



THE TOWNS HISTORIAN

The NEWSLETTER of the TOWNS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



VOL. 3 ISSUE 3

www.townscountyhistory.org

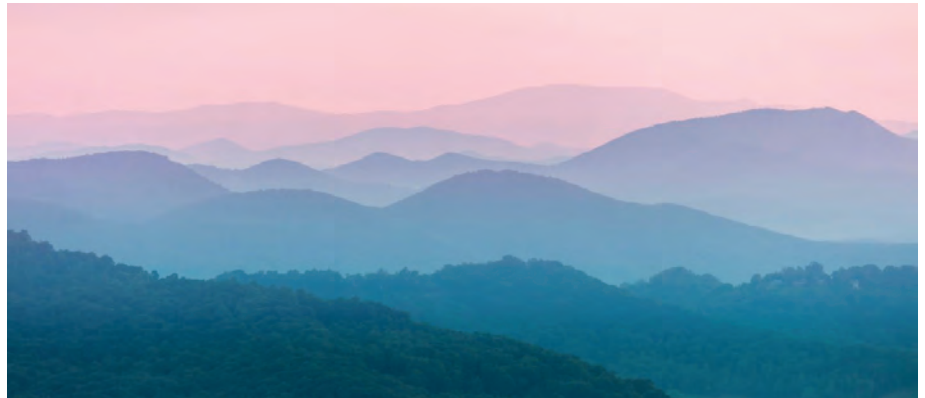
SEPTEMBER 2019

The Towns County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history of our area. We meet the second Monday of each month at 900 N. Main St., Hiawassee, GA.

P.O. Box 1182
900 North Main St.
Hiawassee, Georgia
(706) 781-8611

ACCENT!! WHAT ACCENT??

by Sandra Green, President



Our accent shouldn't be considered Southern. For that, you need to listen to our Treasurer, Frances Shook, speak. She's from what was once called "below the mountains" which meant anyone that didn't sound like us! Our speech is more "country", "Hillbilly" or Appalachian-English. Whatever you want to call it, we're proud of it! When you're from the mountains, it's perfectly acceptable to say "Fars Creek", "Mars Chapel", Rwood (for Arrowood), and "Macedonie" etc. My grandpaw, Ernest, and his twin brother, Tryon, lived with us when I was growing up. They had many expressions that were, to my ears, backward and old-fashioned. Only after I was much older did I appreciate how unique their pronunciation and phrases were. From what I've read, the dialect is descended from Elizabethan English. I guess what has kept it alive for so many generations is that until the last 75 years we lived in such an isolated area.

Today Towns County is a smorgasbord of accents! We welcome residents and part-time residents from all over. That's one of the things that make it such an interesting place in which to live. We hope you've discovered what we locals have always known; Towns County is a great place to be. If you aren't already a member, We invite you to join the Towns County Historical Society to learn more about us, our area and our unique accent! This year our programs have covered everything from prehistoric Native American culture to the fishing camps around Lake Chatuge during the 1950s and 1960s.

If you're interested in more information about our language, just Google: Appalachian Mountain Accents. Also, the book, *Our Southern Highlanders* by Horace Kephart, is probably available at Mountain Regional Library. It was first published in 1913 but it gives insight into the people and customs of Southern Appalachians.

Of course, the best local source of information is Jerry Taylor, our county historian and vice-president of the historical society! Our meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:00 in the old rec center, 900 North Main Street, next to the bridge. All are welcome to attend.

2019 OFFICERS

Sandra Green
President

Jerry Taylor
Vice President

Tyler Osborn
Secretary

Frances Shook
Treasurer

Mary Ann McCall Miller
Membership Secretary

HISTORIANS

Jerry A. Taylor
County Historian

Jason Lee Edwards
Deputy Historian

Mary Ann McCall Miller
Webmaster/Graphic Designer

In Memory of Ina Allison Kozesky

Ina Allison Kozesky was memorialized at the October 14 meeting of the Towns County Historical Society.

Stepping to the platform, Jerry Taylor, vice-president said that tonight we pause to remember one of our own, Ina Rose Kozesky.

Ina was a native Towns Countian, the daughter of Edgar and Sallie (White) Allison. She grew up in Woods Grove and attended elementary school there until the lake came for the school was relocated to Hiawassee. A graduate of Towns County High School, she participated in extra-curricular activities available, especially the basketball team. Following graduation, she moved to Dallas, Texas, where she married "Danny" Peebles and they had two children, Carol Ina Ramsak (husband Jim) and John Paul Peebles, both of whom reside in Towns County.

Ina was a true citizen of Towns County, having it and its people at heart. If something was for the greater good of the community, then it was in Ina's best interests.

