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Volume 10 Issue 1

# Snellville Historical Society

*To Research, Document and Publicize the History of Snellville and the Snellville Community*

## The Promised Land

As a youngster, the author and her family frequently traveled Highway 124 South through Centerville. After passing the award winning cotton fields, the winding road went left, and the travelers found themselves driving through a settlement of small comfortable houses overseen by a two story house that looked as if it were from another era. Little did they know that this house had a story to tell about the settlement of Gwinnett County and the plantation called "The Promised Land".



Photo courtesy of Tom Livsey

### The Old Maguire House

Thomas Maguire built the house after he came to America from Ireland in 1818 and after acquiring his first property with the lottery of 1820. His lot was one of the fractional ones containing about fifty acres that bordered the Hightower Trail on its irregular southeastern side. With the discovery of gold in Dahlonega and San Francisco and the presence of the terrible boll weevil that destroyed the cotton

crops, some of his neighbors left to pursue new ventures, and Mr. Maguire acquired three parcels of land that bordered his property. His estate eventually grew to 956 acres.

After establishing his residence in Gwinnett County, Thomas Maguire returned to Ireland in 1825 and brought his family back to America. It is not known where the ship docked on their return, but his parents, James and Catherine Maguire, settled in Augusta. His other relatives scattered themselves around the southeast. His brother James established a home in Rockbridge Militia District #571 that was also called Maguire District.

To accomplish what he did at such a young age, it is thought that Thomas Maguire brought funds with him from Ireland to help him get established in a new country. The census of 1830 indicates he owned one slave, in 1840 he had twelve, in 1850 twenty-three and in 1860 twenty-six.

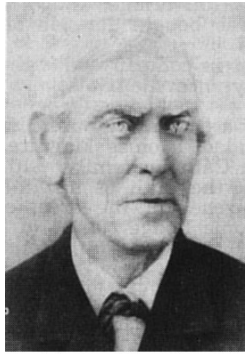
Across the Yellow River on adjoining property to The Promised Land there was another plantation owned by the Elijah Anderson family. In 1830 Thomas married Jane Anderson, and she became the mother of three children. In 1837 while dismounting from her horse, Jane scratched her leg from a pin in her clothing, developed blood poisoning and died.

Jane's younger sister, Elizabeth, who was sixteen when her sister died, felt so sorry for Jane's motherless children that in 1838 she married Thomas Maguire and bore him eight more children.

In 1834 "The Big House" on the plantation became an election precinct. After a post office was established in Rockbridge in 1834, Thomas Maguire

became the postmaster and remained so for twenty six years. He was commissioned Captain of the Rockbridge district militia. In 1838 he represented Gwinnett County in the legislature. After the General Assembly provided for a public school system in Georgia, Thomas Maguire was appointed to the first county school board.

He was born into a Roman Catholic family, but in Gwinnett County he attended the Universalist Church and frequented Rockbridge Baptist Church. He was a charter member of Lithonia Masonic Lodge No. 84, and was active in the Sons of Temperance.



Thomas Maguire

Although Thomas Maguire was an exemplary citizen of Gwinnett County, he is most recognized for his "*Farm Journal*" that he began July 10, 1859 and kept from 1859 to 1866, the seven most historic years of his life. It is known that he kept several journals, but only one has been copied. The Yankees took one, and recently another has been found in possession of a relative. Most of the writing in the Journal was in longhand, but during the war with the scarcity of paper, additions were made in shorthand. After the war, the shorthand was transcribed and the pages sewn into the journal which contained 335 pages of 40 lines each.

The journal gave a daily account of occurrences on the plantation. Notation is made of weather conditions, guests, crops planted. Slaves were allowed to attend church and references to those who attended are noted. Mr. Maguire made the shoes for everyone on the plantation—family and slaves. This usually was thirty pairs a year. One reference states that in one day he completed eleven pairs of shoes.

It is understood that Thomas Maguire named his plantation "The Promised Land" because the soil was so rich. The plantation became self sustaining with crops grown and skills learned due to necessity—carpentry, blacksmithing, ginning, tanning of hides, milling of flour, grinding of cane and making of bricks. The plantation produced corn, cotton, wheat, vegetables, fruit. They grew animals for slaughter. They had hogs, beef cattle, sheep and chickens.

