

HISTORY NOTES

Jones County History & Heritage, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2003

About the Newsletter

This begins a twice-yearly series of newsletters featuring the historic communities of Jones County. It seems fitting to look first at Round Oak, home of Carolyn White Williams (Miss Carrie), whose *History of Jones County, Georgia* so well portrays early life in these settlements.

The Round Oak area is particularly rich in history, and it is a key site on two new state historic driving tours. The first is the recently approved Route 11 Historic Ocmulgee-Piedmont Scenic Byway (Gray to Round Oak to Juliette). Early in 2004, the Jones County/Gray Chamber of Commerce will begin forming a task force of local citizens to develop a corridor management plan for the route. If you would like to participate, contact the Chamber at 986-1123.

A second driving tour is the Georgia Civil War Heritage Trail, March to The Sea, which includes Battle of Sunshine Church sites in Round Oak. Other tour sites are Old Clinton and the Battle of Griswoldville battlefield. The Chamber expects to have brochures available around the end of the year.

This newsletter also features a moving tribute to the late Willie Pearl Turk Morgan Kinslow of Haddock, who will be much missed by her family and friends. The author of the tribute, Sylvia Ryce Cornell, will be a regular contributor of articles on the county's African-American history in future newsletters.

Hope you'll enjoy the newsletter and the driving tour on p. 4. You'll surely be delighted by Round Oak's newest attraction, "Miss Lillie Gordon's Store," which residents have transformed into a charming and informative visitor and history center.

A second newsletter featuring the Round Oak community will be published in the spring. □

A History of Round Oak

Round Oak is located in north central Jones County on Route 11 (Monticello Hwy), about 10 miles north of Gray and 5 miles south of the Jasper County line. It sits at the highest point in the county, in a land of rolling hills and steep valleys, open pastures and forests. Nearby are the beautiful, protected lands of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, including the 35,000-acre Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge.

According to resident Ronnie Crutchfield, Round Oak was a pioneer settlement of the newly formed Jones County in 1807. It was first called Sylvania, and later became known as Round Oak, for a huge old oak tree that Indians gathered round for their pow-wows. During the Battle of Sunshine Church, a Confederate cannon was positioned under this historic oak.

The settlement was on the Hillsboro-to-Clinton road, a former Creek Indian trail. Today Route 11 follows the same general path through Round Oak. During the 1800s, the countryside was dotted with other settlements, many small farms, and a few plantations. Sugar Hill, Fiddler's Rest, Cornucopia, Caney Creek, and Tranquilla are some of these long-vanished early settlements.

Around 1885, the town became a whistle stop along the newly completed Macon-Monticello railroad line. The railroad constructed a water tank under the oak, and leaks from the tank had killed the oak by 1895. The tank was moved to Hillsboro in 1907.

The railroad and a strong, cotton-based economy brought growth and prosperity to Round Oak through the first two decades of the 20th century. A remembrance of those times is the grand county agricultural fair that was held there in 1900, under the sponsorship of the Grain Growers Club. Prizes were awarded in numerous categories such as canning, needlework, horticulture, and livestock. There was a cow-milking contest and horse-riding competitions. Former Civil War Governor Joe Brown and Senators Clay and Guerry were featured speakers.

The town was thriving in those days, with various stores, a cotton warehouse, and large stables where

Continued on p. 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Battle of Sunshine Church
- 3 The Jackson Sisters / Newsletter Sources
- 4 Driving Tour
- 5 Tribute to Willie Pearl Kinslow

Jones County History & Heritage, Inc.

(JCHH)
PO Box 2605
Gray GA 31032

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Individual	\$ 25.00
Family	\$ 35.00
Patron	\$ 75.00
Bronze	\$ 125.00
Silver	\$ 300.00
Gold	\$ 600.00
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Continued from p. 1

mules, wagons, and farm implements were sold. Around 1903, a fire destroyed all but one store, and several stores were rebuilt. The Woodmen of the World Camp 358 was established around 1907, drawing members from all over the county. This still-active fraternal organization provides life insurance and other benefits to its members.

