
Grady County Historical Society. CA-002 Series 3: Files
from Sections Hawthorne Papers - I

1826-2019

Hawthorne Trail

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Creek in the Territory of Florida, this eighteenth day of
September one thousand eight hundred and twenty
three, and of the Independence of the United States
the forty eighth.

Wm. P. Duval	Seal	Nea Mathla	X	his mark	Seal
James Gadsden	Seal	John Blunt	X	his mark	Seal
Barnes Lewis	Seal	Tuski Hajo	X	his mark	Seal
		Mula We King	X	his mark	Seal
		Smattocha	X	his mark	Seal
		Geochetnicot	X	his mark	Seal

Signed sealed and delivered in presence
of

Geo: Murray
Secy to the Commission
J. W. Ripley
G. Humphrey
Indian Agent
Stephen P. ...
J. W. ...

Treaty of Moultrie Creek signature page (photo courtesy of The State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory Project)

4 just how near or how far from the "Cross Roads" it would be built.

William Hawthorn R.S.
Lot 155 Dist 7 - Lee Co.

James^{M.} Hawthorn -
expt. Smiths
Lot 218 Dist. 32 - Lee Co.

Josiah Hawthorn
Lot 94 Dist 15 - Lee Co.

John Hawthorn
Lot. 72 Dist. 5 - Lee Co.

6081
82
L 881

THAT CERTAIN..... DATED.....196.....

GIVEN BY.....

TO.....

FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$..... AND RECORDED IN.....

BOOK.....PAGES.....HAS BEEN PAID AND FULLY
SATISFIED AND THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT IS AUTHORIZED TO CANCEL

SAME OF RECORD, THIS..... DAY OF.....196.....

.....
BY.....

THAT CERTAIN..... DATED..... 196.....
GIVEN BY.....
TO.....
FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$..... AND RECORDED IN.....
BOOK..... PAGES..... HAS BEEN PAID AND FULLY
SATISFIED AND THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT IS AUTHORIZED TO CANCEL
SAME OF RECORD, THIS..... DAY OF..... 196.....

.....
BY.....

W. B. RODDENBERY CO. INC.

Lock Box 60

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

Wm Hawthorne

Rep. Pulaski - 1817

page 1347

Senate Twiggs - 1814

page 1175

Senate - Deaton - 1827

J. Brown -

Senate Deaton - 1829 -

Senate - Pulaski - 3 times
1819 thru 1821

Mr. R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

605 S. Main St.

Moultrie, Ga.



ELDER WILLIAM HAWTHORN
Pioneer Minister and Statesman

- 1762 Born: Robeson County, North Carolina
Married Maleachy Cliborn - together they were the parents of eight children: Martha, Milbury, Hannah, Jonathan C.; William B., Joshua T., Elias O., & A. Jackson Hawthorn.
- 1798 Ordained a Minister of the Gospel by Saddletree Baptist Church, Robeson County, NC.
- 1798-1806 Pastored Saddletree & Lennon's Crossroads Baptist Churches in Robeson County, NC
- 1806-1807 Moved to Hartford, Georgia, which was located across the Ocmulgee River from the present City of Hawkinsville, Georgia.
- 1807-1822 Pastored Cool Springs & Trail Branch Baptist Churches, both located near the present City of Cochran, Georgia.
- 1814 Elected State Senator from Twiggs County, Georgia.
- 1817 Elected State Representative from Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 1819 Elected State Senator from Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 1821 Reelected State Senator from Pulaski County, Georgia.
- 1822 Appointed a Commissioner for Pulaski County Academy.
- 1823 Resigned as Commissioner of Pulaski Academy to move to Southwest Georgia.
- 1823 Established his residence in Southwest Georgia (Lot 106, Section 13, Early County), which was about 5 miles southwest of the present City of Cairo, on the south side of Tired Creek.
- 1823 Appointed a Commissioner to "fix on a public site for the County of Decatur, and as soon as convenient contract for and have erected a courthouse and jail for said county."
- 1826 Organized the Constitution of Tired Creek Baptist Church, and served as its first Pastor for 22 years.
- 1827 Elected State Senator from Decatur County, Georgia.
- 1829 Reelected State Senator from Decatur County, Georgia.
- 1846 Died, Decatur (now Grady) County, Georgia. Buried in cemetery at Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church.



HAWTHORN TRAIL
DEDICATION CEREMONY

OCTOBER 6, 1998
2:00 P.M.

MIZPAH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
COUNTY ROAD 17
GRADY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Hawthorn Trail



Master of Ceremonies	Wilkes Nicholson President, Grady County Historical Society
National Anthem	Cairo High School Band Ensemble
Pledge of Allegiance	Ralph N. Miller Cairo American Legion Post 122
Invocation	Elder Robert D. Conner, Pastor Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church
Welcome & Introduction of State & Local Officials	Wilkes Nicholson
Recognition of Hawthorn Family Descendants	Wilkes Nicholson
The Hawthorn Historical Trail	Dr. Wayne R. Faircloth
Presentation of Resolution	William "Billy" P. Langdale State Transportation Board Member
Remarks	State Representative Richard Royal State Representative Kermit "K" Bates State Senator Harold Ragan
Benediction	Elder Max Childs, Pastor Mizpah Primitive Baptist Church
Sign Unveiling	Family Members & Officials

Hawthorn
Hawthorn from the Clerk

✓ P10
Tired Creek post office The⁹ Co, G.,^a August 22nd 1836

My worthy Governor Schley

I take the Liberty of Trying again to discharge a duty Devolving on me in behalf of the Citizens of Decatur County, in General and the Georgia Guard under my Command, in particular, I have Endeavoured once before, since our Commissions were Received, to address your Excellency in order to obtain, information how we are, and where we shall Receive our arms, and through what Medium you will Receive our Bonds for the same, at that time I wrote you that we apprehend possible danger, but now I wrote to you that we know there is prevable Danger of the Indians, who are passing, Repeatedly through the adjoining Countys, we have Learned these things from Being competent witnesses of facts, I have tried to do as well as I cou^d, with a bad Chance, on Every alarm that has Taken place, we have acquitted ourselves like men, in the first place, we understood that Bainbridge our county site was in danger of the Indian^s Merciless Ravage, we then made Bainbridge our place to concentrate our little efforts, from thence in the Latter part of June we sent ten of our Little company, up Flint River on the East side, ten miles above the Courthouse, Newton, in Baker County they Return^d the 5th day to their homes without discovering Indian sign but in a very few days after we were notified By Express of the Murders Comaited in Baker County, we Instantly Repared to the scene and there met Co,¹⁰ Beal^s command and was mustered into the army by his authority and Received Rations from the same for a few days for 24 men which was our Number mustered into service the Balance of my men having Returned after the battle in Chicahatchee swamp, the 24 men was Ten days on that Expedition, but Governor, no doubt but we have Received information of the disagreeable affair, that took place on the Ockapilsee in Lowndes County- I will Just hint at the cause of our being Competent witnesses of present Trasnact^(sic)

about the last of July and the first of the present month we were very subject to faulce alarms at length we Resolved to suffer ourselves imposed upon no Longer, so we agree^d to send part of our own company to know the Certainty of the flying news in Circulation through our Low Country, well Sir we done Right one time Eleven of our Company went on to a place where they ^(sic) undsteod the Baker Troops was stationed on Flint River 42 miles above Bainbridge on their way up as soon as they thought, they might Begin to look out for Indian sine, they took the woods and kept a short distance from the Road, in consequence of which they missed seeing the Indians while at or near the house of M^r Sellar who was the first sufferer on the East side of the River at that time the station above alluded to is 10 miles above Sellar^s, they went up to the station or where the man had been and Return^d to a M^r Lucky^s on the stage Road 8 or 10 Miles from Newton in Baker County, this was on Tuesday the 9th Inst, where they Refreshed themselves on the ferepart of the Night, but giting information that Evani(n)g that a Large Band of the hostiles had Crossed the River near Newton the day before, they Repared to Newton by day light Next morning where they met with Cap^{tn} Minch with 29 men with whom they Joind^d in concert, with the light of the sun they took the Indians Tracks from the Bank of the River this fa on wednesday 10th inst they Trail^d them to Sellar^s house where they discharged one of my men with an Express to me with a Request for more men, which left but 10 of my men with Minch making in all 39 men I used my Best Endeavour to get with them, but failed there was some Gentlemen from Bainbridge and the upper part of Decatur that overtook them Before the Indians Flanked the Little Band three of my Ten was wounded one plitely two Badley at the first appearance 2 Brave men from Bainbridge Amos & Bacon wounded, and two Brave fellows Allen the other name not Recollected of Baker

wounded but all hopefull the last I heard, I got home last Thursday
the 18th Ins^t with the wounded, the Reason the Rest of us cou^d not
ever Take hinch and his Little squad is. ^(s.c) Ovius, they ran them savages
from Flint River in Baker County to the Ocapileca in Lowndes County
in less time than 2 days and a half, through the most disagreeable
woods to Travel in, for man and Beast, &c. I got to them time
Enough to take care of the Wounded, I paid the Good people at
who^s house, we nursed our wounded their Bill, which was not Extrave-
gant the sum of \$23.49 cent(s) if we have done as we ought to have
done, we Lay the Business Before you if you say we have done Right
in our attempts to Guard our Frontier, if not in your opinion we shall
say, amen, a few lines from your Excellency is Required to this
post office, in order that the Citizens of this County Desatur,
may know whither they must act in concert with the Citizens of
The^s County & Lownds, that is Build themselves a fertification,
near Flint River or depend on the Government for protection, all
the efforts used on the Chattahoochee and on the west side of Flint
River has been in Vain, the Cowardise of the Indians, and the mercy
of God has been the cause of our salvation, and not the army on the
Chattahoochee River, I am yours to serve in Earnest

Gov^r William Schley -

Jonathan Cleburn Hawthorn Cap^t

On Reverse

Letter

Capt. J. C. Hawthorn

22 August 1836

Creek War

Captain Hathhorn

Decatur Cty

Answered

31st Aug 1836

Tired Creek

August 23rd

18th

To his Excellency

William Schley

Milledgeville -

Original letter on file in Georgia Department of Archives.

Keep in Halden Folder for Part Three

Georgia Decatur County

October the 10th 1838

This likely a letter to
Cor. of 94th app. ~~to~~ ~~arms~~
x I don't find other parts of the message or request not complete

Dear Sir agreeable to an act passed by the Legislature of

this state in the year 1835 assented to the 23, day of December,
By the Executive of the State, authorizing the formation of one
or more Companies, of Cavalry in the several Countys of this state,
and to authorize His Excellency the governor to Contract for a
number of pistols Swords & for the Equipment of the same & the
said Companies so organised according to the provisions of the act
are to be known as the Georgia Guards in Conformity to the above
act the Citizens of this County, formed one Company of Cavalry,
and I was Elected Captain, to Command the Company of volunteers
James Hagan, first Lieutenant, John Rogers 2^d de Sgt Swain Ensign
all Recd our Commissions from the governor, My Commission, Bears
date the fifth day of April 1836, Since that time Mr. Rogers and
Mr. Swain Removed out of the County, Mr. Hagan and My Self are
the only Commissioned officers, at this time Belonging to the
Company, from some cause or other we have never Recd our Arms,
if you have it in your Power and think Propper, to furnish us,
with a number sufficient to Arm forty five Men, as a Company of
the Georgia guard, in one of the frontier Countys, of the State.
They would Be greatfully Received By us, and we are Ready and
Willing to give our Bond, for the Arms in terms of the Law, I
wish to know of you, Whether the Company under my Command, are
Subject to be Returned, By other Captains, in the County, and
Drafted; I also, want to know of your Excellency, if we were not
authorised, according to the act, to take Eight Men out of any
Captain District in the County with out regard to number write
me the first opportunity if you Please as I feel Very anxious, to

know whether there is any Probability of our Being furnished
with Arms at this time or not, with great Respect your
obedient Serv^t to His Excellency George H. Gilmer

By Jonathan C. Hawthorn ✓

Letter Capt. John C. Hawthorn
Vol Cos Arms.

the six days previous that I have been acting under the Command of Col Bell and Col Nelson on the Crickanehachy the Balance of the time on our own Expenses our selves & Horses &c I Enclosed Receipt which will show you the amount of money I paid ^(sic) Mr Tillman where My wounded man lay until I got him away I have tried to Make out the above list according to the Direction I Rec^d from Col Holmes & according to your Direction in your letter to me dated 24th November 1856 You will Be kind Enough to Examin it and treat it as your Wisdom May Direct If the Provision has Been made By the Legislator which you anticipated we want what is Right and no More if you see Cause to pay us for our services I will try to see Justice done to Evry Man who has served under My Command &c With great Respect I Remain your friend and obt Servt

Jonathan C Hawthorn ✓

to His Excellency William Schley

Halling Expense to Camp Sellers	\$
<u>William Hawthorn</u> furnished 2 Boys & 2 Horses & a Cart 4 days @ \$3 pr day -	12 00
<u>Nathaniel Hawthorn</u> 1 Cart & Horse 4 Days @ 1,00	4 00
^(sic) Sion fiveash 2 Horses & a waggon 4 Days @ 2,00	8 00
Joel Cook 1 yoke oxen & Cart 10 Day(s) @ 75 ^c	7 50
Mathew Hanly 1 yoke oxen & Waggon 4 Days @ 1,00	4 00
	<u>35 50</u>

the Above Halling was done near Flint River on an ^(sic) indian trail where I stationed and kept out skouting parties in different Directions

the Buissness was entirely new to me and I have omitted keeping an account of our Expenses as we were some time necessitated to Call

August 11, 1975

MEMO FOR JBR's use and to remember:

In the exchange between Wayne Faircloth and Mr. Baggett about the Indians, Wayne referred to pages 241 and 242 in L. W. Rigsby's Historic Georgia Families. Also referred to Early History Creek Indians pages 181-182.

I'm not sure if that Early History Creek Indians is the book that I bought and gave to the Library. They gave me a book when I was there but they did not put in it who donated it. And it may not have been it and I may still have that book myself somewhere keeping it for reference but it will end up in the Library.

In the Rigsby pages I read he was talking about 1633 and about 20 years older and that must have had no reference to the 1809-23-36-38 that I think was in the exchange.

On page 241 Rigsby's book it read" Indians living within the present boundaries of Grady County were certainly friendly to the whites and white settlers whereas in other sections the whites were having their troubles. Those in ~~this~~ this section lived in perfect friendliness and accord". I may not have jotted it down accurate but something very close to the above. It also cites the two following instances: Hawthorne and the Indians at that time in Decatur County were hostile about Bainbridge. But no record in Thomas County. What I'm writing here is a little jumbled for if I needed to refer to it I could go back to the book again.

JBR

Gilbert Bond

Important

7-23-75

Wesley -

of the claim
of the claim
to see my
comments on page 1 of the
in far right of page
to Albert Baggett
Wesley

Inasmuch as Albert Baggett mentioned you in his reply to my letter, I'm enclosing a copy of my response to him. He apparently does not realize that often something gets in print that can not be documented or properly substantiated. Hopefully he will realize from this response that I was not (and never intended to be) dealing with personalities and that any criticism which was either stated or inferred was meant to be constructive. If I've caused even one who deals in historical writing, ^{or other historical work} to be more cautious and careful in what is perpetuated, then my letter was completely worthwhile. I've had three letters, four long distance phone calls, and many personal responses. Only Albert's was negative.

I intend to pursue the matter no further. This response is enclosed because I knew you would be interested.

My regards,

Wayne Fricke

Pursuant to the Last Will & Testament
of John Newberry late of Decatur
County deceased after public notice
for 60 days on the first Tuesday in
March 1844 Johnathan C. Hawthorn
+ James Hagan Executors on the
last will & testament of said John
Newberry deceased at Thomasville
in said county of Thomas did put
up and expose for sale for ready
money - etc -
Executors Deed

Johnathan C. Hawthorn
Ch: William age 8. A.R.
John C -
grandson J. C. age of R. & R.

July 24, 2019

To the Museum,

Thanks so much for making your wonderful facility available for the 1959 CHS class reunion. You have some nice artifacts and I hope to come back soon and spend a little more time with you.

Billy Hester mentioned that there had been some damage to the roof and that your insurance deductible was quite high. I enclose my check for \$250.00. Use it as you see fit.

Also, Mr. Nickerson (I hope that is correct) asked about William Hawthorne. I am sending you copies of 11 abstracts (out of 31,830) that contain proof that he was in Loueans County for a time. He was one of three founders of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, which began in August of 1807.

Give my best to Carolyn Chason and Mrs Fritchelle.

A proud native of
Greedy Co.
Allie Thomas

HAWTHORNE TRAIL ROCK

by

Dess F. OLIVER II

JULY 24, 2008

In 1955, I graduated from Cairo High School, and started my freshman year at F.S.U. During the weekends, when I came home, Jimmy Arline and I would look for Indian artifacts, arrowheads, pottery, etc., in fields around Grady County. Sometime during that year, we heard about a limestone rock with a carving on it. The story was that an unknown man had found the rock in Blowing Cave, off of the Hawthorne Trail Road. The rock was probably thrown into Blowing Cave by the Indians. When the man died, he wanted the rock placed at his gravesite, which is off the Hawthorne Road about 8-10 miles above Cairo, on the Pine Level Road. Jimmy and Dess drove up to the gravesite to see it. Upon seeing it, we knew it had significant importance to this area from the 1700's. We obtained permission from a relative to move the rock and place it in the Cairo Library for display and safe keeping. Miss Wessie Connell was glad to have it because of its history. Sometime that year, I took it to the F.S.U. anthropology department to have it analyzed. They felt that it was authentic.

For years I went in the library and checked on the rock. About ten years ago, in the 1990's, I discovered that the rock was missing. After inquiring about it, no one in the library knew anything about it, or where it might be. Someone thought it may have been placed outside in a garden area. After talking to Lewis Oliver, my cousin, he finally located it under some shrubbery outside. I asked him to give it to the Cairo Historical Society to be put on display.

This rock was carved and put on the Hawthorne Trail-Indian Trail as a marker to indicate the way to a block fortress along the trail in the 1700's. It's probably Spanish because the number 7 is backwards as the Spanish would have written it.

It is the earliest and most significant historical find in Grady County and South Georgia. This rock should be displayed in a safe place and its history passed on to future generations. I will be glad to build a pedestal base for display, and Ken Hawthorne said he would have a plaque made for it. Please save this piece of history.

Dess. F. Oliver, II



Cell - 706-982-0495

Dess F. Oliver

706-746-2237

962 Walnut Church Rd.

Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568

Teach at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School

ABOUT RGNS	ADMISSION	ACADEMICS	ARTS	ATHLETICS	CAMPUS LI
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Faculty & Staff Directory



Mr. Dess Oliver

- [Academics at RGNS](#)
- [The Upper School](#)
- [College Counseling](#)
- [The Middle School](#)
- [Daily Bulletin](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)
- [Faculty/Staff Profile Directory Faculty Websites](#)
 - [Course Assignment Calendars](#)
- [Library & Media Center](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Faculty Information

<i>Location(s)</i>	Upper School
<i>Departments(s)</i>	Art, Industrial Arts & Design
<i>Title(s)</i>	Teacher

Contact Information

<i>School Email</i>	doliver@rabungap.org (Primary)
<i>School Phone</i>	706-746-7467 ext. 273

Education

<i>Degree(s)</i>	B.S. Florida State University
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Other Information

<i>Employed Since</i>	1971
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Biography A teacher for 51 years and now in his 37th year at RGNS, Dess (program into what it is today. During his remarkable career, Dess railroad which includes an operating locomotive and railway cars Museum across from campus and once featured in *People Magazine*: have built a gazebo, student foot bridge, porches, a science observation structures. The subject of over 55 publications and television app

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 Media Gallery
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 Giving to RGNS

1/ This exhaustive ³ study of the Hawthorne Trail and the
Thoussville to Bainbridge stage road has brought to
light and revealed a number of very important things.
My information has come from a dozen sources,
much of ~~it~~ to be discarded for various reasons, but the
plain facts reveal (1) that Hawthorne Trail was the
first traveled road from north southward through
what is now Gady County, and (2) the old stage road was
the first east to west road through present Gady County.
Without doubt, the original Hawthorne Trail did not
pass through what is now Cairo but passed it a mile ^{OK}
or more on the west running almost due south ^{from}
from Sunnyside ^{school} Church to Tired Creek, at the point ^{OK}
near where Hawthorne built his home. The road bearing
south east from Sunnyside Church (now the Cairo to
Camilla highway) ran along the route which is now

right where Cairo is today, instead of a mile & a half or two
miles further west where it crossed Hawthorne Trail.
And that is also why Dr. Roddenberry built his log
house in 1861, at the "Cross Roads". That was the
crossing of the only two frequently traveled roads
in that entire section. That was exactly at
the time the A. & S. R.R. reached Showarville and he
must have envisioned that the railroad would soon
extend westward to Bainbridge but he could not know

HAWTHORNE TRAIL

Much of the history of Hawthorne Trail is obscure and shrouded in tradition, some of it pure fiction, and some accounts inaccurate. No maps show it by name and there is no accurate delineation or description of its entire route. But some pertinent facts concerning it are of record, and other recorded facts belie some of the stories about it. It was perhaps the first north and south road through what is now Grady County, first blazed and traversed by William Hawthorne in 1818 when this territory was part of the original Early County, and incorporated into Decatur County in 1823.

One published account [p. 395, Georgia, a Guide to its Towns and Countryside] printed in 1940 under a program of the Works Projects Administration, stated: "The Hawthorne Trail was blazed in 1818 by William Hawthorne when he was seeking a short route from North Carolina to Florida. Two years later he made a trip over the trail, broadened it, and settled with his family near Cairo". Another account in A Synopsis of the History of Mitchell County by Mrs. J. M. Spence, published in 1933, states that the trail was blazed in 1818, extended from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida,

~~Feb.~~ ^{maybe 1810 or 1811}
It seems William Hawthorne had a penchant for serving in the Georgia Legislature. His first such service was in the year 1814 when he was the State Senator from and for Twiggs County. ~~For~~ Three years later, in 1817, he was in the House of Representatives from and for Pulaski County. Then for three terms, 1819 through 1821, he was the State Senator for Pulaski County. Shortly thereafter he established his ~~his~~ residence in the ^{south} easternmost part of what was then Early County (in what became Decatur County in 1823 and Grady County in 1905), and he was State Senator for Decatur County in 1827 and (after an interval of one term) again in 1829. In all, at different times and from three counties, he served seven terms in the Georgia Legislature.

~~The 18~~ The first U. S. Census, in 1790, listed only three Hawthornes as heads of families then living in North Carolina and all three of them were in Fayette District, Robeson County. They were:

Kedar Hawthorne, with 1 white male over 16 ^{years} ~~years~~, 1 white male under 16 yrs., 2 white females, + 3 slaves;
John Hawthorne, with 2 white males over 16 yrs., 2 white males under 16 yrs., 3 white females, + 9 slaves;
William Hawthorne, with 1 white male over 16 yrs., 0 under 16 yrs., 2 white females, + 1 slave.

~~over~~ ↓

The 1820 U. S. Census for Georgia listed only one Hawthorne as head of a family and he was William Hawthorne then residing in Pulaski County. I do not have a break-down as to other persons in his household.

Your letter of April 16 was my first information of the ~~1813~~ membership of William Hawthorne's 1813 membership and activities in the Hephzibah Baptist Association, and I'm glad to know this.

Though Hawthorne Trail was first "blazed" in 1818, I agree with you that William Hawthorne did not change his residence from Pulaski County to the spot on Tired Creek (then in Early County) before late in 1821 or early in 1822. Decatur County was created by ^{the} legislative act of Dec. 8, 1823.

and describes its route through Mitchell County and into Grady County, and further states that the trail went "through Cairo to the old Hawthorne home place". It appears that the trail did extend through what later became the town of Camilla, and in 1929 the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a granite marker designating the present Camilla as one point on Hawthorne Trail. Neither of these published accounts seem to be entirely true, but only in part. It appears quite certain that Hawthorne did not blaze a virgin trail all the way from North Carolina to Florida, and the trail did not run directly through what ~~was~~ later become Cairo but skirted it on the west thereof.

