
Grady County Historical Society – Sections Hawthorne - I

1826-2004

Hawthorne Papers 1

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Photocopy from
Georgia. Surveyor General
Land Lottery Grants
Carroll County
District 3, page 112

*William William
Hawthorne papers*

Georgia Department of
Archives and History

Date JUL 20 1959

KNOW YE; That in pursuance of the several acts of the General
Assembly of this State, passed the 9th of June, and 24th December, 1825, and the 14th and
27th of December, 1826, to make distribution of the land acquired of the Creek Nation of
Indians, by a Treaty concluded at the Indian Springs, on the 1st day of February, 1825,
and forming the Counties of Lee, Muscogee, Troup, Coweta and Carroll, in this State

I HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents, DO GIVE AND GRANT

unto *William Hawthorne* of the *Third* District - *Carroll County*
this

heirs and assigns forever, all that tract or lot of land containing two hundred two and a half
acres, situate, lying, and being in the *THIRD* District, of the *FIRST* Section, in the
County of *CARROLL* in said State, which said tract or lot of land is known and
distinguished in the plan of said District by the number *One hundred and thirty six*
having such shape, form and marks
as appear by a plat of the same hereunto annexed: To have and to hold the said
tract or lot of land, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances
thereof whatsoever, ~~which have been reserved to the State by an act passed the 24th of December, 1825,~~ unto the said

William Hawthorne his

heirs and assigns, to *his* and their proper use, benefit
and behoof forever in fee simple.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the said State this *fourth* day of *May* *1827*
in the year one thousand eight hundred and *twenty seven*
and of the Independence of the United States of America the *0127*

Signed by his Excellency the Governor,

William Shelby
24th day of *May* 1827

Registered the

W. C. Anderson S. E. D.
24th day of *May* 1827

110
STATE OF GEORGIA.

By His Excellency William Shelby Governor and
Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of this State,
and of the Militia thereof.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING.

KNOW YE, That in pursuance of the several acts of the General
Assembly of this State, passed the 9th of June, and 24th December, 1825, and the 11th and
20th of December, 1826, to make distribution of the land acquired of the Creek Nation of
Indians, by a Treaty concluded at the Indian Springs, on the 11th day of February, 1825,
and forming the Counties of Lee, Muscogee, Troup, Coweta and Carroll, in this State

I HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents, DO GIVE AND GRANT

to *William Heathorn* of the *Third* District of *Carroll* County
this

John and assigns forever, all that tract or lot of land containing two hundred two and a half
acres, more or less, lying, and being in the *THIRD* District, of the *FIRST* Section, in the
County of *CARROLL* in said State, which said tract or lot of land is known and
designated in the plan of said District by the number *One hundred*

thirty six having such shape, form and marks
as appear by a plat of the same hereunto annexed: To have and to hold the said
tract or lot of land, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances
thereof whatsoever, ~~except all public lands, mines and quarries, which have been re-~~
~~turned to the State by an act passed the 24th of December, 1825,~~ unto the said

William Heathorn his
heirs and assigns, to *his* and their proper use, benefit
and behoof forever in fee simple.

GIVEN *of* my hand and the Great Seal of the said State this *third*

Georgia, (1768), w.

George Whitfield, of Savannah, (1770), w.

Charles Watson, of Savannah, (1770), w.

Parmenas Way, (Midway), K.

Moses Way, (Midway), K.

Edward Way, (Midway), K.

Nathaniel Way, (Midway), K.

John Winn, (Midway), K.

Y.

Thomas Young, d.

Isaac Young, of Christ Church Parish, (1766), w.

William Young, of Savannah, (1776), w.

Jacob Yowel, d.

Z.

Bartholemew Zouberbuhler, Rector Christ Church Parish, (?), w.

Mathias Zeitler, Savannah, (1776), w.

The foregoing list of early settlers, while not complete, is representative. The character of the families represented and the limited knowledge of them which we are able to secure at present precludes the assertion that they were either of the poor debtor or criminal class. Other facts inconsistent with these statements in our early histories that the settlement of Georgia was an act of philanthropy are that Thomas Coram, the only member of the board of trustees with a reputation for philanthropy (except in connection with the Colony Georgia) retired as trustee after his first year's service; provisions were made for importation of servants by the first settlers and these were personal servants, not slaves; immediately upon arrival of the colonies fortifications were begun and many other details of conduct indicative of the purpose to hold the colony against possible attempts to secure it by other powers.

The question must occur here as to why should such representations have been made at the time if the colony was not intended as a refuge for the unfortunate class. The answer lies, in my opinion, in the condition of the times. England was Protestant, and Spain and France Catholic. Georgia belonged to Spain under the authority of the Pope and this claim had color of title from treaties existing between England and Spain. England was aware that Spain would consider the

settlement of Georgia an act of aggression and to forestall Spain the project was proposed for poor debtors of Europe and delegated to Trustees. The first ship brought settlers native of Portugal, Spain and Bavaria, as well as from England. The trustees were English, they had the right of selection and rejection and were thus enabled to furnish such military forces as might be needed to maintain the colony for England. Historians have given but little if any consideration to this question. Oglethorpe, Wesley and Whitfield were great men and immensely admired in their day; yet each had been under attack in Georgia; Oglethorpe had been court-martialled and acquitted, of charges made in Georgia; Wesley had been indicted and left Georgia at night, and Whitfield had made a failure of his orphan home. Our historians have been more interested in protecting the reputations of these great men than in giving the facts regarding the average citizens. The result of this has been that Georgia is suffering from misrepresentation abroad and our people do not have that pride of ancestry, spirit of patriotism, and inclination for service to their State which no doubt would prevail if they knew the facts of the early settlers of the colony. At this late day the task of rescuing these facts from the pages of oblivion must be that of the genealogist until such a time as a sufficient array of facts has been marshalled to supply the historian with data for correcting the errors in the history of our state.

Now stepping back nearly two hundred years before Oglethorpe settled Savannah, Ga., and the English colonization of Georgia began, the history of Georgia by the white race began in that section which we have been discussing.

Tallahassee, Florida before the advent of the white man was in the midst of an Indian's winter paradise. The hills and forests to the North of the Indian town, which was about two miles south of the present city of Tallahassee, protected them from the cold north winds, the pines provided fuel, the gulf, sea food, the surrounding fresh waters, fish, and the forests, game.

From the evidence of Indian Trails

and from a study of the character of the resources of the various localities and the necessities of the aborigines, Tallahassee must not only have been a winter pleasure resort but also a trade center, at which during the winter months there was an exchange of stone implements and pottery for various commodities from the South. The character of this early town, Tallahassee, is indicated by its name which according to the Rev. Milton A. Clark as related in *A Lost Acadia*, (page 4) means Broken Down Town, referring, no doubt, to the fact that it was inhabited principally during the winter months.