The present Sunshine Church II was built in 1875, and a school was constructed on its grounds in 1880. This school burned in 1910, and was replaced in 1912 with a two-story school for 4 teachers and 125 pupils. In 1923, the school was demolished for safety reasons. Some of the material was used in construction of a new grammar school and auditorium, which was used until 1946. After that time, children attended school in Gray. This school has since been renovated as a home.

The Depression years of the 1930s were lean ones. The boll weevil had destroyed the cotton industry, and the land had become worn-out and eroded from intense cultivation. In the late 30s and early 40s, the Federal government purchased thousands of acres of abandoned farmland from nearby farmers for the national forest and wildlife management system. Many farmers moved away to work in manufacturing towns and cities.

Since that time, peach and lumber industries have come and gone in Round Oak, several beautiful old homes have burned, and the school and businesses have closed. Today Round Oak is a close-knit and caring residential community whose inhabitants are mostly descendants of the early families of the area. A famous resident of recent times is the late R&B singer, Otis Redding. His widow, Zelda, and children still make their home on Otis Redding Road outside of Round Oak.

For more details about Round Oak historical sites and their locations in the Round Oak area, please see the driving tour on p. 4. □

Battle of Sunshine Church

On Wednesday, July 27, 1864, with Union forces occupying Atlanta, Union Major General George Stoneman launched the attack on Middle Georgia known as Stoneman's Raid. His intention was to destroy railroad lines and liberate imprisoned Union soldiers at Macon and Andersonville. Advancing down the Monticello-Hillsboro Rd (now Route 11) towards Clinton and Macon, Stoneman's cavalry looted and destroyed as they went. Detachments destroyed rail facilities at McIntyre, Gordon, Toombsboro, and boxcars at Griswoldville.

On Saturday, July 30, Stoneman was repulsed at Macon, and the demoralized troops retreated towards Hillsboro and Atlanta. After skirmishing at Clinton, they began a difficult night march along the Clinton-Hillsboro Road, enduring attacks until after midnight. On Sunday morning, July 31, the exhausted soldiers passed the small log Sunshine Church (south of Round Oak), where they encountered three well-prepared brigades of Confederates commanded by Brigadier General Alfred Iverson, a native of Clinton. A Confederate battery occupied the center of the road, with log and fence rail barricades curving to the sides. Mounted fighting was impossible because of the steep hills, deep ravines, and dense undergrowth, and so the Unions soldiers were forced to advance on foot.

Continued on p. 3

The battle continued, with steady shelling from the Confederates. When a squadron of Rebel soldiers attacked from the rear, most of the Raiders fled, leaving Stoneman defenseless. Later, the defeated Stoneman was taken to the nearby home of Joseph White, where he formally surrendered.

Ironically, Stoneman was imprisoned at Camp Oglethorpe in Macon, the very place he had set out to liberate a few days before. Four months later, the right wing of Sherman's March to the Sea swept through the area, this time burning Sunshine Church as they passed and liberating the captives at Camp Oglethorpe. □

The Jackson Sisters

Julia, Bettie, Lucy, Margie, Sally, and Cynthia

The lives of the Jackson sisters span almost a century between 1847 (when the first was born) and 1940 (when the last one died). The six sisters were the daughters of Margie and Lewis Jackson, who farmed 300 acres north of Round Oak/Juliette Road near the Sugar Hill settlement. This land is now part of Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge.

Their father died during the Civil War, leaving his widow and young daughters to face Stoneman's Raiders alone when they galloped into their yard in July 1864. After killing the fowl and loosing the horses, the Raiders departed, sparing them and the house.

Thus begins the tale of the industrious and self-sufficient Jackson girls, who never married, and who farmed with virtually no help for the rest of their long lives. When their mother died in 1871, concerned relatives offered to raise the younger ones. In 1969, Susan Myrick interviewed the five remaining sisters for *The Macon Telegraph*. The elderly Bettie, the second-oldest sister, was quoted as saying,

After she died, there wuz some claim we couldn't stay here, just us five female girls with no man person. They wuz some talk about taking the youngest ones and I told 'em they warn't a going to do it. Ma gave me that baby (pointing to the white-haired 73-year-old Marjie), and I warn't a going to give her up.

