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# RECOLLECTIONS OF BLACKSHEAR FROM 1857 TO 1913-14

(By MISS NELLIE STEWART)

For years I have carried about in my heart the desire to write a history of my dear old home town, Blackshear, Pierce county, Georgia. Its memories are precious to me, and there is perhaps no one now living whose recollections of the past are as clear and keen as my own.

I will begin my story with the biography of my maternal grandfather, James Strickland and his family. They came to Blackshear from Wayne county, Georgia in 1831. James Strickland bought from Banner Thomas, all the land on the west side of the branch, and one corner on the site now occupied by Davis & Son's store on the east side of the branch. The land on the east side was surveyed in 1840 by William Brown, grandfather of Dr. W. N. Brown.

In 1841 Mr. John T. Clough bought it from the State of Georgia. In 1847 he sold it to Mr. Asberry Waldron, father of Mr. Moses Waldron. Then my uncle, Joel Strickland, bought it in 1855. In 1857 he sold it to his brother, Mr. Allen Strickland, the father of Mr. J. W. Strickland, now of Waycross, and of Mrs. A. N. Smith, of Homerville, Ga.

My grandfather and uncles were the first owners of Blackshear. My grandfather, James Strickland, had ten children. Nine of them had families of children and grandchildren. One, a girl named Mary Ann, died when about 12 years old. Most of their descendants have lived in Blackshear, also many of the descendants of the brothers and sisters of my grandfather and grandmother, and many of them live there now.

My grandparents on the maternal side came to Wayne county, Georgia, from South Carolina in 1804. They lived near Gardi, Ga. at first, and had plenty of Indians for neighbors. These Indians were Creeks and at that time were friendly to the "white man." However, they would steal horses from the white settlers then living on the Wayne side of the Altamaha river. My grandmother played with the little Indians when she was a child and she learned to count from them, their numerals to 10. Here they are:

1, Umkin; 2, Ocolin; 3, Techainin; 4, Osten; 5, Chocapin; 6, Epocin; 7, Colipocin; 8, Chilipocin; 9, Ostipocin; 10, Parlin.

First among the old families of Pierce county, I will mention Mr. Oliver Waldron and family. Oliver Waldron was the grandfather of Moses Waldron. He lived where Mrs. Edith Bennett now lives, two miles from Blackshear towards Shiloh. This is my old home, where I was reared. My father bought it in 1848 from Mr. George Davis.

Among the other old families of Pierce county, were those of Banner and Lewis Thomas, James and William Riggins, Rev. Reuben Crawford and his brothers, John, Ezekiel, Thomas and Gideon Crawford; Joseph Winn, John O'Berry, Ben James, Elijah Aspinwall, William Brown and the Dixon brothers, Nathan, William, James and Mathew; Mr. George Newborn, Capt. James Sweat, Berry Henderson, William Gainey, W. Lugg, John Osteen, William Turner, William Tippins and the Youmans and Howard families. The father of Capt. Dan Knowles was an old settler of the county. Mr. Washington Knowles, Henry Stone, Henry Tatam, Levi Strickland and George Hall, and their families were among the old settlers.

Among the churches of Pierce county, Shiloh is the oldest one so far as I have any knowledge. Shiloh was organized about 1830-31. Some years ago I saw the names of the original members; among them were the Gainey's, the Waldrons and many of the families I have mentioned.

My grandfather and mother joined at Shiloh after they moved to Blackshear, as there was no Methodist church any nearer to them than at Waresboro, Ware county. After awhile my grandfather persuaded his mother to join that church also.

The Newborns, the Sweats and the Hendersons were Methodists and they decided, several years after Shiloh was established, to organize a Methodist church. This they did at the Henderson place about 1834-35. The church has long been disbanded and the building gone to decay, but the cemetery remains and is still used. My sister Katie, and her last husband, are buried there with others of my kindred. It is about twelve miles from Blackshear.

The first person buried at Shiloh was buried in a bought coffin (I have forgotten his name), but he bought his coffin before he died.

The first pastor was Lewis Peacock. I am sure he was related to the Peacocks in Blackshear. The next pastor was Reuben Crawford. He was from Effingham county. He was pastor 52 years and died in 1887. His wife died the same year. He was a man of great natural ability and force of character, and held his church without a break in its ranks for over a half century. His home was about five miles from Blackshear.

The young folks of Pierce county today have no idea how it used to be in the past. There were no railroads to bring mail every day and no mail carriers all over the country to bring it to your door. Nothing like that. I can remember when people didn't get their mail but once in two or three weeks. Then it was carried by a mail rider, as he was called. Mr. J. J. Henderson, who was afterward my brother-in-law, used to carry the mail when he was a right young man.

In the fall and winter the farmers would take their carts and wagons and go to Savannah or Darien, or some other town, and get their flour, coffee, rice, cloth, shoes, tobacco, etc., sufficient to last them until the next fall or winter.

I remember hearing my mother say that her father had gone to town in November, 1833, when the great shower of meteors fell, and that the home folks were grinding cane, and as they had to get up away before day to get a boiler of juice ready, they saw the shower. The first one to see the meteors was a colored woman, Maria, afterward the mother of Noah Lane. She was badly frightened and rushed to the big house calling to my grandmother, "Oh, 'Mistis, Mistis, the world's coming to an end! The stars are falling." My grandmother was not easily excited, so she reprimanded Maria and bade her stop such a clamor and return to her work. But when she came out and saw the awe-inspiring sight she too believed the end had come. She assembled her children and the slaves in the big open yard and together they awaited the final crack of doom. After the sun came up and the stars disappeared they were not reassured but went about all day in a kind of daze, waiting for something worse to happen. Not one of them ever expected to see another star.

They used wooden rollers in their cane mills in those days, and it was necessary to take the cane stalks through them twice. They continued in use until after the war, when steel rollers were gradually adopted. Mr. B. D. Brantley, Sr., installed the first modern steel rollers, and a big evaporator at the old Sessions place, where Mr. Wylie now lives.

My mother was my grandfather's eldest child and as such had the privilege of a trip to Darien in February, 1834, with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hyers. They camped out the night of the 13th, and the next morning, Valentine's Day, her aunt made a fortune-test for her, and told her that she would be married before the year was out. My mother did not believe it, inasmuch as she was only 16 years old and had not met the man she was to marry. But it came true, for she met and married my father, Elias Stewart, in October of that year.

After living several years in other places, my father bought the place where Mrs. Edith Bennett now lives, in 1849. He put up a store building on the public road about 200 yards from the home, and there kept a stock of general merchandise. There was an old store building on the place which went to prove that former owners of the place had done business there. Justice court was held there, and Superior court at Waresboro, until 1858.

My father bought his dry goods and drugs from Savannah. In the fall of 1854, he went to Savannah to buy a stock of goods to be sent to Florida.



He intended putting up a store there, in Columbia county, near his sister's home, and my eldest brother was going to keep it. But on account of not getting mail much in those days, when he got to Savannah, he found out, what he had not known before, that they had yellow fever there. He did not stay to buy goods, but came away at once. But he was there long enough to get the contagion, and was taken sick before he reached home. He died in about a week afterward of yellow fever.

After his death, my mother, her brother Joel, and cousin J. A. Harper, kept the store on our place, until uncle Joel moved to Clinch county.

I am coming to the time now when Blackshear was started. It was in the year 1857.

Dr. Screven, of Savannah, and others organized the old Atlantic & Gulf Railroad from Savannah to Thomasville. Then they began to survey it. Capt. Joseph Stone, brother of Mrs. A. M. Moore, Sr., Mr. E. S. Law, of Savannah; Mr. Edgar Herriott, and Mr. Maxwell, of the same place, were some of the civil engineers. Dr. Screven was the president.

As my mother's home was not very far from the line, they used to stay at our house. We lived on the public road, and not far from the railroad.

Some of the citizens said they would not give any right-of-way, and gave as a reason, that it would ruin the country, and kill up all the stock. But in spite of their opposition, in the winter of 1857, the road was being graded near the Alabama river.

The first boss in charge of the grading to the river was Mr. MacDonald, of Ware county. After him came Mr. Joseph Allen. They worked Irishmen in digging cuts, in those days, many of them were raw emigrants, and it was a show to the country people to see and hear them talk. I have heard that it took five hundred men to dig out the cut by the river. Of course they used hand shovels, as steam shovels were unknown in that day.

The next boss after Mr. Allen was Mr. Billups, who was by this time across the river. The next bosses were Messrs. Hardee and Brown. They worked negroes after finishing the cut at Blackshear.

Christmas day, 1857, all the men in the whole neighborhood met at the old store, for the last time, and went to where Blackshear now is, to survey, lay out and prepare for the new county of Pierce, and the town of Blackshear.

Pierce county was named in honor of President Franklin Pierce, Democrat, who served his country from 1853 to 1857.

Blackshear was named after General David Blackshear who was so intrepid in defending the state from the depredations of the Indians. Gen. Blackshear was closely associated with Col. Benjamin Hawkins, patriot, soldier, United States Senator and Indian agent, who was born in 1754.

My sister Katie, and her husband, Mr. Franklin Knox, from Wayne county, the parents of Mr. John Knox, were at our home that day. My uncles, Newton Stewart, Allen Strickland, Mathew Aspinwall; my brother, James Stewart, and my cousins, James Harper and James Sweat, together with Dr. Allen Brown and Mr. James Brown, were those who went to Blackshear that day to lay out the town.

In 1858 the old stage coach was still running in Pierce county. Our home was one of the stations where they kept the horses and part of the road was the road in front of Mrs. Howard's, along the old Experiment Farm under the pines. The driver's name was Mr. Greeley, and the hostler's name was Mr. Nourse. They were both from the North.

By 1859 the train was running through to Tebeauville, the name of the oldest part of Waycross. Mrs. Parker, mother of Orville and other children, and the sister of Mrs. J. H. Redding, says that paroquets were to be seen at that time in the swamps, known then as "Tebean Branch," dividing the two sections of Waycross and now drained by the canal.

I think that my Uncle, James B. Strickland, familiarly known as "Jim Buck," the father of Mrs. Meek McMillan, Mrs. Robert Riggins, Mrs. Sprague, of Phippsburg, Maine, and J. A. and A. J. Strickland, was the first to move to

Blackshear from Ware county. He had a store built right where his sons and Ratliff & Son now conduct their's. His sons, John A. and Alonzo J., have kept the high business standard set by their father. John A. is a man of fine social and business qualities and like his father, is a man of many friends. A. J. is more conspicuous for his work in the church and Methodist Sunday School, he being superintendent of the latter for about ten years, and bringing it into a splendid organization..

Mr. Jasper Reeves, from Doctortown, father of J. M. Reeves, kept the first store ever run in Blackshear.

In the fall my mother and cousin, James Harper, who had moved in from the country, went into business with Uncle James Strickland. Cousin James Harper was the father of Mr. Joseph A. Harper, who was county school commissioner of Pierce for so many years after the war.

In December, 1858, Mr. B. D. Brantley and wife moved in from Waresboro, Ware county. They were a young couple just starting out in life. Mr. Brantley was descended from two Revolutionary heroes, one, his maternal grandfather, Benjamin Daniel, who fought all through the war and was given a land grant of 281½ acres on Buckeye Creek in Washington county, in recognition of his services; and the other, Benjamin Brantley, who fought under General Nathaniel Green. His wife, who was Miss Jeannett McRae, of Montgomery county, was descended from Scottish Highlanders, her father having been born in Scotland, and her mother born of Scottish parents soon after they emigrated to this country.

Mr. Brantley came to Blackshear before he brought his wife, and built her a log cabin, consisting of two rooms and a piazza, on the site of the present family homestead. It is part of the Hon. W. G. Brantley's political record that he was born in a log cabin.

Mr. Brantley put up a store and went into the business of merchandising, the firm name being Brantley & Douglas.

The first hotel in Blackshear was where the fire engine house now stands, or about where the little building in which for so many years Capt. John C. Nicholls had his law office. Later it was the office of Dr. Magruder Brown, and still later a shoe shop. Now it is torn down. Originally it was a store built by Mr. Sifley.

This hotel was first kept by my cousin, William Sweat, an older brother of Col. J. L. Sweat, of Waycross. His mother, whose second husband was A. W. Davis, the man who built the first courthouse, by contract, and most of the first stores, now moved in on what is now known as Ware street.