Considerably more information about William Hawthorne [born 1762 - died 1846], a soldier in the Revolutionary War, is gained from the inscription on the monument at his grave near Softree, southwest of Cairo at the location of Tirel Creek Primitive Baptist Church and cemetery, which monument was erected in May 1957 by members and friends of that Church. It records that he resided for a time in Pulaski County, Georgia, before establishing his first

home in what is now Grady County. -2383
Other records reveal that he owned ~~2000~~ ~~2000~~ acres of land in Pulaski County, that he settled there before 1818 and resided there at least as late as 1820. The 1818 Tax Digest for Pulaski County shows he then owned 1923 acres of pine land and 460 acres of oak and Hickory land in District No. 7, and also one Negro slave, on all of which he paid \$2.⁶⁴ taxes for that year. Furthermore, the 1820 U.S. Census recorded him as head of a family ^{then residing} in Pulaski County.

From the inscription on the monument at his grave, from public records and all other accounts, some recorded in newspapers, ~~this~~ the following appears to be the true story of the Hawthorne Trail and the man for whom it was named. Sometime before 1818, William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, migrated from Roberson City [or Robersonville], North Carolina, to Pulaski County, Georgia. There was no necessity for blazing a trail for this journey because established roads were already in existence.

While a resident of Pulaski County, William Hawthorne headed an expedition into southwestern

= Georgia, and perhaps into Florida [then a Spanish colony which was ceded to the United States in 1821 and became a State in 1845]. They were seeking new lands and new homes and they blazed their trail as they went. The size and composition of the party is not recorded but it appears that Hawthorne was the leader. They traveled on horseback and camped along the trail, always avoiding crossing sizable streams when possible.

Sometime in 1818 they started from Pulaski County [not from North Carolina] and traveled southwestwardly through what are now the counties of Hooper, Crisp, Worth and Dougherty, always east of Flint River, to a point known as River Bend on east side of Flint River about the present boundary line between Dougherty and Mitchell counties, thence southward to the site of present Camilla, thence southwestwardly to and across what became the Thomasville ^{and} Bainbridge stage road [now U.S. Highway No. 84] at a point about _____ miles northwest of what is now Cairo, and from thence still southwestward until they reached a sizable creek. Being exhausted from travel, they made camp at this spot and they named the stream Tired Creek. So it was not sluggishness of the stream but tiredness

5.
of the travelers that gave it the name. That point is some 6 miles southwest of what is now Cairo. The tradition is that the party continued on into Florida, as far as Tallahassee. Certainly they explored this territory in what is now Gadsden County because several of them later returned ~~and~~ with their families and settled in this section.

William Hawthorne built his home near Dofkee near Tired Creek at a spot about 4 miles southwest of present Cairo. It was not built in a fortnight, or rapidly, because the materials were not readily at hand and it was well constructed of heavy lumber, and commodious, and served as his residence and that of four succeeding generations for more than a century and a quarter. The exact date the home was first occupied is unknown but it was probably in 1820 or 1821, soon after the 1820 Federal Census when the family was enumerated as residents of Pulaski County.

William Hawthorne was an active force in the creation and organization of DeSoto County [in 1823] and in 1827 he was a state senator for the new county. ~~In 1826 he and~~ He and his brother Elias were both Primitive Baptist preachers. We have made no investigation [on Elders].

2 concerning the lives of the brothers Elias and Timothy but it is recorded that Timothy Hawthorne moved on to Texas and there settled and died. In 1826 Elders William Hawthorne and William M. Ely formed the presbytery which constituted and organized Tired Creek [Sopkee] Primitive Baptist Church, and Elder Hawthorne served as its pastor for 20 years.

Jonathan C. Hawthorne, son of William, was Captain of his militia district in southeastern Decatur County and was engaged in skirmishes with the Creek Indians in this territory in 1836. A grandson of Elder Hawthorne, also named William, visited the Hawthorne Trail marker in Camilla in February 1929 and The Camilla Enterprise of that date published an account of an interview with him concerning his grandfather and the ancestral home near Cairo, in which he then lived.

For some 30 years Dr. J. D. Roddenberry was family physician for the Hawthornes and visited in the old home many times, and the Doctor's son Robert also visited in the home when he was a teen age boy. Though reputed to be "well fixed" financially, the Hawthornes lived a simple life, almost primitively, and the home was furnished with the barest of necessities.

Dear Julien:

Hawthorne angle in Grady County,
as Grady County now is.

Genesis

Reference your letter of April 17 on above subject.
I have now learned that the original Hawthorne Trail crosses the R.R. farther west from the present depot than I once thought - somewhere a mile and a half or 2 miles. I have also come to know that the road from Camilla, from a point near Sunnyside Church now S.E. and crossed the old stage road at "Cross Roads", where Dr. Roddenbery built his log house, and extended southeast through what is now Cairo, and then extended to Walden Bridge, or near there, on the Ocklawaha River, crossed the river and extended through Dunwoody District to Tallahassee and beyond. However, after passing the point near Sunnyside Church, this road did not follow the original Hawthorne Trail. The original trail extended almost due south to Tired Creek, near the place at which Hawthorne built his home.

So the selection of the site (now Cairo) for the R.R. Station No. 21 had nothing to do with the original Hawthorne Trail, but was selected because it was the crossing of the Camilla to Tallahassee road.

So, it appears that it was with considerable foresight that Dr. Roddenbery built his first home in 1861, at the "Cross Roads". At that exact time the A. & G. R.R. had reached Thomasville (furnishing rail transportation all the way to Savannah) and it

was known that the railroad would be eventually extended to Bainbridge, but it was not known exactly how near or how far from the "Cross Roads" the line would run. If Dr. Rosebury had not established his home at the "Cross Roads", the history of Cairo and Grady County would be far different from what it is today. I will not go so far as to so state in my book, but in my opinion "Cross Roads" and that immediate community was really the beginning of the Cairo of today.

William Hawthorne (born 1762, died 1846)

Don't bother John Walker, or the person he mentioned in Albany, about when Hawthorne came to southwest Georgia (now Grady County). He did NOT come to this section in 1801. Early County was not created until Dec. 15, 1818 and this entire section belonged to Indians until it was ceded by the treaty of Aug. 9, 1814 with the Creek Indians. No white people (none whatever) lived in this area earlier than 1815, and probably none at that time.

All recorded facts indicate that Hawthorne blazed his Trail in 1818 from Pulaski County (Hawkinsville is county seat) at least as far as Tired Creek in what is now Grady County. But he did not establish residence here before the last of 1821 or the first of 1822.

Mrs Catherine Maxwell
Calvary, Georgia

Dear Mrs Maxwell:

Many thanks for your letter of February 17 and for the copy of inscription on monument at grave of Elder William Hawthorne (erected May 1957). The statement that he resided for a time in Pulaski County, Georgia, opened up a new source of information. I found from the published Tax Digest of Pulaski County for the year 1818 that he then owned over 2000 acres of land in the 7th district of that County, and one slave, on which the taxes that year amounted to \$7.64. Also, the 1820 U.S. Census shows that he was then the head of a family residing in Pulaski County. So, the facts seem to be that, while living in Pulaski County, he headed an expedition into the then unsettled wilderness of southwest Georgia (and perhaps on into Florida) in search of new lands and new homes, and of course they blazed the trail as they traveled, and William Hawthorne, and others, selected homesites in the southeast corner of what was then [1818] Early County, later Decatur, and now Gady County. For all we know, they may have made several trips. But, considering the fact that Hawthorne lived in Pulaski County at the time the 1820 census was taken, it appears certain he did not move to his new home before the last of 1820 or in 1821. From a newspaper account in The Councils Enterprise of February 1929 it is recorded that a grandson, also named William, was then living in the old home southwest of Cairo. I wonder if any of the Hawthornes still live in that house? or if it has since been destroyed or torn down? and I wonder what other families moved into this section at the time the Hawthornes came.



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January 1965

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A booklet of helpful hints

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Please fill in name of individual if not shown

Very truly yours,

E. M. Davis
Executive Vice President

EMD/YPH
Enc.

Mr. Robert S. Roddenbery, Jr. 24
Judge, Small Claims Court
Moultrie, Georgia

2511
2519
20' b h

EL' b a
@ b' b L

APR 21 1965

J.P.R. Jr.
See enclosed copy of inscriptions on both sides of marker at grave of Wm. Hawthorne, and my comments underneath.

I have had correspondence with Wayne R. Faircloth, professor at Valdosta State College, whose home is R.F.W. Whigham. He has made some study and gathered facts on history of Grady County in vicinity of Whigham and Calvary and has given me some assistance. He agrees with me that it was 1821 or 1822 that Hawthorne built his home near Tired Creek. He also says that Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church, constituted Sept. 2, 1826, is the oldest church of any denomination anywhere in Grady County, or thereabout.

I still want to find out when and by whom Long Branch Missionary Baptist Church was constituted.

Also, what denomination is Sunnyside Church and how long has it been at that location on Cairo to Camilla Highway.

Also, when was Tired Creek Methodist Church constituted, and how long it has been located on old Hawthorne Trail, where we talked to Miss Belcher? and was it formerly located elsewhere?

J.P.R. Jr.

HAWTHORNE TRAIL ROCK

by

Dess F. OLIVER II

JULY 24, 2008

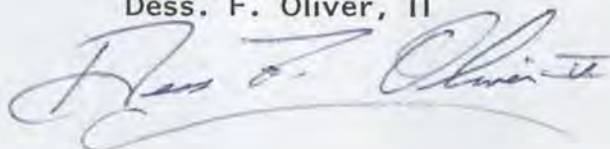
In 1955, I graduated from Cairo High School, and started my freshman year at F.S.U. During the weekends, when I came home, Jimmy Arline and I would look for Indian artifacts, arrowheads, pottery, etc., in fields around Grady County. Sometime during that year, we heard about a claystone rock with a carving on it. The story was that an unknown man had found the rock in Blowing Cave, off of the Hawthorne Trail Road. The rock was probably thrown into Blowing Cave by the Indians. When the man died, he wanted the rock placed at his gravesite, which is off the Hawthorne Road about 8-10 miles above Cairo, on the Pine Level Road. Jimmy and Dess drove up to the gravesite to see it. Upon seeing it, we knew it had significant importance to this area from the 1700's. We obtained permission from a relative to move the rock and place it in the Cairo Library for display and safe keeping. Miss Wessie Connell was glad to have it because of its history. Sometime that year, I took it to the F.S.U. anthropology department to have it analyzed. They felt that it was authentic.

For years I went in the library and checked on the rock. About ten years ago, in the 1990's, I discovered that the rock was missing. After inquiring about it, no one in the library knew anything about it, or where it might be. Someone thought it may have been placed outside in a garden area. After talking to Lewis Oliver, my cousin, he finally located it under some shrubbery outside. I asked him to give it to the Cairo Historical Society to be put on display.

This rock was carved and put on the Hawthorne Trail-Indian Trail as a marker to indicate the way to a block fortress along the trail in the 1700's. It's probably Spanish because the number 7 is backwards as the Spanish would have written it.

It is the earliest and most significant historical find in Grady County and South Georgia. This rock should be displayed in a safe place and its history passed on to future generations. I will be glad to build a pedestal base for display, and Ken Hawthorne said he would have a plaque made for it. Please save this piece of history.

Dess. F. Oliver, II

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dess F. Oliver, II", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Indian Rock

Oldest rock known to man in Grady County?

The story has it that this rock pointed to a blockade that once existed in what is now Grady County, because of the arrow on the rock and what is apparently a date, 1704.

The rock was discovered in the Blowing Cave area and set on a man's grave in a cemetery east of Cairo. Jimmy Arline and Dess Oliver removed the rock and presented it to Wessie Connell at Roddenbery Memorial Library because of its apparent historical value.

Dess and Jimmy were out collecting arrowheads and exploring caves in orthern Grady county near the Hawthorne Trail. People had told them of a rock that had been found in a cave there, where it was assumed that Indians had put it.

A man had wanted it placed next to his grave in a small cemetery near the fire tower (turn right at the country store and go a mile or so to find the cemetery).

A long time ago it wasn't uncommon for 7's to be turned backward. If the numeral on the rock is a backward 7, it could provide a clue to the date of origin. Dess Oliver took the rock to FSU, and they felt it was authentic, so it could be the oldest man-made thing remaining in Grady County.

Contacts:

Dess Oliver, Director
Tallulah Falls Railroad Museum
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
Highway 441 North
Rabun Gap, GA 30568
www.rabungap.org
(706) 746-2237, 746-7467

Charles Manny (Pat Arline's brother)
Hadley Ferry Road
Cairo, GA
377-4344

*Lucy, this needs
to be preserved
(about the rock).
It's all the info
we have about
it. Miss,
Yvonne*

HAWTHORNE TRAIL ROCK

by

Dess F. OLIVER II

JULY 24, 2008

In 1955, I graduated from Cairo High School, and started my freshman year at F.S.U. During the weekends, when I came home, Jimmy Arline and I would look for Indian artifacts, arrowheads, pottery, etc., in fields around Grady County. Sometime during that year, we heard about a limestone rock with a carving on it. The story was that an unknown man had found the rock in Blowing Cave, off of the Hawthorne Trail Road. The rock was probably thrown into Blowing Cave by the Indians. When the man died, he wanted the rock placed at his gravesite, which is off the Hawthorne Road about 8-10 miles above Cairo, on the Pine Level Road. Jimmy and Dess drove up to the gravesite to see it. Upon seeing it, we knew it had significant importance to this area from the 1700's. We obtained permission from a relative to move the rock and place it in the Cairo Library for display and safe keeping. Miss Wessie Connell was glad to have it because of its history. Sometime that year, I took it to the F.S.U. anthropology department to have it analyzed. They felt that it was authentic.

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Dess. F. Oliver, II
(706) 746-2237

Dess Oliver II
962 Wolffork Rd
Rabun Gap, GA 30568
(706) 746-2237

To Whom It May Concern
RE: Blowing Cave Rock

100d CB
4 M. BAGS

Copied from D.A.R. record of Mrs. Dorothy
Thompson McIlvaine

HISTORY OF HAWTHORNE TRAIL

In 1818 there sat together in the Georgia Legislature one William Leonard Hawthorne from Lumpkin County and one Mr. Collier from Early County. In conversation Mr. Collier told Mr. Hawthorne of the wonderful wire-grass and long-leafed pines, and the big-kneed cypress that stood like grand monarchs as guards over the southwest lands of Georgia; he told of the unlimited store of turpentine within the heart of these Virgin pines, of the countless feet of lumber that shadowed the wire-grass, whose nutrition for cattle was incalculable.

This conversation dwelt in the mind of William Hawthorne, and, after the Legislature had adjourned, he returned to his mountain home with visions of the wire-grass region of southwest Georgia. To satiate that restless vision, he proposed to his wife and sons that they make a journey to this land that Mr. Collier had so graphically described, and suiting actions to the word, ~~that he~~ ^{They set} out and in time reached the "land of his vision." They remained two years, when, in response to a business call, Mr. Hawthorne, his wife and youngest son returned to Lumpkin lea, and it was on this return trip that he blazed the way, which to this day is called the Hawthorne Trail. He stayed in Lumpkin lea long enough to make a crop when again a restless desire for the wire-grass region siezed him, whereupon he sold his lands and crops without being gathered, and returned to the section of Early County then, now known as Grady. On this return he brought all his belongings, cattle, and one hundred negro slaves, following the trail that he had blazed the year before, making a passable road by felling trees and crudely bridging streams, which was not such a gigantic undertaking with the one hundred slaves.

L. Mrs. D. M. Th...

We are told that the road from Dahlonega to Albany was already passable, but the rest of the way was a veritable wilderness of cypress trees, massy sloughs, and tangled underbrush of ferns, palmettoes, etc.

On Christmas Eve, 1821, this William Hawthorne reached his destination. He built a bon-fire on the banks of the little river, which he called "Tired Creek", because all his family, cattle and slaves were so worn by the long tedious journey.

This trail for which our chapter is named, is the present thorough-fare from Albany to Tallahassee, Florida, running directly through our County seat, Camilla, and known as Scott Street.

Along its way are many beautiful avenues, known as Lovers' Lanes, skirted on each side by the native live oak trees, draped with the historic Spanish moss, in many places almost touching the ground.

the "Land of Flowers" as attractive as had been pictured to him, and so he returned to Southwest Georgia and built his home, in which we are now living. Few repairs to this place have been necessary, as the house was strongly and well built more than one hundred years ago. My grandfather William, and his brother Elias, were both Primitive Baptist preachers, who preached somewhere every Sunday, and worked diligently through the week days. Both are buried in the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) Church, near the Hawthorne Trail and the old home. The other brother went to Texas and established a town, named Hawthorne for himself."

Recently this historian, in company with my daughter Ealyn Spence and Mrs. W. G. Twitty of Pelham, made a pilgrimage to Sofega to visit the grave of William Hawthorne whom I hold in reverence for having made history through Mitchell County. We found this inscription which marks the earthly resting place of that hero of the earlier days: "Elder William Hawthorne, Born 1762, died May 15, 1845, Age 84 years."

LEGEND OF THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

In the early days of Georgia history, even before the records were beginning to be made, there lived on the border line between North Carolina and Georgia, a sturdy pioneer who had wandered away from his home and family in Salem, Mass. History says that this pioneer was none other than the brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the great Romance writer of New England. William Hawthorne was his name, and in the very early part of the 19th Century, about 1802, this William Hawthorne settled in the mountain recesses of the Blue Ridge that skirts Northern Georgia. As is known, this was the primeval range of the Cherokee Indians, and in time Hawthorne became on friendly terms with the Chief of his neighbors. One of the family of Hawthorne was a beautiful daughter, who from occasional meetings, had learned to know and love one of the Cherokee sons. There was little in common between Hawthorne and the Indians, so he forbade his daughter receiving the attentions of the Chief's son, but as is always the way with youths, they dared to thwart the commands of parent Hawthorne and planned an escape to the Land of Flowers, about which they were beginning to hear. On one stormy night they slipped away, both riding the same horse. On and on they went, making sure their hiding for several weeks. By and by the father

and her brothers set out in pursuit of the truant lovers, learning they had spent a night in Dahlonega, Ga., thence on they followed them to Tallahassee, Florida. On reaching the Florida township, Mr. Hawthorne was told that his daughter and her Indian lover had retreated and were then in hiding at a certain house not far from what is now known as Imonia Lake. Infuriated at this information, the father and brothers retraced their steps, and sure enough found the daughter and her lover domiciled in the house. The Indian lover, determined that his sweetheart should not be taken from him, murdered her and then himself. Locked in death's embrace they were found by father Hawthorne, who, brokenhearted, returned to his mountain home, following the trail he had blazed on his search for his now lamented daughter.

After many months, so overcome with worry and grief, Hawthorne could not live contentedly in the mountains of the Blue Ridge. Together with his family, his slaves, his cattle, he returned to Southwest Georgia by the same trail in 1818 and which has ever since been known as "The Hawthorne Trail."

On Christmas Eve 1821 it was, this family reached the little river they called Sofega (Tired Creek); here they camped - his family, his slaves, his cattle - all worn by the long, tedious journey.

The Hawthornes lived for many years in the house in which his daughter was murdered by her Indian lover, and which to this good day is known as "the haunted house." After the Hawthornes moved away no one would live in the house. Tradition says that a woman's screams, slamming of doors, creaking of windows, can be heard from dark till dawn, and such a feeling of horror comes over all who go there, no one ever cares to revisit the "haunted house."

And thus I have told you the story as it was told to me - the legend of the Hawthorne Trail.



VALDOSTA STATE COLLEGE

A SENIOR UNIT OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

April 16, 1965

Mr. R. S. Roddenbery
Moultrie, Georgia

Dear Mr. Roddenbery:

Please pardon my delay in answering your letters, but obligations here at the college have prevented me from doing the research necessary to answer them adequately. With reference to Elder William Hawthorne, I am including the information which is found on his tombstone located in the cemetery at Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church. In your first letter you stated that Elder Hawthorne settled in the vicinity of Sofkee in 1819. This information is incorrect. The Hawthorne Trail was blazed from central Georgia to Florida in 1818 by Elder Hawthorne; however, he returned to Pulaski County, Georgia, where he resided and served in the State Legislature as a Senator from that county during the years 1819-1821. He did not move and establish a settlement on Tired Creek until sometime between 1821 and 1822. I do not know the exact time that he moved to this region. The first documentary evidence which I have been able to locate of his being in this region is the fact that he served in the Presbytery when Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church was constituted, Sept. 2, 1826. This church is the oldest church of any denomination in the southwest part of the state. Elder Hawthorne served in the State Legislature from Decatur County as late as 1827, and much of his political activity during this time can be found in documents in the State Archives. It is also interesting to note that Elder Hawthorne resided in Georgia a number of years before migrating to the southern part of the state. He had served as a State Senator from Twiggs County as early as 1814, and was a member of the Hephzibah Baptist Association of Georgia even before then, for in 1813, he and an Elder Pearce refused to support the missionary movement which was then being formulated. (History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia, Harrison and Co., Atlanta; page 87) I have tried in vain to determine the exact time he moved from North Carolina; however, I have seen marriage records in the North Carolina State Archives which indicate he resided there as late as 1810.

As for the southern terminus of the Hawthorne Trail, I cannot say. Apparently it must have been in the vicinity of the present day communities of Calvary, Georgia, and Concord, Florida. So numerous were the families from North Carolina that settled in Calvary that early maps of the state designate the village as "Little North Carolina".



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BEN W. FORTSON, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SURVEYOR-GENERAL DEPARTMENT
1516 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA 9, GEORGIA

July 14, 1959

Mr. R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Moultrie, Georgia

3

Dear Mr. Roddenbery:

It occurred to me, after exhausting every other source, that the book done by the W. P. A., GEORGIA, AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES, just might have something on the Hawthorne Trail, since you said it once had a marker. Sure enough, on page 394 cites the following: "Camilla, former seat of Mitchell County, was laid out in 1857. The county was named for David B. Mitchell, Governor of Georgia, and the town, for his daughter. The marker in the center of the main street designates the SITE OF THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL, blazed in 1818 by William Hawthorne when he was seeking a short route from North Carolina to Florida. Two years later he made a trip over the trail, broadened it, and settled with his family near Cairo".

marker placed in Pulaski Co 1823

1940

Obviously, they must have gotten this information from the data on the marker, but it's anybody's guess as to how accurate it is. From this I checked Miss Mary's material on the files on the Hawthornes, and have made copies of all of it. It may help some - together with other material you may have.

I checked the original lists of registration of those who drew in the 1827 Land Lottery, and found a William Hawthorne, Revolutionary Soldier, living in Decatur County, drawing land lot 136 in the third district of Carroll County. It was granted May 24, 1837. William Hawthorne, Revolutionary Soldier, living in Putnam County, drew land lot 155 in the seventh of Lee, being granted July 7, 1827. Then I found that Martha Houston had listed in her REPRINT, 1827 LOTTERY, William HATHORN. John Hawthorn, living in Twiggs drew land lot 328 in the eighteen of Early, and 158 in the seventh of Gwinnett - in the 1820 Lottery. He was also a Revolutionary Soldier. Incidentally, the first or 1805 Lottery is the only one in which we have the names of those ENTITLED to draw. After the State had authorized the Justices of the Inferior Courts to draw up this first list, they abandoned the project, and we have only those who actually did draw in the other five Lotteries.

In this first Land Lottery of 1805, there is a George Rottenbery, living in Liberty and entitled to two draws. One was a blank, but the other gave him land lot 175 in the second of Baldwin. Since only widows with children, and married men with wife and/or child were entitled to two draws, we know that he was married at that time. The only other two classifications were a bachelor who could have one draw, and an orphan or family of orphans who could have one draw. All four of these classifications had to have lived in Georgia a year prior to the drawing, and be a United States citizen. I am enclosing some mimeographed sheets which Mr. Hitz,

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This is Mary's
Hawthorn
a Senator
from Decatur

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*On Hawthorne
Trail marker*

July 17, 1959

Mr. R. S. Roddenbery Jr
Moultrie, Georgia

Dear Mr. Roddenbery;

Your letter of the 13th was forwarded to me here, thus the delay in answering.

The Hawthorne Trail marker was moved several years ago to the intersection of the Cairo-Camilla road and the Bainbridge Camilla Road. I do not remember the inscription but I am writing a friend of my to copy the inscription and mail to you.

Mrs. J. M. Spence of Camilla wrote a History of Mitchell County several years ago and I believe this History will give you full information of the Trail. I will try to locate a copy and mail to you.

If you ^{NEED} any more information that I might be able to get, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely

Forrest L. Lewis Jr.

Forrest L. Lewis Jr



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Hawthorne Trail

Judge R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.
Small Claims Court of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia

My dear Judge Roddenbery:

Someone from your office came into the library a week or so ago and did some research for you. When she left she asked that we write you should we be able to locate information about Beachton, Reno, Sofkee and a map of the Hawthorne Trail blazed in 1818 from North Carolina to Florida.