The fields of The Promised Land were given names such as: Orchard, Farmer, Roundabout, Creek, Nelson, Trail, Moore, Freeman, Ford, Lee, Gin House, School House.

In November of 1862 two of the fields yielded 210 barrels of corn, 26 wagon loads and 25 cart-loads.

The slaves were treated decently and firmly. Each had his own garden patch to cultivate, and the mistress of the house tended to them when they were sick. They had shoes, clothing, medicine, Christmas gifts, and were allowed to celebrate holidays. At their death they received a Christian burial.

Thomas Maguire was not in favor of secession, but after Georgia seceded from the Union, he was a strong supporter of the Confederacy. At the age of sixty when the war started, he was too old to serve in active duty, but he studied books of military tactics and drilled new recruits in basic military skills.

Word of mouth regarding the war became the main source of communication for the residents of southern Gwinnett County and Rockbridge, and in the fall of 1864 word had reached the Plantation that Sherman was burning Atlanta and migrating toward Savannah. Although located twenty miles from Atlanta, residents of The Promised Land were able to hear the sound of canons and see smoke.

Both Yankee and Confederate soldiers visited the Plantation, slaughtering the animals and taking all the food they could find. At varying times, hundreds of soldiers were encamped there. One time Mr. Maguire and his son James hid in the woods for three weeks as they waited for the soldiers to leave.

Although there is no good explanation for it, the big house on the plantation was not burned down by the Yankees on the march to the sea although most of the dependencies were.

After the fall of 1864 everything the Maguire family had except their home and land were gone, and there was concern that the family would starve. Although the family was left with no money, they were still expected to pay taxes.

Thomas Maguire submitted to the Inferior Court of Gwinnett County the following list of items taken by the Yankees July 22, 1864 hoping that he would be exempt from taxes for the year 1864:

80 bushels of corn	\$800.00	3 gold pens	20.00
90 doz. Oats	270.00	1 lot keys	20.00
300 doz. Fodder	900.00	1 rasp-2 pr. nippers	25.00
16 gallons of syrup	160.00	1 horse shoe hammer	5.00
600 lbs. Of bacon	2400.00	4 pr. horse shoes	10.00
15 lbs. Of lard	67.50	1 bar solder	5.00
¼ lb. of pepper	3.00	3 horses	3600.00
1 ½ bu. Dried fruit	18.00	6 mules	5000.00
1 lb. loaf sugar	10.00	12 bales cotton	6000.00
5 lbs. honey	40.00	4 negroes (slaves)	13000.00
2 bee gums and contents	100.00	1 watch	700.00
3 lbs. soda	15.00	Pocket book and money	200.00
8 lbs. soap	24.00	\$18 in silver (18 for 1)	324.00
3 lbs. Tobacco	6.00	2 shot guns	70.00
6 boxes blacking	12.00	1 lot thread	40.00
20 bunches matches	10.00	1 lot needles	10.00
4 lbs. butter	20.00	12 knives-6 forks 5 tea spoons	96.00
4 lbs. salt	3.20	12 table spoons	31.00
15 bu. oats	75.00	1 coffee pot- 1 tin bucket	7.00
4 bu. wheat	80.00	2 ½ lbs. Hyson tea	50.00
3 bu. meal	30.00	2 account books	40.00
200 lbs. flour	150.00	1 Farm Journal	20.00
1 bu. onions	10.00	1 lot books	30.00
1 bu. Irish potatoes	5.00	3 razors-1 strop	70.00
½ doz. files	36.00	1 clothes brush-1 fine comb	15.00
12 packs of envelopes	18.00	1 haversack-ladies rubber	10.00
40 chickens	120.00	1 clothes line-shade cord	8.00
1 tin cup	1.00	1 Indian rubber tube	2.00
1 frying pan	10.00		
4 yds. checks	24.00		total: \$35,481.70
2 pillow slips	6.00		
4 towels	12.00		
1 dz. bags	60.00		
6 hats	92.00		
1 shime	12.00		
Pantaloons	165.00		
Drawers	16.00		
1 vest-2 pr. socks	46.00		
2 shirts	20.00		
1 Masonic sash	10.00		
10 stamps	1.00		
2 pr. boots	100.00		
1 saddle and 4 bridles	100.00		
6 plow lines	6.00		
1 lot steel pens	10.00		

Residents of The Promised Land suffered during the days of reconstruction, but since the Journals for that period of Thomas Maguire's life are missing, specific occurrences are not known. Thomas Maguire died November 25, 1886 twenty-one years after the end of the war.

