

The Stonethrow Messenger

• The Quarterly Newsletter of Friends of Gillsville •

Volume 5

Fall 2007

Mission Statement of Friends of Gillsville:

To foster community spirit, aid the city in preserving historical heritage and help improve the community facilities and resources available to all citizens.

Hello, Neighbors.

This issue is dedicated to all our veterans, not only because Veteran's Day is soon, but especially, since we are presently at war and there are men and women at risk in the Middle East. Please be sure to see our tribute to our town's veterans inside.

GILLSVILLE 1850's to 1900 ~ PART TWO *by Ron Whiting*

THE GRIST MILL

A gristmill was constructed in 1896 by F.M. Henderson and John Rylee on Chandler Creek. Chester Hewell now owns the property and site of the old mill. Not much is left of the old mill except for some foundation stones and concrete.



Old Suddeth Grist Mill

Several people have owned Suddeth Mill over the years. Ben Franklin Suddeth (B.F. Suddeth or "Doc") operated the mill for several years before selling it to Fletcher Chandler and Frank Martin for \$700. Embury Taylor later ran the mill for a number of years. The mill was water powered and mainly ground corn, but did grind other grains as needed by the folks who farmed in the area. Several people today can remember this mill and some remember carrying grain there to be ground.

THE FIRE OF 1900

A 1900 edition of the Gainesville Eagle reported

a very destructive fire that swept through most of Gillsville. Four of the six stores, as well as the Post Office, were burned to the ground. The stores of W.A. Crow, B.F.H. Jackson, E.E. Allen and Jack Dodd were destroyed. M.B. Carter owned the W.A. Crow store. E.E. Allen was also the Postmaster. His store was in the same room as the Post Office. It was believed that the fire was set to cover a burglary.

REBUILDING GILLSVILLE

The present day buildings in Gillsville are both old and slightly newer. The present brick buildings were rebuilt a few years (1903) after the fire of 1900. The current wooden structure is estimated to have been built around 1850 but further investigation is needed to determine the exact age of the building. Some believe that W.A. Miller built the store during the period 1880 to 1890 and operated the store into the early 1900's.

The old Henderson store, which was the first Post Office, is still standing in Banks County and is still in pretty good condition. It still has the mail slot in the left front entrance door. The building is currently used as a tack and storage barn.

The old seed house from the cotton gin days is also still standing near the central part of town behind the old Bob House home, now owned by Ms. Sheila Maxwell. The old Banks County voting house that sat at the railroad crossing now stands off Henderson Road on the Rylee property.

The Old Church where Gillsville's black community worshipped was lost a couple of years ago to the ravages of time. The one room building on the Old Gillsville Highway where the children of the black community attended school is still standing but is in very poor condition and is in need of rescue or it will be lost. According to the wife of the late John Morrow, the first Black Mayor of Gainesville was reportedly a teacher at the school and a resident of Gillsville.

The old homes that line the main corridor through Gillsville all have a history unto themselves. These homes also date from the late 1800's to the early 1900's.



R.D. Frankum General Store (possibly the Old Miller Store) built around 1897

Friends of Gillsville

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770-869-3679



**DO YOU KNOW
WHERE THIS IS LOCATED?**

The first person to identify this locale and call Jane Jones at 770-869-3679 will win a plush, hunter green Gillsville, GA golf (or, work) hand towel with metal grommet. Members of Friends of Gillsville not eligible. So, where is this ???

**A WORLD
CHAMPION
IN TOWN!**

by MARY ALICE SEGARS

Danny Rylee rode his horse, "Cash And Carry Little Girl," to a division world championship in 2004 at the National Walking Horse Association celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee. On July 21, 2007, East Hall High School sponsored the Annual Tennessee Walking Horse Show at Chicopee Woods Agriculture Center. This time Danny captured two blue ribbons. He rode "Little Girl" and "Spider" for first place ribbons. These two horses are boarded on a farm near Commerce, but Danny and his wife, Carol, have other horses at their farm on Hwy. 323 in Gillsville.

