

Simmons family background

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On the connecting road between Candler and Talmo, Hall County, is the site of the once thriving Simmons' Plantation and Simmons' Mill.

The old homelace is still standing and now owned by the Adams' family.

Underneath the weather-board siding are the original logs and the inside stairways to the top story shows signs of the antiquity of the building. Across the road from the house are the ruins of the old water mill which is almost covered with vines and other foliage.

On the hilltop a few hundred yards from the house is the family burial plot enclosed with an iron picket fence. Large oak trees hide the cemetery from view and one must know about it to locate the area. John D. Simmons deeded an acre of property to the perpetuation of the cemetery and this plot can never be sold nor used for any other purpose.

Members of the Simmons family buried in this plot are:

John D. Simmons — born Aug. 2, 1812, died Nov. 16, 1901
Mary A. Simmons — born Sept. 18, 1818, died Apr. 2, 1865
James O. Simmons — Co. C Cobbs Ga. Cav. CSA, Sept. 23, 1863 Feb. 28, 1921

Also interred here are: Joseph M. Smith and wife Sarah A. and sons Robert A. and Joseph M.; J.B. Smith; Little Lizzie Brooks, Julie Brooks, and Ola Hazeltine Brooks; B.D. Hancock. There are also several unnamed graves.

Hall County history

The Simmons marriage is recorded in BOOK A MARRIAGES, Hall County, Ga. Cert. no. 916 "John D. Simmons was married to Polly Ann Rylee, Nov. 3, 1836. Wm. R. Wellman M.G." "Polly" is a nickname for Mary and it is believed that Mary Ann Rylee was a granddaughter to Rev. James Rylee the Revolutionary Soldier who moved to Hall County in the 1820's.

The 1852 Tax Returns of Hall County show that John D. Simmons was living in the 365th District and was owner of 1000 acres of property. Some of John Simmons lineage is found in the "GENEALOGY OF THE LEWIS FAMILY."

"Charles C. Lewis and Elizabeth Russel were married in

Rutherford Co., N.C. in the year 1786. They were parents of thirteen children. The third child, Mary Lewis, was born in 1791 in Rutherford County. She was about five feet eight inches high, weighed about 180 pounds, had black hair, blue eyes and dark skin. She was an exemplary member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1811 she married MOSES SIMMONS, son of James Simmons and brother to Joshua Simmons." Joshua Simmons moved to Hall County in the 1820's and, no doubt, his nephew John D. Simmons came with the family.

"Moses Simmons and wife Mary Lewis Simmons lived some three miles below Island Ford on Broad River, Rutherford County, N.C. Moses Simmons died suddenly in 1856 and Mary, his wife, died in 1877. Moses and Mary Simmons were parents of twelve children: John Drayton, Charles Lewis, Mary Mansfield, Mildred, Myra, Moses Waters, Richard Lewis, James Overton, Elisah Taliaferro, Jane Elizabeth, Wm. Schieffelin, and Joshua Sylvanus."

John D. Simmons two sisters, a brother, and possibly others, moved to Hall County, Ga. Mildred Simmons, married Warren Hyder and both are buried in the cemetery at

Bellton, Ga. Mary Mansfield and Charles Lewis Simmons also moved to Hall County. John Drayton and Mary Ann Simmons were parents of fourteen children:

Elizabeth Jane Simmons, born 1837, married James M. Chamblee, son of Elisah Chamblee.

Moses Taliaferro Simmons, born 1839.

Laura Louisa Simmons, born 1841, married Alonzo Brooks, son of Alfred Brooks.

James Overton Simmons, born 1843. Enlisted in Civil War. Died 1921.

Mary Mildred Simmons, born 1845, married William R. Chamblee, son of Elisah Chamblee.

Nancy Eveline Simmons, born 1847, married Berrien Brooks, son of Alfred Brooks.

Martha Sapsony Simmons, born 1849, died.

Susan Adeline Simmons, born 1851.

Sarah Ann Simmons, born 1853.

John Robert Simmons, born 1855.

Julia Simmons, born 1857. Isaac Sylvanus Simmons, died.

Florence Eugenia Simmons, born 1862.

Virginia Ladora Simmons, born 1864.