

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

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Alco-lachia: A Bootleg Biography

Zachary Walls



Prohibition Hit Georgia Hard
Photo Courtesy of www.Alamy.com

Apple houses. Chicken houses. Scenic second homes. Ellijay, a once-small town in northern Georgia is known for these establishments. However, few realize the significance of alcohol in this quaint town, especially as Ellijay's fame rapidly spreads across America for its romantic farm-life experiences. For instance, the newly established Reece's Cider Company, an offshoot of famed BJ's Apple House and a unique cider brewery to-boot, recently announced plans to expand despite existing for only a few years. This article explores the history of alcohol in Gilmer County (Ellijay and East Ellijay), stemming from Georgia's founding days as a British Colony, through Prohibition in the early 1900s, and ending with the numerous breweries and wineries spread across the romanticized Ellijay countryside today. It's not just apples, y'all!



Alco-Lachia: A Bootleg Biography

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As a proud Southern colony, nearly a century-and-a-half before the War Between the States (The Civil War), Georgia's Savannah would act as a British foothold when in the year 1733 General James Oglethorpe landed with one-hundred and twenty passengers on a bluff overlooking the Savannah River. Oglethorpe christened the thirteenth colony as "Georgia", after the then-current British monarch King George II. Furthermore, Savannah would act as a trade-zone for new colonists, as well as a stronghold to keep imperial colonist-rival Spain in check, as Spain occupied what would become Florida. Following Oglethorpe, however, alcohol quickly became a contested topic in this last of the thirteen colonies.¹

Of course, when speaking of American colonies, Native Americans are rarely far off. Alcohol consumption became a common activity for British colonists, and rum was the drink of choice. As is so frequent in history, the local natives became addicted to the substance when offered the intoxicant in trade for their goods. Yamacraw Indians indulged in this pleasure to the point that their chieftain demanded that Oglethorpe end the trade of rum to his people. More than this, alcoholism became common among Oglethorpe's men, with several violent events occurring following settler intoxication. Soon after, the administration outlawed all strong liquors, allowing taverns to serve only lesser drinks like beer and wine.² The state of Georgia would continue struggles such as this over the centuries, with laws both for and against booze frequenting the state.

While Savannah is a city in southern Georgia, a considerable distance from Ellijay, one can see that Georgia has had its dance with alcohol use. Indeed, the distillation of moonshine itself stems from the influx of Scots Irish immigrants to the American Southeast in the 1780s.³ Northern Georgia would indeed shape history with its many squabbles concerning inebriation. The poison of choice for these mountaineers? Illegally brewed moonshine. Of course, moonshine was nothing new to Southern Appalachia. It acts as both a local pleasure and a great source of income. Around 1870 following the years of the Civil War, the government cracked down on this pleasure, demanding taxes. This did not bode well to southern mountaineers, who evaded millions of dollars of liquor tax. Worst hit of all southern states was Georgia, when agents violently campaigned to end moonshine production causing numerous deaths.⁴

¹History of Savannah." Visit Savannah, 2023. <https://www.visitsavannah.com/article/history-savannah/>.

²Washnock, Kaylynn. Wrestling Temptation: The Quest to Control Alcohol in Georgia. New Georgia Encyclopedia, December 7, 2021. <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/exhibition/wrestling-temptation-the-quest-to-control-alcohol-in-georgia/>.

³Eileen Falkenberg-Hull, "Why Is Georgia Known for Moonshine?," Why Is Georgia Known for Moonshine? (Explore Georgia, January 2022), <https://www.exploregeorgia.org/blog/why-is-georgia-known-for-moonshine>.

⁴Washnock, "Wrestling Temptation."



Alco-Lachia: A Bootleg Biography

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Nationwide prohibition only strengthened anti-alcohol fervor. Georgia was the first Southern state to ban alcohol, passing a bill in 1907. This dryness occurred because of a mixture of religious extremism and scapegoating. Many women supported the temperance movement, forming organizations such as WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union). Furthermore, Atlanta's early-twentieth century race riots led state legislators to blame liquor for the violent outbursts among urban African Americans. While the blame is not the fault of Georgian minorities, the early-1900s stereotype of the savage black man was prominent enough to cause fear among lawmakers. Despite having a long history of alcohol use and related merriment, Georgia was one of the strongest supporters of Prohibition.⁵



*Lynn Hale beside Moonshine Museum at Hillcrest Orchards
Photo Courtesy of Hillcrest Orchards*

When one thinks of moonshine, it is doubtful that NASCAR comes to mind. NASCAR's origins are tied to moonshine and law evasion in Southern Appalachia. Impoverished mountaineers struggled, more so than most other places in the United States. These families and individuals were mostly self-sufficient, making their own food and

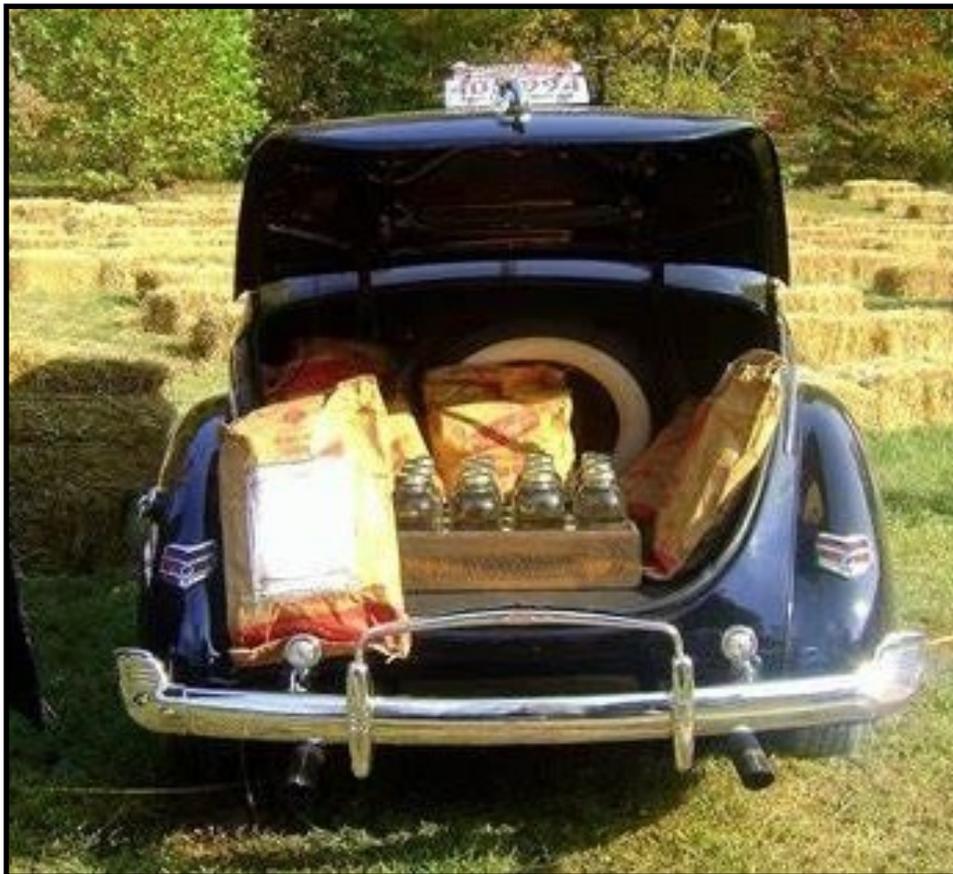
⁵Ibid.



Alco-Lachia: A Bootleg Biography

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clothes, and had little actual cash money.⁶ Out of desperation, individuals and families felt forced to break the law by brewing and running moonshine. Indeed, entire nuclear family structures were built around the illicit trade of booze with the parents usually acting as administration and security, the children as the actual car drivers. In the mountains, one needed to be fast to evade pursuing law enforcers. Thus, these “runners” modified their cars to be as fast and maneuverable as possible so as not to be caught. Drivers removed the rear and passenger seats, like racecars, to be able to store as much moonshine as possible outside the driver’s seat. With these modifications, the law could rarely catch these ingenious smugglers. Indeed, early NASCAR cars emulated these booze-carrying cars and their ability to dodge the law.