His "*Farm Journal*" is a wonderful history of life in Gwinnett county during the years from 1859 to 1865. During the 1920's a young writer from Atlanta came regularly to read and reread the Journals. Her name was Margaret Mitchell. ■

*The Snellville Historical Society has a copy of Thomas Maguire's 1859-1866 Journal in their files, and it is available for reading on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings when the office is opened.*

# The Livsey Family

The first story of The Promised Land begins with the Maguire family. The second story tells of the Livsey family. It began in the 1920s when Robert Livsey and his wife purchased the Promised Land plantation home and 110 acres. It is now the home of the Thomas Livseys.

Thomas and Dorethia Livsey are community leaders of an African-American settlement in the Promised Land.

The Thomas Livsey family is light skinned. Thomas and Tom, Thomas' son, researched their heritage to find the origin of their light skin color. It has taken them back to thirteenth century England in the county of Lancaster, and they also discovered their family is tri-racial. They are white, black and Cherokee Indian.

Their studies found other black and white Livseys living in Gwinnett and Dekalb counties. When Tom

pursued the Livseys in Dekalb, he discovered that there was a Livsey Elementary school in Tucker off Chamblee-Tucker Road and that they were related to the Mr. Livsey for whom the school was named. They found two sisters in Dekalb who are Livseys and are cousins of theirs. ■



Photo courtesy of Tom Livsey  
Thomas and Dorethia Livsey with their cousins  
Annette Livsey Merritt and Avis Livsey Hanna

## The Promised Land Then and Now

Envision with me the scene of a thousand acre antebellum plantation with twenty-six slaves...

By Dorethia Livsey

The original owner of this historical plantation was Thomas Maguire, an immigrant from Ireland. He settled at Rockbridge just south of Centerville in 1820. There he built his life around this 956-acre plantation, he called it "The Promised Land." Along with his 10 children and 26 slaves, Maguire cultivated the land and built a small empire around himself.

He built "The Big House", as it is referred to today. It was comparatively modest in size and ornamentation, but substantial. It stands today. Though one wonders how it escaped the torches of General Sherman's men when they passed by there on their 'March to the Sea.'

This spectacular story can be found in the pages and between the lines of a Farm Journal or diary,



Photo courtesy of Tom Livsey  
The old Maguire house today

that was kept from July 1859 to July 1866 by the master of this plantation. Maguire came from Ireland as previously indicated and settled in Gwinnett County. He became one of the leading citizens of the county.

His surviving diary chronicles the daily activities

of plantation life. It tells of growing cotton, wheat, corn, vegetables, fruits, raising hogs, cattle and sheep. Activities on the plantation also included carpentry, blacksmithing, ginning, tanning hides, milling flour, grinding cane and making brick. The big house was also used as a court house and post office during the Civil War days. Maguire's journal also records the effects of the War Between The States on his plantation and the Atlanta area.

In November of 1864, Yankee soldiers on their "March To The Sea", passed by The Promised Land and burned Maguire's gin house, stables, barn and fences, while Maguire hid out in the woods. The soldiers also slaughtered his livestock. He and his family, along with the slaves, hid out in the woods for three weeks. They were in fear for their lives.

But fortunately Maguire's house was spared and stands today in The Promised Land Community. It is privately owned and not open to the public. The "Big House" is now 189 years old. The house is beautiful. It has been restored numerous times. Thomas Maguire perhaps had some funds when he came to Gwinnett county. It would have been difficult to acquire 956 acres and twenty-six slaves otherwise. He and his sister owned some very fine pieces of furniture, that was brought over from Ireland.

