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*Only to get this as might find
something help of
likely to most of these settlers
of our neighboring counties
are different men*

CHAPTER II

CREATION OF IRWIN COUNTY, 1818

Its Organization—The First Two Roads—1820 Census—
Land Lots and Districts—First County Officers

*and in 1825 part of Thomas Co. came from Irwin
Daily from County
but none of
every I
the west
of Cy west
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county
Thom
Velly*

It was inevitable that the Legislature should proceed to create new counties out of the newly-ceded territory and to make the vast domain available to settlers. Accordingly, at the session of 1818-19 an Act was passed, approved December 15, 1818, laying out three new counties out of the former Indian territory, and these were named Appling, Irwin and Early, the three being provided for in the same legislative act.

The Act creating the three counties, being rather lengthy, is not copied into this book. The late Judge James B. Clements in his "History of Irwin County" published in 1932, gives a full copy of this Act (pp. 18-28, History of Irwin County, by Clements) and reference may be had to that publication for full particulars.

The boundaries or lines of the new counties according to this Act, were stipulated as follows:

"Be it enacted . . . that the territory lying south and southwest of the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers and bounding on the Counties of Wayne, Camden and East Florida line, the Chattahoochee River and the Creek temporary line, form three counties to-wit:

"All that part of said territory which lies west of a line to commence on the above temporary line and $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles on the east side of Flint River and running south to the boundary line of this state, shall form one county to be called Early.

"And all the balance of said territory which lies west of the line to commence at the ford of the Ocmulgee, commonly called the Blackshear ford, and running south to the same boundary, shall form a county to be called Irwin.

"And all the balance of said territory shall form one other county called Appling."

ITS ORGANIZATION

The General Assembly of Georgia by an act approved December 21, 1819, provided "for the organization of the counties of Early, Irwin and Appling." It had been a year since they were formally created by law, and yet no elections had been held and therefore no organization could be perfected. The Act referred to provided that cer-

How the survey is the reverse

EARLY, IRWIN, AND APPLING COUNTIES CREATED

On December 15, 1818, the Georgia legislature passed an act dividing the newly ceded territory into the three counties of Early, Irwin, and Appling. The land was to be surveyed into land lots and districts. Lots in Early County were to contain 250 acres each, and districts were to be twelve miles and forty chains square, while those of Irwin and Appling were to contain 490 acres each, and the districts were to be twenty miles and ten chains square. A fractional lot was one containing less than 160 acres.²¹

In December, 1819, a year after the formal creation of the counties, the legislature passed an act providing for their organization. The act empowered certain citizens to hold and superintend an election for five justices of the Inferior Court. A place was designated in the counties for the holding of elections. At these places courts were to be held and county business transacted until the Inferior Court decided upon some other location for a county site.²²

In due time the elections were held, and the first, rudimentary attempts at governing were made. The first session of the Irwin County Inferior Court was held July 3, 1820. Although no business was transacted, the Clerk was empowered to grant licenses to "tavern-keepers and retailers of spirituous liquors."²³

The creation of three large counties involved the complexities of buying and selling land, clearing up titles, and myriad problems pertaining to ownership of property. Georgia's first land act passed in 1777. It inaugurated the "head-right" system, but did not go into effect because the British and Indians overran the state during the Revolutionary War. At the peace treaty, the head-right system was continued in the land act of February 17, 1783. By it the head of a family received two hundred acres for himself. After the survey of his land but before the grant, a person was to clear and cultivate three out of each hundred acres. There were no forfeiture clauses in the act, and additional land could also be purchased. When Georgia adopted a new constitution in 1789, the executive council that had previously granted land was replaced by a new agency. Under this system a justice of the peace could issue land warrants,

²¹ Lucius Q. C. Lamar, *A Compilation of the Laws of the State of Georgia ... Since The Year 1810 to the Year 1819 ...* (Augusta, 1821), 416, 425.

²² *Ibid.*, 236-238.

²³ Huxford, *Brooks County*, 8.

by Mr. Wilcox and his family. On March 9th, thirty-six citizens of the community, mostly living in Telfair County, crossed the river to seek redress. Some distance from the river they discovered a band of Indians advancing within gun shot. Firing began by both parties and continued for sometime. A part of the detachment effected a retreat bringing off one badly wounded and four were killed. Major Cathorn was in command and was among the missing, four Indians were killed. Mitchell Griffin, State Senator from Telfair County, was among the killed and Mark Wilcox was wounded. During the year 1930 the chapter of D. A. R. at Fitzgerald, Georgia, erected a marker on the highway from Fitzgerald to Abbeville commemorating this fight. The encounter with the Indians took place northeast of the monument site but it was placed upon the highway where it was easy of access while to have placed it upon the exact spot it would have been inaccessible on account of gullies and underbrush.

From investigations I have made, I am assured that the Indians, in originally Irwin County, which sometimes were called the Switchie Indians were the Oswichee tribe and while at one time they had a settlement in Florida they migrated to Georgia setting up upon lands which later became Irwin County and that they later removed to Arkansas.

A tribe of Oswichee Indians once lived near the Ocmulgee River on land known in 1818 as Irwin County. There, towns were called Oswitchee and Ocilla and sometimes Ocichi. The trail that led out from these towns was called the Oswitchee Trail.

The French census shows that a town named Osochi existed there in 1750. A later census in 1832 gives Oswichee as the name of another Indian settlement close to Osochi. This town's name was changed seven times, first it was called by the Indians, Assile, next Aglie, Axilla, Agulil, Ochile and lastly Ocilla. On a map there was shown a creek which emptied into the Ocmulgee River which was called Ocilla River. Benjamin Hawkins called the towns Osochi, Ooseooche and sometimes both of the towns were known as Oswichee.

HISTORY

OF

IRWIN COUNTY

Discovered the original Chamber of Commerce Treaty

BY

J. B. CLEMENTS

This is a sister of 3 Counties after Treaty of 1814 - & the paper can be any authority for the yrs 1814, 1815 & few yrs later as the author an authority thus Irwin Co + Appling are same only area

is one of earliest Counties names to go was created from in 1875



Irwin is one

of the 3 original Counties created by Georgia legislature in 1818 the other 2 early the grand parent Co of hab + 4 yrs after 1814 + Treaty

Containing sketch of country obtained from Creek Indians, from which counties of Early, Irwin and Appling were created; copies of treaties with Indians ceding said territory; acts creating said counties and their organization; county officers, judges, senators and representatives; courts, grand juries; fraternal organizations; war heroes, Indian trails, freaks of nature, slaves, marriages, railroads, county sites, churches, pioneer families and agriculture.

the 3 Created 5 yrs later

Later 1875

+ 91 yrs after the Treaty Irwin Co created in 1905

Blanton
E.J.