Ina was involved in many community activities including her church and Sunday school class and Hiawassee Chapter #305, Order of the Eastern Star. She was a long time member of the historical society, serving as membership chairman, and oh so gently reminded us when our dues were due. When the oral history project was begun, she, along with Bruce Sims and others were an instrumental part. When we moved here to this building, she became an unofficial greeting committee and next thing you know, she was bringing refreshments – thus beginning a tradition at our meetings!

And now, as a token of our love, esteem, and remembrance for Ina, we place this Georgia flag and plaque in the Towns County Historical Society meeting room in loving memory of Ina Allison Peebles Kozesky. We love her, appreciate her, and miss her.



Membership Dues ... Are You A Current Member?

The Towns County Historical Society depends on contributions from its members like YOU to function. All are welcome to the meetings. They are a great opportunity to meet with other people from the area who are passionate about local history.

For just a mere \$15 a year for an individual, or \$20 for a family, your membership dues also allows the Historical Society to continue promoting the heritage of Towns County.

Please consider joining or renewing and help us as we continue to grow and please invite friends and family to come to our meetings as well as join the society.

Please remember that we will be holding elections in December and you must be a current 2019 member to vote. Be sure to bring your membership card that you received when you join this year. Your card is instant proof that you are a current member.

You will find a membership form enclosed in this newsletter.



Preserving History in a Modern World

by Tyler Osborn

I remember when I was a kid, I used to sit and look at old family pictures all the time. My dad would tell me stories that had been passed down through the generations about these people we had never met. This is probably what sparked my love for preserving history. Today, I still look at these pictures; however, they are no longer on old photo paper that is crumbling between my fingers. Several years ago, I took on the task of starting to scan all of our family photos so that they could be preserved. However, this is a job within itself. As technology has continued to evolve, so has the way we can preserve priceless pictures and letters. Before, you had to scan each photo individually, wait for the computer to upload the image, crop out any unnecessary area the scanner added, and finally edit the name of the image. Now, you can simply point an iPad at a picture, push a button, and it is instantly saved as a .jpg or PDF file, both compatible with almost all computer devices. This allows us to be able to share with family, friends, and any other interested party.



Now I am sure you are wondering, what does all of this have to do with the historical society? Several years ago, when we were entrusted with the ORJ, it was decided that a research center needed to be established. While we are still working with the officials on this project, many people have generously donated or loaned many pictures, letters, and documents that relate to the history of our county. In an attempt to get a head start, the historical society would like to start cataloging these artifacts for the future research center. It has also been discussed to increase the storage size of our website, or build a separate website specifically for historical documents, so that anyone in the world can research their roots in Towns County. This alone would truly be a unique concept. To my knowledge, I have yet to see any other local historic preservationist do this. The closest concept that comes to mind is Jerry and Jason's Hearthstones of Home – History of Towns County Facebook page. Also, in an effort to quickly and efficiently preserve these documents, I do hope that within the near future we can continue updating our technological equipment. The cameras that were used for photography and videography have recently both died, so while we are making do at the moment, it will need to be on the agenda for purchase soon. I know with the help and donations of our members, we can achieve this project and more within the next year! I have been truly amazed at all of the amazing things the historical society has done within the past year and I cannot wait to see the amazing things the future holds for this great society.





Towns County Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 1182

Hiawasse, GA 30546

The Towns County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history of our area. We meet the second Monday of each month at 900 N. Main St., Hiawasse, GA 30546.

At our monthly meetings, we have informative and interesting programs. All are welcome to the meetings, and they are a great opportunity to meet with other people from the area who are passionate about local history.

Your participation also allows the Historical Society to continue promoting the heritage of Towns County as we embark on the restoration of the Old Rock Jail as a museum and research center.

Please consider joining or renewing and help us as we continue to grow.

Membership Form

Date: _____

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Yearly: Individual (\$15) _____ Yearly: Household (\$20) _____ Life: Individual (\$250) _____

I would like to make an additional contribution to the Towns County Historical Society in the amount of \$ _____ to support the restoration of the Old Rock Jail.