Mr. Robert and Moena Livsey (my in-laws) purchased the plantation in the 1920s. They were farmers and the parents of eighteen children, thirteen lived. They felt that if a person thinks highly of himself he would act that way. The Livseys have a lot of dignity and high self esteem. They advocated for their family a firm faith in God, hard work, education so they could become high achievers. Be the best of whatever you are. Fortunately today we have entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, teachers, editors, white collar and blue collar workers, politicians and the list goes on.

The revival of the Promised Land began in 1969. Thomas and Dorethia Livsey returned to Georgia after spending ten years in Chicago. They started a business, you guessed it, we named it the "Promised Land" because of the historical significance.

We have five children, Sheryl, Yolanda, Thomas A. (Tommy), Kevin and Kobie. The business consisted of a grocery store, restaurant, barber shop, a washerette and a car wash. Even though the business was opened and operated by family members

including our children, Thomas was employed at the United States Post Office in Atlanta. I was employed at Georgia Power in Atlanta.



Photo courtesy of Tom Livsey

Thomas, Tom and Dorethia Livsey - Shiloh High School

Yes, the journey wasn't easy. It required a lot of hard work and sacrifice. Thomas also sub-contracted eight homes in the community. We are proud of this community. There is a lot of heritage, and a lot of sweat went into it. Previously it was a community rich in family ties and traditions, today it has grown immensely. The results are what you are observing today. This is not the land of 'Milk and Honey', because sometimes emotions overrule good judgment. The cliché that I frequently share with visitors goes like this, "If you don't make it over yonder, you can always say that you have been to The Promised Land."

Descendants of the Anderson, Blackmon and Lyon families still reside in the community. They have also made outstanding contributions. We feel blessed to have the New Bethel A.M.E. Church in our community. This church is now 118 years old. The church offers a beacon of light for the community and for weary souls to worship. It is where we obtain the blessings of the Lord, which motivates and sustains us to continue to press forward. The New Bethel A.M.E. Church has grown from thirty members in 1968 to 2000 in 2009. We have experienced phenomenal growth in this community. The Reverend Ronald L. Owens is the pastor.

In conclusion, soon after that terrible invasion of the Promised Land The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln was written into law

and adopted. As a result of that, the slaves were freed. The nation's slaves were liberated. The Promised Land became the free home for blacks, as well as whites, in 1863. The belief was during the years of slavery and afterward during reconstruction, if the blacks made it to this particular area, The Promised Land would offer them safety and provisions.

Now in that same belief, a vibrant community has emerged. This is a community of cooperation for everyone regardless of their race, creed or color. The spirit of accomplishment continues to grow. Ambitions, concerns and desires prevail.

Recently on Dec. 10, 2009, Gwinnett County

Board of Education renamed the first county school in the Promised Land Community from Snell Elementary to Anderson Livsey Elementary, in an attempt to honor our forefathers, Mr. Thomas Mitchell Anderson and Mr. Robert (Papa Bob) Livsey.

The inspiration passed down by our ancestors continues to resound, like phrases such as: Good, Better, Best...Never Let It Rest Until Your Good Becomes Better and Your Better Becomes your Best!!! ■

*Dorethia Livsey is an accomplished journalist, and a leading citizen of Gwinnett County, GA, USA.*

## Anderson-Livsey Elementary School

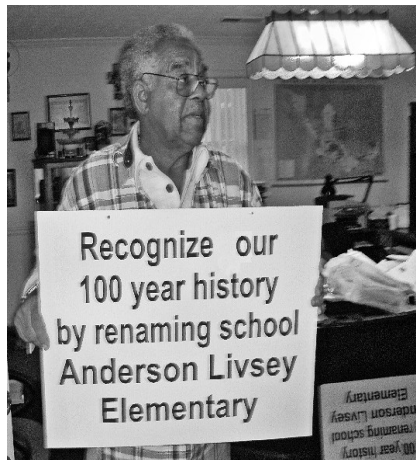


The new Anderson-Livsey school under construction

Photo courtesy of Tom Livsey

In the last few years many new schools have been built to accommodate the 160,000 students who now attend the Gwinnett County Public Schools, which is the largest school system in the state of Georgia.

The naming of these schools is always a time of excitement for the residents of the school district. This was especially true of the naming of an elementary school on Highway 124 south of Centerville and near the Dekalb County Line.