The eldest sister, Julia, acted as farm manager, while Bettie was in charge of cooking over the open hearth, gardening, and the chickens. In the growing season, all but Bettie worked in the fields, plowing with a mule, planting, hoeing, and harvesting. Bettie called them to the table by blowing an ancient hunting horn.

The sisters were superb weavers, quilters, knitters, and seamstresses. During the winter, they carded, spun, and wove their own cotton and wool into 30-yard bolts. For dye, they used black walnut, red oak bark, and other

herbs. They continued this tradition long after others had turned to commercial dyes and store-bought clothing.

All the sisters prepared for the hereafter by making burial gowns of black homespun with white cuffs and collar. Sally was the first to use hers. In 1916, she was crushed by a falling tree while cutting firewood. Julia died in 1923 at age 84, and Lucy and Margie followed shortly after. Betty lived a few more years, leaving Cynthia, who died in 1940.

Cynthia left her estate to a neighbor, Rufus Garland, in appreciation for the assistance he had given the sisters in their last years. The sisters are buried in the old family cemetery on what is now Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge land. For more information about the gravesite, see the "Jackson Girls Cemetery" listing on the web at www.friendsofcems.org/Jones. To see a picture of the sisters, visit Round Oak's visitor and history center.

The remarkable sisters are still remembered in the county. As small girls in Hillsboro, Nell King and Berta Morton recall them driving into town in their wagon, sitting upright in straight chairs and wearing outdated long dresses and bonnets. Nell, whose mother was their first cousin, commented that the sisters were hard workers, just like all the Jacksons. The county is blessed today with many industrious Jackson descendants, including Nell. □

Newsletter Sources

Thanks to the following residents and friends of Round Oak for so kindly providing information: Bill Bragg, Earl Colvin, Ronnie Crutchfield, Carol (Hadaway) Dumas, Mary Ann Hamrick, Nell (Wynans) King Tiffany Moody, Berta Morton, Mary (Russell) Musselman, Dooley and Pete (McElbeney) Tillman, Charlotte (Crutchfield) Wilson

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*Available at Jones County Library and for purchase.

*Bragg, William Harris. *Griswoldville*. Macon GA, 2000. Available at bookstores, ISBN 0-86554-678-9.

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*Johns, Cleo Jackson, assisted by Gladys Jackson White. *A Family History: Jackson, King and Connecting Families*. 1975. This contains a reprint of Reid, Frances Meredith. "The Amazing Jackson Sisters," *Georgia Magazine*, Feb-March, 1970.

Jones County/Gray Chamber of Commerce. Statement of Significance: Highway 11/Round Oak-Juliette Road, Jones Co., The Historic Ocmulgee-Piedmont Scenic Byway, 2002.

Myrick, Susan. "Five Sisters Lead Pioneer Lives," *The Macon Telegraph*, April 10, 1969.

*Williams, Carolyn White. *History of Jones County Georgia*. Macon GA, 1957. Available for purchase at Jones County Gray/Chamber of Commerce; (478) 986-1233

Round Oak Driving Tour: Civil War and Village Sites

To get the most from the tour, please read the newsletter before you begin. Tour time: 1½ - 2 hours

1. At railroad tracks in Gray, take Rt 11 North (Monticello Hwy) through Bradley and Wayside.
2. Just past Mile Marker 18, turn right on Otis Redding Road and proceed east about 1 mile to Big O Ranch, family compound of the late R & B singer, Otis Redding. It is marked by a sign and white fencing.
3. Across from Big O Ranch (on left), is the c. 1810 Cabaniss-Hunt house, screened by bushes and trees. *This house, known as "Elmcroft," was the Civil War home of Jesse and Betty Hunt. After the Battle of Sunshine Church, Betty Hunt nursed the wounded Union soldiers, who deemed her "The Angel of Sunshine Church." Following the war, some of the soldiers moved to Jones County, and attempted to gain Federal restitution for the Hunt's losses. One served as a pallbearer at her funeral in 1901.*