During the winter of 1539 and 1540 a party of white men headed by De Soto appeared upon the scene and spent the remainder of the winter among the Indians, no doubt studying their language and learning all that they could about the surrounding country. Nothing is known with certainty as to these winter months. Perhaps supply ships were anchored off St. Marks; certainly some of the Spaniards would be diligent in acquiring a knowledge of the Indian language and securing as definite information of the country which they were to explore as shortly as possible.

We learn from Jones (Vol 1, p 38) that two hundred thirteen horses were put on shore in Florida, (p 38), there were also burden bearing mules, fleet grey hounds, savage blood hounds and grunting swine, and artillery. The order of the King of Spain provided for 500 men and among them were twelve priests, eight clergymen, four monks. (p 45). We learn that the thirteen sows had multiplied until there were three hundred swine in camp from which it is certain that De Soto had no little herd of hogs at Tallahassee which he drove through the country on the march.

As March drew near the Indians began making preparations to disperse to their summer locations and De Soto and his band likewise for their march of discovery and exploration. March the third, 1540, O. S., which corresponds to February 23rd, under our present system of recording time, De Soto began his celebrated march from Anhayca, which is reputed to be two miles south of the present city of Tallahassee, Fla. The

line of march must have consisted of mounted men, several pack animals, several foot men, a drove of hogs which were driven along the main line of march, some artillery and camp equipment. The mounted men must have furnished an advance guard and headed various expeditions of exploration to spy out the country, both to the right and left of the main line of march. The rate at which the herd of hogs could travel would determine the rate of speed of the march as they were the slowest of the animals. It is estimated that this rate of travel of the main line of march could not have been more than ten or fifteen miles per day and more likely ten than more. On the seventh day, O. S., of March, they crossed the Ochlocknee river, traveling north. This must have been near what is now known as Walden's bridge and tradition says that when the section was first settled an Indian trail crossed the river about one half mile from what was formerly known as the Shallow Ford. This must have been the line of march. This trail led through the present city of Cairo and De Soto must have camped near Cairo on the night of March the 7th, 1540.

After breaking camp on the morning of the 8th, De Soto continued his march to the north. Every circumstance indicates that he reached the main Indian trail leading from the Gulf to the Great Lakes on this day and some where near what is known as the Pearce Court ground. It must have been on the 9th that De Soto had the encounter with the Indians described by Jones as follows:

"Within the next forty-eight hours the Indian village of Capachiqui was reached. At the approach of the Spaniards the natives fled; but when five of the Christians visited some Indian cabins, surrounded by a thicket, in rear of the encampment, they were set upon by Indians, lurking near, by whom one was killed and three others badly wounded. Pursued by a detachment from the camp, the natives fled into a sheet of water filled with forest trees whither the cavalry could not follow them."

When this country was first settled and for some time following there was an Indian village in the general

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

Continued
 east of
 fork
 in
 30'S

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, Millie (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

list and study the lineage of them as they please. The result can be only to show that the early settlers of Southwest Georgia belong to the best families of America and that they have by their accomplishments demonstrated this.

I acknowledge descent from among the first settlers in Georgia. Instead of being a poor debtor or an unfortunate he appears to have been a Gentleman and to have owned property in Georgia, England and Ireland. I have learned enough about a few hundred other first settlers, whom I would be as proud to acknowledge as a foreparent as the one I do acknowledge. I believe Georgia settlers to have been of the best blood. To teach Georgia History in such a way as to discredit our early settlers is an imposition upon our school children. To describe the pine lands of Southwest Georgia as pine barrens is deceptive. Let those who live in sections, if there be such, where their pine lands may be properly described as pine barrens so describe them, but do not so describe the pine lands of Southwest Georgia. Let those who are descended from "poor debtors" or the unfortunate class of Europe so describe their ancestors, but name them and show their circumstances, and do not so class the ancestors of the settlers of Southwest Georgia.

Southwest Georgia, not only was settled by the first families and their descendants, but it has produced numbers of notable men. Few of these are thought of in connection with Southwest Georgia, the State and nation at large claiming them.

Georgia boasts of "Uncle Remus" and Sidney Lanier, justly so, but the sweetest singer and the Greatest writer of Georgia dialect was a native South-Georgian, Montgomery M. Folsom. When will his recognition come?

Many of Georgia's public officials have been the sons of other states. The conduct of many of these has been

such as to cause Georgia to blush with shame and their parent States to be-foul Georgia with their criticism for the conduct of their progeny. Governors guilty of making illegal grants of the lands of Georgia as enumerated by the late S. G. McLendon, Secretary of State, History of the Public Domain of Georgia, page 65, were Walton Telfair, Matthews and Irwin. Of these George Walton was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia in 1749. Edward Telfair was born in Scotland in 1735, having lived in both Virginia and North Carolina before coming to Georgia. George Matthews was born in Augusta County, Virginia. Jared Irwin was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Matthews, above, was the Governor of the State at the time of the passage of the celebrated Yazoo Act, and regardless of what others may say of us, when our failings are itemized and the responsibility brought home to the guilty parties, Georgia is exonerated.

James L. Seward, Peter E. Love, Nelson Tift, Archibald T. MacIntyre, William E. Smith, Philip Cook, John C. Nicholls, Henry G. Turner, Charles F. Crisp, Benjamin E. Russell, Charles R. Crisp, James M. Griggs, Elijah B. Lewis, Seaborn A. Roddenbery and Frank Park are a few of those who have held positions of honor and trust from Southwest Georgia in the past. At present E. E. Cox, Walter F. George, Judge R. C. Bell, and Judge Roscoe Luke are representative citizens of Southwest Georgia. We commend these names and these men to the consideration of the nation. No suspicion of graft, or corruption, or moral turpitude has ever attached itself to any or either of these. So far as I am able to learn every single citizen of Southwest Georgia who has been honored by the State has proven worthy of the trust reposed in him. What more can be said of the people of a section?

The Religion of Nature.

The religion of nature is recognized throughout the Scriptures. "The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Reason teaches that if the Scriptures are the revealed word of

God that nature will teach the same lessons, for He is one, and the author of both.

Nature functions thru laws. These laws are ordained and established by the great Law Giver. Man's comfort

2302 White Oak Drive
Valdosta, Georgia
July 22, 1975

Mr. Albert Baggett
1146 Third St. N.E.
Cairo, Georgia 31728

Dear Albert:

I was pleased to hear from you, yet I must admit that I was quite surprised to learn that you, and perhaps others, had failed to realize just what I was appealing for in my Letter to the Editor of the Cairo Messenger, July 11, 1975.

I have copies of both references you mention in your rebuttal and am thoroughly knowledgeable of both; therefore, I was never in doubt as to the sources of much of the information which was used in the Pow-Wow article that prompted me to write the letter. Repeatedly I read and hear the statement that "Elder William Hawthorn first settled along the waters of Tired Creek about (or between) 1810-1819." Whoever repeats this is perpetuating false information. There are too many documents in the Georgia Archives that will refute that idea. As indicated in my letter, one must examine the Legislative Acts that pertain to Twiggs and Pulaski Counties to know that his residence was in middle Georgia during that period.