CHAPTER III

INDIAN TRAILS AND OLD ROADS

The oldest known trails were those of the Indians. The Smithsonian Institution at Washington, D.C. is authority for the following:

“Bainbridge is situated on a great ancient Indian trail which led from the regions around Charleston and Augusta, through Statesboro, Douglas, Unionville, Moultrie, Pelham and Bainbridge to the old Indian fort of Apalachicola at the junction of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers, from this old fort it continued through Marianna to New Augusta (now Holley) on Pensacola Bay, opposite Pensacola.”

Diego Pena who passed through the lower part of the present Decatur County on his way from St. Augustine to the vicinity of the present Columbus in 1716 had this to say: “This route is the old road to Savacola.”

The first map of Early County, made in 1819 before Decatur County was cut off, shows Indian trails in some land districts. In the 22nd District there are a number of these trails and one crosses into Decatur County from Gadsden County, Fla. very near the present paved road Route 27. Part of this district, by the way, was originally surveyed as Georgia territory. Maps of other districts do not always show detailed tracings of trails but they are frequently referred to in the field notes. These maps and notes are in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court.

In Seminole County a trail started in the middle of the East line of lot 195 in the 27th District and went in a southwesterly direction, crossing the New Fort Scott Road (now known as the Three-Notch Road) in lot 105 and continuing to the South line of lot 21 near the present settlement of Desser. Another trail started on Spring Creek in lot 131 near Rhodes Ferry and went in a westerly direction to lot 196 on the Chattahoochee River to an Indian settlement known as Old Fowltown. Another trail started on Spring Creek in lot 234 going northwesterly a short distance where it divided into two prongs, one going in the same direction to Old Fowltown and the other prong going just slightly north of west to the Chattahoochee River near the present Butler's Ferry. There was a continuous trail all along the east bank of the Chattahoochee to the Early County line.

Barnard's Trace to Florida came from his trading post situated in the vicinity of Oglethorpe, Ga. down the west bank of the Flint River,

crossing the Sumter County line south of Americus, crossing the northwest corner of Lee County, passing through Terrell County east of Dawson near the west boundary of Dougherty County to cross the Flint River near Newton, going across the northeast corner of Grady County to cross the Ochlocknee River west of Thomasville and on to St. Marks, Florida.

Timothy Barnard, for whom it was named, was a very prominent man in Creek Indian history and the termination of the trail shows the Spanish influence among the Indians of Southwest Georgia.

The Old Spanish Trail—El Camino Real

The first settlement of the Spaniards in Florida was at St. Augustine and the next at Pensacola. From St. Augustine westward there were established forts and missions along the existing Indian trails and in time a road was made and called by Spaniards *El Camino Real* (The Royal Road). After the English took over Florida in 1763 this road was surveyed by Joseph Purcell under the direction of John Stuart, his Majesty's Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern District of North America. A map was prepared in 1778, the original of which is in the British Public Records Office; a photo copy is in the Library of Congress. In the *Florida Historical Quarterly* of July 1938 Dr. Mark F. Boyd gives the itinerary along the road from Pensacola towards St. Augustine. The crossing of the Chattahoochee was designated Ekana Chatte or Red Ground, thence $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Springs and thence 9 miles to Burgess's on the east side of the Flint River (most probably the present Bainbridge). From this place it was $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the forks of the Harmonia Path, there being two routes as far as Miccosukee. The northern Road was called the Harmonia Path and from the forks it was 3 miles to Tootoloosa-hopunga Creek, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the west branch of Weethlakutchee or Little Big Creek, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the east branch of the Weethlakutchee or Little Big Creek, $9\frac{3}{4}$ miles to Oklocknee Village on the east side of the River, $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles to Great Savannah de la Harmonia, $9\frac{3}{4}$ miles to Fork of Path to the lower Creeks and thence 4 miles to Miccosukee-on the Old Field Path or Lower Road it was $11\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the forks to Weethlakutchee or Little Big Creek, 8 miles to Oklocknee River, $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the Great Savannah Okaheepee (Lake Jackson), $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles to Tallahas Taloofe or Old Field Town and thence $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Miccosukee. The map shows the road and places on to St. Augustine.

The same map is shown in the report of the DeSoto Commission

which, tracing the route of DeSoto says: "The Flint was probably crossed at or near the site of Bainbridge. It was here that the Old Spanish Road, the so-called *Camino Real* passed as appears from the Purcell-Stuart Map of 1778. At least the distances from this point to Spring Creek and the Chattahoochee River on one side and Tallahassee on the other check up very closely".

Quoting further from *Florida Historical Quarterly*, under general remarks on the road or paths: "Betwixt Ekanachatte and the Tallahassee Taloofa, the path is through high pine and oak lands and the Appalatchi Old Fields, is the Plain and Well Trod in places along old Carriage roads worn one and two feet deep."

"Ekanachatte or Red Ground is situated on the west bank of Chattahutchee River; consisting of 26 houses, a Chuko-Thlako or Great house, commonly called Square; 10 families and 10 gunmen. The head man or chief is named Cockee, commonly called by the traders "The Bully".

"Tomatly is situated on the west side of Appalatch Ocoola River half mile from its bank, and about four miles below its forks. Consisting of 11 houses, a square, 6 families and 14 gunmen, the head man's name is Intalgee."

"Hyhappo or Savannah. Is situated five miles and a half below Tomatly, on the same side of the river and one mile from its bank. It consists of 6 houses, 4 families, and 6 gunmen, the head of which is named the Tomatly Warrior."

"Oklafunee or Coxpur is situated on the east side of the Flint River. It consists of 24 houses, a square, 13 families and 22 gunmen. The head man's name is Iwanke."

"Tallahassee Taloofa or Old Field Town is situated in the Appalatchi Old Fields near the head of Tagabona alias West River of Appalatchi, about 10 miles northwardly from Port St. Marks. Consisting of 36 houses, a square, 16 families and 30 gunmen. The head man's name is Tonaby."

"Misasucky. (sic.) Is situated on a great Savannah, the head of the Appalatchi East River. Consisting of 60 houses, square, 28 families and 70 gunmen. The head man's name is Senetabago."

"The Appalatchi Old Fields (east of the Okalachnee River) and the St. Pedro Old Fields (still further east) bear the marks of once having been large and flourishing Spanish settlements, strongly proved by the ruins of forts, churches and other buildings, the cannon and the church bells that are found lying about; the broad roads; and by the remains of the causeways and bridges that are to be seen to this day." (1778).

Benevides, the Spanish Governor at St. Augustine in 1732 used the term "Royal Road."

In concluding his article Dr. Boyd says: "If any road through Florida might be called "The Old Spanish Trail" it is this one.

El Camino Real

The Royal Road

"It's a long road and sunny
It's a long road and old.
And the brown padres made it
For the flocks of the fold."

Spanish military posts with missions occupied by Catholic friars were built along the Spanish trail. These Florida Missions antedated those of California, but the buildings, being of wood, have for the most part passed away; usually they were destroyed in wars between the Spaniards and the English.