*Moonshine Stock Car
Photo Courtesy of Hillcrest Orchards*

⁶Kristin Smith, personal correspondence with author.



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In between smuggling runs, some local moonshine car drivers decided to take their skills and craftsmanship to the competitive level by racing across mountain dirt roads. The use of these speedy modified cars and competitive racing did not die with Prohibition in 1933. Instead, with less products to smuggle, these drivers decided to use their modified speed-wagons for the world's oldest sport: racing. Unlike moonshine smuggling, this sport was in fact legal, and a different means to earn both cash and fame.⁷ These races proved to be entertaining, with a record-breaking 30,000 viewers spectating one of the earliest events. In 1948, the National Association of Stock Car Racing (NASCAR) formed and built the first official track, The Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina, where the first official race occurred in 1949.⁸

While illegal, moonshining was extremely common in the North Georgia mountains. Just ask Laura Thomas, who owns Green Willow Soap in Ellijay. Her grandfather "Paw-Paw" John Clifford McClure, born at the foot of Springer Mountain, was a prominent bootlegger and relayed numerous stories of his escapades to her while growing up. According to Thomas, "...it was just a thing you did [back in the day]." Indeed, moonshining was so common that the local judges would rarely deal out punishments above the proverbial slap on the wrist. For instance, famed local shiner Tuss McClure only had to pay \$500 as punishment, a sum this eccentric man always carried on his person. A local legend, many families who had a history of bootlegging knew of Tuss and his adventures across North Georgia. Regretfully, Tuss was murdered in the mid-1960s. The reasons and murderer's identity are unknown, but some speculate that the fact Tuss always kept money on himself played a part. No matter the reason, McClure's murder is well known to those who lived around Gilmer during the 1960s.⁹

Thomas argues that organized crime played a heavy role in twentieth century bootlegging. Law enforcement officials only truly became concerned about bootlegging when intelligent criminal activity rooted itself in North Georgia. It was not merely liquor-running: these gangsters murdered both innocent citizens and rival moonshiners. Tuss may well have been murdered by these violent criminals; the cash he carried may have been inconsequential.

⁷Dave Tablar, "Moonshine and NASCAR," Moonshine and NASCAR (Appalachian History, March 20, 2007), <https://www.appalachianhistory.net/2007/03/moonshine-and-nascar.html>.

⁸Mary Huddleston, "NASCAR's Forgotten Roots in Appalachia," NASCAR's forgotten roots in Appalachia (Collegiatetimes, December 3, 2015), http://www.collegiatetimes.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-nascars-forgotten-roots-in-appalachia/article_be38d664-9704-11e5-bbf1-b3c22040da19.html.

⁹Laura Thomas, personal correspondence with author.



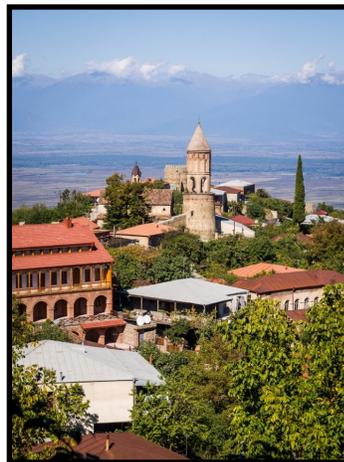
Alco-Lachia: A Bootleg Biography

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Hillcrest Orchards' co-owner Lynn Hale, in addition to being a businessman-farmer, has a history with North Georgia bootlegging.⁹ Hale began his practice in both Cobb County and Paulding County where most bootleggers sold their product from their houses, usually by the gallon. Hale did not sell shine himself: his job was to transport the product across Georgia. Hale, like most runners, used a cheap, slightly modified car to transport moonshine and avoid the law. Indeed, Hale claims that the cheaper cars were best for this because of their disposable nature. When not brewed and sold in the house, the woods proved to be an alternate, yet riskier location. Bootlegging could be precarious because if one's neighbors discovered nearby brewers, they could report them to the authorities.

Why did bootlegging decline over the 20th century? Thomas and Hale have different explanations. Thomas believes that organized crime played a part, while Hale argues that stronger inebriates like marijuana and cocaine replaced booze. People preferred these drugs because they were stronger, though Hale "...wouldn't know about that." While hard liquor struggled as the years went on, wine only grows in popularity even today.¹⁰

Wine, like other forms of alcohol, is quite popular in the North Georgia mountains. It is thus ironic that the country of Georgia, not the state, has the oldest history of winemaking in the world. Scholars trace wine-related activity going back until 6,000 B.C.E. in this country. Indeed, wine remains an important aspect of both the state and country named Georgia today.¹¹



Country of Georgia Winery

Photo Courtesy of

<https://www.winetourism.com/wine-country/georgia/>

⁹ Lynn Hale, personal correspondence with author.

¹⁰ ¹¹ "Discover the Secret Birthplace of Wine," Discover the Secret Birthplace of Wine (National Geographic, May 21, 2018), <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/sponsor-content-secret-birthplace-of-wine>.



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The Georgia Blue Ridge mountains are now known for their winemaking, as is plain from the number of vineyards. Today, this state houses more than seventy-five wineries, almost double that of the previous decade! Just as moonshine was common in pre-Prohibition Georgia, Georgia identified itself as America's sixth-largest wine producing state. Furthermore, the global pandemic only promoted greater wine tourism. Tourists are not only interested in wine-consumption: vineyard tours are commonplace as well. Tours last one-to-two hours on average, and some North Georgia wineries even offer visits inside "wine caves," which are exactly what they sound like. Additionally, many local second homeowners open their cabins and homes to visitors frequenting the mountain wineries, making a great profit from those seeking to stay in the mountains.¹²

In summary, liquor has an extensive history in the state of Georgia. Whether used for money or pleasure, moonshine is a key aspect of understanding the history of this iconic state. There are, however, other means of educating oneself about Georgia liquor. The famous 1958 post-noir movie "Thunder Road" details the plight of bootleggers trying to make do, as gangsters and law enforcement alike plagued this illegal trade. Additionally, this article draws upon knowledge and pictures from the Hillcrest Moonshine Museum. For more details, be sure to pay this popular Ellijay apple house a visit in the autumn months. Hopefully, upon reading this, one may more greatly appreciate this booming trade not only in Gilmer, but across southern "Alco-lachia."



One of Several Vineyards in Ellijay, Georgia
Photo courtesy of Barbara J. Dover

¹² "Wine Country Atlanta GA," Wine Country Atlanta GA (New York Times), accessed February 15, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/29/travel/wine-country-atlanta-ga.html>.



The President's Post

John Davis



Welcome to the first 2023 edition of our quarterly Gilmer County Genealogical Society's newsletter *Mountain Heritage!* Our first two months of this year have been exciting and productive. Our new GCGSI Board of Directors has been very active in setting a course for the coming year.

We have recruited a group of dynamic speakers for our monthly meetings, with the first two meetings producing near-record attendance. Our Program Chairperson is continuing to seek and secure speakers of local interest, so if there is someone or some subject you would like to see in a future program, please let Barbara J. Dover know by emailing her at gilmergenealogy@gmail.com.

We are expanding our love for genealogy and our ancestry into other groups and facilities within the community through our Community Outreach program, and are asking for volunteers to join the committee. More information about this committee is found in this newsletter.

Our latest publication, ***The Evolution of Ellijay, Georgia 1921-2021 A Century of Change*** continues to sell well, and we recently had to order a second printing of the book from the publisher. The book can be purchased from Walls of Books, any board member, at our monthly meetings, at the monthly Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and via mail order. The mail order form may be found on our website (www.gcgisi.org). It has popular appeal to anyone interested in or who has lived through the evolution of Ellijay, Gilmer's county seat.

First Families of Gilmer County Chairperson Gladys Spivey, with the help of Corresponding Secretary/Historian Rebecca Burrell, is in the process of compiling a new reference book of the churches and cemeteries in Gilmer County. We look forward to having this available in the Family Research Center of the Gilmer County Library. And we continue to purchase quality reference material to be placed in our library. If you know of a publication that would assist you in your research, please let us know.