Mr. Sweat did not keep the hotel very long after this. Then Mr. Thomas Youmans kept it a little while. After he gave it up his brother, Charles Youmans, kept it. After this a Mr. and Mrs. Sifley moved in from Liberty county and kept the hotel as long as they lived in Blackshear, several years after the war.

In 1859 several more families moved to Blackshear. Dr. and Mrs. Moore and Dr. Moore's little girl Ella; Mr. John M. Jenkins and his wife and son Johnny; his brother and sister, Rowan and Mary Jenkins. Johnay Jenkins was his son by a former marriage. He and his second wife were the parents of Mrs. Mollie D'Auverne and Mr. Rowan Jenkins, not living, and Mrs. William Davis.

In those days they were the wealthy people of Blackshear. They had slaves and carriages and fine clothes. Mr. Jenkins was a bridge builder. He settled the place where Mr. D. H. Burny now lives, and this house is the oldest one in Blackshear. After the death of John M. Jenkins his widow married Rowan Jenkins and they were the parents of several children: J. Mack, and Emma, Bertha, Sam and Marion. Mrs. Jenkins was a very beautiful woman. Miss Mary Jenkins became the second wife of J. B. Strickland and was the mother of J. A. and A. J. Strickland.

The next family to move in was that of the Rev. Benjamin Blitch. He was the uncle of Mr. William Davis, and he lived where Mr. Davis lives now.



At one time, long afterward, this place was owned by Mr. John Ray, who was killed in the hurricane wreck of 1888.

Rev. Blitch was a Missionary Baptist preacher and his eldest son James, was also a preacher of that denomination. There were thirteen children in the family.

Mr. H. W. Grady, of North Carolina, came to Blackshear in the early part of 1859 and in January, 1860 he married my sister Maria. Their first home was in Blackshear where Mr. John Taylor now lives. They were the parents of J. L. and H. W. Grady, and three daughters, Gertrude, Florence and Fanny.

J. L. Grady is closely identified with Blackshear, not only by birth and a long residence there, but by his devotion to his church and all forms of religious work. He was the founder of Oak Grove Church and its Sunday School.

Other families to come in 1859 were those of Col. John T. Wilson and his brother-in-law, Mr. Joseph Steele. Then Rev. Wylie Knight, a Baptist preacher, and his family came and another Missionary Baptist, Rev. David Milton and family. He was the uncle of Mr. Jephtha Milton. Mr. Buchanan, father of Rev. C. C. Buchanan, of Waycross, moved in at this time. He died during the war and was buried at Shiloh. Mr. Wm. Goethe, father of Dr. James and George Goethe and of Mrs. Whiteford, came this year. He had the first saw mill at Blackshear.

Capt. E. D. Henry and family moved to Blackshear from Savannah this year. His wife was a lady of great refinement and charm of manner. They were the parents of Robert Hendry, who died in 1870, and of Mrs. J. W. Strickland, of Waycross; Mrs. J. N. Davis, of Jesup, and Mrs. John A. Strickland, of Blackshear.

Mrs. Hendry's parents, Mr. George Staley and his wife Eliza, lived with them. Mrs. Staley was devoted to her church and her Christian virtues made her life as beautiful as the flowers she loved and cared for so well.

The Hendry's lived awhile in the country on a place known as the Delannoy place. Mr. Staley died there. Then they moved in town, and had a pretty, flower-embowered home, the site of which is now occupied by the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Alonzo Strickland. But their first home in Blackshear was on the hill, where Mr. Wylie now lives. The trees and flowers they planted there made it a place of beauty. Captain Hendry built the first home there.

Another family to come about this time was that of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Stephens. They were the mother and step-father of Sarah Jane and Charlotte Jones. The former married Mr. James Brown and they were the parents of Zee, wife of Hon. J. I. Summerall, and of Dr. W. N. Brown. Charlotte married Mr. Griner.

Another family of this time was Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raybon, parents of Mr. Wm. Raybon, of Waycross, and grandparents of Mr. Ira Raybon, of Jesup. They were the parents of two daughters, Lou, who married Mr. Herin, of Wayne county, and Margaret, who married Charlie Moore of Brunswick.

Mr. John Minchew and family and his son Ben Minchew and family, came about this time. Also Mr. George Waldron and family, and a widow, Mrs. O. C. Woodward. Also the families of Eady, Peacock, Odum, Godwin and Byron.

The old Atlantic & Gulf, later the Plant System, and now the Atlantic Coast Line, began running through Blackshear to Tebeauville, or "Old Nine," as Waycross was known then, in 1859. When the first passenger train went through the railroad gave everybody from Blackshear who wanted to go, a free ride. That was a big day. Many took advantage of the opportunity, among them my sister Maria, with her cousins, Dr. James Sweat and his sister Nancy.

It was a thrilling experience and one long to be remembered. One little

girl was so frightened on seeing the train for the first time that she fainted. Another threw a fit from the same cause and everyone was filled with excitement. Mrs. B. D. Bradley, Sr., used to tell a story of one man who came in from the country to see the train. He knew his mule would be afraid, so he hitched him a mile out of town and harnessed himself to the cart. But when he saw the train come thundering in, he was as bad as the mule could possibly have been, for he ran away, cart and all.

One of my grandmother's little negroes, Edmund, brother of Lisbon Lane, was hunting the calves in the woods near the railroad when he heard the first train. To his startled imagination it seemed to be coming in a straight line for him. Terror lent wings to his bare feet and he flew home, vaulted the fence and dashed into the house and hid under the bed. When dragged out and questioned as to what was the matter, he stuttered, "Sumpin awful—de debble, I reckon, was ater me!—But I out-run it!"

They had preaching for the first time in the old court house, down stairs, in 1859. The first man who took pictures did so up stairs in the court house. He made daguerreotypes.

The first shows we ever had in Blackshear came in 1859. The initial one was a woman ventriloquist. In the fall of '59 old John Robinson's 40-horse team came through the country. That was a great event, as it was the very first of its kind.

The first Sunday School was organized January 29, 1860. The first barbecue and public speaking was in 1860. Uncle Allen Strickland gave it. Col., afterwards Gen. Francis S. Bartow, who was killed in the first battle of Manassas, in 1861, was the speaker of the day. It was a political speech in favor of secession. This speech aroused great feeling and enthusiasm among the men and women. It was a sweeping victory for secession. General Bartow said, on going to the war, "I go to illustrate Georgia." He truly represented the State. That day, the first preaching, the first Sunday School, and the circus, were the biggest days of my childhood—especially the first Sunday School celebration.

One other big day was when I heard a Missionary Baptist preacher at an Association, between Blackshear and the Alabama River, in the fall of 1857. Another day, full of deep feeling for me, was in the summer of 1858, when I heard my brother James preach at a school house. I was ten years old and all the preaching I had heard up to that time was at Shiloh.

Uncle Allen Strickland and his wife were Methodists and they sometimes had preaching at their home, but I never remember going there to church.

My brother was a young licensed preacher and was not at home much. He was junior preacher at Key West, Florida, in 1859. He was also an M. D., and a scientist. He was a great believer in the new science of phrenology, and he gave lectures in Blackshear on that subject. In August, 1861, he went off to the war and he died in October, 1862.

In the summer of 1861, Rev. Daniel Morrison, father of Rev. H. R. Morrison, moved to Blackshear and several more families, from Brunswick and other places. Among them Rev. L. H. Greenleaf, his wife and her sister, Miss Mary Campbell. They were Northern people, but they cast in their lot with the Southern side. Mrs. Greenleaf and sister were of Scottish descent, and were highly intellectual and refined. Mr. Greenleaf was a man of great rectitude of character, and the family exerted a pronounced moral influence on the town. Miss Mary Campbell taught the school in Blackshear in the years 1863-64, and part of 1865. After the war she married our beloved R. B. Repard, but she is now a widow, living in Savannah with her daughter, Mrs. David Carson.

Mr. H. B. Robinson and family came from Brunswick about this time, and the families of Carter and Greenfield.

Others who came then and during the war were Col. Hopkins and family, his son-in-law, Capt. Holland and family, and his sister, Mrs. Day. The Hopkins family lived on the hill at the place where Mr. Wylie lives now. The

Holland family lived across the railroad in a house that stood on the site now occupied by the Oil Mill of Blackshear Manufacturing Co. Mrs. Day and her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Day, and another son, Mulvey Day, lived where Mr. J. Mason Purdon now lives. In 1882 or '83 this house was torn down and a new one erected by Mr. W. G. Brantley who was married in 1883 to Miss Jessie Kate Westbrook. It was built by Billie Brown, who was killed in Mr. B. D. Brantley's gin some time afterward.

Colonel O'Brian and family came to town and built a house where the home of Mr. Ben Brantley, Jr., now stands. After they left Blackshear my brother-in-law, Col. G. M. T. Ware, bought the place, after the war, and lived there until his house was burned. Their daughter Kate, now Mrs. Wood, was born there. Colonel Foster Memory, whose mother was Miss Hester Brantley, was born at this place also, in a cottage erected after Colonel Ware's house was burned. Dr. Googe and family and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Butler and son, James Butler, from Savannah, settled the place where the courthouse stands.

Dr. Silas Overstreet settled the place where Mr. Walter Meeks now lives. He built a dam across the Baxley Branch. The Overstreets were wealthy people in those days. Dr. Overstreet's wife was Miss Baggs, of Liberty county.

Mr. Greenleaf lived first on Ware street. Then he built the place where Mr. E. Z. Byrd lives and lived there until his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Whilden came to Blackshear in 1861. Mr. and Mrs. Miller and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lester and family, from Savannah, and Capt. and Mrs. King, were about all the families that were living in Blackshear at the close of the war in 1865.

The first Methodist church was organized in 1859 or '60. The pastor of the Waresboro Circuit, who lived in Waresboro, preached in the first courthouse that was built. His name was Henderson. In 1860 he was still pastor and Brother Jackson was Presiding Elder.

They were carrying on a revival when Mary A. Harper, now wife of C. C. Buchanan, was converted. She was at the altar shouting, when her father, who disapproved of it, came up to take her out and carry her home. She threw her arms around his neck and cried, "Oh, Father! I am so happy; Jesus has forgiven all my sins. Let me stay and shout His praise!" She clung to him, begging him to give his heart to God, until he was converted right there. After services he asked my sister and her husband, H. W. Grady, to go home with them and help him set up the family altar. As long as he lived, down to old age, he never neglected his family prayer. Mary has ever since been a consistent Christian, and with her husband, Rev. C. C. Buchanan, of Waycross, has done great things for the Lord.

Rev. Henderson was succeeded, I think, by Brother Thomas, or as he was lovingly called by every one, "Uncle Thomas," of Waycross. Then his place was taken by Rev. John L. Williams, whose first wife was the aunt of Mrs. Mary McMillan, and of Mrs. J. O. Ward and Mrs. Kizzie Riggins.

The next pastor was Rev. Isaac Mundin, who preached there in 1864. He died many years ago, but his wife survived him to four years ago. They left three sons, two of whom now live in Tampa, Florida. The next pastor was Rev. J. B. Maulding, and the presiding elder was Rev. N. B. Ousley. Rev. Daniel Morrison and Rev. Wm. McDonald were local preachers, and after this time awhile, Rev. McDonald organized the Congregational Methodist church. I remember his text the last time he preached in Blackshear. It was about Paul and Silas being bound in jail, and their feet in stocks.

The first District Conference in Blackshear was held in 1869. I remember that on Saturday night it was a bad, rainy night, but it did not keep the people from going. Rev. Mr. Wylie preached, and this was his text: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." The preacher who closed that night was Rev. O. L. Smith. He said that he was in Blackshear one day during the war while Col. Millen's Brigade was there. He preached to the soldiers, among whom was his son, who was a member of the brigade, and that it



was the last time he ever saw him. They were ordered to Virginia in a few days and his son was killed in one of the battles soon afterward. Before he finished everyone in the congregation was weeping. For long after the war if anything sad was told about the poor soldiers the people would shed tears.

The Sunday's sermon was preached by Rev. C. H. Fullwood, from Brunswick. His text was: "I pray thee to have me excused." Brother Fullwood was transferred to the Florida Conference, and he died in the pulpit at an Annual Conference.

