

HISTORY

And Reminiscences of
DOUGHERTY COUNTY
GEORGIA

COMPILED BY MEMBERS OF
THRONATEESKA CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ALBANY, GEORGIA

1924

Dr. Slappey was both a successful physician and a skillful and noted surgeon and was in great request throughout a large section of the country. He made the long drives through the country in the high two-wheeled gig used by the doctors of that day and was attended by a servant on horseback. He carried not only his instruments and medicines but suitable food for such patients as might stand in need of it. A man of great kindness of heart, he was honored and beloved by all.

At the time of his death in 1864, Dr. Slappey was living on his plantation in Baker County, which is still in possession of a member of the family. The descendants of his only son, Henry Slappey, still live in this county. Besides those who bear the Slappey name are: Mrs. J. W. Gillespie, Mrs. Walter Hill Wightman, and Mrs. John Stephen Inman; and Mrs. Sibert Houston Jones, of Augusta, Ga., and their children.

DR. THEODORE deHON MATHEWS

Elizabeth
In 1846 Dr. Theodore deHon Mathews and his wife, Mary Lawton Mathews, came by stage coach from South Carolina to the little town of Albany, Baker County, Georgia. Shortly after they reached Albany they helped to organize a Baptist church and, as they had no pastor, Dr. Mathews was ordained a minister and served the little church in this capacity until they could secure a pastor. They soon called Dr. Edwin Theodore Winkler. Dr. Mathews and his wife had the minister in their home, this being their contribution to the expenses of the church.

Soon after arrival in Albany, Dr. Mathews became acquainted with Dr. Wm. L. Davis and they formed a medical partnership. Dr. Mathews bought a lot and built a home at the corner of Pine and Jackson streets, where the Municipal Auditorium now stands. Their close neighbors were the Jacksons, who lived on the lot opposite the Presbyterian Church, and the Richardsons, on the lot where Mrs. W. E. Rowsey now lives. At this home Dr. Davis met and won Miss Winkler, sister of the pastor, who had come from Savannah, Ga., to visit her brother.

In those early days this was a wild country—Indians still inhabited the swamps and lowlands on the river. They frequently came for the doctors to attend their families, and on one occasion (Dr. Mathews having been called away on a case) a buck Indian came to the little settlement at night, peered through the window and frightened the doctor's wife very much. The Indians brought skins and curios in payment of services rendered.

Dr. and Mrs. Mathews lived in Albany from 1846 to 1854, having during the interval lost two children who are buried in Oakview Cemetery. Mrs. Mathews' father, B. T. D. Lawton, also died while they lived in this section and is also buried in the local cemetery; and as their health was very poor they thought it best to return to South Carolina. *Youngest daughter.*

Dr. Mathews wrote several books, one of which was "Old Tony and His Master," or "The Abolitionists and Land Pirates" in answer to Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." It is said that it was because of this and other writings of that period that South Carolina seceded.

DR. JOHN B. GILBERT

Dr. John B. Gilbert was born in Crawfordville, Ga., January, 1815. He married Miss Martha Davis, of Crawfordville, in December, 1836. The following year they moved to Palmyra, Lee County, Georgia, where he lived for three years, removing to Albany in 1840. Here he practiced his profession until his death in January, 1865.

The children born to Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert were: Mary, Ann Eliza, Emma, John Milton, Wm. Henry, John Davis, Rodolph, Fannie, Julius Butler, Nancy Collier and Julia Pace.

DR. WILLIAM HARDING JEFFRIES

Dr. William Harding Jeffries was born in Cuthbert, Ga., October 7, 1835. After completing his common school edu-