

A misty forest scene with tall trees and a path covered in fallen leaves. The trees are mostly deciduous with green and some yellowing leaves. The ground is covered in a thick layer of brown and orange fallen leaves. The background is hazy, suggesting a valley or distant hills.

GrassRoots

Hawkinsville, Georgia : **Vignettes About Us**

A Journal of Local History

Volume II

Special Edition



*"We are not makers of history, we
are made by history."*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



“HAWKINSVILLE, GEORGIA: VIGNETTES ABOUT US”

A collection of essays written by Hawkinsville High School Students Dual Enrolled in Central Georgia Technical College’s “Move On When Ready” Program, offered at the Sam Way, Sr. Hawkinsville Workforce Development/Learning Center in Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Edited with a Foreword by Dr. Deborah “Debi” Patrice Hamlin, Adjunct Professor of History, CGTC, and Founder of the Bronzestone Center for Music & History.

***Copyright 2017, 2018. All Rights Reserved. Unauthorized Reproduction Prohibited by Law.
NOT FOR SALE***

This work is lovingly dedicated to our parents, family, and friends. Your unconditional love and support have carried us over the mountains and through the valleys of young adulthood.

We are eternally grateful.

This anthology is also dedicated to CGTC President, Dr. Ivan H. Allen; Dr. Amy Holloway, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Ms. DeAnn Nester, Assistant VP of Academic Affairs; Ms. Shannon Durham, Dean of General Education; Dr. Cynthia Rumney, Dean, Distance Education; Mr. Michael Repzynski, Division Head, Mathematics/ Social Sciences; Ms. Kimberly Gunn, Director, High School Initiatives & Recruitment; Dual Enrollment/MOWR Coordinators, Lindsey Powell, Kenneth Rozier, and Antonio Watkins; Mr. Marcus Early, Director, Sam Way, Sr. Hawkinsville Workforce Development/Learning Center-CGTC; Mrs. Annie Shennett, Program Assistant (Retired), CGTC Satellite Operations; Mr. Russel Lawley, Principal, Hawkinsville High School; Ms. Sinyard, HHS Librarian; Ms. Amy Black, HHS Guidance Counselor; HHS Transportation, Cafeteria, Custodial Staff, and all others who may have contributed to our academic successes. Because of your vision and commitment, we were fortunate to participate in an academic program that allowed us to

Move On, because we were, and are Ready!

In addition, the following vignettes are dedicated to our Hawkinsville religious, spiritual, and community institutions. Collectively you have shown us the significance of compassion and service. To Dr. Deborah Patrice Hamlin, we say thank you for inspiring us to be unrelenting in our pursuit of excellence, and for believing that we had something important to say. We are better prepared students and citizens of the global community for having experienced United States History with you.

The Hawkinsville High School-CGTC/MOWR Graduating and Undergraduate Class of 2017

Table of Contents

Dedication	4
Table of Contents	5
Foreword by Dr. Deborah “Debi” Patrice Hamlin, Ph.D.	6
The Tale of Pulaski County by Christopher Posey	7
Show Time: The History of the Hawkinsville Opera House by DeOvian Taylor	11
Haunted: The Hawkinsville Sinyard House by Leslie Morales	14
Medical Philanthropy: R. J. Taylor’s Memorial Hospital by Savannah Summers	17
The Legacy of the Cabero Brothers by Sara “Kelli” Long	20
Steamboats, River Roads, and Commerce in Hawkinsville by Jordan Ledford	25
When Cotton was King: The Hawkinsville Cotton Mill by Chandler “Leeann” Smith	28
Crisis: Politics and Public Education in Hawkinsville by Haley Calhoun	31
A Family Affair: The Children’s World Learning Center by Desmon “Des” Singletary	34
Preservation: The Lumpkin Street School and Board of Educational Building by Mallory Grilliot	37
Race for the Cure: The Story of the Hawkinsville ‘Relay for Life’ by Rosemary Peavy	40
Robert “Bobby” R. Gentry: Hawkinsville’s Star Coach by Jeffrey “Landon” Miller	44
Charles Johnson: From Small Town-Guy to Big-Time Football Player by Dmya Sanders	47
Acknowledgements and Credits	52
About the Editor and Instructor	53

Foreword

In January 2017, I agreed to teach a United States history course in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Although a Georgia native, I knew little about Hawkinsville or Pulaski County. Driving along Highway 247 on that foggy morning in early January, I experienced an incredible urge to turn around. Ignoring this urge, I soon arrived at the Central Georgia Technical College satellite campus located in the Sam Way, Sr. Hawkinsville Workforce Development/Learning Center. Upon entering, I was greeted by one of the Center's then Senior Administrators, Mrs. Annie Shennett, who assured me that I would be provided with whatever needed: "just let me know," she said warmly.

Mrs. Shennett led me to my classroom and, a few moments later, thirteen Dual Enrolled/ MOWR (Move on When Ready) students arrived, most of whom were seniors excited about graduating. The diversity of the class confirmed my belief that, in addition to history instruction, my presence would have a far greater purpose. I believed then as I do now, that my larger purpose was to inspire, introduce different perspectives, and support their individual and collective academic success. So, on this first day I shared information that would not be found in the textbooks: (1) that their lives need not be governed by the past; (2) that each of them had the power to create the world that they imagined; (3) that they must be willing to study; and (4) that they must be courageous enough to search for and find inspiration in a history filled with both tragedy and triumph. By the end of our class it was apparent that these students were indeed "ready."

After the students were dismissed, many of whom boarded a school bus that would return them to HHS, I met the Center's Director, Mr. Marcus Early. We shared a very pleasant conversation and, although concerned about the travel time and distance, I assured him of my commitment to teaching the course. Later that day, I shared my concerns with Kimberly Gunn and Shannon Durham, MOWR Director and CGTC Dean, respectively, both of whom were more supportive than I had imagined. Although still reticent, I knew that I had to return, not just for the students but for myself as well. Over the semester, I realized that what these students needed, much like many students enrolled in U. S. history core courses, was to be inspired to find their unique connection to the past, to be reminded that the power to create a different future rested in their hands, and to be held accountable for completing the journey with excellence. It is my hope that the academic and aspirational needs of the students were met.

The essays that follow provide evidence that HHS/MOWR students exceeded academic expectations. Over several weeks, each student was required to research and lecture on a topic *of importance to them and those whom they cared about*; stories that could be shared with the community. Arranged thematically, this anthology begins with a history of "Pulaski County," followed by a discussion of the "Hawkinsville Opera House," and the "Sinyard House," believed to be "haunted." A subsequent essay explores the legacy of the "Cabero Brothers," another examines the Hawkinsville annual "Relay for Life" event, and still one other pays tribute to the life of educator and coach, "Bobby Gentry." The final essay focuses on Hawkinsville native, Charles Johnson, National Football League Quarterback for the North Carolina Panthers. Johnson's story highlights the importance of academic excellence, community service, and continuous gratitude.

I was extremely impressed by the intellectual curiosity and diligence of these thirteen extraordinary students. It is my hope that they will remember to be unstoppable in their search for historical truth and fearless in pursuing their dreams, for no one and no-thing can stop an individual whose eyes remain focused on the prize.

Dr. Deborah "Debi" Patrice Hamlin

The Tale of Pulaski County

By Christopher D. Posey

In life, we oftentimes have experiences that change our perception of historical events. While each day presents an opportunity to construct a new narrative, the past can serve as a context for understanding the present. The truth about who we are as a people and a community are buried in the details of unfamiliar local stories that we, in many instances, are simply unaware. The history of my hometown, Hawkinsville, Georgia, is a case in point. Located in Pulaski County, Hawkinsville's colonial past seems to have been obscured by larger, more prominent Georgia counties. The story that follows is deeply personal: my desire to uncover and illumine the less celebrated, yet unique history of Pulaski County.

Pulaski County was created after the American Revolution and was named for one of its heroes, Count Casimir Pulaski. Count Pulaski, a native of Poland, came to the United States to fight during the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783. Born into nobility, he was given the title of Count and later fought during the Bar Revolution, a revolt against Russia's dominance over Poland. After meeting with Revolutionary Patriot, Benjamin Franklin, while in France, the Count joined the colonial fight for freedom.

Count Casimir Pulaski was born in Warsaw, Poland in March of 1745. Having attended grade school as a young child, he subsequently enrolled in college but dropped out before graduating.¹ During early adulthood, the young Count fought in the Bar Confederation, a revolt in which his family had been major participants. In the initial stage of the Confederation, Count Casimir was captured along with others but later released because, although believed to pose no immediate threat, Russians required that he pledge to never again fight for the Confederation.

The Bar Confederation, so named because supporters met in the town of Bar, was led by Casimir's father, Jozef Pulaski, and other Patriots. Casimir was ultimately named "Chief Military Leader" having held the Czestochowa Monastery from the Russian attackers for two years.² As a result, Casimir was considered the "greatest Polish military leader since Sobieski."³ During Casimir's defense of the Monastery, he was captured and released in exchange for an agreement to cease fire but never stopped fighting for freedom. In addition, father, Jozef, was captured and taken to a Turkish prison where he died. Later, Casimir and his brothers were appointed official leaders of the Bar Confederation.

During the battle, Casimir's brother, Franciszek, was killed and four years later the Confederation plotted to capture the King. Casimir did not participate in the kidnapping, however, but when the plan failed rebels, in fear of being killed for treason, released the King and fled. When the King returned to power, he condemned the Confederation and banished his kidnappers. Casimir, fearing execution for attempted regicide, fled to France where he sought work.⁴ It was while in France that he met Benjamin Franklin, American Ambassador

¹ "Kazimierz Pulaski: A Hero of the American Revolution," Wikipedia Contributors,, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, accessed April 24, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Casimir_Pulaski&oldid=812991632, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Pulaski .

² "General Kazimierz Pulaski: Father of American Calvary," Wikipedia Contributors, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, accessed April 24, 2017, <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/pulaski/deeds.html> .

³ Ibid.

⁴ Regicide (noun-pronounced rej-uh-sahyd) is defined as the killing of a king, or responsible for his death.

to France at the time. Casimir was intrigued by the idea of fighting for colonial freedom, efforts that had failed in his European homeland. After leaving Poland, Casimir travelled to France to enlist in different armies with intentions of organizing his own army. Although these efforts failed, Casimir remained in France for one year and, without a means of earning money, ultimately imprisoned for unpaid debts.⁵

Benjamin Franklin was impressed with Casimir's commitment to the freedom cause. As a result, Franklin insisted that Casimir Pulaski become a part of the Continental Army. He even sent a letter to General Washington expressing his interest. "I came here," he wrote, "where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."⁶ In August 1777, Pulaski met General Washington who not only invited him to join the Army as an Officer, but later granted him the title of Brigadier General. This type of promotion was uncommon because many colonists were suspicious of Europeans willing to fight for American liberty. General Pulaski served with distinction, led the cavalry, and established his own corps, *The Pulaski Legion*, a unit known for its experience in shock offensive techniques.

General Pulaski's first battle took place in Philadelphia during September 1777. Both sides were preparing when an unexpected storm prevented all plans for battle. Later, General Pulaski was sent to help General Anthony Wayne who was advancing towards Burlington. Afraid of the larger British forces, Wayne sought the aid of Casimir and fifty of his Cavalry and, with their help, the British were pushed back. When Pulaski crossed the Delaware River they encountered British resistance. While in battle, Pulaski's horse was shot and many of his troops were wounded. Unfortunately, as the war progressed Pulaski's men began to question his leadership due to his inability to speak fluent English. As a result, Pulaski asked the United States Congress to allow for the creation of his own Lancer Unit⁷.

Congress denied Pulaski's request. The angry Pulaski left the Continental Army and forfeited his status as General. But just as Pulaski was preparing to depart the United States, Congress awarded him a Lancers Unit of two-hundred men that would be under his exclusive command. With this Congressional Act, the *Pulaski Legion* was formed, and Pulaski was hailed "Father of the Horse." Even though provided with his own army, money from Congress was minimal, if at all. So, to keep his forces equipped with the best weapons and provisions, Pulaski used his own money to keep his troops equipped. While near Little Egg Harbor, Pulaski's infantry was attacked by an ambush group of British soldiers and, as a result, Pulaski's army was ordered to New York. Pulaski did not agree with this strategy, however, insisting the approach was "unfit for cavalry tactics." Because of Pulaski's resistance, George Washington sent the *Pulaski Legion* to the south, a strategic move that would prove to be advantageous to the southern front.⁸

When Pulaski arrived in the low-country, South Carolina was already under siege by British troops. General Benjamin Lincoln, along with the help of Pulaski's army, defeated the British and marched towards Savannah. Pulaski's most celebrated battle was the *Siege of Savannah* where he faced a larger and more experienced opponent. At the time, his men were not as strong or well trained, but General Pulaski trained the American

⁵ "Kazimierz Pulaski: A Hero of the American Revolution," Wikipedia Contributors, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, accessed April 24, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Pulaski.

⁶ *Proclamation of the 111th Congress Granting Casimir Pulaski Posthumous United States Citizenship*, United States Government, Joint Resolution, 111th Congress, Public Law 94, US Government Printing Office, 2009, 123, accessed May 2, 2017, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ94/html/PLAW-111publ94.htm>.

⁷ Lancer Units were cavalrymen who used lances while on-horse back, and an extremely useful component of shock combat. During the 18th and 19th Centuries Europeans reintroduced the lance into their cavalry arsenals.

⁸ Carol Ebel, "Casimir Pulaski in Georgia," *History and Archeology, Revolution and Early Republic, 1775-1800, New Georgia Encyclopedia*, Georgia Humanities Council and the University of Georgia Press, Georgia, 2007, accessed April 24, 2017, <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/casimir-pulaski-georgia>.

troops in European style “shock combat.”⁹ His strategy proved to be most effective when fighting the British who were accustomed to face to face combat. Even though there were losses, General Pulaski proved that the cavalry was a critical component of an uphill battle especially when facing an army with greater military might.