I have no record or recollection of the preachers in Blackshear from 1865 to 1871. But in 1871 Brother Mauldin was the Methodist pastor again. In 1872 Rev. T. S. Armstead was pastor, but he transferred to the Florida Conference. These were the last preachers of the Waresboro Circuit to preach in Blackshear, although Brother McMichael lived there.

In 1873 Rev. H. P. Myers preached in Blackshear and Waycross. He also, with his sister Miss Fanny Myers, conducted the Blackshear school. Miss Fanny afterward married Col. Simon W. Hitch. Her's was a beautiful life, devoted to good works. She was a great church and missionary worker and her memory will live long in the hearts of the poor and needy, whom she relieved.

In 1874 Rev. Howard Key, son of Bishop Key, was pastor in Blackshear and Waycross. In 1875 Rev. S. N. Tucker was pastor in Blackshear and Waycross. He came from the Baltimore Conference.

Rev. H. P. Myers married Miss Rena Darling, of Blackshear. The father of Rev. H. P. Myers and Mrs. Hitch was a very prominent minister of the Methodist Conference. He was one of the presidents of Wesleyan College, in Macon, and in the chapel there a tablet is erected to his memory.

In 1876 Rev. George C. Thompson was pastor in Blackshear and Waycross. These preachers were young men and boarded in Blackshear.

In 1877 Dr. Griffiths was pastor. A parsonage, the present one, was erected and for the first time the pastor had a parsonage in which to live. Dr. Griffiths and his wife were a young couple, and they had a baby born to them in the parsonage. It died and is buried in the cemetery by Mrs. Morehouse's baby, in the lot of Mr. A. N. Smith. Dr. Griffiths was an Englishman, splendidly educated, and after he left Blackshear he united with the Presbyterian church. The presiding elder, Rev. Wm. M. Hayes, lived in another house built about where Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Hendry now reside. He was also a soldier in Blackshear during the war, and was in Colonel Millen's brigade.

In 1878 Rev. J. W. Weston was pastor in Blackshear and Waycross. About 1900 or 1901 he was the Presiding Elder of the Waycross District.

The second District Conference in Blackshear was in April, 1873. Bishop Pierce and his father were in attendance, and Dr. Pierce preached the Sunday sermon. His text was the 6th chapter of Galations: "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." The third District Conference was either in 1876 or 1880.

From 1879 to 1881 Bro. N. D. Morehouse was pastor in Blackshear, and I think, in Waycross, too. Their youngest child, little Annie, died with measles and is buried in Mr. A. N. Smith's lot, in the Blackshear cemetery. Their eldest son, Ward, lives in Savannah. Willie and Eva are dead. Mattie is married and lives in or near Boston, Ga. Mrs. Morehouse is also living.

In 1882-83 Rev. J. S. Jordon was pastor in Blackshear. He preached my mother's funeral in 1882. He also, June 6, 1883, performed the marriage ceremony of Hon. W. G. Brantley and Miss Jessie Kate Westbrook, in the old Methodist church at Waycross. Among the attendants at this wedding were Mr. John C. McDonald, of Waycross; Mr. T. L. Acosta, of Blackshear; Mr. Harry Phinizy, of Athens; Mr. A. P. Brantley and Mr. B. D. Brantley, Jr., of Blackshear. The young ladies were Miss Laura Daugherty, of Griffin; Miss Carrie Hill, of Albany; Miss Virginia Williams, of Waycross; Miss Dora Jossey and Miss Christian Brantley, of Blackshear. Waycross was the home of the bride.

In 1884-85 Rev. J. W. Flanders was pastor. He was an old man and was the father of J. W. Flanders, pastor this year, 1912, of the First Methodist church in Waycross. He was succeeded in 1886 by Rev. J. N. Hendry as pastor of Blackshear and Jesup. In 1887 Rev. Wm. J. Stallings was pastor. He is now dead and his widow lives in McRae, Ga. Kenneth, her second son, lives with her; Willie, the eldest, lives at Cochran, and Arnold, the youngest, teaches in the public school in Waycross. Brother Stallings was succeeded in 1889-90 by Rev. A. E. Carraway. He and his wife were a young couple and their baby Pearl, is buried in the Hendry lot at the cemetery.

In 1891 Rev. G. P. Parker was pastor in Blackshear. Six years later he was transferred to the Florida Conference.

In 1892-94 Rev. M. F. Beals was pastor. After leaving here his son Winn, died, and later his daughter Daisy, a lovely Christian girl, died at the home of her cousin, Mrs. E. L. Darling, in Blackshear. Mrs. Darling was neice of Mrs. Beals. During his pastorate Mr. Beals performed the ceremony for a double wedding at the Methodist church, that of his neice, Miss Helen Bostwick, and Mr. E. L. Darling; and Miss Eliza Belle Riggins and Mr. C. Leon Johnson. Mr. Beals' wife and children are buried in Savannah.

In 1895-98 Rev. T. J. Peck was pastor. He died several years ago in Virginia, his native State.

In 1899 Rev. C. W. Littlejohn was pastor. 1900 found Rev. M. B. Farrell here. He is dead now.

In 1901-02 Rev. C. M. Ledbetter was pastor. He spent some time digging for buried treasure he had been told of, but never succeeded in locating it.

Rev. R. E. Bailey was pastor in 1903-04. Rev. J. W. Tinley, in 1905-06. In 1907 Rev. J. W. McDonald was pastor. In 1871, when Mr. R. B. Reppard gave the church to Blackshear, Rev. McDonald dedicated it. He was a grand man who fulfilled the highest mission in life. He served his master with zeal for many, many years, and died in the harness. He refused to be superannuated, preferring to labor until the last. He died in Savannah in 1910. His two sons were missionaries. The eldest went to Mexico, where he died. The youngest went to Cuba from the Florida Conference. The daughter married Rev. G. W. Mathews, one of the great preachers of the South Georgia Conference. I heard Brother McDonald say, about two years before his death, that if he could only have back ten years of his life he would be a missionary, too.

In 1908-09-10 Rev. B. F. Lawhern was pastor of the Blackshear church and Rev. Silas Johnson of the Blackshear Circuit and Screven church.

In 1911-12 Rev. W. P. Blevens was pastor. It was during his pastorate that the steps were taken to purchase the Presbyterial Institute from its creditors, and transfer it to the charge of the Methodist Conference.

In 1913 Rev. W. A. Brooks was pasor of the Blackshear church and Rev. E. M. Sanders was pastor of the Blackshear Circuit, preaching at Ward's Chapel and at Oak Grove.

1914 finds Rev. W. A. Brooks pastor at Blackshear and Rev. Huggins pastor of the Blackshear circuit; Rev. A. J. Moore, Conference Evangelist of the Waycross District, and living in Blackshear, and Rev. W. H. Huckabee field agent for the Pierce Institute, living near the school in a home of his own, as does also Rev. A. J. Moore.

The school has finished with credit its first year as a Methodist institution. A handsome new brick church now occupies the site of the old white painted one of the past. A new parsonage is forthcoming and never in the history of the Methodist church in Blackshear has it accomplished so much as in the years of 1912-13 and '14. I hope and pray that everybody who is not already a member of some church will join this year and that dear old Blackshear will improve more and more.

As the Presbyterian and Baptist churches were not organized until some time in the seventies, I will take up the Sunday School and Day School in Blackshear.



The first Sunday School was organized January 29, 1860, with the following officers and teachers: Rev. David Milton, superintendent; Mr. H. W. Grady, secretary. Teachers, Mr. Joseph H. Steele, Mrs. O. C. Woodward, Mrs. A. M. Moore, Rev. James Blitch and Mrs. O. A. Sifley.

Class No. 1: John M. Jenkins, Joseph A. Harper, Daniel Blitch, Hiram Peacock, Solomon Blitch, Colquitt Stewart, J. W. Strickland, Mrs. J. H. Steele, Mrs. Eliza Strickland, Miss Esther Blitch, Miss Elizabeth Blitch, Miss Dora Blitch.

Class No. 2: Miss Mary Jenkins, Miss Mary A. Harper, Miss Nancy Sweat, Miss Susie Brewton, Misses Elizabeth Harper, Elinor Stewart, Isabel Stewart, Elizabeth Strickland, Mary Strickland, Kizzie Strickland, Martha Whilden, Mary Peacock, Sallie Godwin, Dollie Byron, Robert Hendry, Morgan Sweat.

Class No. 3: Misses Lou Raybon, Margaret Raybon, Julia Wilson, Sidney Howard, Evelyn Peacock, Valeria Odum, Elisabeth Eady, Priscilla Minchew, Joseph Wilson, Luke Wilson, James Harper, Thomas L. Strickland, Keightley Stewart, William Raybon, Keightley Harper, Leander Blitch, Wilford Blitch, Doc. Buchanan, Marshall Milton and Henry Steele.

Class No. 4: Misses Florida A. Buchanan, Janie Buchanan, Alice Sifley, Annie Crosby Grady, Emma Blitch, Nancy Strickland, Joseph Steele, Tarleton Knight, Charles Knight, Warren Cribb, A. Godwin, J. Godwin and S. Godwin.

Class No. 5: Dr. A. M. Moore, Dr. James Sweat, Rev. Wylie Knight, Mitchell Sweat, Bradford Sweat, Brooker Thomas, B. B. Wilson and Mr. Wells.

The first day of May, 1860, was a big day in the history of Blackshear and the county. It was the first Sunday School Celebration. I will describe it as well as I can remember it:

All the School had to meet at the courthouse and form in double file and march down town and back again to the courthouse, where the exercises of the day were held. The School had to dress in uniform, the ladies and girls wore white dresses and pink or blue sashes. The sashes were crossed over the right shoulder and tied at the left side with sash ends. The men wore white trousers and black coats.

Col. G. M. T. Ware, from North Georgia, and Dr. A. M. Moore, were the speakers of the day. The superintendent conducted the religious services. A bounteous dinner was spread outside on long tables. The ladies vied with each other in the delectable things prepared. The thing which appealed to old and young alike was the big barrel of lemonade. It was something new to most of them, as it was the first season the merchants had ever been able to get lemons from Florida or elsewhere. All the people from the country for three or four miles, came and all enjoyed a good time.

As everyone knows, 1860 was a remarkable year, as it was the presidential election year, and three great political parties were struggling for supremacy—the Whigs, the Democrats and the Republicans. The latter were in favor of abolition, the Democrats of secession and the Whigs of the Union. The Whig candidates were Bell and Everett; the Democrats were Breckenridge and Lane, and the Republicans were Lincoln and Hamlin. Everyone knows the result of the election and the events that followed. Great excitement prevailed throughout the country and the little town of Blackshear was aroused to a high pitch. War was imminent, and the fall of Fort Sumter was the first move in that direction. When war was declared the men began forming companies to be in readiness. Capt. E. D. Hendry got up a company of cavalry in Blackshear and many joined it. Mr. J. W. Stephens was first lieutenant, but I have forgotten who was the second lieutenant or any of the other officers.

Uncle Allen Strickland also got up a company of cavalry. Mr. Alexander McMillan was first lieutenant, and Col. G. M. T. Ware was second lieutenant. Before these two companies went off into service, they did all their drilling at my mother's place, in the Old Pine Sappling thicket. They were

incorporated in the Fourth Georgia Cavalry under Colonel Clinch, and stationed at Screven, Ga.

Every man in the Sunday School went off to war except Bradford Sweat, who had a crippled foot which exempted him.

Rev. David Milton, Mr. H. W. Grady, my two brothers, James and Colquitt, and my brother-in-law, Franklin Knox, enlisted in the Savannah Volunteer Guards in August, 1861, for a term of six months. Dr. James Sweat, Mitchell Sweat, Joseph A. Harper, J. J. Henderson and others I do not recall, enlisted in the 26th Georgia Regiment, at Waynesville.

Mr. B. D. Brantley, old Brother Ben Blitch, C. C. Buchanan, Simeon White and a few other men, who were living in Blackshear, went off to the war in July of that year. The school boys of Blackshear were terribly worried for fear the war would be over before they got old enough to go. But many of them got the chance, among others J. W. Strickland and J. L. Sweat.

