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Helen T. Chesser, native Quitmanite now residing in Charleston, S. C., sends in a picture of one of the first bottling plants in Quitman, the Orange Squeeze Bottling Co. owned by Joel F. Hassell. The plant was located on Webster Street next to a store operated by Howell Myrick across from what was then the Quitman High School. At recess time school children would dart across to the bottling plant or store for a drink or a bar of candy. Ida Helen said her brother, Joe Tison, worked for her uncle Joel Hassell for about 10 years from 1920 to 1930. The picture shows Mr. Hassell and Mr. Tison standing in the doorway of the plant.

Bottles & Bottlers

The item about the old bottle found on the McLeod farm labeled Quitman Ice & Bottling Works brought a deluge of interesting calls and visits. It seems Quitman had more bottling works than Carter had peanuts.

Paul Bennet says he remembers a bottling plant in the old library building on Screven Street just across the alley from the S. S. Bennet home. It was operated by a Mr. Green who later sold out and moved to Florida and made a bundle of money. Paul says he remembers going over every afternoon after school with a nickel for a bottle of pop. Russell Hunter confirms this and said it was either lime cola or lemon cola. At that time very little coca cola was sold. The local market preferred L (for lemon or lime) cola or Orange Squeeze.

Mrs. James Chesner called from Charleston, S. C.

and said the Hassell Bottling Company was one of the first and was in operation for years. Their major product was Orange Squeeze and the plant was named the Orange Squeeze Bottling Works. She said Joe Tison had vivid memories of the plant dating back more than 60 years. The plant was located on the corner of Webster and Bartow Streets facing Webster.

Glenn Murray comes in with two old bottles from local firms. One was marked Drink Delicious Bludwine (trade mark) for your health's sake and was put up by the Quitman Ice & Bottling Works. He also had a Lime Cola bottle filled with the original stuff and still showing some carbonation after more than fifty years. He says this plant was in a building on Screven Street next to the railroad and was operated at one time by Herman Thomas.

He recalls an early grocery store, Mitchum's Grocery, which made deliveries in a horse and buggy and he often rode with the driver and helped with deliveries. There was also a big block of ice in the buggy and if the wife needed a hunk of ice it was sawed right at her front door.

Not only did Quitman boast all these bottling works but ice plants as well. The only ice plant we remember was the one on Screven across from Powell's Farm Supply and owned and operated by J. M. Heeth and the Sheffield brothers. Glenn recalls another one located near the South Ga. Ry. coal chute which made white ice and he recalls his father, R. C. Murray, bought stock in this company and it was operated by Bob Moore.

Incidentally if you have any of those old bottles from local bottling works hang on to them as they represent a chapter in Quitman's history which has never been recorded in print. If the historical society ever acquires a museum a collection of these bottles would be interesting.

BROOKS COUNTY COMMUNITIES

Even though Brooks County was not created until 1859, the area that constituted it was already populated by that time. There are records that show that there were some settlers in every section of the future county as early as the 1820's and certainly by the 1830's. Since settlers tended to move in groups for protection, for mutual help, for family connections and friendships, settlements were concentrated in certain areas. As time passed, communities grew and were named. In future years, other communities sprang up, usually as a result of a railway nearby. At one time, Brooks County had more than 35 communities with Post Offices; today, the following are the only five outside of Quitman.

MORVEN : Morven is considered the oldest community in the County. In 1823, Zion Hall settled his family on the Coffee Road about five miles northeast of present day Morven. He built an Inn to serve travelers on this road, important to the early development of the State. He was followed in a few years by Hamilton Sharpe who opened a store nearby and who was granted a Post Office in 1828 known as "Sharpe's Store". The Post Office was named "Morven" in 1853; the town was not incorporated until 1901. Many of the early settlers were of Scottish decent and named their community for a landmark in far-away Scotland. It became self-sufficient, having a variety of stores, a drugstore a bank, several churches, schools, and access to two railroad lines. Brooks County has profited from this energetic and thriving community, from its economy and leadership.

BARNEY: Barney was not a named community until 1897 when the South Georgia Railroad ran its rails through the town. A railroad station was established and given the name "Barney" by the Oglesbys' [owners of the railroad] in honor of the Barney-Smith Car Co. from whom the RR bought much of its equipment. However, before the name, a good many farm families had already settled in the area, some as early as the 1830's. Turpentine augmented the farm income and later the sawmills came with the RR, adding to the economy. In the early 1900's, the town offered to the community the services of doctors, dentists,

drugstore, grocery stores, and even overnight lodging for rail passengers. There were churches and schools, as well. Today, Barney's business district is gone , but it is known far and wide for its production of peaches.

BARWICK: The Coffee Road cut in 1822 for the use of the military in its efforts to keep the Indians pushed back to make room for settlers , and later used as a stage coach road, passed through what would become the town of Barwick. The first house built in Barwick was built on this road. The building in 1891 of the Georgia Northern Railroad, which serves as the county-line between Brooks and Thomas Counties, was the beginning of the town. The business section and the High School were in Brooks and at least half of the residential section, in Thomas. The town immediately began to grow and had mercantile stores, grocery stores , a bank and Brooks County's first hospital. Dr S.E. Sanchez built his hospital in the early 1920's, and it became known throughout the area. Barwick had the first brick school in the county system as well as the first accredited school in the county system.

PAVO: Many Brooks County citizens live in the Pavo Community; however, most of the town is in Thomas County. The town was first known as McDonald, named for an early settler, Capt. James McDonald who held extensive property and who commanded one of the Brooks County Companies in the Confederate Army. It was later determined that his property was in Thomas County. When the Boston and Albany RR , later known as Georgia Northern, was built through "McDonald", a town began to grow up there. The post office rejected the request for designation, however, as there was another "McDonald". The town was then named "Pavo", the Latinized name of Peacock, the name of a local citizen and teacher who became the postmaster.

DIXIE: This community grew out of the demise of another. When the east-west railroad was completed through this area in the early 1860's, it ran a few miles north of one of the oldest and most developed towns in the county at that time GROOVERVILLE. The train crossing was called Station #17 or Groover's Station, but as businesses began to be built at

the crossing, the railroad needed a shorter name to fit its sign. A sawmill had been built there in the late 1860's, and the first turpentine operation of record in the county was built there in 1876. Merchants too had established businesses ,and in 1879 when the RR wanted to shortened the station's name, one merchant, George Washington Austin, suggested the name "Dixie". Even though the business district is no longer, Dixie still has its post office and its churches, as well as successful agri-businesses in the community.

There are few exceptions of other Brooks County Communities that existed without benefit of the railroad. However, one of the oldest, having been established before Brooks County was established, was the community of NANKIN near the Florida line. Perhaps, it developed because of a river rather than a railroad. Nankin was located where the Old Spanish Trail, later used by Oglethorpe, forded the Withlacoochee River; this trail later became a stage coach road. Eventually, a ferry afforded transportation across the river before a bridge was built. There was never a town as such; but there was a general store with post office, churches and schools over the years. BLUE SPRINGS [for a few years called WADESPARK named for the owner of the property] developed as a resort, the attraction being a natural spring in the Withlacoochee River nearby. ELAM and HICKORY HEAD were farming Communities. They had churches and schools to serve the community but no business District. Their business transactions concerned the buying and selling of their agricultural Products. Many of these fine farmers were members of the well known "Hickory Head Agricultural Club". OKAPILCO and TALLOKAS developed also before the railroad. They were busy farming and timber communities; they had schools and churches and some services.

In the early 1900's, there was a great boom in timber and naval stores production. Everywhere there was a sawmill or a turpentine still, the RR would have a station and loading docks. The RR would name the stations. Most of these places, not all, were short lived, lasting no longer than the

supply of forestry products. IONE, OZELL, ADLAI, DURDEN, HEMPSTEAD, McEACHERN, SHORE, SPAIN, FODIE, BADEN, NILE, FOSTER, ISOM, RATHBONE, PHOEBE, KEY, NADA, ALDERMAN, MARCHMAN, TOM POST. EMPRESS and PIDCOCK were two of the largest of these communities ; Pidcock was the origin of the Georgia Northern RR.

PEDRICK, ROUND LAKE, OLLIFF, MULE CREEK, SCRUGGS had post offices, but briefly, before being consolidated. They also served as poling places.

Some communities had no post office but the area was simply given a name such as: CONCORD, SAND HILL, JOHNSON SHORT, EVERGREEN, PEBBLE HILL, CROSBY CORNERS.