Also, the narrative about the relationship between the Hawthorns and the Creek Indians which is found on pages 241 - 242 of Rigsby's HISTORIC GEORGIA FAMILIES (1928) leaves one in much doubt and perhaps confusion, especially if they are familiar with the Creek Wars in south Georgia. The inference to a fine state of cooperation and friendliness between the Hawthorn family and the Creeks is not substantiated when one understands the degree of involvement that various members of this family had in the series of skirmishes and battles of the Creek (Seminole) Wars between 1835 - 1842. If you doubt this assertion, please check the Hawthorn File at the State Archives under Indian Affairs- Decatur County. If that file is not convincing, then John K. Mahon's (1967) HISTORY OF THE SECOND SEMINOLE WAR published by the University of Florida Press will provide additional information. Also, the following county histories provide excellent information of a more local nature. Each reveals that relationships between the Indians and whites was anything but amiable; Decatur (Jones, 1971), Thomas (Rogers, 1963), Brooks (Huxford, 1948), and Worth (Grubbs, 1934).

Nowhere in my letter did I question the existence of Tamali; therefore, your rebuttal injected a factor which was never a part of the original discussion. But since you brought up the subject I would like to know, and the public is entitled to know, why the Creek descendents have chosen to use that name when a few others appear to be more appropriate. Swanton's account (pp. 181 - 184)

This is all the same as what I said in my letter

This letter should be truly good if not a bit better. Document this statement. Yet the Tama place. I think it will be most helpful if a good number of copies of this letter are sent to the various groups. I will be glad to help in any way I can. I will be glad to help in any way I can. I will be glad to help in any way I can.

certainly doesn't establish the existence of Tamali (Tama) in the area where the new reservation is being developed. Also, Crenay's Map of 1733 which was a part of Swanton's original report to the Bureau of Ethnology fails to prove this point. If the account by the Spanish soldier Gaspar de Salas (which Swanton quotes on page 182) is correct, then Tamali could not have been located in southwest Georgia because there are no crystalline rocks in that area. I'm intrigued by the observation which Swanton makes in the last paragraph on page 183 where he mentions the existence of "the name of this tribe, or a name very similar", appearing twice far to the north in the Cherokee country a few miles above Murphy, N.C. This would place Tamali in classic crystalline rock country and will fit beautifully the description by de Salas.

*In Study
Co R*

I would be the very last to admit that the reservation which is under development is not located on territory previously occupied by the Indians. I have too many artifacts in my possession that were collected from that area to believe otherwise. It seems to me that a paramount concern of those who are developing the reservation should be the writing of a thoroughly documented regional history of their people, and their culture. It is only within this framework that a truly authentic reconstruction can be made. I, and I'm certain that the public at large, would be most grateful to know that such research was being conducted and would look upon it with far more regard than some of the outward trappings which I have seen and had explained as "what the public expects."

I do not feel that anything is to be gained by continuing a series of rebuttals via Letters to the Editor. Neither do I write these thoughts to engage in any personal controversy. I am simply pleading that we all get busy, make full use of the resources available to us and produce something of our historical heritage that is more authentic than anything we currently have.

My best wishes.

Sincerely,

Wayne R. Faircloth

Wayne R. Faircloth

Tired Creek, Thomas County Georgia
September 15th 1836

Dear Governor Schley,

After my earnest wishes for your health to continue, and your prosperity to increase, believing as I do, that you have been and are still, engaged from the best of motives to defend the people of this State from the hostile savage rages, therefore I conceive it as a duty devolving on me to give you knowledge of the receipt of your letter in which you inform me that my first request which I mentioned in my last letter has not come to hand, in consequence of which your Excellency is very excusable and praiseworthy, for your willing mind and encouraging language to assist the Citizens of the adjoining Counties against the Creek Indians making their way to Florida, and how I might obtain arms to effect the same, had you have received my first, you would have recollected that my application was in compliance with the Act of the Last Legislature of this State, informing the Georgia Guards, (my Company was raised and reported to your Excellency, myself commissioned Captain; James Hagan, First Lieutenant; John Rogers, Second Lieutenant; Caineth Swain, Ensign; some time before these worst of times) as such our fellow citizens calculated upon our being active in guarding the County of Decatur, notwithstanding, we had no official order from your Excellency we took the responsibility upon ourselves to lend all the aid our power could provide, believing in the clemmancy and patronage of our Governor if we acted laudably in this trying crisis, notwithstanding we had not received our pistols and swords contemplated in the fore recited act, we have never thought that we were neglected from design but believed that it was inconsequence of there not being a sufficient number on hand, as there had been so many applications for the munitions of war, but now Sir, if it is convenient we should be glad to be furnished, as

the Law directs and we are ready to comply on our part, in giving the bond required by said act, we are forty-five in number all uniformed and hold ourselves in readiness to obey your order in any case of emergency even before we may get the arms suitable for the Calvary we have a tolerable good stand of musket rifles and shotguns. Now my Governor it will be easily understood by your wisdom, the reason why I, used that freedom with you in my last, in asking council from you and in giving you a detail in part of our progress. My Company with a few exceptions have been in the Wilderness nine days since the date of my last to you, we got back our houses on the 8th, instant we were relieved by Captain Everett, who returned last evening as I was informed a few hours past whether we shall consider it necessary to keep up our posts longer on the same direction or not, we shall decide next week, as I intend to send a spy guard through the upper part of Decatur and east part of Baker and west part of Thomas which parts have hitherto been aligned by us, and our Friends in Decatur County somewhat for self defense and in particular in behalf of our suffering Brethren in the parts above mentioned and also the Citizens of Lowndes County who are still in a state of alarm. Governor it may be somewhat strange to you why Decatur County should labour under alarms while she is composed of a dense population. Sir part of Decatur County is poor pine woods lying on both sides of the Flint River, as low down as our County-Site Bainbridge adjoining the same is the southeast side of Baker County and the northwest of Thomas County, through which parts the Indians have been accustomed to pass and repass for many years from the date of their little paths, since their hostilities they travel the same routes, I live on the east side of Decatur and adjoining the pine woods of Thomas County, 2½ miles of this post office, the last large gang of Indians encamped within 25 miles of my house and for some cause turned their course as the course they took is about 10 miles from Flint River would have

passed directly through my neighborhood, the alarm has been distressing here so much so that a number of the good people has united and builded them a strong fort, within six miles of this post office, but my father's family with the other union boys though fit to meet the Indians and contend otherwise, farewell

Jonathan C. Hawthorn

(On Reverse)

Addressed to;

Tired Creek
September 19th

To His Excellency William Schley
Governor of Georgia
Milledgeville,
Georgia

Captain J. C. Hawthorn
Commissioned Sept 15, 1834
Decatur County Georgia

Creek War

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 ambushade 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 otiginal of this letter is owned by the Trulock family in Whigham, Ga.

