

Gaither Plantation As I Remember It

Ralph Whelchel bought 638 acres from a Mr. McIntosh, who lived in Mansfield, in the fall of 1949....a farm called the "Hub Gaither Place". He had been searching for a farm suitable for growing cattle and the new grass called Ky. 31 Fescue. This grass would grow & stay green in the winter, providing year round grazing for cattle. Ralph was delighted to find five acres of the grass flourishing near a creek on the farm, the first planted in Newton County, so he was told.

We nearly paid for the farm the first several years we were there by combining grass seed in the summers to sell. The grass had become very popular quickly. There was no place to take the seed for drying, so we cleared the farmhouse living room and hall and three rooms of a nearby tenant house. After spreading seed about a foot thick on the floors, we "plowed" through the seed a couple of times a day (sometimes more often if the weather was damp and hot) by sliding our feet along the floor. By making the "rows" closer together, all the seed were shifted about and encouraged to dry without molding. Sounds difficult, but the seeds were light and the worst part was getting shoes and socks full of scratchy seeds.

The house was in fairly good repair although there was much that needed doing. It did have a good roof and seven useable fireplaces but no bathroom. The outhouse, a three holed affair with a small, low hole for children, continued in use for two or three years as we concentrated on getting the farm into production. When we finally put in a bathroom, we found our many young nieces and nephews, all city reared and frequent visitors, much perturbed. They wanted nothing changed on the farm.

At sometime after the Gaithers owned the place (I think) it was vacant long enough for pines to sprout and grow to a height of the second story windows. A man, who grew up nearby, remembered that as a youth he and neighbor boys chased some goats up the stairs and out the second story windows.

All the rooms of the house except the one now used as a kitchen had walls and ceilings of the original plaster (made with horse hair so we were told). This plaster was more than half an inch thick and somewhat cracked, but mostly in fair condition. A tornado knocked the main chimney off in 1974, I think, demolishing the roof and ceiling of the upstairs back bedroom. Both upstairs bedrooms were redone at that time. The plaster was so skillfully repaired it looked like new. I understand the man who restored the house for Mr. Siefried removed all the plaster as well as the ten and twelve inch hand planed boards which covered walls and ceilings of the kitchen. A pity! By the way, the house is so sturdily built that two people in the kitchen eating breakfast the morning of the tornado, heard the noise, but felt no tremor through the building. They discovered the damage only when they went outside and found bricks scattered about the yard.

In the back upstairs bedroom, closets are on each side of the fireplace. The one on the left looks like an ordinary closet when the door closed, but inside there was a crude stairway to the attic and also room for a few clothes. When I lived there, visiting children

were always intrigued by the "secret" stairway. They were fascinated by a tale about confederate soldiers being hidden in the attic. As I remember the story told to me – the lady of the house was feeding a small group of Confederate soldiers when she received word that a group of Yankee soldiers was coming. She realized that if there was fighting, her family would be endangered and the house would surely be burned, so she begged the Confederates to hide in the attic until the Yankees left. They were not discovered, but all the farm livestock, which had been hastily hidden in the lower area back of the house, was found and taken.

For a time the attic was home to a barn owl or two. They managed to get in where a board had come loose near the roof. I don't remember how long they were there, but visiting children were always agog at finding "owl pellets" full of fuzz, skull and other small bones of mice and rats, and possibly birds, which the owls regurgitated. One owl finally died in the attic and we never saw signs of them again. I understand the slave quarters were back of the house and that is probably true as there was a good spring (or springs) in the area now covered by pond water.

One room of the house, with its fireplace and two walk-in closets, was built for the mother of Mrs. Gaither (Mrs. W. H. ?) who came from Virginia to live with her daughter, so we were told. We always called it the mother-in-law room. It was thought to have been added on after the main part of the house was built.

Across from it is a wing with two rooms which was apparently built sometime before the rest of the house, judging by the floor joist of large, rough hewn logs. The room now used as a kitchen, had walls and ceiling of ten and twelve inch hard planed boards when I lived there and apparently at one time had not been connected to the adjoining room by a door, judging by the carpentry around the doorway. We thought it must have, at one time, been a pantry-storage area when the original kitchen was back of it, and separated from the main house to lessen the danger of fire.

Honey bees liked that kitchen. One morning following several days and nights of hot summer temperatures, I walked into the kitchen into a big puddle of honey which had melted out of the old stove chimney. A wood stove was no longer in use and we thought the chimney well closed both inside and out, but the bees were smarter than we. I cleaned the floor and set a pan to catch the rest as it continued to drip. Another time after bees kept bothering us in the kitchen, my husband looked into the loft over it and found a large honeycomb shaped like half of a circle hanging from a rafter. It was five or six inches thick and about eighteen across. We had to get a man who worked with bees to remove it.

There were honey bees in residence in the side wall of the hall near the front door when we moved there, and when we left, many efforts and methods had been used to try to remove them permanently, but nothing seemed to work. The outside boards were removed one time and many years accumulation of debris and old black honey and comb were removed but the bees were back the next year. I understand they had been in that wall as long as anyone could remember.