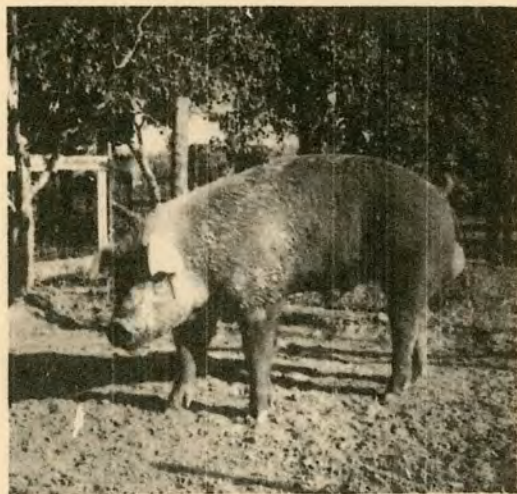
INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

The base of Brooks County's economy is agriculture and the climate and soil conditions are conducive to almost all agronomic crops. This agricultural base is balanced by a sound industrial economy.



Brooks County ranks fifth in the state in soybean production. Corn and sorghum grain production place the county among the top ten producers in the state. Other major crops include: cotton, tobacco, peanuts, horticultural crops, and truck crops.

Beef cattle and hogs are the principal livestock grown in Brooks County. The second largest beef cattle feedlot in the state is located in Quitman and the county ranks among the top five counties in Georgia in the number of all cattle and calves. So important are feeder pig sales to the Brooks County economy that the Coastal Plains Regional Commission recently agreed to finance an auction barn in Quitman.



BROOKS COUNTY'S HERITAGE

The earliest known inhabitants of the area we know as Brooks County were the Apalachee Indian tribes. Catholic missionaries arrived in 1606 by way of the Old Spanish Trail from St. Augustine, Florida. They were followed by Spanish traders.

In 1763, the English Crown obtained claim to the land through a treaty with Spain. The area was considered a part of the state of South Carolina until after the Revolutionary War. At that time, South Carolina ceded to Georgia all her claim to the territory.



An act of the Georgia State Legislature in 1818 divided the Indian territory into three counties: Appling, Irwin, and Early. Irwin County contained the land that now constitutes Brooks County.

When the Georgia State Legislature approved an act creating Brooks County in 1858, the county was named after Preston Smith Brooks of South Carolina. Brooks was a distinguished member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The country cured hams that have made Brooks County famous caused the county to be labeled the "Smokehouse of the Confederacy" during the Civil War. Another agricultural product -- watermelons -- established Morven as the "watermelon center of the world" in 1909.

Today, the Brooks County Historical Society continues to gather information about the county's noteworthy past and to work toward the preservation of the many historic sites.

RECREATION

Brooks County is an area rich in the joys of living. Large lakes and farm ponds offer the sportsman and water sports enthusiasts all types of water activities and plenty of fishing year-round. Ponds are well stocked with bass, bream and catfish.



Not only is Brooks County a paradise for fishermen, but for hunters as well.

Described by Outdoor Life as an outstanding attraction for outdoorsmen, Brooks County is widely known for its first-rate hunting opportunities. Ducks, dove, quail, and deer are the most commonly hunted game.



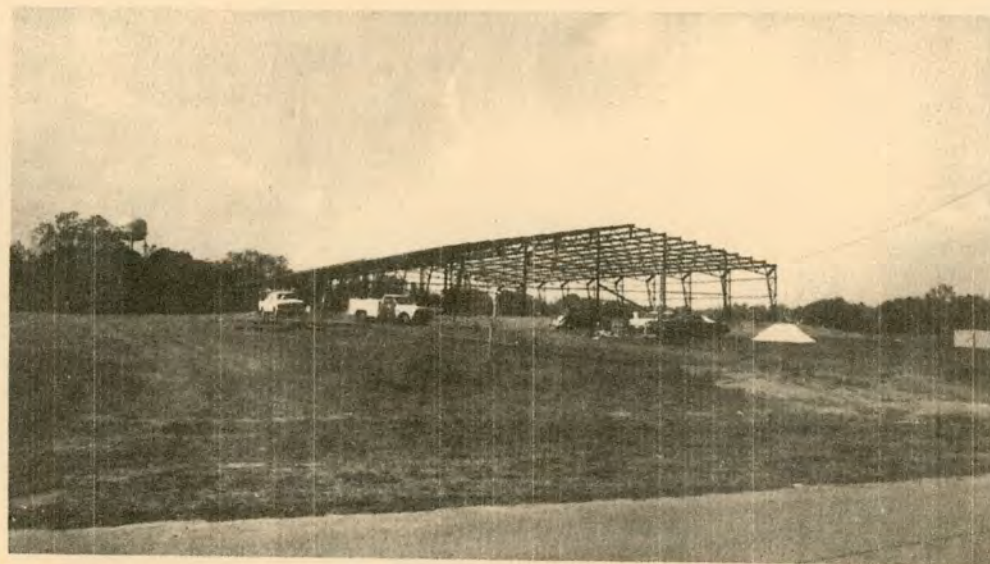
Quitman's full-time recreation department sponsors programs which include Little League baseball, girls' softball, mens' softball, arts and crafts, and special events.

The Quitman Country Club, organized in 1913, is one of the oldest clubs in south Georgia. The club has a 9-hole golf course, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. Quitman also has two public tennis courts.

Quitman's recreation department sponsors a summer time program which includes Little League baseball, girls' softball, and mens' softball. A basketball court and two ballfields are available at Webster Park.

Annual events like the spring festival, the county fair, and "Fun Day" are enthusiastically supported by Brooks County residents. Activities may include parade, homemaker competitions, barbeques and sporting events.

When the urge to travel hits Brooks County residents, I-75 is just 14 miles from the eastern parts of the county. Tallahassee, Florida, an hour away, has a variety of shopping centers, fine restaurants and entertainment choices.



Quitman has a new 75-acre industrial park that offers prime sites for new and expanding industries. Pictured above is a cut and sew plant which, when completed, will employ 350 people. The ample labor supply and choice industrial sites have attracted industries ranging from garment and textile manufacturers to fiberglass companies.

The Quitman-Brooks County Industrial Authority can assist with the financing of both construction and equipment. Industrial prospects will find the county's banks, savings and loan institution and production credit association prepared to meet many of the financial service needs of their companies.



PAVO

1969

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Pavo Pond Cutting Georgia Style

PAVO

High School

JOHN DAVID EDMONDSON

CLASS OF 1929

Pavo

High School



John David Edmondson

has completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education for the High School Department and is therefore entitled to this

Diploma

Given at Pavo, Georgia, this third day of June, A. D., One thousand nine hundred twenty-nine

J. D. Harvey

Superintendent

J. D. Davis

Principal

B. C. Reese

Chairman, Board of Education

J. M. Brannon

Secretary, Board of Education

Class Roll

MYLDRED ADAMS

JULIAN BEVERLY ADAMS

VERA LEE ALDERMAN

ONIE MAE BAGWELL

CLEO EARNESTINE BAKER

LURIE RAYMOND BARFIELD

MARY ALICE BRANNEN

PAULINE BEATRICE BRANNEN

MILDRED FRANCES BRAWNER

EDITHE MARIE BURGESS

JAMES HORACE CARITHERS

EVELYN JUANITA COOPER

FRANCES ELIZABETH COOEY

EDNA HELEN COOEY

HERBERT LLEWELLYN COOPER

ORA LEE ELMORE

JEWELL OVIDA FORDHAM

RUBY MAE HART

JOHN WILLIAM HARVEY

LORENE HERNDON

EMORY MITCHELL HIERS

GRACE RAMONA HORTON

FRANKIE MYRTICE HUMPHREY

MILDRED MAYE JONES

DUNCAN LAMAR KENNEDY

SARAH ELENE JONES

RUBY LUCILE MATHEWS

LEE CLINTON MILLER

WALTER BASSET MURRAY, JR.

WALTER CHALMERS MUSE

AMANDA LUCILLE MCCORVEY

EUGENE RANDOLPH MCGRAW

HOWARD WALLACE RABURN

CHARLEY LAMAR REESE

STEVEN FRANK SOWELL, JR.

MARY LOUISE SIMPSON

AVIE VIOLA RICKS

BEULA BELLE WADE

ERNEST BERNARD WEST

LUTTIE LEONA WILLIS

JAMES JACKSON WILLIAMS, JR.

MARY MARIE WILLIAMS

HELEN KATHLEEN BURTON

CAROLYN JUSTUS SMITH

JAMES HERMAN ENGLISH

JOHN DAVID EDMONDSON

GLADYS ALINE NEWTON

Class Motto

"TONIGHT WE LAUNCH, WHERE SHALL
WE ANCHOR?"

