

EMANUEL

2019 - 2020

Welcome
Guide

County



What's Inside:

The Margaret Mitchell House

An account of the *Gone with the Wind* author's ties to Emanuel

The Cadle Archives

A peek into local attorney Jerry Cadle's filing cabinet

The Dixie

Time-traveling back to the prime of Swainsboro's theatre

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Nunez • Oak Park • Stillmore • Summertown
Swainsboro • Twin City



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Friends and Visitors,

Allow me to introduce myself...I'm Tyson Stephens, a lifelong native of Emanuel County and it's elected Sheriff. It is a joy to be one of the first to welcome "y'all" to my hometown, and share a few of my thoughts as you browse through this magazine.

Aside from a little military service and the time I spent at the University of Georgia, I have lived here my whole life. I love this community and its people and have been blessed far better than I deserve to have their confidence, trust and faith in my service as a former at-large county commissioner for two years and I am now in my thirty third year as Sheriff.

Well, enough about me! Let me tell you about our people, businesses and all we enjoy that makes my home such a great place to live. Many of our approximate 23,000 people come from families who have been here for many generations, but you will never be treated as an outsider...we welcome all visitors with open arms! This community is blessed to be able to offer a great pre-k through 12 school system and higher education (East Georgia State College, Southeastern Technical College) to our children and young adults, along with many recreational areas and programs. We are a large rural county in size that affords us plenty of agricultural opportunities, in both open land for farming and a large amount of forest land for timber production. We are also fortunate to have an industrial base that our economic development authority is always working hard to expand and improve. We have a willing and hardworking labor force, reasonably priced real estate and a low crime rate.

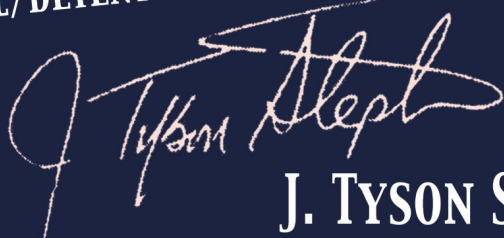
As you can tell, I become a little passionate when talking about my "home"! If you are new to our area, we want to welcome you and ask that you take a moment to enjoy this magazine and learn a little more about this community and its people. We hope that you'll decide to "stay a while" and maybe even choose to call Emanuel County your home. We'll all work and grow together!

Welcome Home Friends!


J. Tyson Stephens



**THE EMANUEL COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND EMANUEL
COUNTY JAIL/DETENTION.**



**SHERIFF
J. TYSON STEPHENS**



CONT

features



Words Worth A Thousand Maps

Jerry Cadle's impressive archive tells all about historic Swainsboro's cityscape.



Six Columns & A Facade

Details about *Gone With the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell's ties to Emanuel.



Let's Go To The Dixie

A look back at a Swainsboro icon, The Historic Dixie Theatre, and a look forward at its renovation.



On The Bench

The Honorable Judge Robert S. Reeves gives the spiel about his years as a superior court judge.

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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our Welcome Guide! As you flip through these pages, you'll find important information about Emanuel County as well as features on some of our most interesting faces and places.

The Forest-Blade has been producing this magazine for decades. We're proud to be Emanuel County's official news source, but we're just as proud to provide this guide for our newcomers, visitors, and lifelong residents.

We've taken a slightly different approach to the welcome guide this year. You'll still find pertinent information about Emanuel County, but you might also find an ongoing "theme" as you read the features inside this edition. While

we're excited about our community's future and the direction we're headed, we're also proud of our rich heritage. Consequently, we've compiled a gamut of stories that highlight our history to create this "historical edition." We hope you enjoy!

Warmest regards,
Halei and Whitley



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301 S. Circle Drive, Swainsboro
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WELCOME

to Emanuel County! Whether you're here for a visit or plan to stay for good, we invite you to come on in and experience the hospitality and tranquility of a true southern home.

Emanuel County is just 16 miles from Interstate 16. Georgia Highway 80 and U.S. Highway 1 cross in the center of our county seat, the city of Swainsboro. (This intersection is especially noteworthy as it is the crossroads of two of the most historically relevant cross-country roads in America, and Swainsboro is the only place in the country they meet, hence Swainsboro's long-standing nickname, the "Crossroads of the Great South.") When you're in Emanuel County, you're halfway between Statesboro and Dublin. Furthermore, we're an easy drive to Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Atlanta, Athens, and Jacksonville, Florida.

In terms of academics, you'll be impressed with our schools. All ultramodern, the educational opportunities in Emanuel County are small in number compared to other areas larger in size but, nonetheless, second to none. Emanuel County Schools, David Emanuel Academy, East Georgia State College, and Southeastern Technical College provide ample opportunity for pupils of all ages, pre-kindergarten to non-traditional college students, to achieve their educational goals and life endeavors thereafter.

What's more, every denomination has representation here in terms of places of worship.

We are also proud of our state-of-the-art recreational facilities. These include football, softball, and baseball fields; tennis and basketball courts; walking trails; a splash pad; playgrounds; fishing grounds; and much more. We have a new dog park, Swainsboro Golf and Country Club just off McLeod Bridge Road is a great outlet for local golf enthusiasts, and George L. Smith State Park, open daily in Twin City, is perfect for camping. Also situated inside Emanuel County are meeting places such as Vann Community House, the Garfield Community House, and the Varner 4-H Clubhouse, among others.

For those who are inclined in the area of arts, the Emanuel Arts Council works to provide opportunities for our community to exercise and groom their artistic interests. A few activities the EAC sponsors are children's art camps, locally-produced plays, and outdoor art shows. The EAC will be housed in the Historic Dixie Theatre, currently undergoing renovations to become the Barbara and Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center. This new locale will serve as a place for exciting cultural programming for us here at home as well as surrounding areas. (For more information about the revitalization of the Dixie Theatre, visit www.dixietheatre.org.)

The beautiful city/county auditorium downtown offers a number of entertainment events, including the Miss Emanuel County and Miss Southeast Georgia Pageants, held annually as preliminaries to the Miss Georgia, and ultimately Miss America, pageants.

Geographically speaking, Emanuel County sits atop the Satilla Trough, or Gulf Trough, a natural channel that provides a dam-like effect to all saltwater which would otherwise intrude our region. Some scientists claim that we have the best quality and quantity of water in the state.

Remember, you and yours are always welcome here! Stay with us and you're guaranteed an authentic southern-living experience at its best, complete with a heartfelt smile upon your entrance and an understanding goodbye with sincere well wishes, complete with a wave from our front porches, should you choose to leave.

We invite you to browse through this newcomer's guide. It is our hope that in these pages you will be provided a glimpse of the beauty and repose Emanuel County offers. There are many things about our neck of the woods we can't put in this guide, like the call of the whippoorwill as night consumes the day, the way the sun rises over our many rolling hills, or the rustle of the wind through our infamous yellow pines. These are experiences that come only with a stay in our humble abode. So, come stay with us... And if you can't, y'all come back now, ya hear?

HOW TO *Get Started*

Outlined below are a few pertinent pieces of information to help you get settled. Should you need further assistance, the Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce awaits your call at 478-237-6426. Unless noted, all numbers listed here are area code 478.

Register to Vote

Residents 18 years of age or older are eligible to register to vote. All residents of Emanuel County should visit the registrar's office in the county office building in Swainsboro to register to vote in county elections.

The registrar's office may be contacted at 237-3471.

In order to vote in city elections, residents must register at their respective city hall. Other places to register are the Georgia State Patrol Post, local high schools, and colleges.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased at local convenience and sporting goods stores.

Cable/Telephone Hookup

To get cable or telephone services in Emanuel County, call: Northland Cable at 237-6434. The office is located at 123 Roger Shaw Street in Swainsboro.

Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (serving Lexsy, Midville area, Oak Park, Stillmore, Summertown, Twin City, and Adrian) at 478-419-1221 or 800-247-1266. Pineland's office is located at 425 S. Main Street in Swainsboro.

Bell South at 1-888-757-6500.

Marriage License

For marriage licenses, visit the Emanuel County probate judge's office inside the courthouse on South Main Street in Swainsboro. The cost for a marriage license is \$76 if there is no premarital counseling, or \$36 if there is. The telephone number is 237-7091.

Electrical Power

For electrical hook-ups in the county, contact: Altamaha Electric at 237-8181. Their office is located at 730 Highway 1 South, Swainsboro.

Excelsior Electric Services at 912-685-2115. They may be reached by mail at P.O. Box 297, Metter, GA 30439.

Georgia Power at 888-660-5890. You may also request a start service online at <https://customerservice2.southerncompany.com/CustService/ServiceRequests?mnuOpco=gpc>. (Please note that the Swainsboro office closed in late 2016.)

Washington Electric services some rural portions of Emanuel County. To inquire whether you are in their service area, contact them by phone at 864-2593, or drop by their office, 112 Marcus Street in nearby Wrightsville.

Building Permit

To obtain a building permit, you must fill out an application at Swainsboro City Hall, located at 101 West Main Street, Swainsboro. For information, call 237-7025.

Burn Permit

Contact the Emanuel County Forestry Unit for a burn permit. Their office is located at 296 Glenwood Road in Swainsboro. They may be reached by phone at 289-2564.

Animal Control

The animal shelter services the needs of dogs. The shelter is located at 343 Market Street in Swainsboro. For more information, call Shari Watt at 237-4040.

Drivers License

If you have an out-of-state drivers license, you must receive a Georgia drivers license within 30 days. You must be over 16 years of age and must present at least one original or certified document to prove your primary identity (birth certificate or passport), your Social Security card, at least two documents to prove your residential address and appropriate name change documents, if needed.

The Georgia Department of Drivers Services, located on Highway 1 North in Swainsboro, is open Wednesday and Thursday only, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (These hours can change frequently. We suggest confirming by phone before your visit. To do so, call 289-2595 or 678-413-8400.)

Natural Gas

Atlanta Gas and Light Company services Swainsboro with natural gas. To receive natural gas services, call toll free 1-800-427-5463.

Garbage Disposal

For garbage pickup in Swainsboro, call City Hall or visit their office. Household garbage collection areas are provided throughout the county as well.

Water and Sewer Service

For water and sewer services, contact your respective city hall. Numbers to those city halls are provided in the Important Numbers list in this magazine underneath each city's mayor's name.

Motor Vehicle Registration

To register your motor vehicle, please correspond with the Emanuel County tax commissioner, whose office is located at 101 South Main Street, Swainsboro. This office also handles transactions for mobile homes, timber tax, property tax, and intangible recording tax. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Their telephone number is 237-3351.

Georgia law requires all auto tags be renewed by owner's birthday. New residents have 30 days to renew license plates. Renewals after deadline are subject to a 10 percent penalty on the ad valorem tax and a 25 percent tax on the tag fee.

Mobile Home Registration

Mobile homes must display a current mobile home decal, which may be obtained at the tax commissioner's office upon payment of ad valorem taxes each year.