Once as I worked with a hoe among flowers on that side of the house, a bee kept zooming around my head as if he meant business, so I ran indoors. He followed and kept buzzing around the screened door. I finally killed him with a fly swatter and went back to work. In a few moments another bee came and the whole scene was repeated. After the third try, the bees didn't give up but I did! However, I do not remember that they ever bothered me again. In fact, they almost never bothered people and very, very few were stung in the 30 years we lived there.

A large fig bush stood close to the house all the years we were there. It provided many gallons of figs to eat fresh or as preserves. A friend called it the "snack bar". He always stopped for a snack before letting us know he had arrived.

There is a cemetery to the right of the house as one faces it at the front. Both slaves and later, freed people are buried there, as well as members of the Gaither family. The son of a former slave came each Mothers Day for many years, after we moved there, to put flowers on his mother's grave. I understand she was the plantation cook and weighed nearly four hundred pounds. The son's name was Charley Gaither and his mother's grave was near the left edge of the cemetery. It has a tombstone with her name on it.

The Old Post Road from Atlanta to Augusta passed in front of the house, so we were told, but it had been plowed over and there was no sign of it when we arrived. However, it may have gone past an old house site nearby, which was near a small creek with a good place to ford the creek. There were still signs of an old road there and a huge holly tree. If I remember correctly, someone measured around it near the ground and said it was 109 inches around. It furnished many Christmas decorations. In later years it began to look unhealthy and I wonder now if the black walnut trees that sprang up around it were toxic to it.

In the front yard of the farm house there was a walnut stump which had evidently been there a long time. Hardly anything would grow in the area and nothing grew well. Thirty years later I was still trying to grow flowers there with a notable lack of success. I'm told some things will grow in the topic soil but I don't know what they are.

An old barn stood near the big pond and furnished many hours of fun for visiting youngsters. They rolled in the hay, hunted for hen nests, climbed wherever they could go, among other things, and some even saw the big black king snake that lived in the barn. They were told that the barn was his home and it was his job to catch rats and mice, and Uncle Ralph would be very angry if he was hurt! It gave a delightful shivery fright to some when they visited the barn. This building was struck by lightening and burned in recent years.

In front of the house, near a small creek, is an old Indian campground, so we were told. It was not on our land, but on part of the original land grant. It was much grown up with briars and bushes so I only went there once, but we found pottery shards easily and a rock we thought to be part of a skinning "knife"

The woods were full of wild black muscadines. For several years my sister and I (and anyone else who cared to go) picked 25 to 30 gallons when she and her children came for a week-end visit. During the week I would cook, mash and strain the juice from the grapes and freeze it. Then she would come for another week-end and we would cook pan after pan of jelly until we had around 150 pints. It surely went well with biscuits and butter! And we never lacked help in the picking or the eating!

Over in the area where a new "Old Post Road" joins the county line road, we often found some wild bronze scuppernongs. These bronze colored grapes were not round as the usual scuppernongs are, but were oval shaped.

I remember the first deer I saw on the farm. It must have been in the early 1960's. One day as the cows wandered up from the pasture to the salt lick, a young deer came with them. We were careful not to disturb it, and it stayed with the cows quite a while. In fact, it and our young dog, who evidently thought it just another calf, roamed together like friends and finally one day it did not return. The deer must have liked our fescue pasture. By the early 1970s the woods were full of them. Bob, a favorite friend, (he who always stopped at the snack bar in fig season) came to go hunting one day. The family cat, pretty black and white Kitty Lou, decided to go along. He tried to send her back but she refused to be sent, and trailed along behind him until he reached his favorite deer stand, a big stump on which he planned to sit. He settled down and she climbed into his lap and started to purr. He said he sat there feeling foolish with a cat in his lap and thinking ugly thoughts about her. Suddenly she lifted her head and perked up her ears and a few seconds later a spiked buck came into view. Bob tried to lift his gun but Kitty Lou tried to climb on his arm. In trying to shake her off, the buck saw them and disappeared. Bob said he really did think ugly thoughts about her then, but she settled down to purr again. A few minutes later up went her head and ears and a big buck stepped into view a few seconds afterwards. He raised his gun and shot the buck, and discovered Kitty Lou had quietly slipped away. She beat him back to the house! And after that, we had many requests for the loan of our deer cat!

Once my husband was working in the side yard and heard a bird in the front yard chirping excitedly. He went to see what was wrong and found a big chicken snake had climbed the big china berry tree where the bird was, and was about to rob her nest. He shot the snake and went back to his work. A short time later the bird again started "raising Cain", as he put it, and he found another chicken snake trying to rob the nest. He dispatched that one also and peace reigned.