Road Opened by the State

On December 23, 1822, the legislature passed an act authorizing the governor to appoint two fit and proper persons to superintend the opening of a road to commence on the Alapaha at or near Cunningham's Ford, passing through districts 10, 12 and 13 in Irvin, and number 18 and 23 in the County of Early (the part afterwards in Decatur), pursuing the best and most practical route until it intersects the Florida line near the Oclockney River. The sum of fifteen hundred dollars was appropriated to carry this law into effect.

Tanner's American Atlas of 1840

Fort Early in Dooley County and Pinderton in Lee County were the only places shown on a road from Bainbridge to Hawkinsville. This road was on the east side of the Flint River and continued south of Bainbridge to cross the river at Fort Scott and on west to the Chattahoochee River.

In a letter from Norborne B. Powell, Superintendent of Internal Public lands—western division, written in Macon to Governor Lumpkin on March 27, 1832, there is this: "Since my last communication, I have spent some time in the low country. I found the Flint River Company at work on a road laid out by my predecessor from Bainbridge to Hawkinsville, it will be completed to the latter place in a few days." In another letter dated December 3, 1832 it is stated that the company consisted of 25 Negroes. Originals of these letters are in Georgia Department of Archives and History.

A map of Alabama and Georgia by H.S. Tanner in 1823 shows a road from Tennessee down the west side of Chattahoochee River to near Eufaula, Alabama, and then on the east side of the forks of the Chattahoochee and Flint; a branch led to Fort Scott and on to Miccosukee Towns and St. Marks. A road led from Fort Lawrence on west side of the Flint River opposite the old Indian Agency in Crawford County through settlements of I Bernard, T. Bernard, Chehaw Town and Outallessee to approximately the site of the present West Bainbridge where it joined a road from the southeast corner of the original Early County and on to the Mississippi River. This road on a map printed in French is called "Sentier de Bernard a St. Augustine."

This map shows the court house of Early County on the Flint River at the falls (near the present Newton, Baker County). A map from Carey and Lea's *American Atlas* supposed of 1822 shows C.H. of Early County on the west side of Chickasaw River.

Road to Fort Scott

In a letter on page 689, Volume 1, *Military Affairs of American State Papers*, Gen. E. P. Gaines tells of ninety miles of new road which he had made from Fort Montgomery in southern Alabama to Fort Scott and by which he marched the troops from the former to the latter post. In a letter from George Graham, Assistant Secretary of War dated Dec. 4, 1817 to Gen. E.P. Gaines it is noted that Gen. Gaines reported on Nov. 21, 1817 the arrival of the first brigade at Fort Scott.

The Fort Scott road started at Fort Gaines and ran in a southeasterly direction passing about three miles west of Blakely in Early County. About four miles south of Blakely it divided, one prong bearing to the east and crossing Spring Creek in lot of land No. 139 of Miller County and entering Decatur County in lot No. 280 in the 27th district, and continuing along the east bank of Spring Creek to Lot No. 147 in the 21st District and thence going southeast to Fort Scott. The other prong continued almost south passing slightly west of Iron City. On the first map of Early County it was called the New Fort Scott road but in later times it became known as the Three Notch road from the number of notches cut in pine trees. This road crossed Spring Creek at Rhodes Ferry and joined the Old Fort Scott road. These two roads connected Fort Gaines and Fort Scott. Tradition credits the New Fort Scott Road as having been used by General Jackson's Tennessee and Kentucky troops when going to Fort Scott under Col. A.P. Hayne.

Jackson's Trail commenced at Hartford, Georgia crossing to the

west side of the Flint River and continuing along the west bank to Fort Scott where it crossed to the east bank of the Flint River and continued on to the site of the Negro Fort which became Fort Gadsden. General Jackson in 1818 used this road.

Jackson's trail entered Decatur County at the northeast corner of lot 234 of the 15th District, continued down the west bank of the Flint River, never as much as a mile away, and entered West Bainbridge slightly south of the northeast corner of lot 330 going approximately diagonally to the northeast corner of lot 331 and passed diagonally through lot 331 slightly west of the center of the lot. It passed out of the lot a short distance east of the southwest corner, thus passing slightly east of the west end of the bridge on highway 84 between Bainbridge and West Bainbridge. The exact location of Jackson's Trail is shown on original plats and grants from the State of Georgia; in lots 262 and 245 in the 15th land district it goes from the northeast corner to the southwest corner. This trail and the Federal Trail and the Fort Scott road and the New Fort Scott road (Three Notch road) all met at Fort Scott in lot 224 of the 21st district of the original Early County, now in Decatur County.

The Old Federal Trail entered Decatur County in lot 160 in the 15th District very near the Flint River and continued near the east bank to Fort Scott. Crossing the river there it became known, on the first map of Early County made in 1820 from a survey of 1818, as The Path. It crossed Spring Creek near the Oil Still Spring and continued northwest to Old Fowltown in 196 in the 14th district of the present Seminole County. Most probably it was an old Indian trail. Approaching the present Bainbridge, it passed through Lot 219 of the 15th district from the northwest corner to the southwest corner and quite near the four houses shown on the original survey of Early County made in 1818 in Lot 224, diagonally through lot 223 and across the northwest corner of lot 222 very near Fort Hughes.

The Mentholatum Company has issued an interesting colored map of Georgia showing traces, trails, roads and treaty lines from early times. According to this map, the old military road started at Augusta, Georgia, and passing through Sparta, Milledgeville, Gordon, Cordele, and Fort Early; came close to the Flint River near the northeast corner of Dougherty County. It stayed close to the river at Bainbridge and on to Fort Scott, being the same road in Decatur County as the Federal Trail. It later became the stage Road.

Old Maps—Rivers—Creeks

The original county had the Chattahoochee River on the west. Spring Creek, the Flint River and the Ochlocknee River ran through it in a general southerly direction. The Bureau of American Ethnology, **Bulletin 73**, contains a set of the southeastern section of the United States and it is interesting to see the various spelling of the names of streams.

A map dated 1715 in the British Archives shows the Chattahoochee as River Cusitie but Flint is used. The English and Spanish battle described in Chapter 5 is mentioned on this map, although the date as 1708 is an error.

The Baron De Crenay Map of 1733 was compiled when the Baron was Commandant at the Post of Mobile, Ala. On it the Chattahoochee appears as Rivere des Caouita and apparently near the site of Bainbridge was an Indian Town, Aequite. According to a bulletin of the Smithsonian Institution, by John R. Swanton, this name is a corruption of Goute mentioned as having been visited by DeSoto.

On the Popple Map of 1733 appear the names Catahooche and Flint and Ogelagana (Ochlocknee). An Indian town in the western part of Decatur County is called Echetes.

The Mitchell Map of 1755 has Cherokee Leeches as a town in the forks of Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers and Apalachicola as a town near the mouth of the Flint. This map also shows the site of the battle in 1702 between the English and Spaniards mentioned in Chapter 5.