Tax bills for mobile homes are mailed out in late January and are due by May 1.

Newspaper Delivery

For newspaper delivery, visit The Forest-Blade, 416 West Moring Street in Swainsboro. The telephone number to The Blade is 237-9971, and they may be reached by fax at 237-9451.

School Registration

To register for public school, visit the Emanuel County Board of Education's Central Office at 201 North Main Street, Swainsboro. For more information, call 237-6674.

To register for David Emanuel Academy, call 912-562-4405 or visit 602 North Fourth St. in Stillmore.

Where to grub

Backwoods Steak & Seafood.....589-7726
 Berni's.....419-1339
 Bird's Wings & Things.....299-2574
 Burger King.....237-7766
 Canoochee Catfish.....237-7242
 Clifton's Country Diner.....419-1398
 Coleman House.....237-9100
 Dairy Queen.....237-2431
 Domino's Pizza.....289-7070
 Dragon Loco.....289-0066
 El Valle Mexican Restaurant.....237-6063
 Enmarket.....237-3307
 Emanuel Medical Center.....289-1100
 Farmhouse Cafe.....668-3775
 Hall's Minit Mart.....763-4212
 Hall's Minit Mart #2.....419-1357
 Happy's.....494-1295
 Hardee's.....237-9277
 Huddle House.....237-5510
 KFC.....237-5133
 Koiya Express.....289-8082
 Kwik Shop.....237-7596
 Lawrence Village.....237-6787
 Lew's BBQ.....763-3098
 Lynn & Bob's.....237-2064
 Mama Lucy's.....299-7621

Maryland.....237-5300
 Mill Pond.....763-4769
 McDonald's.....237-2860
 McKinney's.....912-589-7186
 New China.....237-6507
 New Garden.....419-5038
 Oak Island.....912-562-3888
 Off the Hook.....206-0056
 Papa Buck's BBQ.....494-4941
 Peking.....237-9666
 Pizza Hut.....237-2221
 Robert's Quick Shop.....289-7290
 Simply Southern.....763-4071
 Sonic.....237-2222
 Southern Sweet Catfish.....763-4393
 Subway.....237-7396
 Subway, Oak Park.....912-562-4410
 Subway, Walmart.....289-0120
 Tarantino's.....419-1088
 Taco Bell.....237-5400
 Taste of Phillie.....419-1336
 The Sugar Bowl.....419-5116
 Waffle King.....237-7191
 Ware's BBQ.....237-6942
 Wendy's.....237-5565
 Zaxby's.....237-4476



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3 Things

To Do in Emanuel County

1. Visit George L. Smith State Park

Twin City is home to **George L. Smith State Park**, a jewel in the Georgia's State Park System and home to one of only two gristmills in working order and in operation by the State of Georgia.

For history buffs, the mill itself is worth a visit to the park. The mill story began in 1879 when Alexander Hendricks needed a place to construct a mill and found suitable land in the eastern part of the county. He joined forces with James M. Parrish, and together, they purchased the land from J.J. Moring. The dam and base of the mill were completed in a few months, and by the end of the year, the millpond and house containing a gristmill a sawmill and a cotton gin were complete.



The dam was considered an engineering miracle of the day and was completely built by hand at the greatest depth of water. The road to the mills passes through the mill, over the dam and out the other side. People brought wagonloads of corn or cotton right into the mill, and the mail carrier passed through as a well on his way to the Bay Branch of the U.S. Post Office, which was right on the other side. In 1984, the covered bridge was closed to automobiles.

The mill's first use was for lumber and served surrounding counties, as well as Emanuel. Timber for the millhouse was felled near the dam, cleared of bark by hand, sawed into lumber on location and assembled with hand pegs. Cedar, pine and oak were the most popular trees for use, and the local community used the lumber for homes, barns and furniture. The sawmill was one of the only ones to thrive in the late 1800s.

Around that same time, the cotton gin was installed and took over as the mill's featured operation. Local and area farmers brought both long-staple, or Sea Island, and short-staple, or upland, cotton to have seeds removed and the lint baled. The cotton came in a cartload at a time, which yielded about half a bale, and as a result, the gin became known as a half-bale cotton gin.

In 1885, the last piece of machinery was installed in the mill—a set of millstones and the machinery to power them—and the gristmill had its start. The turbine used wooden bearings from a South American wood, *Lignum vitae*, considered the hardest and densest wood in the world. Because of the concentration of oils in the wood, the bearings were self-lubricating, even underwater.

The gristmill served the people of Emanuel, Bulloch, and Candler counties for many years. It was used for corn only and, for many years, ran 24 hours a day; the meal was sold in many states. When water was too low to power the turbine, a diesel engine was used. Two more sets of millstones have been installed in the mill over time and by 1944, the gristmill was the only functioning machinery in the mill. The gristmill continued to grind corn until 1973, then was dormant until 1993, when the mill was restored. The mill is in occasional operation to this date and can grind as much as 200 pounds of corn per hour.

In addition to the mill, George L. Smith State Park boasts 1,634 acres with tent, trailer and RV campsites, eight cottages, a 412-acre lake, picnic shelters, a newly-renovated group shelter with seating for 94, playgrounds and a primitive campground. Fishermen and canoeists can explore the millpond, and there are 11 miles of trails for hikers, runners and cyclists. The park is home to an abundance of wildlife, from ibis to rare gopher tortoises, that is easily observed and enjoyed by all ages.

Getting There

George L. Smith State Park is located between Twin City, Metter, and Statesboro off of Georgia Highway 23. There is also an entrance off of Highway 80 between Twin City and Statesboro. It can be reached from I-16 by taking Exit 104.

Come visit and experience our history and enjoy time in our park and community!

2. Attend Our Festivals



Emanuel County's signature festival, the **Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber Expo**, is held annually at the end of April and beginning of May. It celebrates our prosperous forestry industry with events such as a parade, entertainment for all ages, tons of food vendors, and so much more! With the passing of each year, the Pine Tree Festival proves to be bigger and better than the last, and is the longest continually running festival in the state. For more information, contact the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce.

In conjunction with the Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber Expo, the **Rhythm and Pines Music Festival** was organized in 2014 to showcase our locals' musical talents. Held the Friday prior to the Pine Tree Festival, this event solicits attendees from across the county (and other areas as well) to venues downtown to enjoy a variety of genres.

The **Garfield Cookout Festival**, like the two aforementioned festivals, is held annually, this particular one in May as well. The celebration puts an emphasis on delicious foods prepared over open flames, many in authentic wash pots. The cookout also features a parade, arts and craft vendors, local dancers and musicians, and much more. Want more information? Contact Garfield City Hall.

Held at George L. Smith State Park in Twin City on the third Saturday in November, the **Sugar Cane Festival** kicks off with a pancake breakfast, then offers plenty of hands-on activities. These include cane grinding, corn grinding at the old grist mill, a "history hunt" with a chance to win a barbecue lunch, and much more. Displays at the festival include a reenactment camp, courtesy of our local Sons of the Confederate Veterans chapter, exhibits from Emanuel County EMS, Life Flight, Twin City Fire Department, the forestry unit, and more. The Sugar Cane Festival is co-sponsored by the Friends of George L. Smith II State Park and Historic Twin City, GA, Inc. For more information, call Twin City City Hall.

Inaugurated in 2011, the **Oak Park Moonshine Festival** is a unique festival that takes place in the fall at the old Oak Park School. The festival was started as a way to celebrate the history of moonshine and the historical impact it had on the southeast, though in no way does it promote the use or sale of moonshine, nor is moonshine made or available at the festival. All proceeds from the Oak Park Moonshine Festival benefit the renovation of the Oak Park School buildings, provide a free Thanksgiving dinner to residents, feed needy families at Christmas, put on the Christmas parade in Oak Park, and have Santa Claus visit the children afterward.

3. Go Antique Shopping

Main Street Market Antique Mall

Main Street Market is one of the largest antique malls in the region, featuring more than 60 dealer booths and 12,000 square feet of antiques, collectibles, home decor, unique gifts, and local art, including jewelry, pottery, books written by local authors, and albums recorded by local musicians. For those interested in local history or ancestry, a full line of local history books published by the Emanuel County Historic Society are also available at the market.



Main Street Market is a project of the downtown Development Authority of Swainsboro. It was developed to foster small retail businesses in Swainsboro's historic downtown district. The guestbook at Main Street Market has been signed by visitors from all 50 states and 16 different countries. Main Street Market is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., is owned by the Downtown Development Authority of Swainsboro, and is managed by Michael Bright. Visit the market online at [Facebook.com/MainStreetMarketSwainsboro](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetMarketSwainsboro), in person at 215 West Main Street, or reach them by phone at 478-237-0936.

The Peddler Antique Shops

One of the oldest antiques business in downtown Swainsboro, The Peddler, located in three different buildings on West Main Street, offers unique antiques and vintage finds that are not only interesting, but have historic connections to Emanuel County and its people. Proprietor Gloria Mason can tell you anything you need to know about any piece, no matter how small, in any of her three shops. There are one-of-a-kind finds, rare antique furniture, primitives, historic artifacts, local relics, and so much more. Plan to spend a good amount of time browsing The Peddler's shops. You're sure to find what you're looking for, even if you weren't sure you were looking for it! Visit The Peddler Thursday through Saturday.

5th Avenue Vintage & Antiques

Located at 603 South Railroad Avenue in historic Twin City, Roseann Ettinger's gem of a shop will not disappoint the lover of period jewelry, vintage clothing, and accessories. She has authored 16 books on antique and period jewelry, vintage clothing and accessories, including ties, handbags, compacts and other items of the like, making her selection top-of-the-line. Also available for purchase are books, prints, ephemera, collectibles, old store stock, glassware, and much more. Take a trip back in time and browse Ettinger's one-of-a-kind shop! Hours are Thursday through Saturday from noon until 5:00 pm, or by chance of appointment. For more information, call 570-436-3240.

Numbers you should know

Emanuel County is governed by a county administrator and a panel of five county commissioners. The commissioners meet the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' conference room inside the county office, located at 101 North Main Street, Swainsboro.

District 1
Desse Davis
237-8257

District 2
Keith Thompson
237-3696

District 3
Hugh Foskey
668-4448

District 4
Jim Sherrod
455-1861

District 5
James Ray Cannady
912-682-2388

County Administrator
L. Guy Singletary
P.O. Box 787
101 North Main Street
Swainsboro
237-3881

County Attorney
Richard McNeely
P.O. Box 309
210 North Main Street
Swainsboro
237-6424

Municipalities within Emanuel County are governed by a mayor and city council. Mayors for these areas follow.