Thomas Livsey campaigning to rename the school

The Livsey name was nominated for the new school, and the family became committed to seeing that it happen. Family members and friends went door to door and on line to seek

support.

Another name nominated was Grace Snell, a teacher at Snellville School for thirty years. She was a member of the Snell family whose ancestor was one of the founders of Snellville. When the Board of Education made their decision and the announcement was made, the school was named Grace Snell Elementary.

For most families that announcement would have ended their pursuit, but not the Livseys. They appealed to the Board of Education for a year to change their decision. They stressed the historical significance of naming the school for the Andersons, Maguires and the Livseys.

The school board had never rescinded a decision made regarding school names after the public announcement was named, but after the Board of Education learned the history of the area and after conferring with the Snell family, the name was changed for two schools. The Board changed "Midway Middle School" to "Grace Snell Middle" and "Grace Snell Elementary" to "Anderson-Livsey Elementary"

The school will open in the fall of 2010. ■



## *The President's Corner*

*By Carolyne Kirkland*

Happy Spring!

Dear Members,

Do you remember the Goat Man?

The Goat Man, described as a true essence of American Freedom, traveled the United States for decades driving an old railroad iron-wheeled wagon pulled by a team of six to eight goats. It was fascinating to see the bearded man in travel worn clothes coming down the road with goats ahead of his wagon, on the wagon and behind the wagon. As they approached, one could hear the bells ringing on the goats' collars and the clanging of the hanging pots, pans and tubs.

He was born Charles "Ches" McCartney on July 6, 1901 in Sigourney, Iowa. He was married three times and had one son, Gene.

Ches established the "Free Thinking Christian Mission" in Jeffersonville, Twiggs Co., Georgia where he sometimes lived in an abandoned school bus. From the mission, he traveled out preaching the gospel to anyone who would listen.

When the Goat Man camped at Snellville in the oak grove, it turned an ordinary day into an exciting one. Word of mouth notified people of his presence. People came from miles around to talk to him and have their picture made with him and the goats, but residents living along Hwy 78 were concerned that the goats would eat all of their flowers.

At times his safety was in question as he traveled across different states. He was frequently mugged. Once he was attacked leaving him with three broken ribs and two of his loved goats killed.

In 1987 the Goat Man retired. His only possessions were a Bible, an old wagon and his goats. At the age of ninety-seven, Ches died on November 15, 1998 at Eastview Nursing Home in Macon, Georgia.

The book, *American Goat Man* written by Darryl Patton tells of the life of Ches McCartney.

Duane Branam wrote a song, "The Legend", as a tribute to the unorthodox lifestyle of the Goat Man.

The Goat Man left good memories wherever he ventured.

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Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, The Snellville Historical Society holds its spring meeting at 2:30P.M. in the Community Room at Snellville City Hall. Elliott Brack, the author of *Gwinnett: A little above Atlanta* will be our speaker. We encourage everyone to bring memorabilia to add to our display. Please plan to come for a wonderful afternoon!

The theme for Snellville Days is "Community First". Please plan to attend this festival on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Historical Society will have a display. Volunteers are needed to work at our exhibit.

On February 14, 2010 the Snellville community was saddened with the death of Mr. Raymond Williams. Our society sends sincere sympathy to Mrs. Christine and the family. Mr. Raymond had a great knowledge of Snellville history and graciously shared information when we needed a question answered. He will be missed!

Barbara and Dan LeClair donated to the Snellville History Society a Snellville School pennant that belonged to Leonard Martin.

We continue to collect military pictures and other photos. Please look through your photographs and share them with the society. We will make a copy and return the original to you.

The Boy Scouts of America are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would like to have scout pictures or memorabilia for a display. When was the first troop started at Snellville, and who were the first leaders?

An open invitation is extended to you to come to the Historical Office at City Hall on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10:00-12:00 to view our collection of photographs and Gwinnett History Books. If you would like to volunteer to work in the office, please call Carolyne at 770- 972-4729.

Members, we need your help in answering some recently asked questions.

1. Why is our district #408 called the Cates district? Was it named for a person?
2. Where is the old Snellville School bell?