As you may be aware, our organization was instrumental in completing a service project at one of the old forgotten cemeteries in the community. Our treasurer Susan Noles shares an article in this newsletter that was previously published in the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society's newsletter about this restoration project. Thanks to the community team for their support and hard work, the Rose Cemetery is no longer forgotten.

Our First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia group that is under the umbrella of GCGSI continues to grow with new applications each month. We just had two new approved applications in February. Gladys Spivey is our First Families Chairperson and is always ready to assist you in your research for First Families or any other ancestry search. Recognizing and remembering our ancestors is an important part of our heritage, regardless of where they originally settled.

GCGSI is hitting on all cylinders! We welcome your membership and participation in our organization and continue to accept membership dues for 2023.



Chamber of Commerce Connections

Patricia “Trish” Hyatt Henson



The Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce Network Luncheon was held on February 9, 2023, and attended by Brenda Cochran, Patricia Henson, and Neva Kelaher. The total attendance for the event was approximately 135 businesspersons from the surrounding area. This monthly luncheon was sponsored by H & R Tax Consultants who gave a brief update on the new tax stipulations that are to be in effect for this tax year.

Following the report by the sponsor, Pamela Richards, Advertising Initiatives Manager with *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *ConNext*, presented strategies and innovations in marketing through the development and use of advertising through print, digital, and live events. She emphasized targeting your market, advertising and promotion, and making sure that the same information is used at all times in the various areas of advertising.

Through networking with attendees, we gained two new members to GCGSI. We look forward to welcoming them to our society.

Community Outreach

Barbara J. Dover

A portion of the purpose of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc. as stated in our by-laws is “To promote awareness of personal family history and the history of Gilmer County.” In addition to our monthly meetings, publications, and media notices, we would like to create an actual outreach program in our local community to further fulfill our purpose.

We currently have representatives attending the Gilmer Chamber of Commerce meetings, but we would like to be represented at other local organizations’ meetings, such as the Gilmer Retired Educators. We have been invited to present short programs at The Oaks assisted living facility, and other facilities such as Parkside, Manor Lake, and Sunshine would probably welcome that as well. As a matter of fact, our treasurer Susan Noles recently donated copies of our books *Poetry from the Mountains*, *Reflections on Mountain Heritage*, and *Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia* to each of these facilities. (See page 10.)

See Community Outreach, page 10.



Community Outreach
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Spending a day in a middle school classroom encouraging students to find their roots would be an interesting way to incorporate personal with world history. Suggesting projects such as making an audio or video recording of parents and grandparents or coordinating a timeline with world events and ancestors' events would be rewarding to all involved.

Cemetery and gravestone cleaning of ancestors is another form of outreach, albeit hands-on. This labor of love could lead to research of some of the early settlers of Gilmer County to be shared with their family members, in our newsletter, and at our meetings.

We invite any member interested in further developing this purpose of GCGSI to become a member of a new Community Outreach Committee. You might not want to be a public speaker, but work on assisting in the behind-the-scenes activities like outlining a speech or program, writing a lesson plan, or creating a slideshow is just as valuable. Just contact us at gilmergenealogy@gmail.com and we will go from there.



*GCGSI Book Donations to
Gilmer County's Assisted Living Facilities
by Treasurer Susan Noles
(Clockwise from left:)

Sonshine Manor with Loy
and her puppy

Manor Lake with Katelynn

Parkside with Debbie

The Oaks with Lori*





First Quarter Highlights 2023

Photos: Barbara J. Dover

January Monthly Meeting January 21, 2023 Gilmer County Library

The McClure County of Gilmer County
Laura McClure Thomas, Speaker
Owner of *Green Willow Soap*



Laura McClure Thomas

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society's first meeting of 2023 was held on Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Gilmer County Library. Laura McClure Thomas, owner of Green Willow Soap, gave genealogical information about ***The McClure Family of Gilmer County***, a family that dates back to the mid-1800's in the Bucktown community of the county. She also shared amusing stories about her many ancestors' interesting livelihoods and activities, and talked about how her business of soap-making harkens back to the days when her McClure ancestors made everything by hand.

Author and First Families of Gilmer County member Dennis Craig Stewart was the speaker for the February 18 meeting of GCGSI. His presentation, ***The Hills of Mountaintown***, was enthusiastically received by the over 50 people in attendance, many of them also descendants of those Hills. The stories told of his ancestors William H. Hill, William Franklin Hill, and their families and neighbors were informative, entertaining, and poignant. The excerpts from Martha DeBord Hill's diary were thoughtful and eloquent, and the lives of W.F. Hill and A. J. Cole proved the persistence and strength of these Mountaintown men in the 1800's.

February Monthly Meeting February 18, 2023 Gilmer County Library

The Hills of Mountaintown
Dennis Craig Stewart, Speaker
Author and First Families Member



Dennis Craig Stewart



The Murder of Lieutenant McIntyre: The Moonshine Wars of North Georgia

Rebecca Holt Amerson

***(This story has a lot of personal significance to me as
William Riley Holt was my Great Great Grand Uncle.)***

The Civil War was over and the south was adjusting to the changes brought about during Reconstruction. The story you are about to read happened in Fannin and Gilmer Counties in 1877 during a time simply known as **The Moonshine Wars**.

The *New Georgia Encyclopedia* explains it this way: During the Civil War, the U.S. Congress attempted to balance the national budget by creating the Internal Revenue Service to collect taxes on liquor, tobacco, and other luxuries. When they returned to the Union after the war, Georgians found themselves subject to this federal liquor tax. Many moonshine producers, mostly small farmers, refused either to discontinue their moonshine operations or to pay the tax on it. The production of moonshine was not in and of itself illegal, but attempts by producers to avoid paying the federal tax were. Such people became known as “moonshiners” because they operated their illegal stills at night. This sparked the much-publicized Moonshine Wars in north Georgia between moonshiners and revenueurs who invaded these mountains bolstered by United States troops.

Early in February of 1877 a raid was planned by a detachment of United States infantry accompanying revenue agents in the Frog Mountain area of Fannin County in and around the home of Ayers Jones. During the 2 a.m. ambush on or about February 14, Lieutenant Augustine McIntyre, Company E, Second Infantry, was killed. Immediate action was taken to bring the perpetrators to justice. The first to be arrested were William Riley Holt, son of Gilmer pioneer Larkin Holt, and his three oldest sons – James, John F., and William Holt.

The U. S. Marshal for the Middle District of Tennessee received the following dispatches:

Chattanooga, February 18 – Arrest a party of three young men, one old man, a woman and children, who are on the train. They are from Gilmer County, Georgia and have tickets to Texas. Meet them when the train arrives, or they will connect and go right on. The men participated in the murder of Lieutenant McIntyre, a few days since. Arrest and detain them. Don't fail.

Atlanta, February 19, to US Marshal, Nashville: Warrants for the Holts, for illicit distilling are on the way to Nashville. These men killed Lt. McIntyre, and must be held at all hazards. (Macon Telegraph, 27 Feb 1877)



The Murder of Lieutenant McIntyre: The Moonshine Wars of North Georgia
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William Riley Holt had been making plans to leave Gilmer County and move his entire family to Texas to join his wife's brother, E. F. Cody. In an early interview with a US District Attorney in Nashville where they were arrested, the elder Holt explained: ***I made my arrangements to go to Wise County, Texas (just northwest of Fort Worth), last fall; was delayed on account of some money that my neighbors owed me, which they could not raise till a week ago. I have a father-in-law and brother-in-law living in Wise County. (He showed us letters dated October saying 'we expect you daily.')*** ***Never distilled a drop of whiskey in my life. The murder took place about fifteen miles from my place, in Fannin, not Gilmer. I saw one of Lieut. McIntyre's men after the murder; talked with him about it. I have no idea who committed the murder.*** (Knoxville Daily Tribune 23 Feb 1877)

William Riley Holt continued to claim the Holts' innocence. ***We were treated not very kindly by the U. S. Marshal in Nashville, he having pulled us out of the train cars without giving us time to get our things together, and frightened my wife and children very much. I was never arrested before in my life, and I regret to be placed in chains at this age.*** (Knoxville Daily cont.) The women and children were allowed to use their tickets and continue on to Fort Worth, Texas and the four Holt men were taken to Atlanta, placed in Cell M of the Fulton County Jail, there to await trial.