Adrian
Kim Adams
City Hall, P.O. Box 265
Adrian, GA 31002
668-3376

Garfield
Willie Worthen Sr.
City Hall, P.O. Box 124
Garfield, GA 30425
763-3264

Nunez
Vickie Hooks
City Hall, P.O. Box 65
Nunez, GA 30448
912-562-3701

Oak Park
Mickey Lindsey
3857 Harrington St.
Oak Park, GA 30436
912-578-4115

Stillmore
Regan Slater
City Hall, P.O. Box 70
Stillmore, GA 30464
912-562-3529

Summertown
Don Bishop
P.O. Box 555
Swainsboro, GA 30401
237-3422

Swainsboro
Charles Schwabe
City Hall, P.O. Box 600
Swainsboro, GA 30401
237-7025

Twin City
Matt Donaldson
City Hall, P.O. Box 980
Twin City, GA 30471
763-2695

Government:
Courthouse:
237-8911

Kristin Hall
Clerk of Superior Court
237-8911, Ext. 117

Ronald Wiggins
Chief Magistrate Judge
Dawn Braddy
Magistrate Judge
237-7278

Don Wilkes
Probate Judge
237-7091

Swainsboro Police Department
Randy Ellison, Chief
237-8967

Sheriff's Office
J. Tyson Stephens, Sheriff
Rocky Davis, Chief Deputy
101 Court Street, Swainsboro
237-7526

Tax Assessor's Office
237-1222

Tax Commissioner
Sandra Wright, Tax Commissioner
237-3351

Voter Registrar
Kerry Curry, Director of Elections
Kathy Youngblood, Clerk
237-3471

Georgia State Patrol
994 Highway 1 North, Swainsboro
478-289-2599

Emanuel County Board of Education
Dr. Kevin Judy, Superintendent
237-6674

Chamber of Commerce and Joint Development Authority
237-6426

Cable & Internet Providers
Northland Cable & Internet
237-6434
Pineland Telephone Cooperative
419-1221

The Forest-Blade, Newspaper
Gail Williamson, Publisher
Trudie Kasper, General Manager
237-9971

Hospital
Emanuel Medical Center, 237-9911
Emergency Room, 237-5380
Ambulance, 237-0299

Libraries
Franklin Memorial Library
237-7791
East Georgia State College
289-2083

Rental Car Services
Daniel's Chevrolet, 237-4111
Enterprise, 289-7133

4-H Clubhouse
289-0070

Vann Community House
237-8098

Radio Jones, LLC
237-1590

Recreation Department
Tony Mangieri, Director
237-8098

Fire Department
For emergencies, call 9-1-1
Administrative Office
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Headquarters
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Swainsboro, 237-8533
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Twin City, 763-4013
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Last year, we welcomed over **one hundred eighty five** new citizens to our town. We also welcomed **two** new major manufacturing employers and this year we will welcome **two** more. **Ten** new businesses also found their home here in Swainsboro.

We like to welcome college students, retirees, doctors, lawyers and other **good people**. We also welcome good ideas about making our town even better.

So... What are you waiting for?
This is your *"Welcome"* to *Swainsboro, Georgia!*



CITY OF
Swainsboro GEORGIA
Crossroads of the Great South



Words Worth A Thousand Maps

By Whitley Clifton



ROGER SHAW STREET BACK IN THE DAY

Welcome to Emanuel County, where our history is rich and our southern hospitality is as thick as the sap that drips from the bark of our tall pines!

Composed of 10 small towns, there's a story to be told about every city within these county lines. With the City of Swainsboro being our county seat, the conversations about this town tend to be a bit long-winded. After all, there's plenty of history to talk about, according to local attorney Jerry Cadle, who recently briefed us on the history of this town we hold dear.

Whether you are visiting, new to the area, or consider yourself to be a part of our "rooted" citizenry, we're glad to have ya! While you're here, why don't ya grab a chair and rock a while with us as we converse a bit about this charming city and Cadle, a key successor who has, and continues to, put forth effort so that Swainsboro may flourish.

According to information disclosed by Cadle during a recent interview, downtown Swainsboro was *the* place to be during the 1950s and 1960s. Finding the Crossroads of the Great South's sidewalks packed to the max was the norm on any given weekend. The same can't be said today, but don't be mistaken. Swainsboro is a thriving community with lots of potential.

You see, back in the day, downtown Swainsboro boasted multiple mom-n'-pop stores as well as other local businesses. Each of these were well-known in our hometown, such as the Western Auto store owned by Cadle's father, F.H. Cadle Jr.; Bailey Brothers Appliance and Tire store; Otasco owned by Bill Youngblood; Sears; and Fowler Furniture.

When speaking with Cadle, he reminisced a bit about the good ol' days of downtown Swainsboro.

According to him, pharmaceutical needs were once met by locally owned pharmacies such as Black's Pharmacy, Davis Drugs, Harrison's Pharmacy, and Swainsboro Drug Company. For renovation and construction projects, many handymen knew that Swainsboro Supply, Smith and Spivey Hardware, Swainsboro Hardware, and Price Hardware were the go-to spots for project needs.

Do you know where Main Street Market is? Well, this setting was the Farmers Furniture location.

How many can say they lived in an era where 5- and 10-cent stores existed? Probably not many! For those who can, they probably recall well-known stores like McConnell's, United, and Darlings. (We locals sure enjoy reading memories about these places from columnist Shirley Proctor Twiss!)

Stewart's Jewelers still occupies Green Street, just like it did back in the day. Falling short in a this-town-ain't-big-enough-for-the-two-of-us draw, Blankenship's Jewelers didn't stand the test of time and, against all odds, closed up shop.

Also back in the day, restaurants made their way downtown, and many plates were served at Kea's Cafe and Lewis' Restaurant. To satisfy that hankering sweet tooth was Bazemore's Bakery, offering freshly prepared sugary delicacies.

Clothing the backs of many with the latest trends in fashion were the ever-so-popular Deloris and Woody's, Subotnick's Allied Department Store, Levin's, Ehrich's, and Rosenberg's, which later became Maxwell's.

Providing a home away from home for our visitors, hotels Durden and John C. Coleman left their porch lights on when vacancies were available.

Downtown Swainsboro once even hosted a Hallmark shop back in

the day, as well as The Dixie Theatre and two former funeral homes, Swainsboro Mortuary and Hunnicutt Funeral Home.

These locations, and many more, were all present and once breathed life into the downtown setting prior to Cadle's time away while attending law school at the University of Georgia. However, upon his arrival back home, the vibrancy of life in Swainsboro had dimmed, leading to Cadle's role in its revitalization.

PROJECT REVIVE

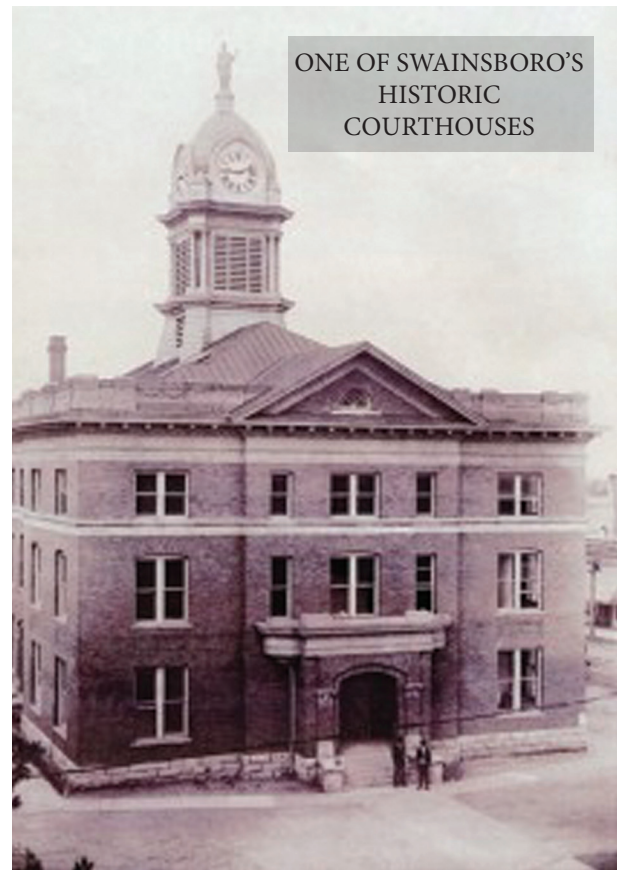
Of course, not all had suffered enough to make downtown a "ghost town." The presence of emergency personnel stayed constant, though operations and locations have since changed. The police once operated out of a small building on the town square and, back in the day, on-duty officers would park their cars by the curb pole phone to answer emergency calls.

Where our downtown fountain now stands once was the grounds of the courthouse, and the city's jail was once located at the current event-hosting hotspot, The Boneyard. (In fact, there are some interesting stories about this location, but first, we'll stay focused on the tale of our old jail.)

Who all has watched the old *Andy Griffith Show*? If so, you know well of the hospitality shown to ol' Odis at the Mayberry jail. Similarly, the old city jail of Swainsboro had that same at-home feel. According to Cadle as well as town talk, the jailer, his wife, and son once resided there; the lady of the house served home-cooked meals to not only her family but the inmates, too.

The old masonic lodge served as a double-jointed operation back in the day and was site of city hall and the fire department.

These operations and others, of course, have seen changes throughout the years, which Cadle and other native parties have been privy to. Still, great potential



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remained.

Eager to see this potential become reality, Cadle assembled a group of fellow Jaycee members and began a collaboration to perform a city clean-up.

Reaching out to property owners Jimmy Morgan and Randy Karrh, the group offered to clean up and paint their rental properties as part of a community project for their club. In exchange for their free service, the landlords were asked to purchase the supplies.

Jokingly, Karrh suggested that the Jaycee members purchase the property instead. Non-jokingly, the young entrepreneurs were interested in Karrh's witty proposal and later purchased his location as well as Morgan's and four additional properties through the sale of property stocks raised in a crunching six-week timeframe, which later led the club members being the recipients of a national economic development award for renovations of the courtyard and Green Street.

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

During 1980, city staff and members of the chamber dialed up the glorious University of Georgia to inquire about a new layout for our charming small town. In doing so, a patch map was drafted featuring the nine-block set up seen today! Consisting of 3 three-block matching sections, the patterned layout design could only be constructed by fixing previous construction errors.

Parking was the largest issue, but the courthouse also wreaked some havoc in the project as it was built in the wrong location during the beginning days of Swainsboro. Nevertheless, a solution was formed. Beginning with the destruction of a warehouse next to Catered Creations and a former car dealership behind the tax commissioner's office being torn down, additional parking space was made available. (The most recent change of this nature took place this year!)

The former Bailey Brothers building behind city hall was transformed into parking spaces, which serve the many who park behind current City Hall, and, according to the Cadle, the old post office is now the parking lot of Tarantino's.

Cadle has also assisted in the renovations on all four sides of the square and its fountain. He also helped with the plans for our current courthouse during his time as a county commissioner while still managing repairs, maintenance, landscaping,



and bookkeeping for many of the downtown properties.

Did you know Swainsboro once had a Greyhound station? It's true! It sat across from Cadle's current office where Family Dollar is now.