In Savannah, General Pulaski faced Count Charles d’Estaing. The battle was between the Continental and French Armies but, due to miscommunication, the French failed to attack as planned. Pulaski valiantly rode into the skirmish with his troops but prior to being cut off from help, rushed towards the enemy line and was struck by a British cannon filled with grape shot.¹⁰ Fatally wounded, the British allowed Pulaski to be removed from the battle field. As doctors tried to remove the grapeshot, Pulaski insisted that he be transported to South Carolina. Pulaski’s wishes were granted, and his severely injured body was placed aboard the *Wasp*, a Continental Army ship. While on the *Wasp*, Pulaski succumbed to his injuries two days later, and was subsequently laid to rest on the Greenwich Plantation near Savannah in the town of Thunderbolt. In addition, a monument of the General was erected and placed in Savannah, Georgia.¹¹

Pulaski County, named for Count Casimir Pulaski in honor of his leadership and bravery, gave his life in support of American freedom from British rule. Originally shaped from Lauren’s County, the Pulaski County line has continuously expanded resulting in its current boundary. Although Casimir Pulaski’s life ended while at sea, the memory of his contribution continues in the United States, the South, Central Georgia, and in the town of Hawkinsville. The incredible story of the Count holds a unique and historic place along with other lesser known “tales” of Pulaski County.¹²

⁹ Shock combat was a military tactic that included full force, and quick advancement for purposes of enemy retreat.

¹⁰ The first recorded use of the grapeshot was in 1740. The grapeshot was a cluster of small iron cast balls used as a charge for a cannon, providing a greater likelihood of hitting the enemy target.

¹¹ Pulaski County was created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly on December 13, 1808 from a portion of Laurens County. During the 1800s, the county was developed for cotton cultivation and considered part of the Georgia “Black Belt,” due to the fertile rich soil.

¹² “Historical Atlas of Georgia Counties, Pulaski County, 1822-2001,” *Georgia Info.: An Online Georgia Almanac*, accessed May 2, 2017, <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/histcountymaps/pulaskihistmaps.htm>.

Selected Bibliography

Ebel, Carol. "Casimir Pulaski in Georgia," *History and Archeology, Revolution and Early Republic, 1775-1800, New Georgia Encyclopedia*, 12 October 2007. Georgia: Georgia Humanities Council and the University of Georgia Press, 2007. Accessed April 24, 2017. <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/casimir-pulaski-georgia>.

Harris, Virginia Spear. *History of Pulaski & Bleckley Counties, Georgia 1808-1956*. Macon, GA: Hawkinsville DAR Chapter, 1957.

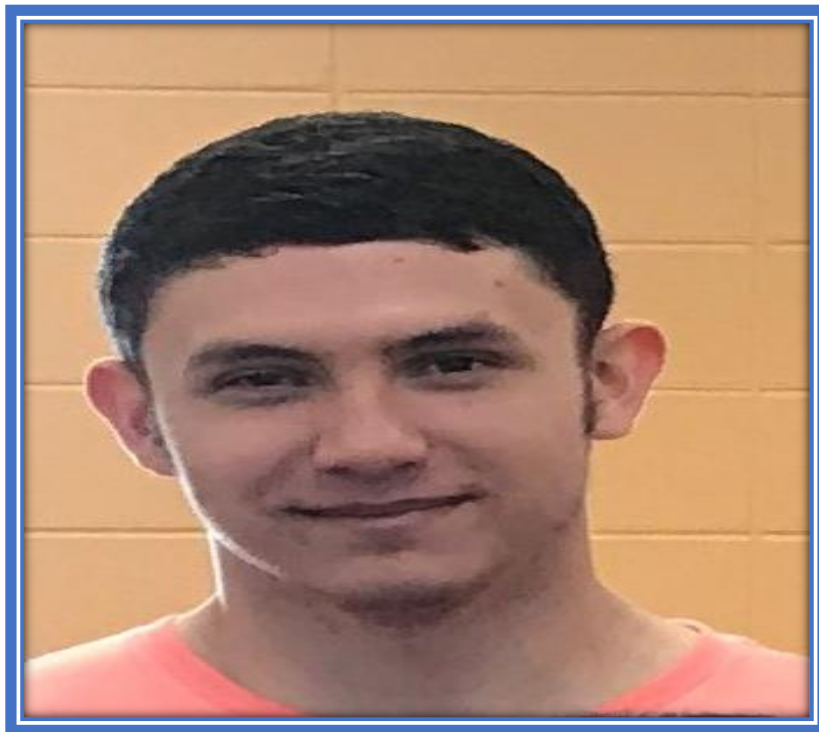
Hickman, Kennedy. "From Poland to America: Count Casimir Pulaski." *About.com Education*. February 02, 2016. Accessed March 01, 2017.

Georgia Info.: An Online Georgia Almanac. "Historical Atlas of Georgia Counties, Pulaski County, 1822-2001." Accessed May 2, 2017. <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/histcountymaps/pulaskihistmaps.htm>; *National Archives and Records Administration*. "Founders Online: From George Washington to Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski," 4. Accessed March 01, 2017. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0373>.

Wikipedia Contributors. "Kazimierz Pulaski: A Hero of the American Revolution." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Pulaski. Accessed April 24, 2017; "Casimir Pulaski," *History of Pulaski & Bleckley Counties, Georgia 1808-1956 Harris*. 23 April 2017. Accessed April 26, 2017; "General Kazimierz Pulaski: Father of American Calvary," Accessed April 24, 2017. <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/pulaski/deeds.html>.

About the Author

Christopher "Dawson" Posey, a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School while Dual Enrolled (MOWR) at Central Georgia Technical College, plans to attend Middle Georgia State University to pursue a BSN to become a Registered Nurse. Christopher chose this topic because "Hawkinsville, has a great history which people should become more acquainted." Christopher would like for his work to be used to raise awareness about the rich historical legacy of Hawkinsville and, hopefully, inspire other students to search for other local "unknown" stories.



Christopher "Dawson" Posey

Photo Courtesy of Christopher D. Posey, 2017.

Show Time: The History of the Hawkinsville Opera House

By DeOvian Taylor

The history of Pulaski County's "Grand Opera House," located in Hawkinsville, Georgia began in 1907. In April, the city of Hawkinsville was awarded a contract to construct a Performing Arts building at the cost of \$16,470. W.R. Gunn, a Macon, Georgia architect and theatrical designer, drafted the original plans for the 576-seat, downtown theatre. Mr. Gunn guaranteed the community a theatre building with perfect acoustics, prime seating arrangements, and even offered to return his design fee of one thousand dollars to anyone complaining of the inability to hear or see performers on stage during a production. According to Gunn, "No sound will ever echo on itself and no one seated in the auditorium will have to crane their neck to see any part of the 75-foot stage..."¹³ Mr. Gunn was never required to return his fee.

The initial plan was much larger, while the current structure is a much smaller version of the original.¹⁴ The building was originally named the Hawkinsville City Hall and Auditorium and was used as the town's City Hall where Board Meetings were held. The building was available to the public and used as a venue for a variety of events. During the early 1950s, the facility was used as a place of worship after a local church burned down, while later the site served as a movie theater. It was not until 1954 that the new modern City Hall was built, and the initial building no longer served a dual purpose. During the first years of operation, the designated Auditorium hosted many famous traveling theatrical and musical shows. Today, the Opera House has the largest seating capacity of any public building in Pulaski County, and is considered *the* place to go for an evening out on the town.

The Grand Opera House of Hawkinsville is one of three remaining Vaudevillian Theaters in operation in the state of Georgia and, since 1973, has been listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.¹⁵ Serving as a major tourist attraction, this historic landmark is vital to the Hawkinsville community. Currently, the main purpose of the Opera House is to sponsor and encourage cultural and educational activities in Hawkinsville and the surrounding areas. Its mission is to also assist the Pulaski County Public School system by supporting the Drama and Art Clubs of Hawkinsville High School. Opera House staff encourage local citizens to perform and learn about culture through educational programs in the Visual and Performing Arts. The Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Arts Council, a non-profit which manages the Opera House, sponsors cooperative planning, research, fundraising, and public programs considered necessary to encourage participation in, and appreciation for the arts by all segments of the community.

In 2000, the Old Opera House closed its doors to undergo a 1.7 million-dollar renovation. It reopened in 2001 with state of the art technology to accommodate today's artists and performers.¹⁶ Even the name was changed from "The Grand Opera House" to "The Old Opera House." Currently, the Old Opera House is owned by local citizens although managed by the Arts Council. This new and improved local performance venue has a 75-foot stage and comfortably seats up to 576 people. It also has theatrical lighting, sound, and rigging systems

¹³Staci Vickers Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 30, 2017.

¹⁴*Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Arts Council*, Accessed February 23, 2017, <http://hawkinsvilleoperahouse.com/about-us/>.

¹⁵Phillip Gibbs, "Images of America: Hawkinsville," (New York: Arcadia Publishing, 2008),11.

¹⁶Staci Vickers Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 30, 2017.

to help animate and bring any show to life. Although a three-story building, the Opera House has an elevator, closed circuit televisions in the dressing rooms, as well as dressing rooms at stage level for costume changes during shows. Below the stage level, there is a media center with video production through DVD, VCR, or Power Point, and meeting rooms complete with a warming kitchen constructed from the old City Hall Boardroom. Still, the “new” Old Opera House has maintained the elegant style of its initial design with a unique southern architectural and modern feel.

The first performance on the stage of the “new” Old Opera House was a local group called the Pulaski Players. Their act was a well-staged comedy called *the (Almost) True Story of Hansel and Gretel*.¹⁷ Many people in this small town enjoy the opera as well as large bands, averaging 120-150 shows annually. The year 2016, was one of the largest for the Opera House featuring a group from Motown, singer and song writer, Buddy Greene showcased his famous hit, *Mary Did You Know*, then Phil Dirt and the Dozers came to town, followed by Clovers & Co. who entertained us with a phenomenal Christmas concert. I have also performed at the “new” Old Opera House, courtesy of our High School Drama Club. This year the drama Club performed a *Game of Tiaras*, a remake of the series, *Game of Thrones*.

The programming at the Opera House has inspired my genuine love for the arts. From backstage to stage center, I have had the opportunity to produce and coordinate stage shows and performances. What is more, each year the Opera House invites the Hawkinsville High School Drama Club to produce a show for the entire school and community. Unfortunately, few people are aware of the origins of this historical venue, an essential part of the cultural life of Hawkinsville. Musicians from miles around come to perform bringing entertainment and diversity to our small town. This local performance venue both supports and promotes talented individuals of all genres, cultures, and offers variety in performances and entertainment.

Although Hawkinsville has many historic sites, the “new” Old Opera House will always be our main venue. The cozy town of Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia is fortunate to have one of the few remaining examples of southern architect still available for our enjoyment and appreciation. So, if you have never visited our “new” Old Opera House, I encourage you to do so. Be assured that there is much to see and learn.

¹⁷Virginia Speer Harris, *The History of Pulaski and Bleckley Counties* (Macon, Georgia, np., 1957), 22.

Selected Bibliography

Georgia Department of Economic. "The Historic Opera House/ Hawkinsville Georgia." Georgia Department of Economic Development. Accessed April 20, 2017.

Gibbs, Phillip. *Images of America: Hawkinsville*. (Arcadia Publishing, np. 2008).

Harris, Virginia Speer. "Daughters of the American Revolution: Hawkinsville Chapter." *History of Pulaski and Bleckley Counties, Georgia, 1808-1956* (Macon, Georgia, np.1957-58).

Hawkinsville Opera House. "Events Grid." Accessed March 26, 2017.

Vickers Staci. Oral Interview. Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 30, 2017.

"*The Munchkin Nugget*." Accessed April 26, 2017. <https://themunchkinnugget.com/about/>.

About the Author

DeOvian Taylor, a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School while Dual Enrolled (MOWR) at Central Georgia Technical College, plans to enlist in the United States Army departing for duty upon graduation. She chose this subject because the Opera House is a Hawkinsville historical landmark that continues to serve the cultural interests and needs of the community. It is DeOvian's hope that her work will inspire the children of Hawkinsville to pursue careers in the Performing Arts, particularly Opera, as well as other music and entertainment professions.



DeOvian Taylor

Photo Courtesy of DeOvian Taylor, 2017.

Haunted: The Hawkinsville Sinyard House

By Leslie Morales

The Sinyard House is located on Columbus Highway, approximately six miles beyond the Hawkinsville city limits. Constructed during the 1850s, the history of this “extraordinary” house is connected to the Antebellum history of Pulaski County, Georgia defined by huge mansions, slavery, and cotton. Although the Sinyard House has been continuously occupied since the mid-1800s, the house has not always been what it is today, nor has it always been owned by the Sinyard family.¹⁸ This historically preserved house was inherited by the Sinyard family around 1937 and, since that time, has been kept in excellent condition.¹⁹ Although the structure is quite old, the “mysterious activity” described by many did not occur until after 1985 when the house was remodeled and a second story was added. Ironically, most of the “spooky” activity occurs on the second floor.²⁰

One day, the owner decided to examine the historical records to discover why these strange things were happening, and to learn more about the structure’s history. When the family studied the records, they learned that, shortly after the Civil War, Confederate soldiers killed a child and its mother, a live-in maid.²¹ Because of the unexplained incidents that have occurred, many Hawkinsville residents believe the spirits of the mother and child remain in the house.

Some people report having heard a child laughing and giggling, others have heard a child playing upstairs when no child was present, as well as a woman’s voice singing lullabies. Others attest to having heard a baby crying and when clothes or towels have been left on the floor, these items were later found folded neatly and placed at the corner of the bed. For example, one person placed a ruffled towel in the bathroom and when they returned the towel had been neatly folded and placed on the toilet seat. At the same time, some insists that when individuals are taking showers a hand can be seen against the shower curtain and, in some instances, the curtains have been opened by a mysterious force. In addition, visitors have smelled perfume not worn by anyone present. Although harmless, just talking about these activities can sometimes be a bit unsettling.