Class Colors

PINK AND WHITE

Class Flower

PINK AND WHITE ROSEBUDS

Pavo High School

PAVO, GEORGIA

Class of 1929

HISTORY OF PAVO

As Told By

Molly James

I was named Mary Love Reddick, but at a very early age I somehow acquired the name of Molly, and some folks don't realize I ever had another name. I was the second daughter of T. W. Reddick, rural mailcarrier for 44 years, I am living in the house in which I was born. My mother and father married in 1920 and acquired the house the first year after they married. I have one brother and one sister and we were all born there. My daddy died in 1970 my stepmother, husband and I bought the house and moved back home.. Pavo means a lot to me because it's home. It's a beautiful little city located in the ~~middle~~ center of a triange approximately from 15 to 17 miles from Moultrie and Thomasville, Quitman. It's right in the center of the triangle. ~~The xxxxxx limits of Pavo~~- we sit half in Brooks and half in Thomas County. The city limits go out 3/4 of a mile in every direction from a point in ~~xxxxx~~ the center of what is Harris Street or the main street and County Line Road ~~xxxxxxx~~, which is the Barwick Road. We have no bus, passenger train, or air post, but it is a lovely place to live especially for retirees. Of course there are a lot of us that aren't retirees. We have about 800 population now, the vast majority of us work out of town.

and still is

It began/~~as~~ an agricultural center ~~xxxxx~~, but let's go back to the begfinning. In December 1825 one Cannus Swain purchased a lot ~~in~~ 398 in the Land District 13 of Thomas County for \$100 approximately 490 acres. This is the land that Pavo sits on. The

Pavo Baptist Church



Downtown Pavo

across the street from where the Methodist Church ~~is~~ ^{was} now.
James McDonald, is what we know of as the founder of Pavo
Around his blacksmith shop and around his operation the community
began to grow up. He was a leader of men. He served in the Civil
War, and became a Colonel, he organized the Wisconsin Rifle
Corps, he served many years, and was also what I would consider
the draft board, the recruiting officer. He had an office in
an old church that's just North of Autreyville about ^{two} miles
Wingfield Baptist Church, and the church is still standing there
and I understand it has a very nice placque on it. It ^{served as} ~~was~~ a
center during the Confederate War. James McDonald was a leader
of men and around his blacksmith shop and around he and his
wife the community grew up. ~~There were~~ Another interesting
thing, they had 12 children, seven of these were daughters.
You ladies ^{know} ~~were~~ the seven sisters rose that blooms in a cluster
of seven blooms- it was named after the seven daughters of James
and Serena McDonald . Then later James McDonald sold a little
piece of property about an acre and a half to Robinson. Mr.
Robinson built a general mercantile store on it. A couple of
years later two men named Brice and Adams built another store
which was a mercantile store, and then a few years after that
there was an organization known as the Grangers and they built
a two-story building- in Pavo which became the center of social
life. The upstairs was used as a social hall, as a meeting place;
the downstairs was used as a warehouse and later the front part
became a milliner shop, where ladies hats were made.

to Mr. Hugh Alderman whoc was the postmaster for many years,
~~and~~ his uncle was Mr. Zeke Alderman, Mr. ~~Peacock~~ ^{Peacock} came in
 said "I've hit upon just the right name for the town""let's
 name it Pavo, it's short, it's easy to say, it's easy to spell,'
~~xxxxxxx~~ and there's no other postoffice in the United States
 named Pavo". I understand now there's one in Texas. ^{****} The

next day in the mail Uncle Zeke Alderman got a page torn out
 of a Latin Dictionary and encircled was the word "Pavo", Latin
 for Peacock, so it really is named after Mr. Duncan Peacock

**** They all agreed, "this is good, ^{this is} ~~the~~'s fine, ^{it's} ~~xxxxxxx~~ not anybody's
 name.) There are other variations of this story, but basically
~~xxxxxxx~~ that's the way Pavo got it's name.

The first doctor who came to Pavo was J.Frank Harris, a young man
 just out of trianing he riding into twon on a mustang ponyand set
 up practice . Dr. Harris built several houses and the main street is
 named after him. The next doctor who came to Pavo was Dr. Lee Brannen
 and Dr. Lee Brannen's brother was Dr. Joe Brannen who was a dentist.
 Then we had Dr. John L. Roberts who built the first hospital in Pavo.
 He built the hospital and he was ahead of his time in medicine and ~~xxxx~~
 medical procedures, and he built a little building seperate from the
 hospital as a surgical room,as an operating room, and that little build:
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ was later moved and it still stands on the property
 across from the from the Pavo Baptist Church.. I understand that
 some of the Roberts Family has tried to in later years to buy the
 little house because of its historical value.But the young man who
 owns it doesn't want to sell it. It had a skylight in it so that
 he could see when he was operating.

cnetter

Pavo grew as an agriculture and it also grew in the early years politically. There were a lot of political caucuses held in Pavo. due to the influence of Old Colonel McDonald, in the early years. The town The only transportation for so many years was horse and buggy There was a livery stable where you could rent horse and buggy. Horses and mules were sold from the livery stable. And that was standing where I remember it in my lifetime. I remember Uncle Ben Reese selling horses there-

At one time we had tow cotton gins and we had two banks at one time the first bank that came to Pavo was the Bank of Pavo ~~xxx~~ with Hugh C. Ford as Cashier. ~~And xxxxxxxxxx~~ With Dr. J. Frank Harris as President. Then later another bank was organized, it was the Planter's Bank and the old bank building still stands where Dr. Cavio has his office on the corner across from the drug store .

The Georgia Northern Railroad was built and reached Pavo in 1895 Up until that ~~time~~ time of course it was horse and buggy. The railroad came from Moultrie and ^{went to} Pidcock, and it was very very rough in the early years (and later on too). Pidcock and ,Moultrie I understand built the railroad and it was very vital to the town. Pavo was incorp- orated as a town in 1898 ^{by a legislative act} I have the original charter. handwritten This Charter was repealed in 1911 and I have the book with the original charter and the amendments in it. There is one or two things interesting about the charter, It has the city limits in it. The name of the town when it was first written was the ~~TOW~~n of Pavo. In 1952 the wording in the charter in the amendments was changed to the City of Pavo. So now we are a City. Another thing that is interesting in the charter is this , " The Mayor and Council shall not have the power or authority to license or authorize persons to sell intoxicating liquors of any kind but by ^{may furnish by ordinance} ~~ordinance xxxxxx furnish~~ ^{and} sale of any patent medicine

which drunk to excess will produce intoxication and may also punish any person keeping within the or storing within the corporate limits intoxicating liquor for the purpose of illegal sale. Nobody can legally can sell any kind of intoxicating drinks in the city limits of Pavo. When the Suwannee swifty was build in Pavo they wanted to sell beer because they did in all their stores. The Mayor at that time was going to give them a license. But someone that knew about this called their attention to it They said they would have a referendum, we'll put it to a vote and take it to the legislature and have it repealed. So we had a vote and repealed it. And we are still without legal sales of alcohol beverages in Pavo.. Personally, to me, Pavo is a pretty little town. It is a clean little town and that is one of the reasons.

Churches in Pavo, the first one organized was ;the Methodist Church. It met out where the Cemetery is, it is still known as Lebanon Cemetery. The property for the cemetery and the Lebanon Church Was given by my Daddy's uncle who was a Methodist Preacher. Rev. Reddick served in the Confederate Army in 1861 to 1865. Upon his conversion he joined the Methodist Church and felt a call to preach after he returned home. He was licensed to preach in 1871 at that time he was living about a mile east of the present town of Pavo. He began services under brush arbor on his land Lebanon which led to the organization of the Methodist Church in 1871. and he served as its pastor. He gave the necessary land for the church and cemetery and later in 1902 the church was moved into Pavo where it now stands, and renamed the Pavo Methodist Church . The Primitive Baptist Church was organized in Pavo in 1899 and was active until several years ago they had to disband it for lack of membership. And that building has been made into a residence, a very lovely residence at this time.

The Baptist church was organized in 1900. It came out of the Salem church Baptist Church. Then there was a Nazarene ~~was~~ organized in 1916. And

there was also a Presbyterian Church In Pavo which had to disband due to lack of membership. And that building is now the Woman's Club.

Pavo was a thriving little town . In my lifetime and I am sure you remember if you are at all familiar with Pavo, I remember we had five or six grocery stores, and all did a very good business. We had a drug store and at one time we had a theater and we stayed open until twelve o'clock on Saturday night. and it was one o'clock getting home after we closed up. The streets were packed, On Saturday night . It was rather amusing to me and sad also. My brother was home the first week in April and heard his wife wanted to ride around town on Saturday ^{late} afternoon ~~afternoon~~ ~~afternoon~~ ~~night~~. When he came in he said " Molly, you know the thing that strikes me and hurts me is the fact that we rode down town and there was not a car on the main street." So our businesses have left and they closed up ~~some~~ of them due to people dying and no one to take their place. But mostly I think it is due to economics. We have good roads, good automobiles , we work in Thomasville, and Moultrie and Quitman. The prices are better and the stores are closed here. It really does hurt to go down town and not see anything.