During the 1940s, Cadle's office was Dr. Chandler's house. Attached to the bus station was a diner, the hype spot for many weekends. This diner was the go-to social spot and many social gatherings were held there, unfortunately for the ol' doc, whose sleep was often interrupted.

Because his bedroom window hosted a view into the diner, Dr. Chandler heard enough ruckus one night. He gave a fair warning by phoning the business, requesting the noise be lowered or he would retaliate! The socialites didn't take heed to his words and learned a quick lesson—don't bother Dr. Chandler's slumber! He was a man of his word, and retaliate he did!

Opening his bedroom window, the downtown doctor aimed and fired out the windows of the diner! Needless to say, Dr. Chandler got his night's rest because no one wanted to bother him anymore!

Having seen a growth in numbers, Swainsboro's development continues to thrive. For his involvement in the developmental growth, Cadle was named the City of Swainsboro's OurTown Hero on February 2, 2015.

Leading to this recognition, he served as chairman of the Downtown Development Authority from 2007 through December 31, 2014. During this time, Cadle implemented several hosted events, began a facade grant program, and so much more!

Being an active member of our little hometown, Cadle has respectively served as president of the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce, the Swainsboro Exchange Club, President and the Emanuel County 4-H Foundation. He has also been treasurer of the Emanuel Arts Council and chairman of the East Georgia College Foundation and the City of Swainsboro's Planning Commission, all of which were well earned.

You see, there isn't much a little hard work and determination can't fix; you just have to have a vision to know where to start.

If you haven't yet, you should go on down and walk the square. Be sure to check out the current local businesses we all love to shop at today while enjoying the atmosphere as well! Get associated and tell us who you and your folks are! And of course, be sure to tell the locals we sent ya!



OUR COMMUNITIES

SWAINSBORO

- The county seat of Emanuel County
- Named for Stephen Swain
- Name changed to "Paris" in 1852 but was changed back to "Swainsboro" in 1861
- Known as "Pine Tree Country" or "Crossroads of the Great South" since transcontinental U.S. Highways 1 and 80 intersect downtown

NUNEZ

- Named for Dr. Samuel Nunez, who was credited for stopping a contagious epidemic through the new colony of Georgia in the 1700s, or Dr. Jackson Morgan Nunez, long-time Emanuel County physician who died in 1934

TWIN CITY

- Once two neighboring and nearly identical towns, Summit and Graymont
- Combined in 1921 to form Twin City

GARFIELD

- Incorporated on August 23, 1905
- Is thought to be named after President James Garfield, who was assassinated in 1889

OAK PARK

- Owes its existence to Hansel R. Williamson, a pioneer settler and landowner in the area.

NORRISTOWN (unincorporated)

- Got its start over 235 years ago when Williams Laird opened a cotton gin and gristmill there.

SUMMERTOWN

- Received its name from the fact that early settlers of the area built summer homes there to get away from the malaria-infested mosquitoes of the Ogeechee lowlands.

ADRIAN

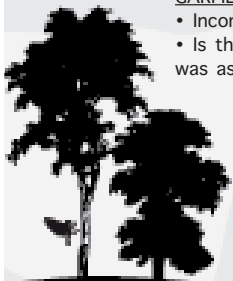
- Was named by the first postman of the first post office, W.R. Smith, in 1899. He was given the honor of selecting a name for the city because of his position.

STILLMORE

- When this town sprang up as a result of the booming railroad-lumber business, the U.S. Post Office sent a list of names for the townspeople to choose from, saying that if none were suitable, they would send "still more." This caught the fancy of the residents, and they adopted the name "Stillmore" for their city.

CANOOCHEE (unincorporated)

- There is some dispute over the origin of the name. Most agree that it comes from the Native American word, "Kanoche," meaning "little ground," but some historians argue that it is from "Canosi," the name of an ancient Native American country, and "Inkandoshi," a Creek Indian word meaning "graves are there."





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Approximately 12 miles east of Swainsboro is Twin City, home to George L. Smith State Park and one of Georgia's National Register Historic Districts. The Twin City Historic District encompasses approximately 255 acres of historic residential, commercial, and community landmark resources associated with the development of two towns that were incorporated as one in 1921. The Historic District runs northeast to southwest through the center of the district following the railroad bed. (The tracks part of the district is the historic commercial and residential area of Summit; the southwest part of the district is the historic commercial and residential area of Graymont. Between the two towns, at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and U.S. Hwy 80, is the area established in themselves were removed in 1952.) The northeast commercial and residential area of Summit; the historic commercial and residential area of Graymont. Between the two towns, at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and U.S. Hwy 80, is the area established in the early 1900s as the "civic center."

The small town of Summit began construction of the Rogers & Summit Millen & Southern Railway); The town of Graymont, established was located one mile from Summit office. Even after their incorporation separate post offices until 1952. The town with a big history."

The Twin City Historic District has several excellent examples of historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings representing the common architectural types and styles found throughout Georgia in the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries; commerce, as the two historic central business districts represent the typical stores and areas of significance: architecture, for its commercial, and community landmark buildings styles found throughout Georgia in the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries; commerce, as the two historic central business districts represent the typical stores and



1889 with the charter and then Summit Railroad (later known as the town was chartered in 1898. in 1896 and chartered in 1900, and had its own depot and post into one town, they maintained community is unique, "a little town





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businesses found in small rural communities in Georgia; and community planning and development, as the original plans of both Summit and Graymont are excellent examples of a railroad strip-type town in Georgia with the main street running parallel to the railroad through the center of town.

The historic districts boasts 136 resources, including excellent examples of house types from Late Victorian to the modern movement and is a time-capsule community for architectural house types. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk



Victorian, Craftsman, English Vernacular Revival, Classical Revival, and International Style. House types include Queen Anne Cottage, New South cottage, Georgian cottage, Georgian house, English cottage, gabled-wing cottage, bungalow, central hall, and ranch house.

Historic Twin City, GA, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, continues to work to put Twin City on the map in Georgia tourism. They celebrated their first birthday in June of 2015 and spent the previous year bringing entertainment to the city, making significant changes that helped awaken a sense of pride and accomplishment in Twin City's citizens.

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A photograph of the Shop Rite Pharmacy & Gifts building, a modern brick and stone structure with large windows and a covered entrance.

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A collage of various Domino's food items including a large pizza, a sandwich, wings, pasta bowls, and breadsticks.

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Our Historic Society

The Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society (ECHPS) will celebrate its 43rd anniversary in 2019. The society was established in 1976 in honor of the nation's bicentennial. It is a membership-supported, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization. Membership dues, fundraisers and tax-deductible, charitable contributions support its programs and projects. There are three quarterly meetings yearly in January, April, July, and the fourth Thursday in each October is a lunch/supper spaghetti meal fundraiser. These are all available for non-members as well.

The society's motto is "Celebrating Our Heritage, Preserving Memories." An important part of this effort is documenting local heritage and history in the form of books. ECHPS's heritage books, Pine Log Echoes, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, are available for purchase at Main St. Market on the Boneyard in Swainsboro. "Tram Lines to Longleaf Pines", which depicts the rise and fall of Emanuel County's railroads, and "Smithton-Blundale" are also available at the Market, as are "Images of America, Emanuel County" and the Georgia historical dinner and salad plates in blue and pink. Pine Log Echoes, Volume 3 is currently being written, with a deadline of November 30, 2019 for any contributions to our history, be it family stories, basic genealogy or photos.

The society is a sponsor of the Georgia Grown Trail, developed along U.S. Highway 1, designed to promote local agricultural products and agribusiness sites.

One of the ECHPS's most prized accomplishments is Longview Farm, which sits within the footprint of an 1800s recreated village. It was named in honor of the original community nearby.




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"Fall Harvest" is the theme for this year's annual open house, slated for October 12, 2019. The public is invited to see new additions and upgrades to the facility from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission will be free. Club members will dress up "The Sycamores" dog-trot house, the Coleman Academy, and Hendley log cabin and newly completed commissary in period decorations. Local craftsmen will be displaying their talents. The operating blacksmith shop will have artisans on hand to demonstrate how heat and muscle power could make or repair old wagons and other farm equipment. Another open house is also scheduled annually on first Sundays in February as part of Georgia Historical Society's Super Museum Sunday.

Youth and adult group tours are organized throughout the year. Over 900 visitors toured the farm and museum during the year. These visitors included Swainsboro Primary School second graders, family reunions, civic groups, and home school groups. Many visitors were from areas outside of Emanuel County. Hosting special events and tours allows the ECHPS to educate the public about our county's history and heritage.

The society was especially pleased to provide

educational tours for school students. After all, few children have an understanding of how their grandparents and great-grandparents survived without electricity, running water, and indoor plumbing. Recognizing the lack of modern conveniences in the old days makes children realize how fortunate we are. Visiting the 1890s log cabin was a special treat for these students, as very few of these buildings survive today. Children experienced attending school in the Coleman Academy, a 1-room schoolhouse. When it was originally built in the 1890s, the Coleman Academy had only seven grades. Now, the school displays desks and related teaching material from 1890 through the 1950s. Desks that were used in grade school at ECI often draw lots of attention from former students.

The dog-trot house (circa 1860s) is complete with a finished, detached kitchen that contains cooking and dining items used during settler times. The six rooms in the main house are fully decorated in period display items, including sewing machinery and pieces of washing apparatus.

The log building that was donated by Julia Rountree is being used as a commissary, or a farm store, for farmers and their workers living on the estate.


Nancy Gross donated a small dairy barn which the society is using as a grist mill display. Also of interest, the restoration of the historic Highway 56 Drive-In theater sign is nearing completion. When finished, the sign will be returned to its original condition with new paint, neon lights, and controls.

The final piece of the Longview Farm puzzle was relocating the U.S. Post Office from Stevens Crossing. While the building is not fully completed, it will be available for touring.

Educational displays continue to be organized and improved. The ECHPS now has its own "veterans wall," dedicated to local World War II veterans. A naval store display contains more than 50 artifacts used for gum dipping from the early 1900s. The old hardware store named in honor of Bonnie Ogburn continues to grow, and the high school photo wall and trophy collection continue to grow with donations of old class photos.


As 2019-20 progresses, the Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society would like to acknowledge all who made the previous year such a success: members of the society itself, volunteers, directors, local carpenters; and the Mill Creek Foundation, Inc.

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OUR HISTORY

The idea to form Emanuel County was born by Stephen Swain. Elected in 1812 to represent Montgomery County in the state senate, he introduced a bill that November to create our beloved county. Its name originated in honor of one of Georgia's least-known governors, David Emanuel, who had previously served as president of the Georgia Senate.

Emanuel County sits in the northern area of what was known as the state's "pine barren" region, which extended across most of the state's Coastal Plain. Originally, the county spanned 1,845 square miles. Its length measured 45 miles while its width was 41. Eight years after its birth, Emanuel County's population totaled 2,928, with most of those inhabitants settling along the county's rivers and streams. Most tracts possessed by landowners were less than 400 acres, thus, most of the land within the boundaries of Emanuel County was still unsettled leading up to year 1839.

