot institutional self-study for accreditation by the Southern Association of College and Schools, a procedure that is now required of all college and universities every ten years.

Middle Georgia College has continued to serve the Middle Georgia area, but has also gained a nationwide and international reputation. Numbers of students enroll each year from several other states and countries.



The vintage of automobiles in the top photograph of Walker Hall indicates that the picture was taken soon after the building was constructed to replace the original building of New Ebenezer Hall. The lettering "Twelfth District Agricultural and Mechanical School" can be seen through the trees. The same building, bottom picture, still forms the core of the main campus.

Ebenezer Hall Is Link To The Past

In an old frame house in the center of the campus, Middle Georgia College has an unusual link with the past, not only of the college but of the central Georgia area.

That the house itself still exists may be something of a miracle, and even more miraculous is the preservation of some of the items it contains.

Now called Ebenezer Hall in memory of the predecessor institution of Middle Georgia College ... the College of the New Ebenezer Association ... the building is the only remaining original structure of the Baptist college which opened in 1887. The house, which is typical of homes constructed in the area around the turn of the century, was completed in 1890 as the on-campus residence for the president of the school.

The house later served as a home for principals of the Twelfth District Agricultural and Mechanical School, which took over the buildings and property of the old Baptist school in 1917.

The house undoubtedly was endangered when the original classroom and administration building went up in a blazing inferno one Saturday night in 1926. Records show that at the time the home was across the street from the building that burned with such intensity that only three small items were saved from it.

One of those items, the Seth Thomas wall clock that sounded the bells in the original classroom building, now ticks away in a front room of Ebenezer Hall. It was only six years ago though, that the origin of the clock, which came close to being lost, was discovered purely by coincidence.

Many years ago a modern electric clock system was installed to ring the bells at the college. In the early 1960's the old clock that the new system replaces was discovered gathering dust in an upstairs storage room.

No one on the campus thought much about its origin ... it was just another old school clock. Dr. Louis C. Alderman, Jr., who had recently been appointed president of Middle Georgia College, thought it was at least worth being checked out by a watchmaker, so he sent it to one in Macon. All the clock needed to put it back into operation was cleaning and lubrication. When he returned it, Nat Kessler, the watchmaker, remarked that no clocks like that one had been made since 1890.

At about the same time that the clock was discovered, the old house had been phased out as a dormitory for an overflow of men students, so the clock was hung on a wall there.



One day in 1970 an alumnus, L. J. Iseman, who is now a guidance counselor in the DeKalb County School System, asked to see inside the old house while visiting the campus. When he spotted the clock, he remarked, "That is the clock that was saved from the fire." He recalled that the president of the college when he was a student, the late Leo Browning, told him that only three items were saved from the fire: the clock, a desk, and a chair. No one knew what happened to the chair and the desk, but the clock, he recalled, was put back into use when Walker Hall was built by the state to replace the destroyed building.

The old home has now been converted into a combination museum, home management house, and guest quarters. In the process of its conversion, it has become a repository for several other links with the past.

One is a cast iron fireplace from one of the dormitory rooms of the old Wesleyan Conservatory Building in Macon, which burned while being demolished several years ago. Several of the fireplaces were removed by a scrap metal dealer before the fire, and Dr. Alderman obtained one of them. Later, he discovered that the others apparently were cut up and sold for scrap. The fireplace is a special item of

nostalgia for his wife, who lived in one of the rooms with a similar ... perhaps even the same ... fireplace as a Wesleyan student. His daughter, Amelia Ann, is also an alumna of Wesleyan.

Another fireplace frame and grate are preserved from the old Cochran Hotel, completed in 1895 ... just five years after Ebenezer was built about a mile away.

A door, heart-pine wainscoting, a mantel, and three door facings were obtained from the Phillips-Frazier house, which is believed to have been completed in 1826 at Hartford (near Hawkinsville). The Phillips-Frazier house was on the Federal Stage and Post Road, which ran from Milledgeville to the then-thriving community of Hartford.

A huge mirror came from New Orleans via the old Birdsey home in Macon; a piano was used for many years at Columbia College for Women in South Carolina. Other period pieces help set the Victorian mood of Ebenezer Hall.

Ebenezer withstood nearly eighty years of hard, every-day use and near-disaster. Now, newly remodeled, it preserves part of the history of middle Georgia as well as of the college.