One of the children wrote a paper recently . On Pavo. as a school project. and why it is as it is now. She made some pictures as it is now and used some of the older ones of the down town. She also did a survey on why the businesses are closed. And I think it goes back ^{some of the reasons} to economics. The People shop in larger towns with shopping Malls. Merchants are not patronized here, not making any money. They left the farms to work in the cities Invention of the automobile and good roads. I think our road was paved in about 1940. I am not real sure but I remember skating on it for there was not much traffic. As population declined owners of businesses retired and no heirs to continue the operation. One of the sad things was the consolidation of Pavo High

School With county-wide highschool, it takes the interest the center of the town of interest away from the town. ^{when you lose your school} When I grew up, I graduated from Pavo Highschool .We had our local P.T.A. We had our Big carnival at Haloween, and basketball games. And people were interested in this. When my children went to school,they went to Central Highschool, They had friends all over the county. MY daughter was in the band her friends were county-wide. This is good to have those kind of friends but it does take away from the center of twon.

My daughter, in her closing remarks in her paper I would like to read some of it for it kind of sums up our town today

"Today, Pavo is proud as a peacock in some respects. Pavo today has a mayor, and a city Council, we have five members on the council. We have two doctors, one bank and, by the way, we have a new bank building and a very pretty building it is. We have one drug store, four service stations, one grocery store and one Seven-Eleven Food store. We have one Ice plant and this child's daddy runs the ice plant her grandfather was old Mr. Andrew Thompson who started the ice plant in Pavo. A blacksmith and welding shop. We have two upholstery shops, one farm supply , we have Gold Kist Grains, Tide fertilizer products and one eating place. We have a tax service, a post Office, a florist and gift shop, Lenford Industries which has been a big help to Pavo.

A volunteer Fire Dept. Several Beauty shops, a Cable T.V. Service, A school several churches of different denominations, an active Woman's Club, A Swimming Pool a flower nursery, three heating and cooling businesses a Napa Auto parts store, a car garage , a bargain shop , and a lot of vacant buildings.

Pavo is still home and if you want to retire and come to a nice little town to live, just come on to Pavo.

PAVO'S EARLY HISTORY

Pavo's early history started on the Canna Swain plantation.

It was prosperous; growing tobacco, tanning hides, sheep being raised, cotton grown, which for the largest part was shipped to St. Marks by oxcart.

In the year 1835 Sorena Swain, daughter of Canna Swain, married Colonel James McDonald. They built their first home on the Swain plantation, the site of which is directly in front of the present Pavo United Methodist Church. Along with farming, Col. McDonald had a blacksmith shop, grist and corn mill. In his home was the town's first post office, which went by the name of McDonald, Georgia.

Colonel McDonald was a real leader of men, a councilman, a member of the Legislature in 1852. He became a recruiting officer for the Confederate Army from this area. He resigned from this post and formed a group of volunteers called the "Thomas County Rifles." He started as a Captain and ended up as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1872 he was elected as a member of the Georgia Senate.

Col. McDonald was taken ill in Atlanta and brought to Thomasville where he died in the home of a friend because he was too sick to be brought home. Two of his accomplishments were: (1) being the first white man to serve in the Senate from this district after the Civil War; (2) when he died, he was President Pro-Tem (vice president) of the Senate.

A General Merchandise store was built in the settlement by Dan Roberson during the year 1881, followed a few years later by another General Merchandise store by Brice and Adams. An organization called the "Grangers" decided to build a two story wooden building soon after, the upper story to be used as the town meeting hall and the lower floor as a warehouse. By 1887 this building had become the center of the social life of the settlement, and also contained a portion which became a Millinery Shop where ladies' hats were trimmed and retrimmed for many years after they were sold new. The first barber shop was also located in this building.

The first school was begun and taught by Mrs. Maggie G. Massey on the second floor of the Grange Hall. The school included students

of all ages who were put in classes according to their ability to read. There were other small country schools round about the country, one of the most outstanding being Lebanon. One interesting thing to me is that at that time a school year lasted five months and the teacher was paid the big salary of seven cents a pupil a day to teach. Lebanon Country School and the school in McDonald went together and a large building for that day and time was built. This building was made of wood and had an auditorium with a stage and two small classrooms on each side.

Regarding the religious beginnings in the area, the first church was a Methodist Church called Lebanon, begun as a brush arbor, located at the site of the cemetery still known as Lebanon Cemetery just outside the eastern city limits of Pavo. Lebanon Methodist Church later moved to its present location and was renamed Pavo Methodist Church. A Primitive Baptist Church was built during 1899 and is still active on the original location. The Missionary Baptist Church was begun in 1900, branching off from the Salem Baptist Church; later a Nazarine and a

Presbyterian Church were organized.

The area had become more thickly populated about 1886, people naturally gathering near to a Post Office, and the need was felt for a doctor. A young doctor, Doctor J. Frank Harris, came to the settlement, riding on a mustang pony. He began a medical practice and later the first Drug Store which did nothing but sell medicine, the doctor filling his own prescriptions. As business grew, a prescription clerk, Mr. Charlie Beggs, was hired. By this time, several other general stores had sprung up and each of them sold everything a person would want to buy, from horse collars to a spool of thread.

Before 1895, the only means of transportation the town had was by horse or wagon and buggies. One of the leading businesses was the livery stable where a team and buggy could be hired by the day or hour. Then the Georgia Northern Railroad was built through the town, beginning in Moultrie and going to Pidcock (Between Boston and Dixie), a track about 75 miles long. The first automobile was bought by Dr. J. W. L. Brannon, a Brush, which caused a lot of excitement in the community.

The final naming of Pavo was rather funny. The name McDonald was being mixed up with McDonough, another small town not far away. Seeing the name had to be changed, Mr. D. D. Peacock wanted it changed in his favor. Realizing that Peacock would not be readily accepted by some of the citizens, he told them to name it "Pavo", knowing full well that Pavo is Latin for Peacock. This Mr. D. D. Peacock was the father of Miss Mozelle Peacock, who still lives in the old home place, and is second cousin to Mr. P. W. Reddick, my granddaddy, who is supplying the information for this project.

In 1898 an Act was introduced to the legislature to make Pavo a town. A clause was included in the Charter stating that a tavern could never be given license to operate within the town limits. The Act was approved on December 22, 1898. It was signed by John D. Little, Speaker of the House of Representatives, John F. Boufciulet, Clerk of the House of Representatives, William A. Dodson, President of the Senate, Charles S. Northern, Secretary of the Senate, and A. D. Candler, Governor.

What prompted me to do this project is that I am interested in

my town's history. This is natural, I feel, and also because my granddaddy is kin in one way or the other to the founders. Also, granddaddy is in possession of the Act making Pavo a town.

History of Hotel Pavo

Aug. 1999

The Boston and Albany Railroad from Pidcock to McDonald was completed in 1892. By 1895 Monticue had been reached, and the name was changed to Georgia Northern Railroad. By this time the town, whose name was changed to Pavo, had begun to grow. People had moved in, and stores and businesses had been established. Traveling salesmen, drummers, were coming in and there was need for a hotel. The hotel and livery stable which were on Harris Street must have been built around 1895.

The livery stable housed horses and buggies for hotel visitors, who required transportation while in the city.

Ezekiel Alderman was the proprietor of Hotel Pavo around 1900. His son, Hugh J. Alderman, ran the livery stable which was located across the street from the hotel. I don't know the length of time.

Ezekiel Alderman's brother, Ansel, also ran the hotel for a while. I think that it was after Ezekiel. I do not know the names of the others who held this position or the dates. Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Watson were the proprietors when I was growing up.

The building was torn down in 1993.

Mary Alderman



Pavo Livery Stable
Harris St. (across the street from Hotel Pavo)
Pavo, Ga.

Seated in buggy - Hugh James Alderman, son of Ezekiel Alderman
Horses - Daisy and Frances
Horse with saddle - Dolly

Hugh James Alderman ran the Livery Stable.

Hotel Pavo.....circa 1895

In 1906 the "Thomasville Enterprise" wrote that the Pavo Hotel, located on Harris Street,"—"the building is large and cool in summer and well supplied with roaring fireplaces in colder weather." This mantle is from one of those fireplaces Proprietors of the hotel were Ezekiel and Susan Elizabeth Alderman.

The Pavo Livery Stable was located conveniently across from the hotel. The Aldermans' son Hugh James operated the livery stable. In this picture he is seated in the buggy, drawn by "Daisey" and "Frances".

Submitted by Dorothy Nichols



Hotel Pavo
Harris St.
Pavo, Ga.