While most of the townspeople believe that the ghosts of young children occupy the house, there has been talk of an adult male spirit in the house because heavy footsteps have been heard upstairs when no one else was there. On one occasion, a woman’s full body silhouette was seen in the upstairs window, as well as reports of items being moved around or being pulled out of the kitchen cabinets. If this is not enough, doors have been reported slamming and shutting, and sometimes the microwave will turn on without assistance. Although most anyone can speculate about what really happens in the house, the stories tend to be more believable when reliable sources have witnessed these events.

¹⁸ National Parks Service, “Civil War Timeline,” accessed April 23, 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/historyculture/civil-war-timeline.htm>.

¹⁹ Oral Interview with informed person who desires to remain anonymous, Hawkinsville, Georgia, February 23, 2017.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

Dolly Sinyard's daughter, Melissa Sinyard, saw a woman looking out of the window when no one was supposed to be there.²² On one occasion, a guest was so frightened that they did not dare tell anyone about her "ghost" encounter. As the story goes, the person was a teenager at the time and was sleeping in a bed on the second floor. While sleeping, they felt someone trying to push them off the bed. So frightened, the teenager refused to look.²³ On another occasion, the owner was working on the house from a ladder. As it turns out, the ladder was suddenly moved by an unseen force. While the owner survived, this incident is by far the most frightening report to date about this quiet, yet undoubtedly "haunted" house.²⁴

One of Hawkinsville's oldest historic sites, the Sinyard House is a local mystery. Most recollections have been orally transmitted by family members with few documented stories. So, if you are ever inclined to visit our town, look for the Sinyard House where, if you are lucky, you might see a broken ladder, hear the voice of a crying infant, or see a "mysterious" silhouette in the upstairs window!

²² Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, February 23, 2017.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Montana, Matt. "Sinyard Home," *Strange USA RSS.*, 1 June 2005, accessed April 24, 2017, http://www.strangeusa.com/ViewLocation.aspx?id=2501&desc=_Sinyard_Home__Hawkinsville__Ga&x=1.

Selected Bibliography

Gateway Macon. "Top 5 Most Hauntingly True Middle Georgia Ghost Stories." Web. Accessed May 02,

2017. <https://www.gatewaymacon.org/top-5-lists/top-5-haunt-story-macon.cms>. "Ghosts of Hawkinsville Georgia Real Ghost Story." Accessed May 02, 2017. <https://www.hauntworld.com/ghosts-of-hawkinsville-georgia-real-ghost-story>.

Leslie Morales. Oral interview series with unnamed source. February 21, 23, 24, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Montana, Matt. "Sinyard Home." *Strange USA RSS*. 01 June 2005. Accessed May 02, 2017.

http://www.strangeusa.com/ViewLocation.aspx?id=2501&desc=_Sinyard_Home__Hawkinsville__Ga&x=1.

National Parks Service. "Civil War Timeline." Web. Accessed May 02, 2017.

Spirits of the Sinyard House. "Southeastern Ghosts and Hauntings." Hawkinsville, Georgia. Accessed May 02, 2017.

About the Author

Leslie Morales, a former Junior at Hawkinsville High School and a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College, plans, upon graduating, to attend Middle Georgia College and later transfer to the University of North Georgia where she will study physical therapy. Leslie chose this topic because she loves mysterious houses and, as a child, was always afraid. Now that Leslie has conquered her fears, she is passionate about "haunted" houses and hopes that other students will continue to study the legend of the mysterious Sinyard House.



Leslie Morales

Photo Courtesy of Leslie Morales, 2017.

Medical Philanthropy: R. J. Taylor's Memorial Hospital

By Savannah Summers

R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital was the first hospital constructed in Hawkinsville, Georgia. The Hospital was a “gift from prominent businessman and banker,” Robert Jenks Taylor. Even though there were other medical services near Hawkinsville, R.J. Taylor Memorial, established in 1938, was the community’s first medical institution devoted to comprehensive patient care. Taylor Memorial was named for R.J. Taylor in appreciation for his generous donation of one hundred thousand dollars, and in honor of Hawkinsville’s first doctors, Ezekiel Henry Taylor and Robert Newson Taylor, father and grandfather respectively. According to Hawkinsville High School archivist, Mr. Taylor believed that he needed to “give to the community a well-deserved medical institution.”²⁵

R.J. Taylor was born and raised in Hawkinsville, Georgia. During Taylor’s childhood, his family played a prominent role in the medical profession as father, Ezekiel, owned a drug store in downtown Hawkinsville. Having been raised around medical practitioners, the younger Taylor later opened his own drug store. Almost fifteen years after the drug store was opened, Taylor found himself engaged in a new business venture located in Macon, Georgia. After spending many years in Macon, Taylor returned to Hawkinsville in search of a new beginning. When he announced his plan to build the hospital, local public officials joined in to assist in making Taylor’s dream a reality. Hawkinsville officials announced the opening of the hospital on June 15, 1938, on Taylor’s eighty-fourth birthday. In 1939, nearly one year after the hospital opened, Mr. Taylor, according to those who knew him, “peacefully in his sleep.”²⁶

When the hospital initially opened, it was absent of staff to collect and maintain patient records. As a result, the first patients to be serviced by doctors at R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital were not documented. According to William E. Coleman in *R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital*, an agreement was reached between the city and the hospital which stated that the “city would provide financial assistance to the hospital during the first years of operation” to assist with staffing and administration of services.²⁷ To date, no evidence has been found showing the full extent of city support, although one extant document provides insight into the coal and electricity furnished by the city. The city of Hawkinsville furnished the coal because the coal was needed to heat the hospital during the cold winters, while the electricity was a necessity for the sterilization of medical instruments and proper lighting for procedures and other services.²⁸

Since the construction of the R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital, the community of Hawkinsville has enjoyed a convenient medical facility for local emergencies. Before the hospital was built, however, most people traveled to nearby counties for medical attention and, at one time, R.J. Taylor Memorial was the only hospital south of

²⁵ Karen L. Baily, et. al., *Hawkinsville Walking/Driving Tour* (Hawkinsville, Georgia: Billingslea Media, 2012), 42; Ms. Sinyard, Hawkinsville High School Librarian, Oral Interview conducted on February 12, 2017.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 42

²⁷ William E. Coleman, *R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital*, (n.p., n.d.), 16.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 17.

Macon. For example, one local resident recalls that an expectant mother had to travel a great distance to deliver her baby because there was no maternity ward or urgent care facility in Hawkinsville.²⁹

The hospital, a Greek revival structure, had an inviting décor. When patients or visitors entered the Solarium, a room framed with windows, located in what was considered the hospital's lobby. A favorite gathering place, many welcomed a place for relaxation as well as the warmth created by the sun. Other rooms were in the Emergency area. The Emergency Unit differed in that it consisted of two rooms. The first room was a larger space, mainly for major injuries or urgent care. The second smaller room was used for routine evaluation of patients. Although the hospital was intended to serve the entire community, Emergency Rooms were segregated, consistent with legalized racial segregation in Georgia and other regions in the south.

The original Taylor Hospital employed many Hawkinsville residents, yet closed its doors in 1977. Since that time, however, the Hawkinsville community has grown in commercial activity, population, and geography. The remodeled Taylor Regional Hospital now has modern technology, trained professionals, skilled staff, and provides state of the art comprehensive medical care for ALL members of the community with no separation of waiting rooms based on race, class, gender, or sexual orientation. Our hospital is a standing reminder of the realization of R.J. Taylor's dream, and a testament to the progress of race and medicine in the city of Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia.

²⁹ Sinyard Oral Interview, February 12, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Selected Bibliography

Baily, Karen L. et. al. *Hawkinsville Walking/Driving Tour*. Hawkinsville, Georgia: Billingslea Media, 2012.

Coleman, William. *R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital*, (np, nd).

Sinyard Oral Interview. February 12, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia.

About the Author

Savannah Summers is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. The “Move On When Ready” Dual Enrollment Program allowed her to complete core college courses while attending high school. Savannah’s plans include continuing her studies at Central Georgia Technical College to pursue an Associate Nursing Degree, and obtaining a Registered Nursing Degree in two years, rather than four. After graduating from CGTC’s Nursing program, Savannah intends to relocate to work for the Scottish Rite Hospital. She chose the R.J. Taylor Memorial Hospital as her subject because of its rich, relatively unknown history. Savannah would like for her work to serve as a source of inspiration for others to study this landmark medical facility in Hawkinsville.



Savannah Summers

Photo Courtesy of Savannah Summers, 2017.

The Legacy of the Cabero Brothers

By Sara “Kelli” Long

The Hawkinsville Fruit and Candy Company opened its doors in 1902. Once located in downtown Hawkinsville, the history of the Fruit and Candy Company is significant because it was my family’s business and one of the few thriving enterprises in early Hawkinsville. During the early 1900s, most residents purchased their groceries from our store and, for the most part, were dependent on our goods and services. One of the most interesting features of our family’s store is that orders were placed, and groceries were delivered. In addition to establishing the Cabero Fruit and Candy Company, they opened an eatery, Nick’s Café, invested in land, and real estate. The ambitious Cabero brothers were respected members of the community, and some of Hawkinsville’s most successful entrepreneurs.

According to family members, Louis Leopold, after arriving at the Port of Savannah from Patras, Greece, opened his own store. Later, additional friends emigrated to the southern United States opening similar businesses in towns near Savannah. Others, including the Cabero family, migrated north to Hawkinsville, Georgia. The initial store owners were my great-great uncle, Spiro Cabero, and friends, the Louis Leopold family. In 1963, they transformed the store into a fruit and candy grocery store. Even though groceries were added to the store, they retained the original name. Within a few years, however, Leopold and Spiro left Hawkinsville to return to Patras, Greece because of the death of Leopold’s daughter, Angie Aprea. Unlike Leopold, Spiro’s intention was to return to Hawkinsville, but his travels were delayed due to required service in the Greek Army.

So, in 1908, brothers, Leonidas and Nicholas, came to Hawkinsville to manage the Fruit and Candy Company. While Nicholas (Nick), helped Leonidas (Lee) run the store, in May of 1912, Andrew Cabero, and his teenage cousin, Freeman Cabero, joined them. Andrew, only fourteen years old at the time, stowed away on the ship without his parent’s knowledge! Once arriving in New York, officials noticed that he had stowed away and detained him on the ship for a week. After providing acceptable proof of having relatives in the United States, Andrew was then allowed to leave the ship. Andrew’s intention was to travel with Freeman to Athens, Greece to see him off, but later decided that he wanted to come to America where he remained except for one visit to Greece during the 1920s. Andrew, Lee, and Nick Cabero’s names are listed on The American Immigrant Wall of Honor at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York. While the Wall has been viewed by my mother and brother, Holly and Michael Long, I, too, hope to see their names as listed on the Wall of Honor someday.

As the story goes, Freeman Cabero travelled to America to assist in running the newly opened Nick’s Café, also the site of the Greyhound Bus Depot. The combination of Café and bus depot encouraged more business as travelers enjoyed breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the Café. Nick’s Cafe soon outgrew its small location inspiring Freeman to open a second Café in Florida. Unfortunately, after the building had been completed a violent storm flooded the facility so Freeman eventually returned to Hawkinsville. Realizing that a new manager had been secured to run the Cafe during his absence, Freeman went to Perry and opened a Nick’s Café in downtown Perry, Georgia. The business activities of the caber brothers were so successful in and near Hawkinsville that, according to Sara A. Roth in *History of Pulaski County Georgia 1808-1935*, the arrival of the Cabero brothers was considered the “Invasion of the Greeks.”³⁰

³⁰ Sarah A. Roth et. al., *History of Pulaski County Georgia 1808-1935*, (Georgia: Walter W. Brown Publishing Company, 1975), 323.

Immigrants from Greece had occasionally started businesses in Hawkinsville but never remained as the Caberos had. The Cabero brothers became longtime residents of the town and, in addition to the Fruit and Candy Company and Café, began investing in real estate. Their first purchase was a two-story building which housed the Fruit and Candy Company. Having enjoyed the success of Nick's Café, they later purchased an office building. As my grandfather, Nicky Cabero, recalls, "It was one of the most attractive buildings in town."³¹ Later, the brothers became landowners. Roth states that "The Cabero brothers [were] not only owners of valuable property in the city, but [were] extensive landowners, which include[d] some of the most valuable plantations in the county."³² The brothers also purchased the Brown Hotel, which was one of the largest hotels in Hawkinsville. They served as hotel hosts and added a large barbecue pit. The brothers also engaged in personal lending. Local farmers would purchase groceries on credit for a year and make annual payments in October. Non-farmers were extended credit as well, but only for a month with payments due at the end of each month. Not only were the Cabero brothers leading businessmen in Hawkinsville, Nick Cabero served as President of both the local Chamber of Commerce and Pulaski Fair Association.

Lee Cabero married Mary Hearn and had two children, George and Leon. The Lee and Mary Cabero family lived in what is now called "The Cabero House" located on Merritt Street in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Years later, my great grandfather, Andrew, married and had two children. His youngest son, Nicky Cabero, my grandfather, started working at the store when he was eight years old, initially working behind the soda fountain. After the store's remodeling in 1963, my grandfather became a cashier, waited on customers, cut meat, sold vegetables, and made candy and ice-cream

Grandfather Nicky and John Roberts Ross Sr., a man who worked with my grandfather at the store, made the candy. Each piece of candy in the store was handmade. They made three kinds of candy. At Christmas time and for the New Year's festivities, they would make a large peppermint candy stick which was about two inches in diameter and fourteen inches long. The process included making a white peppermint stick, followed by a red peppermint stick. While the two sticks were still warm, they would put the red peppermint stick beside the white peppermint stick and twist them, giving the candy its red and white spiral pole shape.