Hawthorne Trail

All we found about the three places is a listing in An Expansible List of Georgia Place-Names compiled by Edward Dawson. The Georgia State College for Women, Milledgeville, Georgia which gives Grady county as the location of each.

I have seen a map in archives showing Hawthorne Trail into Grady Mitchell Co. but no further north

We have not been able to locate a map showing the Hawthorne Trail and after checking with both the Georgia Historical Commission and the Department of Archives and History we are of the opinion that one does not exist. We did find a reference to that trail in Georgia, A Guide to its Towns and Countryside revised and extended by George G. Leckie, Atlanta, Tupper & Love, c.1954, p.276 and in Proceedings of the Twenty-First (Victory) Conference of the Georgia Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in Georgia held in Albany 1919, p. 141-142 as well as two or three pages in Synopsis of the History of Mitchell County, Georgia by Mrs. J. M. Spence, 1933 which begins, "The Hawthorne Trail which leads from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, comes into Mitchell County at where River Bend Park is now located. It very closely follows the present paved Dixie Highway as far as Camilla ...".

If you wish to see these titles and they are not available in the library there in Moultrie, perhaps the regional library could borrow them for you on intralibrary loan.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Allen Swain
Mrs. John G. Lewis
Reference & Reader Services

Grady County Historical Society, Inc.

1 North Broad, P. O. Box 586, Cairo, GA 31728

Administrative Assistant

Job Description

Perform any combination of clerical duties requiring knowledge of general office procedures and use of computers and other office equipment.

Responsibilities

- Greet visitors
- Ensure donations, memberships, and sales are recorded and filed properly
- Maintain inventory of office equipment, furniture, misc. office supplies
- Record receipt of non-cash items and maintain inventory
- Answer telephone calls, direct calls and take messages
- Maintain records on incoming and outgoing correspondence
- Prepare, mail and file letters, documents and packages
- Collect information for Society events, programs and newsletters
- Assist in preparation and mailing of newsletters
- Update website
- Assist committees with scheduled meetings and events

Education

Associated degree or an equivalent combination of training and experience

Qualifications

- Ability to use QuickBooks; E-mail; Internet; MS Excel, Outlook, Word, and Publisher; Telephone
- Familiar with general bookkeeping tasks.
- Ability to lift and carry a minimum of 30 pounds
- Willingness to complete tasks and take on new responsibilities
- Show initiative
- Be reliable and thorough
- Able to interact pleasantly and courteously with both the public and fellow employees.

Salary/Wage Range

\$8.00 to \$12.00 per hour commensurate with experience

Number of hours

20 hours per week



REPRODUCING THE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH OF A CANE PATCH TAKEN ON RODDENBERY PLANTATION IN 1891

W. B. RODDENBERY COMPANY

INCORPORATED
QUALITY PACKERS SINCE 1891

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

October 30, 1974

Chamber of Commerce
Hawkinsville, Georgia

Dear Sirs:

Down here in what is now Grady County we have the Southern end of the William Hawthorne Trail. The Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter at Camilla has a marble marker on this trail advising he blazed it in 1818. It's generally recognized that the date of 1818 could be in error and it was a little later but he may have made his first trip at that time and came again when he settled a few miles South of Cairo.

A native of Cairo has done some research work on this fine man and he did at one time live in Pulaski County and was an official of your County if the records the writer reads is correct.

What I'm writing to you about and I would thank you to pass it on to a Historical Society if you have one or to some elderly person who would know what I asked about and the question is below.

Is there any road leading out from Hawkinsville, south or southwesterly, that is known as the Hawthorne Trail? Or is there any road known as Hawthorne Trail? I know you have another very famous road and I have an idea that was the road traveled by pioneers or old settlers and that you know little about Hawkinsville but we would like very much to know if it is recognized there as a road or trail of the first half of the 19th Century, that is 1800 to 1840 or '50.

I enclose self-addressed envelope for your convenience in replying.

Yours truly,

W. B. Roddenbery Company Inc.

W. B. Roddenbery
J. B. Roddenbery

JBR:reo
Enc.

No road leading out of Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, is known as Hawthorne. There is a Blackshier Trail, the road leading from Hawkinsville to Vienna Ga.--but no Hawthorne.

Appreciate your interest.

C.T. Kimberly/

X not needed

*P3
OAB3
515*

COUNCIL OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES
STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICERS
1973-74

ROBERT CULPEPPER, JR.
PRESIDENT
CAMILLA, GEORGIA

HAROLD BANKE
VICE PRESIDENT
JONESBORO, GEORGIA

ELMO HOLT
SEC. AND TREAS.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

J. B. O'CONNOR
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.
MCRAE, GEORGIA

*1945 a splendid Superior Court Judge
now semi-retired*

Saturday
May 18, 1974

Dear Julian,

In response to your inquiry on the background of the "Hawthorne Trail", hand you a copy from notes made by our original historian, Mrs. J. M. Spence, which was in our local library. Do not know how factual this is, but it was put together many, many years ago.

over mail E.W. Em said you had some information about Mrs. W. B. Bostwick's having lived in Eufaula and Columbia. We recently attended the Eufaula Heritage, which is a home tour (annual) of many year's vintage, and it is a fascinating experience with so many of the old homes restored. It would be appreciated if you would send us copy of what you have about this, as we plan to return next year to this occasion.

Our very best to all of your good family !

Sincerely,

[Signature]

PS Another version of the Hawthorne Trail is found in the DAR records, also in our Library, and is enclosed.



VALDOSTA STATE COLLEGE

A SENIOR UNIT OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

*was to be built
here was*

*was not extended to Pelham -
did not go further north
than Cairo -*

I have very little information at present on the Pelham and Havana Railroad, especially the exact dates of its existence. The Kelly-Clark Lumber Company had originally built a network of tram roads over the county to haul logs to their sawmill located at Gradyville. Later some of these trams were widened and a full gauge railroad was built from Cairo to Havana, and shortly afterwards was extended to Pelham. Side-tracks were located at Reno (which had its genesis with the coming of the railroad), at the Maxwell Crossing, and at Calvary. I do not know the owners who incorporated this railroad. There were several log trains in operation but only one freight-passenger train. I am told that a Mr. Bailey was conductor of the freight-passenger train during the entire time of its operation.

In as much as I am in the process of completing a Ph. D. dissertation I am having to hold my research in Grady County history in abeyance. I hope to be able to resume my work in this area in the very near future. My training in the sciences has taught me to be very cautious about distinguishing between authentic facts and fiction. I hope that you are likewise aware of the importance of accurate historical writing and will endeavor to include in your proposed Genesis of Cairo only authentic information which can be verified by documentation.

If I can aid you further, I will be glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne R. Faircloth

Wayne R. Faircloth

From A HISTORY OF MITCHELL COUNTY by Mrs. J. M. Spence (1933).

This history has never been published, but a copy of the manuscript is on file in the Camilla Public Library, and the Librarian gave us a copy of what Mrs. Spence wrote about THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL and legend of the Hawthorne Trail. Much of this is simply legend and not substantiated by the facts, but there are many authenticated facts stated therein. For one thing, we know William Hawthorne (born 1762) who blazed this trail was not a brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne (born 1804), the New England writer who was author of "The Scarlet Letter" and other classics, though they may have been distantly related.

Mrs. Spence refers to "the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) Church". This may have been its name but residents of Grady County call it "Sofkee" and there was once a post office there named "Sofkee".

We have a photocopy of a land grant, dated 24 May 1837, from the State of Georgia to William Hawthorne, R.S. (Revolutionary Soldier) of Hawthorn's District, Decatur County. This was the William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail. The grant was for 202½ acres in the 3rd District and 5th Section of Carroll County, which he drew in the 1824-1825 Land Lottery. William Hawthorne sold this land without ever having lived upon it. The grant is recorded on microfilm in the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta. We are giving this photocopy to the Cairo Public Library. Following is what Mrs. J. M. Spence wrote:

PUBLIC ROADS

When Mitchell County was created in 1857 there were public roads, but as compared with the roads of 1933 (when Mrs. Spence wrote this) they were only narrow trails. These three were known as the Florida Stage Road, the Hawthorne Trail, and the River Stage Road. As historian of Mitchell County my purpose is to trace these roads only from the Northern to the Southern boundary of the County as they ran almost North and South.

* * * * *

THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

The Hawthorne Trail which leads from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, comes into Mitchell County at where River Bend Park is now located. It very closely follows the present paved Dixie Highway as far as Camilla, at which point the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter placed a handsome granite marker to designate the direct trail of where he blazed the way in 1818. Continuing from Camilla this trail leads by the O. P. Sapp home, the old homes of the Wests, Spences, Kemps, Cochrans, Wilsons, Smiths, and Hughes, on to Mount Olive Church and the homes of the Godwins, McElvins and Butlers into Grady County, through Cairo to the old Hawthorne home place. It is a matter of history that five generations of Hawthornes have lived at this old home place, just off the Trail, near Sofega Church (Tired Creek), since it was first settled more than one hundred years ago. From the CAMILLA ENTERPRISE of February 19, 1929, we quote the following: "On February 9, 1929, William Hawthorne, Sr. (grandson of the William Hawthorne who blazed the Trail), his son, and a grandson, all of whom are now living at the old family homestead near Cairo, Ga., which was built and formerly occupied by William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, in 1818. Those men visited Camilla to see the D.A.R. marker erected in memory of their ancestor. The elder Hawthorne said, 'We have come to see this stone which honors our brave scion. I recall the story that has been handed down from fathers to sons through many years — that the first William Hawthorne went down into Florida with the thought of settling there, but did not find the 'Land of Flowers' as attractive as had been pictured to him, and so he returned to Southwest Georgia and built his

home, in which we are now living. Few repairs to this place have been necessary, as the house was strongly and well built over one hundred years ago. My grandfather William and his brother Elias were both Primitive Baptist preachers, who preached somewhere every Sunday and worked diligently through the week days. Both are buried in the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) Church, near the Hawthorne Trail and the old home. The other brother went to Texas and established a town, named Hawthorne for himself".

Recently this historian, in company with my daughter Emily Spence and Mrs. W. C. Twitty of Pelham, made a pilgrimage to Sofega to visit the grave of William Hawthorne whom I hold in reverence for having made history through Mitchell County. We found this inscription which marks the earthly resting place of that hero of earlier days: "Elder William Hawthorne, Born 1762, died May 15, 1845, Age 84 years".

LEGEND OF THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

In the early days of Georgia history, even before the records were beginning to be made, there lived on the border between North Carolina and Georgia a sturdy pioneer who had wandered away from his home and family in Salem, Massachusetts. History says that this pioneer was none other than the brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne [this is hardly true] the great ~~writer~~ Romance writer of New England. William Hawthorne was his name, and in the early part of the 19th century, about 1802, this William Hawthorne settled in the mountain recesses of the Blue Ridge that skirts Northern Georgia. As is known, this was the primeval range of the Cherokee Indians, and in time Hawthorne became on friendly terms with the Chief of his neighbors. One of the family of Hawthorne was a beautiful daughter who, from occasional meetings, had learned to know and love one of the Cherokee sons. There was little in common between Hawthorne and the Indians, so he forbade his daughter receiving the attentions of the Chief's son but, as is always the way with youth, they dared to thwart the commands of parent Hawthorne and planned to escape to the Land of Flowers, about which they were beginning to hear. On one stormy night they slipped away, making sure their hiding for several weeks. By and by the father and her brothers set out in pursuit of the truant lovers, learning they had spent a night in Dahlonega, Georgia, thence on they followed them to Tallahassee, Florida. On reaching the Florida township, Mr. Hawthorne was told that his daughter and her Indian lover had retreated and were then in hiding at a certain house not far from what is now known as Imonia Lake [half way between Cairo, Ga. and Tallahassee, Fla.]. Infuriated at this information, the father and brothers retraced their steps, and sure enough found the daughter and her lover domiciled in the house. The Indian lover, determined that his sweetheart should not be taken from him, murdered her and then himself. Locked in death's embrace they were found by father Hawthorne, who, broken hearted, returned to his mountain home, following the trail he had blazed on his search for his now lamented daughter.

After many months, so overcome with worry and grief, Hawthorne could not live contentedly in the mountains of the Blue Ridge. Together with his family, his slaves, his cattle, he returned to Southwest Georgia by the same trail ~~which he had blazed~~ [he had blazed] in 1818 and which has ever since been known as "The Hawthorne Trail."

On Christmas Eve, 1821, it was, this family reached the little river they called Sofega (Tired Creek); here they camped — his family, his slaves, his cattle — all worn by the long tedious journey.

The Hawthornes lived for many years in the house in which his daughter was murdered by her Indian lover, and which to this good day is known as the "haunted house." After the Hawthornes moved away no one would live in the house. Tradition says that a woman's screams, slamming of doors, creaking of windows, can be heard from dark till dawn, and such a feeling of horror comes over all who go there, no one ever cares to revisit the "haunted house".

And thus I have told you the story as it was told to me — the legend of the Hawthorne Trail."

This ends the account in Mrs. Spense's History of Mitchell County.

Note: Imonia Lake is 25 miles or more south of Cairo and not in proximity to Sofkee (or Sofega). The story of Hawthorne living in the "haunted house" where his daughter is supposed to have been murdered is pure myth, without fact or reason to support such a belief. The whole story of the Indian love affair may also be fictitious.

In a "Sketch of Decatur County, Georgia" by Chas. J. Munneryn, dated Nov. 9, 1876, published May 30, 1940, in Bainbridge-Post Searchlight, it is stated: "In 1824 Bainbridge was made the county site and precincts were established there and at Captain Hawthorne's in the 19th district". Captain Jonathan Cleburn Hawthorne was a son of William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail. Under subject of "Early Settlements", C. J. Munneryn wrote: "Tired Creek was first settled by Wm. Hawthorn and his son, Jonathan, the Emanuels, Abner Bishop, John Jones, Wm. Clark, Jere Bell, and Wm. Williams". The Tired Creek district and settlement was then in the southeastern part of Decatur County, bordering on the Thomas County line. It is now south of Cairo in Grady County.

The above Capt. Jonathan ~~the~~ Cleburn Hawthorne was in command of the Decatur County Guards (militia of Georgia), 1836-1838, during the Indian Wars in southern Georgia and northern Florida. We secured photocopies of seven of his letters to Governor William Schley written in these three years, one of which contains a roster of the officers and men who composed the Decatur County Guards, the originals of which are in Georgia Department of Archives and History. In one of these letters (Sept. 15, 1836) Captain Jonathan C. Hawthorne said: "I live on the East side of Decatur and adjoining the pine woods of Thomas County 2½ miles of this post office (Tired Creek)". This Tired Creek post office was then located at the confluence of Tired Creek and Ochlochnee River (southeast of the present Cairo) and it is not to be confused with the Tired Creek post office (in existence from June 24, 1856 to January 5, 1867) that was located in the Samuel Braswell home 3½ miles northwest of the present Cairo. We are giving the photocopies of these letters to the Cairo Public Library.

Hawthorne Trail crossed the Bainbridge-Thomasville stage road (now U.S. Highway No. 84) at what has been known for many years as "Cross Roads", 2 miles north of the railroad station in Cairo, and continued southward along what is now Broad Street in Cairo.

This is error - it crossed the stage road road about 3 miles from Cairo + 1 mile further east. R. S. Roddenbery, Jr. 9-16-1959.

INSCRIPTION ON HAWTHORNE TRAIL MARKER



HAWTHORNE TRAIL

BLAZED 1818

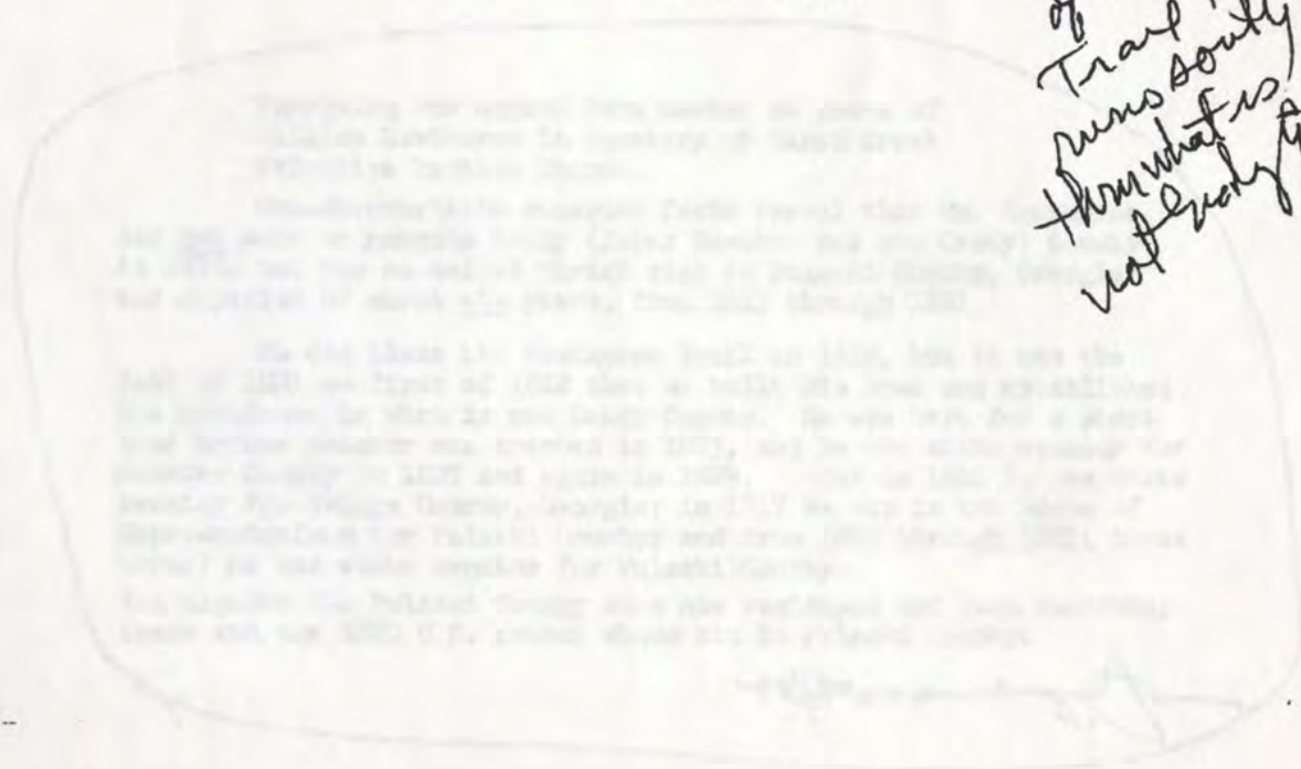
MARKED 1923 by

HAWTHORNE TRAIL CHAPTER

AND GEORGIA SOCIETY, D.A.R.

This
marble
crack

is
stone
marker
still stain
on southern
edge of bently
on west side
of Hawthorne
Trail that
runs south
from what is
not really a



WILLIAM HAWTHORNE (1762-1846)

1846
84

1762

On obverse: (inscription on original marker)

In Memory of Elder

Wm. Hawthorne

Died May 15, 1846

Age 84 Years

*Please to
return
to
N. R. K. Jr.*

On reverse:

Elder William Hawthorne moved here (Early County, now Grady) from Roberson City, North Carolina, in 1818, after a brief stay in Pulaski County, Georgia. The route he blazed on his way here is now known as the "Hawthorne Trail". He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and received land grants for his services. He helped in the formation of Decatur County and served as one of its Senators in 1827. He, along with Elder William McElvy, formed the Presbytery which constituted Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church on Sept. 2, 1826. He served as the first pastor for twenty years until his death. This memorial erected by the members and friends of Tired Creek Church, May, 1957.

Foregoing was copied from marker at grave of William Hawthorne in cemetery of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Uncontrovertible recorded facts reveal that Wm. Hawthorne did not move to ~~Early~~ Early (later Decatur and now Grady) County in 1818. And the so-called "brief stay in Pulaski County, Georgia" was a period of about six years, from 1815 through 1821.

He did blaze the Hawthorne Trail in 1818, but it was the last of 1821 or first of 1822 that he built his home and established his residence in what is now Grady County. He was here for a short time before Decatur was created in 1823, and he was state senator for Decatur County in 1827 and again in 1829. But in 1814 he was state senator for Twiggs County, Georgia; in 1817 he was in the House of Representatives for Pulaski County; and from 1819 through 1821 (three terms) he was state senator for Pulaski County.

Tax digests for Pulaski County show his residence and land ownership there and the 1820 U.S. census shows him in Pulaski County.

W. R. K. Jr.

790 U.S. Census, Fayette District, Robeson County, N.C.
William Hawthorne + 2^{white} females + 1 slave -

50 John Hawthorne + 1 m. over 16 yrs, 2 m. under 16 yrs; 3 females + 9 slaves

59 Kedar ... 1 m. under 16 yrs. + 2 females + 0 slaves

HAWTHORNE TRAIL

A 150 year old grave in front of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Southwest Grady County marks the final resting place of Elder William Hawthorne credited with establishing the romantic Hawthorne Trail in Grady County.

Elder Hawthorne and his family had moved to Pulaski County, Georgia, from Bladen County, North Carolina, in the early 1800's. Many of the early pioneers of Southwest Georgia had followed the route south from the South Carolina line near Augusta, Georgia, to the Macon area along old Indian trails.

Around 1824, Hawthorne and his family continued south by the Flint River branching off from what had been called the Federal Trail near Baconton in Mitchell County. From that point on his trail south would be christened the Hawthorne Trail in Elder Hawthorne's honor. The route ran close to present day U.S.19 to Camilla and down GA 112 to Tired Creek Church (Methodist) north of Cairo. The trail then followed the western city limits of GA 111 and then southwest to Sofkee Creek. Eventually the Trail entered Gadsden County, Florida, and ended in Tallahassee.

The Hawthorne family settled along Sofkee Creek where Elder Hawthorne established the Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church and served as its first minister. The church remains active today, 164 years after its founding.

William Hawthorne became a prominent citizen in old Decatur County and represented the county as a State Senator. His sons settled nearby and there are many Hawthornes residing in South Georgia today as a living testimony to the Hawthorne Trail.

An early Georgia legend of why the Hawthornes treked south told of a Hawthorne daughter living in North Georgia who met the handsome son of a Cherokee Chief and ran away with him after Elder Hawthorne forbade their relationship. As the story goes, they fled to a spot south of Cairo and when Hawthorne and his sons found them they were locked in "death's embrace" fearing a forced separation. After returning north, Hawthorne was so overcome by grief that he returned down the trail he had blazed following his daughter with his family to settle near the scene of the tragedy.

Whatever the reason, the Hawthorne Trail still bisects the fertile farms, forests, and creeks of Mitchell and Grady Counties. It passes church sites and graveyards immersed in history and reveals the natural virtues of a land that has supported its hard working and respectful inhabitants.

HAWTHORNE TRAIL

Much of the history of Hawthorne Trail is obscure and shrouded in tradition, some of it pure fiction, and some accounts inaccurate. No maps show it by name and there is no accurate delineation or description of its entire route. But some pertinent facts concerning it are of record, and other recorded facts belie some of the stories about it. It was perhaps the first north and south road through what is now Grady County, first blazed and traversed by William Hawthorne in 1818 when this territory was part of the original Early County, and incorporated into Decatur County in 1823.

One published account [p. 395, Georgia, A Guide to its Towns and Countryside] printed in 1940 under a program of the Works Projects Administration, stated: "The Hawthorne Trail was blazed in 1818 by William Hawthorne when he was seeking a short route from North Carolina to Florida. Two years later he made a trip over the trail, broadened it, and settled with his family near Cairo". Another account in A Synopsis of the History of Mitchell County by Mrs. J. M. Spence, published in 1933, states that the trail was blazed in 1818, extended from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, and describes its route through Mitchell County and into Grady County, and further states that the trail went "through Cairo to the old Hawthorne home place". It appears that the trail did extend through what later became the town of Camilla, and in 1929 the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a granite marker designating the present Camilla as one point on Hawthorne Trail. Neither of these published accounts seem to be entirely true, but only in part. It appears quite certain that Hawthorne did not blaze a virgin trail all the way from North Carolina to Florida, and the trail did not run directly through what later became Cairo but skirted it on the west thereof.