If you can help with the answers to these questions, please call Carolyne at 770-972-4729.

We encourage you to write and share your memories of Snellville.

Thank you for your continuing support of the

Snellville Historical Society.

Hope to see you on April 18<sup>th</sup>!

Happy Easter!

Carolyne

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## Remembering Snellville – As It Once Was

By Laurie Britt

I remember Snellville as a pleasant quiet town at the crossroad of U.S. Highway 78 and Ga. State Highway 124 where residents had community pride and the key word was cooperation.

My life centered around the Snellville Consolidated School since I was the daughter of the principal and we lived next to the rock school and also Highway 78, since our house faced 78.

I remember the quiet peaceful summers when my father would sit on our front porch and count the number of cars which passed by in 10 minutes time. I remember also the noisy active school years with the school children playing their games at recess, at their lunch hour and after school while waiting for the bus – shooting marbles, spinning tops, playing tag etc. with the school bell controlling the beginning, ending and changing of classes and school.

I can barely remember when U.S.78 became a paved two lane highway but I remember farmers passing by on the paved road with their horse-drawn wagons piled high with cotton going to the cotton gin behind Mr. Sawyer's store to have their cotton cleaned and made into bales. These were also wagons filled with corn or sacks of wheat which were taken to the mill run by Mr. William Britt to be ground into cornmeal or flour. The mill was across from and behind the courthouse.

The courthouse was a small rock building where court was held for traffic violaters and for those high school boys who "swept out Snellville" when cars became more numerous and were caught by Snellville's one policeman, Francis Bobb, known as "Sam Ketchum."

In our back yard I had a swing – a rope tied at both ends over a tree limb with a notched wooden board as the swing seat. But under the swing I

found several stone arrow heads, left by Indians in some previous period of time. Maybe that was their hunting ground, or a place to make arrow heads. They had to have camped nearby, perhaps in the area of trees known as "The Grove" which was on 78 and was diagonally across from our house.

I know that the Gypsies would come and camp in the "The Grove" for a week in early summer before traveling northward to escape the summer heat. They were a colorful group who came in wagons at first, then later in trucks. I don't know where they came from or went to or the route they went back on but they always came back about the same time in early summer, and stayed for a week, for many years.

"The Grove" also was the site of family reunions. The Cofer family met there on a Sunday in June and the Williams family had their reunion the third Sunday in July when, it was reputed, it always rains.

We also, at that time, had tramps who were hitchhikers and would come to the back door and ask for food. My mother seemed to have a lot of tramps come to her back door. They ate in the back yard and then would return their empty plates, glass and eating utensils and then move on. My mother always cooked extra food because whoever was a visitor in the school office at noon time was invited home to eat lunch or "dinner" with us. I read in the Reader's Digest that tramps put a certain mark on trees or posts to let other tramps know where they could get a good meal. Our house must have had their approval mark.

Vivian Shell (Frazier) was in the class ahead of me and we walked everywhere in the spring to sell garden seed and flower seed. One day, we ran into Earle and Ferle Snell and their white pony, Silver, near their house. They let me ride Silver, which was a big thrill for an eight year old.



Another thrill that I had was riding the school bus. In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade I rode home with Ruth Williams (Sharp) to pick cotton on her father's farm. I picked cotton for several days; it was the first money I'd ever earned. Having two older sisters, I was accustomed to having "hand me downs" as they outgrew their clothes so I spent my money on a sweater and wool material for a skirt, which my sister, Martha Lou, made for me. Those who rode the school bus every day would not think of it as a thrill and those who had to pick cotton each day also would not understand, but for me I now knew first hand what they talked about each day.

I remember when electricity came to Snellville and also when telephones were installed. In the beginning there were four phones – in the residences of E.R. Snell and W.C. Britt, in the Snellville School and in A.W. Peters Gas Station. I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and I remember on Saturday afternoon after they were connected, Earle and Ferle called me to get our homework assignments. I felt sure they already knew them, but we all got practice on talk-

ing on the telephone.

