

Jones County Journeys
April - May - June 2019



Volume 25 – Number 4

Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization, Inc.

P. O. Box 2644

Laurel, MS 39442-2644



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.
THERE IS **NO** MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER.**

MEETING DATES

July 27, 2019
August 24, 2019
September 28, 2019
October 26, 2019
January 25, 2020
February 22, 2020
March 28, 2020
April 25, 2020
May 23, 2020
June 27, 2020
July 25, 2020
August 22, 2020
September 26, 2020
October 24, 2020

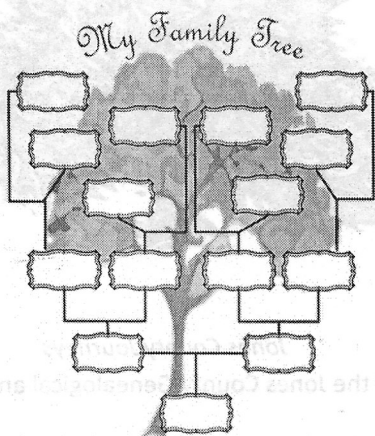
**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
PLEASE RETURN THE FORM AT THE
END OF THIS NEWSLETTER WITH
YOUR DUES PAYMENT**

To Our JCGHO Members

If You Celebrated A Birthday or Anniversary
During April, May and June 2019, We Wish
You A Very Happy Birthday and A Very
Happy Anniversary.

Table of Contents

Page 9	Stinger Snake and Lamper Eel – Two Killed by Cavein
Page 10	Flags Unfurled
Page 11	Flags Unfurled Continued – County Tax Assessor Passes Away
Page 12	Family History – Minutes for March 2019
Page 13	Minutes for March 2019 and April 2019



3

Stinger Snake and Lamper Eel Killed Along Mill Creek

Special to The Leader.

ELLISVILLE, Miss., Sept. 1 -

Stinger snake and a lamper eel were captured by C. B. Gandy on Mill Creek in front of Bob Hill's home. The stinger snake was five feet long and weighed three pounds. The stinger of the snake was about 3 inches long. He will keep this for anybody to see. It was said this was the biggest snake ever killed on Mill Creek.

****Source: *Laurel Daily Leader*, Laurel, Mississippi, Wednesday, September 1, 1926, page 6.

Editor's Note: I had to delve a little bit more into this one. I have never heard of a stinger snake or a lamper eel and from what I am discovering, I am not the only one! Dictionaries are sending me to a lamprey eel for the lamper eel and for the stinger snake, they say "in relation to a hoop snake". I found another article on a stinger snake, so it must have been real.

Stinger Snake Alive in Cage Goes to A. & M.

At last a stinging snake has been captured alive and in good health, and is to be sent to A. and M. college at Starkville to the entomological department, where it will be scrutinized and its pedigree made public so thinks Lonnie Flynt of Laurel Route 3, in the Service community.

Mr. Flynt caught the reptile on Monday afternoon, using a forked stick for safety, and imprisoned it in a small wooded box covered with wire screening.

This was brought into the office of W. M. Crumpton, agricultural agent of the county, who will send it to A. and M. where its life history will be read by the seers of the department most familiar with the life of crawling creatures.

Considerable controversy, pro and con, as to the existence of stinging snakes has been heard for many years and tales of large rewards have been related.

Should examinations of entomologists at A. and M. bear out Mr. Flynt's belief in the species of the reptile he captured, he will bear the distinction of having at least proven the story of its existence.

****Source: *The Laurel Daily Leader*, Laurel, Miss., Tuesday, July 30, 1929, page 10.

TWO KILLED BY CAVEIN AT OVETT GRAVEL PITT

HUGE WALL OF GRAVEL FALLS ON WORKMEN

Victims Trapped by Premature Cavein Crushed and Smothered to Death; Another Man Injured

Two men were crushed and smothered to death and a third painfully bruised as he narrowly escaped when a huge wall of gravel crumbled prematurely in a pit about four miles southwest of Ovett shortly after eight o'clock Monday morning.

The dead are: Tom Walters, Ovett, Route One and Corbe Erkhart, 38, Ovett.