HALT OF THE HOLTS appeared in the Atlanta Constitution on February 23. ***The party is made up of the father and 3 eldest sons of the Holt family. They look as little like fiends as one could possibly imagine. Their appearance is that of hard working uncultured mountain farmers and farm boys. They have nothing vicious in their looks, demeanor, or conversation. But on the contrary, have frank and unassuming habits. They talk with the utmost freedom and seem to have no secrets to hold back. The father, William Holt, is an old gray-haired and bearded man, and does not look like a man who would engage in a bloody midnight assassination. They all take the arrest and imprisonment with a good heart, and only ask a speedy investigation of their case, in order that they may go on about their journey and their business in the new home that they were seeking in the West.***



The Murder of Lieutenant McIntyre: The Moonshine Wars of North Georgia
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The Holts had visitors that came to Atlanta to support them and corroborate their intention to move to Texas. The state representative from Gilmer, Mr. Pickett, says that he also knew the Holts were preparing to leave for Texas before he left Gilmer to come to the legislative session, and he thinks the officers in this arrest have made a mistake and caught the wrong persons.

The Holts were finally released Monday, February 26, to continue their journey to Fort Worth, two weeks after their arrest. The railroad officials allowed the men passage from Atlanta to Nashville without charge to get them on their way.

Commentary published in the Memphis Daily, 4 March 1877: ***The great sensation caused by the arrest of old man Holt and his three sons, suspected as the murderers of the late Lt. M'Intyre, has subsided, and the country backwoodsmen have gone on their way to Texas. It is not expected that the loss of character will have attention, but for the weary days of anxiety and privation by confinement in loathsome jails. The time was when pride and confidence in civil liberty would have justified great indignation over such treatment. But, now, it is different and the future of such rights and liberties as were given us by our forefathers seem to be rapidly surrounded with the gravest danger.***

The search for those responsible for the murder of Lt. McIntyre continued in the area of Frog Mountain. The hunt for Ayers Jones and his brother Tom persisted, but thoughts are they escaped to North Carolina.

After the fiasco of the Holts who were recently released and sent on their way rejoicing, the marshals have had to see another solution to the mystery. In pursuance of their search they fell upon a neighborhood party of men, whom they arrested and brought hither under the charge of conspiracy. (Atlanta Constitution 16 March 1877)

Newly arrested were John Davenport and his neighbors – William Foster, Elijah Johnson, Tyree Higdon, Emeline Walker, Rufus Watson, and John H. Jones. Testimony was given that these folks were neighbors of Ayers Jones, but could not be placed there on the night Lt. McIntyre was murdered. ***The case, as closed by the government, was absolutely void of any circumstance connecting the prisoners with the crime. They were promptly discharged, much to their gratification and the joy of their friends. It was manifest that no connection was made of these parties with the killing and it is believed that this is but another Holt case.*** (Atlanta Constitution 17 March 1877)



The Murder of Lieutenant McIntyre: The Moonshine Wars of North Georgia

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When revenue officers had approached in the past, the moonshiners had always scattered in confusion into the mountains. The stand the mountain men took that day was the first the distillers had fired upon the US troops. Lt. McIntyre lay dead as a result. This unexpected attack brought into execution a plan that has long been ripening in revenue circles to make a grand raid through the invested belt and sweep it clean.
(Intelligencer, Anderson SC, 1 March 1877)

Governor Alfred Colquitt and the state legislature appointed a commissioner authorized ***to examine the state of affairs that gave rise to the arrest of citizens there by the officers of the United States government.*** (Atlanta Constitution 8 May 1877) They would be gathering information in Frog Mountain, Fighting Town, Board Town Creek, Noontootley and Tickanetley Creeks, southeastern parts of Gilmer County, and some parts of Pickens County. Hundreds of citizens were interviewed and their statements taken. The Atlanta Constitution published many of these statements in their 8 May 1877 issue. Those included:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Ayers Jones | William Crisp | John R. Reece |
| Emeline Walker | Sam Houston Green | William Akins |
| Nancy Jones | James M. Patterson | Sylvester Harmontree |
| Elizabeth Jones | Joseph Garrett | Thomas Taylor |
| John H. Jones | Milton Holt | Samuel L. Taylor |
| Sarah Ann Davenport | Miles Davis | B. M. Cowart |
| John F. Davenport | A. J. Cole | Marimen Moss |
| R. M. Watson | William Bradley | A. J. Glenn |
| Elijah Johnson | Glynn Cowart | |
| James M. Jones | Aaron Collins | |

These conclusions were made by Commissioner S. C. Williams after taking more than a 100 statements in regard to the recent arrests in the counties of Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens:

1. That while there may have been a large number of persons in these counties who had knowingly or unknowingly violated the revenue of the US government, a long while before, or immediately preceding the recent arrests, there has never been a time when an officer of the government could not have executed a legal warrant upon any one who was an offender.
2. That any troubles that may have arisen there were caused, not by an open resistance to the laws, or to the executors of the same, but by the characters of the officials employed to execute them, and the manner in which they have discharged that duty.

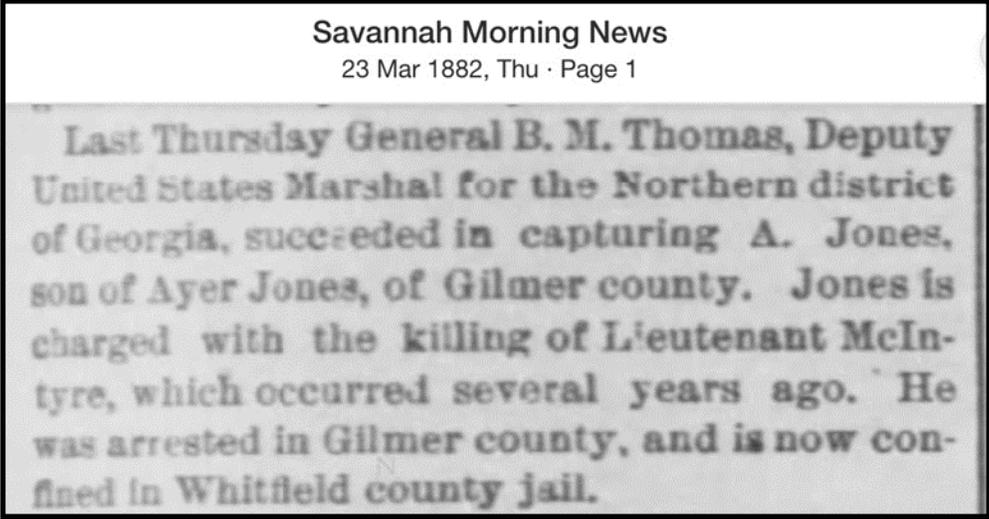


The Murder of Lieutenant McIntyre: The Moonshine Wars of North Georgia
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Thomas Jones and his brother Ayres were finally captured and charged with the murder of Lieut. McIntyre. Thomas and Ayers spent two years in Fulton County prison before they were acquitted. The brothers are listed there in the 1880 census as prisoners.

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---|--------|
| Jones Thomas M W #1 | Prisoner | / | Janner |
| Jones Ayres M W #1 | Prisoner | / | Janner |

This following newspaper clipping was the last entry I could find on a story that began in 1877, but may have no end.



The use of the army in support of the revenue officials inflamed the situation at the Jones cabin in Frog Mountain and led to the shooting of Lt. McIntyre. Before 1878, it was common for the United States Army to enforce civilian laws. Over time, marshals and county sheriffs regularly called upon the army to assist in enforcing the laws, including the collection of liquor taxes. Southern Democratic members of the House who resented widespread use of federal troops during Reconstruction introduced a new law to prohibit the military from performing civilian law enforcement duties such as arrest, apprehension, interrogation, and detention. The Posse Comitatus Act was signed on June 18, 1878 by President Rutherford B. Hayes.