The Early map of 1818 has Chattohoche, Flint and Okelockonne Rivers and Spring Creek appears as Wecuy-Wan-Thlucco. Fort Scott is shown as well as a small fort at the mouth of the Flint River, located on the East side and noted as having been built by Col. Nichols in the late war. This map has Indian names for every creek tributary to the Flint River and it is singular that no Indian name is given it. In later times the name Thronateeska for Flint appears in a small map published in a history about 1850. According to Benjamin Hawkins, Indian Agent, the name of the Flint River in the Creek Indian language was Lona tiska hatchi, the word lonato meaning flint.

Philippeaux in *Map of English Colonies in 1781* calls the Flint river "Riviere au Caillau".

On the Stuart-Purcell map of 1778, the original of which is in the Public Records in London, there are Chattahutchee, the Springs and the Flint River.

According to the DeSoto Expedition Commission the Ochlocknee falls in place as the Guacuca and the Flint as Capachequi.

On the Melish map of 1814 we find Chatahouchy.

Prof. Herbert E. Bolton in his *The Debatable Land* states that in 1681 the Flint was known as the Pedernales. In *Arrendondo's Spanish Title to Georgia* by the same Dr. Bolton there is a map which has the Flint as Rio Pedernales and the Chattahoochee as Rio Santa Cruz.

On a map published at Amsterdam, Holland, by I. F. Bernard in 1737 we find Chattahuchie.

At Venice, Italy in 1740 there appeared an atlas entitled *Atlanta Novissimo* by Guillaume Delisle and the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee are treated as one river under the name Apalachiicoli o Chatmachi e Fui-dello Spirito Santo and the Flint River is shown as small and unnamed.

In the Fourth American map of Georgia engraved by Doolittle in 1736 Chattahoochee and Flint are spelled exactly as today.

The name of a creek in the 19th district of the original Decatur County was Allositutcahatchie.

A map in a history of East Florida by Dr. William Stark, published in London in 1769, has Cahuita or Apalachicola for the combined Chattahoochee and Apalachicola, and it also uses the words "Flint River." This same map shows the site of the ruins of a Spanish fort as being at the present city of Apalachicola, Florida.

In Volumn VII, part 1, page 38 of the *Georgia Historical Society* there is a map entitled: "South Carolina, Florida and the Western or Atlautick Ocean" with this legend; "The original of this map was drawn by Col. Barnevelt who commanded several expeditions against the Indians in the time of the Indian War, as also served under Col. Moore in all of his expeditions in the said war." The date is not given, but from data obtained from it, it could not have been made before 1719. There is shown a fort in the forks of the Flint and Rio Apalachicola (Chattahoochee) River.

Herman Moll's Atlas published in London in 1719 has a number of maps of the then southeast colonies of Great Britain. One small detailed map has the Apalachicola River as Rio Del Sto. Santo with one tributary as Chatahuch and the other as Flint Rivers. Another map dated 1720 has the Chattahoochee as thē Apalaxy. It also shows an old fort at the present position of the city of Apalachicola and shows a Spanish fort on peninsular of St. Joe as being built in 1718. A settlement up the Flint River probably shows Bainbridge called Chattahuces and a

road going west from Charleston, S.C. A later map shows a deserted Spanish fort at mouth of a stream corresponding to the Ochlocknee.

James Adair's *History of the American Indians* published in 1775 has a map of the eastern part of the present United States. The Apalachicola and Chattahoochee rivers together are called Kow-he tah but the other branch is called the Flint.

A map of 1810 in the Carnegie Library, Atlanta, shows the future Decatur County as being in the Country of the Appalachy.

According to *Bulletin 73* of Smithsonian Institution: "La Harpe calls the Apalachicola River:" La Riviere du Esprit, a present des chateaux, on cahouitas."

A map published by S. Augustus Mitchell of Philadelphia in 1839 entitled "The Tourists Pocket Map of Georgia shows Uchee Creek as a tributary of Ocklockany River from the west side. This is a name mentioned in DeSoto's expedition, thus adding another link to the chain of evidence of his presence in the future Decatur County. Roads and distances are shown on this map. From Bainbridge a road ran north along the east side of the Flint River to Fort Early in Lee County, Ga. (now Worth County) a distance of seventy-two miles. This road followed the old Federal Trail.

A map of Georgia by A. L. Johnson supposed to be made in 1863 shows in Decatur County the following places, probably all post offices: Steam Mill, Olive Grove, Fowltown, Argyle, on the Chattahoochee River, Belcher, Allen and Blowing Cave near the Mitchell County line, Lime Sink, Cairo (an error) Climax Attapulgus, Faceville, Fort Scott and Bainbridge in their present positions; Arnett across the river from Bainbridge and Munnerlin North of Faceville.

William Bartram in his travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida says: "In 1776 he crossed the Flint River, an arm of the Great Chatauche or Apalachicola, which offers an uninterrupted navigation to the bay of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean and thence to the West Indian Islands and over the whole world."

River Improvement

By Legislative Act Dec. 18, 1826, Bennett Crawford was appointed Commissioner from Decatur County, along with three men from other counties, to superintend the improvement of the Flint River and the roads in that part of the state through which said river flows south of the Federal Road from Macon to Columbus. On December 22, 1835 an act of the legislature appropriated \$10,000.00 out of monies of the Central

Bank for improvement of the Flint River from Bainbridge to the Old Agency (Indian) in Crawford County. Alexander Shotwell from Decatur County and others from other counties were appointed Commissioners to manage and superintend the work. The Acts of Dec. 29, 1836 appropriated \$10,000.00 for the improvement of the Flint River and Thomas Hines, Felix G. Arnett and Jonathan Donalson were appointed commissioners for that part of the river in Decatur County to superintend the work.

Bainbridge Argus of March 25, 1857 says: The bottom fell out of Arnett Springs, all the water disappeared and the river ran into it for a short time. Presumably mud and trash then sealed the bottom.

Old Fields

There is a fascination in the term, "Old Field". It brings up thoughts of the past, conjecture about the men and women who cleared the land, burned the stumps, built some kind of a home and lived a stationary life. Often we think of the American settler as being the first farmer in the eastern part of our county except for small patches of Indian corn planted, hardly cultivated and gathered by squaws. But a look at the old maps reveal the presence in the past of other settlers. On the Stuart-Purcell map of 1778, where the Old Spanish Trail crossed the Chattahoochee River was the Cheeske Old Field. West of the same river, opposite the junction with the Flint River, there was another old field. In 1773 William Bartram, botanist and traveller, spent some time in North Florida and South Georgia and frequently speaks of ancient Indian fields. A very large section east of the Ochlocknee River and east and north of Lake Jackson and extending to Lake Miccosukee was called the Appalachi old fields.

The original survey and map of Early county made in 1819 shows "Old Settlement" on lots of land No. 223 and 224 in the 15th District (Now Decatur County.) The brick yard is on lot 224. It is more than likely that this was the place known as Burgess' on the Old Spanish Trail. On lot 225, on the north end was an old field and on the south end was Fort Hughes. The field notes of the survey show other ancient fields in the country.