When we moved to the farm, we did not have furniture enough to furnish all the rooms and could not afford to buy more just then. Soon junk and papers occupied the empty space, but we never had roaches, rats or mice. I wondered why until one day I heard a sound like an inflated inner tube plop down onto the back porch floor. Checking to see what made the noise, I found a fat four to five foot long chicken snake had fallen from the porch loft. With the help of a pitch fork he was maneuvered into the space beneath the hot water heater which stood on the porch and there, with more encouragement, he

stayed until my husband appeared. I never told any of the many visitors we had, that I was sure the snakes kept the roaches and rodents away. It would have kept them away, also! And we liked having lots of company.

The barn now on the farm was designed and built by Ralph in the early 1950s. He had a bad back so he designed it to reduce the need for heavy lifting as much as possible, and it seemed to work quite well. The floor of the barn was set back so there was room to park his loaded truck under the shelter if he wanted to wait about unloading feed. The floor was level with the truck bed so sacks of feed could be lifted off easily, or bulk feed shoveled off just as easily. The trough under the barn was a self feeder and could be easily filled from the area in which the feed was stored.

A bit of old history came to me through a young friend. She had an older friend who had visited Gaither's Plantation as a young girl and stayed the night. Long after she had gone to sleep, she was awakened by a terrible scream. Quickly shaking her hostess, she said "wake up, wake up, someone is beating his wife." The hostess listened and said, "Oh, go back to sleep! That's just a peacock squawking!"

My husband was a tall, big man, and small nieces and nephews usually listened with respect when he spoke. When he said to them, "stay away from that big pond. It's deep. You might fall in and get drowned and ruin my fish pond", they did not seem to question his reasoning!

One time a small niece and I were fishing and she hooked a thirteen or fourteen pound turtle. As soon as she saw him, she started poking at him with her cane pole and screaming "Go away! Go away! I don't want you!" I said, "Stop it! Your uncle Ralph will skin us both if we let this turtle get away." Whether she believed me or not, she helped land him by keeping the line tight while I waded into the shallow waters and picked him up by the tail. He was too heavy to carry all the way home with my arm outstretched and I surely didn't want his mouth any nearer! We got him to the house by alternately carrying him and making him walk on his front feet while I kept his rear end upended! He probably ended up in a pot of stew which everyone enjoyed without knowing what they were eating.

The children always enjoyed the goats. They would come when called and nibble corn out of hands. Uncle Ralph always made sure he had only butt-headed (Hornless) goats. He said it was too easy for a child to get jabbed in the eye when playing with a goat.

I am about to forget another bit of history. It was told to my husband as the truth. It seems that the plantation once changed hands because the owner lost it in a poker game!

Christine G. Whelchel
1615 River Cove Road
Social Circle, GA 30025

Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler Hulbert Gaither Arnold Person No. 1 on this chart is the same

Chart No. _____

Address 6257-7 Cape Hatteras Way person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

City, State St. Petersburg, Fla 33702

Date 1987 P.O. Box 2145

Covington GA 30209

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death

4 _____
(Father of No. 2)
b. _____
p.b. _____
m. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

2 John Arthur Arnold
(Father of No. 1)
(1870?)

b. _____
p.b. _____
m. 21 June 1917 Newton Co Ga.
d. 1962
p.d. Milledgeville, Ga.

5 _____
(Mother of No. 2)
b. _____
p.b. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

1 Hulbert Gaither Arnold
b. 9 Jan 1921
p.b. West New York, Hudson Co, N. J.
m. 17 May 1945
d. _____
p.d. _____

6 William Hulbert Gaither
(Father of No. 3)
b. 10 Dec. 1868
p.b. Newton Co., Ga.
m. 1 Feb. 1893
d. 27 April 1934
p.d. Covington, Newton Co. Ga.

3 Janie Heard Gaither
(Mother of No. 1)
b. _____
p.b. Newton Co., Ga.
d. _____
p.d. _____

7 Mary Leila Biggers
(Mother of No. 3)
b. 23 July 1875
p.b. Newton Co., Ga.
d. 17 July 1957
p.d. Newton Co., Ga.

Helen Barbara Stone
(Spouse of No. 1)

8 _____
(Father of No. 4)

b. _____
p.b. _____
m. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

9 _____
(Mother of No. 4)
b. _____
p.b. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

10 _____
(Father of No. 5)

b. _____
p.b. _____
m. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

11 _____
(Mother of No. 5)
b. _____
p.b. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

12 William Hulbert Gaither
(Father of No. 6)

b. 5 March 1832
p.b. Newton Co., Ga.
m. 6 Dec. 1855
d. 28 July 1890
p.d. Newton Co., Ga.

13 Cecelia Billups Wood
(Mother of No. 6)

b. 18 July 1838
p.b. _____
d. 27 Dec. 1916
p.d. Newton Co., Ga.

