

Jones County Journeys
October - November - December 2018



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Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization, Inc.

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Jones County Journeys

A Quarterly Publication of the Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization, Inc.

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE **NOVEMBER** MEETING, WHICH IS HELD ON THE **SECOND SATURDAY**.

THERE IS **NO** MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF **DECEMBER**.

MEETING DATES

January 26, 2019

February 23, 2019

March 23, 2019

April 27, 2019

May 25, 2019

June 22, 2019

July 27, 2019

August 24, 2019

September 28, 2019

October 26, 2019

To Our JCGHO Members

If You Celebrated A Birthday or Anniversary
During 2018, We Wish You A Very Happy
Birthday and A Very Happy Anniversary.

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CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF THE DATE IS 8/2018, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

If I could please take a moment of your time, I would like to apologize to all of you for the lateness of this newsletter. Yes, it was supposed to be mailed out to you before the end of December 2018.

My mother-in-law, Ida Jane Blakeney, suddenly became very ill. She had been in a local nursing home and ended up being rushed to the emergency room on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The admitting physician instructed me to call the family in as she would not make it through the night.

Through prayer and love, we were able to keep this wonderful woman with us until December 28, 2018 where she passed away at the age of 80.

Thank you for your understanding and prayers that were uplifted on her behalf.

Mike and Susan Blakeney and sons, Jeffery and Matthew Blakeney

CONFESSES TO ARSON.

Does John Temple, Former Jasper Countian

At the term of Circuit Court in Jasper County, a man by the name of John Temple went before the grand jury and swore that he was hired by D. A. Medlin to burn the gin and mill of William Hosey about ten years ago. Temple, who has been in Texas and Indian Territory since that time, come back to Jasper County about six months ago, and when Circuit Court convened he went before the grand jury and told them about the burning. He states that he came back here for the purposes of making a confession. He was carried by sheriff Ainsworth to Meridian jail for safe keeping, as he (Temple) said it would not be safe in the Paulding jail. Medlin has left for parts unknown.

At the time of the burning warrants were sworn out for the Medlins and they were arrested and had a premolminary trial before a justice of the peace, but no evidence could be produced that would convict them. - - Times Democrat

***Sourc e: *The Laurel Ledger*, Laurel, Jones County, MISS., Saturday, December 9, 1905, Vol. 4, No. 34, front page.

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■ Just an FYI Posting ■

Extracted from the *Laurel Ledger* dated December 9, 1905, page 6, the Laurel Mercantile Company will be of the past beginning January 1, 1906.

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POST OFFICE REMOVAL

To Building Specially Erected For Its Accomodation

Some time ago sealed bids were asked for by the government for rooms suitable to be used for the local post office. It is understood that a number of bids were submitted, the lowest and most favorable being from the Dunagin-Whitaker Co., of this city.

To accommodate the rapidly increasing demands for space of the local post office, a floor space 30 X 80 feet is required, and a new brick building will be erected at once on the grounds between the Y. M. C. A. building and the Dunagin-Whitaker Co., store building for a post office.

Work will be pushed rapidly on the building, as the present contract with the Laurel National Bank expires Feb. 1, and is it supposed that the new building will be ready for occupancy at that time or shortly thereafter.

***Source: *The Laurel Ledger*, Saturday, December 16, 1905, front page, Vol. 4, No. 35.

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**Moselle and Estabuchie Petition the Legislature
Citizens of Beat Five Desire to Quit Jones and Become
Part of Forrest County.**

**SEMINARY IS AFTER BIG SLICE WEST OF THE RIVER
If Two Movements Succeed, First District Will Lose
More Than Half of its Territory.**

The editor of The Argus this morning received a letter from Dr. J. D. Donald confirming the report that a large number of citizens of Moselle and Eastabuchie, backed by the farmers of Beat 5, have inaugurated a movement to have a large slice of that rich and populous section of Jones county annexed to Forrest county. In fact the petition has already been sent to Jackson and a number of prominent Moselle and Eastabuchie citizens are now on the ground to press the measure for passage when it comes squarley before the legislature.

Senator Donald has shown a most commendable spirit of fairness in advising the people of Jones county of the situation, as he is a citizen of Hattiesburg and his personal interests would naturally incline him toward the cause of the insurrectos.

Be that as it may, the "cat is now out," and it is up to the people of this section of the county to take immediate action.

Seminary is Active.