Old Fields and Spanish Ruins

William Bartram in his travels in Florida, beginning in 1773 thus describes Fort Picolata on the St. Johns River:

"This fortress is very ancient, and was built by the Spaniards. It is a

square tower, thirty feet high, invested with a high wall, without bastions, about breast high, pierced with loop holes and surrounded with a deep ditch. The upper story is open on each side with battlements, supporting a cupola or roof; these battlements were formerly mounted with eighty four pounders, two on each side. The works are constructed with hewn stone, cemented with lime. The stone was cut out of quarries on St. Anastatius Island, opposite St. Augustine. It is of pale reddish brick color, and a testaceous composition, consisting of small fragments of sea shells and fine sand. It is well adapted to the construction of fortifications. It lies in horizontal masses in the quarry and constitutes the foundation of that island. The castle at St. Augustine, and most of the buildings of the town, are of this stone."

Describing a trip through northern Florida, Bartram writes: "On the ancient Spanish high road to Pensacola, now almost obliterated, we passed four or five miles through old Spanish Fields."

"There are to be seen plain marks or vestiges of the old Spanish plantations and dwellings; as fence posts and wooden pillars of the houses, ditches, and even corn ridges, Batata hills. From the Indian accounts, the Spaniards had here a rich well cultivated and populous settlement, and a strong fortified post, as they likewise had at the savanna and fields of Capola; but either of them far inferior to, one they had some miles further southwest towards the Apalachuchla River, now called the Apalachean Old Fields, where yet remain vast works and buildings, as fortifications, temples, some brass cannon, mortars, heavy church bells, etc."

Bartram also speaks of coming to a cane-break where the canes were ten or twelve feet high through which was a grand causeway, open like a magnificent avenue, and being part of the ancient Spanish Highway to Pensacola.

In a botanical excursion between Carolina and East Florida, Bartram came to the mouth of the Altamaha River and writes in this vein "I ascend this beautiful river, on whose fruitful banks the generous and true sons of liberty dwell, fifty miles above the white settlements. How gently flow thy peaceful floods, O Altamaha." How sublimely rise to view, on thy elevated shores you magnolia groves, from whose tops the surrounding expanse is perfumed, by clouds of incense, blended with the exhaling balm of liquidambar, and odours continually arising from circumambient aromatic groves of illicum, myrica, laurus, and bigonia."

Going down to the mouth of the river where it divides into two

channels he writes: "On the west bank of the south channel ten or twelve miles above its mouth and nearly opposite Darien, are to be seen the remains of an ancient fort, or fortification: it is now a regular tetragon terrace, about four feet high, with bastions at each angle; the area may contain about an acre of ground, but the fosse which surrounded it is nearly filled up. There are large live oaks, pines, and other trees, growing upon it, and in the old fields adjoining. It is supposed to have been the work of the French or Spaniards."

Antiquities

The *Southern Spy*, a newspaper published in Bainbridge, in its issue of Aug. 4th, 1829 has this article: "The central parts of West Florida display abundant evidence of an ancient and dense population. History is silent on the subject, and Indian tradition sheds but a faint and uncertain light on that period of distant years. Great roads were the first objects which caught the attention of the traveller, while the country was yet uninhabited. Bartram, the younger, mentions them in his *Tour and Remarks*, that they would be conspicuous for a hundred years to come. Three years they might be easily traced on both sides of the Ocklockney River, for fifty miles, nearly in a straight line, east and west. The prominent ridges, which they crossed, were dug down, and causeways were constructed over the swamps. The principal highway, running through the site which is now the seat of government (of Florida) was often crossed, at right angles, by other roads; near Tallahassee these were frequent. At a little distance southeast of the town, however, the minor roads crossed at very acute angles. It is remarkable, that, although the Indian paths often cross this great road, they never follow it; but wind away from it with almost religious caution."

"On the east side of Ocklockney bay, about two miles from the mouth are the ruins of an extensive fort. This is said, by the Indians, to have been the last place occupied by the old civilized inhabitants of Florida when the country was conquered by the Muscogule tribes. A town, called Oldenberg, was founded near this place by the English."

"At the junction of the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers, on the eastern bank, are the ruins of an extensive and regular built fortification. The bank is two or three hundred feet high; it commands a beautiful and extensive wild prospect of the Apalachicola and its tributary streams, the Spaniards are said to have abandoned this in favor of Fort St. Marks; the latter being easier of approach. Many more signs of civilized people having once lived in this section of the country appear."

The paragraph about ruins at junction of Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers is taken bodily from John Lee Williams' *History of Florida*.

"Ye say that their light canoes have vanished from the created wave,
That mid the forests where they roamed there rings no hunter's shout,
But their name is on your waters,
Ye may not wash it out".

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5. Smith. Inst. Bulletin 73, Page 130.
6. Smith. Inst. Bulletin 73, Pages 129 & 131, Map 2.
7. Smith. Inst. Bulletin 73, Page 165, Map 2 and a letter to the author of June 28, 1923 from Smithsonian Institution.
8. In office C.S.C. of Decatur County.
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11. Letter to author from Smithsonian Institution.
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15. F.H.S.Q. July 1938, Pages 15 to 25.
16. Map of Early County when first laid out.
17. Map of Decatur County in office C.S.C.
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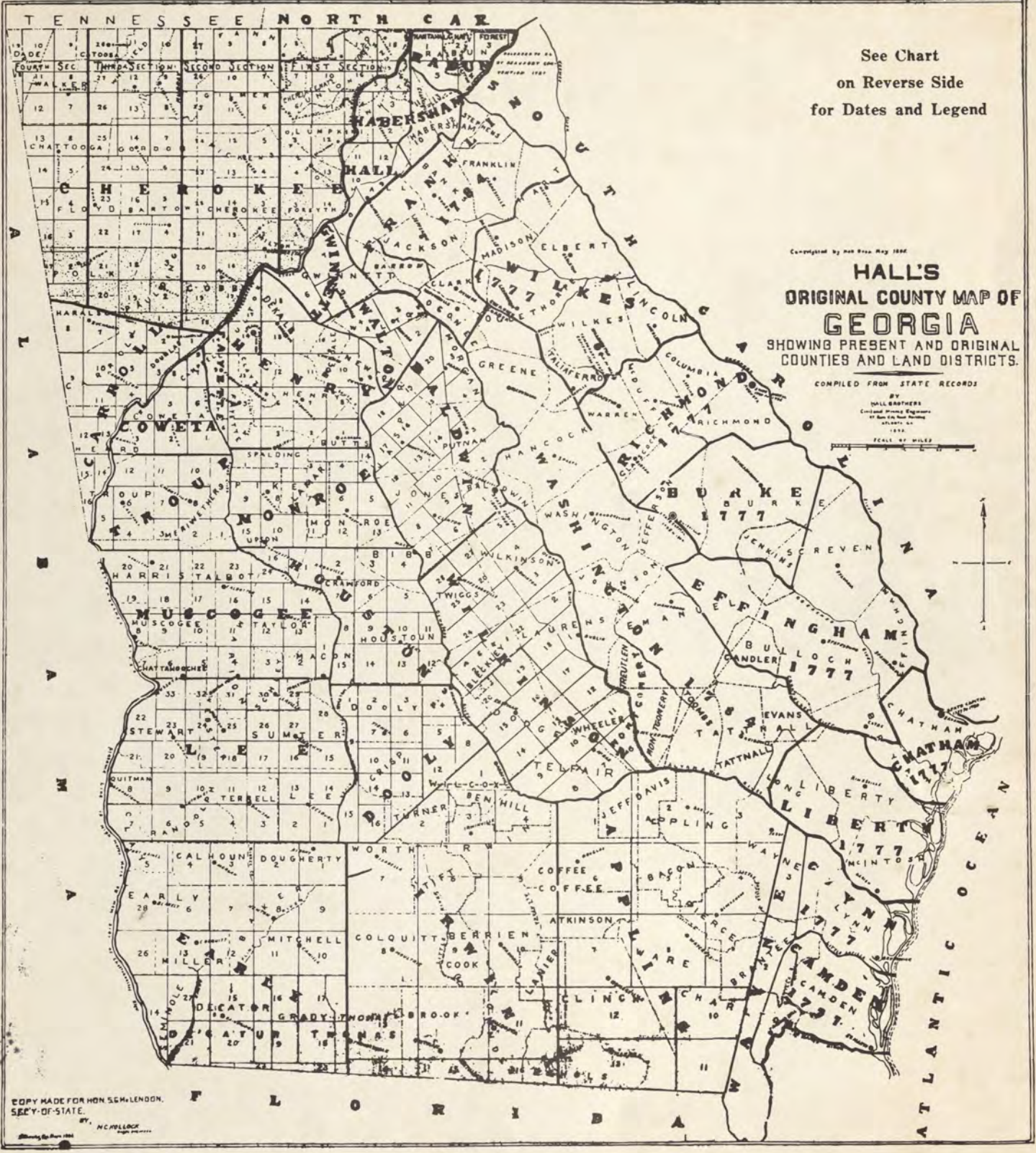
See Chart
on Reverse Side
for Dates and Legend