Tired Creek Decatur County Decr :

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~~ 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

Warrior's Co)
Decr 17) LO

Communicated
to the Legislature
19 December 1826

George M. Troup
Milledgeville

Indian Depredations

Original letter on file in Georgia Department of Archives

Production Script: Draft January 4, 2003

I. Titles

The Fredrick/Maxwell House Project

A Documentary Film by

Frederic H. Jones

Frederic H. Jones, Producer/Film Maker

Jeff Fredrick, Producer

Judith Jones, Writer

Music: guitar and banjo, possibly fiddle

Voice over: Judith Jones; Fred Jones Etc.

II. Introduction

On camera of Dr. Fred Jones or another presenter. The script should be terse and give a clear objective and overview of the project and film.

III. Overview of the Area, History and Culture

Provide a map and photos as well as video clips of the area with voice over derived from the information below. Clips of Dr. Wayne Faircloth and others will also provide information.

Grady County was established January 1, 1906, from portions of Decatur and Thomas Counties and was named in honor of Henry Woodfin Grady, a brilliant editor of the Atlanta Constitution and a famed southern orator who widely prophesied "The New South."

Grady County is situated in the lower coastal plain in southwest Georgia. The county has a rolling terrain and numerous small streams and rich soil. A favorable climate affords natural resources for one of the richest farming areas in the nation. There are local processing plants for many of the major crops. It was the original diversified farming center of the southeast.



In the early 1800s, William Hawthorne, a Baptist preacher and explorer, blazed a trail through forty miles of wilderness in what is now the Grady county area. Finding the area to his liking, he and his family settled along the area of Tired Creek about three miles south of the present location of Cairo.

A number of Hawthorne's friends, hearing about the area, sold their holdings in North Carolina and ventured down the Hawthorne Trail settling ten miles farther south of Tired Creek. These friends included Thomas Robert Maxwell and his family, the builders of the old farm house featured in this film.

Cairo is the county seat of Grady County. First chartered as a town in 1870 and as a city in 1906, the city is located between Thomasville in Thomas County and Bainbridge in Decatur County. One of the earliest settlements was at

Miller's Station, a stage coach stop between Thomasville and Bainbridge.

Calvary, known for years as the "North Carolina Settlement," is located south of Whigham. Calvary probably had its start a few years before Cairo. The North Carolinians reportedly had heard of "a nature's garden spot" down toward Northwest Florida, and chose the area where Calvary now is to get back away from the gulf coastal area. ¹

IV. Movement from North Carolina

Following the Revolutionary War, many people moved into Georgia from the Carolinas. Land lotteries were held, and eligibility for a lottery required at first a one-year residence. The chief route of migration taken by settlers from the Carolinas was the old Indian trail from the South Carolina line near Augusta, Ga., across the state to Macon. From there the trail continued westward but another trail crossed this one and continued southward along the Flint River to what is now Bainbridge. When William Hawthorne made his journey, he took this route to the vicinity of Newton and then turned south toward Tallahassee. This became known as the Hawthorne Trail, following Indian trails along the ridges of the area to avoid swampland.

The area seems to have avoided a land rush of big planters, due in part to a bad reputation as to being “unhealthy,” a rumor Hawthorne proved to be false, and because it was under the lottery system. It was also an area very heavily wooded and troubled by fears of Indian attacks by the Seminole Creeks. Small yeoman farmers settled the area, therefore in part, with few or no slaves, instead of by big planters.

Coming from the Piedmont section of North Carolina, the settlers must have felt at home when they reached these rolling clay hills of South Georgia. The story is told that Tired Creek, north of Calvary and Reno (where Hawthorne settled) was so named because the settlers were weary of traveling when they reached that place.

V. The Hawthorne Trail: Migration from North Carolina to South Georgia and the Calvary Community.

Provide a map tracing the trail. Perhaps animated. Film and photographs of area, landmarks and people.

The Hawthorne Trail branched off southward from the Federal Trail about Baconton, Mitchell County Georgia. It ran close on present day U.S. 19 (Ga. 3) all the way to Camilla. From

¹ taken from “Grady County; Pride of Place,” by Wessie Connell and Barbara Williams

Camilla it ran almost exactly on Ga. 112 until it reached the fork at Tired Creek Church, just north of Cairo. Leaving Ga. 112 at this point, it ran down the right hand fork, and continued southward barely missing the present day westernmost city limits of Cairo.²

Maxwell family lore tells that the Trail missed the swamps in the area by following a land ridge, which was an old Indian trail.

Just below Cairo it fell in with present day Ga. 111, and ran exactly on it until just before reaching the Princess Still Community where the roads fork, it pulled off on the left hand fork. It continued on this road through the Good Hope and Pine Hill communities. Southward from the Pine Hill area the road makes a bend westward, and just after crossing Bryant's Mill Creek, the Hawthorne Trail left the road and ran southward into Gadsden County, Fl. The exact route in Florida is not known, but it probably went into the present day Tallahassee area.

According to Dr. Wayne Faircloth, the road bearing the name "Hawthorne Trail" dates back to 1822-1823 when State Senator William Hawthorne resigned his elected and appointed positions as a resident of Pulaski County, Ga.,

² From a letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

(Hawkinsville) to relocate his family in the eastern part of Early County, the western-most of three counties created from the lands Georgia had obtained from the Creek Indians by the Treaty of Fort Jackson signed in 1814.

The road he opened provided a more direct connection from the Federal Trail (which ran from middle Georgia to forts on the Flint and Apalachicola Rivers) to the Miccosukee Trails in Florida. "Furthermore, its opening (by Hawthorne) accommodated the movement of whole families by wagons and carts, which existing Indian paths would not permit, thereby providing access to an unsettled portion of southwest Georgia," Faircloth and Mitchell explained.

Hawthorne's trail branched off southward from the Federal Trail at about the present location of Baconton in north Mitchell County. Its southern terminus is identified as being in Gadsden County, Florida, in the vicinity of present day Concord.

According to a 1968 narrative prepared by Marion R. Hemperly about the location of the "Hawthorne Trail," from Baconton "it ran close to present day highway US-19 (Ga.-3) all the way to Camilla. From Camilla it ran almost exactly on highway Ga. 112 until it reached a

fork at Tired Creek Methodist Church just north of Cairo.

From this point the trail followed the right hand fork (now county road Upper Hawthorne Trail); skirted the present western city limits of Cairo ; and followed exactly what is now Ga.-111 from just south of Cairo for approximately five miles, crossing Tired, Turkey and Sofkee Creeks.

