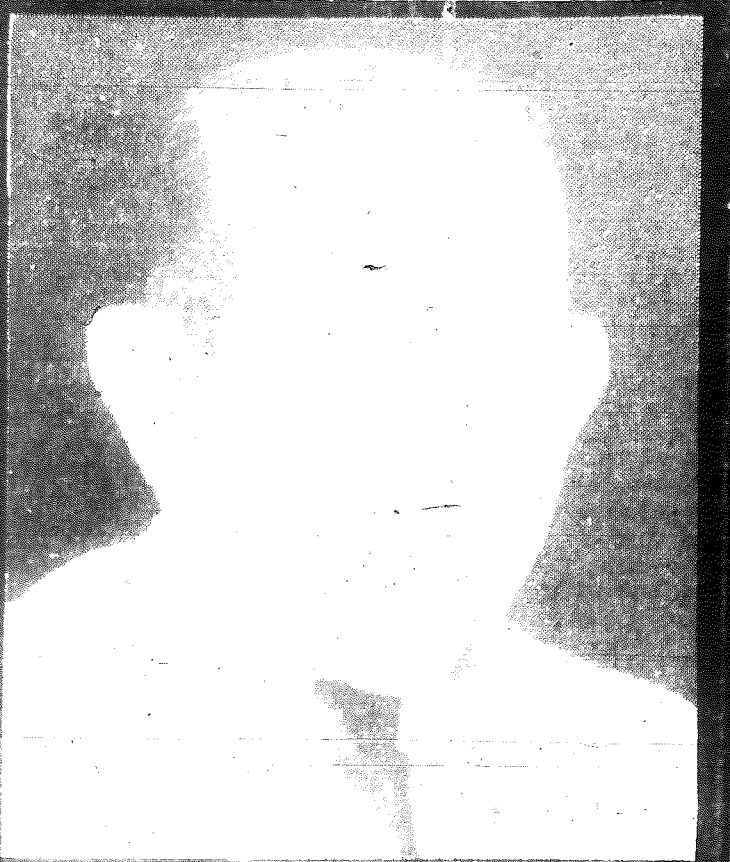
Progress-Argus

CKSON, GEORGIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1952 — $2.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE



BENJAMIN A. WRIGHT, JR.

Benjamin A. Wright, Industrialist And Business Leader, Taken By Death

Funeral services for Benjamin Archibald Wright, 90, one of Butts county's best known citizens and leading banker and industrialist, were held in the Jackson Methodist Church Monday at 3:30 p. m.

The death of this prominent citizen occurred early Saturday in Emory University Hospital where he had been a patient for more than a year.

The Rev. P. M. Minter, pastor of the church, was officiating minister. Burial was in the family cemetery at Indian Springs with arrangements in charge of Peacock & Ball Funeral Home.

Active pallbearers were T. E. Robison Sr., L. J. Ball, J. H. O'Neal, Hampton Daughtry, J. W. O'Neal and J. R. Pulliam. The honorary pallbearers included W. O. Ball, H. O. Ball, H. M. Moore, J. D. Jones Sr., H. N. Pannell, W. M. Lippard, J. E. Cornell Sr., J. W. Valentine, J. C. Kimbell, H. M. Fletcher, L. M. Spencer, R. P. Newton, C. E. McMichael, L. M. Freeman.

The death of Mr. Wright ended a long career of service to Butts county. Born at Indian Springs on August 11, 1862, he spent his entire life in the county and was actively identified with the business and civic life of the community. Born of pioneer parentage, his mother was Martha Brady Wright, and his father was B. A. Wright, who died while serving in the Confederate Army and was buried near Corinth, Miss.

Left without a father at the age of one, he attended such schools as were available at Indian Springs. In the hard days of the Reconstruction period, he served apprenticeship as a farm laborer at $5 per month. This training in the school of hard knocks stood him in good stead in later life.

For many years he operated a mercantile business at Indian Springs

Mrs. Grace Watkins Huckett of Long Island, N. Y.; Miss Delia Watkins of New York City and Miss Georgie Watkins of Rochester, N. Y.; two great-nephews, Richard W. Watkins Jr. of Jackson and Bob Bryans Watkins of West Point. A brother, Van Wright, and three sisters, Mrs. G. L. Watkins, Mrs. Theresa Lawson and Miss Mary Wright, preceded him in death.

Good Exhibits Displayed At County's Fair

The Butts County Fair, which opened Monday, will continue through Saturday.

The 1952 fair, sponsored by the Exchange Club, is larger and better as regards exhibits, with individuals, schools, communities and clubs cooperating.

The Negro section has been commended for the quality exhibits and for the interest shown by colored citizens.

Because of a press of time the prize winners will not be carried in The Progress-Argus until next week.

The first of the week was favorable to attendance with clear weather prevailing.

Thursday is being observed as Bake Day and White School Day and Friday will be Colored School Day Saturday is advertised as Everybody's Day.

Local GEA Members To Attend Meet

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For many years he operated a mercantile business at Indian Springs and engaged in farming on a large scale. This success paved the way to an enduring business career and at the time of death he was one of middle Georgia's wealthiest citizens and his counsel and advice was eagerly sought on matters of finance.

When the boll weevil invaded Butts county, Mr. Wright ceased farming operations and exchanged his large farm holdings for business property in Atlanta. At that time he moved to Jackson and for several years had resided on Indian Springs street.

He acquired a large interest in the Pepperton Cotton Mills, a concern he headed as president. He owned valuable apartment property in the city of Atlanta and for years served as vice president of Jackson National Bank and as a director aided in shaping this institution into one of the leading banks of the state.

He was progressive in his ideas and insisted on the best of equipment and facilities in all the institutions with which he was connected. The stamp of quality was written on everything he touched.

Throughout his life he kept the common touch and possessed friends among the rich and powerful and the poor and humble. Mr. Wright was democratic in his habits of living.

He retained an abiding interest in his home community of Indian Springs where his family had lived for generations. As long as his health permitted he visited the resort often and found pleasure in talking with visitors and reminiscing with old friends.

He was formerly a member of the Jackson Kiwanis club.

Survivors are two nephews, Wright Watkins Sr. of Jackson and Ben Watkins of El Paso, Texas; four [illegible] Mrs. S. L. Austin of Atlanta;

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The Butts county chapter of the Georgia Educational Association will be well represented at the District G.E.A. meeting to be held in LaGrange on Thursday, October 23.

Butts county schools will observe a holiday on the 23rd, and it is believed that most of the teachers will make the trip to LaGrange for the important district meeting.

With J. M. L. Comer as president the local chapter of the GEA boasts of a 100 percent enrollment of teachers in the county.

The strong GEA chapter works closely with the state organization keeps abreast of the latest developments in the educational field and is allied with other GEA chapters throughout the state in effectuating the provisions of the Minimum Foundation for Education program.

Officers of the Butts GEA chapter, in addition to President Comer are: Mrs. Mildred Thompson, vice president; Eldred Mann, secretary; Miss Jessie Sessions, treas-

Three Scouts To Get Eagle Badge Sunday Morning

Three members of the Jackson Boy Scouts, Troop 80, Lee Roy Thad Burford and Dan Fretwell receive their Eagle badges in Methodist Church Sunday morning. They are the first boys of Troop to receive this award, the highest rank in Scouting. These boys hold membership in Troop nearly three years.

The program will begin o'clock and the troop plans tend in uniform.