Another type of candy produced was the coconut cream, a pink color that the Cherry Blossom Festival would love to have! It was a soft cream candy much like the softness of a Three Musketeer candy bar. They would spread the candy on a table. Then they used a special cutter like a rolling pin, with three to four extremely sharp blades for cutting the candy into small pieces. The best-selling candy, however, was the coconut brittle. It was called "cabbage candy" because, when cooked, it resembled cooked cabbage. The ingredients of the candy were Karo syrup and sugar cooked to a certain temperature, followed by the addition of shredded coconut. Occasionally, peanuts were used in the place of coconut and then peanut brittle was sold.

In the candy kitchen were two marbled topped tables. Each table was four feet by eight feet and two inches in diameter. Once the candy was cooked to the right temperature, two people were needed to pick up the pot. The pot was made of copper and was very big. It was thirty inches across, eight inches deep, with two handles on the side. The candy makers stood on each side of the marble topped tables and poured the heavy pot of coconut brittle onto the table quickly before it cooled. The candy was spread with a three-pronged fork. Once the candy was cooled, it was cut into pieces and placed into a five-gallon metal container or lard can. Thursday of each week was the day that candy was made. By Friday morning the freshly made candy would be ready for delivery to the stores for purchase by loyal customers.

If the candy was not allowed to cool enough, it would blend and harden together. My grandfather recalled once making this mistake. He placed the candy into the metal can before it had completely cooled. The next

³¹ Nicky Cabero, Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, February 5, 2017.

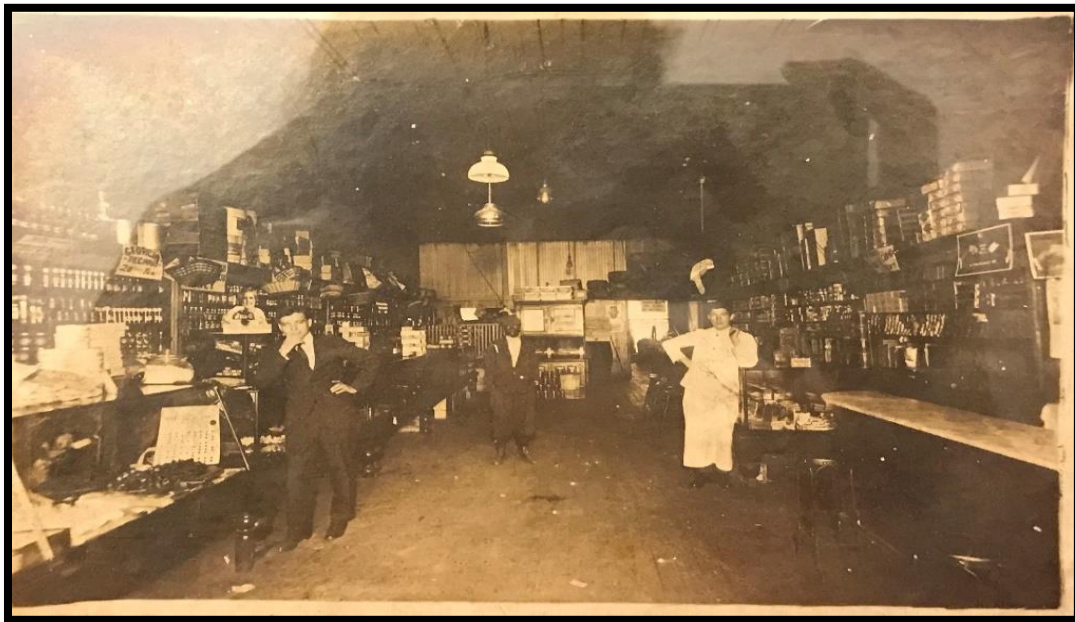
³² Roth et. al., *History of Pulaski County*, 323.

day, there was a five gallon “rock,” candy that could not be sold. The “cabbage candy” was twenty to thirty cents a pound when my grandfather worked in the store. Today, the Peko Flake candy costs approximately five dollars and ninety-nine cents per pound and resembles the “cabbage candy” sold in our family store.

Our family’s candy was not only sold in the store, it was also sold throughout the county. Churches in Hawkinsville would have activities called “Big Meets.” The delivery truck from the Hawkinsville Fruit and Candy Company would deliver fruit, candy, and ice-cream. When the church members were on a break from their meeting, they would sell our fruit, candy, and ice cream. The same truck would also make deliveries to small grocery stores in the county. Four-year-old Uncle Tony, Nicky’s son, rode in the delivery truck with John Robert Ross Sr. to help deliver groceries. Nicky worked until the store closed.

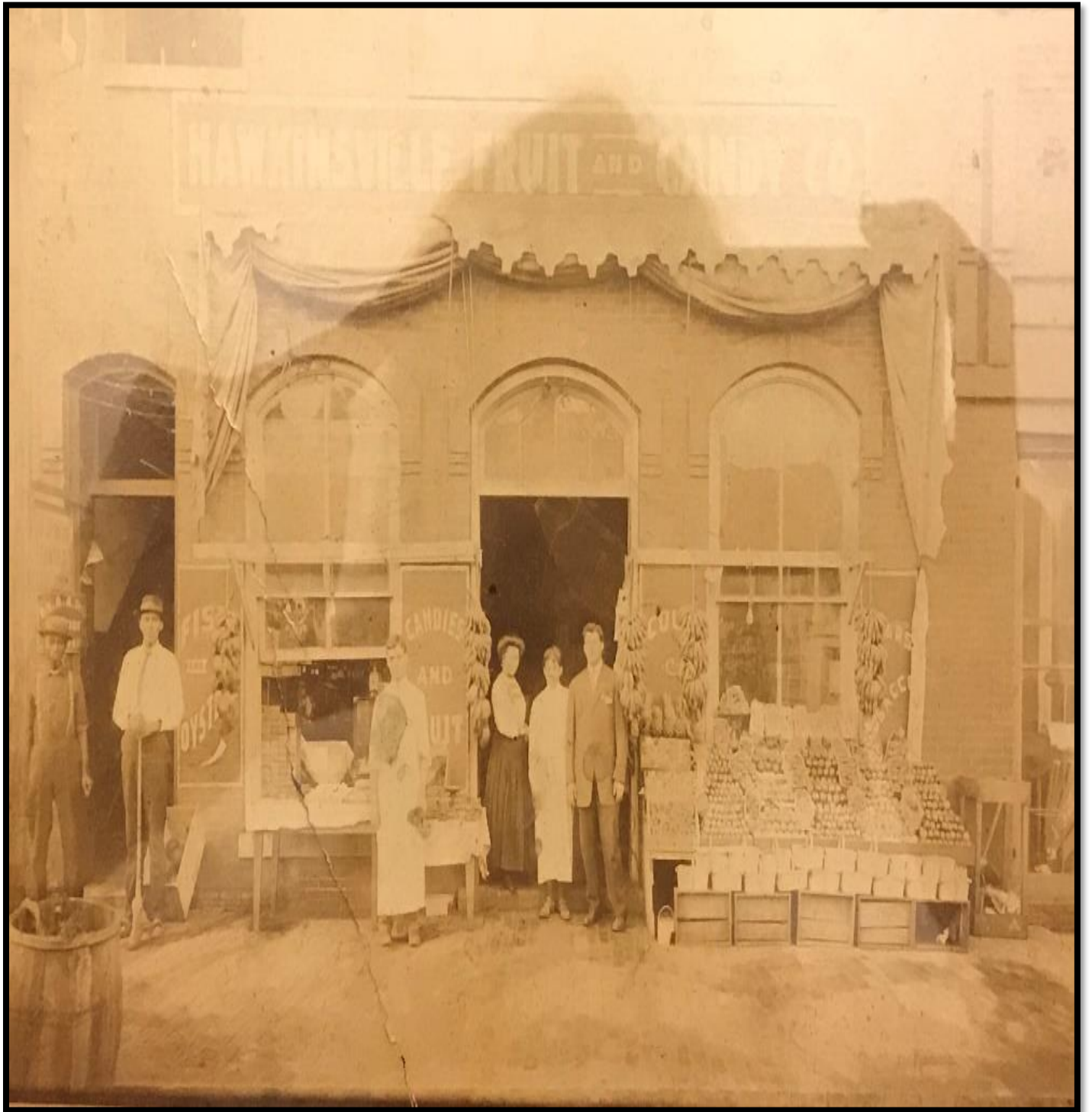
In 1967 the Hawkinsville Fruit and Candy Company closed due to the growth and expansion of chain grocery stores which caused many local stores, including my family’s, to go out of business. I am inspired by the accomplishments of my great grandfather and great uncles, individuals who spoke very little English and knew even less about American culture yet created several successful businesses. One way that my great grandfather learned the English language was through the benevolence of the First United Methodist Church of Hawkinsville. My great grandfather’s uncle had been a Greek Orthodox Priest, and when he attended church members would teach him to better speak and write the English language.

I am proud that my family’s contributions were recognized by early Hawkinsville residents. My grandparents, Nicky and Linda Cabero, have evidence of our history in their home. The old ice-cream churn that was used to make the homemade ice-cream and the furniture originally located behind the soda fountain are now part of the Cabero entertainment center; including one of the bar stools from the soda fountain. The Cabero brothers and their descendants left a great legacy for our family, the Hawkinsville community, and for the world!



Hawkinsville Fruit and Candy Store Interior

Photo Courtesy of Nicky and Linda Cabero (circa. 1940-60)



Hawkinsville Fruit and Candy Store

Photo Courtesy of Nicky and Linda Cabero (circa. 1940-60)

Selected Bibliography

Cabero, Nicky. Oral interview. Hawkinsville, Georgia, February 5, 2017.

Lynn, Vyvyan. "Sweet Success." *Georgia Magazine*. August (2013): 16-18, 20.

Phillip A. Gibbs and Tracie L. Provost. *Images of America Hawkinsville*. Georgia: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

Sarah A. Roth, Nell B. Wilcox, Clara B. Thomas, and Carl T. Kimberly, Jr. et. al. *History of Pulaski County_Georgia 1808-1935*
Georgia: Walter W. Brown Publishing Company, 1975.

About the Author

Sara "Kelli" Long is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a participant in Central Georgia Technical College's Dual Enrollment (MOWR) Program. After graduation, "Kelli," as she prefers to be called, plans to travel the world. Upon her return, she intends to study medicine at Albany State University with the goal of becoming a Diagnostic Medical Sonogram Specialist, as she has always been interested in radiology and sonogram interpretation. Kelli's topic is important to her because it is a part of the Cabero-Long family legacy. Kelli's hope is that her work will be read, utilized, and enhanced by undergraduate HHS students, and that it inspires greater local interest in the unique place that Hawkinsville, Georgia occupies in our state's history.



Sara "Kelli" Long

Photo Courtesy of Sara "Kelli" Long, 2017.

Steamboats, River Roads, and Commerce in Hawkinsville

By Jordan Ledford

Hawkinsville's trade and commerce history has evolved over the years. One of the earliest forms of trade-commerce, "bartering," required an exchange of unneeded goods for needed items. After a while, people began selling products using currency in the form of precious metals or spices. The method of transport also changed. Initially products were sold locally, but later items were sold and delivered by horse or caravan. With the invention of the steam engine traded goods were transported by riverways and, once the rail systems were in place, trains hauled goods from the east to the west coast. By the mid twentieth-century, trucks travelling on highways transported goods across the country to places where there were no nearby train depots. After the invention of the airplane, however, products were shipped around the world in a matter of days or hours.

Pulaski County, Georgia is an example of how commercial transport evolved over time. A relatively small South Georgia community, Pulaski County was established in 1808. Recent demographic data shows that Pulaski has a population of over twelve thousand. But during the early 1900s there were over twenty-two thousand people. Pulaski was a great trade community before the major highway systems evolved, mainly because the county possessed riverways which flowed to the east coast ultimately opening the trade market for the county.³³

Pulaski had also been a major trading post due to both its location and exports. Considered part of the Georgia black belt because of its extremely fertile soil, Pulaski was a major producer of cotton. Although new highways reduced steam boat traffic, the region continued to flourish since many highways that crossed the Ocmulgee River flowed through Hawkinsville, seat of Pulaski County. For example, the first steam boat to travel the Ocmulgee River, the North Carolina, was captained in 1829 by Matthew Mathis McCormick with cargo consisting of seven hundred bales of cotton. The North Carolina continued to sail down the river for twenty-seven more years. During the initial stages of steamboat commerce, only four steamboats traveled the river route. By 1866, however, one of the largest boats to run the river, The Stewart, carried 129 tons of cotton and could accommodate twenty people.

³³ Wikipedia Contributors, "Pulaski County, Georgia," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, accessed April 20, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pulaski_County,_Georgia&oldid=774854153.

The Hawkinsville area grew, in part, to its cotton industry. In the late 1800s, cotton from Hawkinsville sold at a rate of fifty cents to one dollar per bale when being shipped to the port of Savannah, Georgia. Although Hawkinsville's cotton market was diminished by the onslaught of the boll weevil, men who worked the river turned to the lumber industry. While the lumber industry did not flourish as much as cotton, men would load logs from the river and then drop the timber off at mills along the river's edge. One of the major mills in the Pulaski area was the Standard Lumber Company, whose main products were barrels made of white oak. The river also powered another mill, Fountain's Mill, managed by Mr. Green Fountain. He purchased a lot adjacent to the river and built several shops consisting of a factory for carding wood, steam powered mill, blacksmith shop, and general store. During the steamboat era in South Georgia, most of the boats were owned primarily by Hawkinsville businessmen.