Messages of illness or death were called from far away to relatives here and my father was asked to deliver them. I remember going with my father to deliver a message of severe illness of someone in Atlanta to relatives near Snellville. It was after dark and my father blew his horn. A man in his bed-clothes came out on his porch with a lamp and called out "Light and Come In". I did not understand but years later while watching a PBS program, some one was told to "Alight from his horse and Come In" and I remembered and understood what the greeting meant.

In writing this, I am struck by how many changes and inventions have occurred and been made over the years which have influenced not only Snellville but also the world – TV, the internet, cell phones, e-mails, more cars and airplanes and more people. The previous years I described were quieter, simpler years with also a quieter simpler life that might be hard to visualize if you had not lived it.

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## Gwinnett County Winter and Spring 1910

### Bud Shell Loses His Barn By Fire

His Three Year Old Boy, Who Didn't Know  
Any Better, Started The Blaze

R.L. Shell, of near Snellville, was in to see us Tuesday and stated he had just lost his crib, together with 125 bushels of corn and 125 bushels of cotton seed by fire.

The conflagration was the result of Mr. Shell's little three year old boy, who didn't know any better and set fire to the building in his father's absence.

Mr. Shell wished to thank his friends for the heroic service rendered in helping save the other build-

ings as well as his dwelling, and especially to his neighbors, C.H. Rawlins, H.A. Norton, T.C. Rutledge, Thomas Clower and others, for liberal donations. They left their home and carried around subscription lists in his behalf.

This is the second loss Bud Shell has sustained from the fiery fiend.

*The News Herald, January 13, 1910*

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### Snellville News

W.B. Cooper is confined to his room with la-grippe.

The song of the candidate will soon be heard in the land. We are glad that all will not have the same tune as it would be monotonous.

Mrs. E.L. Langley is quite feeble. We hope she will soon be well again.

Our city route 3 carrier is forcing us to buy stamps instead of dropping in pennies with our letters and cards. Light work and a large salary seems to be the leading theme of all ye carriers.

The Snellville Sunday School convention met at Haynes Creek Academy last Saturday with good attendance. Motion prevailed to hold the celebration at Snellville Thursday after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in July.

Rev. E.L. Langley, who has been on the sick list for some time, is slowly improving.

Owing to such unfavorable weather the crop prospect at present seems somewhat gloomy.

Quite a number from here attended services at Haynes Creek Sunday. It was communion and foot-washing at that place.

Mr. Cofield is suffering from a broken foot caused by jumping from a porch. He said he either had to jump or fall.

*The News Herald,*

*February 3, 10, 28, & May 19, 1910*

## **Gwinnett County Winter and Spring 1960**

### *Snellville PTA Plans To Have "Dollar" Day Polio Shots Clinic*

The Parent Teacher Association in the Snellville area are about to get themselves set to hold a "Dollar Day" Polio Clinic in the very near future. They have most of their information upon which they will base their plans.

At the present time 31 percent have had no polio shots at all; 12 percent have had less than the required three shots; none have had the fourth shots. This is a far cry from the 100 percent we are interested in. The first clinic will be held in the near future. Any one desiring the polio shots may receive them at this time for \$1.00. This fee is to cover the cost of the vaccine and equipment. Medical, nursing and lay services will be donated. The clinic will either be held in either the South Gwinnett High School or the Snellville Elementary School. The hours will probably be from 9:30 until 12 noon. The clinic will be opened to adults as well as children.

The school children will be handled through the

school. The fee will be collected by the teacher, and transportation, if any, will be handled by the school. A request slip has been or will be sent home asking the parents consent to give the shots and requesting the fee. Any parent is allowed to change his or her mind to a positive or negative decision, between the time he or she signed his or her consent and the day of the clinic, if it is done in writing.

The PTA workers have done and are continuing to do a splendid service in the organization of this clinic. Your Health Department hopes other interested groups will organize such clinics over the county before the school year is out.

Steven Byars, M.D., Director  
Gwinnett County  
Health Department

*The News Herald, January 14, 1960*

## **B-R-R-R-R-R!!**

There was snow and ice on the ground, sleet and snow in the air, blankets of ice on cars and buildings and most of the schools in the county closed before lunchtime Wednesday.

Some roads were impassable, others were so slick or slushy that driving or walking was nonsense. Many business places were closed.