Return to Rt 11, and continue north (right turn). Within the next mile, look for "The Stoneman Raid" State Historic Marker on the left. There is room to pull off and read it on your return trip. The Battle of Sunshine Church was fought north of here in the steep hills and ravines to either side of Route 11, as far as Round Oak. *Samuel Gordon owned this land at that time; his descendants still live in the area. The exact location of Sunshine Church (a log chapel also used as a field school) is unknown. It served as a hospital for the wounded Union soldiers, as did the nearby Frank Hascoll house (no longer standing). Many soldiers lie buried in these hills, and various war items have been found here over the years.*

During the battle, a young discharged Rebel soldier named Joe Funderburke unsuccessfully attempted to cross the enemy line disguised in his mother's dress. A descendant, Dooley Tillman, remembers his grandmother telling this story: The Yankees penned up Joe, with the intention of executing him at sunrise. During the night, he escaped and remained hidden up in erosion-exposed tree roots overhanging a ravine, until the end of the battle.

4. As you continue into Round Oak, you will pass Pippin Rd (on left). Confederate earthworks were constructed at this intersection at the time of the battle.
5. At the railroad crossing, pull off to the right, in front of the brick store. Across the highway (on left) is Round Oak's visitor and history center, "Miss Lillie Gordon's store, circa 1925"—there is room to park in front. *The center is a community service project of Master Gardeners Mary Musselman and Ronnie Crutchfield, with permission of storeowners Travis and Pat Jackson. Many other community members and friends have donated time, labor, knowledge, and materials. It is a*

point of departure for a self-tour of the village. Take some time to study the map showing sites of both existing and previous structures, look at the picture display on the porch, and browse through the notebook of historical information (under the pictures, to the right). Please sign the guest register (inside a box attached to the map stand).

Following are selected points of interest:

- Woodmen of the World Lodge 358, a 2-story white building opposite the visitors' center, across the tracks. *Lodge members still hold monthly meetings here. Dances were held upstairs during the 1920.*
 - 2138 Old Hwy 11 (cross tracks, turn right). *This residence was the last school at Round Oak, in use until 1946.*
 - The c. 1880 Sunshine Church II, on a hill southwest of the visitor's center (marked by a State Historic Marker and sign). *Descendants of many of the early settlers are buried here. Concrete stumps mark graves of Woodmen of the World members. Twenty-five years after the Battle of Sunshine Church, Sunshine Church II invited a disabled Union veteran to preach a guest sermon here—he had been hospitalized at the original Sunshine Church. After the service, he found several bullets and minie balls under the church, where he said some of the heaviest fighting had taken place.*
 - 2089 Monticello Hwy (Rt 11), south of Sunshine Church II. Look behind the house for the old depot, now a barn. *Mr. Thomas King purchased the depot at public auction and moved it to this site from the railroad crossing. Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin O'Kelley were early residents of this house. During remodeling, the Kings removed the porches that had surrounded the house.*
6. After touring Round Oak, continue north on Hwy 11 about 2.4 miles to see the White family cemetery.
 - *As you pass Juliette Road, notice the fire watchtower to the left, one of only a few remaining in the state.*
 - *About 100 yards north of Juliette Rd (to left) is about where the Joseph White house was located; it was a hospital for Union soldiers following the battle, and where Gen. Stoneman was taken after defeat.*
 - *A short distance north, on right at railroad crossing, is White Chapel AME, 2370 Old Hwy 11, organized in 1883. They are celebrating their 120th anniversary this year.*
 7. About a half mile after Mile 22 is the entrance (on left) to the White cemetery, crossed by a white-covered chain. Pull in and walk a short distance to the quarried granite enclosure, typical of other early cemeteries in Jones County. The oldest marked grave (for infant Thomas White) is dated 1815. □

HISTORY NOTES

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Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2004

About the Newsletter

This second of two newsletters about the Round Oak, Georgia area features Woodmen of the World Lodge 358 in Round Oak, White Chapel AME on its outskirts, and the now-vanished Caney Creek community and New Hope Primitive Baptist Church deep in the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge. The driving tour runs from Hwy 11 to Juliette Rd, Caney Creek Rd, and Pippin Rd.