Just beyond Sofkee Creek, the trail followed the left fork (now county road, Lower Hawthorne Trail) to the present day Pine Hill community where it took a due west direction for approximately four miles before making a left turn toward Florida on what is now identified as Concord Rd.³

INTERVIEWS:

1. Dr. Wayne Faircloth

A. William Hawthorne

Photograph of William Hawthorne. On camera of Wayne Faircloth and others talking about William Hawthorne.

Elder William Hawthorne was born in North Carolina in 1762; ordained a Baptist minister in 1798; and moved to Hartford, Ga. (Across the Ocmulgee River from present day

³ *The Cairo Messenger*, May 20, 1998 - Page 8-A.

Hawkinsville, Ga.) in 1806.

He served as justice of the peace, state senator and state representative, from counties in the Hartford area as well as commissioner of Pulaski County Academy until 1823, when he moved to a site in what was then Early County about five miles southwest of what is now Cairo and settled on the south side of Tired Creek.

In 1823 he was appointed as a commissioner to help to select a county seat site (Bainbridge) for the new county of Decatur (formed out of Early) and, "as soon as convenient, contract for and have erected a courthouse and jail for said county."

He later served two terms as State Senator for Decatur County.

In 1826 he organized the constitution of Tired Creek Baptist Church; was called to be its first pastor; and served continuously until 1838.

Elder Hawthorne died in 1846 and is buried in the cemetery at Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Grady County.

There is an amusing reference to Elder Hawthorne being mildly disciplined by the

congregation for a bout with alcohol in 1828, in Primitive Baptists of the Wiregrass South by John G. Crowley, page 48.

~~"My great great grandfather Jonas B. Davis, and I suppose his father, Joseph Davis, were members of Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church and many members of my family including Davis, Shirey and Rehberg are buried there.~~

Elder Hawthorne's photograph was published in the Messenger, I believe in conjunction with this article, so it should not take too much effort to come up with a copy of it.⁴

B. Calvary

In the early 1800's a Baptist preacher named William Hawthorne found in the wilderness of Southwest Georgia an area that reminded him of his home in Sampson County, North Carolina. He was moved to blaze a trail through about forty miles of this wilderness and settled at Tired Creek

Hawthorne's enthusiasm for the area was contagious, and soon his friends and family

⁴ From an email message by Richard White on 30 Jul 2000

sold their holdings in North Carolina and came down the Hawthorne Trail to build a new community. This area was known as the "North Carolina Settlement" until 1887 when the area acquired a post office and a name.

The new settlers bought large farms, and church records indicate that before 1840 families with the names of Butler, Bryant, Sanders, Williams, Shaw, Strickland, Herrings, Maxwell, Kemp, Regan, Connel, Higdon, Chason and Jones were established in the settlement. They built homesteads, and settled down to raise large families, ten children being about average.

Principally farmers, these new residents grew corn, cotton, potatoes, sugar cane and vegetables, as well as raised cows, goats, hogs and turkeys.

"There were several families whose children intermarried. As many as three from one

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Principally farmers, these new residents grew corn, cotton, potatoes, sugar cane and vegetables, as well as raised cows, goats, hogs and turkeys.

"There were several families whose children intermarried. As many as three from one

family married three in one other family.” As they believed in keeping the family names, this makes research interesting, to say the least. Appellations as to place of residence or job or special characteristics were added to distinguish the various members of the family. In the Maxwell family, for example, there were Sharp nose Jim and Hill Jim Maxwell, Boot John (so named because he always wore boots) and Thousand Dollar John Maxwell. Thousand Dollar received his name because, according to rumor, he promised that sum to a Miss Shelfer from Concord if she would marry him. She didn't take him up on his offer.⁵

C. Primitive Baptists

In her work on the history of Grady County, Yvonne Miller Brouton attributes much of the character of the area to the religious beliefs of the original settlers. “There were small numbers of Anglicans along the eastern seaboard, but the religion of the frontier was in

⁵. Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families*. Yvonne Miller Brouton, et.al.

the Calvinist tradition of the Primitive Baptists and Methodism. The settlers brought with them the theology of Protestantism of the sixteenth century and the dissenting moral code of the seventeenth century. They were apt to be puritans and in many ways their beliefs were those of an earlier time in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.”

The Primitive Baptist Church took seriously the mandate to live according to the literal teachings of the Bible. In the community, people were expected to care for one another, and to live a Godly life in his business dealings, as well as his family and community life.

Members were excommunicated for violating the ethical and moral principals of the church, including their Representative to the Georgia Legislature when his vote in favor of nullifying all Confederate debts was considered to be “taking food from the mouths of widows and orphans.” Though members might be excommunicated for failure to live up to what

was expected of them, they were generally accepted back into fellowship after they repented of their wrongdoing.

The church was the center of community life, where social activity revolved around meetings as an opportunity to visit with friends and family as well as to worship. The current Thomas R. Maxwell, descendent of one of the Maxwell settlers in the area, recalls his father saying that this tradition remained strong in his boyhood when Sundays signaled a time for the families of the area to gather and visit and eat together.

The Primitive Baptist Church was characterized by a desire to celebrate worship in as close a manner as possible to that of the early church as described in Scripture. No instrumental music was used, however shaped note singing was a substantial part of worship. The Primitive Baptist Churches of Grady County continue today with the same doctrine

which has been handed down for generations, with many members of the congregations being descendants of the charter members.

In 1883, Boot John Maxwell was the main Pastor at the Piedmont Primitive Baptist Church. When the church voted in 1887 to build a new building on a site donated by Tom Maxwell, Boot John refused to budge. Following the move, he continued to hold services in the old church with his family the only congregation⁶

D. The Creek Indians of the Region

(To be developed from interview with Wayne Faircloth)

E. Agricultural culture in South Georgia

The economy of what is now Grady County has been dictated by the factors of geography and climate. While growing conditions made tit

⁶ . Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families*. Yvonne Miller Brounton, et.al.

possible to raise a wide variety of crops, the lack of transportation and accessibility to markets was a hindrance to any large scale production.

The sandy loam which is found over a large part of the county, together with the long growing season, led to a wide variety of production of oats, corn, wheat, rice, sweet potatoes, ground peas (peanuts), cotton, wool, and sugar cane for syrup. In addition to these, all manner of fruits and vegetables, together with eggs, livestock and poultry of all descriptions were produced. The giant forests of pines, which covered so much of southwest Georgia, were cut and burned to clear land for planting, for there was no available use for it at that time.

Although such production now enables the farmer to live well on the fruit of his labor, this was not the case in Grady County until well after the Civil War. Since the area later to become Grady Counties is situated between two large rivers, the Flint and the Ochlochnee, there was no certain means of transporting farm products until after the coming of the railroad. The chief outlet for production from the area was the port of St. Marks on the Gulf Coast of Florida, reached by way of Tallahassee. The trip to Tallahassee and back by oxcart required five days of travel. The

Ochlochnee River was crossed by the Hadley Ferry, hazardous at best, but when the river was in flood, almost impossible. Even in a good year when weather conditions were favorable, many farmers where not able to market their crops.