While the Ocmulgee also saw its fair share of ferries due to the lack of bridges, the first bridge was built in 1825. The first wagon bridge was constructed in 1879 and later dedicated to the fallen men of World War I. This very same wood bridge was upgraded to steel and concrete in 1888. Hawkinsville was the main trading post for Pulaski County. The town was abundant in raw materials and finished products to sell. There were three warehouses for storage, an oil mill, several steam-powered operations such as a brick factory, several saw mills, and grist mills. On May 9, 1919, the State Legislature passed a Bill for the creation of a bridge in Hawkinsville, intended to be the first bridge north of Macon to cross the Ocmulgee River. The bridge/highway inspired Hawkinsville's nick name "highway hub."

In addition, in July 1812, a *Road Order* stated that there would be a road paved from Milledgeville to Hartford, a decision that brought even more people to Hawkinsville. There were also several land settlements fifteen miles northeast of Hawkinsville known as Longstreet, located on an old stagecoach trail. Longstreet, a smaller version of Hawkinsville with a population of nearly three hundred, consisted of only a few small farmers and mills whereas Hawkinsville enjoyed a larger population and several mills.

The culture of local trade and commerce influences how communities develop, thrive, and transform. For example, Longstreet had been a major focal point but as steamboats replaced stagecoaches, Hawkinsville grew and expanded while Longstreet slowly faded away. Today, retailers and merchants send cargo across the world in a matter of hours avoiding the local trade centers within and near small rural communities. Ironically, Hawkinsville, in large part, owes its own trade and commercial dominance to the smaller, isolated communities that it consumed.

Selected Bibliography

Wikipedia Contributors. "Pulaski County, Georgia," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Accessed April 20, 2017.

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pulaski_County,_Georgia&oldid=774854153.

Harris Virginia S. *History of Pulaski and Bleckley counties, Georgia 1808-1956*. Macon, Georgia: Hawkinsville

D.A.R. Chapter, 1957.

About the Author

Jordan is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. He intends to pursue a degree in Astrophysics. According to Jordan, "it is important to study how a community develops and manages trade and commerce over time." Jordan wants his research to be used to inform and inspire residents of larger communities, and to be reminded of how a once economically thriving community such as Hawkinsville, can disappear due to changes in technology and trade.



Jordan Ledford

Photo Courtesy of Jordan Ledford, 2017.

When Cotton Was King: The Hawkinsville Cotton Mill

By Chandler “Leeann” Smith

The cultivation and marketing of cotton in Pulaski County, Georgia is one of the most important aspects of Hawkinsville’s economic history. Although first planted in Georgia in 1734, cotton had not been cultivated in tremendous amounts in the region until the nineteenth-century. With the invention of the Cotton Gin, cotton could be harvested at a faster rate while stimulating the local economy. Prior to the Civil War, cotton was planted and harvested by enslaved labor on large plantations, while finished cotton goods were produced in both northern and southern mills for domestic and foreign markets.

My interest in the cotton industry stems from my great grandmother, Louise Owens, and grandfather, Ricky Boyd, who worked in the Hawkinsville Mill. According to my grandfather, “my great grandmother sewed the cotton materials together. He worked in the back of the mill, and his job was to “help carry out the boxes of cotton materials that were already made.” Grandfather Ricky recalls that “the cotton mill produced embroidered towels, clothes, and woven cotton along with doffing yarn all of which were made of one hundred percent cotton material. The cotton would travel through loud machines for processing,” he stated, “and then to the area where many ladies gathered finished thread to weave certain designs used on towels and other items.”³⁴

When the sewing had been completed, items were returned to the back of the factory where they were boxed and shipped all over the world. According to Phillip A. Gibbs and Tracy Provost in *Images of America*, “during most of the nineteenth-century, Hawkinsville, situated in the cotton belt, served as one of Georgia’s first whole sale centers,” and Hawkinsville’s “cotton was shipped to cities and different cotton mills in Liverpool and Manchester, England, as well as Boston and New York...”³⁵ Still historian, Nancy L. Relmer, insists that “steamboats, pole boats, and timber rafts shipped freight and cotton materials down the Ocmulgee River to ship to other places in the world.”³⁶ The steamboats and railroads carried the cotton supplies and materials from Pulaski County along the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers to Savannah, Georgia. Although the railroads were mainly used in the shipment of logs, they also played an enormous role in the transportation of cotton and contributed to the economic boom driven by Hawkinsville’s thriving cotton market.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth-centuries, cotton production and commerce served as Hawkinsville’s main source of economic stability. At the same time, cotton has not always been the primary crop grown in Hawkinsville. As early as 1830, Hawkinsville’s economy relied mostly on timber and corn, rather than cotton. Nevertheless, Hawkinsville’s mill manufacturing of cotton grew because of the Cotton Gin, invented by “Eli Whitney who came to Georgia in 1793 to serve as a private tutor.” According to Arden Williams in his essay, *Textile Industry*, “He (Eli) created the Cotton Gin at Catharine Greene’s Mulberry Grove plantation in Chatham County.”³⁷ Although this machine reduced the labor associated with spinning, weaving, and the “removal of seed from fiber,” it did not reduce the number of slaves needed.³⁸ Slaves were still needed to plant, pick, and prepare the cotton for the Gin. Cotton, in great demand in Europe, could be produced and manufactured at low

³⁴ Ricky Boyd, Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 10, 2017.

³⁵ Phillip A. Gibbs and Tracie L. Provost, *Images of America Hawkinsville*, (Georgia: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 55.

³⁶ Nancy L., Relmer, “Hawkinsville,” *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, December 07, 2016, accessed February 23, 2017.

³⁷ Arden, Williams, “Textile Industry,” *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, October 20, 2016, accessed February 22, 2017.

³⁸ “Return to Economy Introduction,” accessed April 15, 2017, <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>.

cost in southern mills and exported domestically and abroad using the Ocmulgee River as a major transportation route.

The need for cotton and the wealth that slave labor produced led to what Abraham Lincoln described as “a house divided” and the Civil War of 1861. The devastation caused by war destroyed the fabric of plantation life, subsistence of small farmers, and created a landless poor class; all of whom needed cotton materials for clothing. For example, “after the war planters had to find new means of labor for growing and harvesting cotton.”³⁹ Yet, “before the Civil War, companies like Arlington Mills spun and wove Georgia cotton for the domestic and foreign market. With growing a demand for cotton cloth and increased cotton production in Georgia and other southern states, many mills expanded their operations in the North and South by the early 1900s.”⁴⁰

After the War, poor white and black farmers resorted to various forms of sharecropping and tenant farming, while large planters continued to rely on cotton manufacturing mills to sustain their economic and social standing. Oftentimes when farmers turned to sharecropping, they became debtors. Most sharecroppers had to live in houses provided by the landowner, houses most often “near the mill that could either be leased or purchased.”⁴¹ At the same time, many of the workers bought all their needed goods and supplies from the general store in exchange for the cotton crop. Interest rates were unusually high, yet their only option was to engage in a vicious cycle of credit and debt due to sharecropping arrangements; a system that most resented but over which they had little control.

At the same time, some Hawkinsville citizens were heavily invested in the cotton mills. For example, Hawkinsville citizen, W.N. Parsons, invested in the cotton factory and “became manager and owner of the Lathrop Oil Mill as well as establishing Planter’s Bank in 1896.”⁴² Parsons wanted to make sure that Hawkinsville cotton was properly woven, and that cotton production continued in Pulaski County. Those who labored in the Hawkinsville Cotton Mill worked long hours and, according to my grandfather, “the process of doffing yarn and cloth among the clattering spinning machines and looms could be nerve wrecking as well as strenuous.”⁴³ Not only were the mills a source of employment for residents, they also provided income to purchase homes. But after the mills closed, many lost their homes and jobs: a disaster for the residents of Hawkinsville and the local economy as well.

Today, cotton remains a primary source of every-day items, yet many Hawkinsville residents are not aware of the role that the cotton industry has played in our local economic history. For example, Hawkinsville’s premier clothing store, *Jodi’s*, is a thriving business that would not be doing so well without the continued production of cotton products. The local demand for fine cotton has provided *Jodi’s* and the community with greater income, economic stability, and increased local tax revenue.

The Hawkinsville cotton industry has been very important to the community. Cotton production was once valued in Hawkinsville because it created a way for small farmers to make a living and help local businesses at the same time. Steamboats and railroads aided the local economy and, as a result, led to the creation of a thriving town that has weathered the storms of changing, shifting, global, and regional economic challenges.

³⁹ “Return to Economy Introduction,” accessed April 15, 2017, <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>.

⁴⁰ Phillip A. Gibbs and Tracie L. Provost, *Images of America Hawkinsville*, (Georgia: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 56.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, 57.

⁴² *Ibid*, 45.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 57.

Selected Bibliography

Boyd, Ricky. Oral Interview. Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 10, 2017.

Phillip A. Gibbs and Tracie L. Provost. *Images of America Hawkinsville*. Georgia: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

“Return to Economy Introduction.” Accessed April 15, 2017. <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>.

Remler, Nancy L. “Hawkinsville.” *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. December 07, 2016. Accessed February 23, 2017.

Williams, Arden. “Textile Industry.” *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. October 20, 2016. Accessed February 22, 2017.

About the Author

Chandler “Leeann” Smith, the daughter of Kim and Lee Smith of Hawkinsville, is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. She plans to attend Albany State University to obtain her Associates Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Leeann’s topic is important to her because family members worked in the Cotton Mill. According to Leeann, “I have learned a great deal about my hometown, past and present, and hope that my work will be read by undergraduates, and that Hawkinsville residents will be inspired to become a more historically conscious community.”



Chandler “Leeann” Smith

Photo Courtesy of Chandler “Leeann” Smith, 2017.

Crisis: Politics and Public Education in Hawkinsville

By Haley Calhoun

The Pulaski County School District, located in Hawkinsville, Georgia, was created during the early 1890s.⁴⁴ Prior to 1890, white students attended private academies. Due to Hawkinsville's growing population, local citizens along with the town council voted to build a public school, while opposing private education for their children. Currently, the Pulaski School District includes one Pre-kindergarten, one Elementary, one Middle, one High School, and an Alternative Learning Center for "at risk" students.

At the turn of the nineteenth-century, there were two schools; one for grades one through six; the second for grades one through three, and seven through twelve. Over the years, the Pulaski County School System became more gender diverse but fell short in matters of racial inclusion. The 1934 graduating class of twenty-four was majority female (nineteen females and five males). In many cases, young white males tended to drop out of school to assist with the management of the family farm or to pursue a trade. Young white women, on the other hand, continued their education by enrolling in college or pursuing a profession. At the same time, the Pulaski County School System refused to allow black students to attend the public school where white students were enrolled due to their enforcement of legal segregation.

In response, the white and black citizens of Hawkinsville joined together to open an industrial school for blacks, J. L. Bozeman Training Institute. Located on Lumpkin Street, Bozeman was operated from 1946 through 1973.⁴⁵ The Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown vs. The Board of Education* (1954), however, undermined local efforts to adequately educate all children together through the doctrine of "separate but equal," requiring desegregation of all public schools such as J.L. Bozeman insisting separate schools for blacks and whites unconstitutional.⁴⁶ It is important to note that at the time, there were nearly as many black students as whites attending the black industrial school, with a greater number of black male graduates than white. At the same time, reduced state and local funding caused many of Bozeman's black teachers such as Gladys Crawford, and Principal Bozeman who, although devoted more time and energy, were payed far less than their white counterparts.⁴⁷

Some of the subjects taught at the early public schools were Rhetoric, Latin, Declamation, and Home Economics. Currently, to graduate from Hawkinsville High School, one must take four Math, Science, History, and Language Art courses, as well as electives such as Art, Healthcare, Band, Agriculture, Bible, Business, and Spanish. At the same time, athletic programs increased with the offering of football in the early 1920s, basketball in the late 1940s, tennis in the mid-1950s, golf in the early 1960s, track in the mid- 1970s, baseball in the mid-1980s, softball in the early 1990s, and cheerleading in the mid-1990s.⁴⁸ The PCSD also provides extra-curricular activities such as the American Beta Club, Future Farmers of America, Literacy, Art, and Drama Clubs.

⁴⁴ Phillip A. Gibbs and Tracie L. Provost, *Images of America Hawkinsville*, (South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 76.

⁴⁵ *Hawkinsville High & Industrial and Bozeman High Schools*. <http://www.hhiandbozeman.org/>

⁴⁶ When a policy is **unconstitutional**, it violates the legal foundation of a political system.

⁴⁷ *Hawkinsville High School*. <http://www.greatschools.org/georgia/hawkinsville/1563-Hawkinsville-High-School/>

⁴⁸ *Hawkinsville High RED DEVILS*. Web. <http://hhsreddevils.com/>

The history of Pulaski County’s Public-School system is significant because knowing how it evolved has provided me and my peers with a window into the past; when the opportunity to receive a quality high school education was not required or guaranteed. Being able to earn a publicly supported High School Diploma provides black and white students with the foundation for college admission, while the convenience of our District’s location relieves us from having to travel to other counties for public education. In addition, the Pulaski County School System lays claim to many successful graduates such as “Greg Brown, a Fort Valley State University alum, Electronic Technologist, and Pulaski County School Board Member. Mr. Brown has worked for Sun Mark Community Bank for over thirty years as a Network Administrator, and is a Deacon at a local church, Christian Hope Baptist.”⁴⁹

The Pulaski County School system has changed for the better since the 1890s and is a critical component of our community because every student’s success is a Hawkinsville success. The history and legacy of public education in Pulaski County, as well as the collective and individual struggles for integration will remain an exception to the familiar narrative of segregation and integration in the twentieth-century south.

⁴⁹*Pulaski County Schools*, Hawkinsville, Georgia, Web, <http://www.pulaski.k12.ga.us/Board/Members/9>.

Selected Bibliography

Gibbs, Phillip A., and Tracie L. Provost. *Images of America: Hawkinsville*. South Carolina: Charleston, 2008.