Under the leadership of Master Gardeners Mary Musselman and Ronnie Crutchfield, Round Oak is continuing to develop "Miss Lillie Gordon's Store," their visitor/history center at the railroad crossing. A current project is the Elders' Memorial Garden next to the center, on land belonging to Pat and Travis Jackson. Larry Jackson has cleared the land, grass has been planted, and residents are contributing shrubs from homeplaces in memory of their elders. Stepping stones with the names of the honored ones are being placed around the garden. Next on the list is to set up the old syrup mill donated by Dolly Gordon Schubert. The Keep Jones Beautiful Commission recently honored the community with their "Most Extreme Makeover" award.

The fall 2004 newsletter will feature the Juliette community. ❖

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Caney Creek Community
- 2 New Hope Primitive Baptist Church
- 3 Driving Tour
- 4 Newsletter Sources

Woodmen of the World Lodge 358

Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society (WOW) was established in 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska, to offer insurance protection and other benefits to its members. Round Oak's WOW Lodge 358 was founded in 1909, and today boasts about 900 members! Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month in their nearly century-old, 2-story, white frame building across the railroad crossing in the center of Round Oak. Members participate in civic projects such as Red Cross disaster relief and donations of flags, police, and fire equipment. The WOW insurance office is located in Gray.

In the early 1900s, the ground floor of the Lodge housed a general store, and the 2nd floor was a meeting and dance hall. The Lodge was an important center of social life in the community. Meetings were well-attended, and dances drew countywide crowds. The Lodge became inactive in the late 40s and early 50s. During this time the local Home Demonstration Club renovated it, and held their meetings and wonderful community barbecues there.

The Lodge is rented for special occasions, and remains a center of life for Round Oak residents. There are happy memories in the community of the many receptions, showers, reunions, and parties held there. ❖ *Information contributed by Lodge Member Charlotte Wilson.*

White Chapel AME

In 1787, a former Delaware slave named Richard Allen established the Free African Society in Philadelphia (African Americans were known as Africans at that time). The racial discrimination Society members encountered at the white Methodist Episcopal Church they attended led them to form a separate congregation. Thus was begun the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Allen, a man of courage and passionate faith, was the first Bishop. The separation offered opportunities for worship, fellowship, and education which fostered dignity and self-respect. AME is the first major religious denomination in the Western world that had its origin in sociological rather than theological differences.

The AME Church is a member of the family of Methodist Churches and follows Methodist doctrines. The early emphasis on self-help and education continues, and the church operates 11 institutions of higher education. There are 10 AME churches in Jones County, and more than a million members worldwide.

In 2003, Round Oak's White Chapel AME, celebrated its 120th birthday. The church is located at 2370 Old Hwy 11 (first right after Juliette Rd), on the acre of land that Trustees Tillman White, Buck Clark, and Aleck Johnson purchased from George B. White in 1893 for \$20. The original deed is still in the church's possession.

The first church on the site was also used as a school. In the 1920s, a separate school was built near the church, and it was in existence until 1954. The church was rebuilt in 1957 (under Rev. Albert Sands), and

Continued on p. 2

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remodeled in 1969 (under Rev. Salonia Daniel). In 1985, a fellowship hall was added under Rev. Jeff D. Germany, Jr. The most recent pastor is Rev. Willie Bundridge. Services are held at 11 am every Sunday (Sunday School at 10 am). ❖
Information contributed by White Chapel Secretary Louise Goolsby.

Caney Creek Community

From the 1800s into the 1930s, the Caney Creek settlement lay between Round Oak and Juliette, in the steep hills around Juliette Rd, Caney Creek Rd and Pippin Rd. Caney Creek meanders through its hollows, crossing under Pippin Rd; Falling Creek is on its western border. Self-sufficient farms dotted the area, with rambling farmhouses and many outbuildings. Fields of cotton, peanuts, pimentos, peaches, and other crops stretched for miles. There was a grammar school, a post office with attached general store, and New Hope Primitive Baptist Church. Some of the families here were the Childs, Coulters, Crains, Crutchfields, Gordons, Greenes, Greshams, Hammocks, Jacksons, Jarrells, Maynards, Middlebrooks, and Pippins, many with 10-12 children.