There was no hunger, however, and almost every table was laden with homegrown food and game from the woods and streams. Farmers bartered for the few items needed, such as salt or coffee, which they were not able to grow or make themselves. The millers kept their toll of the corn ground into meal and grits for their fee, and farmers paid for seeds, and later fertilizer, in bushels of corn. To this day, a farmer's wife often takes her extra eggs to the grocer in town to be applied against her account.⁷

Dr. Seaborn Anderson Roddenbery

Dr. Seaborn Anderson Roddenbery was a jack of all trades and started the Roddenbery business in 1862. He practiced medicine by horseback and buggy and made open kettle sugar cane syrup. In 1867, Dr. Roddenbery opened his office and general store. He put his syrup in large cypress barrels in the store. People would bring their own jars and fill them with his cane syrup. The company began

marketing the first pure Georgia cane syrup in 1889 under the Roddenbery label.

Syrup was such a vital part of the community in the early twentieth century that when the local high school opened in 1910, the athletic teams were nicknamed the Cairo High Syrupmakers and Syrupmaids. The teams still have those nicknames today.

Around 1920 the company became known as the WB Roddenbery Company. Pickles were added in 1936, peanut butter in 1937 and boiled peanuts in 1960. Dean Foods acquired the WB Roddenbery Company in 1993. Roddenbery currently manufactures deli pickles, table syrups, boiled peanuts and in addition, distributes peanut butter.

Certainly one of the most famous family sons is Gene Roddenbery, legendary creator of the television, movie and cultural phenomena known as *StarTrek*.

F. Motive to settle

1. Land Grants and Lotteries

The area in what is now Grady County was opened up in a land lottery following the Revolutionary War. (see Movement from North Carolina)

⁷. Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families*. Yvonne Miller Brounton, et.al.

There were Maxwells living in Calvary before 1840. Thomas Maxwell III bought the Maxwell property in 1859, several hundred acres, for farming. He raised corn, cotton and peanuts.

During the period of early settlement in Georgia, following the Revolutionary War, many people moved into the state from the Carolinas. They came to be eligible for the land lotteries, which began in 1805 and at first required a one-year residence; subsequent lotteries required a three-year residence in the state. The Grady County area was part of Early county which was formed in 1818, after cessions by the Indians in 1814 and 1818, and was parceled out by the third, or 1820 Land Lottery. Each registrant was entitled to one draw, and the following were entitled to two: Revolutionary War veterans, their widows and orphans, widows with more than three orphans; and any married man with a wife, a son under 18 years of age, or an unmarried daughter.

The chief route of migration taken by settlers from the Carolinas was the old Indian trail from the South Carolina line near Augusta, Georgia, across the state to Macon. From there the trail continued westward, but another trail crossed this one and continued southward along the Flint River to what is now Bainbridge. When

William Hawthorne made his journey from Pulaski County to explore this area, he took this route to the vicinity of Newton and then turned south toward Tallahassee.

Many of the early pioneers of southwest Georgia had stopped for a time in the middle of Georgia area of Bibb, Houston and Pulaski Counties, and the route through this area appears to have been one of the most used by those who came from North Carolina. The more southerly route from the area of Beaufort, South Carolina was not as widely used because of the difficulties of crossing the many large streams and moving through the swamps.

Even before the 1820 lottery settlers had begun to move into what is now Grady County, looking for good land and water. Some bought land from those fortunate in the lottery; others simply chose a likely spot and then began to make inquiries as to its ownership. In many cases, a man would journey to the county of residence of the fortunate drawer to execute and record the deed; others used the services of a lawyer with power of attorney.

For the farmers, progress was slow. It has been said that it took a man a year to clear three acres; this would depend, of course, upon the terrain and amount of vegetation. Nevertheless, much time and effort was required to clear enough to plant crops to feed

family and livestock; to this was added the ever-present possibility of trouble with the Indians.

Every man from age 16 to 60 was required to serve with the militia, and the Seminole Creeks who found refuge in the Florida swamps were the cause of frequent calls to active duty. The rich hammocks of the southern part of the county were highly desirable for farming but were more apt to have Indian raiding parties who came to kill, steal and burn. The fear of such attacks caused a number of inhabitants of north Florida to move into the relative safety of Georgia after the bloody encounters of 1835-36 which were the early phases of the second Seminole War.⁸

When the territory of southwest Georgia was first opened for settlement, it was believed inferior to other parts of the state for farming; because of this and the lottery system, those who came as the first settlers were not large planters with many slaves. Since the land lots were 250-acre parcels, some time passed before land speculators and large planters were able to amass large acreages. In the twenty years preceding the Civil War, the black population continued to grow as more slaves ere brought in to work the increasing number of large plantations; however, the migration

⁸ John K. Mahon, *History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842* (Gainesville, University of Florida, 1967) pp. 101-102.

westward of tidewater planters from the older areas of the eastern seaboard, where the land was exhausted, left the Grady area relatively unaffected.⁹

In the area west of the Ochlochnee River which was to become Grady County, yeoman farmers with few relatives made up a vast majority of those who tilled the soil for a livelihood. This was true in the South in general.

In 1859 the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad began to buy the right-of-way across Thomas County, and by 1861 trains were arriving in Thomasville. Local people and entrepreneurs from outside began the scramble to obtain strategic parcels of land along the route, through the tracks to Cario would not be laid until after the Civil War.¹⁰

INTERVIEWS:

1. Dr. Wayne Faircloth

VI. Thomas Maxwell and Family

A. Movement from North Carolina

Interview material to be added later.

B. Consanguinity

A factor contributing to the lack of concrete social stratification in the early days of settlement was formed by the ties of blood and

⁹ Census Thomas and Decatur Counties 1840, 1850, 1860.

¹⁰ . Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families*. Yvonne Miller Brounton, et.al.

marriage between most of the oldest families. Not only did the majority of people share a common cultural heritage, but also they shared the same ancestors.

Before the days of the large plantations, which preceded the Civil War, few social barriers existed to marriage to anyone of choice.

Differences in age were not important, and widows with property were especially attractive to men of all ages. Remarriage was considered fitting for widows and widowers and a number of successive spouses was commonplace for those left alone.

In a land so thinly populated as southwest Georgia, there were few to choose from when a young man began to think of a wife outside of his kin. Families tended to migrate to the same areas and attended the same church; thus the only girls of marriageable age within courting distance were apt to be his cousins or related in someway.¹¹

C. The Thomas Maxwell Family of North Carolina

Family photographs and on camera interviews.

The first Thomas Maxwell came from Scotland to England to Virginia with his brothers, then subsequently moved to _____ in North Carolina. He married Mary McPhail in

¹¹ . Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families.* Yvonne Miller Brounton, et.al.

North Carolina. According to family stories, Thomas's family in Scotland sent them several bolts of fine linen for clothing and table use.