14 Leroy Theodore Biggers
(Father of No. 7)

1845
b. _____
p.b. _____
m. 1873
d. 1936
p.d. _____

15 Perlina Lunsford
(Mother of No. 7)

1857
b. _____
p.b. _____
d. _____
p.d. _____

16 _____
(Father of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
m. _____
d. _____

17 _____
(Mother of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
d. _____

18 _____
(Father of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
m. _____
d. _____

19 _____
(Mother of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
d. _____

20 _____
(Father of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
m. _____
d. _____

21 _____
(Mother of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
d. _____

22 _____
(Father of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
m. _____
d. _____

23 _____
(Mother of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
d. _____

24 Dr. Henry Gaither
(Father of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. 5 Aug. 1801
m. _____
d. _____

25 Sarah
(Mother of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. 15 Sept 1810
d. _____

26 Cary Wood
(Father of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. 10 Feb. 1795
m. 16 Oct. 1823
d. 6 May 1857

27 Mary Richardson Billups
(Mother of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. 18 Sept 1803
d. 20 May 1874

28 Rev William Morris Biggers
(Father of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. 1815
m. 1841
d. 1860

29 Sara John Webb
(Mother of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. 1794 1823
d. 1853 1889

30 _____
(Father of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____
m. _____
d. _____

31 _____
(Mother of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

b. _____

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April 17, 1888

We inadvertently omitted last week to mention the marriage of CAPT. S. H. STARR JR. of Starrsville to MISS NANNIE CHILDS, which occurred at the residence of Mr. Benton in Jasper County on Wednesday, the 4th of April.

Death of D. P. Farmer. We are pained to learn of the death of D. Pete Farmer of the land firm of Farmer, Douglas & Co. of Covington, which occurred at the home of his mother at Anniston, Alabama, on Wednesday morning, the 11th of April 1888. . . Mr. Farmer was 28 years of age and he has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for 15 years. . .

Killing of Mr. George Smith by Mr. Henry Gaither on last Tuesday morning; a most unfortunate affair occurred in this county near Gaither's Mill about 12 miles south of Covington, which resulted in the death of MR. GEORGE SMITH, caused by a blow on the head inflicted with a stick in the hands of Henry Gaither. It seems that Mr. Smith was a tenant upon the lands of Mr. W. B. Griffin which adjoins the lands of Mr. William H. Gaither, the father of Henry Gaither. He had cleared up a piece of wood land or piney old field and some of Mr. Gaither's turkeys had built their nests in the brush heaps. When Mr. Smith burned the brush, the turkey nests were destroyed. Mr. Gaither and his son inquired in a friendly way of Mr. Smith about destroying the turkey nests. Mr. Henry Gaither and Mr. Smith engaged in a conversation about the matter, while Henry Gaither was sitting down some little distance away with no apprehension that a difficulty or trouble of any sort would occur. Suddenly, Mr. Gaither struck Mr. Smith on the left side of the head and merely on top with a stick which felled him to the earth. Only one blow was struck. Mr. William H. Gaither quickly ran to Mr. Smith and tendered him assistance. He walked to the house and the physician was sent for but none could be procured. . .

May 1, 1888

It grieves us sorely to record the death of our friend, DR. W. A. LANSDELL of Atlanta, which occurred rather suddenly on last Thursday night of pneumonia. Dr. Lansdell was formerly a citizen of Covington, but had been a resident of Atlanta for the past 20 years. . .

MR. GEORGE SMITH who was married by Mr. Henry Gaither of this county, was 25 years of age and a very quiet, sober, industrious and well-esteemed citizen of Newton County . . .

May 29, 1888

Death in Conyers. From the Conyers Weekly, we learn of the following deaths which occurred recently in that place: CAPT. W. MADDEX died on Wednesday last of paralysis, aged 61 years. MR. H. L. SHIPLEY died Wednesday night of hemorrhage of the bowels, aged 42 years. MR. WILLIE McDANIEL, son of Frank McDaniel, died on Sunday morning, the 20th inst., after a long and painful illness, aged 17 years. The infant son of MR. AND MRS. BALLS of Thomasville died in Conyers on last Tuesday night.

June 5, 1888

MR. T. M. BRAND of Logansville died last Saturday evening, after a long and painful illness.

9	69	75	4	52	15	0	40	14	0
1	31	15	17	20	12	0	30	2	0
10	34	37	9	35	8	0	40	2	0
3	64	11	52	35	25	7	66	1	1
19	32	50	2	50	1	0	48	2	0
11	24	30	6	38	3	0	34	0	2
2	6	7	0	7	2	0	2	0	0
13	30	34	7	23	3	4	27	0	9
13	37	41	3	41	10	0	42	3	2
407	608	885	161	586	375	18	761	131	74

444 votes were polled in the county. From these Nor-
Cook 1030; Wright 1031; Hardeman 1033.

honest, fair and true. He is a man of fine address,
from any affectation whatever. His
record in church and state is without
himself useful and popular in the
house of representatives is sure and
certain. That he will well and truly
represent every class and calling in
this county, is also true. The democ-
ratic party, the alliance and every
business and industry in old Newton
will find in Henry L. Graves a true
friend, ready and willing to do any
and everything within his power to
improve their condition and labor for
the peace, happiness and prosperity
of every man, woman and child in
the county.

Official Result of the Primary.