(All newspaper clips sourced from Newspapers.com.)

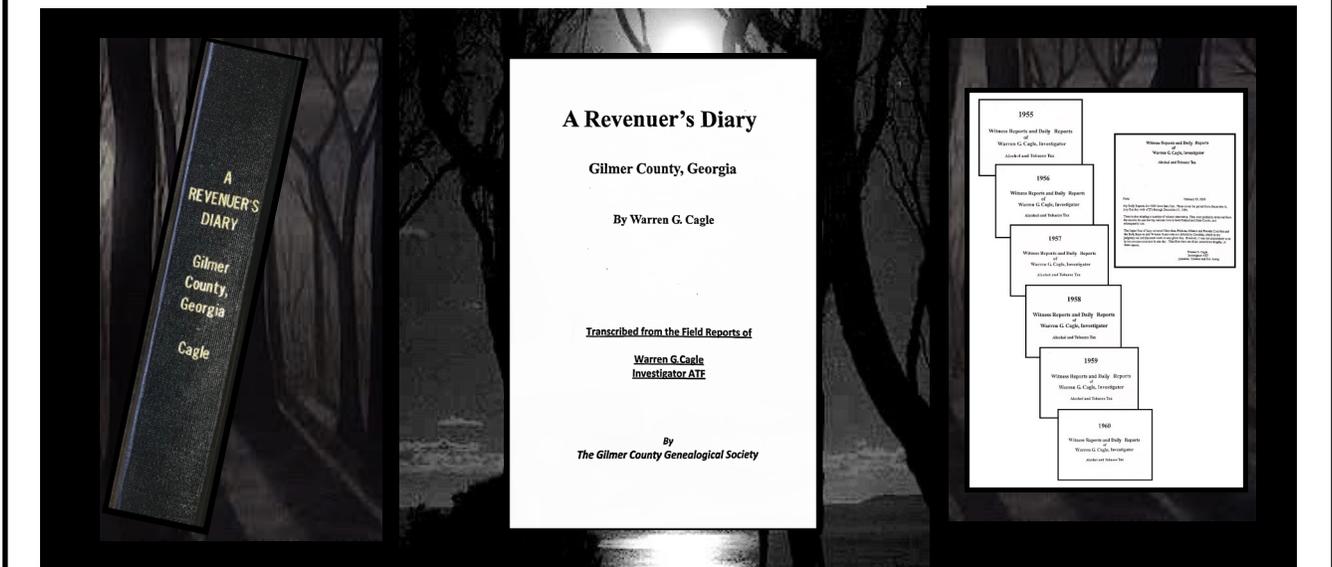


In 1959, The Rockabilly artist J. P. Richardson, aka The Big Bopper, wrote a novelty song about a kid whose “Pappy” made something he called “White Lightning.” It was recorded by George Jones and released 6 days after Richardson was killed in a plane crash along with other musicians Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens, and their pilot Roger Peterson. “White Lightning” was George Jones’ first number-one single, and it has since been covered by other musicians. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE5pM1HXxII>
 The chorus of the song goes like this:

“Well the "G" men, "T" men, revenuers, too
 Searchin' for the place where he made his brew
 They were lookin', tryin' to book him,
 But my pappy kept on cookin'
 Whshhhoooh...white lightning.”



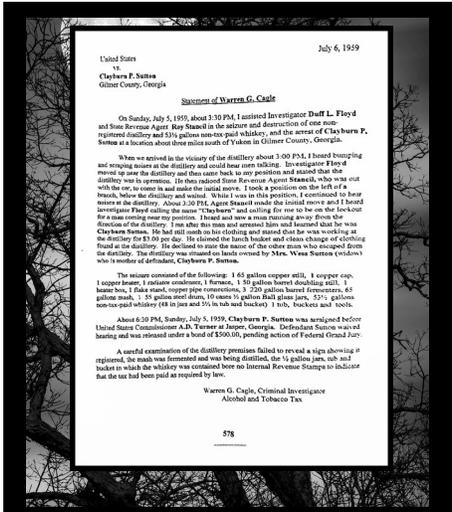
Music, books, screenplays, newspaper and magazine articles have been written about bootleggers of Appalachia and the actual non-tax-paid alcohol called moonshine, white lightning, mountain dew, hooch, and more. There are histories about how the souped-up cars transporting the non-tax-paid alcohol over treacherous mountain highways brought about stock car racing and eventually NASCAR. However, the law enforcement officers who were tasked with investigating and curtailing the illegal acts entailed with bootlegging were often maligned and rarely subject to the same media attention.



See *A Revenuer's Diary*, page 18.



A Revenuer's Diary -continued-

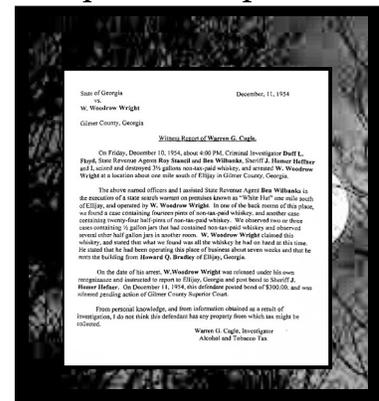


Nelson, Georgia native Warren G. Cagle was one of those officers who went out every day to observe and investigate the non-registered distilleries and producers of non-tax-paid liquor of Gilmer, Pickens, Cherokee, and Fannin Counties from 1954-1959. (Coincidentally, this was the same timeframe that Richardson's song was written and George Jones' recording sprang to the top of the charts.) An investigator with the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Bureau, or a "Revenuer" as mentioned in the chorus of "White Lightning," Cagle was required to log his day-to-day activity for use in arrests and court cases of those who manufactured and sold alcohol without paying tax to the federal government.

In his daily reports, there were some days that Cagle wrote about dismantling and confiscating various parts of the distilleries, and the confiscation of cooking supplies like sugar, corn mash, and half-gallon Ball-Mason jars along with the non-tax-paid product. Some days he wrote about leaving the still for observation. Other days he caught bootleggers on-site; arrested them; then dismantled and confiscated the unregistered still, cooking products, and non-tax-paid alcohol; and sometimes even confiscated the vehicle used to transport the moonshine. And more than once, Cagle wrote about his surveillance and investigations in what he called "The Ellijay Feed and Supply Company Conspiracy."

In 2010, Warren G. Cagle gave the Gilmer County Genealogical Society the rights to publish his reports; his friend and GCGSI founding member Betty Riddle transcribed them; and *A Revenuer's Diary* was published. The book quickly sold out, but there continued to be requests for it, so GCGSI member Susan Noles scanned the entire book of over 500 pages several years ago, and now we have digital copies available for purchase in either flash drive or cd format for \$25.00. The book is downloaded onto removable media for each individual request, therefore a mail order form is required for purchase. (<https://gcgisi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-GCGSI-Publications-Order-Form.pdf>. If you prefer to get your digital copy of *A Revenuer's Diary* at one of our regular meetings instead of having it shipped, please mark the order form.)

Pick up a digital copy of *A Revenuer's Diary* today, and read how Warren G. Cagle, investigator with the ATF Bureau in North Georgia, searched for the place where "Pappy" made his brew, looked and often booked, so "Pappy" no longer cooked, that White Lightning.





Research Corner

Please share with any board member or email the person directly if you can help with these inquiries. Thanks!



Rodger Markham via Facebook/Email: “Hello. I have ancestors from this and Fannin County Georgia. Specifically, my gr gr grandfathers Jesse Earl Newberry and John A Long. John was one of the original Founders of the town of Hickory Flats Georgia from land he received from a land lottery as a veteran of the War of 1812. Both great great grandfathers lived there from around 1834 and their descendants did onwards into the 1900s. Any info about the land lottery grants, especially of John A. Long of Hickory Flats, GA. or photos would be appreciated.” Contact Rodger Markham via email at da-rodg@msn.com.