Today the area is part of the 35,000-acre Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, and dense forests blanket the former cropland. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Refuge in 1939, the eroded and worn-out land was largely abandoned. The cumulative effects of the Civil War, boll weevil, and Depression had devastated the farmers. The Government purchased most of the land for \$1 to \$2 an acre, and dismantled the houses. The old way of life has disappeared here, with one proud exception. New Hope Church has not closed its door since 1813, and some Caney Creek family members still return home to worship. ❖

New Hope Primitive Baptist Church

Primitive Baptists follow the religious doctrines and practices of the early (original) Baptist Church. The name arose in the early 1800s, when the word *primitive* meant *original*. The term also refers to the Church's ideal of simplicity in worship. The scriptures are the sole rule of faith and practices. There are no seminaries, no musical instruments, no religious symbolism, and no Sunday School. Worthy men with the gift to preach are chosen from the congregation, and ordained as elders (pastors) after a trial period. There is line-out singing, with a leader reading a song line, followed by the congregation singing it. Baptism (for adults only) is by immersion, and the foot washing of the Last Supper is part of the Communion service, with members offering words of love and encouragement as they wash each others' feet.

The first New Hope Primitive Baptist Church was established in 1813, near the present church (See driving tour, p. 4, for location of present church.) A second church was built where the cemetery now stands, and across from it was a one-room school, which later burned. The third (present) church was built by the old school site, which became the parking lot. It was constructed in the early 1900s by B. R. (Dick) Jarrell and other members of the congregation, using beams as well as the pulpit from the first church.

The church minutes have been faithfully recorded since its founding, and make for interesting reading! In the early days, stern justice reigned. Many a member was chastised or excommunicated for drunkenness, cursing, cheating, and even possum hunting behind the church. Once, a husband who protested his wife's excommunication was excommunicated himself for complaining. On a happier note, the dinners on the grounds following the service were (and still are) renowned for good times and delicious food! Services are held the 4th Sunday of the month at 11 am. The pastor is Elder Wesley Watkins. ❖
Information contributed by Clifford Black.

Driving Tour: Round Oak - Juliette Rd - Caney Creek Rd - Pippin Rd

Tour time: 2-3 hours. Most of the tour will be on graveled dirt roads in the forests of the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge. For more information on tour cemeteries and others nearby, see the Jones County Cemetery Survey at www.friendsofcems.org/Jones.

Hwy 11: WOW Lodge 358 and White Chapel

1. From Gray, take Hwy 11 North to the Round Oak railroad intersection (10 miles from Gray railroad intersection). Woodmen of the World Lodge 358 is across the tracks. Miss Lillie Gordon's Store, left of Hwy 11, has a nice display of historic photos, some relating to this tour.
2. Continue north on Hwy 11 for 1 mile. Turn right on Old Hwy 11 to see White Chapel AME.
3. Return south on Hwy 11 a short distance and turn right on Juliette Rd.

Juliette Rd and Will Russell Rd

SET YOUR ODOMETER TO 0.

4. **0.1 miles, on left.** White home site, where Carolyn White Williams (*Jones County History* author) was born.
5. **0.2 miles, on left.** About 50 yds from the stretched cable (Post 27) is a 19th c. family cemetery with finely quarried granite walls. Its inhabitants are unknown.
6. **1.4 miles, on right. Turn on Will Russell Rd.**
 - **At 1.7 miles, to the left** is the old road that led to the infamous 19th c. settlement of Fiddler's Rest, this side of Juliette Rd. Its tavern and inn boasted drinkin', gamblin', dancin', and fightin'. The late Bernard Jackson said that the name *Fiddler's Rest* refers to the night a drunken, rowdy traveler played his fiddle until sunrise, to the consternation of other guests at the inn.
 - Continue to the fork (at **2.3 miles**) and go left past the "Road Closed" sign. Continue to the left to the Russell homeplace. *Note: This is private property—please look from the car. For permission to walk around the site, call 986-6541.*
 - **At 2.4 miles, on the right**, the big rock here was the Russell's "storytelling" rock. The late Maureen Russell Bilderback often stood atop the rock, entertaining the children with her stories.