Covington, Ga., July 25, 1890.
The consolidation of the vote cast at the
primary election, in the county of Newton, on
July 24, 1890, for the nomination of democ-
ratic candidates for governor, state house of
members, congressman, and member of the legis-
lature, shows the following result:

For Governor:		No. VOTES.
W. J. Northen, of Hancock	.....	1,012
C. A. Evans, of Fulton	.....	1
J. H. Griffin, of Newton	.....	1
For Secretary of State:		
Phil Cook, of Sumter	.....	1,030
Frank Leverett, of Pulman	.....	1
For Comptroller General:		
W. A. Wright, of Richmond	.....	1,031
For Treasurer:		
R. C. Hardeman, of Newton	.....	1,033
For Attorney General:		
George N. Lester, of Cobb	.....	860
Clifford Anderson, of Bibb	.....	161
For Com. of Agriculture:		
John T. Henderson, of Fulton	.....	375
R. T. Nesbitt, of Cobb	.....	586
J. B. Hammett, of Coweta	.....	19
For Congressman, 5th District:		
L. F. Livingston, of Newton	.....	743
W. H. Hulsey, of Fulton	.....	131
J. D. Stewart, of Spalding	.....	76
R. C. Cook, of Newton	.....	2
For the Legislature:		
H. L. Graves, of Newton	.....	608
L. E. Middlebrook, of Newton	.....	407

J. M. PACE,
Chairman Dem. Ex. Committee

are not your enemies. Where there
is competition among country retail
merchants you will find no trust or
combines to take advantage of you.
Everywhere I have been I have found
a spirit of competition existing among
retail merchants, cutting down prices
and underbidding each other through
the columns of the newspaper, and on
printed handbills, all bidding for
your trade. In seventy-four coun-
ties I have traveled over I have fail-
ed to find a combine among retail
merchants. If we drive every store
out of town but the one we patronize,
we will be a trust breeding organ-
ization instead of a trust breaking or-
ganization. Let us not make ene-
mies of men who are engaged in a
legitimate business but keep after the
trusts, and all unite for the welfare of
our common country."

DEATH OF WM. H. GAITHER.

On Friday evening last Mr. Wm.
H. Gaither, a prominent citizen of
this county, was taken suddenly sick
with something like congestion of the
brain and remained in an unconscious
condition until about 1 o'clock p. m.,
Monday, when he died. Aged about
54 year. In the death of this good
man Newton county loses a faithful
son and Georgia a worthy citizen;
while his wife and children mourn in
sorrow the loss of him who was more
to them than all the world beside.—
He was generous, kind and true and
those who knew him best loved him
most. At this time it would be diffi-
cult to give a full and correct history
of the life and character of our de-
parted friend. We lament his death
and sympathize with the bereaved
family and friends. He was a man
who loved and served the Lord and
we feel satisfied that he has gone to
the skies to claim the reward which
has been promised to the faithful.

Let every democratic voter whoop
up the nominees and sit down on any
one who talks about running as an in-
dependent. Livingston for congress,
and Graves for the legislature, are the
nominees, and will make able and effi-
cient representatives in the legislative
halls of the state and nation.

There is no court house ring, nor is
there any county clique. We are
one people, and the man who would
set up strife between town and coun-
try is an enemy, and not a friend, to
his county and his people.

ble health with hopes, however, of
his recovery.
Dr. J. J. Dearing is visiting Por-
ter Springs. Hopa he will have a
happy, healthy time.
Hon. W. J. Northen writes that he
will be unable to attend the Alliance
re-union and basket dinner in Cov-
ington next Wednesday.
Col. Boykin Wright, of Augusta,
spent several days recently here as the
guest of his father, Esquire Franklin
Wright.
Dr. J. M. Brittain will take charge
of Central Baptist church in Atlanta.

Hon. Wright Brady, of Sumter,
the man who introduced the fortifica-
bill, has been defeated for the Legie-
slature. The Alliance plumped solid-
ly against him.
Messrs. A. S. Franklin, W. B. Leg-
and F. D. Guinn, committee appoint-
ed by the grand jury to examine the
county records, have about discharg-
ed their laborious and tedious duties.
Mrs. T. H. Nolan, and two bright
and interesting children, of Dallas,
Ga., have been visiting the city dur-
ing the past week, as guests of her
mother Mrs. Jarman, on R. R. Ave.
The marriage of Miss Pauline Hur-
tleman, of Oxford, to Mr. Jesse
Thompson, of Augusta, was as great
a surprise to her friends here as well
as elsewhere.

Col. Edmett Womack, Col. J. W.
Anderson, Mr. A. S. Franklin and
Dr. J. T. Gibson have been selected
as delegates to the Congressional con-
vention.
Company H, Young Guard, of the
3rd. Ga. Regiment, will be represent-
ed at the Irwington returned to day
by Robt. W. Bagby, S. H. Starr, Jr.,
J. M. Levy; W. W. Osborn, J. C.
Anderson, Jno. R. Bird, J. C. Flem-
ister, C. C. Epps, E. H. Yancey, A.
B. Williams, "Bible" Harrison, A.
C. McCalla, D. M. Davis, John "Jo-
ree" Davis, Edmund Horton and
Benj. Yancey.