Emanuel County boasts two major rivers, the Canoochee and the Ohoopée. The Canoochee rises several miles east of the county seat, Swainsboro, and flows southeastward until meeting the Ogeechee River in Bryan County. The Ohoopée, affectionately abbreviated as the "Hoopee" by locals and rises in Washington County, flowing southward to the Altamaha River, draining a large part of itself in eastern Emanuel County. Other rivers here include the Ogeechee River, Pendleton's Creek, and Skull Creek, which, along with the Ohoopée, of course, were all sites of early settlements.



FUN FACT: When the state legislature established our county seat, Swainsboro was spelled "Swainsborough" back then. The town's name changed to "Paris" in 1854, then was changed back to its first name but without the suffix as reflected in its current spelling!

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Emanuel Medical Center, our local hospital, is state licensed for 66 beds and has a 24-hour emergency room. It is also licensed for 49 nursing home beds and has a 15-bed behavioral health unit. Other services offered by Emanuel Medical include but are not limited to a cardiopulmonary, intensive care, med/surge, radiology, and nutrition.

Emanuel Medical Center is a fully accredited, acute care, non-profit, community-owned hospital. EMC is conveniently located on Kite Road just blocks from the downtown square. Staff members are your neighbors committed to better health with a focus on providing the latest technologies and highly skilled professional staff.

EMC is active in pursuing better health for our community. EMC produces health articles by local physicians that are featured in *The Forest-Blade* and hosts events at the hospital and around the community at local businesses. The hospital's best recommendation to achieve good health is to select a primary care provider for you and your family. You can find a list of local providers on our website at www.EmanuelMedical.org.

Emanuel Medical Center also has a skilled care nursing home serving the residents of Swainsboro, Twin City, Soperton, Adrian, Kite, Midville, Garfield, Stillmore, and unincorporated Emanuel County.

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- Creatinine, Urinalysis, Coagulation
- Total Protein, Triglyceride, Strep
- Uric Acid, Vitamin B-12 & D, Hematocrit
- Cholesterol, Influenza, MRSA, RPR (Not a complete list)
- Hematology, Chemistry, Immunology
- Blood Bank, Microbiology, Serology

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

- Board Certified Physicians
- Tele-medicine
- 24/7 Staffing
- Level IV Trauma Center Designation
- REACH Stroke Outreach Program

SWING BED PROGRAM

Medicare program for patients that need transitional care after a 2 night acute care hospital stay.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

24/7 EMERGENCY ROOM

RADIOLOGY

- CT & CTA Chest Scans
- Mammography
- MRI / MRA
- Nuclear Medicine (prep required bone scans, Galium, Muga, Lung Profusion, Hida scans, Thyroid, Gastric emptying, Cardiac Stress tests)
- Ultrasound (prep required for Gallbladder/Liver, Aorta, Pancreas, Renal/Kidney, Venous Doppler)
- Bone Density, DEXA Scan
- Digital Fluoroscopy
- Barium Enema
- Barium Swallow
- Small Bowel Study
- Gastrografin Enema
- Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)

911 EMERGENCY TRANSPORT

- EMTs
- Paramedics
- 24/7 Advanced Life
- Support Capability

INPATIENT PHYSICAL THERAPY

URGENT CARE WEEKEND CLINIC

- After hours medical care for non-emergency conditions
- 117 Kite Road Swainsboro, GA 30401
- Saturdays, 10 am to 6 pm
- Mondays & Thursdays, 5 pm to 8 pm
- Sundays, 1 pm to 6 pm
- 478-289-1240
- Walk-ins welcome

FAMILY PRACTICE

Porter Medical Clinic
A Rural Health Clinic
Cedric Porter, M.D.
Amanda Jeriell, N.P.
124 Victory Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-5506

Ray Medical Clinic
A Rural Health Clinic
James Ray, M.D.
Gabriella Story, PA
Michael Edenfield, FNP-C
401 West Main Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-9928

Emanuel Healthcare Center
Karen Butler, MD
117 Kite Road
Swainsboro, Ga 30401
478-289-1240

Smith Clinic
A Rural Health Clinic
Anthony Howard, M.D.
Mason Smith, P.A.
Wilder Smith, P.A.
Jeniele Cromartie, N.P.
114 South Jefferson Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-7517

Twin City Family Medical Clinic
A Rural Health Clinic
Karen Butler, M.D., PhD
Claire Ault, FNP-C
115 Gillikin Street
Twin City, GA 30471
478-763-3036

GENERAL PRACTICE

Swainsboro Healthcare
James Clifton, DO
Mary Jo Greenway, N.P.
305 Kite Road
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-2144

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Swainsboro Internal Medicine
A Rural Health Clinic
Anthony Howard, M.D.
Anna Williams, PA
131A Victory Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-8342

South Georgia Internal Medicine

Vijitha Prasad, M.D.
Megan Kight, FNP-C
Pamela Love, WHNP
544 West Church Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-2527

GENERAL SURGERY

Brad Headley, M.D.
Phillip Boatright, P.A.
Headley General Surgery
120A Victory Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-3291
Monday, Thursday and Friday

H. Dorsey Flanders, M.D.
Headley General Surgery
& Endoscopy
120A Victory Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-3291
Wednesdays

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Roberto Barja, M.D.
General Orthopedics and Orthopedic Surgery
120A Victory Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-3291
Every Tuesday

Specialists

Allergy & Asthma
Geoffrey Conner, MD
912-537-9488

Cardiology
Ajay Jain, MD
912.681.2273

Bimal Shah, MD
800.722.1272

Abraham Lin, M.D.
912-489-6246

General Surgery
H. Dorsey Flanders, MD
478.237.3291

Brad Headley, MD
478.237.3291

Neurology
Michael Taormina, MD
912.871.8901
912.871.8900

Kashyap Patel, MD
912.486.1873

OB/GYN
Benjamin Oldam, MD
478.419.1250

Orthopedic
Micheal D. Gaines, MD
800.827.6536

Roberto Barja, MD
478.237.3291

Psychologist
John C. Whitley
706.228.5006

Retina
Robert Lalane, MD
800.487.2248

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Colon & Rectal Surgeon



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Orthopedic Surgery



Phillip Boatright, Jr. PA-C
General & Orthopedic Surgery



Michael Wheelis, MD



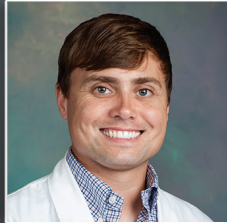
Claire Ault, NP

Twin City Family Medical Clinic
115 Gillikin Street, Twin City • 478.763.3036

Emanuel Surgical Associates
120A Victory Drive, Swainsboro • 478.237.3291



James Ray, MD



Michael Edenfield, FNP-C

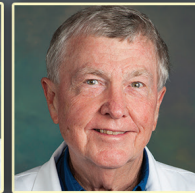


Gabrielle Story, PA-C

Ray Medical Clinic
401 W. Main Street, Swainsboro • 478.237.9928



Anthony Howard, MD



Wilder Smith, P.A.



Mason Smith, P.A.



Jeniece Cromartie, NP

Smith Clinic
114 South Jefferson Street, Swainsboro • 478.237.7517



Anthony Howard, MD



Anna Williams, PA-C

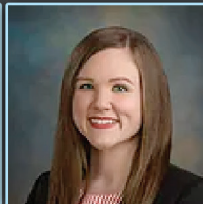
Swainsboro Internal Medicine
131A Victory Drive, Swainsboro • 478.237.8342



Benjamin Oldham, MD



Shannon Hall, PA-C



Chelsea Jones Mikell, M.D.

Ogeechee OB-GYN, P.C.
125 B Victory Drive, Swainsboro • 478.419.1250



David P. Samuels, DO



Rhonda Stanfield, NP

Senior Behavioral Health Center
117 Kite Road, Swainsboro • 478.289.1169



James Clifton, DO



Mary Jo Greenway, FNP

Swainsboro Healthcare
305 Kite Road, Swainsboro • 478.237.2144



Esther Galletta, PA



Michael Wheelis, MD

Emanuel Healthcare Center
117 Kite Rd, Swainsboro • 478.289.1100



Nick Leucke, NP-C



Anthony Davis, MD

Emanuel Wound Care Center
117 Kite Rd, Swainsboro • 478.289.1126



Vijitha Prasad, MD

South Georgia Internal Medicine, P.C.
544 West Church Street, Swainsboro • 478.237.2527



Cedric Porter, MD



Amanda Sweat Jarriall, FNP-C

Porter Medical Clinic
124 Victory Drive, Swainsboro • 478.237.5506

117 Kite Road, Swainsboro • www.emanuelmedical.org • 478.289.1100



FRANKLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Franklin Memorial Library is a member of PINES (Pines Information Network for Electronic Services), a lending network for more than 275 libraries and affiliated service outlets in almost 140 counties in Georgia. This means that patrons with a PINES library card have access to materials on the library's shelves and also enjoy the benefits of a shared collection of 9.6 million books and materials that can be sent to them free of charge. Residents who do not have a library card may obtain one by presenting a picture ID and proof of their physical address. The initial library card is free but, if the card is lost and the patron wishes to replace it, there is a \$2 fee.

Franklin Memorial Library is child-oriented, sponsoring several programs throughout the year geared toward children, especially during the summer. Holiday Story Hour is available for children during the weeks of Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, the main attraction is the Summer Reading Program, held annually for children and teens.

Franklin Memorial Library has a wonderful support group of youth on their Teen Advisory Board (TAB). The group is made up of students in middle and high school, up to age 19. The Teen Advisory Board was formed in 2008 to give the teens a voice to help the library better serve their age group. The board meets on a monthly basis and is actively involved in the planning and implementation of programs for preteens and teens. This group of dedicated, talented young people are making a difference in our community.

The library features wireless technology, available to the public. Thanks to wifi capability, laptop computer users are able to access the internet without time restraints. When a patron signs on to the library's wireless connection, the user agrees to the library's Internet Use Policy. A copy of this policy is available on request. As a disclaimer, however, privacy, security, and protecting personal equipment and data are concerns that wireless users should think about. Wireless networks are not secure and users, not the library, are responsible for the protection of personal equipment and data. The library uses a filtered wireless connection to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA.)

Another feature of the library is the Genealogy Department. This section houses cemetery books for Emanuel County and those surrounding it, wedding and anniversary files, and an obituary log which dates back to 1901. Along with The Swainsboro Forest-Blade on microfilm, Franklin Memorial also stores older issues of The Augusta Chronicle on microfilm. This microfilm may be viewed on the library's digital microfilm reader. A computer is set up in Genealogy Department to allow patrons access to Heritage Quest, Ancestry.com, and other genealogy tools available only through the library system.