Shirley Thompson Rogers via Facebook in response to Laura McClure Thomas’ presentation at the January 21 GCGSI meeting: “Would Nancy McClure be in that line?”

Kenneth Brown via Facebook Messenger: “I was wondering if any of the members (of GCGSI) are Greer descendants.”

Jamie Cox via email: “I am always interested in any information that may surface on Greene A. Jones in Ellijay around 1915-1926. He had a law office in Ellijay in 1925, and he was the treasurer of Ellijay. Contact Jamie Cox via email at jamiecox@me.com.

Ron Alexander via Facebook Messenger: “I’m interested in gathering information on John Piper Alexander and I’m wondering if this group can help?”

Tom Garner via Facebook Messenger: “Hi. Okie here with ancestral ties through a couple of different family lines to Hall County and Gilmer County Georgia. I wasn’t sure if this would be an appropriate public post so I’m sending it by private message. Due to a series of early deaths and a local gravestone birthdate being incorrect by a whole decade, my Thomas family is the last one I’m working on lately. In the next message is an 1860 US Census page from Gilmer County which shows my great grandfather William P. Thomas age 4. He is listed with, but not identified as the son of a couple ages 20 & 16, which makes them very young when William was born. I’m inquiring if there are local professional genealogists you would recommend to search Gilmer County guardianship & adoption records, to in fact document them as mother and son, as his father left for the civil war & in the 1870 census, his mother moved to Fannin County with her birth family and William stayed in Gilmer County with members of his Thomas family who is listed above and below them in the 1860 census. Any direction would be appreciated. Some day I hope to visit your beautiful part of the world.”

MISSISSIPPI - Free Schoolchildren in the County of Gilmer - State of Georgia - enumerated by sex, on the 1st day of June, 1860. W. P. Thomas, Cashier Post Office

| Age | Sex | Name | Color | Parent's Name | Parent's Color | Parent's Age | Parent's Sex | Parent's Name | Parent's Color | Parent's Age | Parent's Sex |
|-----|-----|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0 | M | William P. Thomas | W | James L. Thomas | W | 20 | M | James L. Thomas | W | 16 | F |
| 0 | F | Elizabeth Thomas | W | James L. Thomas | W | 20 | M | James L. Thomas | W | 16 | F |
| 1 | M | John Thomas | W | James L. Thomas | W | 20 | M | James L. Thomas | W | 16 | F |
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Rose Cemetery: The Restoration of an African American Cemetery (Reprint of Article written by Susan Noles for the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter)

(Editor's Note: The following is an article submitted to the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. newsletter by GCGSI Treasurer Susan Noles about the Restoration Project for Gilmer County's Rose Cemetery, an African American cemetery dating back to the late 1800's. The story of this labor of love was shared through the AAHGS in hopes of making connections to help in identifying the families whose ancestors are at rest in this restored place of peace and respect. It has been reprinted with permission from the author.)

Rose Cemetery: The Restoration of an African American Cemetery

Susan Noles

Have you ever had a strong force leading you or compelling you to do something? Maybe it was to leave a bigger tip or help someone find their way. The nagging doesn't go away until you finally do what you are being compelled to do.

In 1996, Jennifer Anderson moved onto property she and her husband bought to build a home in Gilmer County, Georgia. From the beginning, neighbors told her about a "slave cemetery" referred to as Rose Cemetery because there was only one headstone and it bore the inscription, "Mary Rose - early 1800s." Other graves were marked with fieldstones. Jennifer visited



Susan Noles and Jennifer Anderson

the cemetery, which had been abandoned and neglected decades earlier. It had been damaged by an electric company easement going through it, as well as people using it as a place to party and hang out.

In 2021, Jennifer met Susan Noles, who is just as passionate about historic preservation as Jennifer. Once Jennifer told Susan about the cemetery, they met to take a look.

What cemetery? There was nothing that could be seen except downed and broken trees, vines, waist-high weeds, and trash. There was a rusty wire fence that could not be seen for the growth.

After viewing it, Jennifer and Susan agreed that something had to be done to save the final resting place of so many unknown souls. The mutual feeling was, "Can We Do It? Yes, We Can!" and so the restoration of Rose Cemetery, an African American cemetery in Gilmer County, Georgia, began.

Around the middle of November 2021, clean up began with only the two ladies working. As word

spread about the project, some members of the Captain James Kell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and their husbands volunteered to help, as well as family members, friends, and neighbors. It became a community project with people stopping out of curiosity and staying to lend a hand. Many of the local residents didn't realize that there was a cemetery at the corner of John Teem Road and Raven Cliff Drive.

There was plenty of raking, shoveling, snipping, and removing of trash, which included a burned mattress, cans, bottles, and lots of barbed wire. Leaning trees and dead trees were repurposed. Some were mulched and others cut for firewood.

When Jennifer and Susan first started this project, they would say to each other, "Wouldn't it be great if we could have ground-penetrating radar (GPR) used to find out how many graves are here?" Of course, they never dreamed of being able to afford it, but miracles do happen. In March 2022, the Gilmer County Genealogy Society and two DAR sisters donated the money for the GPR. Through this process, sixty-seven graves were verified: only four were buried in caskets, the rest in shrouds. There are five babies, ten children/teens, and the rest are adults. Each grave is now marked with fieldstones for headstones and footstones and a ten-inch metal pin is located in the middle of each grave to ensure it is never lost again. If the pin gets covered with dirt and debris, a metal detector can be used to find each grave.

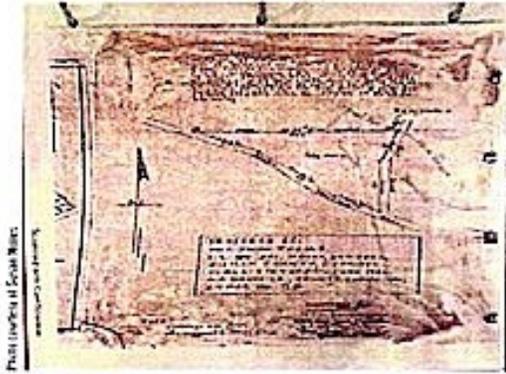


Len Strozler with Omega Mapping working with ground-penetrating radar to locate graves

AAHGS News



Rose Cemetery: The Restoration of an African American Cemetery
(Reprint of Article written by Susan Noles for the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter)
-continued-



A plat map of the area which helps prove this is an African American cemetery

While physically working, Jennifer and Susan also spent countless hours researching the land through deeds and tax records to find out who prior owners were. Before 1832, this land was Native American land in Cherokee County, Georgia, but with the land lottery of 1832, it was won by a John L. Davis from Clark County, Georgia. In 1834, the county of Gilmer was sectioned off from Cherokee County. The cemetery is located in Land Lot 300, District 11, Section 2 of Gilmer County. The land was owned by Mr. Davis until sometime after 1837. The next record found was a deed dated 21 October 1873, when G. W. Teems sold the property to Marion Palmer, a freedman, working for G. W. Teems. On 6 August 1886, the land was sold on

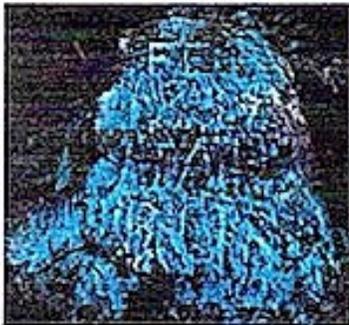
the courthouse steps to satisfy a justice court FIFA in favor of Martin V. Teem. No other records have been found concerning the case.

The land adjoining the cemetery was owned by an African American freedman, who was a preacher named Henry Wright. Through talking with people, it has been learned that there was a church located at the creek below the cemetery on Henry's property.

Research has produced names of three people resting in Rose Cemetery: Marion Palmer's daughter, Texanna; Mary Rose; and Rhoda Jane Roberts. Two separate eyewitness accounts have stated that at one time there was a headstone that read "Colored Soldier."