In honor of: _____ In memory of: _____

Member Name: _____

Address City State Zip Code

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

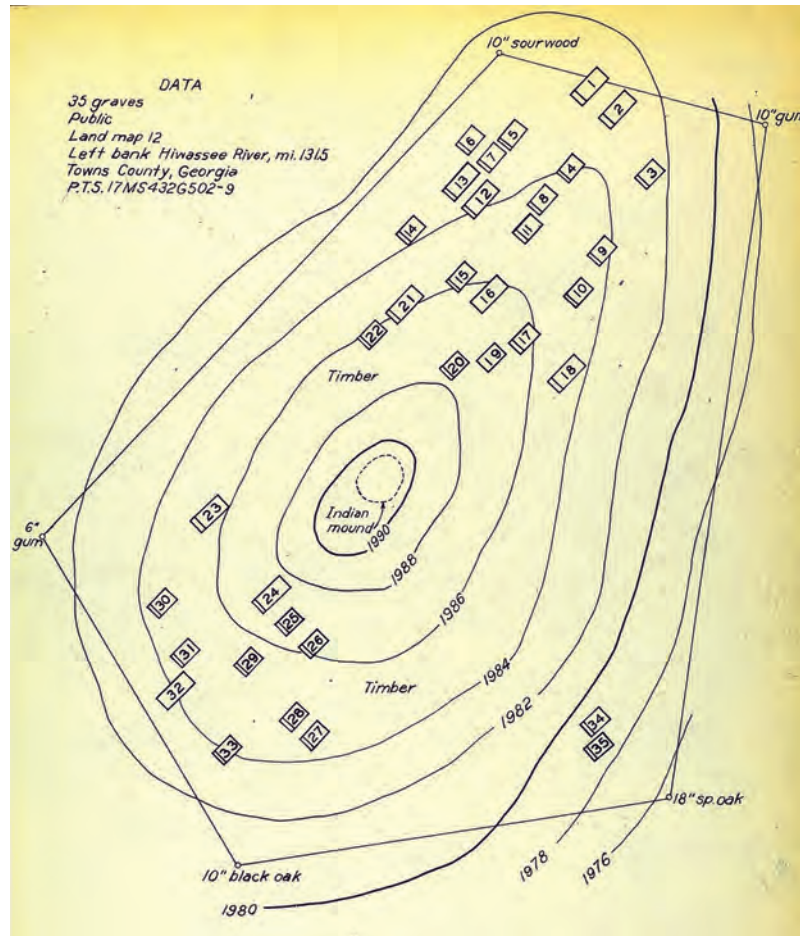
Please send in this form with your check made payable to Towns County Historical Society.
PO Box 1182, Hiawasse, GA 30546.

Be sure to check out our new website: www.townscountyhistory.org.

Old Macedonia Cemetery and the Indian Mound?

By Jason Lee Edwards

In 1941, when the TVA surveyed cemeteries the coming of Lake Chatuge might affect, they identified one of the earliest cemeteries in Towns County. Macedonia Baptist Church began in the early 1830s, and the first location used for a cemetery was the top of a hill near the church. Today, the hill is located immediately behind the church building. The only known burials in the cemetery are David Brown and his wife Ruth Carter. They were both born in the 1760s and moved to what is now Towns County in the fall of 1837. They both died in the 1840s and were the ancestors of many of the Brown, Woodring, and Rogers families in Union and Towns Counties. In total, the TVA identified approximately thirty five graves, most marked with fieldstones. The most curious item on the TVA survey is the notation that there was an Indian mound in the middle of the cemetery. There is in fact a large stone pile at the very top of the hill. If it truly is an Indian mound, it is the only identified mound in Towns County.



1941 TVA Survey of Old Macedonia Cemetery

Towns County Trivia

- 1.. Which Towns County community's name is a corruption of the Cherokee word Etowah?
2. What is the oldest church building still standing in Towns County?
3. What church's historical cemetery contains Towns County's only Indian mound?
4. What is the oldest brick building still standing and in use in Towns County?

Answers on back cover

DONATIONS

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

Thank you to the following people for their generous donations to the historical society.

Ina Kozesky
*In Honor of Jerry Taylor
for keeping our history alive*

Laverne Shook
*In Honor of Jerry Taylor and
Jason Edwards*

HIAWASSEE BANNER.

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN THE MOUNTAIN SECTION. OFFICIAL ORGAN OF TOWNS CO.

HIAWASSEE, GA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 1908

In the early 1900s, the local newspaper was the HIAWASSEE BANNER published by Pinson G. Burch, editor. A year's subscription cost 50 cents. It is not known when publication began nor when it ceased. The August 13, 1908, edition survives and has been laminated and donated to the historical society by Mrs. Arbena Nicholson Moss. The following excerpts of newsy items from the paper provide a glimpse into the past prior to Facebook.

J. B. Johnson, E. C. Painter, and Lee Hooper are off looking after moon-shiners this week.

Messers Lee Allen and Alex Barrett made a trip to Gainesville, Ga., after the roofing for the court house this week.