I have no record of the Sunday School during the war, and I do not remember going, so I think it was suspended for lack of officers.

But, going back to the day school, I find that Miss Mary Campbell taught it in 1862-63 and '64. She was a good teacher and all her pupils loved her. She organized a knitting school, which met on Saturdays at the old Academy. It was a two-story building and stood next to the present Methodist parsonage, on land donated for the purpose by Mr. B. D. Brantley. The girls who could not knit were taught to do so, and the day passed in knitting socks for the soldiers. The Northern factories were closed to us then, so the socks for the soldiers must be knit at home. Miss Mary could knit so fast that her needles twinkled. None of the pupils ever reached her proficiency, though many pairs of socks were knitted in the effort to do so.

Before going further I must tell the early history of the school in Blackshear. In 1859 the first school was opened in the courthouse, taught by Mr. Wells. In 1860 the school was in charge of Colonel Ware. In 1861 Mr. Jack Jenkins was in charge, and after that Miss Campbell until 1865, when Mr. Greenleaf was back and he became the principal, with her as assistant.

Dr. Sweat was in service on St. Simon's Island, and in February, 1862 he died there. His body was brought back to Shiloh cemetery and buried there.

In the spring of 1862, when their six months' term of service was out on Green Island, my brothers and brothers-in-law came home. They staid only long enough for mother to make up plenty of underwear for them, when both brothers and one brother-in-law, Franklin Knox, enlisted in the 26th Georgia Regiment, Captain Knox's company. Mr. Grady, the other brother-in-law, enlisted in the 7th Batt. Ga. Cavalry. Capt. T. S. Hopkins, Major Comd., E. C. Anderson. In two or three weeks the 26th was ordered to Virginia where it became a part of the famous "Gordon's Brigade." It was in all the great battles of Northern Virginia and won laurels for its undaunted bravery.

June 30, 1862, Franklin Knox died from the effects of a long march which caused him to have typhoid fever. He died in the hospital at Lynchburg, Virginia.

From the hard life and exposure, my brother James, took ophthalmia, which unfitted him for hard service, so he was put in the Secret Service Department, and given a furlough to come home and recuperate. He remained at home that summer and recovered his sight, but in the early fall of '62 he undertook a difficult mission for the department in the discharge of which he lost his life. He was buried at Fernandina, Florida.

Uncle Allen Strickland died in December, 1862. Then Lieutenant McMillan was made captain of his company.

In April, 1863, several of the Blackshear soldiers were home on furloughs, and the town wished to do something in their honor, so Mr. Siffley, the hotel keeper, gave them a big ball and invited nearly everybody in Blackshear and the surrounding country. The house was decorated with bamboo and other green things from the branch and the table was garlanded with arbor vitea and

roses.

Among those in attendance were Capt. E. D. Hendry, his wife and two children, Robert and Annie, now Mrs. J. W. Strickland; Miss Sallie Waite, a young lady visiting them from Savannah, was there. Others were Lieut. J. W. Stephens, wife and daughters, Col. Hopkins and family, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Jenkins, Uncle James Strickland and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and family, Mrs. Holland, daughter of Col. Hopkins, and the Misses Mary and Elizabeth Harper. There were Mrs. Allen Brown and sister, Miss Florida Roberts and her sisters-in-law, the Misses Sophronia and Julia Brown, and my two sisters, Mrs. Knox and Mrs. Grady with Mrs. Grady's baby, J. Louis Grady, Miss Mollie Powell and Miss Olive Spence, from Appling, who was visiting her sister, Mrs. Cannon, were two popular young ladies of the occasion. J. W. Strickland and brother, Thomas L., and their sister, Elizabeth, with my sister, Isabel, and myself, completes the list of Blackshear folks as far as I can remember.

Of the young ladies present, I will further say that Miss Mollie Powell married Mr. Simeon White, of Waycross; Miss Olive Spence married Mr. George Eason, of Appling, and Miss Florida Roberts married Mr. Williams, of Wayne.

It is needless to say that the occasion was highly enjoyable, and that the soldiers were the heroes of the hour.

In the fall of 1864 J. L. Sweat and J. W. Strickland, both schoolboys, joined the 4th Georgia Cavalry, Captain McMillan's company. Others from Blackshear who belonged to this regiment were Mr. B. D. Brantley, Mr. Simeon White, Mr. C. C. Buchanan, the Messrs. Griffin and Ben Dixon and Mr. James Brown, who afterward married Sarah Jane Jones.

My brother Colquitt, was killed at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, in the famous charge of the "Gordon's Brigade," on the 12th of May, 1864. He had never been wounded before in all the battles in which he had been engaged.

My cousin, Mitchell Sweat, was wounded in the arm. He and Joseph Harper, of Blackshear, and John Cleland, Dan O'Berry and J. J. Henderson, from the country, were all that I remember belonging to the 26th Georgia Regiment.

In 1864 a good many Yankee prisoners were quartered in Blackshear. I believe it was Captain Browns' company that was guarding them. They were encamped under the hill, not far from Ward's Chapel, about where the remains of the old brick kiln pond is some times pointed out. The prisoners were constantly escaping or "breaking the stockade," as they called it. They were persued and generally caught and carried back. One came to our home early one morning and mother gave him a good breakfast and told him to escape if he could and go home to his mother. He was young and the thought of her own son softened Mother's heart towards him. But he was captured that same day and taken back to camp.

Two prisoners got as far as Wayne county. They hid in the fodder-loft at Uncle Tommy Purdom's, where they were found by Tollie, his young son, while he was hunting for eggs. A great hue and cry was raised, in which his brother, J. Mason, joined as heartily as any. Mr. Purdom carried them to Screven, Ga., and turned them over to our soldiers.

One of the prisoners was buried near the sidewalk where Mr. Harley Davis' store is. His body was removed after the war.

One of our men, a Mr. Armstrong, was buried in Mr. Brantley's field, back of the Methodist church. He was later moved up to the cemetery.

There were a good many of our men sick in the old courthouse. They used it for a hospital. After the war the Yankees used it for a hospital, too.

Mrs. B. D. Brantley used to bake biscuits for the Yankee soldiers. In return they gave her coffee, sugar, etc., for her own needs.

In 1865-66, Rev. J. L. H. Greenleaf was superintendent of the Sunday School again, and H. W. Grady, secretary, with the following teachers, and



members:

Class No. 1: Miss Mary Campbell, teacher; pupils, Julius King, Joseph Whiteford, Keightley Harper, Edward Whilden, Randolph Howard and Willie and Thomas Jones.

Class No. 2: Captain King, teacher, pupils, William Campbell, brother of Miss Mary; Jephtha and Barzillai Milton, James Harper, Horace Robinson, Tarlton and Charles Knight.

Class No. 3: Miss Elisabeth Harper, teacher; pupils, Nancy Strickland, Courtney Stewart, Mina Darling, Sarah Milton, Annie Crosby Grady, Alice Sufley, Charlotte Jones and George Goethe and Charles Harper.

Class No. 4: Mrs. Whiteford, teacher; pupils, Rena Darling, Amarantha Powell, Annie Whilden, Sarah Jane Jones, Rosa Lugg, Lou and Margeret Raybon, and Mary and Kizzie Strickland.

Class No. 5: Mrs. King, teacher; pupils, Belle Strickland, Mellie Harper, Ida Hopkins, Ellen King, Henrietta Sweat, Catherine Whilden and Christian and Margaret Brantley.

Class No. 6: Joseph A. Harper, teacher; pupils, Mollie Jenkins, Mary Whilden, Addie Youmans, Dora Darling, Nancy Knight, Mattie Branch, Mazelle and Missouri Knight, Agnes and Ella Robinson, Lula and Ella Overstreet and Willie and Archie Brantley.

In 1866 Class No. 7 had for its teacher Mrs. King, and its roll was as follows: Annie E. Hendry, Mollie Jenkins, Christian and Margaret Brantley and Keightley Stewart, James Goethe, William Raybon, Simeon Douglas, Beauregard Whilden and James and Charles Harper.

In 1866 Miss Mary Campbell married Mr. R. B. Reppard.

Of all those who went to Sunday School and Day School in those days, the following is as complete a record as I can get:

Mr. and Mrs. Steele are dead; William Campbell is dead; Mr. Wells and Brooker Thomas never came back from the war; Johnnie Jenkins and James Harper are dead; Colquitt and Keightley Stewart are dead, and I do not know what became of Hiram Peacock and Simeon Douglas. Mr. B. B. Wilson came back from the war but left Blackshear sometime afterward. One of the Blich brothers, I have forgotten which, is dead. Mrs. Nancy Strickland Ahl is dead. She and her husband and son are buried in the Blackshear cemetery. Mrs. Annie Whilden Strickland is dead, and Mrs. Susan Brewton Goethe, also. William Raybon is living in Waycross. He has been in the legislature several times and served his county well. J. W. Strickland and Charles Harper live in Waycross. Col. J. L. Sweat is another representative citizen of Waycross. Mrs. Mary Campbell Reppard lives in Savannah. Mrs. Mary Harper Buchanan, Mrs. Addie Youmans Patterson, Mrs. Margaret Brantley Estes, Mrs. Annie Hendry Strickland and Mr. Ed. Whilden live in Waycross. Julius King lives in Chattanooga. Jephtha Milton lives in Blackshear, but I do not know where his brother, Barzillai, lives. Mrs. Mary Strickland McMillan and Mrs. Kizzie Riggins are living in Blackshear; also Mrs. A. M. Moore, Sr. Mrs. Mina Darling Armitage died in 1888. Mrs. Lou Raybon Herrin and her sister, Mrs. Margaret Moore, are both dead. Mrs. Amarantha Powell Shadron is dead. Mrs. Annie Grady Bruce is dead also. Mrs. King and Sarah Milton are dead. Randolph Howard was living a year or two ago. I do not know anything of Thomas and Willie Jones, nor of Joseph Whiteford or Horace Robinson. Tarlton and Charles Knight left here and I do not know if they are living. Miss Esther Blich was living last year, but her sister, Mrs. Elisabeth Blich Myddleton, is dead. Their sister, Mrs. Dora Street, is living, but I do not know anything of Kizzie Blich. Mrs. Nancy Bailey is living. Her daughter Cora, married Mr. Tracy L. Acosta, of Blackshear, and is living in Jacksonville, Fla. Mrs. Rena Darling Myers lives in Waycross, her daughter, Mary Darling Myers, is a foreign missionary to Korea. Mrs. Dora Darling Mobley lives at Punta Gorda, Fla. Mrs. Mary Whilden Ruth lives in South Carolina. Beauregard Whilden lived in Birmingham, Ala., in the boom days of the 80's. He married in Alabama, but died several years ago. Mrs. Mollie

Jenkins D'Auvergne is dead. Mrs. Mellie Harper Culpepper is living in Florida, and Mrs. Catherine Whilden Noble lives in Brunswick, Ga.

I do not know anything of Mrs. Whiteford, Mrs. Alice Sifley Malone or of Ida Hopkins, Henrietta Sweat, Rosa Lugg, Mollie Johnson, Mary Peacock, Mattie Branch or the Misses Agnes and Ella Robinson or the Misses Mazelle, Missouri and Nancy Knight; neither do I know of William King.

Mrs. Courtney Stewart Richardson lives in Macon, Ga. Mrs. Sarah Jones Brown and her sister, Mrs. Charlotte Griner, are living in Pierce county, not far from Blackshear. Mrs. Elizabeth Harper Goethe was living in Florida the last I heard of her. Mrs. Belle Strickland Sprague lives in Phippsburg, Me. Mrs. Ellen King Morrison lives in Hawkinsville, Ga. Dr. James Goethe lives at Ocilla, Ga., and George Goethe is living, but I do not know where. Lulu Overstreet is dead and her sister, Mrs. Ella Ray, lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Our superintendent and secretary of 1865 and '66 have long since gone to their reward in Heaven.

Mrs. Christian Brantley Purdon lives in Blackshear and her sister, Mrs. Margaret Estes, lives in Waycross. Hon. W. G. Brantley lives in Washington, D. C., where he has a position as attorney of the Southern group of railroads. At the age of 21 he was elected Mayor of Blackshear, but discovered for himself that he was too young to serve. Later he represented his county in both branches of the Legislature. Then was Solicitor General of the Brunswick Circuit. From this he was elected to Congress in 1896, where he served for sixteen consecutive years. After finishing a classical course at the University of Georgia, he studied law under the late Col. J. C. Nicholls.