Copyright by Geo. F. Hill, May 1886.
HALL'S
ORIGINAL COUNTY MAP OF
GEORGIA
SHOWING PRESENT AND ORIGINAL
COUNTIES AND LAND DISTRICTS.

COMPILED FROM STATE RECORDS

BY
GEO. F. HILL
Civil and Mining Engineer
of San Francisco, Cal.
1886.

SCALE OF MILES



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H. C. HOLLOCK

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CHAPTER 1.

When Oglethorpe landed at Yamacraw Bluff in February, 1733, he and the Trustees held a Grant from the British Crown to a very large tract of land, or territory, extending from the mouth of the Savannah River to the head of the northernmost branch of the same, which happened to strike the 35th parallel of north latitude, and thence on a straight line to the Mississippi River. The southern boundary was to follow the Altamaha River from its southerly branch to its source, and thence on a straight line to the Mississippi River.

The Trustees pursued a very wise course in dealing with the Indians, who were the actual owners of the land and in actual possession of the same. In October, 1733, the chiefs of the Lower Creek Nation all assembled at Savannah, Georgia, and there entered into a treaty with Oglethorpe the most interesting part of which is as follows: "Fourthly, we, the head men of the Coweta and Cusseta towns in behalf of all the Lower Creek Nation being firmly persuaded that he who lives in Heaven and is the occasion of all good things, has moved the hearts of the Trustees to send their beloved men among us, for the good of our wives and children, and to instruct us and them in what is straight to do, therefore, declare that we are glad that their people are come here; and though this land belongs to us, the Lower Creeks, yet we, that we may be instructed by them, do consent and agree, that they shall make use of and possess all those lands, which our nation hath not occasion to use; and we make over unto them, their successors and assigns, all such lands and territories as we shall have no occasion to use; provided always that they upon settling every town, shall set out for the use of ourselves, and the people of our nation, such lands as shall be agreed upon between their beloved men, and the head of our nation and that those lands shall remain to us forever.

"Lastly, we promise, with stout hearts and love of our brothers, the English, to give no encouragement to any other white people, but themselves to settle among us, and that we will not have any correspondence with the Spaniards or French and to show that we both for the good of ourselves, our wives

and children, do firmly promise to keep the talk in our hearts, as long as the sun shall shine or the waters run in the rivers."

The treaty made in 1733 with Oglethorpe was ratified at Coweta Town in 1739 by the deputies of the Creeks, Cherokees and Chehaws.

Georgia was 102 years in a process of territorial expansion. It was interesting to know that under this territorial expansion Georgia grew from river to river. Originally from the Savannah to the Ogeechee, the Altamaha to the St. Marys, thence from Ogeechee to the Oconee and from Oconee to Ocmulgee, from Ocmulgee to Flint, from Flint to Chattahoochee and later from Chattahoochee to the Tennessee. Following each cession of land by the Indians or immediately preceding it, the Georgia General Assembly would create large counties, and after the treaty of 1804 these counties were immediately laid off in land districts and land lots.

On August 9, 1814, under the treaty at Fort Jackson, the Creek Indians ceded to Georgia, or to the United States for Georgia by virtue of the agreement of 1802, the lands between the Chattahoochee River and the western line of Wayne County bounded on the south by the Florida line, and on the north by lines starting from the Chattahoochee River near Fort Gaines and running due east to a point northeast of Isabella, and thence forty-five degrees northeast to the Ocmulgee River, and thence following the Ocmulgee to the Altamaha River near Jesup where it intersected the western boundary line of Wayne County.

The treaty above referred to entered into August 9, 1814, between Andrew Jackson and the Creek nation which included the territory embracing originally Irwin County, reads as follows:

Treaty of 1814.

Whereas an unprovoked, inhuman and sanguinary war waged by the hostile Creeks against the United States hath been repelled, prosecuted and determined successfully on the part of the said states in conformity with principles of national justice and honorable warfare, and whereas consideration is due to the rectitude of proceeding directed by instructions relat-

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ing to the re-establishments of peace; Be it remembered that prior to the conquest of that part of the Creek nation hostile to the United States, numberless aggressions had been committed against the peace, the property and lives of citizens of the United States and those of the Creek nation in amity with her at the mouth of Duck River, Fort Mims and elsewhere contrary to national faith and the regard due to an article of the treaty concluded at New York in the year 1790 between the two nations. That the United States, previously to the perpetration of such outrages, did in order to insure future amity and concord between the Creek nation and the said states in conformity with stipulations of former treaties fulfill with punctuality and good faith her engagements to the said nations.