Considerably more information about William Hawthorne [born 1762 - died 1846], a soldier in the Revolutionary War, is gained from the inscription on the monument at his grave near Sofkee, southwest of Cairo at the location of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist church and cemetery, which monument was erected in May 1957 by members and friends of that Church. It records that he resided for a time in Pulaski County, Georgia, before establishing his final home in what is now Grady County. Other records reveal that he owned 2383 acres of land in Pulaski County, that he settled there before 1818 and resided there at least as late as 1820. The 1818 Tax Digest for Pulaski County shows he then owned 1923 acres of pine land and 460 acres of oak and hickory land in District No. 7, and also one Negro slave, on all of which he paid \$2.64 as taxes for that year. Furthermore, the 1820 U.S. Census recorded him as head of a family then residing in Pulaski County.

From the inscription on the monument at his grave, from public records and all other accounts, some recorded in newspapers, the following appears to be the true story of the Hawthorne Trail and the man for whom it was named. Sometime before 1818, William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, migrated from Roberson City [or Robersonville], North Carolina, to Pulaski County, Georgia. There was no necessity for blazing a trail for this journey because established roads were already in existence.

While a resident of Pulaski County, William Hawthorne headed an expedition into southwestern Georgia, and perhaps into Florida [then a Spanish colony which was ceded to the United States in 1821 and became a State in 1845]. They were seeking new lands and new homes and they blazed their trail as they went. The size and composition of the party is not recorded but it appears that Hawthorne was the leader. They traveled on horseback and camped along the trail, always avoiding crossing sizable streams when possible.

Sometime in 1818 they started from Pulaski County [not from North Carolina] and traveled southwestwardly through what are now the counties of Dooly, Crisp, Worth and Dougherty, always east of Flint River, to a point known as River Bend on east side of Flint River about the present boundry line between Dougherty and Mitchell counties, thence southward to the site of present Camilla, thence southwardly to and across what became the Thomasville and Bainbridge stage road [now U.S. highway No. 84] at a point about _____ miles northwest of what is now Cairo, and from thence still southwestward until they reached a sizable creek. Being exhausted from travel, they made camp at this spot and they named the stream Tired Creek. So it was not sluggishness of the stream but tiredness of the travelers that gave it the name. That point is some 6 miles southwest of what is now Cairo. The tradition is that the party continued on into Florida, as far as Tallahassee. Certainly they explored this territory in what is now Grady County because several of them later returned with their families and settled in this section.

William Hawthorne built his home near Sofkee near Tired Creek at a spot about 4 miles southwest of present Cairo. It was not built in a fortnight, or rapidly, because the materials were not readily at hand and it was well constructed of hewn lumber, and commodious, and served as his residence and that of four succeeding generations for more than a century and a quarter. The exact date the home was first occupied is unknown but it was probably in 1820 or 1821, soon after the 1820 Federal Census when the family was enumerated as residents of Pulaski County.

William Hawthorne was an active force in the creation and organization of Decatur County [in 1823] and in 1827 he was a state senator for the new county. He and his brother Elias were both Primitive Baptist preachers [or Elders]. We have made no investigation concerning the lives of the brothers Elias and Timothy but it is recorded that Timothy Hawthorne moved on to Texas and there settled and died. In 1826 Elders William Hawthorne and William McElvy formed the presbytery which constituted and organized Tired Creek [Sofkee] Primitive Baptist Church, and Elder Hawthorne served as its pastor for 20 years.

Jonathan C. Hawthorne, son of William, was captain of his militia district in southeastern Decatur County and was engaged in skirmishes with the Creek Indians in this territory in 1836. A grandson of Elder Hawthorne, also named William, visited the Hawthorne Trail marker in Camilla in February 1929 and The Camilla Enterprise of that date published an account of an interview with him concerning his grandfather and the ancestral home near Cairo, in which he then lived.

For some 30 years Dr. S. A. Roddenbery was family physician for the Hawthornes and visited in the old home many times, and the Doctor's son Robert also visited in the home when he was a teen-age boy. Though reputed to be "well fixed" financially, the Hawthornes lived a simple life, almost primitively, and the home was furnished with the barest of necessities.

Moultrie, Georgia
16 Sept. 1959.

Dear Julien:

I ~~have~~ attached on Hawthorne Trail
this day mailed to Miss Wessie Council.
I know you will be interested in it
but I think the Gudian love story
is pure "bull".

W.S.D.

This history has never been published but a copy of the manuscript is on file in the Camilla Public Library, and the Librarian gave us a copy of what Mrs. Spence wrote about THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL and legend of the Hawthorne Trail. Much of this is simply legend and not substantiated by the facts, but there are many authenticated facts stated therein. For one thing, we know William Hawthorne (born 1762) who blazed this trail was not a brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne (born 1804), the New England writer who was author of "The Scarlet Letter" and other classics, though they may have been distantly related.

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* * * * *

THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

The Hawthorne Trail which leads from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, comes into Mitchell County at where River Bend Park is now located. It very closely follows the present paved Dixie Highway as far as Camilla, at which point the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter placed a handsome granite marker to designate the direct trail of where he blazed the way in 1818. Continuing from Camilla this trail leads by the O. P. Sapp home, the old homes of the Wests, Spences, Kempes, Cochrans, Wilsons, Smiths, and Hughes, on to Mount Olive Church and the homes of the Godwins, McElvins and Butlers into Grady County, through Cairo to the old Hawthorne home place. It is a matter of history that five generations of Hawthornes have lived at this old home place, just off the Trail, near Sofega Church (Tired Creek), since it was first settled more than one hundred years ago. From the CAMILLA ENTERPRISE of February 19, 1929, we quote the following: "On February 9, 1929, William Hawthorne, Sr. (grandson of the William Hawthorne who blazed the Trail), his son, and a grandson, all of whom are now living at the old family homestead near Cairo, Ga., which was built and formerly occupied by William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, in 1818. These men visited Camilla to see the D.A.R. marker erected in memory of their ancestor. The elder Hawthorne said, 'We have come to see this stone which honors our brave scion. I recall the story that has been handed down from fathers to sons through many years — that the first William Hawthorne went down into Florida with the thought of settling there, but did not find the 'Land of Flowers' as attractive as had been pictured to him, and so he returned to Southwest Georgia and built his

*While this was true, but our
was Hawthorne stopped at
in some way
CO
Su*

home, in which we are now living. Few repairs to this place have been necessary, as the house was strongly and well built over one hundred years ago. My grandfather William and his brother Elias were both Primitive Baptist preachers, who preached somewhere every Sunday and worked diligently through the week days. Both are buried in the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) Church, near the Hawthorne Trail and the old home. The other brother went to Texas and established a town, named Hawthorne for himself' ".

Recently this historian, in company with my daughter Emily Spence and Mrs. W. C. Twitty of Pelham, made a pilgrimage to Sofega to visit the grave of William Hawthorne whom I hold in reverence for having made history through Mitchell County. We found this inscription which marks the earthly resting place of that hero of earlier days: "Elder William Hawthorne, Born 1762, died May 15, 1845, Age 84 years".

LEGEND OF THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

In the early days of Georgia history, even before the records were beginning to be made, there lived on the border between North Carolina and Georgia a sturdy pioneer who had wandered away from his home and family in Salem, Massachusetts. History says that this pioneer was none other than the brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne [this is hardly true] the great ~~author~~ Romance writer of New England. William Hawthorne was his name, and in the early part of the 19th century, about 1802, this William Hawthorne settled in the mountain recesses of the Blue Ridge that skirts Northern Georgia. As is known, this was the primeval range of the Cherokee Indians, and in time Hawthorne became on friendly terms with the Chief of his neighbors. One of the family of Hawthorne was a beautiful daughter who, from occasional meetings, had learned to know and love one of the Cherokee sons. There was little in common between Hawthorne and the Indians, so he forbade his daughter receiving the attentions of the Chief's son but, as is always the way with youth, they dared to thwart the commands of parent Hawthorne and planned to escape to the Land of Flowers, about which they were beginning to hear. On one stormy night they slipped away, making sure their hiding for several weeks. By and by the father and her brothers set out in pursuit of the truant lovers, learning they had spent a night in Dahlonega, Georgia, thence on they followed them to Tallahassee, Florida. On reaching the Florida township, Mr. Hawthorne was told that his daughter and her Indian lover had retreated and were then in hiding at a certain house not far from what is now known as Imonia Lake [half way between Cairo, Ga. and Tallahassee, Fla.]. Infuriated at this information, the father and brothers retraced their steps, and sure enough found the daughter and her lover domiciled in the house. The Indian lover, determined that his sweetheart should not be taken from him, murdered her and then himself. Locked in death's embrace they were found by father Hawthorne, who, broken hearted, returned to his mountain home, following the trail he had blazed on his search for his now lamented daughter.

After many months, so overcome with worry and grief, Hawthorne could not live contentedly in the mountains of the Blue Ridge. Together with his family, his slaves, his cattle, he returned to Southwest Georgia by the same trail ~~blazed~~ [he had blazed] in 1818 and which has ever since been known as "The Hawthorne Trail."

On Christmas Eve, 1821, it was, this family reached the little river they called Sofega (Tired Creek); here they camped — his family, his slaves, his cattle — all worn by the long tedious journey.

The Hawthornes lived for many years in the house in which his daughter was murdered by her Indian lover, and which to this good day is known as the "haunted house." After the Hawthornes moved away no one would live in the house. Tradition says that a woman's screams, slamming of doors, creaking of windows, can be heard from dark till dawn, and such a feeling of horror comes over all who go there, no one ever cares to revisit the "haunted house".

And thus I have told you the story as it was told to me -- the legend of the Hawthorne Trail."

This ends the account in Mrs. Spense's History of Mitchell County.

Note: Imonia Lake is 25 miles or more south of Cairo and not in proximity to Sofkee (or Sofega). The story of Hawthorne living in the "haunted house" where his daughter is supposed to have been murdered is pure myth, without fact or reason to support such a belief. The whole story of the Indian love affair may also be fictitious.

In a "Sketch of Decatur County, Georgia" by Chas. J. Munnerlyn, dated Nov. 9, 1876, published May 30, 1940, in Bainbridge-Post Searchlight, it is stated: "In 1824 Bainbridge was made the county site and precincts were established there and at Captain Hawthorne's in the 19th district". Captain Jonathan Cleburn Hawthorne was a son of William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail. Under subject of "Early Settlements", C. J. Munnerlyn wrote: "Tired Creek was first settled by Wm. Hawthorn and his son, Jonathan, the Emanuels, Abner Bishop, John Jones, Wm. Clark, Jere Bell, and Wm. Williams". The Tired Creek district and settlement was then in the southeastern part of Decatur County, bordering on the Thomas County line. It is now south of Cairo in Grady County.

The above Capt. Jonathan ~~is~~ Cleburn Hawthorne was in command of the Decatur County Guards (militia of Georgia), 1836-1838, during the Indian Wars in southern Georgia and northern Florida. We secured photocopies of seven of his letters to Governor William Schley written in these three years, one of which contains a roster of the officers and men who composed the Decatur County Guards, the originals of which are in Georgia Department of Archives and History. In one of these letters (Sept. 15, 1836) Captain Jonathan C. Hawthorne said: "I live on the East side of Decatur and adjoining the pine woods of Thomas County 2 1/2 miles of this post office (Tired Creek)". This Tired Creek post office was then located at the confluence of Tired Creek and Ochlochnee River (southeast of the present Cairo) and it is not to be confused with the Tired Creek post office (in existence from June 24, 1856 to January 5, 1867) that was located in the Samuel Braswell home 3 1/2 miles northwest of the present Cairo. We are giving the photocopies of these letters to the Cairo Public Library.

Hawthorne Trail crossed the Bainbridge-Thomasville stage road (now U.S. Highway No. 84) at what has been known for many years as "Cross Roads"; 2 miles north of the railroad station in Cairo, and continued southward along what is now Broad Street in Cairo.

This is correct - it crossed the Stage Coach road about 3 miles from Cairo + 1 mile further north.
R. S. Roddenbery, Jr. 9-16-1959.

An Old Letter of Indian Days.

~~XAN OLD INDIAN LETTER~~ To S. H. Truluck At home.

Sunday June 12th, 1836

Dear Sir -

An express arrived at Bainbridge yeasterday stating that there was a large body of Indians on this side of Chatahoochee River on their way to Floriday & that a party of whites from Stewart & Sumter Counties (on their way to join the army) which fell in with the Indians & was drawn into an ambuscade by only a few Indians showing themselves, 27 whites were killed, there is to be a meeting in Bainbridge to day for the purpose of concerting some plan of safty, Capt. Lester went on yesterday evening as an express to Tomasville & to try to get Volenteers.

Yours etc.,

Wm. Powell

The original of this letter is owned by the Trulock family in Whigham, Ga.

V.B.1.b.

Tired Creek Decatur County Dec 12

Decr 12th 1826.

Dear Sir

In consequence of the late ravages, and murders committed, by the Indians; on our neighbors. the inhabitants of this creek, and its vicinity, have collected and concluded to erect a temporary fortification for their present relief, We can raise thirty fighting men and shall be able to make a tolerable stand against a small party of Indians. But our property will be exposed to the ravages of Indians. And our men are unorganized; without officers and of course without discipline. Unless we receive some immediate relief from your hands, our situation will be desperate our life will be exposed to the savage torture of the Indians and our property either burnt or destroyed.

George M. Troup Gov.
of the State of Ga.

William Williams
Abner Bishop
John Pollock

On Inside
Letter
William Williams
Abner Bishop
John Pollock
1826

On Reverse

Hardford Ga)
Decr 17) 10

George M. Troup
Milledgeville

Communicated
to the Legislature
19 December 1826

Indian Depredations

Original letter on file in Georgia Department of Archives

HAWTHORNE TRAIL

A 150 year old grave in front of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Southwest Grady County marks the final resting place of Elder William Hawthorne credited with establishing the romantic Hawthorne Trail in Grady County.

Elder Hawthorne and his family had moved to Pulaski County, Georgia, from Bladen County, North Carolina, in the early 1800's. Many of the early pioneers of Southwest Georgia had followed the route south from the South Carolina line near Augusta, Georgia, to the Macon area along old Indian trails.

Around 1824, Hawthorne and his family continued south by the Flint River branching off from what had been called the Federal Trail near Baconton in Mitchell County. From that point on his trail south would be christened the Hawthorne Trail in Elder Hawthorne's honor. The route ran close to present day U.S.19 to Camilla and down GA 112 to Tired Creek Church (Methodist) north of Cairo. The trail then followed the western city limits of GA 111 and then southwest to Sofkee Creek. Eventually the Trail entered Gadsden County, Florida, and ended in Tallahassee.

The Hawthorne family settled along Sofkee Creek where Elder Hawthorne established the Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church and served as its first minister. The church remains active today, 164 years after its founding.

William Hawthorne became a prominent citizen in old Decatur County and represented the county as a State Senator. His sons settled nearby and there are many Hawthornes residing in South Georgia today as a living testimony to the Hawthorne Trail.--

An early Georgia legend of why the Hawthornes treked south told of a Hawthorne daughter living in North Georgia who met the handsome son of a Cherokee Chief and ran away with him after Elder Hawthorne forbade their relationship. As the story goes, they fled to a spot south of Cairo and when Hawthorne and his sons found them they were locked in "death's embrace" fearing a forced separation. After returning north, Hawthorne was so overcome by grief that he returned down the trail he had blazed following his daughter with his family to settle near the scene of the tragedy.

Whatever the reason, the Hawthorne Trail still bisects the fertile farms, forests, and creeks of Mitchell and Grady Counties. It passes church sites and graveyards immersed in history and reveals the natural virtues of a land that has supported its hard working and respectful inhabitants.

WILLIAM HAWTHORNE (1762-1846)

1846
84

1762

On obverse: (inscription on original marker)

In Memory of Elder

Wm. Hawthorne

Died May 15, 1846

Age 84 Years

*Please to
return
N.K.P.*

On reverse:

Elder William Hawthorne moved here (Early County, now Grady) from Roberson City, North Carolina, in 1818, after a brief stay in Pulaski County, Georgia. The route he blazed on his way here is now known as the "Hawthorne Trail". He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and received land grants for his services. He helped in the formation of Decatur County and served as one of its Senators in 1827. He, along with Elder William McElvy, formed the Presbytery which constituted Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church on Sept. 2, 1826. He served as the first pastor for twenty years until his death. This memorial erected by the members and friends of Tired Creek Church, May, 1957.

Foregoing was copied from marker at grave of William Hawthorne in cemetery of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Uncontrovertible recorded facts reveal that Wm. Hawthorne did not move to ~~Georgia~~ Early (later Decatur and now Grady) County in 1818. And the so-called "brief stay in Pulaski County, Georgia" was a period of about six years, from 1815 through 1821.

He did blaze the Hawthorne Trail in 1818, but it was the last of 1821 or first of 1822 that he built his home and established his residence in what is now Grady County. He was here for a short time before Decatur was created in 1823, and he was state senator for Decatur County in 1827 and again in 1829. But in 1814 he was state senator for Twiggs County, Georgia; in 1817 he was in the House of Representatives for Pulaski County; and from 1819 through 1821 (three terms) he was state senator for Pulaski County.

Tax digests for Pulaski County show his residence and land ownership there and the 1820 U.S. census shows him in Pulaski County.

W.S. ...

NAME	Fenn, Travis
YEAR	1810
FILE#	1
PAGES	2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	Administrator bond of \$3,000.00 issued to Mary Fenn and William Hawthorne as administrators of the Travis Fenn estate. Signatures of Mary Fenn, William Hawthorne, A. Wood, William Johnson and Amos Love.
NAME	Fenn, Travis
YEAR	1812
FILE#	4
PAGES	2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	Statement by administrators of the Fenn estate as to the amount of the June 20, 1812 sale of Fenn property. Total of \$201.31 and 3/4 cents. Signatures of William Hawthorne and Joseph Chaires.
NAME	Fenn, Travis
YEAR	1811
FILE#	6
PAGES	2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	Statement by administrator William Hawthorne as to amount of sales (\$607.37) of Fenn Property. Paper is captioned Twiggs County. William Hawthorne signature.
NAME	Fenn, Travis
YEAR	1811
FILE#	7
PAGES	2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	Statement by administrator William Hawthorne as to amount of itemized notes belonging to Fenn. Total \$607.37 . Notes show amount owed and by whom. William Hawthorne signature.
NAME	Fenn, Travis
YEAR	1809
FILE#	22
PAGES	2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	Travis Fenn \$34.67 promissory note given to Alexander Carter. Note taken up by William Hawthorne. Signatures of Travis Fenn and William Hawthorne.

NAME Fenn, Travis
YEAR 1812
FILE# 29
PAGES 1
DOCUMENT CONTENTS James Smith as deputy sheriff \$41.00 receipt to George Dykes for two executions in favor of Benjamin Chaires against William Hawthorne and Joseph Chaires. James Smith signature.

NAME Fenn, Travis
YEAR 1810
FILE# 37
PAGES 1
DOCUMENT CONTENTS Joshua Wood affidavit before William Hawthorne in Twiggs County, attesting that Travis Fenn owed him \$10.00 on a settlement. Signatures of Joshua Wood and Justice of Peace William Hawthorne.

NAME Fenn, Travis
YEAR 1817
FILE# 52
PAGES 2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS Attorney Samuel Rockwell \$50.00 receipt to William Hawthorne of the Fenn estate for his services in the case William Oneal versus Joseph Chairs. Money paid in Milledgeville in 1817. Signature of Samuel Rockwell.

NAME Fenn, Travis
YEAR 1813
FILE# 55
PAGES 2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS William Hawthorne accounting for the hire of Negroes, then the sale of Negroes, and rental of the plantation. Total income \$1365.87 and 1/2 cent. Said Mrs Fenn kept possession of the plantation until Jan. 1, 1811. Negroes were Mingo & Betty.

NAME Fenn, Travis
YEAR 1814
FILE# 56
PAGES 2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS William Hawthorne accounting of the Fenn estate. Return shows itemized expenses of \$259.93. Signatures of Justices of Inferior Court William Oneal, John Love, and Noah Stringer.

NAME	Manning, Willoby
YEAR	1817
FILE#	8
PAGES	2
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	Frances Manning, widow, \$56.00 bill to the estate for her boarding William Tydel, Rowell Reese, & Robert Pannel while they worked on the plantation in 1817. Signatures in Pulaski County by Frances Manning and William Hawthorne.

IN RE: WILLIAM HAWTHORNE

This man was first pioneer, from all that we know, that migrated southward within what is the United States to select ~~the~~ location, fell the trees, build a log home, clear the land of stumps by burning and digging, and then breaking land, likely with oxen and planting crops. And too, probably be good neighbor to the Indians that were the other inhabitants in the early 1800's.

What is being written here is to put in writing that some part of it may not be known by others and will give an appointed Editor an idea of how important William Hawthorne was to his community in what is now South Grady County.

William Hawthorne also, besides being a pioneer, was a minister of the Gospel, and an Elder in the Primitive Baptist Church of the time. His first church was necessarily built of logs and presumably on where the church of the present day is, and that log house was followed by a sawn lumber and painted building on what was likely an Indian Trail before it became a road, and this was within a few years after he selected his first home on the top of the hill after crossing, going south, the Big Tired Creek, but then only a creek for it was not named until the word passed down that William that day ~~surveyed~~ surveyed the land and the luxurious pine trees, and said "Here we will settle, for I am tired," and that's how that creek came to be known as Tired Creek, according to what is passed down through some sources.

William Hawthorne, on his southward trek, had trailed his way about two miles west of where the Cairo, Ga. courthouse is, and less than where the present western boundary of Cairo is, of course, likely less than a mile from that point.

The farming land around where he built his first house, and no doubt then a second one to follow, was three or four miles north of what in 1980 is the thriving rural town of Calvary, not now having a railroad for the one going through Calvary was discontinued. But it does now have a postoffice and likely is where William Hawthorne would get his mail should he now be living at his same farm.

This community of Calvary, with prosperous farmers all about in every direction, was known even in the lifetime of many people and even now to some extent, was called the "North Carolina Settlement" from whence Hawthorne and many other families did leave in search of a new land to develop and live in.

As usual or most often, a cemetery was started in the very yard of that first church which was named "Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church" and still bears that name. And many are the prominent pioneers of the middle and late 1800's living nearby who are buried in that cemetery and on the tombstones are preserved their names and years of life.

#2 Re: WILLIAM HAWTHORNE

And this area was, by considerable number of years, the first to be fully developed as a farming area with diversified farming in what is now Grady County.

Following the usual steps of the church built of logs, followed by sawed lumber when sawmills were in the area, and the third step was the handsome brick building that is now the home of the Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church whose first minister was William Hawthorne in the early years of the 1800's and the exact date no doubt is available.

And now it is more than 150 years since William Hawthorne did pitch the camp for himself and his followers at the top of the hill going southward and after crossing ~~Big Tired Creek~~ ^{Big Tired Creek}, and it is now 83-84 years since Grady County was established by vote of Georgia's Legislature on August 17, 1905, and not to leave out the village-town of Cairo when its population was less than 200 when it became an incorporated town in 1870, that being 118 years ago.

The Daughters of the American Revolution of Camilla, Ga., 25 miles directly north of Cairo, erected a monument years ago in the center of the town, that William Hawthorne passed that way in 1818, and that would be 170 years ago. However, that year could be two years later in 1820 when he came and settled.

It is interesting to note that on his passing through Camilla and very close to Cairo, Georgia's western city boundary ~~now~~ in 1818 was only about ten years after the United States General Andrew Jackson (later to become U. S. President) with many Indian Chiefs attending, arrived at a treaty with Jackson, and for the United States of America in 1809, and ceded by this treaty to the white man an area of Southern Georgia on which now is divided in to 34 Georgia counties counting these counties where the treaty line would split a modern county or county in existence in 1888. It was the practice or custom in the early years of United States of America, that Indian Chiefs would cede by treaty instead of a land deed which is now the custom. And the remuneration of the land of this treaty coming into the United States was not great remuneration. And now of course that land would be worth millions of dollars.

Those who are inclined to be informed on history and almost worship the years of long ago and the marvelous job that the American pioneers did in developing in such a small number of years what is now Southwest Georgia.

It is also interesting to note that the 1818 year of arrival of first White Man who came to fell the trees and build a home and traveled by covered wagons, no ~~no~~ ^{no} doubt, fifty years before the Atlantic & Gulf Railway reached the capital, of Grady County which is none other than the village, the town, the little city now grown to be. So it is step by step that development of new lands are made. And first, it was if not by covered wagons to bring his troop of North Carolinians and then fifty years later the railroad speeded up development and now the mode of travel if on the land is on asphalt and

#3 Re: William Hawthorne

concrete for the automobile to travel in an hour where it might have taken the pioneer the better part of a month to reach his destination.