Archibald P. Brantley lives in Blackshear and Hendersonville, N. C. He is a man of excellent business and financial ability, and together with his brothers, has managed the business begun by his father, until it has become one of the largest concerns in Southeast Georgia. But the Brantley brothers are not the only members of the family to bring honors to their native town, for their youngest sister, Jeannette B. Langley, is a writer of note. Her short stories and newspaper articles have brought her fame.

Now back to 1865: The war was over and the country under martial law. The first company of Yankee soldiers to come to Blackshear were Western men, and they were liked by the whole town. They were honorable and pleasant men. But the next soldiers were regular "down easters," and were just as hateful as the others were nice. They went all over the country, stealing and plundering. They were Sherman's men, and were in practice in such meanness. They raided our place so often that my mother had to go to the commanding officer and get a guard for our place at night. But after the country was re-constructed they were all withdrawn, and our town settled down to make the best of what was left.

New families came in and some we had moved away. Among the first to come were Captain Brunt and family, Mr. James Wade and family, and a Mr. Williams and family, Mr. George Dobson and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Chapman and family.

Mr. Shepherd Davis and family and the Griner family had been living in the country near Blackshear since 1857. The Youmans family was one of the pioneers of Pierce. The father of Charles, Thomas, William and of Perry, was John Youmans. James, Robert and Stephen were his nephews.

Capt. James Waters came in 1859 or '60, and settled about five miles from Blackshear. He had two children, James and Hannah, who used to attend school in town.

Among those to come in the years 1865-66-67-68-69 were Capt. Dan Knowles and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lamb Pittman and their daughter Lou, who married Dave Brewton, and was the mother of Mrs. J. O. Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Acosta moved to Blackshear. They had six children. Their daughter, Mrs. Mamie Mitchell, was born after they came here.

Capt. John C. Nicholls, wife and little daughter Kate, moved in from



Waynesville. Mrs. Nicholls was the daughter of Chief Justice Wm. Clopton, of Richmond, Va. Capt. Joseph Stone, his wife and two children, Joe and Leila. Major and Mrs. Robertson and three children, Morton, Victor and Marie, afterwards Mrs. Turner, of Quitman. Dr. Henry J. Smith, wife and six children. Mr. R. W. Carpenter, wife and nephew, Walter Cole. Judge William M. Sessions, wife and five children. Mrs. Sessions' brother, Capt. J. A. McKinney, who married Miss Janie Acosta. Col. G. M. T. Ware and wife, my sister, Isabel. Captain Mosely and family and Mr. and Mrs. Owens and family.

In 1866 Mr. James L. Mitchell and Miss Nancy Knowles taught the Blackshear school. Miss Nancy Knowles married Dr. Latimer and Mr. Mitchell married her sister, Tabitha Eugenia Knowles.

Mr. and Mrs. Seaborn Hall moved in about this time, and Mr. and Mrs. Barbee and family.

In 1866 the bodies of all the Yankee soldiers who were buried in and around Blackshear during the war, were taken up by the Government and moved to National cemeteries.

On Friday, Feb. 23, 1866, Mike Lippman's Circus came to town. It did not cause as much excitement as Old John Robinson's, but it drew a great crowd. I remember the occasion, as I felt such keen disappointment in not getting to go. It was a cold, rainy day, and my mother thought the weather too bad to go out. My brother Keightley, was clerking in town, and my sister Courtney, was boarding there, going to school, so they had the chance of seeing the circus and they described it to me.

After the negroes were free, they went away in different directions, to set up for themselves. and Mother rented her farm to a white man, who with his family, lived on the place. Mother and I were the only ones of the family at home this spring, and Oh! it was lonesome.

In May, 1867, there was a large Sunday School celebration held in Blackshear on the hill where Mr. Wylie lives. Judge Sessions was living there then. The Sunday Schools from Thomasville, Quitman, Valdosta, Homer-ville and "Tebeauville," came with banners to the celebration. Addresses from representative speakers of the visiting schools, responded to by our own, was the opening feature. This was followed by a grand dinner which was served on tables under the trees. A barrel of lemonade was not the least of the attractions. There was an improvement in this lemonade over that of our first celebration in 1860, it being iced. The young people played games and a good social time generally was enjoyed. Miss Ann E. Leak, the armless lady, was on exhibition there that day. She could feed herself with a knife and fork, comb her hair, play the piano, sew and knit and do various things with her feet and toes. She wore a ring and mittens on her feet. Years afterward she married and became the mother of a son. In 1897 she, with her mother, brother and cousin, Mrs. Poe, were living in Philadelphia.

I think it was in 1868 that Blackshear had a regular ghost. It was at the Sessions place, on the hill. Judge Sessions had moved elsewhere and a Mrs. Conner lived in the dining room and kitchen, with her two daughters. The ghost was a mysterious noise, visible at times as a puff of smoke. The noise was a deep moan, like someone in pain, and it could be heard all over the place, first in one spot and then another. Nearly everybody in Blackshear and the surrounding country went to hear it, and to investigate the cause. It was noticeable that they nearly always went in crowds. A particularly brave lady from the country, Mrs. Doc James, said that if my sister, Mrs. Grady, would go with her at some quiet time, that she would speak to it in these words: "What, in the name of the Lord, do you want?" Then, if it was a regular ghost, it would reply. When the time came to start her sister-in-law, Mrs. Gen. James, volunteered to go with them. Sustained by company, Mrs. James now thought she would discover the secret. Everything was still and silent when they reached there, the family not even visible; so they took their stand under the trees and awaited the manifestation. Soon they heard it

approaching through the air, getting louder as it neared them. But their courage failed and they fled precipitately, without giving it a chance to express itself.

This mystery was never explained. Dr. Moore investigated it thoroughly and failed. So the matter was dropped, for everybody thought that if Dr. Moore could not find out, that no one could. Some said that Genie Conner was a ventriloquist and was doing it; others that it was the ghost of one of Colonel Hopkins' little negroes that was drowned in the well during the war. I do not believe in ghosts, but if such a thing were possible, I would think it was my old teacher, Mr. Charles R. Ford, who was killed by a train in the cut in front of the house, July 25, 1861, and was buried at Shiloh. He often said that he would never die satisfied unless he could go back to his home in Baltimore and see his mother once more.

He left home against his parents' wishes when only 18 years old, and enlisted as a volunteer in the U. S. Army to fight the Mexicans. He fought all through the war and at its close re-enlisted and served another term. He was then honorably discharged and he started for home, but stopped in Brunswick and had a long spell of fever, which cost him all his money. Then he came to Blackshear, in 1859, looking for a job. As he was educated, my uncle, Allen Strickland, got him to teach for his, and my mother's and Mr. Shepherd Davis' families, in a school house built midway between the three homes. He was a good man and a kind teacher and everyone liked him.

Uncle Allen appreciated his worth and saw that he was wasting his talents teaching a little country school, so he built a house for him in Blackshear, on the site of Mr. J. M. Purdom's present home, where he engaged in the tailoring business. He joined the Methodist church and was doing well. But in the first of '61 he heard of his mother's death which so overcame him that he took to drink and was gloomy and melancholy until his death.

After Mrs. Conner left the place the ghost was never heard again. My nephew, J. L. Grady, lived in the house until he built the new one, when it was torn down, and he never heard it there.

Of course the cemetery at Shiloh had its ghosts. Mrs. Sifley and another lady were passing there late one evening, and were naturally looking for ghosts. They claimed they saw one, but I expect it was a tombstone or a man—either one was a rare sight during the war.

The road by Shiloh was not a public road, and no one went that way except at church times, once a month. But one evening my mother and sister Courtney, were coming home that way, when they saw a ghost, or a man. He was standing by a railing around a grave with his head bowed low, and he did not raise it when they passed. As far as they could see him he was in the same position. My sister was a little girl then, but she remembers it well, and she tells me to write in my book that it was a ghost.

While I am writing about Shiloh, I will tell some later history. At the time that Pierce was carved from the counties of Ware, Wayne and Appling, there was no other church in it but Shiloh, and no other Baptist church until after the war. Then they had a split in the church about the homestead law. Rev. Reuben Crawford favored it, and Rev. Richard Bennett was against it. Rev. Bennett withdrew from Shiloh and some of the members followed him. They organized Ramah and Prospect churches, and the Ben James church. The latter was named in honor of one of the best members at Shiloh. He was a very benevolent man and loved children. Besides bringing up his own family and several grandchildren, he raised many other children, who were no kin to himself or wife.

Another old family now comes to my mind, the Walker family, which is connected with other prominent pioneer families of Pierce. Hon. Randall J. Walker, senator from that district, is a descendant which does it credit.

Dr. Henry J. Smith moved from Jacksonville, Telfair county, to Blackshear sometime in the sixties. He was a well-educated man and a good physician.

After Mr. Greenleaf gave up active work in the Sunday School, Mr. R. B. Reppard was superintendent for a year or two. His father, Mr. Aaron Reppard, had two big saw mills near Blackshear. One was about where Mr. Root's mill is now. He had that big ditch dug to float logs.

Dr. A. M. Moore was the next superintendent, and he kept that office until the Presbyterian Sunday School was organized, about 1876 or '77, when he went to that, he being a Presbyterian by faith. Dr. Moore was a man of great intellectuality and sentiment. He was a poet of ability, and no one could write sweeter obituaries. His write-up of marriages was beautifully done. In his profession he did a great deal of charity work, and no one will know, until the Judgment Day, how many hearts he cheered, nor how many poor people he treated free of charge.

Mr. J. W. Strickland was then made superintendent and he kept the office until he moved to Waycross, in 1890.

The Presbyterian church was organized May 18, 1872. Their first stated supply was Rev. Washburn, who preached in Blackshear about 1869 to 1871. He was a bachelor and boarded at Mrs. Brantley's. The charter members of the Presbyterian church were Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Moore, Capt. and Mrs. J. C. Nicholls, Mrs. B. D. Brantley, Miss Margaret Brantley, Mrs. Georgia Day, Mrs. Harry Reppard and Mrs. D. H. Campbell.

The church was erected in 1874, and was built by Mr. William Armitage. The first regular minister was Rev. R. Q. Way, who had been a missionary to China and could speak Chinese. He could sing and play Chinese songs.

Mr. Washburn, during his stay in Blackshear, was the evangelist of the Savannah Presbytery, and some of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the Presbytery, which were at St. Mary's, Waynesville, Brunswick and Darien.

Rev. R. Q. Way was succeeded by his nephew, Rev. John W. Quarterman. Mr. Quarterman lived in Blackshear and he taught school at the old Blackshear Academy. This building was burned while the school was in session, in May, 1876.

In 1870 more families moved to Blackshear, among them, Mr. Robert Burton and family. He was the proprietor of the first paper in Blackshear. It was "The Southeast Georgian." My brother Keightley, learned to set type on that paper.

In December, 1870, my mother moved to Blackshear. In 1871 the Sunday School picnic was at the Mill Branch. I was sick that day with my first spell of fever, and could not go. My sister, Mrs. Grady, Keightley and Courtney, went to the picnic and only Mother and I were at home. It seemed a long, long day.

In August, 1871, my uncle, James B. Strickland, died and was buried at Shiloh.

Sometime in 1870 Dr. T. J. Darling and family moved in from the country from where Mr. Columbus James now lives to the place on Ware street where Mr. Tom Woods lives now. Rev. C. C. Buchanan settled the place.

On the 27th of December, 1870, the Masonic Lodge gave a banquet, the first of its kind in Blackshear. A young lady, Miss Annie Ratliffe, was married at night.

In 1871 and '72 Dr. A. M. Moore taught school, and in 1872 Dr. Moore organized a temperance lodge called "The United Friends of Temperance." Both ladies and gentlemen belonged to it, and we surely had some good times up in the lodge room.

In 1872 Mr. Burton sold the paper to Mr. H. W. Grady, who in 1873 sold it to my mother. J. Mason Purdom and Keightley Stewart became the proprietors for a few years.