Eugene Crowder, 24, Ovett, Route Two, was knocked down by the falling gravel but managed to get his head under a nearby truck, thus preventing suffocation until he could be rescued.

The men were working for this county.

Rufus Brewer, foreman, estimated that there were fifty yards of gravel in the huge cavein. Injuries Not Serious

Mr. Crowder was rushed to a local hospital where his injuries were reported to have been painful, but not serious. He was able to leave the hospital after first aid treatment.

According to Crowder, the men were tunnelling under the gravel bank preparatory to making it fall, but went too far, causing it to crumble of its own accord.

3

Two other men, Tack Lyons and Leslie Shows were in the pit at the time of the accident. One rushed away immediately for aid while the other began frantic excavations to free Crowder.

The place is known as the Wyatt Tucker gravel pit.

Victims Leave Families

Mr. Walters is survived by his widow and eight children. The children include: Grace, Cora, Clayton, Cleveland, Ellen, Coleman, Clifton and Mrs. Viola Jordan all of Ovet, Route One, except the latter, who resided in Covington county. He also has several brothers and other relatives, some living in George County.

Mr. Erkhart is survived by his widow, one child and others.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

****Source: *The Leader-Call*, Laurel, Miss., Monday, June 17, 1935, front page.

FLAGS UNFURLED; JOY REIGNS TODAY

LAUREL CELEBRATES AS SHE HAD NEVER CELEBRATED BEFORE

Sirens of the City Awake a Sleeping People to the Fact That It's All Over, Over There

"The war is over"

That was the message received by the Leader this morning at 2 o'clock. The force was soon on the job and at 4:30 o'clock an extra was on the streets giving all the details. A few seconds later the whistles of the city with one accord proclaimed the glad tidings to a waiting people, upon whose hearts for four long years the burden of carnage and strife had weighed. There was no sleeping after the whistle begun. The streets were soon filled with happy shouting people, and the din of the trumpet and drums filled the air. People began to celebrate.

There was no fixed program. It was a spontaneous continuous celebrating. Nothing

4

like it had ever been witnessed in the city and probably will never be again. Mothers with eyes filled with tears of joy, thinking of their own particular hero "over there," walked the streets all the while breathing a silent prayer of thanks that it was all over.

Chas. Sims, engineer of the Eastman Gardiner plant has the honor of giving the first blast of victory in the city. As soon as he was informed over the telephone of the signing of the armistice, he hastened to the engine room and tied the whistle cord down. Though no previous arrangements had been made for the blowing of the whistles the engineers and firemen in the other factories of the city knew what it meant and they followed Mr. Sims' lead. The siren on the water works plant joined in, people over the city emptied their guns into the air and the switch engines screeched their loudest. The fire truck loaded with firemen and other enthusiasts drove up and down the streets both resident and business sections the going clanging and the passengers yelling.

Decorated automobiles made their appearance early, and bunting on the business houses and from the residents began to flutter in the breeze.

It is a great day. Rich and poor, high and low, mingled together shook hands, and rejoiced generally. One of the Leader men walking down Central avenue just as the whistles began to blow met an old negro, who asked what was the cause of all the din, and when told that the Germans had quit he threw his hat into the air and went wild with joy. An old negro woman was observed walking along the sidewalk muttering "Thank the Lord, Thank the Lord; I've been praying for it and I knew it was going to happen".

Very little business is being conducted today. The mills all closed down and the streets

5

begun to fill with the shouting throng. Parades formed at the mills and other industries and marched to the center of the city beating drums, old saws, plows and making every kind of noise imaginable. The American, French, British, Belgian, Italian and flags of all other Allies were displayed in profusion.

The demonstration held in laurel is being duplicated over the entire country, in some cases probably in a greater degree, while in some places in a lesser degree, but it can safely be stated that nowhere is the enthusiasm greater. A message received from Billy Lewis, a former Laurel boy, now of St. Louis says:

"The old town wild with joy. Everything is closed. Good luck to my friends."

Shortly after noon another procession formed and marched about the city, lead by the brass band.