The 1880 US federal census mortality schedule shows that Texanna Palmer, age twelve, died at home. No information has been found about Mary Rose, who has a modern marker in the cemetery. There is no grave where the marker was placed, however, someone must have known she was there. An eyewitness account from Billy Bernhardt, the local funeral home director, tells that a marker for Rhoda Jane Roberts was at the front of the cemetery. This marker and all but one other were destroyed at some point.

There is one original marker remaining in the cemetery and it was found under an inch of dirt as the cleaning began. It has been photographed and manipulated but attempts to read the entire inscription have been unsuccessful.



The only original headstone



Phyllis and Rick Gutknecht delivering the fence they donated



Danny and Eli Anderson installing the fence

Photos courtesy of Susan Noles



Rose Cemetery: The Restoration of an African American Cemetery
(Reprint of Article written by Susan Noles for the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter)
-continued-

Judy Price, Jennifer Anderson, and Rodney Anderson taking a break on the bench and patio



Photo courtesy of Susan Noles



Men installing the name marker donated by Mr. Billy Burnhardt

Photo courtesy of Susan Noles

The 1870 census lists thirty African Americans with six Heads of Households living in the area. In 1880, there were forty-six African Americans with nine Heads of Households. The following are the Heads of Households: Marion Palmer, Sidney Richards, Alpha Palmer, Elviry Haren (female), Henry Roberts, Henry Wright, Judge Chandler, Barney Jackson, James Jackson, Burrell Jackson, Humphry Jackson, and Henry Patrick.

Rose Cemetery is no longer in an abandoned and neglected state. Many different plants are growing, a bluebird house is on a fence post, and there is an area with a bench where people can rest to enjoy the peacefulness and beauty. A DAR sister and her husband donated a black aluminum fence, running along two sides, which was installed by a volunteer. Mr. Bernhardt donated and installed the name marker outside the fence so that everyone knows about Rose Cemetery.

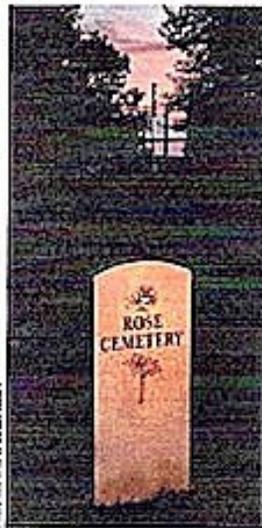


Photo courtesy of Susan Noles

"Rose Cemetery" is now the light on the hill for all to see!

By listening and acting on the force which compels, Jennifer and Susan accomplished a huge undertaking and a huge success. Granted, there is more to do, and the cemetery will always have maintenance, such as cutting grass and weeding, but credit for this project must go to everyone who was compelled, like Jennifer and Susan, to see this project to fruition and worked beside them donating time, energy, money, plants, and encouragement.

All involved have a common goal: to never allow Rose Cemetery and the people resting there to be abandoned and forgotten again. Thanks to a solar light on the name marker, "Rose Cemetery" is now the light on the hill for all to see!

Research is ongoing to identify people and families who are buried in Rose Cemetery. If you know of any possible connections to this area, please pass the information on to Jennifer and Susan via newslettereditor@atahgs.org.



First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia

Gladys Dotson Spivey, First Families of Gilmer County Chairperson

The First Families program is designed to honor those pioneers who settled in Gilmer County in 1840 or before, and to recognize their descendants upon becoming members of this program. We encourage anyone who is directly descended from early settlers whose names appear on the 1840 or any prior Gilmer County Census to apply. Discovering your Gilmer County roots can be challenging and exciting; and your research can serve as a source of information for generations to come. Applicants are not required to currently reside in Gilmer County. Once approved, members receive a certificate and pin acknowledging this Gilmer County ancestor. Come and join our 240 descendants who are currently members of First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia! For more information, please visit our website at: www.gcgisi.org.



First Families Member Added During the First Quarter of 2023

| New Member | Ancestor |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Martin "Marty" Scott Pettit | Joshua H. Newberry & William O. Newberry |
| David Clifford Weaver | Henry Weaver |



*First Families of Gilmer County Member Martin Scott Pettit
with
First Families of Gilmer County Chairperson Gladys Dotson Spivey*



*First Families of Gilmer County Member David Clifford Weaver
with
First Families of Gilmer County Chairperson Gladys Dotson Spivey*



2023 Ruling Days and Other Mountain Meterology
-continued-



wearegreenbay.com

and ice on roads. Sun is shining, light breeze; wispy clouds but not thick enough to hide sun. Temperature at 2 pm 43 degrees, most of the snow melted. Temperature at 5:52 pm was 39 degrees.

Ruling Day for March 2023 is December 28, 2022

The temperature at 5:50 am was 24 degrees. Light frost today. There are still small spots of snow on ground. It is sunny today, temperature at 11am 38 degrees. The temperature at 3:43 pm was 50 degrees. The temperature at 8:11 pm was 42 degrees.

Ruling Day for April 2023 is December 29, 2022

The temperature at 7am was 46 degrees. The temperature at 8:35 am was 45 degrees. It is cloudy this morning by 10am the sun had pushed most of the clouds away. The temperature at 4:45pm was 60 degrees. It was sunny all day with just a few fleecy clouds.

Ruling Day for May 2023 is December 30, 2022

Temperature at 8:12 was 46 degrees. It was cloudy in the morning; the sun came out for a little while then clouded up for the rest of the day. Temperature at 11:45 am was 57 degrees. Temperature late in afternoon was 49 degrees and cloudy.

Ruling Day for June 2023 is December 31, 2023

Temperature at 4:24 am was 55 degrees. Temperature at 8:30 am was 54 degrees. Cloudy this morning it had rained sometime during the night. It was cloudy all day. The temperature at 6pm was 51 degrees.

Ruling Day for July 2023 is January 1, 2023

Temperature at 9:20 am was 54 degrees. There was a heavy fog in the morning, partly cloudy today. The temperature at 3pm was 62 degrees.

Ruling Day for August 2023 is January 2, 2023

The temperature at 5:15 was 44 degrees. It had rained a shower sometime in the night. It was cloudy after daylight. 12:03 pm temperature was 54 degrees. At 2:13 pm foggy



2023 Ruling Days and Other Mountain Meterology

-continued-

and raining. Temperature was 57 degrees.

Ruling Day for September 2023 is January 3, 2023
9:53 am temperature was 64 degrees. Cloudy and looked like rain in late afternoon. The temperature at 5 pm was 59 degrees. It came a thunderstorm before dark.



hunker.com

Ruling Day for October 2023 is January 4, 2023
Thunderstorm started about 1:30 am and lasted for over an hour, another round of thunderstorms came through about 5:30 am. The temperature at 5:45 am was 58 degrees. There was a lot of rain with the thunderstorms. Sun came out in the afternoon. The temperature at 9:10 pm was 48 degrees.



woollyworm.com

Ruling Day for November 2023 is January 5, 2023
The temperature was 39 degrees at 8 am. It is clear and sunny today. The temperature at 1:15 pm was 52 degrees with a light breeze. The temperature at 5:30 pm was 51 degrees.

Ruling Day for December 2023 is January 6, 2023
The temperature was 34 degrees at 5:48 am. There is a light frost this morning. Clear and cool all day. 2:18 temperature was in the 50's.

Other old Appalachian weather predictions:

- Red clouds at night, sailor's delight (clear weather)
- Red clouds in morning, sailor's warning (bad weather)
- The louder frogs croak, the harder it rains
- The darker the brown stripe on the woolly worm means winter will be longer and colder.
- Chimney smoke that rises high means fair weather; if the smoke stays near the ground means storm on way.



sciencefocus.com



catseyepest.com

- Cattle gathering in a tight group in the pasture means storm on way.
- Fog in the morning means it will be hot enough to scorch a hog by noon in the summer time.
- If there is thunder in February, there will be frost in April.
- If snow stays on ground for three days, it is waiting for another snow.
- If hornets build their nests low to the ground, it means a cold winter.