County School Supt. B. B. Harris instructed the principals of all schools in the system to close down by lunchtime. He said overnight weather would de-

termine Thursday's action. He asked that parents tune in WLAW, 1360 on the dial, early Thursday for further details.

The forecast for Lawrenceville and vicinity for Wednesday night and Thursday was sleet, possibly turning to rain Wednesday afternoon, sleet Wednesday night, turning to snow Thursday morning. High Wednesday 34, low Wednesday night 30, high Thursday 38.

*The News Herald, March 2, 1960*

## ***Snellville Woman Dies From Burns***

A Snellville woman died Sunday of burns received when a bottle of polish exploded and ignited her clothing.

Mrs. Lillie Harris Blount, 73, was polishing a stove with furniture polish. There was fire in the stove which ignited the polish, and the ensuing explosion set fire to Mrs. Blount's clothing.

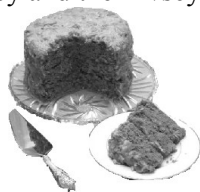
Her son, Vernon Blount, finally smothered the fire with a quilt and water. She sustained second and third degree burns to 75 per cent of her body.

Mrs. Blount was rushed to the Button Gwinnett Hospital and later to an Atlanta hospital, where she died late Sunday afternoon.

*The News Herald, January 14, 1960*

### ***Tastes of Snellville . . .***

This special recipe is a favorite of Dorethia Livsey and the Livsey family.



## **The Promised Land Chocolate Cake (Commonly known as German Chocolate Cake)**

**by Dorethia Livsey**



### **Ingredients:**

¾ cup butter or margarine, softened  
1½ cups sugar  
3 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 cups all purpose flour  
¾ cup baking cocoa  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
¼ teaspoon salt  
1 cup water

1 cup sauerkraut rinsed, drained, squeezed dry and finely chopped  
⅔ cup flaked coconut  
½ cup finely chopped pecans

### ***Filling/Frosting:***

2 cups (12 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted  
⅔ cup mayonnaise  
⅔ flaked coconut, divided  
⅔ cup chopped pecans, divided

### **Directions:**

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine dry ingredients; add to the creamed mixture alternately with water. Fold in sauerkraut, coconut and pecans. Pour into three greased and floured 9-inch round baking pans.

Bake at 350° for 20-24 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks; cool completely.

In a bowl, combine melted chocolate and mayonnaise. Set aside 1¼ cups for frosting. To the remaining chocolate mixture, add half of the coconut and pecans; spread between cake layers.

Spread reserved chocolate mixture over top and sides of cake.

Combine remaining coconut and pecans; press onto sides of cake.

Store in the refrigerator. Slice with a serrated knife.

**Yield:** 12-14 servings



# *We Remember...*

## *Snellville High School*

### *Alumni Deaths*



**Ada Brownlee Paden**, a graduate in the class of 1938, died December 29, 2009.

**Mary Lee Watkins Sells** died January 30, 2010. She graduated in 1927.

On February 2, 2010 **Thomas Nash** died. He was a graduate with the class of 1939.

**Raymond Williams** died February 14, 2010. He graduated in 1940. He married Christine Minor who taught at Snellville Elementary before she married.

On February 17, 2010 **Wynelle Burress Hammett** died. She was in the graduating class of 1933.

**Foster Mizell Bryan**, a graduate in the class of 1948, died February 18, 2010.

**Pauline Garner Peeples** died March 2, 2010. She graduated in 1938.

#### **Officers of the Snellville Historical Society**

*President.....Carolyne Kirkland*

*Vice President.....Elaine Roberts*

*Secretary.....Janet Gibson*

*Treasurer.....Lynette Couch*

#### *Directors at Large*

*Ann Britt*

*Neita Snell*

*Emmett Clower*

#### **Annual Membership**

**Individual \$15**

**Family.....\$25**

**For information contact**

**Carolyn Kirkland.....770-972-4729**

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**Lynette Couch.....770-972-1457**

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**Wayne and Gloria League**

**Nick and Carolyn Kirkland**

**Dick Deacon**

#### **Snellville Historical Society Office Hours**

**Snellville City Hall**

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

**10:00 am—12 noon**

**770-985-3512**