Descendants of William Hawthorne and his faithful wife, through all the hardships and dangers, can be numbered no doubt into some hundreds. William had a brother who was also a preacher, and lived and settled in other parts of the 34 counties mentioned, but Grady County has quite a number of good solid citizens, and along with prominent Hawthornes in Albany, and all of whom can be proud that destiny did lead William Hawthorne to close to the center of Grady County in his trek to clear the land and pitch the crops, as well as preach over a wide area in churches of his denomination.

7-M Joshua Thomas	1813	Martha Kelly Jun. 4. 1834 Decatur Co., Ga.
8-M A. Jackson	1814	M. Jones Nov. 4. 1837 Decatur Co., Ga.

Pulaski Co., Ga. 1820: 5 sons and no daughters at home in hh of Elder Wm. Hawthorn. Both William and Mileachy were in Robeson Co. in 1790. Nancy Hawthorn, who married Philemon Bryan in Bladen Co., N.C. and moved to Fla. may be a niece of Elder William Hawthorn. The ages of Elder Wm. Hawthorn and Mileachy are not consistent over the years except that she is always shown as being born a decade later than he.

William Bryant HAWTHORN, D2.2

Birth-1809, N.C.; Marriage, Jan. 26, 1831, Decatur Co., Ga.; Death-Apr. 21, 1887; Father-Elder William HAWTHORN, Sr.; Mother Mileachy CLIBURN; Wife-Elizabeth JONES; Birth-1818 Ga.; Death-Decatur Co., Ga.

Issue	Birth	Marriage	Death
1-M John	1838, Decatur Co., Ga.		
2-F Mary	1840		
3-F Melissa	1842		
4-M William Bryant, Jr.	July 14, 1843	Louise E.	Sept. 4, 1907 Grady Co., Ga.
5-F Elizabeth	1846	James A. Connell? 1866, Decatur Co., Ga.	
6-F Milly	1848		
7-M William?	1849		
8-F Patsy	c. 1852		
9-F Nancy	c. 1854		
10-M Elias O.	July 9, 1857	Frances Hughes Jan. 26, 1879	
11-F Martha	1860		

Census Decatur Co., Ga., 1840-1859-1860; Grady Co., Ga. Tombstone Index; Decatur Co., Ga. Marriages.

Jonathan Cliburn HAWTHORN, D2.3, Capt. Decatur Co. Militia; Rep. from Decatur Co.

Birth-c. 1800-1810, N.C.; Marriage-Ga. (?); Death-1848, Decatur Co., Ga. (Tired Creek); Father-Elder William HAWTHORN, Sr.; Mother-Mileachy CLIBURN; Wife-Nancy; Birth-1808, Ga.

Issue	Birth	Marriage	Death
1-M Jabez	1831		
2-M Benjamin, W. J.	1832		Dec. 17, 1861, d. CSA
3-F Martha	1833		
4-M Francis Putnam	1835	Mary Jane Miller, G1.1 Jan. 4, 1855 Thomas Co., Ga.	June 30, 1864 d. CSA Greensboro, Ga.
5-F Angeline (Patsy A.)	1844	George N. Ray? 1866, Decatur Co., Ga.	
6-M Jonathan	1845		

Decatur Co., Ga. Census Records 1830-1870; Deeds, Decatur Co., Ga. Bainbridge, Ga.

Joshua Thomas HAWTHORN, D2.4

Birth-1813, N.C.; Marriage-June 4, 1834, Decatur Co., Ga.; Death-after 1850, prior 1860?, Jasper Co., Tx.?.; Father-Elder William HAWTHORN; Mother-Mileachy CLIBURN; Wife-Martha KELLY; Birth-1818; Death-Texas.

Issue	Birth	Marriage	Death
1-F Elvira	1838, Decatur Co., Ga.		
2-M William	1840, Decatur Co., Ga.		
3-F Malecha	1842, Decatur Co., Ga.		
4-F Elizabeth	1843, Decatur Co., Ga.	James A. Connell? 1866, Decatur Co., Ga.	

April 21, 1965

Dear Julien:

Hawthorne angle in Grady County,
as Grady County now is.

Reference your letter of April 17 on above subject.

I have now learned that the original Hawthorne Trail crosses the R.R. farther west from the present depot than I once thought—somewhere a mile and a half or 2 miles. I have also come to know that the road from Camilla, from a point near Sunnyside Church ran S.E. and crossed the old stage road at "Cross Roads", where Dr. Roddenbery built his log house, and extended southeast through what is now Cairo, and then extended to Walden Bridge, or near there, on the Ochlochnee River, crossed the river and extended through Duncanville District to Tallahassee and beyond. However, after passing the point near Sunnyside Church, this road did not follow the original Hawthorne Trail. The original trail extended almost due south to Tired Creek, near the place at which Hawthorne built his home.

So the selection of the site (now Cairo) for the R.R. Station No. 21 had nothing to do with the original Hawthorne Trail, but was selected because it was the crossing of the Camilla to Tallahassee road.

So, it appears that it was with considerable foresight that Dr. Roddenbery built his first home, in 1861, at the "Cross Roads". At that exact time the A. & G. R.R. had reached Thomasville (furnishing rail transportation all the way to Savannah) and it was known that the railroad would be eventually extended to Bainbridge, but it was not known exactly how near or how far from the "Cross Roads" the line would run. If Dr. Roddenbery had not established his home at the "Cross Roads", the history of Cairo and Grady County would be far different from what it is today. I will not go so far as to state ⁱⁿ my book, but in my opinion "Cross Roads" and that immediate community was really the beginning of the Cairo of today.

William Hawthorne (born 1762, died 1846). Don't bother John Walker, or the person he mentioned in Albany, about when Hawthorne came to southwest Georgia (now Grady County). He did NOT come to this section in 1801. Early County was not created until Dec. 15, 1818, and this entire section belonged to Indians until it was ceded by the treaty of Aug. 9, 1814 with the Creek Indians. No white people (none whatever) lived in this area earlier than 1815, and probably none at that time.

All recorded facts indicate that Hawthorne blazed his Trail in 1818 from Pulaski County (Hawkinsville is county seat) at least as far as Tired Creek in what is now Grady County. But he did not establish residence here before the last of 1821 or the first of 1822.

I think I have all needed information about time of blazing Hawthorne Trail and time that Wm. Hawthorne settled in now Grady County. But I would very much like to know the names of all sons of Wm. Hawthorne who settled in Decatur (now Grady) county, and I hope you can get their names for me. It may be possible that one of his grand children still lives in Grady County and can give this information. If not a grandchild, then a great grandchild. And some of his sons are probably buried in the same Primitive Baptist Church cemetery, and there must be some other Hawthorne tombstones there. One son was Johnathan C. Hawthorne, Captain of that Militia ⁱⁿ the 1830s who was engaged in Indian skirmishes and whose letters to the Governor of Ga. at that time are on file. If his tombstone gives his birth and death dates, I would like to have that information. Wm. Hawthorne is said to have had two brothers who also came to this area, but one of them moved on to Texas.

Information still needed

[Handwritten signature]

April 17, 1965

MEMO TO RSR, Jr.:

Further about a Hawthorne angle in Grady County, as Grady County now is.

Do you want me to follow up on what John Walker told me, namely, that he believed the Hawthornes came down this way as early as 1801? He told me there is somebody in Albany who has all this information. We wouldn't like to put in your Cairo or Grady County book that he came here in 1818 or 1819, and they had records to show it really was earlier. Maybe he came part of the way, etc.

If you will list out the questions you would like to have I will find out from them.

The Hawthorne descendants are very proud of their ancestor, and they rightly should be.

You have so many details of this kind of thing, so I will find out who it is in Albany and then write the questions you would like to know about it.

Looking at this map you will see the Hawthorne Trail as it shows coming down by Sunnyside Church and striking the railroad and then turns direct east into Cairo. I don't know how far that is out there, but it's much over a mile and not near the City limits. In fact, I think they call that Roddenbery Crossing now because Fred was interested in getting the Clay Products people to put in a plant at that location. That that's where, of course, the road turned southeastward and got onto the road that is now the Cairo-Calvary Road somewhere in the 41, 79 or 82 lot numbers, and then from there went across Big Tired Creek and up on top of the hill.

Of course what lot number, etc., means nothing to people reading this book now or 50 years from now, but it may be worth something to you *and me to know*

hasent mfl

JBR

no

*8-73-73
John will research more before
putting any thing in book
about Hawthorne that
could be in error*

HAWTHORNE TRAIL

Much of the history of Hawthorne Trail is obscure and shrouded in tradition, some of it pure fiction, and some accounts inaccurate. No maps show it by name and there is no accurate delineation or description of its entire route. But some pertinent facts concerning it are of record, and other recorded facts belie some of the stories about it. It was perhaps the first north and south road through what is now Grady County, first blazed and traversed by William Hawthorne in 1818 when this territory was part of the original Early County, and incorporated into Decatur County in 1823.

One published account [p. 395, Georgia, A Guide to its Towns and Countryside] printed in 1940 under a program of the Works Projects Administration, stated: "The Hawthorne Trail was blazed in 1818 by William Hawthorne when he was seeking a short route from North Carolina to Florida. Two years later he made a trip over the trail, broadened it, and settled with his family near Cairo". Another account in A Synopsis of the History of Mitchell County by Mrs. J. M. Spence, published in 1933, states that the trail was blazed in 1818, extended from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, and describes its route through Mitchell County and into Grady County, and further states that the trail went "through Cairo to the old Hawthorne home place". It appears that the trail did extend through what later became the town of Camilla, and in 1929 the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a granite marker designating the present Camilla as one point on Hawthorne Trail. Neither of these published accounts seem to be entirely true, but only in part. It appears quite certain that Hawthorne did not blaze a virgin trail all the way from North Carolina to Florida, and the trail did not run directly through what later became Cairo but skirted it on the west thereof.

Considerably more information about William Hawthorne [born 1762 - died 1846], a soldier in the Revolutionary War, is gained from the inscription on the monument at his grave near Sofkee, southwest of Cairo at the location of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist church and cemetery, which monument was erected in May 1957 by members and friends of that Church. It records that he resided for a time in Pulaski County, Georgia, before establishing his final home in what is now Grady County. Other records reveal that he owned 2383 acres of land in Pulaski County, that he settled there before 1818 and resided there at least as late as 1820. The 1818 Tax Digest for Pulaski County shows he then owned 1923 acres of pine land and 460 acres of oak and hickory land in District No. 7, and also one Negro slave, on all of which he paid \$2.64 as taxes for that year. Furthermore, the 1820 U.S. Census recorded him as head of a family then residing in Pulaski County.

From the inscription on the monument at his grave, from public records and all other accounts, some recorded in newspapers, the following appears to be the true story of the Hawthorne Trail and the man for whom it was named. Sometime before 1818, William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, migrated from Roberson City [or Robersonville], North Carolina, to Pulaski County, Georgia. There was no necessity for blazing a trail for this journey because established roads were already in existence.

While a resident of Pulaski County, William Hawthorne headed an expedition into southwestern Georgia, and perhaps into Florida [then a Spanish colony which was ceded to the United States in 1821 and became a State in 1845]. They were seeking new lands and new homes and they blazed their trail as they went. The size and composition of the party is not recorded but it appears that Hawthorne was the leader. They traveled on horseback and camped along the trail, always avoiding crossing sizable streams when possible.

Sometime in 1818 they started from Pulaski County [not from North Carolina] and traveled southwestwardly through what are now the counties of Dooly, Crisp, Worth and Dougherty, always east of Flint River, to a point known as River Bend on east side of Flint River about the present boundary line between Dougherty and Mitchell counties, thence southward to the site of present Camilla, thence southwardly to and across what became the Thomasville and Bainbridge stage road [now U.S. highway No. 84] at a point about _____ miles northwest of what is now Cairo, and from thence still southwestward until they reached a sizable creek. Being exhausted from travel, they made camp at this spot and they named the stream Tired Creek. So it was not sluggishness of the stream but tiredness of the travelers that gave it the name. That point is some 6 miles southwest of what is now Cairo. The tradition is that the party continued on into Florida, as far as Tallahassee. Certainly they explored this territory in what is now Grady County because several of them later returned with their families and settled in this section.

William Hawthorne built his home near Sofkee near Tired Creek at a spot about 4 miles southwest of present Cairo. It was not built in a fortnight, or rapidly, because the materials were not readily at hand and it was well constructed of hewn lumber, and commodious, and served as his residence and that of four succeeding generations for more than a century and a quarter. The exact date the home was first occupied is unknown but it was probably in 1820 or 1821, soon after the 1820 Federal Census when the family was enumerated as residents of Pulaski County.

William Hawthorne was an active force in the creation and organization of Decatur County [in 1823] and in 1827 he was a state senator for the new county. He and his brother Elias were both Primitive Baptist preachers [or Elders]. We have made no investigation concerning the lives of the brothers Elias and Timothy but it is recorded that Timothy Hawthorne moved on to Texas and there settled and died. In 1826 Elders William Hawthorne and William McElvy formed the presbytery which constituted and organized Tired Creek [Sofkee] Primitive Baptist Church, and Elder Hawthorne served as its pastor for 20 years.

Jonathan C. Hawthorne, son of William, was captain of his militia district in southeastern Decatur County and was engaged in skirmishes with the Creek Indians in this territory in 1836. A grandson of Elder Hawthorne, also named William, visited the Hawthorne Trail marker in Camilla in February 1929 and The Camilla Enterprise of that date published an account of an interview with him concerning his grandfather and the ancestral home near Cairo, in which he then lived.

For some 30 years Dr. S. A. Roddenbery was family physician for the Hawthornes and visited in the old home many times, and the Doctor's son Robert also visited in the home when he was a teen-age boy. Though reputed to be "well fixed" financially, the Hawthornes lived a simple life, almost primitively, and the home was furnished with the barest of necessities.

INSCRIPTION ON HAWTHORNE TRAIL MARKER



HAWTHORNE TRAIL
BLAZED 1818
MARKED 1923 by
HAWTHORNE TRAIL CHAPTER
AND GEORGIA SOCIETY, D.A.R.

This
marble
is
stone
marker
still stands
on southern
edge of
on west side
of Hawthorne
Trail that
runs south
from what is
not really a

3 2
From A HISTORY OF MITCHELL COUNTY by Mrs. J. M. Spence (1933).

This history has never been published, but a copy of the manuscript is on file in the Camilla Public Library, and the Librarian gave us a copy of what Mrs. Spence wrote about THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL and legend of the Hawthorne Trail. Much of this is simply legend and not substantiated by the facts, but there are many authenticated facts stated therein. For one thing, we know William Hawthorne (born 1762) who blazed this trail was not a brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne (born 1804), the New England writer who was author of "The Scarlet Letter" and other classics, though they may have been distantly related.

Mrs. Spence refers to "the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) Church". This may have been its name but residents of Grady County call it "Sofkee" and there was once a post office there named "Sofkee".

We have a photocopy of a land grant, dated 24 May 1837, from the State of Georgia to William Hawthorne, R.S. (Revolutionary Soldier) of Hawthorn's District, Decatur County. This was the William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail. The grant was for 202½ acres in the 3rd District and 5th Section of Carroll County, which he drew in the 1824-1825 Land Lottery. William Hawthorne sold this land without ever having lived upon it. The grant is recorded on microfilm in the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta. We are giving this photocopy to the Cairo Public Library. Following is what Mrs. J. M. Spence wrote:

Spence

PUBLIC ROADS

When Mitchell County was created in 1857 there were public roads, but as compared with the roads of 1933 (when Mrs. Spence wrote this) they were only narrow trails. These three were known as the Florida Stage Road, the Hawthorne Trail, and the River Stage Road. As historian of Mitchell County my purpose is to trace these roads only from the Northern to the Southern boundary of the County as they ran almost North and South.

* * * * *

THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

The Hawthorne Trail which leads from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, comes into Mitchell County at where River Bend Park is now located. It very closely follows the present paved Dixie Highway as far as Camilla, at which point the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter placed a handsome granite marker to designate the direct trail of where he blazed the way in 1818. Continuing from Camilla this trail leads by the O. P. Sapp home, the old homes of the Wests, Spences, Kempes, Cochrans, Wilsons, Smiths, and Hughes, on to Mount Olive Church and the homes of the Godwins, McElvins and Butlers into Grady County, through Cairo to the old Hawthorne home place. It is a matter of history that five generations of Hawthornes have lived at this old home place, just off the Trail, near Sofega Church (Tired Creek), since it was first settled more than one hundred years ago. From the CAMILLA ENTERPRISE of February 19, 1929, we quote the following: "On February 9, 1929, William Hawthorne, Sr. (grandson of the William Hawthorne who blazed the Trail), his son, and a grandson, all of whom are now living at the old family homestead near Cairo, Ga., which was built and formerly occupied by William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, in 1818. Those men visited Camilla to see the D.A.R. marker erected in memory of their ancestor. The elder Hawthorne said, 'We have come to see this stone which honors our brave scion. I recall the story that has been handed down from fathers to sons through many years — that the first William Hawthorne went down into Florida with the thought of settling there, but did not find the 'Land of Flowers' as attractive as had been pictured to him, and so he returned to Southwest Georgia and built his

home, in which we are now living. Few repairs to this place have been necessary, as the house was strongly and well built over one hundred years ago. My grandfather William and his brother Elias were both Primitive Baptist preachers, who preached somewhere every Sunday and worked diligently through the week days. Both are buried in the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) Church, near the Hawthorne Trail and the old home. The other brother went to Texas and established a town, named Hawthorne for himself' ".

Recently this historian, in company with my daughter Emily Spence and Mrs. W. C. Twitty of Pelham, made a pilgrimage to Sofega to visit the grave of William Hawthorne whom I hold in reverence for having made history through Mitchell County. We found this inscription which marks the earthly resting place of that hero of earlier days: "Elder William Hawthorne, Born 1762, died May 15, 1845, Age 84 years".

LEGEND OF THE HAWTHORNE TRAIL

In the early days of Georgia history, even before the records were beginning to be made, there lived on the border between North Carolina and Georgia a sturdy pioneer who had wandered away from his home and family in Salem, Massachusetts. History says that this pioneer was none other than the brother of Nathaniel Hawthorne [this is hardly true] the great ~~writer~~ Romance writer of New England. William Hawthorne was his name, and in the early part of the 19th century, about 1802, this William Hawthorne settled in the mountain recesses of the Blue Ridge that skirts Northern Georgia. As is known, this was the primeval range of the Cherokee Indians, and in time Hawthorne became on friendly terms with the Chief of his neighbors. One of the family of Hawthorne was a beautiful daughter who, from occasional meetings, had learned to know and love one of the Cherokee sons. There was little in common between Hawthorne and the Indians, so he forbade his daughter receiving the attentions of the Chief's son but, as is always the way with youth, they dared to thwart the commands of parent Hawthorne and planned to escape to the Land of Flowers, about which they were beginning to hear. On one stormy night they slipped away, making sure their hiding for several weeks. By and by the father and her brothers set out in pursuit of the truant lovers, learning they had spent a night in Dahlonega, Georgia, thence on they followed them to Tallahassee, Florida. On reaching the Florida township, Mr. Hawthorne was told that his daughter and her Indian lover had retreated and were then in hiding at a certain house not far from what is now known as Imonia Lake [half way between Cairo, Ga. and Tallahassee, Fla.]. Infuriated at this information, the father and brothers retraced their steps, and sure enough found the daughter and her lover domiciled in the house. The Indian lover, determined that his sweetheart should not be taken from him, murdered her and then himself. Locked in death's embrace they were found by father Hawthorne, who, broken hearted, returned to his mountain home, following the trail he had blazed on his search for his now lamented daughter.

After many months, so overcome with worry and grief, Hawthorne could not live contentedly in the mountains of the Blue Ridge. Together with his family, his slaves, his cattle, he returned to Southwest Georgia by the same trail ~~he had blazed~~ [he had blazed] in 1818 and which has ever since been known as "The Hawthorne Trail."

On Christmas Eve, 1821, it was, this family reached the little river they called Sofega (Tired Creek); here they camped — his family, his slaves, his cattle — all worn by the long tedious journey.

The Hawthornes lived for many years in the house in which his daughter was murdered by her Indian lover, and which to this good day is known as the "haunted house." After the Hawthornes moved away no one would live in the house. Tradition says that a woman's screams, slamming of doors, creaking of windows, can be heard from dark till dawn, and such a feeling of horror comes over all who go there, no one ever cares to revisit the "haunted house".

And thus I have told you the story as it was told to me -- the legend of the Hawthorne Trail."

This ends the account in Mrs. Spense's History of Mitchell County.

Note: Imonia Lake is 25 miles or more south of Cairo and not in proximity to Sofkee (or Sofega). The story of Hawthorne living in the "haunted house" where his daughter is supposed to have been murdered is pure myth, without fact or reason to support such a belief. The whole story of the Indian love affair may also be fictitious.

In a "Sketch of Decatur County, Georgia" by Chas. J. Munnerlyn, dated Nov. 9, 1876, published May 30, 1940, in Bainbridge-Post Searchlight, it is stated: "In 1824 Bainbridge was made the county site and precincts were established there and at Captain Hawthorne's in the 19th district". Captain Jonathan Cleburn Hawthorne was a son of William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail. Under subject of "Early Settlements", C. J. Munnerlyn wrote: "Tired Creek was first settled by Wm. Hawthorn and his son, Jonathan, the Emanuels, Abner Bishop, John Jones, Wm. Clark, Jere Bell, and Wm. Williams". The Tired Creek district and settlement was then in the southeastern part of Decatur County, bordering on the Thomas County line. It is now south of Cairo in Grady County.

The above Capt. Jonathan ~~the~~ Cleburn Hawthorne was in command of the Decatur County Guards (militia of Georgia), 1836-1838, during the Indian Wars in southern Georgia and northern Florida. We secured photocopies of seven of his letters to Governor William Schley written in these three years, one of which contains a roster of the officers and men who composed the Decatur County Guards, the originals of which are in Georgia Department of Archives and History. In one of these letters (Sept. 15, 1836) Captain Jonathan C. Hawthorne said: "I live on the East side of Decatur and adjoining the pine woods of Thomas County 2 1/2 miles of this post office (Tired Creek)". This Tired Creek post office was then located at the confluence of Tired Creek and Ochlochnee River (southeast of the present Cairo) and it is not to be confused with the Tired Creek post office (in existence from June 24, 1856 to January 5, 1867) that was located in the Samuel Braswell home 3 1/2 miles northwest of the present Cairo. We are giving the photocopies of these letters to the Cairo Public Library.

Hawthorne Trail crossed the Bainbridge-Thomasville stage road (now U.S. Highway No. 84) at what has been known for many years as "Cross Roads", 2 miles north of the railroad station in Cairo, and continued southward along what is now Broad Street in Cairo.

This is correct - it crossed the stage road road about 3 miles from Cairo + 1 mile further east.
H. S. Roddenbery, Jr. 9-16-1959.

Moultrie, Georgia
16 Sept. 1959.

Dear Julian:

~~The~~ attached on Hawthorne Trail
this day mailed to Miss Bessie Council.
Know you will be interested in it
but I think the Gudian love story
is pure "bull".

W.S.J.

June 18, 1974

Mr. Marion R. Hemperley
Surveyor-General Department
214 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Hemperley:

I still think about, and talk with my friends reference my two short visits to the Archives Building when I had the pleasure of meeting you some month or so ago.

I would think you have a most interesting work day. People from all over our State dropping by and you having something to show them or tell them about. I know I didn't know there were that many maps in the world as were in the many, many filing cabinets that I saw on your floor of the building. It seems that you had what was in every filing cabinet on the tip of your fingers.

But for you to see all kinds of people from every kind of place in Georgia would, to me, be very interesting and I believe I judge you correctly in that you enjoy seeing people.

When I was there you showed me a map that had drawn on it, a trail, it was the Hawthorne Trail. When I mentioned Hawthorne Trail you volunteered that you had a map showing that and you went to that map and I was delighted to see it but I didn't look at it quite as closely as I now wish I had. So what I'm writing today is, can you have a picture made of that map and send to me?

It may be extra large and it will have to be a picture in reduced size and be more expensive but whatever your cost is for your patrons I would want you to let me know and I will send check in advance.

This Trail is closely connected with our Grady County for it terminated, that is, he settled here. In Camilla, 25 miles North of us, there is a marker by the Daughters of American Revolution about this Trail. I hope you can tell me that a copy of this map can be made but if that is not practical I will just have to wait until I am there again to look more closely at it.