The historic old 42nd Georgia Reg-
iment held a delightful re-union at
Conyers on July 23. Speaking, mu-
sic, dinner and a fine time generally
was indulged in. When gallant Bil-
lie Edwards, of Newton, color bearer
of the regiment, let the old battle
flag to the breeze, although torn and
tattered by shot and shell the vete-
rans sent up cheer after cheer. It
was a grand occasion and all had a
glorious time. Covington and New-
ton was well represented.

Our deacons
elected in a prim
prefer as candi-
officers won to
the result of th
said in the elect
If we can serve
on us.
The city con
three violators o
on Saturday thu
It appears to be
council to discou
system. We in
good order, else
factory work on
demanded.

Some people cl
don't pay, but u
sums up the valo
follows: Let his
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Gaither Family

Dr. Henry Gaither, Medical Doctor b. Aug. 8, 1801, d. Jan. 27, 1891, m. Sara Ann Cole Gaither b. Nov. 15, 1810, d. Oct. 13, 1871. (According to the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Ga. her maiden name was Cole). Their children: Hulbert B. Gaither, medical apprentice, b. Aug. 6, 1836, d. Jan. 15, 1861; Ella M. Gaither Hargrove b. Jan. 10, 1851, d. Mar. 1, 1897, m. Capt. J. S. Hargrove; Brice T. Gaither, b. Apr. 13, 1828, d. Sept. 21, 1853, (Student Physician, m. Elizabeth Jarrett Nov. 27, 1851, according to Putnam County marriage records page 33); Alexander Means Gaither b. Mar. 29, 1842, d. 1854; Mary H. Gaither b. Apr. 30, 1849, d. May 7, 1854, (the above births and deaths records recorded from the headstones in the Oxford Historial Cemetery, Oxford, Ga. ~~Cemetery, Covington, Ga.~~); Sara A. E. Gaither Griffin b. 1838; Augustus L. Gaither b. 1844. The above two births concluded from their ages given in the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Ga. Their dates of death not known. It is known that Augustus married and that he moved to Milledgeville, Ga. in his later years.

The following is recorded in the Gaither Family Bible, inscribed: "Presented to William H. and Cecelia B. Gaither by their father, Dr. H. Gaither, April 20th, 1856": William Hulbert Gaither b. Mar. 5, 1832, d. July 18, 1890, m. Dec. 6, 1855 to Cecelia Billups Wood b. July 18, 1838, d. Dec. 27, 1916. Children: Sara Clara Gaither b. Sept. 12, 1856, d. Nov. 21, 1865; Mary Jane Stokes Gaither b. Mar. 19, 1860, d. Aug. 1887, m. Dec. 9, 1879 to Emmett A. Heard. They had one child who lived named Edwin Anthony Heard who was born May 13, 1885; Henry Gaither b. Dec. 10, 1865, date of death not known; William

Hulbert Gaither b. Dec. 10, 1868, d. Apr. 27, 1934, m. Feb. 1, 1893 to Mary Lelia Biggers b. July 23, 1875, d. July 17, 1957. She was the daughter of Leroy Theodore Biggers b. 1845, d. 1936. His wife, Perlina Lunsford b. 1857, d. 1930. They m. 1873.

Children of William Hulbert and Mary Lelia Biggers Gaither:

(1) Janie Heard Gaither b. Oct. 22, 1893, d. Nov. 3, 1985, m. John Arthur Arnold June 21, 1917. Their children: Rosemary Arnold b. Sept. 16, 1919, m. Dec. 24, 1938 Robert Gillman Williams; Hulbert Gaither Arnold b. Jan. 9, 1921; John Arthur Arnold b. May 5, 1922; William Edward Arnold b. Apr. 2, 1924, deceased; Janie Elizabeth Arnold Ryan b. June 30, 1926; Genevieve Arnold Alpert b. May 27, 1928.

(2) Willie Lee Gaither b. July 11, 1897, d. Feb. 9, 1953, m. Elsie Terry. One child: Maurice Gaither b. May 2, 1930, d. June 24, 1985, m. May 5, 1956 Shirley Ann Graham b. July 29, 1935. Children: Judith Ann Gaither b. July 18, 1959, m. Aug. 22, 1985 Bryan Keith Long; Kimberly Joan Gaither b. May 5, 1969.