Franklin Memorial Library has 20 public computers that are centrally located in the library and provide internet access with word processing capabilities. These computers are all connected to GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library, which gives patrons access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, encyclopedias, and electronic books.

Other services offered at the library include a black and white copier, a small laminating machine, a fax machine, a typewriter, large-print books, a new books section containing books less than six months old, audiobooks on cassette and CD, e-books with 7- or 14-day checkout, movies on VHS and DVD for children and adults, meeting rooms, and outreach services. The library also offers magazines for check out, as well as college catalogs, community bulletins, and two daily newspapers, along with the local *Forest-Blade*.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Telephone - 478-237-7791
Fax: 478-237-3553

Find them on Facebook
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Friends of Franklin Memorial Library have a continuous book sale set up in the library where patrons may browse and purchase books.

With the internet, PINES card number and PIN, patrons can access their account from home. They can also search the catalog, renew books and place holds from any computer. For details, visit www.gapines.org.





A TRIBUTE TO

In January 2005, Franklin Memorial Library began a project to recognize and honor local World War II veterans. This project began with videotaped interviews of veterans. A newspaper story was written about each veteran's experience in the war and pictures were collected from that time period.

These pictures led to the creation of the World War II Veterans Wall at the library. More than 300 World War II era pictures of men and women who served during the war have been matted, framed, and displayed in the Trustee Room at the library. The room has been transformed into a visual tribute to these veterans. In addition to the pictures, books of special interest relating to World War II are housed in the Trustee Room. One of the books was written as a guide to the Veterans Wall and contains information about each veteran represented on the wall, such as date and place of birth, branch and unit of service, location of service, and medals or honors received. Another book contains more than one hundred photographs that are in addition to those displayed on the wall.

In 2012, a large focus of the project was a program to remember World War II by showing a video featuring clips from nineteen of the interviewed veterans. The full videos of the fifty-two interviews done as a part of this project are now available for viewing by the public by appointment.



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OUR VETERANS

Funding for this project has come from donations from individuals and from Mill Creek Foundation, Friends of the Library, the Governor David Emanuel Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society.



This veteran's history project is ongoing, and anyone wishing to participate or desiring further information should contact the Franklin Memorial Library at 237-7791. There is no cost to participate and photos and documents submitted are scanned and immediately returned to the owners. The Veterans Wall is available for viewing by the public during regular library hours except when the room is in use for a meeting.

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- BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (ON-LINE)
- BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (ON-LINE)



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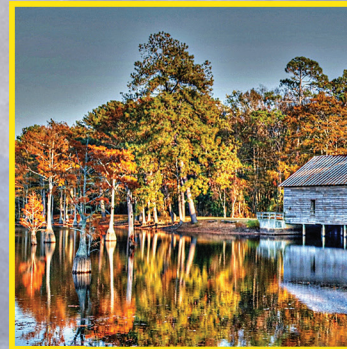
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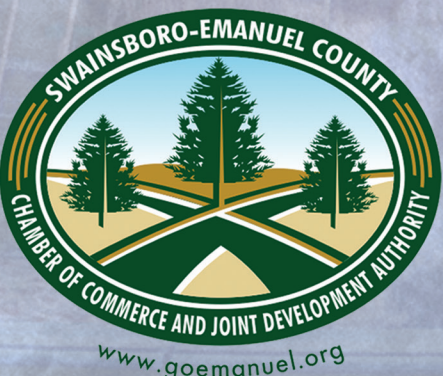
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Swainsboro EMANUEL COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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SCHOOL'S IN!

Since the 1800s, the Emanuel County school system has provided the foundation for a quality education for its citizens. From the early days when more than 50 one-room schools were located throughout the county, dedicated educators have worked tirelessly to ensure their students have every opportunity to acquire essential skills needed to grow, prosper, and succeed. Today, the system includes seven school sites and educates over 4,000 students annually.

Emanuel County Schools employs 351 full-time certified employees, as well as 287 non-certified employees. The economic impact of our school system is tremendous. More than \$43.5 million is funneled back into the county through salaries, ESPLOST projects, school transportation, and food service. Voters have generously passed five ESPLOST referendums. ESPLOST allows Emanuel County's education millage rates to remain among the lowest in the state. This local tax has allowed the system to provide up-to-date technology, instructional supplies, textbooks, maintain state-of-the-art facilities, purchase necessary buses, and fund facility projects.

The system's transportation department provides transportation for more than 2,500 students on a daily basis that covers more than 2,500 miles of paved and dirt roads. A normal year sees our buses traveling 451,000 miles to and from school while extra-curricular competitions and field trips add several thousand additional miles. This particular department oversees 70 buses.

The school nutrition program provides breakfast and lunch for some 4,100 students daily. The school nutrition department is connecting with our community by investing into a Farm to School initiative. This program provides fresh, healthy food from local and state producers, as well as vegetables that are grown by our own students.

This positive economic impact certainly benefits all Emanuel County citizens, but the true reward lies in the knowledge that our children are well-educated and ready to compete in today's world. The epicenter of the system—and the foundation for economic success—is the interaction between the educator and the student. Whether in kindergarten or high school chemistry, the ultimate goal is to take each individual student to their greatest potential.

The school system continues to enjoy a strong, productive partnership with our local post-secondary institutions. A large number of students elect to participate in the dual enrollment programs at both East Georgia State College and Southeastern Technical College. In doing so, these students receive both high school and college credits. Annually, a number of graduating seniors receive not only their high school diploma but also their technical college diploma or certificate.

Teachers, students, and support staff of the Emanuel County school system work diligently to create a nurturing environment that fosters success. Partnered with parents and the community alike, great potential lies within the walls of our schools. The children attending these schools today will be the future leaders of our community. Education determines the future—and the stakes have never been higher!

OUR PRINCIPALS

Swainsboro High School
Dr. Denise Warnock
 689 South Main St.
 Swainsboro, GA 30401
 237-2267
 Grades 9-12

Emanuel County Institute
Anetria Edenfield
 102 North College St.
 Twin City, GA 30471
 763-2673
 Grades 6-12

Twin City Elementary
Robbie Warnock
 162 Parrish Pond Rd.
 Twin City, GA 30471
 763-2253
 Grades Pre-K-5

Swainsboro Primary School
Maribeth Clark,
 308 Tiger Trail
 Swainsboro, GA 30401
 237-8302
 Grades K-2

Swainsboro Middle School
Dr. Willie A. Gibson
 200 Tiger Trail
 Swainsboro, GA 30401
 237-8047
 Grades 6-8

Early Learning Center
Maria Daniels
 308 Tiger Trail
 Swainsboro, GA 30401
 478-237-9593
 Early Head Start and Pre-K

Emanuel County Schools
Dr. Kevin Judy
 Superintendent
 201 North Main Street
 Swainsboro, GA 30401
 237-6674

Swainsboro Elementary School
Valorie Watkins
 258 Tiger Trail
 Swainsboro, GA 30401
 237-7266
 Grades 3-5

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Southeastern Technical College

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- Offers technical associate degrees
- President is Larry Calhoun

David Emanuel Academy

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The Blade: A Storied History

As early as 1913, owners of *The Forest-Blade* claimed the newspaper had its beginnings in 1859, but modern-day historians are at a loss as to how to substantiate this claim.

The earliest newspaper now known to have been published in the limits of what is now Emanuel County was *The Swainsboro Herald*, established in 1876. *The Pine Forest*, established in 1877, was consolidated with *The Wiregrass Blade* in 1903 to form *The Forest-Blade*.

The modern-day newspaper gets its name from the consolidation of *The Pine Forest* and *The Wiregrass Blade* in 1903 in a series of rather rapid developments on the local newspaper scene.

In the early spring of 1903, Alfred Herrington, editor of *The Pine Forest*, sold his interest in the newspaper to W.W. Larsen and Seaborn Bell. Mr. Larsen was named editor and Mr. Bell was listed as business manager.

A second newspaper was in existence in Swainsboro at the time. It was *The Wiregrass Blade*, established in 1898, and was edited by George H. Bell.

The Forest and *The Blade* continued to compete until May 11, when it was announced that Larsen and Seaborn Bell of *The Forest* had purchased *The Blade*. In doing so, they stated they would continue to publish both newspapers. This practice was apparently continued, with Ernest Camp, who had been an employee of Messrs. Seaborn Bell and Larsen, serving as editor of *The Blade*.

On Sept. 25, 1903, purchase of the two newspapers was announced by W.E. Boatright, who had served as superintendent of the printing departments of the newspapers, and by S.J. Tyson. In the following week's issue, Mr. Larsen confirmed the sale and stated that he still owned half of *The Stillmore Dispatch*, another newspaper in the county.

The lives of *The Blade* and *The Forest*, as the newspapers were affectionately called, were short-lived under the guidance of Mr. Tyson and Mr. Boatright. On Oct. 29 of that year, they combined the newspapers into one, naming it *The Forest-Blade*.

On May 25, 1907, Mr. Tyson purchased Mr. Boatright's interests. Mr. Tyson continued as editor until Nov. 3, 1910, when J.D. Mathews assumed this post. Two years later J.E. Miller and W.E. Boatright became editors of *The Forest-Blade*. They had previously published *The Swainsboro News*, according to an announcement of the sale, which also stated that Mr. Boatright would be editor of *The Forest-Blade* and Mr. Mathews editor of *The News*. Less than two months later, *The Forest-Blade* masthead carried the names of Seaborn Bell and W.E. Boatright as editors.

Then, on Dec. 12, 1912, Charles Durden Rountree and W.E. Boatright became the owners and publishers. They served in these capacities until April 20, 1916, when Franc Magnum was listed as president and editor.

Mr. Magnum's leadership was short-lived, however. On Aug. 31 of that year, W.E. Boatright again became editor.

Mr. Boatright served as sole editor until April of 1928, when the name of H.M. Flanders joined Mr. Boatright's under the title of "Editors."

This arrangement continued until 1933, when the name of D.D. Boatright replaced that of Mr. Flanders. Upon the death of W.E. Boatright in September of 1935, Judge George Kirkland became administrator of the Boatright estate and was responsible for the operation of the newspaper until Feb. 6, 1936, when Wensley H. Hobby of Sylvania purchased it for \$8,000.

Mr. Hobby served as editor until Oct. 28, 1946, when it was purchased by Milton Beckerman, who was to serve as editor, and by W.E. Gray, Sr. and Bobby Gentry. Mr. Beckerman continued to edit the publication until April 28, 1949, when he sold his interest to Mr. Gray and Mr. Gentry. It carried the name of Bobby Gentry as editor of manager until his death in September of 1954.

Mr. Gray then became editor, but due to other business interests, he turned the actual operation of the newspaper over to others.

In early February of 1959, Mr. Gray sold the newspaper to William C. Rogers, Sr. and Roy Chalker of Waynesboro. Mr. Rogers became the editor and served in that capacity until 1993. Mr. Chalker later sold his half-interest to James H. Morgan and in 1974, Mr. Rogers purchased Mr. Morgan's interest. Mr. Morgan, however, continued his association with the paper until recently.