Yours truly,

J. B. Roddenbery

Part H-F1

This is not a good or complete as
old draft if that draft or an improved
draft is approved with of the family -
John Walker
Jensen

The Hawthorne Trail

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From The Camilla Enterprise of February 19, ~~1939~~¹⁹²⁹, we quote the following: "On February 9, 1929, William Hawthorne Sr., (grandson of the William Hawthorne who blazed the Trail) his son, and a grandson, all of whom are now living at the old family homestead near Cairo, Ga., built and formerly occupied by William Hawthorne and his brothers, Elias and Timothy, in 1818, visited Camilla to see the D.A.R. Marker, erected in memory of their ancestor. The older Hawthorne said, "We have come to see this stone which honors our brave scion. I recall the story that has been handed down from fathers to sons through many years, that the first William Hawthorne went down into Florida with the thought of settling there, but did not find the "Land of Flowers" as attractive as had been pictured to him, and so he returned to southwest Georgia and built his home, in which we are now living. Few repairs to this place have been necessary, as the house was strongly and well-built more than one hundred years ago. My grandfather William, and his brother Elias, were both Primitive Baptist preachers, who preached somewhere every Sunday, and worked diligently through the week days. Both are buried in the graveyard of Sofega (Tired Creek) church, near the Hawthorne Trail and the old home. The other brother went to Texas and established a town named Hawthorne for himself."

Recently the historian, in company with her daughter Emlyn Spence and Mrs. W. C. Twitty of Pelham, made a pilgrimage to Sofega to visit the grave of William Hawthorne whom she holds in reverence for having made history through Mitchell County. We found this inscription which marks the earthly resting place of that hero of the earlier days:

"Elder William Hawthorne, Born 1762, died May 15, 1845 - Age 84 years"

Synopsis of the History of Mitchell County, Ga.
by Mrs. J. M. Spence [1933]

April 21, 1965

Dear Julien:

Hawthorne angle in Grady County,
as Grady County now is.

Reference your letter of April 17 on above subject.

I have now learned that the original Hawthorne Trail crosses the R.R. farther west from the present depot than I once thought—somewhere a mile and a half or 2 miles. I have also come to know that the road from Camilla, from a point near Sunnyside Church ran S.E. and crossed the old stage road at "Cross Roads", where Dr. Roddenbery built his log house, and extended southeast through what is now Cairo, and then extended to Walden Bridge, or near there, on the Ochlochnee River, crossed the river and extended through Duncanville District to Tallahassee and beyond. However, after passing the point near Sunnyside Church, this road did not follow the original Hawthorne Trail. The original trail extended almost due south to Tired Creek, near the place at which Hawthorne built his home.

So the selection of the site (now Cairo) for the R.R. Station No. ~~21~~ had nothing to do with the original Hawthorne Trail, but was selected because it was the crossing of the Camilla to Tallahassee road. *the RR Camp*

So, it appears that it was with considerable foresight that Dr. Roddenbery built his first home, in 1861, at the "Cross Roads". At that exact time the A. & G. R.R. had reached Thomasville (furnishing rail transportation all the way to Savannah) and it was known that the railroad would be eventually extended to Bainbridge, but it was not known exactly how near or how far from the "Cross Roads" the line would run. If Dr. Roddenbery had not established his home at the "Cross Roads", the history of Cairo and Grady County would be far different from what it is today. I will not go so far as to state in my book, but in my opinion "Cross Roads" and that immediate community was really the beginning of the Cairo of today.

no
William Hawthorne (born 1762, died 1846). Don't bother John Walker, or the person he mentioned in Albany, about when Hawthorne came to southwest Georgia (now Grady County). He did NOT come to this section in 1801. Early County was not created until Dec. 15, 1818, and this entire section belonged to Indians until it was ceded by the treaty of Aug. 9, 1814 with the Creek Indians. No white people (none whatever) lived in this area earlier than 1815, and probably none at that time.

All recorded facts indicate that Hawthorne blazed his Trail in 1818 from Pulaski County (Hawkinsville is county seat) at least as far as Tired Creek in what is now Grady County. But he did not establish residence here before the last of 1821 or the first of 1822.

I think I have all needed information about time of blazing Hawthorne Trail and time that Wm. Hawthorne settled in now Grady County. But I would very much like to know the names of all sons of Wm. Hawthorne who settled in Decatur (now Grady) county, and I hope you can get their names for me. It may be possible that one of his grand children still lives in Grady County and can give this information. If not a grandchild, then a great grandchild. And some of his sons are probably buried in the same Primitive Baptist Church cemetery, and there must be some other Hawthorne tombstones there. One son was Johnathan C. Hawthorne, Captain of that Militia in the 1830s who was engaged in Indian skirmishes and whose letters to the Governor of Ga. at that time are on file. If his tombstone gives his birth and death dates, I would like to have that information. Wm. Hawthorne is said to have had two brothers who also came to this area, but one of them moved on to Texas.

Eu. J.

J. J. J.

Re Wm Hawthorne

Mrs. Philip W. Bryant, p. 2
July 20, 1959

William Hawthorne, Sr. (for whom the trail is named) it seems certain settled with his family about 3 miles South-Southwest of of the present loaction of Cairo and, at that time (circa 1820) that was in Early County, before Decatur and Thomas were created. I do not have a map of Grady County showing the land districts. County lines change but land districts never change. If you have such, I would like to have a photostat of a map of Grady County showing land districts (or a Thermofax print), and showing the location of Cairo. I think the 19th district is immediately west of the 18th district.

I yet haven't gotten a copy of the inscription on that Hawthorne Trail marker but today I received a letter advising that it was moved from its original location in the heart of Camilla to the intersection (or fork) of the Camilla-Cairo and Camilla-Bainbridge roads. This letter also says a Mrs. J. M. Spence wrote a History of Mitchell County several years ago and it is believed this History will give full information of the Hawthorne Trail. The library in Moultrie does not have a copy of this Mitchell County History. Mrs. Mary G. Bryan has ~~been~~ always been very kind in lending me such books from her Department of Archives and History and, if she has this one, I will appreciate it if you will ask her to let me use it for a few days. There would be matters other than the Hawthorne Trail that I would like to check.

Thank you for the sample Thermofax print of the Kindren Braswell grant of 28 February 1788 from Book PPP, page 463. I will want other prints in the future but right now I want the following:

George Rottenbery of Liberty, 175 acres in 2nd district of Baldwin, drawn in the Land Lottery of 1805 (mentioned in your letter of July 13).

George Roddenbury, R.S. of Bulloch, lot 255 in 4th district of Lee (now Randolph) drawn in the 1827 Lottery (grant dated in 1833).

William Hawthorne, R.S. of Decatur, lot 136 in 3rd district of Carroll County drawn in 1827 Lottery.

Joseph Anderson, R.S., any land granted him in Bulloch County prior to 1827 (when he moved to Thomas County). In his will of 1846 he bequeathed land in Bulloch County "on which I formerly lived, described as in the plat and grant". He said he moved from Soyth Carolina to Georgia in 1810.

Those Jonathan C. Hawthorn letters and the Mannerlyn sketch are valuable bits of history and I am delighted to have them. Whether Hawthorne or Hawthorn, I think it is all the same. It is like Roddenbery, Roddenbury, Roddenberry, Rattenbury, Rottenbury, etc. It is the same family.

Again thanking you for your interest, efficiency and kindness, I am

Sincerely,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Do you have microfilms of Federal censuses of Georgia for 1860, 1850 and prior thereto? and how much would it cost for Thermofax print of the 1860 census for COLQUITT County? That would be the first census after Colquitt County was created.

September 16, 1959

Miss Wessie Connell
Librarian
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Miss Connell:

I am enclosing copy of some facts (and some fiction) I have unearthed regarding HAWTHORNE TRAIL, which I hope will be of value to whoever writes a comprehensive history of Grady County. I suppose you will want to put this in your special file on Grady County history; I think it in the file of Grady County Historical Society, about which you wrote me on June 15.

The photocopies of the Jonathan C. Hawthorne letters and of the land grant to his father William Hawthorne will be delivered to you in due course. I want Julien B. Roddenbery, Sr., to read them first and I expect he will deliver them to you. My father, age 91, well remembers William Hawthorne, son of Jonathan C. and grandson of Elder William Hawthorne, and has visited in the old Hawthorne home a number of times.

If you will get someone to trace this Hawthorne Trail (as Mrs. Spence did for Mitchell County) from its entry from Mitchell into Grady County, on southward by "Cross Roads" and through Cairo, and southward to the Florida line (I know it went by a Methodist church now situated and that has been located many years a few miles north of Cairo), I will add this information to what we already have and get it published in THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY published by The Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, of which Society I am a member. I know they will be glad to publish this for me. I believe you can get two or three ladies who are members of your Grady County Historical Society who are sufficiently interested in this subject to start immediately to retrace this Trail through Grady County.

There is no person living today who has so much first hand knowledge (and who remembers so well) the history of Cairo from 1872 to about 1900 as my father, and I believe it would be well worth while some members of the Grady County Historical Society to talk with him and take notes for several hours. Whether they do this or not, depends on how much they are really interested in the early history of Cairo and Grady County.

Sincerely yours,

CC:

J. B. Roddenbery, Sr.

H. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

8-23-73
when found the
general copy will
There will be others who
know the route better
than I do - this was
written in 1959 & the
I am now afraid of
in the paper 1965-70

3
Keep Hawthorne Trail
Folder
from to "Papa's"
Moultrie, Georgia
24 September 1959

Dear Julien:

Enclosed is letter of September 17 from Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. You may keep this, as I have made a copy. Under separate cover I am mailing photographs of the two engines that A.C.L. sent me. Papa says he thinks the picture of the woodburner and cars loaded with cypress logs was probably made on the section of railroad that ran from Climax to Chattahoochee because there were no large cypress trees (such as these) anywhere between Thomasville and Bainbridge. That does not matter, however, because A.C.L. says ^{this} was one of the engines that operated between Thomasville and Bainbridge while it was the S.F. & G. (Plant System). As you can see by the box car and caboose, the coalburner was an Atlantic Coast Line engine, one of the first operated through Cairo.

You can give these pictures to the Library if you want to, or frame them and hang in your office. I don't know whether the Library will appreciate them or not.

I am also sending, (in envelope with above pictures) a photocopy of land grant to "William Hawthorne, R.S., of Hawthorne's District, Decatur County". This was Elder William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail and later settled a few miles south of the site of the present Cairo; and this land grant is proof that he was a Revolutionary Soldier. It may be of value to his descendants (female who might want to join D.A.R.); and this should be filed in the Cairo Library. If you have any Hawthorne friends now living in Grady County, you might drop them a letter advising that you obtained this document and that it may be seen in the Library.

I am also sending photocopies of 7 letters written by Capt. Jonathan C. Hawthorne between May 27, 1836 and October 10, 1838, the first 6 addressed to Governor William Schley and the 7th addressed to Governor George R. Gilmer. These letters were sent from Tired Creek Post Office, Thomas County, which was then located at the confluence of Tired Creek and Ochlocknee River. Note on second page of letter dated Sept'r. 15, 1836, that Capt. Hawthorne said he then lived on the East side of Decatur County adjoining the pine woods of Thomas County 2½ miles of this post office. Captain Jonathan Clebern Hawthorne was a son of Elder William Hawthorne who blazed the Hawthorne Trail. The originals of these letters are on file in Department of Archives and History in Atlanta. Originals were in longhand (no typewriters in those days) but have been transcribed with typewriter and are preserved on microfilm, from which these photocopies were made. Capt. Jonathan C. Hawthorne had a son William (grandson of Eld. William Hawthorne). Papa was well acquainted with this grandson William Hawthorne and several times visited in the old Hawthorne home near Sofkee. Dr. Roddenbery was family physician of the Hawthornes.

When you have finished with these letters, I presume you will give them to the Cairo Library. Note that the letter of Jan. 3, 1837, contained the 1836 Muster Roll of officers and men in Captain Hawthorne's Company of Georgia Guards (Decatur County Cavalry).

I received your letter of September 21 with check to Drinnon, Inc., for \$10.44 and one to me for \$44.20. I have mailed Drinnon's check to Macon.

Your cousin,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Papa says Uncle Walter went to business school in Poughkeepsie, New York, after he left University of Virginia. Can you give me name of this business school and the dates Uncle Walter was there? I think Walter Blair (Jr.) also went there, and perhaps others in your family.

P.S. —

April 15, 1965

Grady County Map
Hawthorne Trail
Long Branch Church
Cemeteries

Dear Julien:

Thanks for yours of April 13 and I am glad to know for a fact that Judge R.C. Bell assisted in preparation of that first Grady County Map, which was published within two years after the County was organized. This leads me to conclude that this map is reasonably accurate in all the details shown, including Land Districts and land lots, Militia (or Justice of the Peace) Districts, highways and country roads, rivers and creeks, towns and hamlets, and schools and churches (though some are omitted). This map does not show locations of cemeteries (except that we know there were cemeteries adjacent to nearly every country church).

If I had the time I would visit all the very old cemeteries in Grady County and copy names and dates from the old tombstones. That is one of the best sources of information for any history. If I could include in this book the inscriptions on tombstones of people who were buried before 1900 it would afford a world of valuable information for hundreds, maybe thousands of people in the present and in years to come. Many times a tombstone inscription will revive the memory of a person long forgotten and will recall his life and deeds and his connection or relation to people now living. A few years ago I visited the cemetery at Long Branch Church and copied names and dates from several old tombstones, but I can't locate those notes right now. A lot of people whose lives are connected with Cairo and Grady County are buried there, among them old man Edw. F. Richter, born, raised and educated in Germany. And that reminds me of the Egg Road, so named from the poultry industry that thrived in that section and the great quantities of eggs and chickens shipped from Cairo. Old man Richter was one of the founders of that industry. I believe it would afford you much information, and pleasure, if you made a brief visit to that Long Branch cemetery and study those tombstones.

Papa says there was a little branch back of Long Branch Church, but that was not the baptizing hole. The baptizing was done in Little Tired Creek near the Church and that is where Dr. Roddenbery and wife and all their children were baptized. And I expect that is where you were baptized, because the Cairo Baptist Church used that place until an inside baptistry was built into the new brick church about 1907.

I think there is a drift farther - if not plain

All of southern Georgia, west of Camden County, was ceded by the Creek Indians in 1814 and the original counties of Early and Irwin were created in 1818. Decatur County was cut off the east side of Early in 1823 and Thomas County off the west side of Irwin (and a part of Decatur) in 1825. Before 1814 all this section of Georgia belonged to the Indians. So William Hawthorne blazed his north to south trail through this section (and through what is now Grady County) in 1818, the very year that Early County was created. Therefore, it is quite certain that Hawthorne Trail was established as a primitive road several years before a route of travel was established between Bainbridge and Thomasville. Any travel there might have been before that was on horseback and along Indian trails. Hawthorne and his followers were certainly the first white settlers in this area. And, as said before, he named Tired Creek.

It is true that Dr. Roddenbery was family physician for the Hawthornes but not for the original William. He died before our grandfather was a doctor, but he was physician for the children and grandchildren and he did on occasion eat and spend the night in the old Hawthorne home. Papa has related these facts to me, and Papa himself visited the home on at least one occasion. They did have a special table setting (knife, fork, spoon and plate) for special guests, and they brought these out

whenever Dr. Roddenbery was there. The family didn't bother about such niceties and, for the most part, ate with their fingers. They had plates of some sort (crochery or tin plates) and a few knives and forks, but they were sparse and very crude. They weren't what you might call adept in the use of table knives and forks. And this wasn't because of poverty. They were amply able to afford the best. We don't know, but it may be that their manners and mode of living deteriorated after they moved into this wilderness country. Maybe none of them had any schooling but they were not without education, either self taught or coming from their parents. The elder William Hawthorne represented Decatur County in the State Senate of Georgia. He was a Primitive Baptist preacher and certainly had the rudiments of an English education. His son Jonathan C. Hawthorne (the most prominent) was Captain of the Militia in his district and fought in skirmishes with the Indians, and his letters to the Governor of Georgia (now on file in the Archives in Atlanta) reveal that he was a man of keen intellect, wrote a good hand, used good grammar and spelled correctly.

It might unduly offend some people to say that the Hawthornes ate like animals but I will say that they lived quite primitively.

At last, the location of the old Hawthorne home is definitely fixed in my mind so that I can adequately define the location in my book.

One more distance. Since Long Branch Church is not shown on the map, please measure the distance from Cross Roads to the Church. That church is still right where it was more than a century ago. Also, try to learn from the pastor or some of the members exactly when the Long Branch Church was constituted and names of the first two or three preachers.

I have today received the 1964 directory of advertisements you sent, with story on Cairo at page 358. I don't think much of the "Directory" but the Cairo story contains some information I can and will use.

Your cousin,

February 15, 1965

Mrs. John G. Lewis
Reference & Reader Services
Georgia State Library
301 Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Lewis:

Thanks for your letter of Jan. 28 concerning Hawthorne Trail and your references to certain publications thereon, including "two or three pages in SYNOPSIS OF THE HISTORY OF MITCHELL COUNTY, GEORGIA by Mrs. J. M. Spence, 1933", from which you quoted the beginning, "The Hawthorne Trail which leads from the North Carolina line to Tallahassee, Florida, comes into Mitchell County at where River Bend is now located. It very closely follows the present paved Dixie Highway as far as Camilla".

The public library in Moultrie does not have this work by Mrs. J. M. Spence and they can not obtain it on intralibrary loan either from the regional library or from Camilla. The Camilla library flatly refuses to lend its copy.

The cost of this information is not a deterrent and I will gladly pay for a photographic or typed transcript of what Mrs. Spence published on this subject. Trusting this will not be too much trouble for you, I am

Cordially and appreciatively yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Hawthorne

February 12, 1965

Hawthorne Trail

Mr. Wayne Faircloth
Route 2
Whigham, Georgia

*This is urgent
Feb 19 1965
+ more letters*

Dear Mr. Faircloth:

I am about to publish a short history of the early days of Cairo and Grady County and I need some additional information about the Hawthorne Trail which was blazed in 1818 from North Carolina to Florida and ran immediately west of what is now Cairo and from there south to Sofkee and beyond. William Hawthorne came back over that route and settled in the vicinity of Sofkee in 1819 and I am told the monument at his grave gives some valuable information about him and the Hawthorne Trail.

Miss Catherine Maxwell, daughter of Dr. Maxwell, tells me you can probably furnish me with valuable information about Hawthorne Trail and the man for whom it was named. I particularly would like to know its southward route from Sofkee and where it ended—some say Tallahassee, some say the Gulf coast. Also, if you know, I would like to know just what is recorded on that monument or tombstone at grave of William Hawthorne. Any information you may give me will be greatly appreciated. This story is being written in collaboration with my father who is 97 years old and who was born on the Thomasville—Bainbridge stage road (now U.S. No. 84) about 4 miles northwest of the present Cairo.

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

*ask John Walker
+ Wayne Faircloth*

February 11, 1965

Miss Catherine Maxwell
Calvary, Georgia

Dear Miss Maxwell:

Thank you very much for yours of Feb. 4 in reply to my inquiry to your father and, at your suggestion, I am writing Mr. Wayne Faircloth concerning Hawthorne Trail. Several articles have been written and published about Hawthorne Trail and William Hawthorne, some of which undertake to weave in some far-fetched romantic tales, but all of them are indefinite as to the route traversed and there appears to be no existing map delineating the Trail, and it is very difficult to reestablish and describe its original locations. I know the route from the north line of present Mitchell County to the northern and western edges of present Cairo, and I know William Hawthorne, in 1819, settled in the vicinity of Sofkee. I will keep trying to add to this information. I am told that a monument at the Sofkee grave of William Hawthorne records valuable information concerning him and the Trail. I would like to obtain a complete transcript of what is inscribed on that monument. If you know it or if you have occasion to visit that spot in the near future, I would appreciate it if you will write me just what information that monument reveals.

Thanks also for dates when Piedmont [Calvary] Primitive Baptist, Calvary Methodist, and Calvary Missionary Baptist, and Tired Creek [Sofkee] Primitive Baptist churches were constituted. My 97 years old father thinks the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church was constituted before 1884, because remembers when Robert H. Harris came to Cairo as school teacher in 1875 [he taught my father] and in less than 5 years thereafter he was ordained a Minister [while a school teacher] and very soon afterward the people of Calvary outbid Cairo and Harris moved to Calvary where he preached and taught school at the same time. Harris [later Dr. Harris] went from Calvary to LaGrange as pastor of First Baptist Church there, and thence to Columbus, Ga. He was not pastor of the church at Cairo. Calvary was his first pastorate. However, your date of 1884 may be official and correct.

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

*Visit in
20th Century
to be there
was soon*

July 13, 1959

*Philip W. Bryant
Hawthorne Trail*

Mrs. Philip W. Bryant
Deputy Surveyor General
1516 Peachtree St. N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Bryant:

Thanks very much for yours of June 25 regarding HAWTHORNE TRAIL and the effort you made to get facts about its original blazing, even though you found nothing on it.

Mrs. Clyde Bostwick Lewis of Camilla, well on in her 80s, wrote me:

"I have so little information about the Hawthorne Trail. The marker that was in the southern part of Camilla on the Hawthorne Trail has been removed but this is always what I have heard about it; that Nathaniel Hawthorne blazed the trail from the point where Albany is, or near there, directly south to the Gulf of Mexico. It passed through what is now Camilla and on through Cairo, I suppose, to the Gulf of Mexico. I regret I do not have more knowledge of it but this is what Camilla accepts as the blazing of the trail. It goes the length of Scott Street in Camilla and south to the Gulf".

*9-7-77
It was
moved to
Cairo
Camilla on
road to
Cairo
I'm
sure*

The only Nathaniel Hawthorne of note that I know about was the author of The Scarlet Letter (b. 1804; d. 1864), born and died in New England, and I'm sure he was never in Georgia.

Last week in Thomasville I found the record (Deed Book E, p. 362, Thomas County) of a deed in March 1844 from Johnathan C. Hawthorne and James Hagan, Executors of the Will of John Newberry, conveying lands they had sold at public outcry. My father, now 91, says "old man J. C. Hawthorne" lived several miles south of Cairo near the former dividing line between Thomas and Decatur counties (now in Grady County) and he remembers visiting the Hawthorne place a number of times. My father thought his name was John C., but says it may have been Johnathan C. He had two sons that my father remembers: William, the older, and John C., both of whom my father well remembers. William was about the age of Dr. Roddenbery (my grandfather) who was born in 1836; and William had a son, also named John C.) who was about my father's age, born 1868.

I find these entries in Georgia's Roster of the Revolution by Knight, both on page 355:

- Wm. Hawthorn (or Hawthorne) lottery 1827, Putnam Co.
- Wm. Hawthorne, lottery 1827, Decatur Co.
- John Hawthorne, early lottery 1820, Twiggs Co.

I have Reprint Land Lottery 1827 but no Hawthorne or Hawthorn is listed therein. It could be that William Hawthorne was on the eligible list ~~list~~ but not a lucky drawer. I would appreciate it if you will check this, both as to Hawthorn in Putnam and Hawthorne in Decatur and advise if- these were given as their counties of residence at that time. Also, did John Hawthorne of Twiggs draw land in the 1820 early lottery?

"I have so little information about the Hawthorn Trail. The marker that was in the southern part of Camilla on the Hawthorne trail has been removed but this is what I have always heard about it, that Nathaniel Hawthorne blazed the trail from the point where Albany is, or near there, directly south to the Gulf of Mexico. It passed through what is now Camilla and on through Cairo, I suppose, to the Gulf of Mexico. I regret that I do not have more knowledge of it but this is what Camilla accepts as the blazing of the trail. It goes the length of Scott Street in Camilla and south to the Gulf".

You was in front the street but now in 1990 is on road to Cairo on edge of the City - not at all

The only Nathaniel Hawthorne of note in history that I know about was the author of "The Scarlet Letter". He was born in 1804 and died in 1864. He was born in Massachusetts and died in New Hampshire and I never read of him ever in the South. So I'm sure the trail was not blazed by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Papa says that Dr. Roddenbery was the family physician for "old man Hawthorne" (who is supposed to have blazed the trail) and he lived far enough away from Cairo that Dr. Roddenbery would spend the night at his house to visit the sick or deliver babies. Hawthorne was several years older than Dr. Roddenbery and was supposed to have been wealthy for that day and time. Yet, the story is that he had only one table knife and fork and they were always set at the Doctor's plate. I yet hope to get authentic information on this trail. Your Aunt Clyde says that marker has been removed, but certainly it hasn't been destroyed and I want to find out what is on it when I get an opportunity. I know a man named Hawthorne was one of the Commissioners to select the site and provide for the building of the first court house for Decatur County, at Bainbridge. Referring to my notes now, his name was W. R. Hawthorne. But I don't know that he is the one who blazed this trail.