Proprietors - Ezekiel and Susan Elizabeth Alderman

(Notice Methodist Church in background)

Excerpts from the Times-Enterprise, Pavo Edition
Friday, Apr, 27, 1906.

Almost an Eden: **H. Roberts** thinks climate can hardly be surpassed. Mr. Roberts is the person to ask about Pavo's history. He owns 100's and 100's of acres. Can't help liking him.

Dr. J. W. L. Brannon: his brother is the dentist

He was born in S. Carolina, came to Georgia years ago and attended the Atlanta Medical College and later took post-graduate courses in New York & elsewhere. Member of Georgia Medical Association, Woodmen of the World, Knights of Pythias.

Hotel Pavo: Mrs. ^{usan} S. E. ^{Elizabeth} Alderman

The building is large & cool in summer and well supplied with roaring fireplaces in the colder weather '...excellent table...' Mr. Ezekiel Alderman (husband) is widely known as 'Uncle Zeke.' They have lived around Pavo over 50 years - own extensive lands.

In connection with hotel - Mr. H. J. Alderman (son) - runs a fine livery business (10 houses and as many carriages).

D. D. Peacock:

Known as the 'Except Man.' Under Bilhead, which bear words, 'General Merchandise' is, 'except tobaccos, cigars, snuff, playing cards, pistols and cartridges.'

Born and raised Thomas County. Town named after his family. Educated in public schools & in 1880 came to Pavo. Now runs one of the largest stores in Pavo. In the rear of store is Post Office and he is Postmaster.

Miss Lucy Reddick has general charge of the office. Peacock is steward in Methodist Church.

Mr. J. M. Kingsley assists running store. He is a photographer.

Redfearn & Dixon: Life insurance (Illinois Life)

Dixon having spent ...his life in Pavo (cane curio??). He taught school. [Also seems to be Real Estate as well.]

1895: *Pavo Quill*, moved to Moultrie next year

1898: *Pavo Herald*, S. R. Blanton; by '99, B. W. Adkins



Miss
Pet's
Kitchen





1969

LAKE DRAINING

Lake Nichols will be
DRAINED and **FISHED**
Saturday, October 11th
at 9:30 A.M.

*300 Acres are well stocked. Lake
has not been drained since 1961.*

— **LOCATED** —

6 Miles east of Pavo, Georgia

Tickets \$7.50 Per Person AHLG





Paul Bass' ~~graduation~~
1940

We have an ID for this
picture — somewhere

QUITMAN

QUITMAN REMEMBERED
BY
BISHOP GREEN BRISTER

Transcribed from a Tape Recorded Program given by him
at a meeting of the Brooks County Historical Society
on April 4, 1988. As nearly as possible, these are his
own words.

QUITMAN REMEMBERED

By

Bishop Green Brister

As presented to the Brooks County Historical Society

April 4, 1988

This is a pleasure to me. It's an honor, and I give the Lord thanks who has kept me in my memory enough so I could come and talk to you about things that happened before some of your days. Now this lady right there (pointing to Mrs. Lucia Harrell), me and her has talked together and she understands my language. I don't intend to worry you, I asked Brother Horton about the time you are usually in session, and naturally as old as I am I'll be glad to cut short what I have to say. Should I live to see July, I'll be 91 years old. I've been in Quitman since 1905. I wasn't born here, I was born in Thomas County. I've been away from here just one time that I couldn't get back here in a day. I worked with the City for 28 years. Some of the things I won't have time to tell you. Some folks want me to tell you about certain things, and what I tell you won't be maybe what I could tell you about because time won't allow it, but maybe I won't feel like telling you all that anyway.

I'm going to base tonight largely on Screven Street. Now I know when there was'n't no street name, it was just a street. I never heard that name for it then. I used to work along here (meaning in front of the Historical Society Building) with mules and wagons - all this was dirt, all up along here was dirt. In fact there wasn't any pavement in Quitman. I had all these

things working by hand. Where the tank (water) is, that used to be a baseball ground.

Now I'm starting from West Screven Street at the Tallokas Road, that's just below the Chevrolet place, just down the road from President Horton's. But I knowed when all over there where the Chevrolet Lot is now. - all that was a farm. Maybe somebody else will remember that, I don't know, but it was a farm there. I know the man who used to farm there, he farmed for Mr. Owen Smith in Valdosta. I was reared up with him. But I'm talking from bare facts, where now the Quitman Bank sits used to be a frame house there, and the man that lived there before Chief Clanton lived there was named Fitzgerald. He lived in that house. Later years Chief Audley Clanton bought and lived there. The house just back of there now, an old house, has been there since I can remember, the old Langford House. That man had only one son, Tom, back when I was quite young. Some late things I might not mention between here and there, but some of you know about them.

But the West End Cemetery has been there ever since I can remember. I remember back when there wasn't any cars in Quitman, there wasn't any truck in Quitman, and I used to go all over that cemetery with two mules and a wagon cleaning up that cemetery. I think now sometimes when I pass there I wonder how I got around in there with those mules and wagons, but that is what you had to do.

Where the West End Milling Company is now, along where the office is, there used to be one house on that block. The woman who lived there was named Mattie and her husband was Lucius Soloman. She had cows and she milked and sold people milk. That's the only house on that whole lot. Where the Baum House is, it's been there ever since I can remember. Me and Mr. Brantley Baum came up boys together. He had one brother, Michael. The house next to it where some of you today call it the Walker House (Horace), Mr. Walker farmed and a neighbor lived in it, but that house used to be where the big house now sits next to the Parsonage (Baptist). They moved that house there and built a big house. The Parsonage has been there ever since I've been in Quitman, only it used to be a two-story building. They cut it down and remodelled it, that's why it is like it is now. Where Mr. Wicker's House, some know it as that, the First Baptist Church sat right there, a frame building. Then they moved that building away from there and built a church on this block (where the Historical Society Building and the Quitman Federal Savings and Loan Building are now) and it stayed there for years and years until they moved it to where it is now. (The old Church Building was torn down)

The building where Mr. Warmack is was the first furniture store ever in Quitman that I know of was right there, Mr. Abe Kent's. He lived just down the street from where President Horton lives now. The store next to him Mr. S. S. Rountree

he ran that store from the time I was a boy 'till I reckon his lifetime. The Lazarus Store on the corner has been in the Lazarus charge ever since I can remember.

The store across the street (where Allied Department Store is) used to be the Young-Jones Hardware Store, but way back it used to be Mr. Charlie Tillman's. He ran a hardware store there. Now below that Mr. R. C. McIntosh run a store there, and as near as I can think, there never was anybody that worked in that store but Mr. Louis and Mr. R. C., some of you know them, or know of them. Mr. R. C., I worked for his mother; she never did have nobody work for her hardly but her butlers. I used to make up Mr. R. C. and Mr. Louis' bed every morning, before they ever married. She had a routine way that she had about cleaning up. Back there they didn't have living rooms like you all have, they had parlors and sitting rooms. She had a day that she cleaned the parlor and sitting room, and a day that she would clean up the front porch, sweep the walk and all. They had a garden and a gardener and he kept the garden and the wood. Long then there wasn't gas like there is now. She burnt wood. This man kept the wood, worked the garden and milked the cow. He put the wood on the back porch for the cook. The cook never went into the house, except one time. One time the cook went into the house in the dining room where Mrs. McIntosh had bought something for the dining room and she wanted the cook to come in and see it, for her cook never went off the back porch (the kitchen and porch were detached from the main house). (* The McIntosh house was located at the corner or South Jefferson and East Johnson Streets)

The next house was the old Whipple place and it has been in the Whipple family ever since I knew them. Now I'm skipping some. Right in front of the Old South Georgia Depot was Mr. A.B. Jones, he was the father of Dr. Jones and the great granddady of Lawyer Jones. I think I'm saying that right. He ran the store in front of the depot, he had a horse and wagon and he used to haul ice all over town and sell it. They hauled coal on that wagon too for years.

Now going back to where part of Mr. Carmichael's Store is used to be a grocery store run by Mr. W. T. Powell. He lived down on North Washington Street, the first two-story house down there on the left and he used to deliver groceries with a horse and wagon. People would order their groceries for dinner, call him about eleven or ten-thirty, or whatever time they started dinner, and he would carry their groceries out. Same way they would do at the market. They didn't have all this stuff like they do now. There wasn't any refrigerator, most people who were able had ice boxes. They had an ice man with a horse and wagon who went around every day. They knew how much ice would be needed to last them from one day to the other. They would go out and put the ice in the boxes, and they did it all over town.