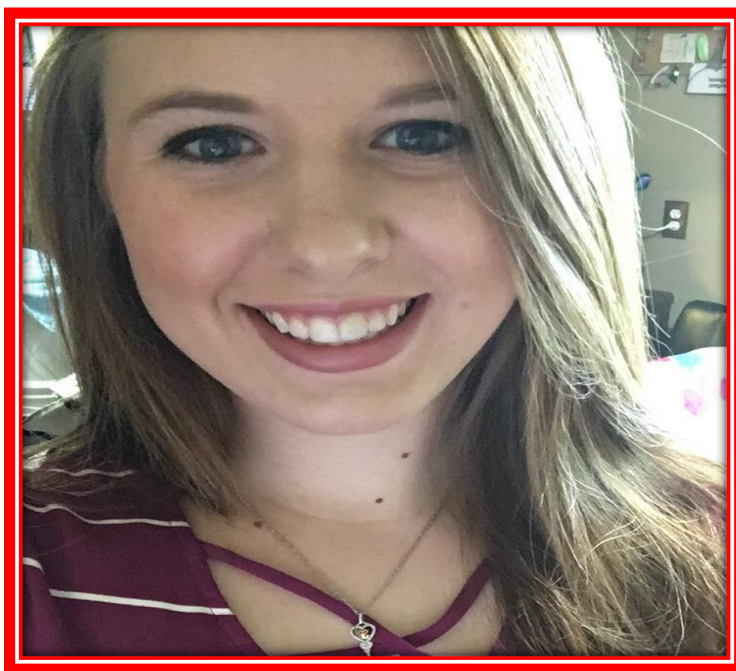
Hawkinsville High & Industrial and Bozeman High Schools. Web. <http://www.hhiandbozeman.org/>.

Hawkinsville High RED DEVILS. Web. <http://hhsreddevils.com/>.

Pulaski County Schools Hawkinsville, Georgia. Web. <http://www.pulaski.k12.ga.us/Board/Members/9>.

About the Author

Haley Calhoun is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. Haley plans to attend Georgia Southern University to study Nursing. She chose this topic because she has been enrolled in the Pulaski County School system nearly her entire life. Haley would like for her research about the school system to be available and read by both students and the larger community as it might provide insight into current educational policies in the Central Georgia.



Haley Calhoun

Photo Courtesy of Haley Calhoun, 2017.

A Family Affair: The Children's World Learning Center

By Desmon "Des" Singletary

The "Children's World Learning Center" is a family owned Daycare Center located at 121 North Lumpkin Street in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Angela, my mother and owner, has always been passionate about the education and well-being of local children.⁵⁰ After graduating from high school, Angela began babysitting the children of neighborhood families. While babysitting young children from the community in our home, she also began studying Early Education and Childhood Development. It was during her hands-on experiences and academic pursuits that my Mom decided to become a licensed in-home daycare professional. As a successful in-home day care manager for six-teen years, she was always at capacity oftentimes forced to place children on waiting lists. This reoccurring situation led she and my Dad to consider the possibility of opening a full-service day care center in Hawkinsville.

Establishing the business was not an easy task. Initially, my parents had to find a suitable location for the center. They thought about buying an established daycare facility, but then decided to purchase land and construct their own building. Identifying the land was relatively easy, while acquiring the buildings proved to be an unexpected challenge.⁵¹ My parents' first attempt to purchase a building failed. You see there was a gentleman in Columbus, Georgia who said that he had just the building they were looking for. But when the seller realized that my parents had no intention of sending money before seeing the building frames, he stopped answering the telephone. The truth of the matter is that the man turned out to be a fraud, further delaying my parents' opening of their daycare center. With the assistance of a few business partners, however, they finally found a legitimate building distributor in Rhine, Georgia who assembled and delivered the buildings to their current location on North Lumpkin Street.

There was still plenty of work to be done after the building frames were installed. We, family and friends, had to construct walls in the buildings, paint, place new tiles on the floors, install a fence, plant grass, and design landscaping. Individuals from the community would often stop by to ask if we needed any help. The community support really helped considering that my Mom and Dad's goal was to have the project completed in three months. With the assistance of many committed friends and family, we finished in two months allowing more than enough time to place the final touches on our center. Representatives from the State of

⁵⁰ Angela Singletary, Oral Interview, March 20,2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia, Video 1 of 1.

⁵¹ Richard Singletary, Oral Interview, March 22, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia, Video 1 of 1.

Georgia inspected the buildings and approved the daycare center's opening in Hawkinsville. But prior to officially opening, my Mom had to identify and hire staff. This was not difficult at all because interested applicants were inquiring almost every day. According to my Mom and CEO, "she wanted to give the people in her own community a chance, and that the daycare center's opening would not only help our family but would also benefit our community."⁵²

"The Children's World Learning Center" has had an enormous impact on children, especially in matters of behavior. For example, there was one kid enrolled in elementary school but constantly found himself in the office and getting into trouble. When the child was accepted into the CWL Center everyone was already aware of his behavioral challenges. Instead of being impatient with the child because of his reputation, the staff treated him with love by talking softly and rewarding his good behavior. Through positive reinforcement, not only did the child continue with good behavior when at the Center, he stopped getting into trouble at school as well. This type of success story is one of many, making The Children's World Learning Center an exceptional place to inspire an early difference in the life of a local child.

The motto for The Children's World Learning Center is "Children Live What They Learn." Our mantra simply means that you cannot expect a child to be able to do something that he or she has not been taught. If a child is not taught to be polite, well-mannered, honest, and kind how can you expect them to demonstrate these qualities? Are the children to blame? At The Children's World Learning Center, staff and administrators teach children to be well-mannered, respectful, and kind insisting that the cultivation of these qualities will promote positive behavior in the future.⁵³

Early learning that focuses on developing responsible children can have a significant impact on a community, because if a child is taught at a young age there is a greater likelihood that he or she will grow up to be productive residents of their community and town. The Children's World Learning Center, Angela's dream, is now a reality. The CWL Center not only helps children in the community, it also helps to reduce unemployment by providing jobs for local citizens. My Mom and Dad have made an amazing contribution to the city of Hawkinsville. The legacy and example shown by my parents have inspired me, their son, to make a difference in the lives of Hawkinsville children today, and in the future.

⁵² Angela Singletary, Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 27, 2017.

⁵³ Akiebia Jenkins, Oral Interview, Hawkinsville, Georgia, March 27, 2017.

Selected Bibliography

Jenkins, Akebia. Oral Interview. March 27, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Jenkins, Gail. Oral Interview. March 28, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Singletary, Angela. Oral Interview. March 20, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Singletary, Richard. Oral Interview. March 22, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia.

About the Author

Desmon “Des” Singletary is a former Junior at Hawkinsville High School and while also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. After graduating, “Des” will be attending college majoring in Business Administration, ultimately owning his own business. “Des” chose to write about his family’s daycare center because their story exemplifies family entrepreneurial success in a small town. He hopes that his work will provide the Hawkinsville community with an insider’s view of how The Children’s World Learning Center was created for all.



Desmon “Des” Singletary

Photo Courtesy of Desmond Singletary, 2017. (Linda Breaux Photographs)

Preservation: The Lumpkin Street School and Board of Education Building

By Mallory Grilliot

The history of the Pulaski County Board of Education Building is rooted in the era of segregation. During the late 1950s, the building was known as Lumpkin Street School, the only surviving Equalization School in Pulaski County. Constructed in 1957, Lumpkin Street School was originally designated for blacks until the Pulaski County public schools were ordered to integrate in the 1960s. Between 1957 and 1963, the Pulaski County BOE members authorized construction of the Hawkinsville Elementary School (current Lumpkin Street School), while J.L. Bozeman (now demolished) was added for African Americans.”⁵⁴

The former Lumpkin Street School/ BOE Building has held several names over the years. Initially it was called the Old High School Building, then the 1963 Building, the H Building, the Benjamin Hawkins Building, the Old Middle School, the Lumpkin Street Elementary School, and now the Board of Education Building. In 2008, the Lumpkin/ now BOE Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The structure is currently a multi-purpose complex which includes Pre-K, Little Children Growing; Benjamin Hawkins Auditorium; and the Alternative Learning Center where The BOE members convene to discuss and vote on Pulaski County educational policy matters.

The former Lumpkin Street School has a rich history. For example, the school was not able to provide bus transportation for students who lived miles away, so the American Parent-Teacher Association raised funds to purchase a Robins Air Force bus at auction. The bus was called “Blue Jay” and students paid a nickel to ride. Also, the grandmother of NFL Carolina Panthers and hometown hero, Charles Johnson, was a former custodian at the Lumpkin Street School. Johnson, in 2010, donated fifty thousand dollars and, along with the help of the local community, preserved the old Lumpkin Street School Building. According to local resident, James Joyner, the preservation of the landmark “will be a place that’s still filled with the same expectations of success that it had when it was a school. It will be filled with historical items about the community and school as well.”⁵⁵

Both Hawkinsville and the Benjamin Hawkins Auditorium located in the BOE Building, are named for colonial hero, Benjamin Hawkins (1754-1816). The historical marker dated 1777 indicates that Hawkins was “the beloved man of the four nations, and to the Creeks was appointed Indian agent by President Washington. A Soldier; Congressman, and Senator, he determined with firmness and kindness to guide the Indians toward civilization. His agency was on the Flint River near Roberta.”⁵⁶

The former Lumpkin School/BOE Building and its Auditorium is a huge asset to the Hawkinsville community. Not only is the building historic, but its existence as an event venue brings local individuals and families together. In the Benjamin Hawkins Auditorium are held numerous events such as Pageants, Honors

⁵⁴ Equalization Schools, also known as “separate but equal” schools, funded new schools and renovations to stall the Supreme Court’s order to desegregate public schools in the south. Georgia waged a “massive resistance” to school integration and spent over 200 million dollars on the construction of new schools which included at least 500 for black children. See Jeanne Cyriaque, “Seeking New Uses of The Lumpkin Street School,” <http://www.archwaypartnership.uga.edu/news/archway-news/seekingnew-uses-for-the-old-lumpkin-street-school/>.

⁵⁵ Jeanne Cyriaque, op. cit., “Hawkinsville Group Receives \$50k to begin Community Center Renovations,” 41NBC News | WMGT-DT, December 23, 2015, accessed May 02, 2017.

⁵⁶ Plaque of The Board of Education and The Old Middle School on the Building.

Day Ceremonies, Graduation, One Act Plays presented by Hawkinsville High School students, Concert Band Performances, and Singing/Gospel Music Shows. Additional pageants held by the Hawkinsville community are the Harness Festival Pageant and Miss Hope Pageant. The pageants are always held at the Auditorium and there is always a good crowd in attendance. These activities are beneficial to the community because they inspire tourism by bringing visitors and revenue into the city. In addition, Hawkinsville makeup artists and cosmetologists always receive requests for their services during pageant season. So, the pageants also highlight Hawkinsville's skilled professionals as well as local retailers.

During an interview with longtime community advocate and Hawkinsville High School Principal, Mr. Russell Lawley, I conducted a brief Q&A session. (Q) "Why do you work for the Board of Education and what do you do?" (A) "I work for the Board of Education and became a teacher because I wanted to help students learn and, now as the Principal, can be involved in policy decisions." My second question: (Q) "What is your knowledge about what goes on in the building?" (A) "the Board of Education conducts finances, personnel issues, is the location of the Superintendent's office, and where secretaries manage the pay roll system. Mr. Lawley added that the Board governs the school system, helps make school policy decisions, monitors progress, and approves or disapproves decisions about school staff and faculty personnel." My third question: (Q) "How has the Board of Education shaped you in becoming the person that you are today?" (A) "I was a teacher for seventeen years, taught on various levels from classroom to administration, and have learned many things...." My fourth and final question: (Q) "What effect does the BOE Building have on the community?" (A) "The building is important because having recently remodeled and refurbished the facility, it is a place about which the community has cared and continues to care about."⁵⁷

Mr. Lawley elaborated more by highlighting the fact that the Board of Education's members meet regularly to discuss finances, personal issues, and school policy decisions. For example, on one occasion the Concert Band of Hawkinsville High School (2016-2017) wanted to go on a field trip to perform at Bush Gardens in Tampa, Florida. So, the teachers gathered all the relevant information needed to help Board Members approve the field trip such as documents that were subsequently forwarded to the principal, Mr. Russell Lawley. He then forwarded this information to the Board of Education's membership who later met to approve or disapprove the field trip. The Board Members approved the field trip proposal that was later sent to the Superintendent for a final signature. Students were amazed that a brief trip to Bush Gardens required so many approvals!

The former Lumpkin School/BOE Building is a major part of the history of the Hawkinsville community. I am inspired by the existence of this historic site because I have fond memories of my time spent there. In one sense, I grew up with this building: a facility that has left a historical mark on my academic life.

⁵⁷ Russell Lawley, Oral Interview, April 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Selected Bibliography

41NBC News | WMGT-DT. "Hawkinsville Group Receives \$50k to begin Community Center Renovations.". December 23, 2015.

Accessed May 02, 2017. <http://www.41nbc.com/2014/12/17/hawkinsville-group-receives-50k-to-begin-community-center-renovations/>.

Cyriaque, Jeanne. "Seeking New Uses for the Old Lumpkin Street School." September 16, 2013. Accessed May 02, 2017.

<http://www.archwaypartnership.uga.edu/news/archway-news/seeking-new-uses-for-the-old-lumpkin-street-school/>.

Lawley, Russell. Oral Interview. Hawkinsville, Georgia; April 2017.

Plaque from Benjamin Hawkins 1776.

Plaque of The Old Middle School and The Board of Education Building on the Building.

About the Author

Mallory Grilliot is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. She will be attending Georgia Southwestern State University majoring in Exercise Science and Wellness. Mallory chose to write about the Hawkinsville Board of Education Building because it is a structure whose history is relatively unknown. Having attended community events such as pageants, one act plays, and performances with the Hawkinsville High School Concert Band there, Mallory hopes that her research inspires undergraduates to learn more about the BOE Building and actively participate in its continued preservation.



Mallory Guillot

Photo Courtesy of Mallory Grilliot, 2017.