After the Revolutionary War started, and all the mail was cut off, it took a long time to get news from the old country, and none during the war. About 1892 there was a notice published from New York inquiring about the heirs of Thomas Maxwell. Mary McPhail, his granddaughter, answered it. She was notified by a Hugh Maxwell, an attorney in New York and a great grandson of Thomas's brother that if she could provide evidence establishing that they were the rightful heirs, there was a \$3,000,000 inheritance in the House of Chancery waiting such a claim. Thomas Maxwell would have been the heir, as the eldest son, of all the estate under English law. There was, however, a time limit to make the claim, after which it would go to the English crown. The claim could not be proved and it was therefore lost.

Thomas Robert Maxwell II, son of Thomas Maxwell, married Delilah Williams, daughter of Robert Williams and Susan Daniels. Thomas and his twin brother James, who married Delilah's sister Elizabeth, took their families and followed the Hawthorne Trail to southwest Georgia about _____.

Maxwells were in the settlement of Calvary before the 1840s. The church in Calvary stands on land given by Thomas Maxwell. Records of the church show the names of Bryant, Maxwell, Williams, Connell, Sanders, Butler, McElvy and others. J.W. Maxwell served as church clerk for 43 years.

Internet Notes: *I am looking for any info on the following individuals about whom I know very little. Robert MAXWELL b.1862in Calvary GA married Annie Jackson SMITH b.1870 6 miles from Havana d.Feb1 1947they moved to Cairo/Grady co where they had at least 1 child-Frances Clyde MAXWELL she was born in Cairo in 1893/94 she married Ormond Bladen THOMAS. Robert MAXWELL was the son of James Robert MAXWELL of Calvary GA and Martha or Margaret WILLIAMS. Annie Jackson SMITH was the daughter of Andrew Jackson SMITH and Frances AVERITTE. It is said that they had lots of land and slaves and after the war he just could not adjust to the changes and so he died!!!! (that's what I was told). If anyone can shed any light on any of these individuals it would be greatly appreciated.*

INTERVIEWS:

1. George Thomas (interview)

George Thomas described the house as being sold when _____ Maxwell was 18. Grandmother Sanders (a Harrison) moved came back to visit and died, and was buried in the Sanders plot at the Primitive Baptist Church. The farm was sold at this point.

Various people lived in the house and worked the land as share-croppers and tenant farmers.

Regarding the house itself, Mr. Thomas described the square nails and pegs used in construction. He pointed out that in the days before air conditioning, houses in the area were built to face west/north west to catch the breeze. Houses took a couple of years to build, and the family would have lived in their covered wagon while construction continued. Kitchens were often separate from the house in case of fire, but in the Maxwell house the kitchen was at the center back of the house.

Mr. Thomas related two anecdotes about "Preacher William Hawthorne." He originally came into the area because his sister had been captured by the Creek Indians. He came here to effect her rescue, liked the area and determined to return with his family.

It was also believed that William Hawthorne was on good terms with the local Indians, and they helped him establish his holding. Neighboring Indians were not so neighborly, and determined to undermine the relationship and drive Hawthorne out. The story goes that they set an ambush for him. He hid behind a tree, and ultimately moved enough to draw the arrow attack. It missed, but he did not, shooting the Indian. He went for help. The friendly Indians took the body of the would-be assassin and good relationships continued between them and Hawthorne.

2. Thomas R. Maxwell (interview)

Thomas (born in 1930) relates the history of the family home according to the deeds, as descending from his great grandfather, Thomas Maxwell, who bought the property in 1859. The farm included several hundred acres, although not all of them were cleared for farming while the family owned them. The farm produced corn, cotton, peanuts.

His father, Thomas R. Maxwell, was born in 1902 in the front corner room of the Maxwell farm house. He recalled part of an old story, that his grandfather, also a Thomas R. Maxwell, went to Cairo and stayed for a brief time in an old hotel there, now gone, where he died two months after his son's birth. The

current Thomas's father was raised by his grandmother and his mother on the farm. His father related that he had a good time growing up. There was not much money, but plenty to eat. He remembered community get-togethers on Sundays, when the other "Reno" families would gather and eat together.

Thomas's father moved to Tarpon Springs, Florida in 1928, returned briefly in 1929 when he married Thomas's mother, then returned to Tarpon Springs where the current Thomas was born in 1930.

Thomas's recollection is that the family was Methodist, though there are Maxwells on the rolls of the Primitive Baptist churches in the area, and the family seems to have been active in those congregations.

Thomas has two brothers, Frank and Jimmy, who is 15 years younger.

3. Wayne Thomas (interview)
(Material to be added. Lengthy interview, fairly repetitive of material acquired elsewhere.)

VII. The Maxwell Farm and House

1. The Maxwell Farm and House
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Architectural Context in Area with photos

The house types of Grady County are relatively few and chiefly based on the cabins of early days, if one considers the double pen dog-trot house to be an evolutionary form of the cabin. The Hall and Parlor house of a later period was perhaps not a new type, but a house widely found there today appears to be a standardized form of the dog-trot with porch and shed additions, and ell behind.¹²

The Cabin is one unit of construction, not over one and one half stories high. It has a gable roof with an exterior end chimney centered in the gable, and of a modified Tidewater type. This brick chimney replaced an earlier one of "stick and dirt" in the older structures. The front door is usually centered and the cabin may or may not have a rear door. Porch and shed additions are usual, and the construction may be of log or frame.

The Dog-Trot House consists of two units of roughly equal size separated by a wide open hall with a chimney on each gable end. In the formative state the pens may vary in size and construction, with the roof of the older cabin extended to form a hood to protect the stick and dirt chimney from the rain. The standardized dog-trot has pens of equal size

and the same construction, with chimneys afforded the same treatment. Shed additions and porches were usual on all forms, as were all additions.

The origin of the dog-trot house is unknown. Some experts claim it to be derived from the Georgian house of England and the Tidewater areas of the coastal United States, while others believe it to be just a practical adaptation to the climate and building conditions of the frontier. Perhaps both theories are correct, certainly it was a practical way of adding to the log cabin which was so well suited to the needs of the early settler and his growing family.

The early Hall and Parlor House, described as the Tidewater House by some, is of one or one and one-half stories and has two rooms of unequal size. It is rectangular in shape with a modified Tidewater chimney centered in each gable end. The front door is usually centered and opposite the rear one, and the house often has end windows in the first floor and the loft, and is built of frame with sheds, ells, and porches. Later variations of the hall and parlor house had another partition erected parallel to the interior wall which separated the two rooms

¹² Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families*. Yvonne Miller Brouton, et.al.

the back porch; this form would appear to be a sub-type of the English and Tidewater Georgian house, an evolved standard of the Dog-Trot plus additions, or perhaps a combination of both.¹³

FOLK ARCHITECTURE OF GRADY COUNTY

By the time the first settlers came to this area, log construction had been long assimilated as a part of their tradition and was the quickest, cheapest and most practical method of construction. Though the more heavily populated English Tidewater areas of the eastern coast used frame construction, the time and labor involved in pit sawn boards precluded the use of weatherboarding in southwest Georgia until water-driven saw mills were built.

