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No Date

George T. Hurst

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## George T. Hurst

The record shows that George T. Hurst was pastor of Long Branch Baptist Church in 1868. Though he had no formal schooling, he was ordained as a preacher and at various times he occupied the pulpit of a number of Baptist churches in this territory. He later was a member of Cairo Baptist Church but was never its pastor. He was a personal friend of Dr. S. A. Roddenbery and they were sometimes associated in business ventures. The fact is, preaching was not the vocation of G. T. Hurst; sawmilling was his principal business, along with some farming.

Before Cairo became a town, George T. Hurst acquired some 500 acres of land, mostly in the southwest corner of the 18th land district of Thomas County (now in northeast quarter of Cairo) and he owned and operated a saw mill, and sawed most of the lumber that went into the building of nearly all of the houses in the village that in 1870 became the Town of Cairo. Some years later he sold his saw mill to Dr. Roddenbery.

Mill Street (now 2nd Ave. N.E.) ran eastward from N. Broad St. to the Hurst saw mill, and that is how it got its name. One of the first large and well built houses in Cairo was the home of George T. Hurst which he built on the spot where the Grady County court house now stands, and it stood there until 1907 when the court house was built. In 1878 G. T. Hurst built and moved into a new home at the then eastern extremity of Mill St. where he lived until he died. His former home at the corner of N. Broad and Mill St. then became the home of the widow of Robert Roddenbery, mother of Dr. Roddenbery, and she died there in 1886. That was also where Walter Davis lived when he came to Cairo.

Wm. J. (Billie) Hurst, Jim E. Hurst, Tom Hurst and Ira Hurst were sons of Geo. T. Hurst. Ira was the age of Robert S. Roddenbery and they were boyhood friends. James E. Hurst was a member of the Town Council of Cairo for two terms in 1893 and 1894. Eddie E. Hurst, grandson of Geo. T. Hurst, was Acting Postmaster at Cairo from March 1930 to March 1931.

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