The family home on the right was inhabited by Russells for six generations. It began life as a log cabin in the early 1800s (home of Henry Trent Russell and his wife Phoebe), and later evolved into a dogtrot house (a dogtrot is an open hallway connecting two house wings). Notice the many outbuildings of this self-sufficient farmstead, some constructed of logs.

The granite-walled cemetery below the house encloses graves of brothers Stapleton and John Russell,

casualties of the Civil War. The family story is that a returning soldier claimed to know where they were buried at the Wilderness, Virginia battlefield. Their mother sent him with a servant and buggy to collect their remains.

- Continue down the road onto Refuge land. At **2.9 miles**, on the left, is a Piedmont Refuge trailhead (just before the road end). This is for foot traffic only. Turn around here, and park. Walk about 150 ft back to the left to an early 19th c., rock-enclosed cemetery. One grave is strikingly marked by a 10-ft tall rock pillar with this neatly carved inscription, "C. Gordon dide [*sic*] May 29, 1833, was born 1797." *Note: Into the 1950s, Will Russell Rd continued to Sugar Hill Rd. A left turn led to Juliette, and a right turn led through the old Sugar Hill settlement and on to Hwy 11.*

Return to Juliette Rd.

7. **5.2 miles, on left, at Piedmont sign.** The grassed-over road led to Pippin Rd in the pre-Refuge days, to Doyle Pippin's house (a stop later on the tour).
8. **5.9 miles, on right.** Entrance to the Piedmont Visitor Center and Allison Lake. They are not covered in this tour, but are well worth a visit.
9. **6.1 miles, on right.** Benjamin Crutchfield family home and cemetery (764 Juliette Rd). The left side of the house (board and batten) was a post office in the 1800s, and a store into the early 1900s. The log-shaped pillars in the family cemetery (on hill to right) are Woodmen of the World markers. Elsewhere on the property (not visible) is the c. 1840 Crutchfield house, with a unique construction feature. The airtight walls were built of 2x4s stacked lengthwise and covered with weatherboarding.
10. **6.2 miles, on left. Turn on Caney Creek Rd.**

The remainder of the tour winds through the heart of Caney Creek (see newsletter article on p. 3 for more information). Tour sites were identified by former Caney Creek residents who remember them from the 1920s and 30s (See "Newsletter Sources" at end of Tour Notes.) To locate where homes stood, look for old driveways, roadside roses and wisteria, spring daffodils, and these trees: oaks, cedars, chinaberries, pecans, and black walnuts. You need imagination for this tour! Note: Caney Creek sites to the west will be covered in a future driving tour.

Caney Creek Rd

SET YOUR ODOMETER TO 0.

11. **0.0 miles, on right.** Andy Crutchfield home, built around the turn of the 19th century. Across the road were a store, peach orchard, and the "Patsy" house (tenant house).
12. **0.2 miles, on left.** Jim Gordon homeplace. The family shared a spring behind the house with the Green Jacksons, on the other side of it. Claude Baxley remembers the beehive in the oak tree overhanging the road.