From an entirely different source, The Argus learns that the people of Seminary are now circulating a petition asking for the creation of a new county with that thriving town as a seat. It is proposed to take a slice off of Covington, Ferest, Lamar and Jones – and it is understood that this project contemplates the acquisitino of all that part of Jones county lying west of Leaf river.

The Seminary petition has not yet reached the legislature, but will probably bob up within the next week or ten days.

Local Plans Go Awry.

Plans have been quietly in preparatino for several months to divide Jones into two counties at this session of the legislature, and it is understood that a bill for this purpose has already been drawn. The double county seat arrangement now in effect is not altogether satisfactory and those have given the matter close study believe that a division would be the best solution of the question.

But Jones county, with the territory it now possesses, is hardly large enough for two counties, and it would be necessary to get a small strip of Wayne to put these plans in effect.

Danger in Delay.

If the territory embraced in Beat 5 is taken away from Jones to be annexed to Forest, and the strip west of the river is gobbled up by the Seminary movement, then there is no chance whatever for the proposed division, and the probable result would be the abolishment of the First District and the courthouse in at Ellisville.

There is danger in delay, as Dr. Donald's letter clearly shows, and the citizens of this county should appreciate the situation and act accordingly.

Ellisville Aroused.

Ellisville, Feb. 7. – Ellisville was considerably stirred this morning by the statement that a letter had been received by Capt. T. J. Hardy from Senator Donald, stating that a petition had been presented to him to transfer Beat Five of the First District from Jones to Forest county.

The reason prompting this movement, is the effort of the people of Forest county to secure help in the payment of the large bond issue which was made to secure the State Normal for the city of Hattiesburg, which is proving very burdensome to them. The tax levy down there is interesting, and shows indications of doing more increasing in the future. The people of

Moselle and Eastabuchie were bitterly opposed to bonding of Jones county for this purpose, at the time Laurel was endeavoring to secure the Normal, and it is surprising that they should be willing to voluntarily assume this heavy debt, when they escaped it.

***Below is a clipping of the letter from Senator Donald as it appeared in the *Laurel Daily Argus*

A LETTER FROM #
SENATOR DONALD #

Jackson, Feb. 6, 1912. #
Hon. Edgar G. Harris, #
Laurel Miss. #
Dear Sir: I am in receipt #
of an extensively signed peti- #
tion from the citizens of #
Southern Jones county seek- #
ing to be annexed to Forest #
county. I consider it my du- #
ty to acquaint your people #
with this movement, in or- #
der that they may register #
opposition, if they have any; #
as without expressed opposi- #
tion I conceive it my duty to #
support the petition. #
I will appreciate your giv- #
as wide publicity to this mat- #
ter as you can and advising #
me as early as possible the #
wishes of your people. #
Thanking you in advance #
for your attention to this #
matter, I am, #
Yours most respectfully #
J. D. DONALD. #

***Source: *The Laurel Daily Argus*, Wednesday, February 7, 1912, front page, VOL. XI.-NO. 93.

* * * * *

At a meeting of the trustees of the Ellisville High School last week, all teachers were reelected, with the exception of Miss Mary Hull who resigned. The entire faculty was given a raise in salary. The high school department was abolished.

The colored teachers were also reelected and granted a salary raise.

Prof. Massey, who has been connected with the Progressive Farmer for many years, has written a book, called "Massey's Garden Book" We have received a copy, and we advise every farmenr to send to the

Progressive Farmer, Memphis, Tenn., 50c and secure a copy.

WAR RELIC TRAIN AT LAUREL SATURDAY

A train load of French war relics will be exhibited in Laurel on Saturday morning from 9 o'clock to 12, at the Souther Railway tracks.

The collection includes exhibits of French and German war material, mortars, aeroplanes, it is a most complete collection, and will be instructive to the people.

The people of the whole country are invited to come and see these trophies of the world's greatest war. The war relics are part of the Liberty Loan campaign, which is now under way.

***Source: *The Jones County News*, A Weekly Newspaper Reacing All Of Jones County, Ellisville, Miss. Thursday, April 11, 1918, front page, VOL. XL, NO 13.

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Dental Notice.

Dr. John W. Lowry is permanently located in Ellisville. Office temporarily at Windsor Hotel, all work done by the latest improved methods, satisfaction guaranteed.