The parade was over a mile in length. It was led by Chief of Police J. E. Brown as grand marshal, and R. L. Patrick, B. J. Blethen, J. T. Brown as an assistant marshalls. Following were the committee which made the arrangements for the procession, which included F. G. Wisner, W. H. Buckley and J. R. Nason, appointed by Mayor McCallum.

The procession formed at the high school building and went west on Fifth street to Sixth Avenue, then to Central avenue to Front street, then south on the Ellisville Boulevard, then across to Maple street and back to the High School building.

The grand marshal and his assistant were followed by a large truck bearing a casket labeled the kaiser's. A galaxy of automobiles appropriately decorated with flags of the Allied nationalities and bunting filled with cheering, smiling men, women and children followed.

5

A jollification meeting has been planned to be held at the court house tonight. Everyone in the city is invited to attend. There will probably be a brass band and among the speakers will be Mayor T. G. McCallum, Judge Stone Deavours and Hon. T. Webber Wilson.

Mr. Alfred H. Link, of Buffalo, N.Y., will be at the court house and will make a short talk. Previous to this meeting he will address the United War Workers at the Y. M. C. A., at seven o'clock. Mr. Link is in the "Y" work and has spent seven months in France. His talk will be interesting at both places.

****Source: *The Laurel Leader*, Laurel, Miss., Monday, November 11, 1918, front page.

County Tax Assessor Passed Away Wednesday Morning

The death of Green B. Landrum, county tax assessor, took place at his late home in Maple street this city Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock. Mr. Landrum had been a sufferer for more than a year of consumption with other complications setting in to further destroy his strength. During the past several months he was confined to his room entirely, and all hope of his recovery was abandoned.

The funeral services were conducted from the home Thursday morning and the remains were conveyed to Antioch cemetery for burial. During the burial services the city hall and county court houses were closed out of respect to the deceased.

Green Landrum was elected tax assessor of Jones county in the year 1903 and serving his second term in that office at the time of his death. He was a son of Mr. Jack Landrum, and leaves a large family connection, besides a widow and two small children, to mourn his death.

****Source: *The Laurel Chronicle*, Laurel, Miss., Friday, March 11, 1910, front page.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A SHORT
BIO OF YOUR FAMILY IN OUR
NEWSLETTER? THAT IS AN OPTION
THAT WAS DISCUSSED AT OUR MAY
MEETING!**

My name is Mary Susan Smith Blakeney. I am a daughter of Odell Smith and Flora Viola Campbell.

My father was born 07 July 1929, in Fairfield, Jones County Mississippi. He was a son of L. J. Smith and Ruthie Pearl Tisdale. His siblings were: Marlon Smith, Matha (Red) Smith, Dorothy Jean Smith Parker, Connie Darrell Smith and Betty Faye Smith. He died 08 February 2000 in Laurel, Jones County Mississippi and is buried in the Sharon Cemetery, Jones County Mississippi.

My mother was born 01 April in El Paso, El Paso County Texas. She is a daughter of J. Campbell and Flora Itery Luttrell.

My parents met while dad was in the Army and married 01 December 1952 in Dona Ana County New Mexico.

I have four siblings, Flora Elreda Sims, James Odell Smith, Linda Gail Smith Hill and Betty Jean Smith Gray.

I attended Shady Grove Elementary School in Jones County from first grade up to seventh grade. After elementary school, I attended West Jones High School, where I graduated in 1979. I began my love of genealogy and history at the age of 14. My mother would share stories of her ancestors, who were mostly from Texas. My dad's family was mainly from Jones County.

I met my husband, Larry Michael Blakeney, while working at Merchants and Manufacturers Bank in Ellisville, Jones County Mississippi. We married 19 October 1985 and have two children, Jeffery Michael Blakeney and James Matthew Blakeney.

Mike is the son of Larry C. Blakeney and Ida Jane Rogers Blakeney. They lived in Sandersville since 1968.

Mike was born in Monroe, Ouchita Parish Louisiana. Both of our children were born in Laurel, Jones County Mississippi.

Mike's paternal grandparents were Clyde Blakeney and Elna Jones Blakeney Bolyer. His maternal grandparents were Willie Moses Rogers and Nannie Velma Walters Rogers.