The bank next to the Jewelry Store wasn't always like it is now, it was just an ordinary building like the others. Later years they added on and made it four stories. Right next to that was Mr. J. W. Bowman's, he had a clothing store that was known as the "one price house". The highest priced shoes that was sold

anywhere that I know of was just six dollars. Right up the street was Mr. Milton Olsner's, he was a clothing man too.

Right where the Maddox Drug Store is was a drug store and there's never been anything there in that building but a drug store ever since I can remember, but not the same one. I came here in 1905 and Mr. John R. Avery had a drug store there and I don't know of another building that has had the same business all these years. Now across from what used to be Tanner's Drug Store and where the Chicken Place is, Mr. L. S. Price used to run a grocery store there. He was the father of the Mr. Price that works at Griner's Chevrolet place. Skipping across from there I remember when the Old Hotel Marie burned. I was working with the city and the city rule was whenever there was a big fire at night you had to go help pull the hose around by hand, and so I had to be there. It burned to the ground, and left some large chimneys there. They were afraid they might fall on someone so they got up some dynamite and wire and put two charges in those chimneys. Then they ran over to Mr. Price's store like somebody going in a foxhole and matched the cap. It did not knock out even three bricks. So we had to go back there the next day with mules and chains and pull them down. All these things happened back then, the city didn't have no trucks, tractors or nothing like that.

Right up there where the filling station is across from the Post Office was Mr. J. P. Wade's house, and his house was right there. He was the Chief of Police and he rode horseback all over town. The didn't have parks there, they had horseracks. Later he became Sheriff and Mr. John Mashburn got to be Chief of Police. He was too big to ride the horse, so they had to get him a buggy

and he rode the town in a horse and buggy. At that time the City Barn was on Johnson Street at South Court Street and Mr. Mashburn lived way out on East Johnson back of where the Georgian Traylor Park is now. They had a horse named Fuller, the fastest horse around. He could go from the City Barn to Mr. Mashburn's house in three minutes and every day his driver would go get Mr. Mashburn's dinner and bring it back to him at the City Barn. Later on Mr. Audley Clanton got to be Chief and he rode the horse, no cars yet. Let me skip off here for a minute, I might not get back to that.

Mr. George Avery that lived right back of the McIntosh House owned the first car that ever was in Quitman. It had wheels about that high (measuring about waist high), wooden spokes and a big old chain on the side of it, no top on it, and lit the lights with a match. I know when these street lights were lit with a match. Every evening they had a man go around and light them. The lights were not on poles like they are now, they hung right over the middle of the intersection. They were on a rope that could be let down so he could reach them. They had something in there about the size of your finger and about six inches long that they would put down in there and light it and in the morning they would come and pull it out.

Now this maybe something you all have seen, but I'm telling you this whether you've seen it or not, back where Mr. Powell's Farm Supply Building is used to be houses. There was a lady named Mrs. Wade had a house there. Not many people know there's

ever been a house there. On the corner Mr. Jimmy Davis lived and they moved his house to Gordon and Quincy Street. It's there now. Right on down from where Mr. Jimmy Davis' house was and below the Chance and the Jones house on out to the Chicken House was as far as you could go. Mr. Jones had a farm out there, there wasn't no road there to go to Valdosta like there is now. You couldn't go that way, no road. As far as you could go was at Highland, the Georgian Motel. You had to turn there and go down North Highland and cross the Creek and come out back of Pine Point.

Now we're coming back and skipping some, back to where Mr. Mitchell's Super Market was, was the Zene Oglesby House. I butlered there when I was a boy, my Mother cooked for that family for about fifty years, in that house there, (it burned, we've heard, sometime around 1920). One of his brothers, Mr. J. W. Oglesby, lived in a big house where the Georgian Motel is. They came here as sawmill men, that's what that railroad's for. They hauled logs all the way from Perry, Adel and all through this country. Right where the old ice plant that they're taking down now is where they made all the ice in Quitman. They hauled it all over town with a mule and wagon. The building just across the railroad is there now, just an old eyesore, right next to Faucette's Filling Station. I know when the South Georgia Grocery Company was in there, and they delivered groceries all over town with two mules and a wagon - wasn't no trucks, just two mules and a wagon. Just before you get to the McIntosh House, Dr. Dorrough used to live there. He was the cause

of them putting the overpass down on South Court Street. At that time he had one of the two cars in Quitman, and coming across the railroad a train hit him. They thought he was gonna die. There wasn't a hospital here or in Valdosta or anywhere around, so they put him in a two story building down there and thought he'd be dead the next day, but he stayed there for months and he got over it. If any of you remember he always walked crippled, he never did walk straight no more, and that's the cause of the overpass. I know when it was just flat out there, there was just a wooden bridge that ran across a ditch there. Now all these happened in the old days.

Right where the McIntosh House is now, where Mr. Cooper lives, I set those big live oaks out there. I never thought I'd live to see those trees as large as they are now. They are big trees, and I set 'um out, hauling them up there with a mule and wagon. I know when the postoffice wasn't there. It was in three different places over the years: down on Lee Street where the Old Harley-Mitchell Hardware Building is, I think they still retain a part of it as a warehouse, the postoffice used to be right there. Then they moved it from there to where the City Office is now, and from there they moved further down to where the present postoffice is now.

I know when all of that was dirt (Screven Street). When they came here to start to pave the block from where the postoffice is down to the corner to the building where the drugstore is, their

crew came in here with four wagons loaded down with men, pick and shovels and they got out there and just went to pickin'. No trucks, no tractors, nothing but pick and shovels, and that's what they went to work with. Culpepper, Lee, and Washington Streets were about twelve feet narrower than they are now. Chief Clanton, myself and my crew widened all of those streets, rebuilt the curbs, gutters, catch basins and all. One thing I want to jump back to - if they decide to take that old building down on Washington Street, the Old Pool Room Building, as old as I am, I'd be willing to take it down. It's been there ever since I can remember. A Mr. Cook run a bakery shop there and every day about eleven o'clock he took his horse and covered wagon and put that hot bread in there and he'd go all over town selling it for a nickel a loaf. They didn't have sliced bread then and as he'd go all over town you could get it hot. That's the old building I would love to see down, and I'd be willing to help take it down and get it out of the way from there. It's just an eyesore.

Now I'm about through, but I'm gonna jump off a bit. I don't think there's a person living but me that was here when they laid the first groundwork for the hospital. At that time the County had a Chain_Gang,, so the County crew and the City crew went in there together, with mules and wagons, they didn't have no trucks or tractors. That sidewalk you see in front of the hospital I laid that there, and that little sunken garden over there (referring to the park in front of the hospital) I did all that for Mrs. A. B. Sheffield.

I know the first two men that was ever put on the Chain Gang in Quitman, Joe Davis and Wesley Silas. They didn't have records in the Courthouse, but I'm satisfied there ain't nobody else that remembers it. I remember the last man they hung in the Old Jail. I was standing right out there by the fence. Old Dr. King who lived in the house across from the Mercer House, I was standing there when he came along and he had a tourniquet (we think he meant stethoscope) in his hands so he could tell when the man was dead. And he came down there and went in the Jail and stayed in there about a half-hour, about six of them in there, and they came out and brought the man out in a little box about that wide (measuring very narrow with his hands) and put him on a one-horse wagon right in front of that little house there by the Jail. They stayed there for some time and then carried him down to the next corner, and I don't know where they carried him from there, but that's the last man that they hung in that Jail. I was right there when the trap fell. We used to go in there every Sunday and have meetings with the fellows that were sentenced to die.

I want you to think with me here, I think I have a lot to be thankful for. I have been in Quitman about 78 years, never had a case in court, and I'm thankful. I'm going to ask you all to do this for me, I don't know how long I'll be here but I want youall's prayers. Prayer will do more than any medicine and in the condition our world's in today, guns ain't gonna solve the problem, it's gonna take more than guns. I thank you all for giving me this chance, and I ask you all to pray for me. "The fervent prayer of a righteous man availith much".

Green Brister who died June 5, 1989, was a man who lived much of Quitman's history. In 1988, he gave a speech to the Brooks County Historical Society, telling of his involvement, as a city employee. Beginning 1917, he worked in maintenance of the city's streets when Screven Street was just a dirt road. The street lights were suspended over the street with ropes and manually lit with a match. He described the foundation work done with mules and wagons by the City and County work crews in preparation for Quitman's hospital. Another vivid memory for was the burning of the Hotel Marie. The City crews had to pull down the many chimneys left standing. The City of Quitman passed a resolution honoring the memory of Green Brister's life and service.





This picture shows the door of a log tobacco barn. The log barn has logs on the inside of the door for insulation.

This Computer system is located at the Cardin Cotton gin in Morven. Computers aid the agricultural businessman in keeping records. In earlier days, records were kept by people, but, with this modern technology, the work has become much more efficient.