***Source: *The New South*, Ellisville, Mississippi Saturday June 18, 1892, VOL 5 NO 24.

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B. E. DEVALL DEAD

REMAINS INTERRED

Died in Hot Springs - - Survived by Wife, Children and Other Relatives

The hearts of the people of Ellisville are saddened to learn of the death of one of her sons, B. E. Devall, who for some fifteen years resided in Hot Springs, Ark., and died last Tuesday at the age of fifty-nine years.

Mr. Devall is from one of Jones county's oldest and most honored families and there are many close friends of former days here now to join his family in their grief at his going. He is survived by his wife, formerly a Miss Wilborn, of this county, and two children, his aged mother and several brothers and

5
sisters to all of whom we extend our sincere sympathy in their great bereavement.

The remains were brought to Ellisville Thursday and interred in the City Cemetery with a large crowd of sorrowing friends attending the ceremonies. The funeral took place from the Methodist Church ehre at 4 o'clock today, Rev. H. J. Moore conducting the services.

***Source: *The Jones County News*, Ellisville, Miss., Thursday, April 28, 1921, front page, VOL 13, NO 17.

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A Genealogist's Prayer

Lord, help me dig into the past

And sift the sands of time

That I might find the roots that made

This family tree of mine.

Lord, help me trace the ancient roads

On which my fathers trod,

And led them through so many lands

To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book

Or dusty manuscript,

That's safely hidden now away

In some forgotten crypt.

Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts

My soul when I can't find,

The missing link between some name

That ends the same as mine.

Author Anonymous

* * * * *



Holiday Weddings
Kastleman – Klinger

At the residence of Joseph Kastleman, on Rumble Street, in this city, by Rabbi Mark Rassin, of Meridian, Miss., at 7:30 p.m. Monday Jacob Kastleman of this city and Miss Haline Klinger, recently of New York, were married.

Mr. Kastleman is a prominent business man of this city and his many friends unite in wishing him all of the good things of life.

Clark – Leggett

Eucutta, Miss., Dec. 26, On last Sunday at the Eucuta Methodist Church, Andrew Clark and Miss Ida May Leggett were united in matrimony, the pastor Rev. Red officiating.

Bryan – O'Flynn

Married at the Catholic Church Thursday morning, Dec. 28, at eight o'clock, Rev. W. J. Finley officiating, Alexander Brogan and Miss Marta O'Flynn. Mr. Brogan is a wealthy citizen of Jackson, Tenn., and the couple left on the afternoon train for their future home in Tennessee.

Livingston – Yarborough

Mr. Ad Livingston and Miss Siddle Yarborough were married Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the residence of the bride's mother, near Heidelberg.

***Source: *The Laurel Ledger*, Laurel, Jones County Miss., Saturday, December 30, 1905, front page VOL 4, NO 37.

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Merger Failed

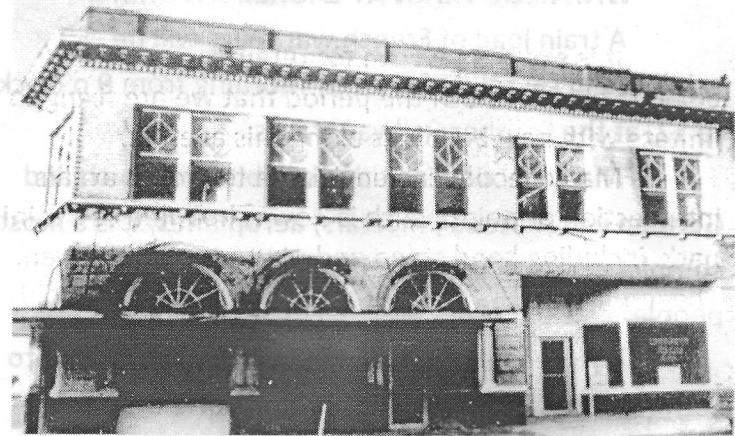
The proposed merger of the T. B. Bonner Co. and the Laurel Mercantile Co. into the Commercial Company has failed. At a conference of the parties interested in Laurel this week, it was decided not to merge. The T. B. Bonner Company will continue in business as before, while the future of the Laurel Mercantile Co., is not definitely determined as of yet.

***Source: *The Laurel Ledger*, Laurel, Jones County Miss., Saturday December 30, 1905, page 2, VOL 4, NO 37.

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ANOTHER LANDMARK DOOMED TO OBLIVION

By Anne Sanders
Managing Editor



The wrecking ball will swing soon to demolish another historical and architectural significant building in downtown Laurel.

The Kalmia Building at the intersection of Central Ave., and Commerce Street was among those listed in the bids opened this week for demolition contracts in the downtown redevelopment program.

