

Hall County history

Lockhart family from Virginia

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In the northern part of Hall County there is an old family burial plot which is most difficult to locate. In an effort to transcribe all headstone inscriptions of the county for the then forthcoming publication: "Tombstone Inscriptions of Hall County, Ga.," in June, 1968, Marvin and Emma Lawson went with me to find the cemetery.

Dean D. Oliver, who lived in the vicinity, had a few years prior to our search visited the burial plot, and he graciously consented to be our guide. The small cemetery was located on the old Lockhart farm, State Highway 52, on right of road from Brookton to Lula. It could only be reached by foot since it

was almost a mile from the highway and was surrounded by a pine forest which was so dense that one could travel through it by crisscrossing and dodging trees and thick underbrush.

The search party walked single file along a ridge with Mr. Oliver in the lead. Finally, a huge oak tree was sighted as its branches reared higher upward than the pines. We walked in the direction of the large oak and eventually an old picket fence came into view. There was only one grave marked by an old weatherbeaten marker which was enclosed by the fence and overshadowed by branches of the tall spreading oak. The inscription read:

CAPT. VINCENT LOCKHART
(Sr.)

Born Lincoln County, Ga.

Nov. 17, 1794

Died Aug. 30, 1889

Soldier in War of 1812, Capt. Lamar's Company Georgia Volunteers, Captain Georgia Militia, Member of House of Representatives

There was a DAR marker alongside the headstone with the information: In Honor of Service in War of 1812.

Mr. Oliver told us that Capt. Lockhart had requested that he be buried beneath the large oak tree. Louisa, wife of Capt. Vincent Lockhart, is buried in Clemmons' Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery. She died Feb. 15, 1887, at age 69.

A publication which was located in the Atlanta Library, MEMOIRS OF GEORGIA, gives further information on the family:

"Vincent D. Lockhart (Jr.), physician and surgeon, son of Vincent and Louisa (Owens) Lockhart, was born in Hall County, Ga., in 1849. His paternal grandparent, Britton Lockhart, was a native of Virginia, whence he came to Georgia toward the close of the last century (1790's) and settled in what is now Lincoln County, when the settlements were scattering."

Britton Lockhart was quite prominent as a planter. Vincent Lockhart (Sr.) was born in Lincoln County, where he grew to manhood. When Vincent was only 18 years old he enlisted as a soldier in the last war with

Great Britain, in a company commanded by Capt. Lamar. He became very rich in land and slaves and became a very prominent citizen. Vincent Lockhart (Sr.) represented the county in the General Assembly several terms.

He believed he could employ his capital to better advantage in Augusta and went to that city to engage in merchandising. Instead he met with reverses and returned to Lincoln County and in a few years moved to Hall County in that part which was known as "The Glades." Vincent Lockhart (Sr.) was married to Louisa Owens, daughter of George Owens, a prominent farmer in Elbert County.

Vincent D. Lockhart (Jr.) was raised on a farm, and after receiving a fairly good education at the county schools, went to Atlanta and engaged as a clerk in a drug store. While thus employed he studied medicine. He afterwards located in Hall County where he "established a good reputation and secured a good practice." In 1878 he moved to Homer and his practice covered an extensive area.

Dr. Lockhart was married in 1875 to Miss Nancy Martin, daughter of Joseph M. and Elizabeth Cagle Martin of Hall County. Nancy Martin was born in Hall County in 1849.

Another son of Vincent Lockhart Sr., is buried in Clemmons' Chapel Methodist Cemetery:

Dr. Britain Wilkerson Lockhart, born June 5, 1851, died Feb. 11, 1919.

Annie Bell, wife of Dr. B.W. Lockhart, born Nov. 14, 1862, died Feb. 14, 1923.