BEING NEIGHBORLY:

A Column Appearing in Each Issue
About The Special People Who Are
Our Neighbors

PAUL GARRISON – Part Two

by Jane Jones

When we last left the Garrison family from the days of the U.S. Depression, the family was being industrious in doing what was necessary to "make ends meet" for the times.

One way the boys helped out was to make boxes to catch rabbits. Mr. Garrison said he made the rounds before school to collect the rabbits. He also hunted with a sling shot (called a "flip staff") made from a forked stick and strips cut from an inner tube. The boys made "slugs" (ammunition) from steel chips off mule shoes from the local blacksmith. His mother made rabbit, chicken and squirrel dumplings. What ever was not eaten was dressed and sold to a man from Atlanta to be sold in the city. Plowing was done with a mule and, in the fall, the cotton was picked for the gin. (I found it encouraging that in those times when someone was ill, neighbor families would pitch in and do what ever work necessary). At about 12 years of age, Mr. Garrison drove his first

mule team to the gist mill at the pond to grind corn mill. I asked Mr. Garrison about what was in town to supplement the family's income and the following is his account. There were two warehouses near the depot and a large dock for freight. Mr. Frank Martin and D.C. (Doc) House would pay the boys (or, give them a coke and a candy bar) to load and unload fertilizer brought in by train and/or coal for fireplaces and coal furnaces. In addition to hearing about the stores (and depot, the gins, voting precinct, blacksmith, filling station, post office and bank) in town, I enjoyed hearing about the "calaboose" (jail, for the uninitiated) behind the stores as well as knowing there was one city crank phone (inside the Meaders Store) and one city well. One use for the well was to water the animals of folks traveling through town. And, of course, there was school. The kids walked the train track to school. The lucky ones carried lunch in pails or,

if there were no funds for pails, lunch was wrapped in paper. Although times were challenging and all pitched in to work, there were times to play or to come together as families to enjoy community. Mr. Garrison talked with pleasure about going to the swimming hole after school. His favorite game was baseball. He was a left handed pitcher and played first base. He bought his first bicycle, which his sister rode when Mr. Garrison was not on the scene. They played marbles, threw horseshoes and played checkers on a homemade board, using coke bottle caps as the checkers. There were Sunday dinners under the walnut trees and square dancing to mandolins, guitars, banjos and harmonicas. Neighbors sat on front porches to visit. At revival times, the boys would put a flat on the wagon to pull a large group to Diamond Hill Baptist Church. They would go to camp meetings on sthe grounds of Mossy Creek Methodist and at the Lebanon campgrounds.

The Garrison family attended the Gillsville Baptist Church. Mr. Garrison remem-bered going to the window of the black church and being invited into the church to join the gospel singing. Mr. Garrison said he especially remembers his mother sitting close to their old radio during the years of World War Two because she had three sons in the service and one working in the CCC camps.

There is so much more I could add here, like Paul Garrison marrying Mildred Taylor in 1950; working in Gainesville and, then, spending 18 years with General Motors in Atlanta, car-pooling back and forth each day and more, but I'll close with a quote from Paul and Mildred's daughter, Paula. She said, "We have seen and experienced good changes, but some things shouldn't change, like honesty, accountability and responsibility. (There was) a common understanding that a relationship with God, family and neighbors came first and that sharing in life's challenges made a strong community."

A Salute To Our Own by Paula Whiting

Since this issue is dedicated to American Veterans everywhere, we want to note that Gillsville has our share of heroes, too! Each year we share a veteran's meal at Midway United Methodist Church (this year at 6 PM on November 7th). This year, a wreath for an unknown soldier, crosses and flags will be our way to honor our veterans and remember the sacrifices made by those giving of self to answer the call of duty to serve God and country. The harshness of war is never forgotten. Countless times, the military person returns with nightmares. The face of too many shows stress and grief because of the memory of the POW, the injured, the wounded for life, for fallen brothers and even for the country left behind. A time to forget but yet remember. We rejoice with the families when the military person returns and we grieve when one does not. America continues to be great today because of so many sacrifices. Your community salutes you and says thank you!