Kalmia mean Laurel and the word comes from the Swedish Botanist Peter Kalm. The building has many outstanding architectural features seen in other structures around Laurel dating back to the late 1800 the period to be used for the décor along the new Central Avenue Mall.

The architecture of the building comes from school of Henry Hobson Richardson, a native of Louisiana who was the first of the triumvirate of major American architects of the last hundred years. The other two were Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

To his contemporaries Richardson's architect, so enormously influential in the 1880's was "Richardsonian Romanesque". His style is shown at the top of the Kalmia building through the classical trailing leaf pattern: the rounded arches at the lower windows: and fieldstone squares. The windows on the second floor feature the diamond motif on the point side and central Ave. which is a simplified version of Victorian lead windows.

This was the style of the architecture used in the late 1800 when Laurel was experiencing its first real growing pains. These arched windows are seen in the First National Bank building, the old Commercial Bank Building, Green Lumber Co. office, Laurel Federal Savings and Loan Building (formerly the old post office)

old junior high school (now Banker's Trust), lower level of Pinehurst Hotel (Laurel House) Gardiner School, First United National Church, old Leader Call building and many more.

It is sad that we cannot retain some of the physical attractions of the period that we are fixing to imitate with new buildings along this avenue.

Many people can envision a tea room at this intersection or point which is now scheduled as a mini park, including hand stand and play area for children. The interest of the building could be rebuilt as an old fashioned ice cream parlor. There could be sidewalk tables during good weather which would be a meeting place for friends. It could put new life nite this section of downtown.

The property was secured through eminent domain proceedings and is scheduled to be demolished but it could be reverted into other use if the local Urban Renewal officials could possibly make this change. Other changes in the schedule and plans have been made from time to tome and HUD has said it is up to the discretion of the local organization on how the property is to be used. The new Housing and Development Act provides for the completion of urban renewal of local officials which are now more flexible.

Couldn't portable bleachers for the bandstand be used and placed in the mall where there is a concert? There are many other areas for the children to play.

A trolley car restaurant is scheduled for the old Butler Shoe Store building site on Lower Central Ave but a tea room would not interfere with this plan but would also give West Central Ave additional snack time accommodations.

Back in 1915, the Kalmia building was the real estate office of W. F. Rumble and the center of activity on Central Ave. He was in the business of bringing settlers to Jones County who could take the land and improve it. At this time, the city had a population of 15,000, paved streets, a street railway and interurban read between Laurel and Ellisville. It also had three active railroad systems into Laurel.

We go to Europe to admire and revere the ancient cathedrals, inns, houses and taverns that decorate the cities but in the United States, too many cities are destroying their native buildings which are acquiring the beautifying patina of the years. It is part

of our impatience with homegrown antiquity, and the American insistence of equating age with obsolescence.

We need our urban renewal program and we also need businesses and activities in downtown Laurel to attract shopping there. We need more retail trade on West Central and an attractive gathering place can do much to attract it. Remember the old N. C. Pearson Ice Cream Parlor on Central? That certainly generated trade in that area.

Many Laurelites were not aware the Kalmia building is to be demolished and voiced surprise when reading the advertisement for bids.

We have only praise for the long, tireless hours the many public-minded citizens of Laurel have spent in serving on the urban renewal board. They have the best interest of Laurel at heart and we are certainly behind them 100 per cent. However, we wish they would take one last look at the possibility of saving this historic landmark in downtown Laurel. In Natchez, all of the old buildings in the downtown area are being restored to their once splendid grandeur. This has also been done in many other cities with urban renewal program as citizens feel these are the traditions of the south and a tourist attract. The old buildings have charm character which attract shoppers.

If you are interested in seeing this building saves then voice your concern to one of the following members of the board of commissioners of the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency: Frank Sumrall, chairman, Sid Hughes, vice chairman, Jack Aycok, Booker T. Williams, Kalford Ratcliff and Bill Deavours, attorney.
***Source: *The Laurel Leader-Call*, Laurel, Miss., Friday, April 16, 1976, front page and page 8, 65th year, NO. 91

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It is with much sadness that I announce the passing of JCGHO member, Shelton "Cotton" E. Norris. He died December 10, 2018 at his home in the Powers Community. He was buried in Memorial Gardens Cemetery. As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Jones County Rosin Heels Camp 227, he did many presentations of explaining medical procedures which were done during the Civil War.

Please keep the Norris family in your prayers.