That more than two-thirds of the whole number of chiefs and warriors of the Creek nation, disregarding the genuine spirit of existing treaties, suffered themselves to be instigated to violations of their national honor, and the respect due to a part of their own nation faithful to the United States and the principles of humanity by imposters denominating themselves Prophets, and by the duplicity and misrepresentations of foreign emissaries whose governments are at war, open, or understood with the United States. Wherefore,

1. The United States demands an equivalent for all expenses incurred in prosecuting the war to its termination by a cession of all the territories belonging to the Creek nation within the territory of the United States lying west, south and southeasterly of a line to be run and described by persons duly authorized and appointed by the President of the United States. Beginning at a point on the eastern bank of the Coosa River where the south boundary line of the Cherokee nation crosses the same; running from thence down the said Coosa River with its eastern bank according to various meanders to a point one mile above the mouth of Cedar Creek at Fort Williams, thence east two miles, thence south two miles, thence west to the eastern bank of the said Coosa River, thence down the eastern bank thereof according to its various meanders to a point opposite the upper end of

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the great falls called by the natives Woetumpka, thence east from a true meridian line to a point due north of the mouth of Ofueshee, thence south by like meridian line to the mouth of Ofueshee on the south side of the Tallapoosa River, thence up the same according to its various meanders to a point where a direct course will cross the same at the distance of ten miles from the mouth thereof, thence a direct line to the mouth of Summochie Creek, which empties into the Chattahoochee River on the east side thereof below the Eufaula town, thence east from a true meridian line to a point which shall intersect the line now dividing the lands claimed by the said Creek nation from those claimed and owned by the State of Georgia, provided nevertheless that where any possessions of any chief or warrior of the Creek nation who shall have been friendly to the United States during the war and taken an active part therein, shall be within the territory deeded by these articles to the United States, every such person shall be entitled to a reservation of land within the said territory of one mile square to include his improvements as near the center thereof as may be, which shall inure to the said chief or warrior and his decendants so long as he or they shall continue to occupy the same, who shall be protected by and subject to the laws of the United States, upon the voluntary abandonment thereof by such possessor or his decendants the right of occupancy or possession of said lands shall devolve to the United States and be identified with the right of property ceded hereby.

2. The United States will guarantee to the Creek nation the integrity of all their territories easterly and northerly of the said line to be run and described as mentioned in first article.

3. The United States demands that the Creek nation abandon all communications and cease to hold any intercourse with any British or Spanish post, garrison or town; and that they shall not admit among them any agent or trader who shall derive authority to hold commercial or other intercourse with them by license from the President or authorized agent of the United States.

4. The United States demands an acknowledgment of the

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Hanjo, of Oosiochee, his mark; William McIntosh, for Spokokee Tustunnuggee, of Otellehoyonnee, his mark.

Done at Fort Jackson in presence of Charles Casedy, Acting Secretary; Benjamin Hawkins, Agent for Indians' affairs; Return J. Heigs, A. C. Nation; Robert Butler Adjutant General, United States Army; J. C. Warren, Assistant Agent Indian affairs; George Mayfield, Alex Curnells, George Lovett, Public Interpreters.

Before any new counties could be made in south Georgia it was necessary to have an additional treaty with the Indians as they still own some of the territory in the southern part of the state, therefore the following treaty was made with the Creek Indians at the Creek Agency on Flint River, January 22, 1818.

“James Monroe, President of the United States of America, by David Birdie Mitchell, of the State of Georgia, Agent of Indian affairs for the Creek nation and sole Commissioner, especially appointed for that purpose on the one part, and the undersigned kings, chiefs, headmen and warriors of the Creek nation in council assembled on behalf of the said nation of the other part, have entered into the following articles and conditions:

Article 1. The said kings, chiefs, headmen and warriors do hereby agree in consideration of certain sums of money to be paid to the said Creek nation by the government of the United States as hereinafter stated, to cede and forever quitclaim to them and do in behalf of their said nation hereby cede, relinquish and forever quitclaim unto the United States all rights, titles and interest which the said nation have or claim in or unto the following tracts of land situated, lying and being within the following bounds, that is to say:

(a) Beginning at the mouth of Goose Creek on the Altamaha River, thence along the line leading to the mounts at the head of St. Marys River to the point where it is intersected by the line run by the Commissioners of the United States under the treaty of Fort Jackson, thence along the said last mentioned line to a point where a line leaving the same shall run the nearest and a direct course by the head of a creek called by the Indians, Alcassalekie, to the Ocmulgee; thence

down the said Ocmulgee River to its junction with the Oconee, the two rivers there forming the Altamaha, thence down the Altamaha to the first mentioned bounds at the mouth of Goose Creek.

(b) Beginning at the high shoals of the Appalachee River and from thence along the line designated by the treaty made at the City of Washington on the fourteenth day of November, 1805 (fifteen) to the Ulcofouhatchie it being the first large branch or fork of the Ocmulgee above the seven Islands, thence up the eastern bank of the Ulcofouhatchi by the water's edge to where the path leading from the high shoals of the Appalachee to the shallow ford on the Chattahoochee crosses the same, and from thence along the said path to the shallow ford on the Chattahoochee River; thence up the Chattahoochee River by the water's edge on the eastern side to Swanee old town, thence by a direct line to the head of Appalachee and thence down the same to the mentioned bounds at the high shoals of Appalachee.

Art. 2. It is hereby stipulated and agreed on the part of the United States as a full consideration for the two tracts of land ceded by the Creeky nation in the preceding article that there shall be paid to the Creek nation by the United States within the present year the sum of \$20,000 and \$10,000 shall be paid annually for the term of ten succeeding years without interest, making in the whole eleven payments in the course of eleven years, the present year included, and the whole sum to be paid \$120,000.

Art. 3. And it is hereby further agreed on the part of the United States that in lieu of all former stipulations relating to blacksmiths, they will furnish the Creek nation for three years with two blacksmiths and strickers.

Art. 4. The President may cause any line to be run which may be necessary to designate the boundary of any part of both or either of the tracts of land ceded by this treaty at such time and in such manner as he may deem proper. And this treaty shall be obligatory on the contracting parties as soon as the same shall be ratified by the government of the United States.

Done at the place and on the day before written, signed: D. B. Mitchell; Tustnungee Thlucco, his mark; Tustnungee Hopoie, his mark; William McIntosh; Tuskeenchaw, his mark; Hopoie Hanjo, his mark; Cothan Hanjo, his mark; Inthlansis Hanjo, his mark; Coewtan Micco, his mark; Cusslecan Micco, his mark; Eufaulau Micco; Hopoethee Hanja, his mark; Hoopie Hatkee, his mark; Yoholo Micco, his mark; Tustunungee, his mark; Fatuake Hehehan, his mark; Yanhan Hanjo, his mark; Tustkeegee Emantla, his mark; Tustunnungee Hoithleleleo, his mark; Present D. Bearly, Commander Seventh Infantry; William S. Mitchell, Assistant Agent; I. A. C. N.; M. Johnson, Lieutenant Corps of Artillery; S. L. Hawkins; George (G. L.) Lovett, Interpreters.