The Sunday School picnic in 1872 was at the old Academy. The United Friends of Temperance and the Masonic Lodge had their picnic in a large barn up the railroad, where Mr. Pike and Mr. Lemuel Johnson had a big saw mill.

Mr. James Harper moved to Ware county this year. While living there



four of his children married; Charles, Keightley, Mellie and Jennie.

May 3, 1874 the Temperance Lodges of Blackshear and Waycross had a picnic in the park in front of Mrs. Kizzie Riffin's. Dr. A. M. Moore made the address of the day, and a young man from Waycross sang a beautiful temperance song. His name was McNamara. They had a stand made for the speakers and over the stand in large letters made of flowers was the word "Welcome." Bro. Howard W. Key made a speech. He was pastor in Blackshear then.

Mr. Willie Myers, brother to the Rev. H. B. Myers, taught school in Blackshear in 1874. He was followed in 1875 by his brother James, and Miss Mina Darling.

The fourth Sunday night in March, 1874, a terrible tragedy occurred which threw the town into the wildest state of excitement it had ever known. Walter Cole, the most popular young man in Blackshear, was foully murdered between Ware street and Railroad street, near the Felix Robinson place. He was shot in the back and struck on the head with a gun. His throat was cut and his body trampled on. The shot was heard by persons living nearest, but the body was not found until daylight. There was no business done that day. Men, women and children were on the street talking of the fearful deed, trying to find a clew to the murderer. The men organized searching parties and every house in town was searched. There was no evidence found anywhere, except in the home of his uncle, Mr. Carpenter, who lived where Col. Foster Memory now lives. Bloody hand-prints were found on the gate and bloody clothes in the attic. Human hair was found on the gun stock which fitted in the wound on the head.

Mr. Carpenter was indicted for the murder and tried. On this celebrated case Colonel Nicholls, who defended it, won fame and made a start in law that led him to success and later to two terms in Congress. His line of defense was that all the evidence was purely circumstantial, and a man could not be convicted on circumstantial evidence alone. The trial lasted over a week, and in spite of the great feeling against him, Mr. Carpenter was not indicted, but was set free.

To this day the murderer of Walter Cole has never been apprehended. Mr. Carpenter died a few years ago, and the secret, as far as he was concerned, is locked in the grave until the secrets of all hearts are laid bare in the great Day of Judgment.

The families of Seaborn and Milton Wade, from Savannah, came in 1872. Mrs. Seaborn Wade was the daughter of Colonel Thompson, author, and editor of the Savannah Morning News.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Colcord and family came in 1873; also Mr. and Mrs. Dan Patterson. The family of Mr. and Mrs. John Booth came in 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stewart and sister, Miss Julia Stewart, came in 1874. Mr. John Stewart and family, with his mother, Mrs. Sallie Stewart, and neice, Emmie Stewart, came in 1875. His nephew, Rev. Edgar Black and family, came at the same time. Mr. Jake Colcord and family, also Mr. Harry Repard and family and Mr. and Mrs. John Patterson came in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brinson came in 1876. The families of Easterlin, Morgan and Nostran came in 1875. Mr. Willie Norman and family came in 1877.

March, 1875, was the time of the great fire in Blackshear. The courthouse and all the stores on the west side of the railroad, with the exception of Mr. B. D. Brantley's, were burned. The fire started in the store of a Mr. Malone, who lived in Blackshear at that time, and did business. His goods were insured for more than they were worth and people thought he burned his store to get the insurance. The other buildings caught from his. He left Blackshear soon after this.

In 1875 four young ladies of Blackshear were married. Miss Agnes Smith, eldest daughter of Dr. Smith, married Mr. J. P. Renfro. They lived in Florida, near St. Petersburg. Miss Courtney Stewart married Mr. John B. Richardson, July 1st. Her attendants were her three cousins, the Misses

Nancy and Maria Strickland, and Mr. J. M. Purdom. The best man was Mr. Millard Surrency, of Jesup. My sister is a widow now and is living in Macon. Both her bridesmaids are dead. On the 5th of December Miss Nancy Strickland married Mr. William Ahl, and Miss Margaret Raybon married Mr. Charlie Moore. It was a double wedding and took place at Aunt Mary Strickland's. All of them are now dead.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker were living about where Mrs. McCabe lives now. Their son Willie, who had been clerking for Mr. Whaley, in Jesup, and had contracted yellow fever and come home, was made worse by the noise and excitement of the election. It was for the State Legislature, and Colonel Cochran and J. W. Strickland were the candidates running. Willie Walker died in a few days.

This year my brother Keightley, went to Montgomery, Ala., to work there in the printing office of the Sunday Morning Hornet.

Yellow fever was in Savannah and Brunswick, with a few cases in Jesup, where parties had contracted it elsewhere. There was no quarantine and Blackshear was full of refugees from these places. Business men would spend the night in Blackshear and go back in the morning. This was in 1876.

In August, 1876, Miss Ella Moore was married to Mr. Seward Grey, a jeweler. They moved away to Indian River, Fla.

In October of that same year Miss Hester Brantley was married to Mr. S. T. Memory, in the Presbyterian church.

The Greys located in Titusville, Fla. They had three little girls, and Mrs. Gray died in 1881. She had been dead a month before her father, Dr. Moore, heard of it. Florida wasn't built up then.

Mr. Jack Jenkins taught the school again in 1877. That year the school children had a picnic beyond the cemetery. Archie, Bennie and John Brantley; Alice and Leila Hendry and their niece, Lillie Hendry. Also May and Leila Quartermaster, Sallie and Janie Mallon and Fannie Stewart, Mr. John Stewart's daughter. Also Maria and Mollie Strickland and I, were there.

The Baptist church was organized in 1877, in a school house on Ware street, where Captain Fuller taught school. The church was built in 1878. Rev. Atkinson organized the church and was pastor until his death, about 1880 or '81. He died from a carbuncle on his neck. After she grew up, his daughter, Virginia, became a Missionary to China. The first superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School was the father of Col. J. I. Summerall.

It was about 1878 that Rev. J. M. Marshall, a local Methodist preacher, lived in Blackshear. His son Truitt, had a wonderful memory and could repeat whole chapters from the Bible. Dean Milton was the only one in our class who could compete with him. Col. S. W. Hitch was our teacher then.

Capt. J. M. Lee moved to Blackshear in 1877 and lived there a few years, then going to Waycross. In a difficulty with Mr. Gus Long, over a mule, Mr. Lee stabbed him to death with a pair of sheep shears. He was convicted and sentenced, but later pardoned by the Governor.

Another tragedy in Blackshear was the murder of Mrs. Skelly, sometime about 1874 or '75. Her husband killed her with an iron pot while in a drunken rage. He was tried, convicted and hung. This was the first white man hung in Pierce county. The scaffold stood a little beyond the Rankin branch, in the woods on a hill. It was an object of interest until it rotted down.

About this time a Mr. Brothers, who lived in a house that was bought and torn down by Mr. Green McMillan when he erected the present home, shot one night through the window, at a noise he heard. Next morning when he went out to look around he found a man dead by the window. It was said that Mr. Brothers never got over it. He moved away from Blackshear soon afterward.

The first snow that covered the ground in Blackshear fell in 1879, on the first Sunday in January. Mr. R. B. Reppard was there that day, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Greenleaf, went to Sunday School with him in the afternoon. She took a severe cold which ran into consumption. When a girl her father had to leave Maine and come to Georgia for her health.



May 7, 1879, Mr. Reppard had a Sunday School Jubilee at New Chautauqua. It was a beautiful place, on the Little Satilla river, about one mile from Screven. My cousin Belle Strickland, didn't want to go that day because she was expecting her beau, Capt. Frank Higgins, to come, but she was persuaded into going. He came to Waycross that day and missed connection with his train. As there was no other train he had to wait there until night. Both passed a miserable day. The next day, the 8th, they were married, and are the parents of Mrs. Hardy Kellar.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Campbell and three children, Edward, Rollins and Bessie, had been living in Blackshear since 1872 or '73. Mrs. Campbell was the sister of Mr. Aaron Reppard, and aunt of Mr. R. B. Reppard.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw moved back to Blackshear in 1878. They had lived there in 1860-61.

In 1880 Prof. and Mrs. D. N. Baldwin and children, Lennie and Annie, and Mrs. Baldwin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart, came to Blackshear. Captain Hanna and family came also, and Mr. Joe Grey and parents, with their family. Mr. James A. Harper moved back that year. Mr. and Mrs. Gregory came in 1882.

Professor Baldwin organized a band in Blackshear that year. The members of it were, Captain Hannah and his son Johnnie, Dr. William Noble, Willie Lackhart, John Strickland, Green McMillan, Count Darling, Jeff Darling and little Lennie Baldwin.

The week of July 4th, 1880, was the hottest weather ever felt in that part of the country.

On the 10th of November, 1880, about 12 o'clock, the cyclone came. It wrecked my mother's house, tearing the dining room and kitchen to pieces and throwing the rest of the house off its pillars. It grew so dark Mother started to the kitchen to shut the windows, but only got to the back parlor door. I was in the kitchen and started to go to her but only reached the dining room when the crash came. Mother fell where she stood, but saw me caught in the wreck and thought I was crippled for life. But I got out somehow, and got to her. The men from down town came running up and helped us all they could. We were living where the Marion Hotel now stands, and portions of our house were carried across the railroad. Something struck my back, in the crash, and I suffered from it several years. We moved that day to a house on Ware street, but later moved to where Mr. J. O. Ward lives.

In December the scarlet fever broke out in town. Ten children were stricken with it. Leila Smith and her brother Moultrie; Mamie and Janie Strickland, children of Mr. A. J. Strickland; Katie and Ista Noble, were some of the sufferers. Mrs. Strickland and Mrs. Noble were sisters. Mamie and Katie survived, but Janie and Ista died—dear little Janie, on Christmas Eve. There were presents for her on the Sunday School tree, and when she was dying her name was called out. Little Minnie Long, child of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Long, died with it. Two of Dr. Lattimore's children had it. It started from the hotel. A little boy named Ralph Sheppard had it there.

Christmas day was a sad, sad day for Mother and all of us. On that day my dear nephew, J. L. Grady, brought a letter to Mother, telling of my brother Keightley's death. He died on the 18th of September, in San Antonio, Texas, of consumption. He intended coming home in the spring. He was always a delicate boy.

In 1881 our house was fixed up again. New blocks were put under it, but it was so high from the ground. We were living in it when, in August, another storm came. But I was not afraid then.

Miss Maria Strickland and Dr. Capers Daniel, from Liberty county, were married the 1st of September, 1881.

Captain Hanna taught the school in 1882.

On the 1st of May, 1882, Colonel Nicholls, who had lost his first wife the year before, was married to Miss Ida Acosta. There were two more young ladies married in 1882. Miss Kate Nicholls, only daughter of Colonel Nich-

olls, by his first wife, married Mr. Wm. G. Henderson, a lawyer from Washington, D. C., on June 23rd. She had an elegant wedding; one of the largest, if not the very largest, ever held in Blackshear. Among the attendants were her cousins, Misses Ella, Delia Foreacre, the former of whom later married Mr. A. P. Brantley, who was also an attendant. Mrs. T. L. Strickland, a pianist and fine music teacher, played the wedding march. The wedding was at the Presbyterian church. Miss Mina Darling and Mr. William Armitage were married that year, and went to Florida to live. Mr. Armitage was an Englishman and a fine architect and builder.

This year brought me a great sorrow, and broke up my home in Blackshear. My dear mother died the 7th day of May, after a short illness. Then I went to live with my sister, Mrs. Ware, in Jesup. My sister, Mrs. Grady and family, went to live in Ware county.

Returning to the history of the Baptist church in Blackshear: After the death of Rev. Atkinson, the Rev. Mr. Jenkins was pastor. He was followed by the Rev. Mr. Scruggs, who lives now in Waycross. Then Rev. M. A. Grace was pastor. He was followed by the Rev. Mr. Cain, who with his wife, taught school in Blackshear. Then came the Rev. Mr. Richardson and the Rev. Mr. Thompson. The present pastor is Rev. J. P. McGraw.

At the Presbyterian church, Rev. John Quartermaster was succeeded in 1888 by Rev. R. L. Fulton. The minister was the Rev. L. B. Davis. Assisted by the Rev. Mr. Word, of Quitman, March 14, 1891, he preached the funeral sermon of Mr. B. D. Brantley. Mrs. B. D. Brantley died November 7, 1910.