I was a stay at home mom until February 2000 where I began my job at the Laurel-Jones County Library. Been here ever since, and I love it.

I began volunteering for the JCGHO in June 2000 and have been an active member since that time.

I am a member of the Order of First Families of Mississippi, the Tallahala Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

If you would like to submit a bio for you or your ancestors, please send it to me for inclusion in our next newsletter. You may email it to me at jcgho1@yahoo.com or mail it to P. O. Box 2644, Laurel, MS 39442.

Minutes

MARCH 23, 2019

The JCGHO met on Saturday, March 23, 2019 in the upstairs meeting room at the Laurel-Jones County Library. President Carolyn Horne called the meeting to order with thirteen in attendance with one guest, Jason Lott, from Covington County. Tim Dudley led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone was reminded that dues could be paid and that there are calendars and *Echoes From Our Past* available for sale and remember to sign the register.

President Horne introduced the speaker, Jonathan Puckett. Jonathan currently works at the at the McCain Library and Archives in

Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is also a freelance researcher for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jonathan told about how he became interested in family research at an early age and about some of his experiences in family researching. Jonathan emphasized that it is not only understanding our own family, but getting people together that have never met. He said this can be done by researching through newspapers, personal books such as a hymnal brought over, and other personal objects that give a clue as to what was going on. He also told us about his work experiences and gave valuable information on archiving, archiving materials and preservation in a question and answer session.

Everyone enjoyed a break for refreshments. Thanks to Mary Smith for the refreshments.

There were no committee reports.

Gene Phillips announced that the South Mississippi Genealogical Society will have a booth at the Hub Fest in Hattiesburg on Saturday, March 30th. Gene also agreed to take some of JCGHO brochures for distribution at the booth.

Tim Dudley also volunteered to place our brochures at the Welcome Center in Laurel.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted

Keith Horne, Secretary

APRIL 27, 2019

The JCGHO met on Saturday, April 27, 2019 in the upstairs meeting room at the Laurel-Jones County Library. President Carolyn Horne called the meeting to order with eleven in attendance.

Everyone was reminded that dues could be paid and that there are calendars and *Echoes From Our Past* available for sale.

President Horne introduced the speaker, Grant Hedgepeth. Grant is an attorney who was born and raised in Jones County and lives on the old family farm on Graves Road where his grandparents operated a dairy farm. His grandparents were Buck and Era Graves. His mother is Aline Graves Anderson, widow of Dick Anderson who was a business man, Mayor of Ellisville, and a State Representative.

Grant told interesting stories about the Anderson family of Ellisville and about the businesses they were involved in. He told about how the Andersons, Pooles, Graves were related.

After a question and answer period, a short break was taken before the business portion of the meeting.

There were no committee reports.

There was discussion about having refreshments at the meetings. A motion was made and carried that the Refreshment Committee, Betty Morad and Betty Dupuy, would be compensated for the expenses of refreshments plus 10%.

A motion was made to have refreshments at all meetings. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

A suggestion was made that a short "family history" be included in the Newsletter and Susan Blakeney volunteered to submit the first one.

Under "New Business," the group was asked to think about the upcoming election of new officers and seriously becoming an officer.

There was one birthday in April, Charles Robine.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Horne, Secretary



Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization

Membership Form

"Dedicated To Historical Preservation"

PLEASE RETURN TO JCGHO P.O. BOX 2644 LAUREL, MS 39442-2644, OR LEAVE IN THE GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE LAUREL – JONES COUNTY LIBRARY, ALONG WITH YOUR YEARLY

DUES OF \$12.00. THIS COVERS YOUR SPOUSE AND HOUSEHOLD. DUES INCLUDE THE NEWSLETTER, JONES COUNTY JOURNEYS, WHICH IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION. ALL QUERIES, SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED.

PLEASE PRINT

____ New Member ____ Prior Member \$ ____ Amount Paid ____ Date

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Name of Spouse _____ E-Mail Address _____

Researching Surnames Of _____

Particular areas of interest: ____ Genealogy ____ Historical

As usual, we are always looking for volunteers to serve on the various committees of the organization. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, please check here ____.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

Find us on the web at <http://jonescogenealogy.org/>