The one room log cabin with a dirt floor covered with river sand was the first habitation in this area, according to descendants of pioneers. The "rammed" earth floor had its precedent in the Old country as had the stick and dirt chimney, which was the only type of fireplace used here in the first days of settlement.

¹³ (Source: Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families. Yvonne Miller Brounton, et.al.) in which she references material from Henry Glassie, *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975) and *Patterns in the Material Folk Culture* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968).

Since contact with the ground leads to termites and other insects, these cabins were soon replaced by others which rested on wooden piers, made of cypress or heart pine. There was no stone used, and these wooden piers are still used except in the few cases that they have been replaced by brick.

The one room log cabin was expanded in a number of ways as the family grew; with the addition of a central open hall and another room of similar size, it could be made to resemble the dog-trot house which was now being built. At this time log construction was used for both forms.

To these two basic types, the cabin or single pen, and the double pen or dog-trot, were added a variety of additions. Porches, being a near-necessity in this climate, were often built with the house and enclosed into shed rooms as needed. These rooms were of milled weatherboards, either overlapping horizontal boards or vertical board and batten.

The earliest kitchens appear to have been separate and to the rear, though in some cases they were connected by an open breezeway. In later houses the kitchen and often the dining room, were added in the form of an ell attached

to the rear of the house. In houses built or remodeled after the Civil War, the central hall was retained, either enclosed or open, and frequently a gabled porch added to the front.

The chimneys were made of clay and sticks and the roofs extended to protect them from the rain. These chimneys frequently caught fire, but a ladder, water bucket and shuck mop were kept handy for such emergencies. These chimneys were still built and in use into the first decades of the twentieth century. The brick chimneys which replace the old ones appear to be of the same clay and identical design; they are tall and built away from the house, showing a strong English Tidewater influence. They are of common bond, and with two exceptions, of a soft orange clay in the houses observed. All have a tall narrow flue and a three to five step toe at the outside base of the shaft, and are always set away from the wall of the house. Efforts to locate the exact source of these bricks have been unsuccessful, though apparently they are of local clay. According to local legend, bricks were made at Parker's Springs, and Thomas county deed books show entries for J.M. Parker between 1877 and 18901 for land now in the town of Cairo.

The houses now inhabited have glass windows, but many older residents remember

the wooden shutters which they replaced. The earliest houses had few and small windows, and in some cases, none at all.

Batten doors are still common on old houses in Grady County and in the General Lee house, dismantled in 1976, all of the doors had wooden latches. In many houses with batten doors there is evidence of the hole for the latch string, now long gone.¹⁴

c. The House: Montage of photos from _____ to present

2. Restoring the House

INTERVIEWS

1. Jeff Fredrick
2. Contractor
3. Architects (Walt Marder, etc.)

¹⁴ Source: *Grady County, Georgia: Some of its history, folk, architecture and families.* Yvonne Miller Brounton, et.al.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FREDRICK/MAXWELL HOUSE PROJECT

PAUL FORGEY

229-522-3552

MELISSA FORGEY

229-226 6016

[T'ville Landmarks] Register nomination

JEFF FREDRICK

mobile 850/566-4375

old house 229-872-3903

office 878-1109

LAURIE FREDRICK

893-2366

DAVE WALDRON [CONTRACTOR]

229-224-5431

Need to do interview on the process and background.

Ideally at the site with a walk through.

JAMIE ABBOTT [VIDEOGRAPHER]

850-222-4509

crashandannie@home.com

Jamie has shot some video for us and can be used as a resource for additional footage or editing.

CAROLYN CHASON (Geneology Lady at Cairo Library)

377-3261

cchason@syrupcity.net

Carolyn has extensive geneological data as well as old photographs in the Roddenberry Library collection. Will talk on camera if needed.

WAYNE THOMAS

229-861-3879 Home

Wayne is the proprieter of the barbq stand. He was interviewed on camera. He is willing to take me around to houses, sites and cemeteries.

GEORGE THOMAS

office 1-800-476-9141

home 229-377-6685

I think this is the person we interviewed in February 2002.
Need to confirm.

RANDAL SADLER

539-9952

Says mother died in the house Jan 14, 1939. He says his sister who now lives in New Orleans says she remembers that the kitchen/dining room building was there and in use when they lived there. "It was just the prettiest thing"
Need to get her number and interview her myself. Should ask if his mother's name was Georgia. If so, his memory for dates may not be accurate:

FROM DEATH RECORDS 1929 DECATUR COUNTY

1929 Decatur County Death Index, Decatur Co., GA

Saddler, Frank Inf 10-3-1929 26445

Saddler, Georgia 12-24-1929 34554

would say died in the winter of 1929.

Probably died as a result of the birth of that infant Frank a couple of months before.

Lives 1.5 miles east of Concord on SR12. Trailer with satellite dish. He is old and ill and might be a good interview subject.

BOB VAN LANDINGHAM

229-377-1083

Grady County Historical Society. Writes Looking Back column in local paper. Might be a good interview on general area. He was referred by newspaper person.

GEORGE THOMAS — Cairo

Related to the Maxwells, knew the outside of the house as a boy but never inside

WAYNE FAIRCLOTH

229-762-3708

wfairco@surfsouth.com

Wayne is expert in the entire subject area of Grady County and South Georgia history. Excellent for interview.

Lives not far from the house has lots of Maxwell history, pictures, etc. I have no number for him, but George could give it to us.

SUE RODEMOYER

Monticello 850 - 342 - 1742
Ucanbstar@earthlink.net

Sue is coordinator of photographs and other information for family history material. She is providing a CD-ROM of photographs to work from.

GWENDOLYN BROCK WALDORF

gwndlyn@istal.com

MABLE KRAL

229-377-3892

President of the Library Board in Cairo is Mabel (Van Landingham) Kral (Mrs. Bob Kral) She grew up in Cairo and they've moved back timid but sweet politically good to interview/tape maybe she could comment on how good it is that the library holds so much history...???

BOB TAYLOR

229-872-3461

He is a friend of Mable Kral, she grew up with him and he is also on the library board. He is pleasant but not imaginative, to say the least. He could be flattered by taping, probably, Sort of good old boy who made good

RAY DAVIS

229-377-8694

He is supposed to have pictures of the house — maybe you will be lucky enough to get in touch — This may be a bad number - came from Jeff

LAWRENCE LOWE — Attapulgus

229 -465-3618

This is the number Jeff gave me but there again I haven't been able to get him using it. Possibly Attapulgus has another area code? But I doubt it

LARRY IVEY

I think Larry Ivey is the building permits guy who jeff said likes the project — could be good politics, too