You will be interested in reading the enclosed copy of letter of June 19 from the Executive Secretary of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity advising that next January this Fraternity will present Papa with a 75-year certificate on the Diamond anniversary of his initiation at Mercer. On a separate sheet the Executive Secretary furnished a statement of the 5 Roddenberys initiated by ATO fraternity, as follows:

Robert S. Roddenbery	initiated	1885	at Mercer
Seaborn A. Roddenbery, Jr.	"	1887	"
John William Roddenbery	"	1889	"
John William Roddenbery (son of S.A.R. Jr.)	initiated		at Georgia
William Yates Roddenbery	"	"	Emory.

two for 50

This is the statement in which they gave dates and places of births.

I may not have covered all points on which you want information but I know you have tired of this, and I'm tired of writing for one time,

Later on, I want to get the Greek letter fraternity affiliations of you and your brothers and your sons and nephews, with dates, schools, etc. I know you are a Phi Delta Theta. I think you wrote me some time ago that Uncle Walter did not join a fraternity at Virginia. My son and I are SAEs.

Your cousin,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Moultrie, Georgia
June 22, 1959

Mrs. F. L. Lewis
41 E. Stevens St.
Camilla, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Lewis:

I am assisting Julien Roddenbery and the Cairo, Ga., Librarian in establishing some early history about Cairo and Grady County, which will probably be published under the title THE GENESIS OF CAIRO.

There is in the heart of Camilla a bronze plaque on a granite stone marking the route of the HAWTHORNE TRAIL through Camilla on what is now U.S. highway 19. I have seen it many times but have not read the inscription.

It is my information that Hawthorne Trail ran southward from Albany, through what is now Camilla, and on southward where it crossed the Thomasville-Bainbridge stage coach road at a point about 2 miles north of the present Cairo, and then on southward to Tallahassee. The town of Cairo had not been then established, and I don't know that Camilla was then established under that name. My information is that the road did not go through Thomasville but extended down the western part of Thomas County (now all in Grady County).

I would like very much to have a transcript of that plaque or marker in Camilla which I feel sure gives the date this trail was blazed or established, the route it followed, and the name of the man who surveyed the route or for whom it was named.

I will appreciate it if you will ask someone to copy this marker inscription and sent it to me. And if there are other facts about the train that you know (which are not on the marker) I will thank you to tell me the same.

Papa, now past 91, was in Cairo last week and saw Aunt Maude. She is a year older than he and quite feeble. Papa says that his father, Dr. S. A. Roddenbery, was family physician for the Hawthornes in the 1860s and 1870s but that must have been of a later generation from the one who established Hawthorne Trail.

Trusting you are well, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Stamped envelope enclosed.

Moultrie, Georgia
June 22, 1959

Mrs. Mary G. Bryan, Director
Department of Archives and History
1516 Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Re: HAWTHORNE TRAIL in
Dougherty, Mitchell
and Grady counties.

Dear Mrs. Bryan:

From best information I have the Hawthorne trail was established from Albany southward through what is now Camilla in Mitchell County and on past what is now Cairo in Grady County and then southward to Tallahassee. It did not go through Thomasville but ran along the western edge of Thomas County (now all within Grady County). It crossed the Thomasville-Bainbridge post road (stage-road) about two miles north of the present Cairo.

I have been unable to find any reliable history references to this Hawthorn Trail, though it ran directly through Camilla as it is today and a bronze marker on a granite stone marks the route through the heart of Camilla, now on the Albany-Thomasville road (U.S. 19). I know the Trail was established before the Civil War and I think after 1835. I have an 1835 Map of Post Offices and Post Roads of Georgia and no such road appears thereon, though the Thomasville & Bainbridge stage road is shown thereon.

I will greatly appreciate it if you can and will give me information concerning the date Hawthorne Trail was surveyed or established, the route it followed from Albany through Georgia and the person who blazed the trail or for whom it was named. I know a William Hawthorne was one of the commissioners selected to chose a county seat (Bainbridge) for Decatur County in 1825 and superintend the erection of public buildings thereat. I also know that Dr. Seaborn A. Roddenbery, my grandfather, was the Hawthorne family physician in the 1860s and 1870s but this was most likely a later generation of Hawthornes.

I need this information I connection with historical facts I am gathering on Cairo and Grady County and which I expect to publish under the title THE GENESIS OF CAIRO.

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

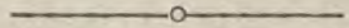
Vol. II, p. 702, GEORGIA'S LANDMARKS, MEMORIALS AND LEGENDS *Knight

There is no mention of the fact that it shows the present day area cities
near Decatur
start off

Decatur County was created out of Early County in 1825, and

".....the following named commissioners were chosen to select a county seat (and) to superintend the erection of public buildings thereon, to-wit: Duncan Ray, Wm. Hawthorne, Philip Pittman, John Sanders and Martin Hardin. The site chosen was a point of land overlooking the Flint River, within a mile of Fort Hughes. It was called Bainbridge in honor of the gallant naval officer William Bainbridge."

The town (Bainbridge) was chartered Dec. 22, 1829; Daniel Belcher was one of the first town commissioners (councilmen).



Vol. VI, p. 2927, GEORGIA AND GEORGIANS, L. L. Knight (1917)

"JUDGE S. A. RODDENBERY, of Thomasville, who died during his second term as a member of Congress from the Second Georgia District, was born on January 12, 1870, on his father's farm in Decatur County. After pursuing a partial course at Mercer University, Macon, he was elected to the lower house of the General Assembly in 1891, when little more than 21 years of age. From 1894 to 1896 he served as United States commissioner. He had, in the meantime, read law, and in 1897 was appointed by Governor Atkins as judge of the County Court of Thomas County. He also served as mayor of Thomasville for two successive terms. Upon the death of Judge James M. Griggs, who had long represented the Second District in Congress, Judge Roddenbery was chosen" (elected) "to succeed him. He was reelected, and died September 23, 1913, while serving his second term."

Note: Feb. 16, 1910, he was elected to fill the unexpired term of James M. Griggs. He served a little over 3 years and 7 months.

Oct. 23, 1894, Seaborn Anderson Roddenbery, Jr., was admitted to the bar, to practice law, in the Superior Court of Thomas County, Ga.

Camilla, Ga.
June 24, 1959.

My dear Robert,

I was so glad to have your letter and to know something of you and your father.

I have so little information about the Hawthorne Trail. The marker that was in the southern part of Camilla on the Hawthorne Trail has been removed but this is what I have always heard about it, that Hawthorne (Nathanael) blazed the trail from the point where Albany is or near there directly south to the Gulf of Mexico. It passed through what is now Camilla and on through Cairo, I assume to the Gulf of Mexico. I regret that I do not have more knowledge of it but

This is what Camilla accepts
as the blazing of the Hawthorne
Trail. It goes the length of Scott
Street in Camilla and south to
the Gulf.

I was so glad your father
was able to take the trip to Cairo
and I know Sister Maudie and the
boys were glad to see him.

Come to see me sometime, I
would be so glad to know you and
your family.

With all good wishes, I am
Yours most sincerely,

Clyde B. Lewis (Mrs. F. L.)

I
she my Aunt Clyde - was
Clyde Postumek

Cairo brings home third place in City of Roses Invitational

The Cairo/Grady County Sharks traveled to Thomasville, Georgia, Saturday, July 11 to compete in the City of Roses Invitational, hosted by the Thomasville Riptide swim team. The Sharks competed well and brought home third place honors.

Final team point standings were: Bainbridge - 740.5; Thomasville - 712.5; Cairo - 696.5; Marianna - 440.5; Tifton - 145.5; Moultrie - 113; and Fitzgerald - 77.5.

Individual high point scorers for the Sharks were: 6 & Under Boys - Hunter Hinson - 3rd and Lee Cox - 5th; 7-8 Boys - Drew Whigham - 1st; 9-10 Boys - Kyle Reagan - 2nd; Sam Rozar - 4th; and Perry Brown - 5th; 11-12 Girls - Felicia Davis - 1st;

7th place	Duke Posey	19.84
8th place	Jeb Johnson	20.40
50 Freestyle		
1st place	Drew Whigham	35.07
6th place	Jeb Johnson	45.73
9th place	Duke Posey	47.35
25 Backstroke		
7th place	Duke Posey	26.45
25 Breaststroke		
2nd place	Jeb Johnson	26.38
6th place	Kyle Brown	29.21
25 Butterfly		
1st place	Drew Whigham	18.22
100 Individual Medley		
2nd place	Drew Whigham	1:42.93
100 Medley Relay		
3rd place	CST "A"	1:38.13
100 Free Relay		
4th place	CST "A"	1:25.09
	9-10 Boys	
25 Freestyle		
3rd place	Kyle Reagan	16.03
4th place	Sam Rozar	16.65
7th place	Perry Brown	17.34

10th place	Tony Desearcy	17.50
50 Freestyle		
1st place	Sam Rozar	35.54
2nd place	Kyle Reagan	35.65
7th place	Tony Desearcy	41.27
25 Backstroke		
5th place	Perry Brown	23.04
7th place	Tony Desearcy	28.08
9th place	Stephen Rehberg	28.63
25 Breaststroke		
1st place	Kyle Reagan	19.64
2nd place	Perry Brown	19.80
4th place	Sam Rozar	23.26
25 Butterfly		
3rd place	Perry Brown	21.30
5th place	Sam Rozar	22.02
100 Individual Medley		
2nd place	Kyle Reagan	1:32.94
100 Medley Relay		
1st place	CST "A"	1:23.15
100 Free Relay		
1st place	CST "A"	1:14.31
	11-12 Boys	
50 Freestyle		

1st place	Dustin Harrell	30.26
3rd place	Drew Johnson	31.94
4th place	Lauren Johnson	34.13
6th place	Jamey Harrell	34.94
100 Freestyle		
1st place	Dustin Harrell	1:11.90
2nd place	Lauren Brown	1:19.40
6th place	Simon Moody	1:31.10
8th place	Brandon Joiner	1:39.70
50 Backstroke		
1st place	Dustin Harrell	36.68
3rd place	Lauren Brown	41.95
9th place	Hunter Rehberg	50.94
50 Breaststroke		
1st place	Drew Johnson	41.77
2nd place	Hunter Rehberg	47.74
5th place	Jamey Harrell	49.88
6th place	Simon Moody	51.60
50 Butterfly		
1st place	Drew Johnson	38.12
5th place	Hunter Rehberg	52.49
6th place	Garrett Pollock	52.86
100 Individual Medley		

1st place	Dustin Harrell	1:18.11
2nd place	Drew Johnson	1:26.90
4th place	Lauren Brown	1:35.34
5th place	Jamey Harrell	1:35.56
8th place	Hunter Rehberg	1:41.68
200 Medley Relay		
1st place	CST "A"	2:37.90
200 Free Relay		
1st place	CST "A"	2:19.33
3rd place	CST "B"	2:38.72
	15-18 Boys	
50 Freestyle		
5th place	Nelson Wilkins	26.63
100 Freestyle		
7th place	Nelson Wilkins	1:04.78
9th place	Darian Magee	1:21.58
50 Backstroke		
5th place	Darian Magee	45.40
50 Breaststroke		
3rd place	Nelson Wilkins	34.40
50 Butterfly		
4th place	Nelson Wilkins	29.23
7th place	Darian Magee	39.38

BEST-CUT HERBS

The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, say experts with the University of Georgia Extension Service. The leaves contain the maximum essential oils then. Cut herbs early on a sunny day.

Call 377-2032
To Subscribe
Today!

DOT board adopts resolution to identify Hawthorn Trail

During its meeting on June 18, the State Transportation Board adopted the following resolution concerning the designation of certain sections of state highway in Grady and Mitchell Counties as "The Hawthorn Trail."

"Whereas, the contributions and services of pioneer statesman and religious leader Elder William Hawthorn, particularly his role in opening Southwest Georgia for settlement in the early 1800s, played a vital role in providing economic growth and improving the quality of life for the region's citizens; and

Whereas, he resigned his elected and appointed positions in Pulaski County and moved to Early County

in 1822, opening a road to provide more direct connection from the Federal Trail to the Miccosukee Trails in Florida; and

Whereas, the opening of this road accommodated the moving of entire families into the region by wagons and carts, bringing the settlers who made us what we are today; and

Whereas, in 1823, Elder Hawthorn was appointed a Commissioner to select a public site for Decatur County, and to contract for, and have erected a courthouse and jail for the county; and

Whereas, he was elected a Commissioner of Roads for Decatur County, then served two terms as the

State Senator for the county; and

Whereas, he organized the constitution of the Tired Creek Baptist Church and served as its first Pastor.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the sections of State Route 111 beginning at County Road 81 and extending to the Southwest city limits of Cairo, and State Route 112 beginning at (Grady) County Road 84 and extending north to State Route 37 in Mitchell County be designated the Hawthorn Trail to remind future generations of the contributions of this outstanding Georgian and inspire them to greater deeds.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the

minutes of this meeting, suitable copies provided to officials of Grady and Mitchell Counties and the Commissioner of Transportation be instructed to erect appropriate signs designating this road."

To complete plans agreed on several weeks ago by representatives of the DOT and county officials in Grady and Mitchell Counties, the two county commissions will now have to act to designate county roads as part of the total "Hawthorn Trail."

In Grady County these roads include the road now named "Upper Hawthorne Trail" which connects the western city limits of Cairo with Ga. 112 near old Tired Creek

Methodist Church and the roads now named "Lower Hawthorne Trail" and Concord Road, which connect Ga. 111 S. with the Florida line.

In Mitchell County, former Ga. 3, now a county road, from Baconton south to Camilla is a part of the original Hawthorn Trail.

It will be the responsibility of Grady and Mitchell Counties to designate these county roads as "The Hawthorn Trail" and install proper signage along them.

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BARGAIN

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

I would like to respond to two points which were contained in last week's Messenger story on the

Creek Pow Wow. The latter part of the article, especially that portion which appeared on page 8-A, is virtually a direct quote from pages 241-242 of *Historic Georgia Families* by L. W. Rigsby (1928) and contains information which I feel needs to be corrected or questioned.

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The period of settlement and the ensuing Creek Wars is a most interesting and significant era in the history of southwest Georgia and Grady County. I should think that the Grady County Historical Society and those concerned with developing the Tama Reservation would vigorously proceed with studying, and most importantly documenting, the history of that aspect of our heritage. My very best wishes to those who may tackle the job.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne R. Faircloth

CM July 18, 1975

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the article in the Cairo Messenger of July 11, 1975, by Mr. Wayne Faircloth, concerning the information on the Creek Indians and Elder William Hawthorne. Concerning the town which was called Tamali, he will find in the book *THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CREEK INDIANS*, by John R. Swanton on pages 181-182. The publisher was the Washington Government

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I am sure this information is correct for the books were presented to Chief Neal McCormick and his wife Peggy McCormick by none other than Miss Wessie Connell librarian at Roddenbery Memorial Library.

If Mr. Faircloth doubts the source of our information any further, he may consult Miss Connell for a copy of the same books is still in the library, or if he wants to know what is going on at Tama Reservation, we extend to him and any other a most cordial invitation to come visit us.

Sincerely,
Albert Baggett

Long Branch Baptist Church the same date. The Brotherhood Program will begin at 7:00 P.M. with supper after which Rev. Calvin T. Culverson of Bainbridge, Ga. will preach. Long Branch Pastor, Rev. Stacey Williams, extends a cordial invitation to the men and boys of our association. The concert will follow immediately at Eastside.

threshold of expanding for the good of everyone. Industry has found those fundamental requirements for their feasibility studies to make their favorable decisions to locate here. They are: (1) A good educational system, with a Vocational School, (2) Adequate utilities (electricity, Natural gas, etc.), (3) Modern and adequate Health Care facilities, and (4) an adequate and productive labor source.

The proposed building of a modern health facility is in concert to meet the industrial and population growth of Grady County--the economic impact outlook is certainly for the good of a community with vision to meet the demands of a prosperous future.

"The hospital building project is an exciting architectural expression and blend of community need, functional layout, economies of operation, and flexibility for future development, as well as being aesthetically pleasing," said Robert Slack, the Administrator.

"It should be a definite asset to our county, and it is certainly another major step in the continuing series

of improvements we see occurring in the Grady County area. The building program will greatly enhance Grady General's ability to keep pace with advances in medicine to better serve the health needs of our community. "We anticipate favorable approval for the expansion program and hopefully break ground this Fall."

Carey Messinger 7-18-75
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Attend The Church
Of Your Choice

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"We hope," the editorial concluded, "Sen. Talmadge's legislation turns the tide on this public ripoff."

"Meanwhile, in Washington Sen. Talmadge is busily preparing his reform legislation designed primarily to eliminate costly abuses in Medicaid and Medicare. He said

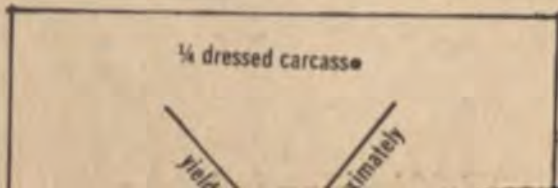
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...Pastor, Rev. Stacey Williams, extends a cordial invitation to the men and boys of the congregation. The concert will follow immediately at Eastside.

...panding for the good
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...Athens, Ga.
...Ga.

Kay is the daughter of Mr. and
...Mrs. Edgar Keller. Mr. Keller
...teaches in Pelham High School. Mrs.
...Keller is the former Miss Joyce
...Ingram.

Jordan Reunion Set For July 20

The children of the late Mr. and
...Mrs. Charles R. Jordan will meet
...July 20th at the Womens Clubhouse
...in Cairo for a family reunion. Time,
...10 o'clock until. All relatives and
...friends are invited. A picnic-lunch
...will be served at 1 o'clock p.m.

*When I was a boy
I recognized that my
Capit Hawthorne family
was the best*

Editor's Quote Book

*The praise of others may
be of use in teaching us, not
what we are, but what we
ought to be.*

August Hare

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flowers etc. . .

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**LOCATED COUNTRY CLUB
ESTATES - 1355 15TH ST. N.W.**

1 acre or more, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, family room, large fireplace, breakfast nook, living room, foyer, patio, utility room, 2 car garage.

PRICE \$52,500.00

LESS TAX REBATE \$2,000.00

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3 bedroom, 2 full baths, dining room - living room, family room - kitchen, large fireplace, car garage central heat and air.

PRICE \$32,500.00

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TOTAL COST \$30,875.00

A GOOD INVESTMENT:

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OPENING SOON

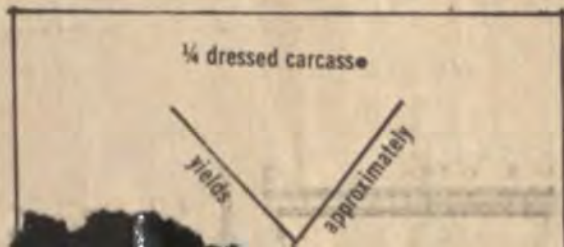
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SOU

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Matched M
From Twin
Designed.

Quee

Keep ↓

file with Hartman papers

Joseph DUCKWORTH died 9-4-1853. William DUCKWORTH died 9-6-1853. John DUCKWORTH died 6-11-1859, aged 16 yrs, 11 mos. B. F. DUCKWORTH killed on the Battlefield in Va 6-20-1864, in his 24th yr. 114-75 Richard W, David Jackson, Isaac (d 1844) and Alexander McDowell WILLIAMS were children of Margaret HENDON and William WILLIAMS who moved from Bladen Co, NC to Leon Co, FL ca 1830. All sons bought land in Decatur Co, GA between 1870-72. David is buried at former Tired Creek Methodist Church Cem. Cairo, GA. now known as United Meth. Would like to hear from their descendants. Mrs. Mildred R. Hagan, 274 W. 62nd St, Jacksonville, FL 32208. 1850 census of Leon Co lists Margaret WILLIAMS, 57, NC with Alexander 30 NC, Mary 24, NC, Richard 23 NC. Many other WILLIAMS families but this appears to be the only one who fits your family.

115-75 When did Burwell AYCOCK wed Penelope MCCLENDON? They both died Oglethorpe Co, Burwell in 1846. Burwell's 1st wife may have been Sarah YOUNG. Mrs. S. J. Shinault, 13773 Dyer St, El Paso, TX 79934. We did not find the marriage--Burrel Acock in 1830 Oglethorpe Census; Burwell Acock in 1820 Census.

116-75 Who were parents of Hackey and Clarissa WALKER of Jasper Co, GA? The 1850 census states Hackey b VA, 1769; Clarissa b DE. What counties? Are you a desc of William WALKER, son of James Randolph WALKER of Troup Co, GA? Or of Henry WALKER, son of Hackey? Mrs. Margaret Woodside, 1723 30th Street, Lubbock, TX 79411 Mrs. Woodside is a new subscriber. We found Hackey in Jasper County in 1820, 30, 40 census. There is a will for Henry WALKER, Will Book J, 1825, 1831, Jasper Co.

117-75 Need help on James Dickson BUTLER (2-8-1828 to 1912??) son of Frederick and Mary BUTLER. James in CW, Co F, 5th BTN and Co I, 2nd Fl Cav. In 1874 he was paid \$100 bounty. Why? Who paid it? Is the Robert BUTLER who served with Andrew JACKSON in Fla Campaign related to James? James' picture was taken with President Robert TAFT; what year and why? Evonne V. Cline Route 1, Box 010, Horseshoe Beach, FL 32648. You should check with the Florida Archives for pension and Military Record.

Genealogical information and queries with a Georgia Florida background are welcome and are printed free. Address:

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Barrineau Family Holds Reunion On July 4th

The James Newton and Ollie Lou (Hand) Barrineau family had a reunion at the Cairo Livestock Pavilion on July 4, 1975. Approximately sixty-one children, grandchildren and great grand-

children from Georgia, Florida, Texas, Maryland and Virginia attended. Another reunion is planned for July 4, 1976, and all members of the Barrineau family are invited.

Harrison Reunion Set For July 20th

The fourth annual Family Reunion of Joseph and Clarica J. Harrison will be held July 20th at the Turkey Creek Community Center. All family and friends are invited to attend and bring a picnic lunch.

not very frank
not a lady



Earth Glow
by
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Sculptures of 18K white or yellow gold form an engagement band and wedding ensemble displaying a brilliant round diamond. "Earth Glow" by Orange Blossom.

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DOWNTOWN
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CENTER

**MR. CHICK
WILL BE CLOSED
FOR VACATION**



*This gives a likely correct
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is now's not*

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JULY 8th THRU JULY 15th

*view of relations between
1823 onward of Indian*



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JULY 15th**

*Finds with in
correct*

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found all winter*

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36 Years

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377-3382



Mr. And Mrs. Julius Cox

Miss Deborah Durrent Becomes Bride Of Julius Cox In Lovely June 20th Ceremony

The Hartsfield Baptist Church was the scene on Friday evening, June 20th, at eight-thirty o'clock for the marriage of Miss Deborah Louise Durrent, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Durrent, Jr., of Pelham and Julius H. Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Cox, of Hartsfield.

Officiating at the double ring ceremony was the church pastor, Rev. Dan Williams. A beautiful program of wedding music was brought by the bride's brother, Randall Durrent, of Pelham.

For the ceremony, a tall fourteen

Breath showered with lace ribbon streamers. The bride wore a pair of cultured pearl earrings that exactly matched the pearl buttons on her gown. For sentiment, she carried a handkerchief that her mother bought many years ago.

Miss Stella Akridge attended the bride as maid of honor and bridesmaids included Mrs. Walter Gee, III, of Camilla, and Mrs. Patricia Nichols, of Moultrie. They were gowned alike in floor length dresses of light blue knit jersey with V-neck plunging necklines. A band

have been issued to us and must be complied with - in turn the public - the patient and the patients family must be aware of the regulations because if an admission is denied or if an extended care case is denied the patient or the family will be held responsible for the bill at the hospital. The patient and the family must be aware that it is not local hospital or a physicians policy or decision that the patient must be dismissed in a reasonable time to be transferred to a nursing home or arrangements made for the patient to be cared for at home.

LAST

©
Chas. M. Brooks
Brooker Sales Inc.