(3) Annie Laurie Gaither b. Apr. 27, 1899, m. Nov. 9, 1921 David Coleman Butler b. Dec. 11, 1896, d. Sept. 13, 1976. Children: (A) Mary Lucy Butler b. May 26, 1923, m. Mar. 26, 1943 John Lamar Callaway, Jr. b. Oct. 26, 1918. Children: (1) Lucy Catharine Callaway, R.D., b. Dec. 9, 1946, m. Oct. 4, 1970 to Michael Barron Sigman, D.V.M., b. Sept. 7, 1946, their children: Michael Barron Sigman, Jr. b. Dec. 13, 1973 and Mary Bess Sigman b. July 5, 1978; (2) Major John Lamar Callaway, III, b. Nov. 3, 1950, m. June 30, 1973 Sara Lee Thompson b. Jan. 26, 1952, children: John Kristian Callaway b. Dec. 27, 1975 and Amy Lee Callaway b. Oct. 20, 1979; (3) Roy Ezell

Callaway, Pharmacist, b. Mar. 22, 1953, m. June 9, 1978 Mary Ann Barton b. Apr. 15, 1957, children: Mary Elizabeth Callaway b. Nov. 18, 1980 and John Barton Callaway b. Jan. 10, 1986. (B) David Coleman Butler, Jr. b. Apr. 29, 1926, m. Sept. 11, 1949 Mary Hays Blackwell, children: David Coleman Butler, III, b. Jan. 14, 1951; James Blackwell Butler b. July 15, 1952; George Butler b. Nov. 22, 1954, deceased; Polly Butler b. Oct. 13, 1956. (C) Pauline Butler b. Apr. 11, 1929, m. Nov. 12, 1949 Herbert Royce Frost, M.D., b. Nov. 8, 1927, d. 1983, children: Annie Laurie Frost Roberson Berry b. June 23, 1950, Mary Lucy Frost Moore b. Dec. 6, 1954, and Henry E. Frost b. Nov. 9, 1958.

(4) Pauline Billips Gaither b. Sept. 11, 1901, d. 1986, m. Aug. 16, 1927 Frank Arden Perkins, deceased. Children: Frank Arden Perkins, Jr. b. Dec. 17, 1929, m. June 3, 1951 to ~~Frank Arden Perkins~~ ^{Flora Nell Adkins.} ~~deceased. Children: Frank Arden Perkins, Jr. b. Dec. 17, 1929, m. June 3, 1951 to Flora Nell Adkins.~~ Children: Paul Andrew Perkins b. Feb. 7, 1954, David Mitchell Perkins b. Feb. 18, 1957, George Gaither Perkins b. June 18, 1935. While serving with the Navy, George met and married an Australian girl. They have two daughters. Names and births not known. George and his family make their home in Australia.

(5) Edwin Hulbert Gaither b. Aug. 29, 1908, m. Aug. 31, 1940 Margaret Turner from Gay, Ga. Both are deceased. No children.

(6) Mary Wood Gaither b. June 18, 1911, now deceased, m. Dec. 9, 1932 Hardy Gregory from Vienna, Ga. Children: Edwin Alton Gregory b. Sept. 1933, Hardy Gregory, Jr. b. Aug. 12, 1936, now a Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, Charles Gaither Gregory b. Apr. 19, 1939, William Hulbert Gregory b. May 6, 1940.

wall of defense in a time of need. Mr. Jones never forgot them. The preacher stationed at the First church in Rome, Rev. W. H. LaPrade, and our presiding elder, Rev. Simon Peter Richardson, just the man, through God, to lead and guide Mr. Jones, helping him shape his future life by constantly encouraging him.

From this work he was moved to the Newberne circuit in Newton county, Georgia. There he spent two very pleasant and successful years. He was more successful in building up his churches, and in converting the unsaved than any years of his pastoral life. This circuit had four churches, and it was possible for him to devote more time to them. One of the most striking incidents on that circuit happened at a country place where the unconverted people wanted preaching. It was somewhat of a fifth wheel to his circuit. He found only four members there; a gentleman and his daughter, and a lady and her son, constituted the church. He began to inquire who lived in that neighborhood, saying that he would have to have a quorum before he could get down to business. On Saturday before the fifth Sunday in March he went to the home of one of the best farmers, who was a graduate of Emory College. His name was Gaither. Finding that he was not a member of any church, he said to him: "I haven't enough members in my little church to work with, and I want you to join to-morrow." Mr. Gaither replied, "I can't join the church. I always said I never would until I got religion." Mr. Jones said, "Would you know religion if you were to see it coming down the road" He laughed and said, "I suppose not. I swear, and drink sometimes, and I am not going to join the church and do like others have done." Mr. Jones said, "The very fact that you swear and drink is the reason that I want you to join the church; you have sense and honor, and if you connect yourself with the church, you will quit cussing and drinking." His wife was a good, charitable woman, and read her Bible carefully and attended upon service regularly. Mr. Jones turned to her and said, "I want you to join the church with your husband." She replied, "I will never join the church until I am converted." He had a hard time with this man and his wife, and decided he had struck two of the hardest cases he had ever encountered. He went to the church and