The Sons of Rest have elected D. W. Franks chairman for the remainder of the season; John H. Davis for secretary; Hooper for chorister; Robert Yonce for chaplain; and J. J. Kimsey for sleeping boss.

Rev. A. M. Brown and wife and Tom Smith and wife were visiting Brad Wood and family Monday night.

Burt Smith of Titus, Ga., made a flying trip to Murphy last week.

J. Miles Berrong is preparing to make a large crop of turnips. We are glad to see the good work going on.

Miss Vella Kimsey who is teaching at Sugar Hill near Buford spent Tuesday night in the city (Hiawasse).

Mr. J. W. Holmes and wife and Mr. Ed Bagwell and wife spent Friday with us. We are indeed glad

to see them and sorry they could not stay longer. Barbecues, picnics, and balls have been the order of the day of late – good times and fall weather.

J. M. Bradley's sick child is improving.

School is progressing nicely at Osborn under control of Prof. Spurgeon Kimsey.

I have just received the nicest line of Millinery and Hats ever brought to Hiawasse. Also a complete line of notions, silk lace, embroidery, ladies collars, belts, gloves, etc. Call and see them at Johnson & Kimsey's store. Miss Esta Russell

Mr. Frank Lyon who has been very ill with fever is improving slowly.

☞ COUNTY DIRECTORY ☛

Judge of Superior Court – J. J. Kimsey

Solicitor General – W. A. Charters

Senator, 40th district – A. E. Lashley

Representative – J. F. Johnson

Ordinary – John M. Johnson

Clerk, Superior Court – J. J. Kimsey

Sheriff – T. J. Emerson

Treasurer – J. B. Wood

Tax Collector – J. M. Welch

Tax Receiver – G. F. Eller

Surveyor – A. E. Dills

Coroner – Lucius Owenby

School Commissioner – R. A. Kimsey

† CHURCH SCHEDULES (1908) †

(Note how the church schedules were much different from what we are accustomed to today.)

Hiawasse Baptist services: church every fourth Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Prayer meeting every Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. Rev. J. H. Green, Pastor.

Hiawasse Methodist services: church every second Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Y.M.C.A. meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Lovick Adams, Pastor.

Young Harris Baptist services at Union Church every fourth Sunday each month and Saturday before. Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Rev. John T. Plott, Pastor.

Young Harris Methodist services at Susan B. Harris Chapel every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Rev. J. L. Algood, Pastor.

Ideas For Upcoming Programs

by Jerry A. Taylor, Vice President

As we come to the end of 2019, I look back over the last several years at the wonderful, entertaining, educational, and historical programs that have been presented and I wonder how to keep the momentum rolling. For this, I need your assistance and suggestions. What intriguing historical topics would you like to have addressed at our upcoming meetings? Who would you suggest to give a presentation? Seriously, I covet your suggestions. My email address is br68630582@yahoo.com and my phone number is 706-994-0218.

Last year someone suggested a program on mining in our area. Among others, there was the copper mine at Ivy Mount, gold mines on Gum Log and Hightower, a ruby mine on Hog Creek, and, of course, the mine on Bell Mountain. This would indeed make a very interesting program, but WHO is a resource that is knowledgeable enough regarding the history and other information to give a presentation?

Another suggestion that I remember from last year had to do with the significance of the chestnut trees. Who is out there with enough information to address this subject?

Someone else suggested a program on the logging era. Who has knowledge of J. M. Thrash & Co., Ritter's Lumber, Vogel Co., Byrd-Matthews Lumber Plant, Gennett Lumber Co., etc. etc. and could make a presentation?

Perhaps, there are some among us who have a specific area of interest and expertise that would make for a good program. Please feel free to volunteer.

Thank you for your help regarding topics and speakers for 2020.

APPLE DUMPLINS

submitted by Tyler Osborn



2 cans crescent rolls
3-4 Granny Smith apples
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup butter
1 tsp cinnamon
1 (12oz) can of Mtn. Dew

DIRECTIONS

Spray a 13x9 baking dish or pan.
Peel and slice apples into 16 pieces.
Roll each apple slice in 1 section of crescent roll.
Place rolled slices in pan in two rows, put extras along side.
Melt butter, add sugar and cinnamon and pour over apples.
Pour can of Mountain Dew over all.
Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

Towns County & Christmas Trivia

presented by
JASON EDWARDS

December 9, 2019 6:00 pm
900 North Main Street
Hiawassee, GA

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS FROM PAGE 5

1. Hightower
2. Pleasant Hill Methodist Church on Crooked Creek
3. Old Macedonia Cemetery behind the present church building
4. Susan B. Harris Chapel in Young Harris

Towns County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1182
900 North Main St.
Hiawassee, Georgia 30546