A HISTORY of QUITMAN

[A program for Brooks County Historical Society]
by Jean Blackburn Logan-1987]

In the interest of time and the limitation of research, I will try to give you an overview of Quitman's history with an emphasis on the life of the people. I'll begin with a little story about one such citizen-- Mr Red Wagnon --a local pharmacist and a man of some wit, kept a number of hunting dogs so that he and his friends could hunt fox-or was it "coon" hunt? This pack could send up quite a noise when they were on the scent.

The story goes----Mr Wagnon felt he had a need for a loan and he went see a local banker whose reputation was not promising--he was known to be rather austere in turning loose money. He had Mr. Wagnon on the ropes and decided to press a point and lecture him about all the hound dogs he kept at his house. Finally Mr Wagnon said "Well, Mr. Stubbs, I'm from up around Milledgeville [the site for the Georgia facility for the mentally ill] and I have known of doctors, lawyers, merchants, teachers, and bankers, all at the Institution, but I have never known of a fox hunter there!!"

Can we imagine at this point in time that in 1867, Quitman was called the "Atlanta of South Georgia"? Such was reported in the "Quitman Banner", the first of several newspapers in this town, the sobriquet being attributed to a visitor whose first visit to the village had been 8 years previous, the very year of Quitman's origin. The editor pointed out that in less than 8 years the "site of our present , prosperous , thriving and beautiful town was a pine forest."

All of you are familiar with the creation of Brooks County in 1858 and the subsequent act of the legislature creating its county seat ,Quitman, in 1859. Just as elsewhere in our country ,pioneers had forged ahead and government had followed. This pattern led to Lowndes County being created in1885 out of Irwin County which had been created in 1818. Thus, Brooks County was created because the density of population required accessible government to those settlers. The act creating the county established that the County seat be in an accessible location. Land was acquired from two of the pioneers who had settled in the area long before Brooks and Quitman began. 283 acres was bought from James E.Young and 263 acres bought from M.J.Culpepper. The village was established in just three months. Jeremiah Wilson laid off the residential and business lots and intersected those lots with the wide streets we know today as North and South Court streets, and East and West Screven streets, with the lot for the courthouse located at the intersection. There was much interest in the new town-a lot of people from out in the county as well as from other counties chose to cast their lot with the new town.

The post office was established in 1859, and the railroad was terminated in Quitman in 1860, connecting Quitman with the port city of Savannah. Forty households were listed

in 1860 and development was well underway when the civil war erupted. All construction stopped except for the courthouse. Plans for this important edifice were ambitious and had to be modified due to the strains of war. In 1863, the Superior Court accepted the courthouse as it was, unable to get the copper and iron to carry out the original plan .

After the war, building resumed and in 1866, some 100 buildings were shown to have been built. Among these were houses of worship-Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian as well as an institution of learning: The Quitman Academy. Lots for businesses ranged from \$100 to \$150; lots for gardens and residences, \$25 to \$300. The early buildings were all made of wood and had to be replaced as fires burned parts of the town. The most severe fire occurred in 1897, destroying most of the business district.

The businesses of early Quitman reflect the demand for services and goods, mainly general merchandise with some specialties such as gun and watch repair, carriages and saddle makers, livery stables, tentsmith and a drugstore. Soon after the war. Quitman boasted a tailor, a broker, a milliner, a confectioner, two brick yards, several jewelers, cobbler and by 1875, a restaurant.

Meals had been available in boardinghouses, but in 1875, the paper carried an ad for a restaurant. The earliest hotel in Quitman was located on the west side of the courthouse. It was operated by Mrs McIntosh, a widow who had moved to Quitman from Boston, Ga after the death of her husband. She had two sons who grew to be prominent businessmen in Quitman's history. According to Brooks County history books, this hotel served as a layover for confederate soldiers, passing through to Florida and after the war, for soldiers trying to work their home. Mrs McIntosh sold the hotel in 1875.

There was another hotel named the City Hotel, later becoming the McNeil House and finally the Remington House. At one time, the St Louie stood on the corner of South Court and Johnson. In the 1870's, J.B. Roundtree built the three story building next to the corner building at the intersection of South Court and Screven, intending it to be a mercantile business, but at the urging of the Quitman Free Press, changed plans to build a hotel instead. According to references in the paper, shortly after a gala opening, the building reverted to its original purpose.

The next hotel was built on the corner of Screven and Washington and opened in 1890. The Hotel Marie was a fine structure made of virgin timber and decorated in the Victorian style. It had 46 bedrooms, airy verandas, fine dining, attractive rooms for entertaining and a "sample room". Much of the clientele were salesmen or drummers who rented the sample room and set up their wares for local businessmen to see and buy. Miss Lucia Harrell remembers that the items were mostly for men--shoes, suits, work clothes and household furnishings.

For women, only piece goods and trims were available. Some of these salesmen rented a buggy from one of the several livery stables and went into the country, calling on small stores and homes. My mother remembers them in her growing up years.

Northerners were beginning to come south for the winter and some resided at the Marie. Bennet MacDonald told me of meeting a northern broker at the hotel who was looking for land for a hunting preserve. He was, of course, Gerald Livingston who established Dixie Plantation, beginning with land he purchased in Brooks County. In 1874, the Free Press carried this: " Mr. Miller and wife of New York are guests of Mrs Snow for the balance of the winter. Mr. Miller is an analytical chemist and has examined the water of Quitman's new

artesian well and has pronounced it ' a very fine water'."

Another ad appeared in 1884: " Cash paid for pears. It will pay you to see me at the Hotel Marie." As this ad and others like it indicate, there was a great demand in the northern cities for Brooks County fruit, particularly for pears and watermelons.

The many social events reported by the Free Press throughout the 36 years of the Marie's existence show it to have been the center of activities. Meals were available in the dining room where parties and dances were held. In 1894, the Free Press carried this ad- "I will pay cash for all partridges brought to me. I prefer them alive but will take them dead if brought to me the same day killed in quantities not less than 50. Mrs H J Stanling, Hotel Marie." These were most likely for the dining room.

Green Brister, a local citizen, remembers Jimmy Sampson who was the head waiter at the Hotel Marie, a quite important position. It was also Sampson's job to drive a horse drawn bus from the Marie to the depot to pick up passengers coming to the hotel.

Miss Gladys MacFarlane remembers the W.J. Powell family operating the Marie. They had six children comparable in ages to the Oglesby children. Their friendships ensured that the hotel would be the center of much social activity. One such activity was written up in the paper in 1904 ----a leap year dance.

Unfortunately, this landmark was completely destroyed by fire in 1926. The chimneys remained standing and after a failure of charges of dynamite to bring them down , the city crews attached ropes and pulled them down with mules.

The Hotel Marie was replaced immediately with the General Quitman Hotel. The very names showed the the contrast of styles. However. the new hotel has certainly served the business and social needs of Quitman, but not with the romance of the Marie.

The railroad played an important role in Quitman's history . Being completed to Quitman in 1860, the Savannah, Albany and Gulf RR [later becoming the Savannah, Gulf] transported troops in and out of the area during the Civil war, including a large number of troops who disembarked here and went overland to do battle at Olustee, Fl. For years , at least five passenger trains made stops in Quitman. The early newspapers show much commerce between Quitman and Savannah.

In 1897, the first passengers came to Quitman by a new rail line built primarily by the Oglesby brothers with some local citizens as stockholders. The South Georgia Railroad ran from Adel to Quitman, mainly to service the Oglesbys' timber interests. This RR, soon extended to Perry, Fl, contributed greatly to Quitman's economy. People up and down the line would drive a horse and buggy or even a car to one of the many train stops, take the train to Quitman for whatever purpose and go home by a later train . Brooks County farm products were shipped north via the South Georgia.

The Oglesby family was active in the social and civic activities of the town, building several large houses here ,the most elegant used as a mortuary when I was growing up. They also developed a resort known as Hampton Springs some few miles beyond the railroad's terminus in Perry Fl. They extended a line to the springs with a "y" arrangement for turning the train around, thus allowing the family and friends to travel from Quitman in

their private parlour car. One of the advertisements shows how one could make train connections from Birmingham Al to Hampton Springs. Many came : some for the social environment , others for the therapeutics of the spring.

Another mineral spring nearer to home provided Quitmanites with recreation--Blue Springs on the Withlacoochee River. This became a place for social gatherings shortly after the Civil War. In 1894, the Free Press reported that E.C.Wade had moved to the Springs for his health and was improving the facilities there. He advertised six cottages for rent , a post office for Wade's Park, and "the most beautiful baseball ground in the state". In April of that year, the paper commented "the school children 'April fooled' the teachers and spent the day at Blue Springs. The Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches annually reserved passage on the train and took their children departments to Blue Springs for a picnic. Many local citizens remember going to dances there. George Johnson tells me that the Johnson Band played for many square dances.