Race for The Cure: The Story of the Hawkinsville ‘Relay for Life’

By Rosemary Peavy

Relay for Life is an important organization providing hope for cancer patients regardless of ethnicity, gender, or age. Some of its participants are currently battling cancer, have survived cancer, or have been a caregiver to a cancer patient. Cancer is a very sensitive subject for many people and, oftentimes, appears impossible to beat. The friends and families of patients tend to feel helpless or as if they have little control over the outcome. With *Relay for Life*, those unafflicted with the disease have an opportunity to participate in its cure. This not for profit event has raised a tremendous amount of money through a variety of annual fundraising initiatives. *Relay for Life* continues to make a significant impact all over the world and in the small community of Hawkinsville.

The idea for the RFL fundraiser started in May 1985 by Dr. Gordon Klatt, a colorectal surgeon from Tacoma, Washington. He wanted to raise money for the American Cancer Society because he simply enjoyed running marathons. In fact, Dr. Klatt walked around the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington for twenty-four hours. Throughout the night friends paid twenty-five dollars to run or walk thirty minutes with him. Dr. Klatt walked approximately eighty-three miles and raised twenty-seven thousand dollars for cancer research. Nearly three hundred of Dr. Klatt's family, friends, and patients watched as he ran and walked around the track. After this event, Dr. Klatt thought about how others might be able to participate in a similar event in their own communities. He recruited a small team of people to host the “City of Destiny Classic 24-Hour Run Against Cancer.” As a result, the first “24-Hour Run” was born and began to spread in Washington State.

In late Fall of 1992, a young man named David Sokolowski, an employee of the American Cancer Society, departed Washington State and relocated to Georgia serving as the Area Manager of Middle and Southern Georgia. Mr. Sokolowski became my grandmother’s new boss. My grandmother, Angela Grier, was the first person to staff the “24 Hour Run in Georgia.” The event was scheduled to last for twenty-four hours and each team was asked to always have a member on the track to demonstrate that cancer never sleeps. Cancer patients were not allowed to stop because they were tired.⁵⁸

According to my grandmother, her “volunteers were flabbergasted at the idea but soon came around” after the recruitment of two co-chairmen, Dr. Deb Baker and Ms. Raynette Evans from the Bibb County School system. “Dr. Baker, Ms. Evans, and I recruited seventeen teams from schools and churches,” she stated.⁵⁹ The first event for the Georgia Division was held at Northeast High School from April 30-May 1, 1993. The organizers raised twenty-one thousand dollars: an amazing accomplishment during this initial phase of the fight for cancer in Georgia. Since that time, the amount of money raised has increased dramatically, and for twenty-five years the ACS has honored survivors in the first lap, caregivers in the caregiver lap, remembered those lost thorough luminary ceremonies, and educated participants about cancer prevention with Cancer Smart Shops

⁵⁸ Angela Grier, Oral Interview, April 4, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

onsite. Early donations are also used to fund life-saving cancer research, patient support, prevention, early detection, and treatment programs.

Soon other American Cancer Society county units were planning these events. The word was spreading, and the event encompassed the true essence of the American Cancer Society. A full community activity, it did not matter how old you were, how much money you earned, or your status in the community. The only thing that mattered was your commitment to raising money to find a cure for cancer. It is truly amazing to observe everyone in the community coming together to support one cause. The next year, the American Cancer Society's national office in Atlanta renamed the 24-Hour Run to *Relay for Life* and labeled it their signature event. Since then, *Relay for Life* has been staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than five thousand communities and twenty countries, people who give their time and energy because they believe that it is time to find a cure for cancer.⁶⁰ The ACS currently raises more than five billion dollars annually for cancer research and support.⁶¹

Today, *Relay for Life* has grown into an enormous organization well known to many. The national *Relay for Life* fundraiser is when people attend and remain past midnight to walk around a track, demonstrating to the public that support for cancer should never stop and must always be led by the community. Supporters set up campsites around the track while the campsite attendees include church members, youth groups, beta clubs, cheerleaders, student councils, and others. Some community supporters create diverse and distinct groups in honor of someone who lost their battle with cancer.

The various campsites sell food and other items, or have games set up. The money raised goes to the campsite team toward their overall goal for the night. At the same time, during the night the survivors take a lap around the track. This is called the "Survivor's Lap." This is a lap to recognize the person who has fought cancer and won. After the sun goes down, people light up "Luminaries" that are set up around the track with different names on them. These are the names of survivors: people who lost their lives, and those currently fighting. This is an important part of the fundraising event because it serves as a reminder to cancer patients that they are not alone. Toward the end of the fundraiser there is a closing event, during which time all the names of volunteers who helped with the night are announced. Ironically, very little has changed since the creation of this fundraiser. The event continues to be a 24-hour reminder of the urgent need for cancer research, support, and a cure.

Relay for Life is an important part of the Hawkinsville's community. There are many people that participate in memory of loved ones or to support survivors. Fundraising for *Relay for Life* is now being supported by the public-school system. There are buckets placed in each teacher's room where donations can be deposited. The homeroom teacher with the largest donation receives an award or recognition. This is just one creative way that concerned individuals raise money for *Relay for Life* in our local community.

My grandmother has also been a major contributor to the success of this ACS fundraising event. For nearly two decades, she has supervised the effort and has worked extremely hard to find donors and volunteers. Those who know her insists that "in two decades with the American Cancer Society, Grier has knocked on

⁶⁰ American Cancer Society, "Relay for Life Cancer Walk.", accessed April 25, 2017, <https://www.cancer.org/involved/fundraise/relay-for-life.html>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

doors and twisted arms for almost every kind of cancer fundraiser imaginable.”⁶² My grandmother has inspired me to work hard for what is right and to help people as much as I can. She has made me a part of her *Relay* and ACS legacy through consistent examples of community service. Grandmother, Angela Grier, has raised my awareness and caused me to realize the importance of helping those less fortunate. It is my hope that others in our Hawkinsville community and beyond will join the fight against cancer and continue or begin to “relay for life.”

⁶² Grisamore, Ed., “Ad Leads to 20 Years of Blessings.” *Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service*, 2002.

Selected Bibliography

American Cancer Society. "Relay for Life Cancer Walk." Accessed April 25, 2017.

Grier, Angela. Oral Interview. April 4, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia.

Grisamore, Ed. "Ad Leads to 20 Years of Blessings." *Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service*, 2002. Accessed April 24, 2017.

<https://www.cancer.org/involved/fundraise/relay-for-life.html>.

About the Author

Rosemary Peavy is a former Junior at Hawkinsville High School, and also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. Upon completing high school, she plans to attend Middle Georgia State University, and later transfer to Georgia Southern University. Rosemary's topic is important to her because of the many people battling cancer and the significance of community support. She has a greater sense of pride because her family was instrumental in making this event happen in Hawkinsville. Rosemary would like for Hawkinsville High School undergraduates to engage in research about this important community event and begin or continue to "race for the cure."



Rosemary Peavy

Photo Courtesy of Rosemary Peavy, 2017.

Robert “Bobby” R. Gentry: Hawkinsville’s Star Coach

By Jeffrey “Landon” Miller

Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Famer, Robert R. Gentry, better known as “Bobby Gentry,” was the most influential sports leader in Hawkinsville’s athletic history. Ultimately, he became the most prominent football coach Hawkinsville High School and Pulaski County has ever known. His numerous contributions to sports programs led Hawkinsville High School to unprecedented acclaim in football, golf, and basketball, as well as the development of many other athletic programs. Gentry influenced Hawkinsville High School in such a profound way that his achievements will most likely never be surpassed.

Bobby Gentry was born in Carrollton, Georgia in 1924 to Oscar Lee and Euna Maye Gentry. He spent most of his childhood in Athens, Georgia, having attended Athens High School where he was a member of the football and basketball teams. In 1941, Gentry, along with his teammates, won the Football State Championship. Later, during the same year, he became a member of the 1941-42 Basketball State Championship team. Upon graduating from Athens High School, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps and served in active duty overseas during the pinnacle of World War II. Following his discharge from the military, Gentry was admitted to the University of Georgia and while still a student, volunteered as an Assistant Coach for the Athens High School football team for two years, 1945-1947. In 1948 while attending the University of Georgia, Gentry began his head coaching career at Hawkinsville High School taking summer classes to fulfill the requirements of his degree even as he coached the football team.⁶³

Gentry loved the small-town life of Hawkinsville so much so that he lived and worked there during his entire career. He married Maye Mitchell of Forsyth, Georgia, and together they had two daughters, Vickie and Robyn. Both of Gentry’s daughters would follow their father’s athleticism by playing basketball. In fact, he was the Head Coach for their basketball team and led them to a State Championship Tournament. Grandchildren, Fain and Robert, would also contribute to their grandfather’s legacy by playing football for Hawkinsville High School.⁶⁴

While flourishing as a coach at Hawkinsville High School, Gentry continued to further his education obtaining his Master’s Degree from Mercer University. During his tenure at Hawkinsville High, Gentry was often recognized for his coaching excellence in a variety of sports. Due to his tremendous determination and commitment, he led the Hawkinsville Red Devils football team to their first undefeated season in 1952, only to lose in the playoffs. The following year, he would repeat the same perfect season advancing to the State Championship game. Emerging victorious, Gentry took Hawkinsville High to its first ever State Championship victory. This unprecedented success would continue in 1954 as well, bringing home another State Championship for the Hawkinsville High Red Devils.

After a few more wins, Gentry would lead a State Championship team one final time in 1959. During that year, Gentry was also named “Coach of the Year.” Throughout the “Bobby Gentry Era,” Coach Gentry accumulated a total of three State Championship titles, two state runner-up titles, and seven regional titles.

⁶³ *hhsreddevils.com*

⁶⁴ *hhsreddevils.com*

Additionally, he led the 1964 and 1967 Hawkinsville golf teams to State Championships. Gentry also attracted the attention of many PGA golfers and held regular events at the local golf course. Furthermore, during the 1960s Coach Gentry helped Hawkinsville, Pulaski County move toward a more integrated society absent of the racial violence and animus towards black athletes so prevalent in many other southern towns.⁶⁵ In addition to his many coaching roles, Gentry served Hawkinsville/Pulaski County as a Teacher, Principal, Headmaster, and Superintendent. Gentry retired from coaching in 1976 but continued to focus on the importance of public education in Hawkinsville. In 1995, the currently standing football stadium at Hawkinsville High School was named the “Bobby Gentry Stadium” in his honor.⁶⁶

Robert Gentry passed away in 2005 at the age of 81, just months after being inducted in to the Georgia Coaches Association’s (GACA) Hall of Fame thus securing his legacy as the most influential sports leader in the history of Hawkinsville High. According to wife, Maye, Bobby “always loved sports. It was just part of what he was. He was always watching games and keeping up with what was going on, even when he wasn’t coaching anymore.” Mrs. Gentry went on to say, “Oh, Bobby loved to tell those stories. He would tell them so often that even though we had all heard them before, we’d just sit there and listen like we’d never heard them because he enjoyed it so much. He had a lot of fun coaching those kids and he loved every minute of it.”⁶⁷

Gentry’s legacy will continue to be a large part of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County’s social and cultural history. His contributions will be remembered by all who knew him personally and by those who see his name proudly displayed on the Red Devil Stadium at Hawkinsville High School.

⁶⁵“Hawkinsville High School Red Devils,” accessed May 02, 2017, <http://hhsreddevils.com/>.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Athens Banner-Herald. “Obituary News,” accessed May 02, 2017, <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/onlineathens/>.

Selected Bibliography

Hawkinsville High School Red Devils. Official Sports site for the Hawkinsville Red Devils. Home Page. Accessed May 02, 2017.

<http://hhsreddevils.com/>.

“Gentry Years.” Accessed May 02, 2017. <http://hhsreddevils.com/gentryyears.htm>.

Athens Banner-Herald. “Obituary News.” Accessed May 02, 2017. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/onlineathens/>.

About the Author

Jeffrey “Landon” Miller is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. Jeffrey plans to continue his studies at Central Georgia Technical College full-time and eventually transfer to a four- year university. His goal is to become a chiropractor and open a gym/training center. Jeffrey chose to write about Coach Bobby Gentry because he influenced so many people in the Hawkinsville community. He hopes that undergraduates and adults will read his work and be inspired to strive for excellence. Jeffrey also hopes that the community will become motivated to share the ideas of possibility and positivity just as Coach Gentry did.



Jeffrey “Landon” Miller

Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey “Landon” Miller, 2017.

Charles Johnson: From Small-Town Guy to Big-Time Football Player

By Dmya Sanders

Charles Johnson, a National Football League All-Star, was born and raised in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Pick number eighty-three, Charles was drafted by the *Carolina Panthers* in the third round. For a small-town guy embarking upon his dream career, this was just the beginning. The goal-oriented Charles has always been a hardworking and determined person, qualities that drive his successful career today. After relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina to join the *Carolina Panthers*, Charles did not forget about his hometown and the people who had helped him along the way. In 2012, he established the Charles Johnson Foundation to help children develop valuable life skills, and to assist parents in preparing their children for professional careers. A savvy businessman with corporate partnerships and franchises, Charles has paved the way for many young aspiring teenagers. A professional success, Charles has inspired us all by demonstrating that even a small-town boy or girl can be successful. Charles's life, work, and continuing legacy is a major chapter in the history of Hawkinsville.