GILLSVILLE AREA VETERANS

Johnny Akins	Johnny R. Ervin	Charles House	Doug Parks	Charles Sanders
Hubie Bell	Derrick Ferguson	Henry House	Hoyt Parks	Guy Sanders
Mitchel Benton	Jerry Ferguson	John David House	James Parks	J.W. 'Billy' Sanders
Timm Benton	Jimmy Ferguson	Roy House	Phil Parks	J. Kenneth Sims
Steve Brock	Leonard Ferguson	Toby House	Swayne Parks	William W. Sims
Thomas Brock	Wayne Ferguson	Fred Hulsey	Donald Perdue	Nathan Smelley
Downey Bryant	Roy Gowder	James Doyle Hulsey	James L. Pettis	Denver Tritt
Jack Bryant	Royce Griffin Jr.	Thomas Irvin Jr	Ray Phagan	Douglas Tritt
Abner Buffington	James Robert Harris	Holland Jarrett	George Pittman	James Turpin
Donald Buffington	John Henry Harris	Gordon Jones	J.E. Poole	Wayne Turpin
J.W. 'Jake' Buffington	William Harris	Tim Littlefield	Jerry Poore	Wiley Turpin
Airlee Butler	Tom Henderson	W. Niles Littlefield	Josh Pope	Bradford L. Welborn
Rev. Bill Calhoun	W.S. Henderson	Donald McCoy	Buddy Queen	J. Alford Welborn
Earl Cape	Amos Hensley	Augustus Melton, Jr	Jack Queen	Daniel Whitehead
Richard Cheek	Allen Hewell	John Owensby	David Ray	Horace Wilson
Joe Craven	Harold Hewell	Jerry Parker	Jack Rylee	George Wood
James Delay	Henry Hewell	Benjamin Parks	Jobie Roberts	
Ed Dove	Chris Holly	Bobby Parks	Ralph Sailors	

GILLSVILLE AREA DECEASED VETERANS

John Jewell Adams	Henry Garrison	James Irvin	Horace Parks	Arnold Smith
Grady Bell	Ralph Garrison	Charlie Jarrett	Howard Parks	Charlie Thompson
Charlie Bennett	Turner Garrison	Howell Jarrett	Roy Parks	Arvin Turpin
Otha Bennett	John Hugh Gilmer	John Jarrett	Foster Pinion	Edwin Turpin
Robert Bennett	T. C. Gilmer	Harrison Martin	Guy Poole	Ralph Turpin
George Blair	John Goodwin	Joe P. Martin	Henry M. Poole	Parris Watkins
Royce Boyd	Wiley Greenway	Charles Massey	Homer Poole	Eugene Wilson
Obrun Buffington	Sid Harper	R.D. Masters	Wallace Poole	Osborn Wilson
Herbert Craven	Hollis Henderson Sr.	Clifton McClure	Ray Poore	Jackie Wilson
Chandler Dillard	Bobby Hewell	Garland McClure	Howard Ray	Alfred J. Yarbor
Neoshia Evans	Carl Hewell	George Moore	Perry Rogers	
Gerald Frankum	Joseph Edward Hewell	Thomas D. Moore	Regal Stancil Seabolt	
Reo Frankum	Cecil House	J.W. Morris	Ray Simmons	

NEWS OF GILLSVILLE LIBRARY

by Paula Whiting

Summer brought together many hands toward providing learning experiences for our children. We had Tea with Mother, Doughnuts with Dad, we toured our Post Office, made pottery on a real potter's wheel, asked questions of a Hall County Deputy, climbed onto a fire truck, visited our beauty shop and viewed Indian artifacts. Congratulations to MaKayla, Alura and Jakob Blocker, Ariel and Kaitlyn Daniel, Madisen Hewell, Allyson Segars and Tori and T.J. Smith for receiving summer reading certificates. A special congratulations to Tori Smith for receiving this year's prize for most books read!