The signing of the two foregoing Treaties with the Creek Indians settled the most serious adverse claim to this territory as the Indians were in actual possession of the entire south Georgia country. During the war of 1812 many of these Indians allied themselves with Great Britain and in the resulting campaign General Andrew Jackson's victory on the Tallapoosa in the summer of 1814 crushed the power of the Creeks and the terms of peace demanded by General Jackson were hard beyond expectation. This south Georgia territory was called by the Indians the Tallassee country and extended from the Chattahoochee River on the west to Wayne County on the east, taking in the Okefenokee and skirting the big bend of the Ocmulgee as well as the upper Altamaha. It was the favorite hunting grounds of the Creek Indians and a territory they liked very much.

The lower half of this territory was held once by Spain as a part of Florida and was not included in the grant to Oglethorpe and the Trustees for Georgia as said grant extended no farther south than did the Altamaha River.

The Spanish title to this territory was extinguished by the peace of 1763, and soon thereafter the Governor of South Carolina, acting under an ancient grant, assumed jurisdiction over the territory and it was not until about five years after the Revolutionary war had ended and after a court had been created by Congress to pass upon the question that the two

states by a compact entered into at Beauford amicably adjusted their differences.

All adverse claims to this south Georgia country being now amicably adjusted, this territory was now in shape to be made into new counties for settlement and development. Accordingly an act was introduced in the legislature to create out of this vast territory three large counties named Early, on the west; Irwin, in the center; and Appling, on the east. The act of the legislature creating these new counties was approved in December, 1818, and is as follows:

AN ACT.

To dispose of and distribute the late cession of land obtained from the Creek and Cherokee nations of Indians by the United States in the several treaties, one concluded at Fort Jackson on the ninth day of August, 1814, and one concluded at the Cherokee Agency on the eighth day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1817, and one concluded at the Creek Agency on the Flint River, January 22, 1818.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly meeting and by the authority of the same, that the territory lying south of and southwest of the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers and bounding on the counties of Wayne, Camden and East Florida line, the Chattahoochee River and the Creek temporary line forms three counties, to wit: All of that part of said territory which lies west of a line to commence on the above temporary line and two and three-quarter miles on the east side of Flint River and running south to the southern boundary of this state shall form one county to be called Early. And all the balance of said territory which lies west of the line to commence at the ford of the Ocmulgee, commonly called the Blackshear ford, and running south to the same boundary shall form a county called Irwin County. And all the balance of said territory shall form one other county called Appling County. The county of Early shall be laid off into districts of twelve miles and forty chains square as near as convenience will admit by running lines parallel with the dividing lines between said county and the county of Irwin and others

tain named citizens in each of the three counties be empowered to hold an election and superintend the same, for the election of five Justices of the Inferior Court. They were to give fifteen days notice of the election and to hold same at a place in each county specified in the Act. These places were furthermore designated as the place of holding courts and transacting all county business in each respective county, until the Inferior Court should fix upon some other location for a county-site.

The Act referred to, designated the following named citizens of Irwin County to superintend the election in Irwin: John Sutton, Jr., John Sutton, Sr., Joshua Calloway, Willis King, Samuel Boyd, Ludd Mobley, David Williams, Redding Hunter, Burrell Bailey, Green Graham. The place designated for the election and for a temporary county-site was the residence of David Williams which was located on Lot of Land No. 147, 4th District of Irwin, now in Ben Hill County.

The election was duly held in March, 1820, and resulted in the election of Ludd Mobley, John Sutton, David Calloway, David Williams and Burrell Bailey as the first Inferior Court justices in and for Irwin County. They were commissioned to serve until the next regular election in January, 1821. Regular terms were four years.

The first session of Irwin Inferior Court was held July 3, 1820. No business was transacted except the Clerk was authorized to issue licenses to "tavern-keepers and retailers of spirituous liquors."

The first term of Irwin Superior Court was held September 21, 1820, at the house of David Williams aforesaid. Judge Thomas W. Harris of the Southern Circuit, presided and Thaddeus G. Holt was the Solicitor-General. Of those serving on the first Grand Jury, Isaac Allen, Elijah Beasley, John Pike and Willis King were the only four ever identified with Brooks County. Of the first petit jurors Sion Hall and Alexander McDonald were the only two ever identified with Brooks.

FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS

The first county officers were elected in May, 1820, and were commissioned May 25, 1820. The following is a list of the county officers of Irwin County until 1825 when Lowndes County was formed out of Irwin:

Year: State Senators:

1820—Samuel Boyd
 1821—Ludd Mobley
 1822—Ludd Mobley
 1823—John Joyce
 1824—Ludd Mobley
 1825—Ludd Mobley

Coroners:

1820-1822—David Hunter
 1822-1824—(No record)
 1824-1826—Daniel McDuffie

Tax-Collectors:

1820-1821—(No record)
 1822—Redding Hunter
 1823—Redding Hunter
 1824—Jacob Young
 1825—Nathan Gornto

Term: Clerks Superior Court:

1820-1822—William Slone
 1822-1824—William Slone
 1824-1826—William Slone

In accordance with the above, Irwin County was run into sixteen districts, and Appling into thirteen districts. While the whole lots were supposed to be 70 chains square, many instances have since been found in surveying where lots vary in their acreage from as little as about 300 acres up to 1,200 acres, but the usual variation will not be over about 25 acres. These variations were due to faulty surveying and probably also to frequent harassing by the Indians.

The legislative act referred to, gave minute instructions as to how these lands were to be disposed of; also as to who could have the privilege of drawing in the land-lottery set up by the Act; how many draws each person could have; the qualifications of each one drawing land; how the lists of those entitled to draw, should be made up by the Inferior Court in each county, and forwarded to the Governor, etc.

It was provided that the price to be charged for each lot should be \$18.00 to be paid into the state treasury within two years from date of drawing and thereupon the State's grant would issue for the lot in fee simple. Several drawings were had before the lots in most of the districts were all drawn, and as the drawings slowed down the price was lowered to \$12.00 in 1823; then in 1826 to \$8.00 per lot; in 1830 to \$6.00 and finally in 1831 to \$5.00 per lot.

As a result of the lottery system of disposing of these lands the owners or "fortunate drawers" came to be scattered all over the state; only a small percentage of those drawing lands in Irwin or in any other county ever moved to that county. The great majority of the "fortunate drawers" preferred to sell them for a profit or to exchange them for lands nearer to where they lived. For many years these non-resident grantees had great difficulty in finding out whether their lots were desirable or undesirable. The whole system was favorable to the rise of many land-agents or "speculators" scattered over the state. These speculators were usually well-informed about lands in their respective counties, and had grant-lists in their possession to aid them in determining the name and whereabouts of non-resident owners. They spent much of their time hunting up and locating land lots and determining the quality of land, its proximity to settlements and roads, etc., and then acting as agent for either buyer or seller. Many times they bought the lands for themselves and sold later at a substantial profit. In this class of land agents or speculators were Col. Enoch Hall of present Brooks County and James D. Shanks of present Lowndes, also Pennywell Folsom of present Brooks prior to his death in the Indian War in 1836.

THE 1820 CENSUS

The 1820 Census was taken about the time Irwin County was being first settled up and in the same year the county was organized. It shows seventy-nine families living in the entire county from its northern limits to the Florida line. This census as well as