In 1993, Mr. Rogers retired and sold the paper to his son, Bill Rogers Jr.

Smith Newspapers Inc. bought the publication in November 1999 from Mr. Rogers Jr. Wally Gallian served as the publisher and editor until 2011, when Gail Williamson was named publisher and editor.

The Forest-Blade
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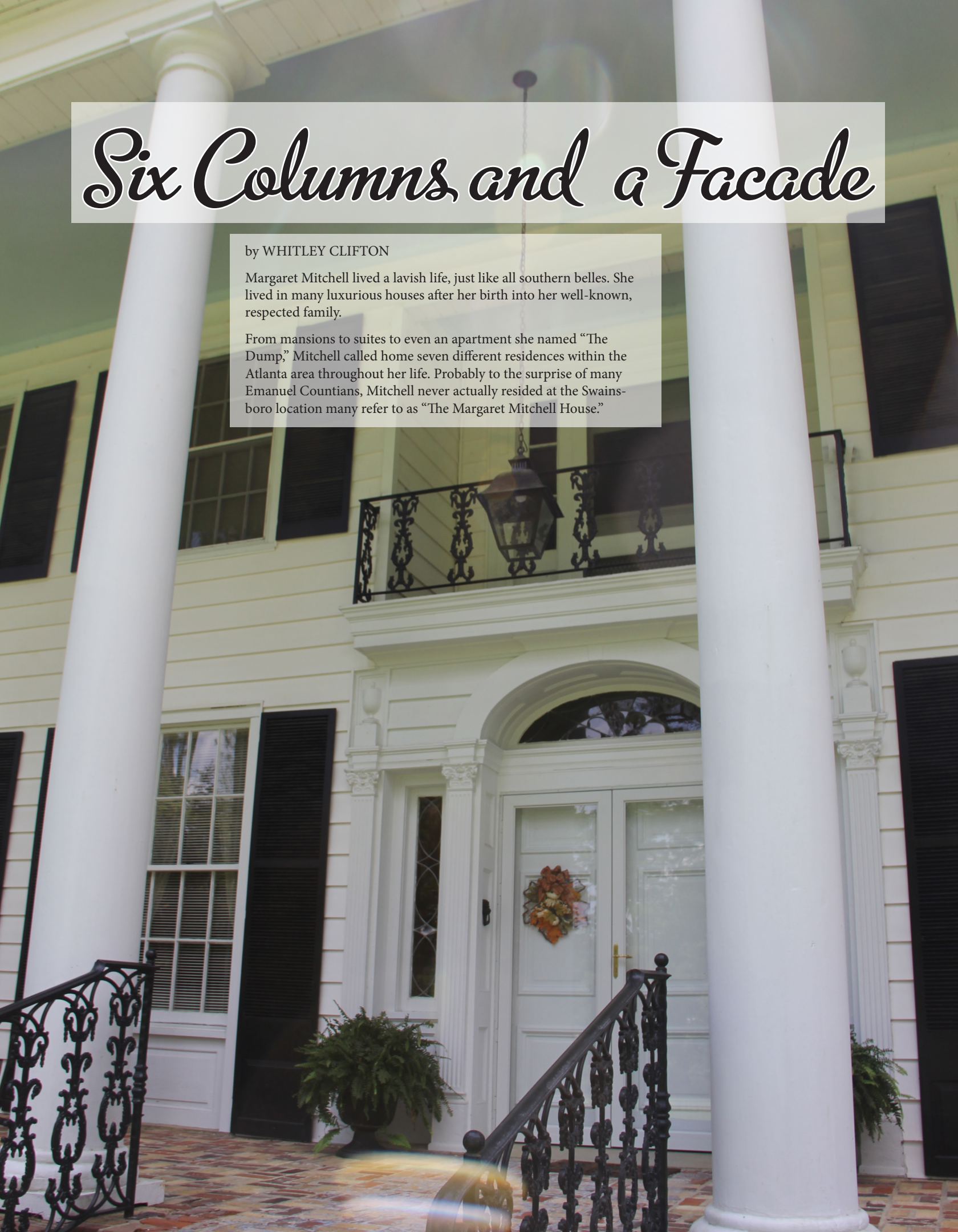
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Six Columns and a Facade

by WHITLEY CLIFTON

Margaret Mitchell lived a lavish life, just like all southern belles. She lived in many luxurious houses after her birth into her well-known, respected family.

From mansions to suites to even an apartment she named “The Dump,” Mitchell called home seven different residences within the Atlanta area throughout her life. Probably to the surprise of many Emanuel Countians, Mitchell never actually resided at the Swainsboro location many refer to as “The Margaret Mitchell House.”





For those people who might still like to think so, here's a fun fact. The remarkably stunning two-story home with a basement and attic incorporated into the structure didn't exist until after the 1949 death of the award-winning author of *Gone with the Wind*.

Although "The Margaret Mitchell House" has a ring to it and although there is a hint of truth to its nickname, the house was actually built in 1952 and served as

the residence of Charles Elliott and his family. The homesite stayed in the family until current homeowners Robert and Marilyn Kernoodle purchased the house and its surrounding grounds in 2015.

Now, here's the bit of truth about Mitchell's ties to the Arden Drive address. During the building phase, Elliott heard of a deal that was worth both the money and a trip. He made arrangements to travel and purchase the six white columns and front door façade of the house. Those elements once belonged to Mitchell's fourth and longest place of residency in Atlanta! Of her seven houses, very few sentimental pieces with ties to Mitchell can be found nowadays, making it safe to say that this county of ours has rich history.

Other historical landmarks within Swainsboro include the iconic Historic Dixie Theatre, built in 1933; the George L. Smith House, established between the years of 1938 and 1942; and The Lodge Building, the old Nora Coleman House, the old Frank Mitchell House, and the current location of Swainsboro City Hall, all of which were built in the early 1900s.

Other "tasteful" blends of history still standing within the city are the Coleman House and the Edenfield House.

Established between 1900 and 1904, the Coleman House is said to have been the first house within Emanuel County that had indoor plumbing and electricity.

The Edenfield House was built in 1895 and was purchased by the Edenfields in 1927. This setting later sold to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Buckey in 1984, at which point it underwent a 10-month renovation before it was opened as a bed and breakfast inn.

Both of these institutions open their doors to visitors seeking delightful, southern-style, home-cooked meals. They also both offer rooms for travelers passing through our fine community.

Speaking of travelers who have trekked across the "Crossroads of the Great South," Swainsboro and surrounding cities have seen their fair share of well-known celebrities, many of whom even performed while they were here.

Apart from being entertained, Emanuel County is a great place to visit if you're looking for a good time. Festivities are hosted in almost every town within Emanuel County throughout the year. The most favored of them all is our annual Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber Expo,

the longest continually-running festival in the county and the state alike since its May 1946 inception.

Before the Pine Tree Festival, however, the city-wide barbecue held in Swainsboro was probably the ordeal.

Oversaw by C.E. Reed, the barbecue was held during the late 1930s at the Coca-Cola bottling plant, which, by the way, featured Swainsboro's first elevator and our town's Coca-Cola products.

Reed managed the plant, which served as a business and community site for local meetings. The barbecue event drew in flocks of crowds with its "all-you-can-drink-Coca-Cola" attraction.

The event was, indeed, a hit. During the barbecue years, the event served up many thirst-quenching good times for all natives, locals, and non-residents. One of the many individuals lured into Swainsboro by the event was the one and only Margaret Mitchell herself.

It's been said that the romantic southern belle made her grand appearance during the approximate timeframe of the publishing and movie debut of *Gone with the Wind*, which went on to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Mitchell died August 16, 1949 at the age of 49-years-old. She succumbed to injuries received after being struck by a drunk driver as she and her husband, John Marsh, were walking to see the movie *A Canterbury Tale* on the evening of August 11.

Following her tragic and unexpected death, many manuscripts and important papers were burned to ashes at a request made by her personally before her passing. In addition, her request included that her childhood Peachtree home also be destroyed. This was the same location that once housed the six columns and front façade purchased by Elliott and relocated to his home in Swainsboro.

Today, there are few of Mitchell's past homes in existence. Her first three residences were destroyed by fire over time, as was the vacant fifth home that eventually suffered fire damage to its top two floors. Her sixth home also became vacant after landlord Post Properties, Inc. issued an eviction notice. Mitchell's seventh and final homeplace eventually became the home of Dr. Gayatri Spivak, professor at Emory University.

Her fourth and longest place of residency, the Peachtree location, is the only of Mitchell's past homes to have a historical marker placed in memory of the late journalist and novelist. That marker was finally erected by the state in 1961.

That historical marker serves as a reminder of the fabulous life once lived by Mitchell in the Atlanta area, as does the Kerndoodles' local house.

A piece of Mitchell's life has long been a part of Swainsboro, thanks to years of the whispering winds of the great south. Now, however, perhaps you know the whole truth about the "Margaret Mitchell House" on

Arden Drive. What a cool honor it is to have such a distinct historical setting right here at home!



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Coleman House.....	237-9100
Days Inn & Suites.....	237-9099
Deluxe Inn.....	237-9333
Edenfield House.....	237-3007
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THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT



The Swainsboro-Emanuel County Parks and Recreation Department operates several public parks in the area. Provided is a list of these parks as well the specifics of what each offers. Other attractions include:

Vann Community House

- Located in Swainsboro
- Can be rented for reunions, children’s parties, receptions, etc.
- Mother-son dance held in April

The Boneyard Pavilion

- Located in Swainsboro
- Site for many activities associated with Emanuel County’s Pine Tree Festival, the Kiwanis Club’s Octoberfest, and other city-wide activities
- Reservations handled by City Hall



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- Can be rented for concerts, recitals, funerals, etc.

Splash N Sports

- A splash pad located in Swainsboro at the Billy C. Carmichael Recreation Complex.
- Designed primarily for children ages 12 and under.
- Zero depth and has 14 water features, including a bucket drop
- Covered deck with picnic tables
- Handicap-accessible restroom and showers, water fountain, emergency 9-1-1 phone, and limited concessions

- Open to the public from Memorial Day weekend until schools starts back
- Available for private parties from May through September

In addition to its parks, Swainsboro-Emanuel County Parks and Recreation Department sponsors many activities, such as:

- Daddy-Daughter Dance held annually in February at the Vann Community House
- Girls' softball (ages 6-17)
- T-ball (ages 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Adult softball (ages 18 and up)
- Boys' baseball (ages 6-14)
- Tackle football (ages 7-12)
- Youth flag football (ages 5-6)
- Youth soccer (ages 6-18)
- Tot soccer (ages 3-4)
- Youth basketball (ages 6-12)
- Cheerleading (ages 7-12)
- Girls' and boys' track (ages 7-14)

Information about these and other activities is available from the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Parks and Recreation Center at 237-8098. You

can also like them on Facebook by searching "Swainsboro-Emanuel County Parks & Recreation," or visit their website, secrd.org.