Mr. Davis was succeeded by the Rev. C. C. Carson, who was pastor, both at Blackshear and Flemington. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. M. Hunter. It is owing largely to the tireless energy, enthusiasm and activity of Mr. Hunter that the Presbyterian Institute was organized under his pastorate. The Manse was also built during Mr. Hunter's pastorate. Rev. A. L. Patterson, the present incumbent, succeeded the Rev. Mr. Hunter.

Somewhere about 1890, the Ladies' Aid Society was organized, and later, under the skillful leadership of Mrs. Patterson, the girl's society, the Myriams, was organized. The first officers of the Ladies' Aid were Mrs. S. J. Moore, president; Mrs. A. B. Estes, treasurer. Mrs. B. D. Brantley was afterward made president. These societies are remarkable for the harmony under which they work and the results they achieve.

The Presbyterian Sunday School has had only two superintendents, Dr. A. M. Moore and B. D. Brantley, Jr.

Since Mr. J. W. Strickland moved to Waycross the Methodist Sunday School has had Mr. J. L. Grady, Mr. E. L. Darling, Mr. J. O. Ward, Mr. Turner Hughes, Dr. Brewer, Mr. A. J. Strickland and Mr. W. S. Bruce for its superintendents, in the order named.

The Baptist Sunday School has had for its superintendents, Col. J. C. Nicholls, Col. Sturgis, Col. J. I. Summerall, Mr. Joseph A. Harper, Dr. J. L. Estes, Col. R. G. Mitchell, Mr. M. G. Robinson, Mr. John Knight and Mr. R. D. Thomas.

Col. A. B. Estes was County School Commissioner first, and then Mr. Joseph A. Harper held the office for many years, until his death.

Mr. Harper's father died in 1886. His mother moved to Eastman, but did not live long after she went there. Her daughters, Lulu and Lottie, were married about this time, the first to Mr. William Cotter, and the latter to Rev. George Culpepper. Lottie died in less than a year after her marriage, and Lula died in 1912. Joseph A. Harper was married twice, his first wife being Miss Belle Knowles, daughter of Captain Knowles, and his second wife Miss Mamie Holzendorf. John Harper, the youngest brother, married Miss Gertrude Clary.

In 1883 the school had for teacher, Col. W. W. Lambdin, now of Waycross. Colonel Lambdin has been recently appointed Judge of the United States Court for the District of Georgia.

In 1884 Miss Mildred Stead taught the school; in 1886 Mr. S. P. Settle,

and in 1887 Mr. J. Kay, now an Atlanta attorney. Mr. J. D. Groff taught in 1888, and after him Mr. J. W. Kellar. Later the Rev. A. A. Ellenwood had charge, and in 1890-91, Col. R. G. Mitchell taught.

In 1891 the school building, known now as Gordon Hall, was erected. Mr. Z. B. Rogers, assisted by his sister, Miss Alpha, taught in the new building.

In 1892 Mr. O'Quinn taught school twice; once about 1894 and again in 1899.

Mr. John Twitty and Miss Annie Maud Taylor taught school in 1896. Rev. Cain and his wife taught about 1893. In 1900 Mr. Murphy and his sister Maude, who afterward married Dr. A. M. Brown, had the school.

Mr. Greenleaf in 1879. Mrs. Greenleaf died in 1883. Dr. A. M. Moore died in 1891. Dr. H. J. Smith died in 1893. Col. J. C. Nicholls died on Christmas Day, 1894

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized in 1892. After Mrs. J. O. Ward joined the society, she organized a juvenile society. All the children of Methodist parents, and others besides, in Blackshear and some in McRae, Brinson, Ga., and in North Carolina and Florida, were members of it while she was lady manager. Mrs. M. A. Gregory was a great worker also. The Home Missionary Society of young ladies, including three married ladies, was organized in 1902. Miss Corra Weston, daughter of Rev. J. W. Weston, once pastor of the Methodist church, was a member. Mrs. Ward has been aided and supported in her religious work by her husband, J. O. Ward, and together they have done a great deal for the uplift of the church. They founded Ward's Chapel and its Sunday School; also St. Joseph's Chapel.

After the death of Mr. B. D. Brantley, Sr., in 1891, part of his land was given upon which to erect the building known as Gordon Hall, now the Boys' Dormitory. His sons were instrumental in having this school building, which served for several years as the Blackshear Academy, erected. At the same time the Oil Mill, the enlarged Sea Island Ginnery, and the plant of the Blackshear Manufacturing Co., which the Brantley's carry on in addition to their banking and mercantile establishments, were erected.

The Presbyterian Institute was organized in 1901. Later the Girls' Dormitory and the handsome new main building were erected. Dr. Thomas J. Farrar was its first president. He and his wife and his mother were Virginians. Dr. Farrar was succeeded by Mr. Lucas. His family consisted of his wife and daughter, Camille. The next president was Mr. T. J. Wilkinson. He was followed by Mr. Clement A. Snyder.

The first faculty of the Presbyterian Institute was as follows: Misses McGuffey, Cora Weston, May Fisher and Miss Kate Guthrie, of Kentucky, with Mrs. Sims as matron. Some of the other teachers at the Presbyterian Institute later on, were Mr. Martin, Dr. A. L. Patterson, Mr. Abram Brown, Major Sessions, Major McGhee, Major McAlpine, Mr. Brinkley and Mr. Moore. Of the lady teachers, Miss Nannie Guthrie, Miss Sallie Sydnor, Miss Lula Martin, Miss Agnes Ezell, Miss Lacier, who died here; Miss Gregg, Misses Helen and Fannie May Sexton, Miss Watson, Miss Woodall, Miss Underwood, Mrs. H. V. McMillan, Miss Coyle Grey, Miss Gillespie, Miss Woodruff, Miss Conover, Miss Creighton, Miss Howard, Miss Omerod, Miss Ernestine Purdom, Miss Nell R. Kriesbaum and others who taught here.

From 1905 to 1912 the Presbyterian Institute sent its graduates out into the world well equipped for the responsibilities and duties of life. Some of them have graduated from still higher institutions of learning; others are teaching. The ranks of ministers and physicians have been recruited from among them.

When, during the presidency of Rev. Charles A. Mann, the Presbyterian Institute was no longer able to carry on its work without assistance from the Presbytery of Savannah and went into the hands of its creditors. Mr. Mann taught it for a year or two on his own responsibility. Later it was purchased by the Methodist Conference, and became a Methodist institution. Its first year with Rev. W. A. Huckabee as president has come to successful close, and



now with a new president, Rev. Mr. Jordan, still greater benefit is expected.

The first faculty of the Pierce Institute, as the Presbyterian Institute is now known, consisted of: Rev. W. A. Huckabee, president; Rev. T. M. Lee, vice-president, and teachers, Mr. Tell C. Kimbail, Misses Nell R. Kriebbaum, Elma Horsley, Lucy Pace, Margaret Hutchinson, Mary B. Harrison, Mary Rankin and Miss Lucie Roberts. Mrs. Huckabee was matron of the Girls' Dormitory and Mrs. Betts of the Boys' Dormitory.

In 1912 Blackshear installed a splendid system of lights and water. Its streets are paved with iron pyrites and are shaded by fine old trees. From every yard flowers add brightness to the pretty old town. Everyone who comes to Blackshear one time always comes again and again.

I will now tell of people who at one time lived in Blackshear, but have moved away.

Mr. Cutner was the first Hebrew to do business in Blackshear. He came in 1860 and had a store on the same side of the street as the hotel. Then the Shemanskey and Jacoby families came in the 60's, and the Morris Cohen family came in the 70's.

Other families gone away are: Mr. and Mrs. Linder and family, Mr. and Mrs. McGee and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lowther and daughter Willie, Mr. and Mrs. John Clary and family, including his sister, Miss Susie Clary; Mr. and Mrs. Brothers and brother, George; Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tyson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Oglesby, Rev. and Mrs. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Warren and family, Mr. and Mrs. George Long and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mart Harris and family, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Kempton and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Burney and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cox and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Paul and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lem Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mobley and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bennett and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert and family, Mr. and Mrs. Girtman and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Tuten and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hughes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Turner Hughes and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kenny and family, Mr. and Mrs. Downs and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Aspinwall and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Tatem and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Powell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Stone and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lynch and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Knight and family, Mr. C. L. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Aldridge and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry and family, Mr. and Mrs. Arch Varnadore and family, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Aspinwall, Mrs. Mary Jerrod, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brinson and family, Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Chauncey and family, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and family, Mrs. Evie Williams, Mrs. Moy and son, Mrs. Lizzie Aspinwall and son, Mrs. R. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Varnadore, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Youmans and family, Mrs. O. Youmans, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Harper, Mrs. M. M. Barber and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Grady and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls Davis and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Ahl and family, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Ahl and family, Mrs. and Miss Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Minchew and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lessie Minchew and family, Col. and Mrs. Lawton Walker and family, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur James, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Yarborough and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Henderson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henderson and family, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Henderson and family, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Strickland and Mr. Henry Strickland. These two are the brothers of Mr. J. W. Strickland and Mrs. A. N. Smith. Henry is now married and lives in Cuba.

Others were Capt. J. J. Fuller and family, who moved there in 1870, and Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Norwood and family. Their daughter, Miss Belle, was afterward a very popular teacher in Jesup and elsewhere. Dr. and Mrs.

Magruder Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Carter and mother-in-law, Mrs. E. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Sapp and family, Mr. and Mrs. Coiquitt Sweat and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Cleland, Sr., and family, Mr. and Mrs. Keightley Strickland and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Page and family, Mrs. Lewis and family and Mr. and Mrs. Gilmor.

Now I will write about the marriages in Blackshear, beginning with my mother's. She was Nancy Strickland and married Elias F. Stewart in 1834. Her sister Maria, married Samuel Sweat in 1835. She was the mother of Col. J. L. Sweat. The other sisters were Elizabeth, who married Thomas Purdom in 1845; Elinor, who married Ben Howard in 1849; Martha, who married Matthew Aspinwall, and her half aunt, Margaret Smith, who married James Smith in 1840. She was the mother of A. N. Smith.

In 1856 Miss Melvina Sweat married Gideon James. In 1858 her mother, Maria Sweat, who was now a widow, married A. W. Davis. Her daughter Nancy, married J. F. Bailey. Eveline Smith, neice of my grandmother, married John Rogers. Mary Jenkins married J. B. Strickland in 1862; Mary A. Harper married C. C. Buchanan in 1865; Mary Strickland married Alexander McMillan in 1865; Elisabeth Harper married Thomas Goethe in 1865; Tabitha Eugenia Knowles married J. L. Mitchell in 1866; Nancy Knowles married Dr. Flemming Lattimore in 1866; Isabel Knowles married Joseph A. Harper in 1867; Kizzie Strickland married Robert Riggins in 1867; Mary Campbell married R. B. Reppard in 1866; Janie Acosta married Captain McKinney in 1867; Annie Whilden married A. J. Strickland in 1869. A. J. Strickland was a distant kinsman of J. A. and A. J. Strickland of Blackshear, now. Annie E. Hendry married J. W. Strickland in 1870; Alice Sifley married Mr. Malone in 1872; Sallie Moore married Dr. Polhill in 1873; Mollie Jenkins married A. D'Auvergne in 1873; Caddie Whilden married Dr. William Noble in 1874; Sarah Vickery married Thomas Hurt in 1876; Minnie Scruggs married Richardson Stewart in 1874; Louise Scruggs married Mr. Mathews in 1876; Willie Scruggs married James Waters in 1884; Lou Raybon married Owen Herrin in 1877; Cassie Knowles married Col. Wm. Ramshart in 1874. She was afterward a widow and married Mr. Shenck. Her sister Eugenia, was also left a widow and married the second time, Mr. Dan Weaver. Mattie Knowles married Mr. Belden in 1876; Laura Knowles married Frank Armstrong in 1882; Mamie Norwood married Seymour Clark in 1883; Lizzie McMillan married Jephtha Milton in 1874; Rena Darling married Herbert Myers in 1874; Agnes Smith married J. P. Renfoe; Courtney Stewart married J. B. Richardson in 1875; Nancy Strickland married William Ahl in 1875; Margaret Raybon married Charles Moore in 1875; Hester Brantley married S. J. Memory in 1876; Ella Moore married Seward Grey in 1876; Daisy Owens married T. L. Strickland in 1876; Vinie Riggins married Allen Hagan in 1876.