Charles L. Johnson was born on July 10, 1986 in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Raised by his mother, Jacqueline Kearney, and his late grandmother, Ella Johnson, he developed a strong bond with women who contributed to the man he would later become.⁶⁸ A humble child but not inclined to mischief, he listened to positive voices and learned from people all around him, right or wrong.⁶⁹ Charles was respectful and polite. His Aunt describes him as having been quite "a gentleman at an early age."⁷⁰ He grew up with his brother, Dominique Kearney, and, oftentimes, assisted his mother with his brother's care. At an early age, Charles enjoyed playing recreational football and baseball, and proved to be extremely talented at both.⁷¹

Charles attended Hawkinsville High School and, for four years, played football as a Defensive End. In his Junior year, he received Class A All-State honorable mention and All-Area honors. During his Senior year, Charles obtained sixteen sacks and thirty pressures. In 2004, he led his team to the championship by returning an eight-three-yard interception for a touchdown. In addition to football, Charles also played basketball, tennis, and ran track. He was not, however, the most studious person but according to one of his high school teachers, "Charles cared about every aspect of his high school life, not just football."⁷² As time progressed, Charles received after school tutoring from many teachers who were willing to help a promising student athlete.

Upon graduating from high school, Charles attended the University of Georgia where he majored in Child and Family Development.⁷³ He played for UGA for three years and, in 2007, was drafted by the NFL. On the day of the NFL draft, the Hawkinsville community gathered at the local high school to watch until Charles was drafted. Family and friends celebrated with and for him, while nearly everyone in Hawkinsville cheered him

⁶⁸ Angela Burns, Oral Interview, Telephone, March 19, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia, Tape1 of 1.

⁶⁹ Charles Johnson, Oral Interview, Facetime, March 26, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia, Tape1 of 1.

⁷⁰ Vivian Johnson, Oral Interview, March 17, 2017, Hawkinsville, Georgia, Tape1 of 1.

⁷¹ Angela Burns, Oral Interview.

⁷² Myra Hurst, Oral Interview, Hawkinsville High School, February 17, 2017, Tape1 of 1.

⁷³ *Statistically Speaking*, "Charles Johnson Biography," accessed March 31, 2017, http://www.georgiadogs.com/sports/m-footbl/mtt/charles_johnson_235596.html.

on. In 2008, during his rookie year, Charles played alongside NFL veterans such as Julius Peppers and Mike Rucker. He appeared in all 16 games of the seasons and after the lockout in 2010, Charles was resigned to a six year seventy-two-million-dollar contract. ESPN named him the highest-paid athlete in football.⁷⁴ In 2015, Charles was injured and placed on injured reserve and, as a result, missed five games that season. He returned in November 2015, a season during which his team went to the Super Bowl.

Once everyone in town learned that the Carolina Panthers were going to the Super Bowl, the Hawkinsville community made every effort to show their support for Charles. They posted pictures and made blue and black ribbons and hung them on their house doors, in classrooms, and on mailboxes. In addition, people had t-shirts made with Charles' Jersey number, "95." Although the Panthers did not win the Super Bowl that year, the love was still strong for Charles in little "ole Hawkinsville." In 2016, Charles was released from the Panthers with a one-year contract and, upon completion, resigned again for a two-year contract. According to Charles "he is a true Panther and Charlotte is his home now."

Charles has always given back to the community. A few years prior to his grandmother's passing, he contracted the complete remodeling of the interior and exterior of her home. Showing that not only is he a reliable family man but also cares about the children in the community. Growing up, Charles believed it was important for children to learn the value of teamwork insisting that collective work motivates and increases self-esteem, a philosophy that, in 2012, inspired his commitment to philanthropy and the establishment of the Charles Johnson Foundation.⁷⁵ The CJF hosts a Sports Academy and Community Weekend each summer in June at Hawkinsville High School. The Academy includes sports sessions on football, baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, and cheerleading-dance clinics, students and families from all over Georgia. Many volunteers come from the community including children who receive free items such as shoes, shirts, and shorts. In addition, the Foundation presents Scholarships to local students during the weekend of the Sports Academy.⁷⁶ Charles also brings various professional football and basketball players to the Academy to help motivate those attending. On June 20, 2015, Charles was recognized for his community work by being given the key to the city. What is more, June 20th is always Charles Johnson day in Hawkinsville, Georgia!

In addition, the Charles Johnson Foundation provides a \$25,000 annual challenge grant to the community of Hawkinsville to support scholarships for African American women to attend the Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership Program.⁷⁷ Each year they also sponsor many students to attend the Black College Expo in Atlanta. The CJF also supports the Hawkinsville Public Schools through both service and donations such as giving 750 pairs of shoes to the schools, remodeling the Hawkinsville High lunchroom and the scoreboard on the football field, and a substantial contribution to the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Recreation Department which made possible a new basketball gym for the local children and surrounding community.⁷⁸

Charles, a respected businessman in Charlotte, owns many franchises such as Once Upon a Child, Style Encore, Plato's Closet, and Jan-Pro. Once Upon a Child, Style Encore, and Plato's Closet which purchases and

⁷⁴ Ball, Eric, "Charles Johnson's Mega Contract Highlights Ridiculous Nature of NFL Salaries," *Bleacher Report*, May 1, 2012, accessed February 20, 2017, <http://bleacherreport.com/articles/1168589-charles-johnsons-mega-contract-highlights-ridiculous-nature-of-nfl-salaries>.

⁷⁵ "About the Charles Johnson Foundation," accessed March 20, 2017, <http://charlesjohnsonfoundation.org/about>.

⁷⁶ Charles Johnson, Oral Interview.

⁷⁷ "About the Charles Johnson Foundation," op. cit.

⁷⁸ Charles Johnson, Oral Interview, op. cit.

sells gently used items at discounted prices.⁷⁹ Jan-Pro is a commercial cleaning company with over fifty franchise owners. Charles owns three Jan-Pro franchise locations; two in South Carolina and one in Augusta, Georgia.⁸⁰ He is a corporate partner, a lead partner with Chamire Holdings, LLC in the Village at River's Edge development, and partners with Kevin Garnett and Devean George in an enterprise called the CGG, LLC. Charles also works with a team of venture capitalists, while the Foundation's Board has internationally recognition. The Hawkinsville branch of his Foundation is led by the coach's wife, Mrs. Campbell, who was ecstatic and honored to join the team.

As well as owning multiple franchises and being involved in many partnerships, Charles is building a Firehouse Restaurant in Charlotte with an expected budget of at least 3.3 million dollars.⁸¹ In addition, he was recently named one of Charlotte's *40 under 40* by the *Charlotte Business Journal* and was honored for demonstrating that his skills reach beyond the football field. Many view Charles as just a football player; but he has proven time and again that he is a winner on and off the field.⁸² An inspiration to his community, Charles has made a name for himself. Everywhere he goes, Charles leaves his mark. He has proven that the sky is the limit. Everyone is important and each of us can do important things in life, particularly when your work seeks to serve all of humanity.

Currently, Charles resides in Charlotte with his longtime partner, Ebone Johnson, and their son, Charles Johnson, Jr. Whenever Charles comes to Hawkinsville, he makes certain to visit the local high school and whether through a video or a single post to his social media page, he always shows love to the people in hometown. Charles has paved the way for many young men and women and, although planning to retire in a few years, he wants to expand his Foundation and acquire more partnerships and businesses.⁸³

It has been inspiring for me to witness how one small-town guy became a success. The life and continuing legacy of Charles Johnson will always be a subject worthy of research, and an important part of Hawkinsville's history and culture. Charles has demonstrated that with the proper mindset and support, almost anyone from anywhere can be great if they choose to be.

⁷⁹ "Business Ventures," accessed March 20, 2017, <http://charlesjohnsonfoundation.org/business-ventures>

⁸⁰ "Business Ventures," Ibid.

⁸¹ Andrew Dunn, "Panther Charles Johnson is Spending an Incredible \$3.3 Million to Build out his Firehouse Restaurant," *Charlotte Agenda*, accessed April 5, 2017, <http://www.charlotteagenda.com/86546/panther-charles-johnson-spending-incredible-3-3-million-build-firehouse-restaurant>

⁸² Stephen Igoe, "Charles Johnson Earns Special Off-field Honor," *CBS Sports*, accessed April 2, 2017, <http://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/charles-johnson-earns-special-off-field-honor/>.

⁸³ Charles Johnson, Oral Interview.

Selected Bibliography

“About the Charles Johnson Foundation.” Accessed March 20, 2017. <http://charlesjohnsonfoundation.org/about>

“Business Ventures.” Accessed March 20, 2017. <http://charlesjohnsonfoundation.org/business-ventures>

“*Statistically Speaking*. “Charles Johnson Bio” Accessed March 31, 2017.

http://www.georgiadogs.com/sports/m-footbl/mtt/charles_johnson_235596.html.

Ball, Eric, “Charles Johnson’s Mega Contract Highlights Ridiculous Nature of NFL Salaries,” *Bleacher Report*, May 1, 2012.

<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/1168589-charles-johnsons-mega-contract-highlights-ridiculous-nature-of-nfl-salaries>

Burns, Angela. Oral Interview. March 17, 2017. Recorded Video: 1 of 1.

Dunn, Andrew. “Panther Charles Johnson is spending an incredible \$3.3 million to build out his firehouse restaurant”. *Charlotte Agenda*. Accessed April 5, 2017.

<http://www.charlotteagenda.com/86546/panther-charles-johnson-spending-incredible-3-3-million-build-firehouse-restaurant>

Henson, Matt. “*Cam Newton, Charles Johnson, Damiere Byrd undergoing surgery*”. Accessed March 21, 2017.

<http://www.panthers.com/news/article-2/Cam-Newton-Charles-Johnson-DamiereByrdundergoingsurgery/61f00f720c1e4c469eaf-c89fe9b44df8>.

Hurst, Myra. Oral Interview at Hawkinsville High School. February 17, 2017. Hawkinsville, Georgia. Video 1 of 1.

Igoe, Stephen. “Charles Johnson Earns Special Off-field Honor,” *CBS Sports*. Accessed April 2, 2017.

<http://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/charles-johnson-earns-special-off-field-honor/>.

Johnson, Charles. Oral Interview. March 26, 2017. Recorded Video 1 of 1; Johnson, Vivian. Oral Interview.

Grandmother’s house, Hawkinsville, Georgia. March 17, 2017. Recorded Video 1 of 1.

Jones, Johnathan. “*Panthers DE Charles Johnson: The ‘Big Money’ you don’t know*”. *The Charlotte Observer*. October 10, 2015.

Accessed March 17, 2017. <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/sports/nfl/carolina-panthers/article38689896.html>.

About the Author

Dmya Sanders is a former Senior at Hawkinsville High School and was also a Dual Enrolled (MOWR) student at Central Georgia Technical College. She will be attending Georgia Southern University majoring in Business Management and minoring in Dance and/or Psychology. Dmya's dream is to own her own business in partnership with her cousin. She chose Charles Johnson as her subject because of his numerous contributions to her family and the Hawkinsville community. Dmya hopes that her work will serve as a source of inspiration to other students, and a reminder that dreams do come true if you are willing to work and never, never give up.



Dmya Sanders

Photo Courtesy of Dyma Sanders, 2017.

Acknowledgments and Credits

I am extremely grateful to the Bronzestone Center for sponsoring this project. A special thanks to cover designers, copy, and line editors who graciously donated their energy and expertise to the timely delivery of this manuscript. I am also grateful to Sara “Kelli” Long for her willingness to photograph some classmates and provide contact information and other relevant details. While we make no claim to having produced an exhaustive, error-free body of work, we do insist that the “vignettes” included here are historically accurate, and original interpretations produced for the greater good.

Finally, to the History 2111, 2017 Hawkinsville High School-MOWR students presented here, I offer a resounding Congratulations! -- for with enthusiasm and diligence you created an invaluable resource for yourselves, your families, your peers, your high school, your college, and your community. Awesome job!



A Collective Thanks to All -- Known and Unknown, Past and Present!

For questions or comments, please write to executivedirector@bronzestonecenter.org

Photo Credits: Front and Back Covers, Pages 2, 52, and 53, Bronzestone Center Photographic Services, 2017.

Image Page 3: Courtesy of the Hawkinsville Chamber of Commerce, 2017.

Footnote and Bibliographical Citations/References follow the Chicago Manual of Style, revised edition.

About the Editor and Instructor



Dr. Deborah-Patrice "Debi" Hamlin is an Adjunct Professor of American History at Central Georgia Technical College, and Founder/CEO of the Los Angeles based Bronzestone Center for Music & History. Although born in Georgia, she grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, earning her BA from the City University of New York (CUNY) (1994), and her MA (1998) and Ph.D. (2004) from Duke University in US/African American History. She has published in the Civil War Historical Review, North Carolina Historical Review, Journal of African American History, and is Founder/Senior Editor of GrassRoots: A Journal of Local History. In addition, she has served as a Senior Contributor/Researcher Consultant for North Carolina PBS, and DreamWorks. Dr. Hamlin's in-progress manuscript, "Freedom Dues: African American Unclaimed Property," explores the economic inequity of black Emancipation after the Civil War.

From 1998-2003, Dr. Hamlin served as Senior Executive Assistant, Lead Researcher, and Editor for deceased historian, John Hope Franklin, author of the seminal text on the black experience, From Slavery to Freedom, first published in 1947. Dr. Franklin supervised her dissertation on "Albion Winegar Tourgee' and Reconstruction in North Carolina" and, in 2004, she was appointed Assistant Professor of History at North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC. She has served as Academic Advisor at Fort Valley State University, Adjunct Professor at Gordon State College, and is currently a U.S. History Advanced Placement Reader/Consultant for Educational Testing Services.

An avid orchid cultivator/collector, Dr. Hamlin is also a recording vocal artists, flautist, and daughter of Lewis Hamlin Jr., music educator, former Band Director, Chief Arranger, and Lead Trumpeter for deceased entertainer, James Brown. Since 2015, Dr. Hamlin and the Bronzestone Center for Music & History have hosted the annual "Lewis Hamlin Jr. Legacy Remembrance" on October 24th in Macon, Georgia: a free community event that highlights the significance of historical/cultural memory and the power of legacy to inspire, inform, and transform.

GrassRoots

The Bronzestone Center for Music & History is pleased to sponsor this annual journal of local histories designed to introduce to some, and remind others of the rich experiences buried within our individual and collective memories.

Not For Sale