Coming on October 27, 2007 will be our Fall Pumpkin Fest, Hayride and Cookout. Be sure to dress in a costume. The fun begins at 10AM. Look for our Thanksgiving celebration on November 17th. We will decorate a tree and visit the fire department at 10AM.

On December 1st we will celebrate an Old Fashioned Christmas with Santa at 7PM. Since we meet at 7PM, we hope to see many parents and neighbors as well as our children.

Continue to read this fall. Remember, we are open on Thursdays from 3 until 6 PM and on Saturdays from 9:30 AM until NOON. The library will close for the holidays on December 6 and reopen on January 3, 2008.



Gillsville's Churches Welcome You

MIDWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Pastor
Howard Bledsoe
770-718-5779**

Sunday School at 10:00 am
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am

Wednesday Night Live
Meal at 6:00 pm
MYF at 7:00 pm

Men's Breakfast,
Third Sunday at 8:00 am

GILLSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

**Pastor
Bill Calhoun
770-869-3976**

Sunday
Early Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Worship: 11:00 am
Adult & Children's Classes: 6:00 pm
Evening Worship: 7:00 pm

Wednesday
Fellowship Meal: 6:00 pm
Worship, Mission Friends, RA/GA's
and Youth Activities: 7:00 pm

PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Mission Statement
"A Hometown Compassion...
with a worldwide vision!"

Sunday
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Morning Worship Service: 11:00 am

Disciple Training: 6:00 pm
Evening Worship Service: 7:00 pm

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Word of Life Clubs: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
for ages 3 through high school
Adult Choir after Bible Study

Brotherhood Breakfast - Pine Grove,
1st Sunday each month at 8:00 am

Third Sunday Fellowship each
month at 7 pm for dinner,
special singing and testimony

Calendar of Meetings and Events

October - December, 2007

CHURCH SPECIAL EVENTS

Midway United Methodist Church

- Oct. 7 Homecoming - The Reverend William Holt will be the guest speaker.
- Oct. 14 Stewardship Sunday
- Nov. 7 Gillsville Area Veteran's Banquet in the Fellowship Hall
- Nov. 10 Annual Barbeque
- Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Service
- Dec. 2 Beginning of Advent Season
- Dec. 16 Choir's Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 19 Church-wide Christmas Celebration and Banquet
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service

Gillsville Baptist Church

- Oct. 21 Singing with CS & K at 6 PM
- Oct. 28 Trunks of Treats at 5 PM with Bible stories, candy, etc. Have your child come as his or her favorite character and have lots of fun.
- Dec. 1 Drive through Bethlehem

Pine Grove Baptist Church

Consult church calendar or call the church for information about fall events.

UPCOMING THIS FALL!

Look for newly planted crape myrtle trees on the grounds of our local churches and elsewhere this October. The tree planting is another project sponsored by Friends of Gillsville to help beautify own town.

On October 6th stop by our table in front of the He and She Salon for a cold lemonade and a visit with a neighbor or to make a new friend. See you there!

FALL MEETINGS

The Friends of Gillsville meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Gillsville Community Center. Our fall meetings will be November 1 and December 6.

The Gillsville City Council meetings are at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of each month at the Gillsville Community Center. The fall schedule of meetings are November 6 and December 4.

Friends of Gillsville

P.O. Box 231
Gillsville, GA 30543

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Would you like to Advertise in The Stonethrow Messenger?

If you are in the Gillsville area and would like to take advantage of the homes covered by our newsletter, please call Jane Jones at 770-869-3679. (Please note that the placement of an ad in the newsletter is not an endorsement of a product or service by The Friends of Gillsville.)

STONETHROW MESSENGER STAFF

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