Upcoming Events For 2023

Neva Kelaher and Brenda Cochran, GCGSI Events Co-Chairpersons

Being a member of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society is all about honoring our families, those families who settled this area in 1840 or earlier and were the pioneers of Gilmer County who created a wonderful place to live and make a living, as well those families who settled in other locations but whose descendants came here to live with or without family connections in this area of North Georgia. We are family-oriented and our goal is to encourage others on their journey to honor their pioneer kin wherever that might be. And as we honor and encourage, we also enjoy each other's company and have a good time when we get together for meetings and other events.



For many years, we have recognized the Gilmer County Library Staff during National Library Week for their service to the community and our organization. As such, we will sponsor a **Library Appreciation Luncheon** on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 to coincide with National Library Appreciation Week. Our members will set up for the luncheon in the lower level meeting area at 11 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our library staff and become better acquainted with each other since we are constantly gaining new members.

Our next big event of 2023 is the **Annual Picnic**, which take place on Saturday, August 19, 2023 in the Gilmer County Library's main level meeting room. This is a potluck meal with GCGSI providing the meat/protein and membership bringing side dishes and desserts. We will began arriving at 11:00 a.m. to set up all the delicious food, and lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. This is a fun time to mingle and get reacquainted with old friends.



In late November of 2023, (Dates/Times TBA,) we will gather to decorate our GCGSI Christmas Tree for the **Gilmer County Library's Festival of Trees**. Our library is festooned with wreaths and trees from community organizations during this festival, and it is a grand sight to see! An appropriate theme will be announced prior to the tree trimming. This is another fun gathering where ideas are exchanged and future plans are laid. The trees are displayed for a month, and then we will remove the decorations and tree, usually ending with an informal dutch-treat lunch at a local diner.



We will end our calendar year with an **Annual Holiday Luncheon and Installation of 2024 GCGSI Officers**, and this year's event will take place on Saturday, December 16, 2023 in the main level meeting room of the Gilmer County Library. Just like the Annual Picnic, this will also be a putlock meal with GCGSI providing the meat/protein and members contributing sides and desserts. We will gather at 11:00 a.m. to set-up and serve lunch at 12:00 noon. Along with the installation of new officers for the coming year, this is a festive time for enjoying good food and fellowship, as well as an exchange of ideas and plans for a great New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events. Just speak up if you would like to be involved in any of these events. As Betty Riddle, one of our founding members, always said, "We are always looking for fresh ideas and more involvement from our members."

See the Bulletin Board in **Mountain Heritage**, our quarterly GCGSI newsletter, as each event draws near.

****All 2023 events will be held at the Gilmer County Library.***



Bulletin Board

March 2023

- Sunday, March 12 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Friday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Saturday, March 18 - GCGSI Monthly Meeting
Gilmer County Library - 2:00 p.m.
Alco-Lachia: A Bootleg Biography
Zachary Walls, Speaker
- Monday March 20 - First Day of Spring

April 2023

- Saturday, April 1 - April Fool's Day
- Sunday, April 9 - Happy Easter!
- Saturday, April 15 - GCGSI Monthly Meeting
Gilmer County Library - 2:00 p.m.
GCGSI: Past to Present
Earl Cagle and Glenda Garland, Speakers
- Saturday, April 22 - Earth Day
- Sunday, April 23 - Saturday, April 29 - National Library Week
- Tuesday, April 25
Library Appreciation Luncheon
Gilmer County Library - 11:00 a.m.-2:00 pm.

May 2023

- Friday, May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day
- Saturday, May 20 - GCGSI Monthly Meeting
Gilmer County Library - 2:00 p.m.
Treasure Talk: Memories of Our Mothers
In honor of Mother's Day, GCGSI members will "show and tell" cherished heirlooms/artifacts of their mothers and grandmothers



Lying Shepherd (1891)
Berthe Morisot (French, 1841-1895)

In Memorium

*Father of GCGSI Member
Jennifer Anderson
Roy Ronald Price
(May 3, 1938-December 7, 2022)*

*First Families Charter Member
Philip Tankersley
(July 22, 1951-December 24, 2022)*

*GCGSI Member
Genell Cantrell
(February 22, 1939-December 26, 2022)*

*GCGSI Founding Member and
First Families Charter Member
Joyce Holt Logan Whitaker
(June 23, 1936-December 27, 2022)*

*Great Grandmother of
First Families Members
Chandler Burrell and Savannah Burrell Day
Janet Allen
(June 16, 1929-January 9, 2023)*

*Mother of GCGSI and First Families Members Re-
becca Holt Amerson and Richard Holt
Billie Gray Patrick Holt
(September 23, 1929-January 25, 2023)*

*GCGSI and First Families Member and
Sister of Gladys Dotson Spivey
Pauline Dotson Price
(January 2, 1946-February 22, 2023)*

GCGSI Officers and Committee Chairpersons

*President - John Davis
Vice President and Program, Publication, & Publicity Chair-
person - Barbara J. Dover
Corresponding Secretary & Historian - Rebecca Burrell
Recording Secretary - Patricia Hyatt Henson
Treasurer - Susan Noles
First Families of Gilmer County Chairperson - Gladys Spivey
Events Co-Chairpersons - Brenda Cochran & Neva Kelaher*



*Mountain Heritage Newsletter
Published by Barbara J. Dover
Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Vice President and Publication, Publicity,
and Program Chairperson*



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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>A Revenuer's Diary</u> – OOP~DIGITAL FORMAT ONLY Circle digital format choice: CD FLASH DRIVE \$30.00 per book (\$25.00 + \$5.00 shipping and handling) <i>Compiled by Warren Cagle, investigator for ATF, <u>A Revenuer's Diary</u> contains witness and daily reports from Cherokee, Pickens, Gilmer and Fannin Counties from 1954 to 1959.</i></p> |
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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>Family Legends of Gilmer County</u> – OOP~DIGITAL FORMAT ONLY Circle format choice: CD FLASH DRIVE \$30.00 per book (\$25.00 + \$5.00 shipping and handling) <i>Published in 2009, this is a 500-page compilation of contributors' stories as a record of their ancestors' and current family's histories. It includes photos, recollections, and memoriam with an index of 1500 surnames.</i></p> |
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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>Days Gone By</u> - \$40.00 50% OFF while supplies last! \$27.00 per book (\$20.00 + \$7.00 shipping and handling) <i>A compilation of the writings of the late Ernest Parker, a Gilmer County native and historian, much of this material was originally published in the Ellijay Times-Courier newspaper.</i></p> |
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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>Reflections on Mountain Heritage</u> - \$35.00 48% OFF while supplies last! \$25.00 per book (\$18.00 + \$7.00 shipping and handling) <i>This book reflects the times and activities of the old mountain homesteads. It includes recipes; family care; old sayings; superstitions and traditions; tales from the mountains; memories and reminiscences.</i></p> |
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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>Poetry from the Mountains</u> - \$20.00 OVER 50% OFF while supplies last! \$15.00 per book (\$8.00 + \$7.00 shipping and handling) <i>A charming collection of poems by Gilmer residents and their ancestors/descendants</i></p> |
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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>Faces of Our Ancestors: First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia</u> \$90.00 per book (\$80.00 + \$10.00 shipping and handling) <i>This book is a legacy to the ancestors who first settled in Gilmer County from their descendants, the members of First Families of Gilmer County Georgia. Published in 2019, it is over 800 pages, and its copyright is registered with ISBN.</i></p> |
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| _____ | _____ | <p><u>The Evolution of Ellijay, Georgia 1921 - 2021 A Century of Change</u> \$24.00 per book (\$20.00 + \$4.00 shipping and handling) <i>Compiled for Ellijay natives, newcomers, and visitors, our latest book, The Evolution of Ellijay, Georgia, is a portable trade-sized paperback that provides historical information from a plethora of sources about the changes that have occurred in Historic Downtown Ellijay, Georgia over the past century. In addition to the history of the town, included are reminiscences of the personal times and events of Gilmer Countians as well as an annotated and indexed map of the physical structures of the town from past to the end of 2021.</i></p> |
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The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 919
Ellijay, GA 30540



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We're online! 
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