The townspeople felt that entertainment was essential for recreation and for education, and in 1888, built with public funds a two-storied building on the corner of Screven and Lee Streets , known as "the Opera House". A random sampling reveals quite a variety of events were held there. In 1903, the UDC sponsored "Mrs.Chilton's Lecture Lyseum", the organization paying out 75c for cleaning the house and keeping the fires and 60c for coal and drayage. Also in 1904, the " Ariel Ladies Quartet" gave a performance which the Free Press reported so well received that the group stayed over for a second rendition. In 1894, the paper gushed that Quitmanites had never heard such music as the artists in the "Hungarian Court Orchestra" had presented.

My mother remembers hearing her family tell that Mrs Vannah Small, the mother of a severely retarded man some of you may have seen at the Presbyterian Home, sing at the Opera House; she was known for her " sweet, soft" rendition of "After the Ball is Over". All of are familiar with Beth Powers references to the Opera House becoming the first " picture-show", showing silent movies with "live" background piano music being provided by a local young man, Fred Cobb. Of course, we all remember the Ilex Theater which was built in the early "20's, and Mrs Espey's entertainments, especially the ambitious operettas in the late 30's.

Other cultural activities are reported in the Newspaper: "The Sorosis Club will meet with Mrs J B Roundtree. The Club has finished a study of Germany and will take up a course dealing with Russia and Japan." In 1894, this news item: "The ladies of the Presbyterian church will give an entertainment known as the Circulating Library on Friday at 7:30 at the Hotel Marie. Each person will represent a book [standard works]. As for instance, ' Oliver Twist' could be represented by an olive with the letter 'R' attached to the clothing with a twist of silk or paper around the neck." Miss" Lucia Harrell remembers going to one of these entertainments with a scarlet "A" attached to her forehead and Miss Mandy Shiver, who taught at the Mill school and who could be seen daily driving her buggy to school from her home on the westside of town, went dressed in a black skirt, a medium blue waist with a red stripe down her back. The blue-black speller, of course.

I remember as you do another entertainment in Quitman that all graduating senior girls could look forward to ----"Miss" Maggie Wade's annual tea. I think this started when her niece Sarah Caroline Patrick [Romine] graduated and Mrs Wade continued this tradition for many years. I quite well remember my time at "Miss" Maggie's.

Quitman, as early as 1872, had its own brass band sometimes referred to as the coronet band. The band, enjoying a good reputation, played for many public functions locally as well as in the surrounding area. If no occasion presented itself, the band would hold a Sunday afternoon concert at a bandstand built on the NE corner of the courthouse square.

Green Brister remembers another popular entertainment— traveling Punch and Judy shows held on the vacant lot behind the present city jail.

Parades have been apart of Quitman's history. George Johnson remembers one when Mr. Ed Pedrick groomed his fifty mules which were led in pairs along the parade route. The Oglesby Lumber Mill [Interstate] had a timber cut 6' by 6' by 100' from a virgin tree; each end was supported on a cart. In another parade, George remembers riding with the Johnson Band in a 4-horse wagon; he played the banjo.

Perhaps the most notable parade, other than the Centennial Parade in 1959, was held in 1934 in celebration of Robert E Lee's birthday with none other than the Governor of Georgia, the Hon. Eugene Talmadge who had come to deliver a "non-political" speech. For three issues prior to this event, the Free Press announced the occasion in bold two inch headlines as well as pointing out that every school child in all of Brooks County's white schools would march, an estimated 2,500 strong. Gov. Talmadge sent word that he would arrive in Quitman early to greet his friends along Screven St. before the barbeque lunch, following with his speech honoring Robert E. Lee. Local citizens had donated all the food for the barbeque.

The speaker's stand was set up on the east side of the courthouse and as the Free Press had pointed out amplification would be used for the first time ever— that the Governor would speak directly into a microphone and that his voice would be heard throughout Quitman's business district. In addition, Scion Carter broadcast the speech throughout South Georgia as well as North Florida over short wave radio.

Every school had a float in the parade, even little Palmetto across the creek from me. The Dixie School's float, under the direction of Mr. Allen C. Smith who obviously built floats with the same attention to details with which he taught senior math at QHS, won first prize. Photographers and staff from the state's city dailies covered the event, publicizing the message of the many banners carried by school children—pleading for a new school deal—pay for teachers who had not been paid much nor regularly and for uninterrupted school as some schools were closed 6 or 7 months of the year.

Who of us here tonight could forget the Confederate Memorial Day parades when school children would march to the West End Cemetery, each clutching a little jar of mixed flowers gathered from our mothers' flower gardens, to decorate the graves. Gladys MacFarlane remembers that Mrs Roundtree who lived on west Screven would gather flowers from her yard and pass them out to children who had none. Across the street, Gladys' aunt [Dollie Walker Wicker's grandmother] always had ready for Gladys a big bouquet of amaryllis.

Quitman's citizens through their churches and civic groups have always shown compassion for their needy in the community. Mass meetings were held during and after the Civil War to raise provisions for those families whose menfolks were away

fighting or had been killed. I found this note in the UDC files:" Mrs Edenfield, Please let this confederate soldier have lodging, supper and breakfast and present your bill to the daughters of the confederacy. Mrs J B Roundtree. " Mrs Edenfield replied: Mrs. Roundtree, I gave this soldier night lodging, supper , breakfast, and dinner which amounts to \$1. Very respectfully, Mrs Edenfield ."

In 1936, the Womens' Auxillary of the Brooks County Hospital was organized. This organization promoted programs to care for the medical needs of the very poor. Many hours were donated to canning local products for the hospital cafeteria and for sewing hospital gowns and repairing linens.

When Gladys McFarlane was growing up, the churchs sponsored a Christmas celebration under the direction of three of the town's musicians- "Miss" Minnie[Stanley] Bennet, her daughter Louise and Mrs Lawson Knight. A Christmas tree was set up in front of the courthouse for citizens to leave gifts for the needy, and then led by these three ladies, the assembled group would sing Christmas carols. This event was first started in 1875. In the 1930's, after school officials learned of the desparate hunger of a family with several children, two local ladies volunteered to prepare daily lunches for them. Each morning, Will, the longtime and beloved janitor, would go to these ladies' homes and deliver the food to the school. Out of that endeavor, the soup kitchen was started by the Parent-Teacher Association and carried out by the grade mothers, providing lunches to all needy children.

Gladys McFarlane worked in the school office. She remembers receiving a phone call from Mrs Sam Roundtree who had observed barefoot children walking past her house on their way to school. She asked Gladys to send those children to B. Taylor's store for shoes and sweaters at her expense.

My mother remembers the Quitman of her youth as a town of whistles. Life was regulated by the many whistles of businesses such as the Oglesby sawmill, the ice house, the Reinshmidt stave mill, the cotton gins, Young's farm and others to announce "start work", " noon break" and "knocking off". Their sounds could be heard throughout the town, creating an atmosphere of activity and vitality.

In 1904, a business was begun that was to add much to Quitman's economy for many years---The South Georgia Grocery Co. Under the direction of S.J.Faircloth, this business provided a market for Brooks County products--meat, particularly the Brooks County ham, cane syrup, lard, fruits , pecans. Several have told me how Mr Faircloth scoured the county with his driver Drawdy Coker to do business with farmers. In later years, Hancock Lumber Co [later owned by H.R. Garrett] and the various businesses of Holwell Myrick such as West End Milling, a freezer locker and the largest artesian swimming pool in South Georgia all contained in the area of west Screven and Webster streets, made Quitman a thriving town. In the 1930's, the diary businesses of Paul Bennet and J. Pope Bass were prominent in the area. Perhaps, the largest impact was made in the 1950's by the Brooks County Packing Co, providing a market not only for Brooks County livestock farmers but for area farmers as well.

A good portion of my research has come from back issues of the Free Press, a goldmine of interesting events and of people who contributed greatly to Quitman's history. Due to my limited time for research and to the limits of your indulgence, many topics had to

be omitted -- the progress of our educational system; local politics and its colorful characters whose leadership provided notable recognition throughout the state; the many churches ; the public library; and the development of the center parks which still remain Quitman's most memorable attraction.

Another area that deserves more than a few remarks is the town's newspapers, of which there have been several. I limited my research to the Free Press in which all of its editors have praised the virtues of Brooks County and have urged its citizens to bigger and better things. We have a rich heritage.

Perhaps this advice from the editor published in an 1804 issue is still appropriate for us today: " If you wish to help the town, don't fail to sound its praises everywhere you are. Don't frown on every improvement because it will cost you a dollar or two. Don't make your money out of its citizens and spend it somewhere else."