preached, and at close of the sermon he opened the doors of the church, and they walked up and joined, with eleven others. Mr. Jones went back there on the fifth Sunday in July, to hold a three days' meeting. We spent Saturday night at his home, and his wife and I and little child drove to the church that night while Mr. Jones and he walked over the field to the church. It was a beautiful night, and the moon was shining brightly. One of the men who had joined the church with Mr. Gaither was his brother-in-law, Watt Griffin. Mr. Jones turned to his host and said, speaking of this brother, "How is old Watt?" He replied, "He is doing his whole duty." Mr. Jones realizing that such a man would have to be constant in his religious life to succeed, said, "He couldn't be religious if he didn't." Whereupon Mr. Gaither remarked, "Can any man be religious who doesn't do his whole duty?" Mr. Jones said, "Well, I suppose not." Said Gaither, "I joined the church three months ago when you were here, and I haven't got any more religion (pointing toward us) than that old horse that is pulling our wives to the church. I haven't sworn or drank any, but I haven't done my duty, and I am willing to go to work if that will bring religion to me, so if you want me as a Sunday-school superintendent, appoint me; if you want to make a class-leader or a steward out of me, I will do my best. If you want me to pray, call on me—" then suddenly he exclaimed, "Glory to God, I've got it now, I've got it now!" and out there in the open field, with his mind made up to serve God, the Lord graciously saved him. He was always one of the most godly and influential members at that little church.

It was while on this circuit that he began to get invitations asking him to assist pastors in their revival work. He visited a great many of the small towns within the bounds of adjoining circuits, where there were many great and glorious revivals. One of them was at Thomson, Ga. His appearance in that town was so unlike the ministry of any one else that it was refreshing to both saint and sinner. The Honorable Tom Watson was a young lawyer in the town, and in after years he wrote his impressions of Mr. Jones and the revival.

"In the good year 1877, Sam Jones lit down in this veritable town



History of Gaither's

About the house:

Historians have dated the main house of the plantation from the 1850's. The east wing, now the kitchen, shows signs of an earlier construction, as evidenced by distinctive saw marks and framing members. The house is a two-thirds Georgian plan with Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. The front porch has elaborate sawn Italianate woodwork in addition to the round headed paneling of the front door. The interior doors, windows, mantles, moldings, and staircase are typical of the Greek Revival Style.

About the owners:

The plantation was named for William Hulbert (W.H.) Gaither, the son Dr. Henry Gaither. Dr. Gaither was a physician from Hancock County who came to Oxford around 1827. He had eight children and had his sons educated at Emory College at Oxford. Two of these sons, W.H. and Augustus owned and lived on so much land that the southeastern part of Newton County was known as Gaithers district. Augustus gave one acre of land to Methodist Episcopal Church. Gaithers Methodist Church is still a thriving community of worship today. W.H. married Cecilia Billups Wood, the daughter of a Newton County pioneer, Cary Wood. On May 21, 1881, W.H. deeded 875 acres to Cecilia "in consideration of great love and affection".

In 1888, W.H.'s son, Henry, killed a neighboring tenant farmer, George Smith. After Smith had started a brush fire which destroyed the nests of Henry's turkeys, Henry struck him in the head with a stick and killed him. Henry fled Newton County for Colorado never to return. W.H. died in 1890. These tragic events, followed by the destruction of several cotton crops by the boll weevil in the early 1900's forced Cecilia, her son W.H. Junior and his family to move from the farm to their town home on Conyers Street in Covington across from Academy Springs. In 1921 Cecilia filed for bankruptcy and lost the plantation. Some time later the McIntosh family acquired the property and built the pond behind the house.

In the late 1940's, Ralph and Chris ^{Welchel} bought the plantation. They raised beef and a hay crop. They added an open porch facing the barn. The ^{Kentucky} ~~Welchels~~ were active members of the Gaither community and are fondly remembered by several current Newton County citizens who recall working and playing at the plantation.

In the ¹⁹⁷⁰ ~~early 1970~~'s an Austrian businessman purchased several parcels of land totaling 2200 acres, including Gaither's. The land was used for farming and hunting.





Recent Events:

Newton County purchased the land in 1996 as part of the Bear Creek Reservoir project. In 1997, the University Of Georgia Department Of Historic Preservation surveyed Gaither's, found the structure in sound condition, and declared the house and grounds to be an excellent site for a preservation project. The County and Gaither's volunteers built several farm buildings on the site using lumber from the property. The buildings include a barn, stables, and a blacksmith shop. In 2003, Gaithers was designated as a National-Historical Site.

Newton County

In 2000, the Harris Springs Primitive Baptist Church was moved from Highway 11 near Social Circle to Gaither's by Newton County and the Newton County Historical Society. It has been beautifully and accurately restored. A rustic log cabin has been donated by the Dennard family of Gum Creek Road in Oxford and will be restored during 2004. Future plans include a crossroads community centered on the church. This community would include a store and a school typical of the time between 1850 and 1900. *A house donated by Mrs. Bell*

Funding and Management:

Gaither's is operated jointly by Newton County and volunteers represented by a group called the Friends of Gaither. The cost of maintaining facilities is included in the county budget and includes a full time, on site, caretaker. Development is funded jointly by the county, tax deductible donations, and special events. Over the years, gifts have been received from generous individuals and companies like John Deere, the Porter and Arnold Charitable Funds, the Satsuki Garden Club and Ginn Motor Company. Some costs are recovered with revenue from weddings and other events and from annual Festivals.