13. **0.9 miles, on right.** Look for a yellow-marked oak tree, with a limb overhanging the road. The Caney Creek one-room school (Grades 1-7) stood nearby, in use into the early 1930s. A basketball court was to the side. Molden Jackson (Laverne Jackson Adams's father) planted the oak tree on the schoolground. After the school moved to Round Oak, Wayside Presbyterian Church (under Preacher Manning, assisted by Alvah Bird) opened a branch church (Liberty Church) in the schoolhouse.
14. **1.1 miles, on left, just before Pippin Rd.** Daniel Jackson homeplace. Laverne Jackson Adams remembers the beautiful buttercups growing in the spring below the house.
15. **1.3 miles, on right.** Ell house.
16. **1.4 miles, on right, past orange roadside pole marker.** John Dan Maynard homeplace (original landowner was George Jackson). Agnes Maynard Morgan remembers the huge rock here, where everyone carved their initials. There was also a storm pit (tornado shelter). Nearby was a government-built sheep-dipping pit, for disease control.
17. **1.7 miles, on right.** William "Pa Bill" Jackson homeplace.
18. **2.0 miles, on right.** George Maynard homeplace.
19. **2.2 miles, on left, old roadbed slanting to the left by Post 34.** The road here passed by the Millard Jackson homeplace, crossed Caney Creek in the hollow, and continued to 5 Points Rd in Wayside. The old oak tree had a swing on it.
20. **2.4 miles, on right.** John Gresham homeplace. Ham Gresham lived in the vicinity.
21. **2.5 miles, on left.** Bradley's grave, with the inscription, "Beloved by E. A. Jackson family." Bradley was a family servant and companion, and a faithful attendee at New Hope Church. The Refuge road across from the grave fords a creek. There were two houses on it in the old days.
22. **2.6 miles, on right.** New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, c. early 1900s. The old baptismal spring is down a woodland path, behind the parking lot to the left. Today, the spring water is piped up to an indoor baptismal pool. The separate entries were for men and women. (See newsletter article for more information about the church.)
23. Turn around and return the way you came. Turn right at the Pippin Rd intersection.

Pippin Rd

SET YOUR ODOMETER TO 0.

24. **0.2 miles, on right.** Rufus Jackson homeplace. Across the road was Rufus's blacksmith shop. The "Molly" house (tenant house) was nearby.
25. **0.3 miles, on right.** Earl Jackson homeplace. There was a syrup mill on this place, down on Caney Creek.
26. **0.7 miles, on right, brown wooden gate.** Tyner homeplace (original landowner was a Pippin). Next to this was the Dollie and Willie Maynard homeplace. Across the

road was the Henry Gordon homeplace.

27. **0.8 miles, on right.** 19th c. Tom Pippin home (originally a log cabin), and later home of his son, Doyle Pippin. The original landowner was Samuel Warren Green. Note the 19th c. log barn across the road. The old road to the left led by the Homer Pippin homeplace, the Bunk house, and the Jim Jackson homeplace, and on to Juliette Rd. Gordons and Jacksons are buried in an old cemetery a short way back.
In the 1920s and 30s, Doyle held barbecues, hoedowns, and square dances at his dance pavilion near the house. Thomas Gresham and "Blind Man" Tyner fiddled, John Dan Maynard strummed the banjo, and Doyle played his pump organ. Doyle owned Caney Creek's first radio and car, which he drove to work at the Juliette cotton mill.
28. **0.9 miles, on right, after Caney Creek.** Walter Pippin homeplace. Pippin descendants (the Cranes) live in these houses.
29. **1.6 miles, on right (501 Pippin Rd).** Formerly the Nick Wilburn homeplace.
30. **1.8 miles, on left.** Jim Smith homeplace. Clarence and Mittie Hensley Gordon lived there.
31. **2.0 miles, on left.** Robert Crutchfield homeplace, about half way down hill, on level spot. This hill is still known as Crutchfield Hill.
32. **3.5 miles, on left.** An African-American church stood here.

End of tour. Turn right on Hwy 11 to return to Gray.

Newsletter Sources

Thanks to the following people who so generously gave of their time and knowledge: *Laverne (Jackson) Adams, Claude and Billie (Jackson) Baxley, Clifford Black, Earl Colvin, Louise (Williams) Goolsby, Margaret (Jackson) Crutchfield Greene, Tommy and Charlotte (Burgess) Hinson, Agnes (Maynard) Morgan, Mary (Russell) Musselman, Charlotte (Crutchfield) Wilson.*

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- *Williams, Carolyn White. *History of Jones County Georgia.* Macon GA, 1957. *Available for purchase at Jones County Gray/ Chamber of Commerce; (478) 986-1233*
- Yandle, Dorothy (King) Smith. Report on Caney Creek community, from a Georgia State University project for Prof. John Burrison's folklife course, Georgia State University, 1968.
- Websites: www.friendsofcems.org (Jones Co. Cemetery Survey); www.ame-church.com (AME Church); www.pb.org (Primitive Baptist Church).

* Available at Jones County Library.