We're
caught with
too much
merchandise



FINA

take on

the back of the pulpit and framed down below a large central flower arrangement of mixed summer flowers including carnations, chrysanthemums, daises, gypsophelia, and Baby Breath. Light Blue candles burned in the spiral brass candelabra flanking the central arrangement. Palms were interspersed across the pulpit stand. Family pews were marked by pewmarkers of light blue ribbon with ivy and fern.

The bride wore a gown of beautiful white bridal satin and lace. The gown was made Empire style with princess-line skirt. The front of the bodice was overlaid with lace and the raised neckline had a V-shape with seven pearl buttons from the opening to the waist. The sleeves were lace with wide satin cuffs where four pearl buttons were placed. She wore a fingertip veil of illusion edged with lace and pearls. She carried a colonial type bouquet of white carnations, blue frenced carnations, white mums, and Baby

and tied in the back. The Empire style dresses had caplet sleeves of white lace with embroidered with blue flower designs and were edged with tiny white lace. They carried colorful nosegays of mixed spring and summer flowers.

John Gandy, of Athens, attended the groom as best man and the usher-groomsmen were Randy Gay and Larry Williams, both of Moultrie.

For the wedding the bride's mother chose a street-length knit suit of aqua with darker aqua polka dots, having a corsage of white carnations pinned to her shoulder. The groom's mother wore a street length suit of pink knit made princess style and A-line skirt. She used matching accessories and had a corsage of white carnations.

There was no reception following the quiet and simple but impressive ceremony, instead, the bride and groom stood at the door of the church and greeted the guests. They are making their home in Moultrie.



This Weeks Pulse

GRADY
GENERAL
HOSPITAL

New Federal and State Regulations will affect Medicare and Medicaid admissions and length of stay in hospitals.

Effective July 1, 1975, new Federal and State regulations now require that all hospitals shall review and evaluate every Medicare and Medicaid beneficiary (the person being admitted) on admission and on an extended or prolonged stay in the hospital. The stay being beyond a normal or necessary length of stay in the hospital).

Upon admission every patient who is on Medicare and Medicaid will be reviewed for justification of need to be admitted for care in an acute care hospital. In other words, could the patient have been treated on an out-patient basis or remain at home with adequate treatment.

The same regulations will govern an extended stay in the hospital. Review dates are set up so that a patients record shall be reviewed by a member or members of the

Utilization Review Committee using criteria or standards based upon diagnosis and the present condition of the patient as to justification for extending the stay in the hospital. If in the opinion on the review the patient does not meet the criteria (no longer is in need of skilled nursing care) the patient and or the family must be notified in writing and given a 72 hour notice to transfer the patient to a nursing home facility, or to take the patient home. Home health care services are available from the Grady County Health Department and can be of assistance in the necessary care of the patient at home. The attending physician will prepare the proper request form to be submitted to the County Health Department recommending the care and treatment to be given the patient in the home.

This is a matter of great concern placed upon the Health Care Team - your physician, nursing services and administration. These regulations



Bring your
you simply

Crow

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PLAN TO AT



MRS J. B. RODDENBAY
RT 1
CAIRO GA 31728

CAIRO, GEORGIA
The Best City of Its
Size in the Entire
United States

The Cairo

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF GRADY COUNTY

"The man who wandreth out of the v

VOLUME LXVII

Twenty Eight Pages

CAIRO, GRADY



IS A SMALL PORTION OF THE THROG OF PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE INDIA
RE AT THE DANCING COMPETITION.



Former Cairoite Roy Allen Richards, Gets Appointment

Roy Allen Richards, of Albany, formerly of Cairo, has been appointed a parole review officer in the Atlanta headquarters of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. He will become one of five such officers who conduct preliminary hearings for alleged parole violators, conduct parole orientation classes for all felons entering prison, and review inmate cases and recommend Board action.

The appointment was announced by board chairman Cecil McCall, who said, "Mr. Richards is especially fit for the position."

Big Pow-W Draws 15,000

Princess Named In Fiesta Here

Reservation Site Scene Of Varied Activities

(See Editorial Page 2)

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overnment? Why don't you
tute the words "taxpayers
ited States" for the word
ent". It is surprising how
ounds but how high your
oes up.

MORALS
re finding people yelling
r president and politicians
their morals are bad.
re up in the air, never
nd... then they laugh about
to take off their clothes in
nd "streak". It sure makes a
wonder about morals.

-0-
nergy shortage has become
art of our lives that people
ken to counting kilowatts
of sheep to get to sleep at

-0-
e else but in the United States
on last page first section)

Georgia's parole system, as well as
his academic training."

Before his new appointment Mr.
Richards served as parole super-
(Cont. on last page first section)

July Rain Welcomed

Turbulence Marks Some Showers In Grady Area

July thundershowers, usual for
this period, have about ended, for
the present, a drought that was
damaging some Grady area crops
seriously as the month began last
week.

The rain has come in widely
varying volumes, which is normal at
this time of the year, but nearly all
areas of Grady County are reported
to have had rather substantial relief,
although the relief came too late for
some corn crops in northern areas of
the county, crop observers say.
Vegetable crops were greatly
benefitted.

Some have commented that the
milk of human kindness has been
flowing here in perhaps un-
precedented volume this spring and
summer because so many people
have planted more vegetables than
usual to stave off a reported

(CONTINUED ON 7A)

Cairo Lions Do Full Job Club Is Organized In Full Revival Of Activities

The Cairo Lions Club, which ex-
perienced a rousing revival at the
annual "ladies' night" dinner on
Tuesday night of last week, after
being sparked by the active Calvary
Lions Club, has now been fully
reactivated and will resume its
place not only in Lions International
but in the community, James L.
Mitchell, the president, revealed
this week.

He said the club had 30-odd
members before several new ones
were received at the dinner and that

(CONTINUED ON 7A)

Louisiana and even Massachusetts
joined Southwest Georgia and North
Florida Muscogee Creeks and their
white friends here in an action-
packed 2nd annual frontier Pow-
Wow July 3-4 which visiting daily
press news correspondents figured
attracted a total of some 15,000
people, altogether.

Chief Neal McCormick of Cairo,
head of the Georgia tribe of Lower
Muscogee Creeks, and his wife,
Peggy, were the official hosts at the
new and developing Tired Creek
Reservation of 102 acres about three
miles southwest of Cairo; and they
shared the leadership with Chief and
Mrs. Wesley Thomley of Pensacola,
who head the Florida Creeks.

A thundershower Wednesday
night, July 3, appeared to spur
rather than dampen the activities as
countless modern mobile campers
vied for parking spaces alongside
typical Indian teepees as the throngs
of visitors joined the Indians to enjoy
ceremonial dances in colorful
costumes, competitions of various
types, a trading post area with all
manner of Indian artifacts ranging
from hand-tooled leather belts and
turquoise jewelry to feathers, beads
and other materials to create Indian
costumes.

A 15 year old Thomasville girl was
chosen junior princess of the Pow-
Wow. Decked out in an authentic
Indian dress to enhance her natural
beauty - complete with beads and
fringe - Connie Lawler's crowning
was a big feature of the re-making
ceremonies. She is the daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Corbett M. Lawaler of
Thomasville and a 10th grader at

(Cont. on last page first section)

Geo T. Airs Planks, Hits Bert, Lester

Former Lt. Governor George T.
Smith, one of the top contenders for
the run off spot in the Aug. 13
Democratic primary, reiterated
Tuesday that in this critical time of
inflation and recession he would
propose "removing sales tax from
the necessities of life-food, drugs,
and funerals. This is in addition to
his stand on removing school tax
from real property, letting the state
bear the total cost of education." He
revealed the new platform plank
while in Cairo last week.

Bearing down hard on "
(Cont. on last page first section)



SHERIFF WALDROP
STORE. Law enforce
Sheriff Lane Waldrop
Whigham Hardware Co
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and recovered the subs
substantial sum of mon
two young men were ar

Cairo In Re

New Residence Feature Report

Half-Year Total I
\$1,369,700 ; Meet
Held Monday

Cairo's Mayor and Council h
the first regular meeting for July
City Hall last Monday night, w
Mayor Adrian P. Clark presidin
Only three Councilmen - Ang
Edwards, Jr., Frank Giddens and
T. Sumner - were present. Others
attendance included City Mgr. Jo
Walker; Mrs. Martha Faye Lew
clerk and treasurer; and R. A. Be
city attorney. Rev. Dr. Loy Veal,
the First United Methodist Churc
was on hand to represent th
Ministerial Association and offer th
invocation.

The business at the meeting wa
almost entirely routine in nature an
relatively unimportant, with only
bare quorum present. Final plan
were made for the opening of bids or

...were made for the opening of bids on...
 ...are quorum present. Final plan...
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 ...Only three Councilmen - Ang...
 ...Mayor Adrian P. Clark presidi...
 ...City Hall last Monday night, w...
 ...the first regular meeting for July...
 ...Caro's Mayor and Council h...



FRESH LEAN GROUND
BEEF
 POUND
79c

12 OZ
 PACK
 LYKES ALL MEAT
FRANKS

45c

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MIDGET
LIMAS 18 OZ BAG **49c**
 KRAFT
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MAYONNAISE 89c

KEEBLER VANILLA
WAFFERS
 12 OZ BOX
39c

5 LBS
58c



U.S. NO 1
POTATOES
 10 LBS **99c**

ZESTA
SALTINES
 POUND BOX
38c

INSTANT MAXWELL HOUSE
COFFEE
 6 OZ JAR
\$1³⁹

GRADE A MEDIUM
EGGS
 2 DOZEN
89c



INSTANT TETLEY
TEA
 3 OZ JAR
98c

BOB'S
 GROCERY AND MARKET
 SHOP AND SAVE

learn that, like ourselves, Indians are also a
 many nations — that they are, in fact, people
 Except that they were here first.

GLORIA JAHODA

ching on beyond the globe where the flowers never w
 the congregation is never dismissed in God's house fo
 Bishop Moore was entombed in Westview Abbey
 side his wife Martha, who died in August, 1964.

estimony Of Bishop Moore

Farmers Advised Not
 To Destroy Evidence
 Of Crop Disaster

State Patrol Laud
 Supreme Court R
 On Vehicle Searc
 ATLANTA - Georgia P

Way Of Better Life!

Bishop J. Moore, the world-renowned Georgian, who ended his long earthly sojourn June 27 at age 85, and who was paid a final interment July 3 at Glenn Memorial Church at Emory was ready to go because he of all people knew what meant, not only selected scripture and songs but wrote a personal testimony to be read at the funeral.

People all over the world, including many who knew him well, but when we consider that he had an 6,000 people to commitments to the Christian Church during his years as an active evangelist alone, in Birmingham Ala., his last testimony certainly worth everyone's study.

His testimony, which was printed on the program for the funeral, read, "The Methodist Church has laid upon my shoulders many responsibilities, but it has also given to me many honors.

Perhaps no man ever stood seeking admission at the General Annual Conference with so little to offer as testimonials of his worthiness for the work of the ministry. Through the great kindness, the South Georgia Conference received me 'on trial' in 1909.

From that humble circuit to which I was sent in that I have travelled a worldwide circuit and had the privilege of being the 'Ambassador' of Methodism upon every continent of the earth.

That broken sepulcher in Joseph's garden assures that God hath set the light of immortality in our hearts and that not even death can put it out. Our Christian faith never so confident, never so triumphant as when it aims the everlasting life.

"We march, not toward the setting sun, but toward the light of morning; the light that shineth more and more toward the perfect day. This life and the next are one and God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. "The light that falls upon my pathway is the Light of Eternal Morning."

Bishop Cannon, officiating, said the day should be "a day of celebration, a day when we sing our hallelujahs to God" for the life of Bishop Moore.

"We are thankful we saw in him the example of the life we ought to live," Bishop Cannon said.

Dr. Louie D. Newton, a retired Southern Baptist churchman who was a longtime friend of Bishop Moore, called him "a great preacher, a great statesman, and a great builder of Christian civilization."

Newton said, "Now that vibrant voice is silent here, and that lucid pen moves no more across the page, but every evening star will remind us that his spirit goes mar-

Don't blow it quiet. These emphatic words of local ASCS Director W. Carter Morton, Jr., are directed at farmers whose farm program crops have been destroyed or damaged by the recent drought in certain areas of Grady county.

Producers who believe they may be entitled to disaster payments under the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 should notify the Grady county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office as soon as possible.

What they should NOT do, Morton said, is plow under or otherwise destroy evidence of the crop damage until specifically advised by the county ASCS office that they may do so. Official determinations must be made on the extent of loss.

"If a farmer believes that natural disaster has caused a substantial loss in yield of his program crops, he should notify the county office as soon as he can. He should not destroy the crop residue. If his loss is partial and he harvests some or all the crop, he should be ready to furnish evidence of the yield, such as warehouse receipts and similar documents," Morton said.

"Most important of all, he should keep in touch with the county ASCS office," Morton added.

This is the first year in which ASCS is to make disaster payments to eligible farmers who have substantial losses in production of program crops because of natural disaster. Program crops grown in Grady county include wheat, grain sorghum, corn, barley Upland cotton.

The local ASCS chief pointed out that disaster payments are intended only to provide some relief to farmers whose cropland is so affected by natural disaster that they receive little or no income from production of the crop. The payments are not intended to compensate fully for the loss. Also, coverage extends only to planted acreage up to the historical allotment on each farm, not to acreage planted in excess of allotment. The program is available without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, or sex.

More complete information on disaster payment provisions is available from the County ASCS Office.

READ THE
CAIRO
MESSENGER
SOCIETY PAGE

Cofer said that a June 25 the Georgia Supreme Court law enforcement officers evidence in plain view roadblocks and road checks necessity of a search warrant another step toward unsharpened enforcement officers and clearer safer streets for everyone.

The State Supreme Court stemmed from an appeal decision relating to confiscated evidence during a roadblock officer over a year ago at a music festival at Jekyll Island. Subsequent contesting of the lead to the State Supreme Court ruling which referred to a Supreme Court ruling that "under certain circumstances the police may seize evidence in plain view without a warrant." Since evidence (marijuana) was in plain view in the current case, the officer had probable cause to search the vehicle without a warrant, the Supreme Court said on June 25.

Commissioner Cofer said the ruling clears up a lot of questions on the part of law enforcement about legal vehicle searches. He emphasized that the ruling said that a search may be made only if criminal evidence is seen in plain view by the officer and that violation of consent or a search warrant is still necessary for searches for hidden evidence. The ruling further clarifies law enforcement's right to conduct roadblocks and road checks stating "police officials may set up highway roadblocks for the purpose of requiring motorists to display their driver's license, and that such practice does not invade their right to use the public ways free from unreasonable and unwarranted interception. Nor does such a practice constitute an unlawful arrest or restraint or an illegal search contrary to the U. S. Constitution."

The State Attorney General's Office in a letter to State Patrol Commander Major Hugh Hardison interpreted the Supreme Court ruling to say (1) law enforcement officers may conduct roadblocks to check driver's licenses, car inspection stickers, motor vehicle registrations, and to apprehend fugitives and runaways, and (2) officers may seize evidence in plain view at the roadblock without a search warrant.

Commissioner Cofer said that all members of the State Patrol would be briefed on the decision.

3-M John Thurman	Jan. 15, 1918 Bowling Green, Fla.	Jonny Ruth Jordan July 7, 1936
4-M Muriel Ernest	July 26, 1919 Bowling Green, Fla.	1. Doshie Mae Jordan Jan. 6, 1937 2. Mary Ersula Thompson July 3, 1945
5-M William Francis	Apr. 22, 1924 Bowling Green, Fla.	Dorothy Mae Thompson Apr. 18, 1952

*From Mrs BS
1979-80
19 0011*

References: Family Bible; Family Sources; Hardee Co., Fla. Records.

HAWTHORN

Elder William Hawthorn was born about 1762 in North Carolina according to tradition, and was living in Bladen County between 1795 and 1798, according to land records. It is not known when he came to Georgia, but by 1820 he was in Pulaski County with his wife and five sons. Between this time and the year 1824 he made his way to the vicinity of Tired Creek, in Decatur County, thereby giving his name to the Hawthorn Trail.

Elder Hawthorn was a founder and first minister of the Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church in 1826 at Sofkee in Old Decatur County; he was a prominent citizen and represented Decatur County as State Senator in 1827.

In 1830 Elder Hawthorn had only two sons still at home and his sons Jonathan Cliburn and Elias Owen were living nearby. Also in the neighborhood was Nathaniel Hawthorn, born in 1775, possibly a younger brother or nephew of Elder William. Nathaniel left Decatur County after 1830 but is found in Baker County in 1850.

Based on land records, it appears that Joshua Thomas Hawthorn, born 1813, and possibly A. Jackson Hawthorn, born 1814 were also sons of Elder William Hawthorn. If not, they were certainly the sons of Nathaniel who moved to Baker County. Milbray Hawthorn who married James Kelly in Pulaski County in 1819 appears to be a daughter since James Kelly was involved in the estate of Elder Hawthorn. In 1870, Mileachy, the daughter of Elder William Hawthorn was living in the household of Jackson Hawthorn who had returned to Decatur County.

HAWTHORN

Elder William HAWTHORN, Rev. Sol., D1.1; Primitive Baptist Min., Sen. for Decatur Co., Ga.; Birth-c. 1760, N.C.; Marriage-prior 1793, prob. Robeson Co., N.C.; Death-May 15, 1846, Decatur Co., Ga.; Wife-Mileachy CLIBURN; Birth-bf. 1767, N.C.; Death-Mar. 26, 1866, Decatur Co., Ga.

Issue	Birth	Marriage	Death
1-F (Patsy) Martha	1793, North Carolina	Robert Jones, prior 1827	
2-M William Bryant	1809, North Carolina	Elizabeth Jones Jan. 26, 1837	Apr. 21, 1887
3-M Jonathan Cliburn	1800-1810 North Carolina	Nancy—	died 1848 Decatur Co., Ga.
4-M Elias Owen	1800-1810 North Carolina	Zeny Emmanuel Aug. 30, 1827 Decatur Co., Ga.	
5-M Timothy (no record)			
6-F Mileachy (Milly)	1810, North Carolina	never married	after 1870

vicinity of Camp Flats and another near the Waterfall plantation. One of these must have been the village of Capachiqui. Man Bone Creek flows between these sites of ancient villages, tradition is that this creek was named for a man's bones and from the best information obtainable it appears that the name was given by the surveyors surveying and mapping out the country and was the English equivalent of the Indian name. I suspect that this creek received its name from the first white man whose bones were to rest in Georgia soil.

DeSoto must have remained two days in the vicinity of the slough and this Indian village, perhaps burying the dead and treating the wounded. He departed on the 11th, where Jones says, "Departing from Capachiqui on the 11th, and traversing a desert, the expedition had on the 21st, penetrated as far as Toalli." Here Jones draws conclusions from the use of the word desert. Had he been familiar with the country through which the line of march was traveling his conclusion would no doubt have been different. De Soto's line of march from Anhayca had, so far been through a country abounding with hills and running streams, with springs and a varied growth: At Capachiqui he was on the slough. A large stream flowed under the ground of which his expedition could know nothing. They found numerous streams flowing to the north or the northwest whose waters disappeared under the ground. Crossing the slough and traveling north a marked change in the appearance of the country demanded instant attention. No longer were there running streams, or springs. The country was nearly level. They were likely in an "old harrican," the Indians had probably burned the grass and nothing was more natural than to mistake the country for a desert, but he who travels over the Dixie Highway today, traversing much of the same territory from Albany to Camilla, would not fall into this error, but viewing the magnificent homes, the wonderful vistas of pecan groves, the beautiful hedges or the fields of cotton, corn, mellons, or peanuts would never think of this as having once been described as a desert, but rather as a wonderful land of promise. I wonder if these

Spanish explorers had been more intent upon the agricultural possibilities of this section or if they had been able to visualize the country as it now is, if the history of this section would have been the same or if a Spanish colony would not have been planted here rather than the scattering and half-hearted Spanish missions which came later.

We can not definitely determine the Indian village of Toalli but as it was within a ten days journey by the expedition from Capachiqui and within a two days journey from the Ocmu'gee river we must conclude that it was somewhere in the vicinity of the present County of Wilcox.

Not only is this section of Georgia the oldest explored part of the state but in all probability it is the oldest from point of continuous occupation by a Christian people. In Herbert E. Bolton's recent book, "Spain's Title to Georgia," page 24: "The center of a new movement was Apalache, with San Luis (now Tallahassee) as its focus. Towards this important region in the back country French and English pirates on the Gulf, empty flour barrels at San Augustin, and the demand of the royal fleets for wild turkeys pointed the finger of prophecy. The Apalache Indians had long been asking for missionaries, but for lack of funds and workers the petition could not be answered until 1633. Then the guardian of the head monastery at San Augustin trudged westward and answered the call. Twenty years later there were nine flourishing missions at San Luis. Some of them drew neophytes from the region that is now southwestern Georgia."

The Indians living within the present boundaries of Grady county were certainly friendly to the whites and while the settlers in other sections were having their troubles those in this section lived in perfect friendliness and accord. These two following incidents will illustrate the spirit of friendliness that existed between the two races.

Elder William Hawthorn first settled along the waters of Tired Creek. At the time of making this settlement a small Indian village was located near the forks of the roads beyond the creek on the lower Whigham road. These Indians remained friendly and

This statement is contradictory to Wayne City with Capt. ab fighter in 1830's

Barlow's Soldiers Creek

*Beams
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area
Ba that
Barrow
Jockey
Barrow
in about
1814
same of
to about
200 yrs
later*

afforded Elder Hawthorn every aid and assistance in establishing himself. One of the orphaned Indians was provided for by Hawthorn and remained as a member of his household for seven years. When the trouble broke out between the whites and Indians from neighboring settlements neither the whites nor Indians here were involved to any considerable extent, if at all. Other Indians were dissatisfied with this condition and sought to create trouble. In furtherance of this desire a scheme was devised to assassinate Hawthorne in such a manner as to leave evidence to cause the white settlers to suspect the friendly Indians of being guilty of his assassination, thinking in this manner to cause a breach which would involve the friendly Indians in the, then prevailing, Indian war.

Soon after day one morning Elder Hawthorne heard a turkey yelping in the nearby woods. He secured his rifle and went to look for the turkey, but instead of going straight from the house he took a circuitous route so as to approach the sound of the turkey call from the growth of timber. He located the call as coming from among the branches of a large oak. Creeping forward noiselessly and keeping another large tree between him and the tree in which he supposed the turkey to be, he approached quite close to the supposed turkey. Looking around the tree for the turkey he was startled by an arrow which struck the tree just a few inches from his head and glanced off. He recognized at once that the supposed turkey was an Indian seeking to entice him within reach to kill him. He knew his danger. While he had his gun he did not know the exact location of the Indian. He could neither retreat or move without taking the risk of receiving an arrow. After considering for some time and remaining entirely motionless he determined upon what appeared to him the only safe course of action. Having reached his decision he examined the priming of his gun and seeing that everything was in readiness, exposed himself just long enough to tempt another arrow from the Indian, which missed. Taking advantage of the time necessary for the Indian to secure another ar-

row and fit it to the string Hawthorne stepped from concealment and shot the Indian from the tree.

He failed to recognize the Indian and left him lying where he fell. Returning to the house he dispatched the Indian lad who was living with him to the village of the friendly Indians with the news of what had happened. The Indians came and looked over the ground after which they dispatched a runner to the village in what is now Thomas county where the Indian belonged and these Indians came and took the body away. In this way their scheme was foiled and the whites and Indians still remained friendly.

As the troubles grew more serious between the Indians in other sections runners were sent out calling the whites and their families into the fort near Bainbridge. The settlers did not want to go. They discussed the matter with their Indian neighbors and the Indians advised them to go to the fort and promised to care for the property of the whites, and thus it was arranged. The white settlers all resorted to the forts for protection from the Indians and the Indians cared for their property. After the trouble was over and the white people returned to their homes they found their cows and calves, their hens and biddies and all their property cared for just as well as if they had remained to look after it themselves.

These traditions have been given to me by children and grandchildren of the first settlers. I remember only one of the first settlers, Milie (Ward) Hester, and remember only one circumstance as related by her, nevertheless these circumstances have come from so many sources that I believe they are correct in all important particulars.

There are now residents in this section, descendants of first settlers who trace their descent from one line of Indian ancestry, and there is but little doubt that there was an infusion of Spanish blood among the Indians here long before the advent of the English race.

W. I. MacIntyre, of Thomasville, has compiled a complete list of heads of families for this section covering the period 1830 and 1840. Let those who have a remaining doubt as to the character of our people procure this