There is a marriage of well known people which occurred in 1861, which I have overlooked, that of Missouri Roberts and Dr. Allen Brown. Her sister, Florida Roberts, married Mr. Robert Williams in 1865. Miss Lou Kempton married F. Z. Byrd in 1877 or '79. After her death Mr. Byrd married his present wife, a young lady from Virginia. Kate Nicholls married Wm. G. Henderson in 1882; Ida Acosta married Col. J. Nicholls in 1882; Mina Darling married Wm. Armitage in 1882; Maria Strickland married Dr. Capers Daniel in 1881; Belle Strickland married Frank Higgins in 1879; Carrie Beasley married J. L. Grady in 1883; Annie Shaw married William Smith in 1885 or '86; Jessie Kate Westbrook married W. G. Brantley in 1883; Christian Brantley married J. M. Purdom in 1883; Margaret Brantley married A. B. Estes in 1883 or '84.

The succeeding marriages occurred after my removal from Blackshear, in 1882, and I do not know the dates of but a few. Annie Smith married W. W. Lambdin; Jennie Smith married J. A. Austin; Sallie Jenkins married Wm. Davis; Mollie Strickland married R. S. Middleton; Dora Darling married Mr. Mobley; Emma Darling married E. P. Huggins; Alice Hendry married Rowan Jenkins; Lilla Brewton married J. O. Ward; Mamie Gregory married



Green McMillan; Bessie Campbell married Mr. Syfan; after his death she married Samuel Garrett and lives in Wyoming. Leila Hendry married John A. Strickland; A. P. Brantley married Ella Foreacre, of Atlanta; Ben D. Brantley married Anna Pomeroy, of Holyoke, Mass; John Brantley married Hattie Camp, of Marietta. Eva Kate McKinney married D. H. McIntosh; Meta McKinney married J. D. Groff, of Ohio. After his death she married Burke Slaughter, of Richmond, Va. Manie Acosta married R. G. Mitchell; Leila Smith married J. B. O'Neal; Sallie Burney married R. J. Joiner; Pauline Harper married J. J. Simpson; Rosa Pittman married Henry Agathen; Jeff Darling married Laura LeConte, of Waycross. Rosa Burney married Mr. Dubose; Lillie Byrd married A. M. Moore, Jr; Nettie Brantley married Lee J. Langley, an attorney of Atlanta. Alice Byrd married A. P. Davis; Susie McKinney married Thomas Lake. After his death she married Nelson Wood, of Richmond, Va. J. L. Grady, whose first wife died, married Gueli Ellis, of Valdosta. Nora McMillan married W. E. Carraway; Eliza Belle Riggins married C. L. Johnson; Annie Riggins married E. L. Porter; Ella Overstreet married Charles Ray; Alma Hendry married H. V. McMillan; Nettie Memory married W. S. Bruce; Janie Brewer married Foster Memory; Maud Grady married O. S. Deon, of Cuthbert. Helen Darling married E. L. Darling; Ella Gregory married R. W. Belden; Bertha Cox married A. M. Henderson; Ora Riggins married Lewis Oden; Maud Miles married Frank Riggins; Leila Riggins married Herbert Bouie; Azalie Henderson married Ernest Tuten; Coyla Grey married Don Thomas; Ruby Taylor married Lattimore Harper; Katie Hughes married Seymour Nobles; Emma Armitage married Dr. G. T. Hendry; Annie Cameron married Fred Hendry; Kate Lewis married G. P. Gregory; Beulah Ray married George Smith; Marion Higgins married Hardy Kellar; Dr. Will Brown married his cousin, Leila Davis, and after her death he married Miss Girvin, of Brunswick. Miss Kuhl married E. L. Pittman; Pearl Ratliffe married John B. Ward; Mattie Ray married Walter Milton; Herbert Riggins married Annie Johnson; Elliott Riggins married Clyde Adams, of Middle, Ga. Addie Howard married S. P. Taylor; Mary J. Howard married James F. Taylor; Thomas M. Howard married Piety Dixon; Vernie Dykes married James A. Tuten; Alma Henderson married Herbert Powers; Allie Davis married Henry Griner; Ernestine Purdom married Warren Lott, of Waycross. Archie B. Purdom married Mildred Insley, of Boston, Mass. While Dr. Williams' marriage is not in a strict sense of Blackshear, yet he is so identified with the place by his life of service to the people and his devotion to the best interests of the town, that Blackshear must claim him as entirely her own; so I record his marriage: Dr. W. P. Williams married Miss Gertrude Stone, of Augusta. The marriage of Alonzo J. Strickland, youngest son of J. B. Strickland, to Arola Parker, of Waycross, in 1893, was one of much interest to both towns, they being prominently connected in each. Two later marriages are those of Dr. J. E. Davis and Annie Belle Williams, and Dr. John Oden and Mattie Grady.

The following is a list of the citizens of Blackshear at the present time, 1913-14: Rev. W. A. Brooks and family, Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Moore and family, Rev. W. L. Huggins and family, Rev. Dr. Mingledorf and family, Rev. Dr. A. L. Patterson and family, Dr. W. P. Williams and family, Dr. and Mrs. Moore and family, Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Hendry and family, Dr. and Mrs. T. E. Oden and family, Dr. and Mrs. John Oden and family, Rev. and Mrs. J. P. McGraw, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Brewer and family, Dr. and Mrs. W. N. Brown and family, Dr. Kynans C. Grady, Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Col. and Mrs. Walter Milton and family, Col. and Mrs. J. I. Summerall and family, Col. and Mrs. R. G. Mitchell and family, Col. and Mrs. Foster Memory and family, Col. Williams and family, Mrs. Mary McMillan and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. McMillan and family, including her mother, Mrs. Kate Hendry; Mrs. Kizzie Riggins and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Riggins and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Riggins and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Porter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Riggins, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Strickland and family,

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Strickland and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Kellar and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Purdom and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Purdom and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Brantley and family, Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Brantley and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Brantley and family, Mrs. J. Langley and neices, Misses Jessie Kate and Marguerite Brantley; Mrs. S. J. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Moore and family, Mrs. Janie McKinney and sister, Miss Eva Acosta; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wood and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Ward and grandmother, Mrs. Mary Pittman; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ward and family, Mrs. Jennie Smith Austin and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Darling and family, Mr. and Mrs. Eustace McKinney and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Memory and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and family, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Burney and family, Mr. and Mrs. Laurance Burney and family, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Joiner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dubose and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. O'Neal and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Jephtha Milton, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Summerall and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. Z. Byrd, Mr. John Shaw and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Webb and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Grey and family, Mrs. W. G. McMillan and family, including her mother, Mrs. M. A. Gregory; Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Belden, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Gregory and family, Mrs. Billie Brown and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Gus Brown; Mrs. S. V. Hurt, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Davis and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Davis and family, Mrs. Dave Summerall and family, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cleland and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Milligan and family, Mrs. Mary Jane Howard, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Culpepper and family, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Jones and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Jones and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Jones and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. O'Berry and family, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Raulerson and family, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Glisson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Williams and family, Mr. and Mrs. Leemone and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sykes and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hodges and family, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan James and family, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davis and family, Mr. and Mrs. David Peacock and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ben James and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ulmer Riggins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Miles and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Harper and family, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Hodges and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Henderson and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hutto and family, Mr. and Mrs. George Peacock and family, Mr. and Mrs. Peacock and family, Mr. J. D. Merchant, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Barber and family, Mr. and Mrs. Darling Jouers, Mrs. Cartright and family, Mrs. Murray and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Murray and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Worth and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Tuten and family, Mrs. Gainey, Mr. James Murray and family, Mr. Arrie Fullford, Mr. and Mrs. Henry and family, Mr. John Kellar and sister, Mrs. Emma Graham; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Turner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Will Mathews and family, Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. Mac. Alpin and family, Mrs. Rachael Darling and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Donelson and family, Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Peacock and family, Mr. and Mrs. Will Davis and family, Mrs. Adrian Westberry and family, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Harper and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Harper and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Waites and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. McRae and family, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Aspinwall and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Tanner and family, Mrs. Mary Altman and family, Mr. and Mrs. McTuten and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Peoples and family, Mrs. Mazelle Thomas and family, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Thomas, Mr. Tom Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Thornton and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. McGee and family, Mrs. R. P. James and family, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Pate and family, Mr. J. W. Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Conley and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Woods, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Henderson and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Sykes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hendry and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Tuten and family, Mr. Lemuel Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Roberson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Burgsteimer and family, Mr.



C. J. Johns, Mr. and Mrs. I. C. McGauley, Mr. R. D. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Powers, Mr. Will DeLoach, Mr. and Mrs. George Dean and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hurst and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Howard and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Griffis and family, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Brown and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Youmans and family, Mrs. Nancy McEvan and family, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Littlefield and family, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Pittman, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Sweat and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Sweat and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tillman and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Dowling and family, Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Dean and family, Mr. J. F. Ratliffe and family, Mr. Ware, Mr. and Mrs. Reppard Youmans and family, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Thornton, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Myland and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Drose and mother, Mrs. Drose; Mrs. Catherine Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. Westberry and family, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Waldron, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Tuten and family, Mrs. Fannie Sweat, Mr. and Mrs. Shank and family, Mr. and Mrs. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Shank and family, Mr. W. L. Smith and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Cowan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCabe and mother, Mrs. Harley Combs, Mr. and Mrs. George Dykes, Messrs. Artie and Bruce Truitt, Mr. J. L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Wylie and family, Mr. and Mrs. Woodall and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Rankin and family, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin and family, Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Aldridge and family, Mr. and Mrs. Yarborough and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Bowen and family, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Kelly and family, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Dixon and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Meeks and family, Mr. and Mrs. O'Quinn and family, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Boyd and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Youmans and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Bell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Tuten, Mr. and Mrs. Pressgrove, Mr. and Mrs. Rush, Mr. and Mrs. Max Gilmore and family, including his mother and sister; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Altman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Root and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Davis and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McDonald and family.

The Charleston earthquake was felt in Blackshear. Some of the people left their homes in great fright. Others decided it was something wrong with themselves and resolved if their neighbors said nothing about it to keep their terror to themselves. Mr. B. D. Brantley had a sick calf and went to the barn to see about it just as the earthquake started. When he would put his foot down it would not go far enough on account of the earth rising too high to meet it. He decided something was wrong with himself and hurried back to the house. Earthquake night was a night of terror.

The hurricane wreck, which occurred in 1888, brought Blackshear into prominence as the scene of one of the greatest railroad wrecks in history. A fast mail train, in crossing the river a short mile from town, wrecked the bridge and the cars were precipitated to the ground below. About 18 people were killed and 35 or 36 wounded. Among the injured who spent a few days at the Brown House—the principal hotel of that time—were George Gould and his wife. Among the killed was young Mr. Wilbur, son of the president of the Lehigh Valley R. R.

Mr. William Smith, father of J. J. Smith, was instrumental in saving Mrs. Gould's jewels from the wreck. He had come to town that morning on business and hurried to the scene to render what assistance he could. After the dead and wounded had been removed he found a leather hand-bag in the debris of the private car, and thinking it belonged to some one of the party who had been taken to the Brown House, he carried it there. It proved to be the property of Mrs. Gould, and contained her jewels and other valuables, worth many thousands of dollars. She appreciated his act very highly.

The whole town turned out to render assistance, and their efforts for the relief of the wounded and the care of the dead were so great that the railroad company made public recognition of their services, and furthermore, gave free passes over its line to all who had assisted in the good work.



It has not been so long since a Pierce county farmer rode into town astride his horse, while hitched to the horse would be a rude cart of the farmer's own manufacture. In this cart would ride the farmer's wife and all the children. This riding the horse while hitched to a cart was peculiar to Pierce county. But now most of the farmers own buggies and nice spring wagons, and automobiles in increasing numbers are being used in the country.

Progress is on the march in Blackshear and Pierce county. God bless and prosper them both.

THE END





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