You can also sign up for text and e-mail notifications. For mobile alerts, text "Recnews" to 84483.

Park Locations

- Bark in the 'Boro Dog Park - next to Harmon Park on West Meadowlake Parkway
- Billy C. Carmichael Recreation Complex - 632 McLeod Bridge Rd.
- Baseball Complex - 534 McLeod Bridge Rd.
- DeAlva Park - King Circle Drive
- Harmon Park - W. Meadowlake Parkway
- Fowler Park - Fowler Sreet
- Pine Brook Nature Park - Corner of Highway 57 and Highway 80
- Yam Grande Park - Gumlog Street
- Vann Community Park - 105 N. Roberts Street
- Cross-Green Park-Cross-Green Community



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LET'S GO TO

The Dixie

ARTICLE BY LYNN BRINSON

The Historic Dixie Theatre was the setting for countless memories cherished by local citizens. Built by W.M. Karrh, the theater opened on November 19, 1934 with the showing of *The Richest Girl in the World*, featuring Marion Hopkins.

According to an article in the November 15, 1934 *Forest-Blade*, "This is by far the most modern and the largest theater in any small town in Georgia, and is equal to any in the larger cities in point of construction and equipment. It is constructed from the very latest plans and is ceiled with sound board and other improved additions to sound. It is equipped with the latest and most comfortable seats and heating arrangement. It has a seating capacity of something over eight hundred and is equipped with the latest Western Electric sound and vision."

Featuring major motion pictures and a variety of vaudeville attractions, Swainsboro's Dixie Theatre was home to first dates, fun Saturdays spent with friends, school field trips, local performances, and treasured memories for more than 30 years. A favorite memory of many locals is the "Fine Time for a Dime" showings, which discounted admission to just 10 cents for the evening's feature.

The theater became the flagship location of the Dixie Amusement Company, which operated cinemas and drive-in theaters across the southeast. However, with the continued rise in popularity of home television, The Dixie Theatre, like many hometown theaters, closed its doors in 1969.



After housing a portion of Delores & Woody's for many years, as well as other retail shops, the theater fell vacant until Karrh's grandsons donated the property to the City of Swainsboro in 2015 for restoration as the Barbara & Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center, featuring The Historic Dixie Theatre.

A number of improvements have been made since the City received the property, including the development of conceptual plans and estimates, the installation of a new roof, structural reinforcement, a hazardous materials assessment and abatement, and a sensitive demolition revealing the theater's original layout.

The Fox Theatre Institute awarded the project a \$61,576 Preservation Grant to assist in the restoration of the building's façade, which was completed in late 2018 and included new stucco, new storefronts and doors, and the restoration of the original upper story windows. In addition, a Georgia DOT Transportation Enhancement Grant was utilized in adding new sidewalks, crosswalks, and streetlights in the area surrounding the theater.

Renovation of the Emanuel Arts Council's future offices as part of the project began in September 2019. Once complete, the Barbara & Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center will be a full-service arts center with a gallery, meeting, educational and work space, and a fully renovated theater showing newly released movies as well as plays, concerts, recitals, and more.

A driving force behind the project is the opportunity to provide accessible entertainment and cultural opportunities for local citizens. Because it will be operated as a not-for-profit theater, movies and concessions will be offered at discounted rates. Project leaders also look forward to working with local schools in providing programming for students. Through partnerships with a number of organizations, the arts center is anticipated to also offer art shows, traveling exhibitions, educational workshops, summer camps, and lessons in art, theater, and music.

Facilitating the project is the Emanuel Coalition for Cultural & Economic Development (ECCED), a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that has led the project's fundraising efforts. Additional partners include the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners, the Emanuel Arts Council, the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce and Joint Development Authority, the Downtown Development Authority of Swainsboro, and a number of other local organizations.





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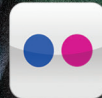
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On The Bench

with Judge Reeves

Written by Halei Lamb



If you're looking to find a relaxed superior court judge, I hate to break it to you, but you're searching in vain. When The Honorable Robert S. "Bobby" Reeves is on the bench, he's all business. The same can be said for any other judge. However, if you're looking for a relaxed Bobby Reeves, I know just the place. Walk into Lynn and Bob's any given Friday. He'll have his tie flipped over his shoulder and a fried pork chop with all the fixins' before him. His job demands much of him—and we southerners call it comfort food for a reason.

Judge Reeves' life story is one of hard work and success. A native of Millen, he finished Jenkins County High School with honors. He graduated from Emory University and Emory Law School with honors as well. He passed the bar in 1969, and he spent four years in the Air Force as a judge advocate general. In 1974, Judge Reeves moved to Swainsboro and practiced privately for more than 30 years. In 2006, he announced his bid for superior court judge. A year later, he was sworn into that capacity, and he has continued to serve as such for the Middle Judicial Circuit ever since.

The long-time husband of Daisy Avirett Reeves says he's seen and heard a lot in his years in the judicial system, and he's got plenty of interesting stories to tell. After all, with time comes experience.

The circuit in which Judge Reeves presides is comprised of Candler, Toombs, Emanuel, Jefferson, and Washington counties. The most memorable case, the father of three says, was a death penalty case that arose out of "Bloody Toombs," a nickname Toombs County picked up years ago because of its many violent crimes.

"A man and his girlfriend emulated the killers in the movie *Natural Born Killers*. They decided to go on a spree typifying the *Natural Born* killers. My client lured a man who was enamored with her over to their house. They killed him, dumped his body in a creek under a bridge, stole his pick-up, and went on a crime spree across Georgia," Judge Reeves recounts.

Another easily recallable case is one that happened right here in Emanuel. A local man was accused of killing his girlfriend for life insurance money. She was found dead in the creek near the radio station. The judge changed the venue to Gwinnett County. The defendant's wife had died some years before due to mysterious circumstances, and the accused was the beneficiary of her life insurance policy as well. The state was banking on that evidence to convince the jury that he had, in fact, killed the girlfriend. However, he was acquitted of the murder and instead convicted on a lesser charge.

A third case Judge Reeves remembers distinctly is a suicide that occurred within Emanuel County. The state alleged that a victim's boyfriend had killed her when she was found deceased in his bed. Judge Reeves defended the man and was able to convince the jury through evidence that the woman had killed herself because she was distraught over their relationship.

Looking back on the Middle Judicial Circuit, the changes it has underwent are evident to Judge Reeves. "The circuit is pretty much the same as it was when I came here in '74 in terms of size and population. However, back then, we had one district attorney, no assistant DA, and one secretary. Now, we've got a DA, six or seven assistant DAs at least, three or four investigators in their offices, and four secretaries. It's amazing, the size of the staff, now as opposed to then, and I think that's attributed to an increase in crime."

Of course, an increase in crime is never a good thing. In fact, it's a safety concern, especially for Judge Reeves. "You haven't really lived until you get a call one night from an FBI agent saying, 'Judge Reeves, I don't want to alarm you, but we have good information that a person is trying to

hire a hit man to kill you.' That'll shake your boots a little bit, but yes... Given the kind of cases we deal with, you are concerned. I just try to always be aware of my surroundings."

So, what makes the risk worth it? For someone who's passionate about their job, it's a no-brainer. "I enjoy what I do. I love the law," he said. "I feel like I'm able to make a difference, I believe I'm able to help people by being fair and rendering decisions that



are not only in accordance with the law but are also compassionate to all the parties. I just feel like I'm able to make a real difference."

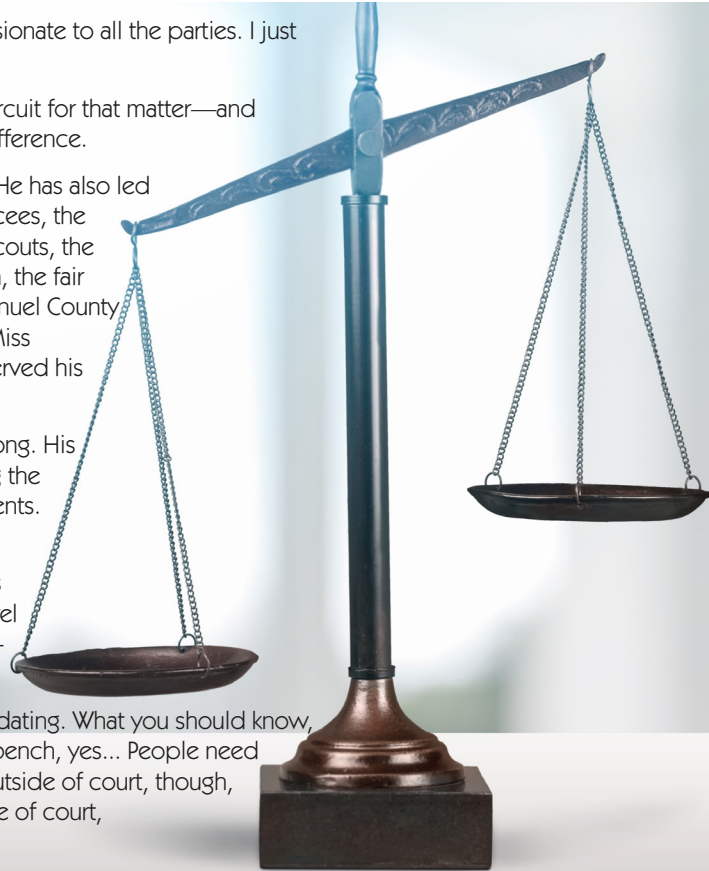
Ask most anyone in Swainsboro—or any of the cities in his circuit for that matter—and they'll probably tell you that yes, Judge Reeves *has* make a difference.

He was instrumental in the founding of The Sunshine House. He has also led numerous civic organizations in the county, including the Jaycees, the Exchange Club, Swainsboro High's band boosters, the Boy Scouts, the chamber of commerce, the library board, the board of health, the fair board, the Herrington Homestead, the senior center, the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners, and the Miss Emanuel County and Miss Southeast Georgia Pageants. For more than 30 years, he has served his church, First United Methodist.

The list of accolades he has received over the years is miles long. His claims to fame, though, are keeping Daisy here, implementing the first SPLOST, and his fighting for fairness and justice for his clients.

When Judge Reeves needs to unwind, he becomes one with nature. He loves hunting and fishing, and he especially enjoys working in his flower beds. He also likes to watch football, travel the world with his bride, and spend time with his five grandchildren.

People often find court officials like Judge Reeves a bit intimidating. What you should know, however, is this: "Inside the court room, when you're on the bench, yes... People need to respect the bench, the robe, the authority of the court.. Outside of court, though, it's different. I want to see people and talk to people. Outside of court, I'm just Bobby."



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SWAINSBORO EMANUEL COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Swainsboro-Emanuel County Parks and Recreation Department strives to meet the needs of the citizens of Emanuel County by offering a variety of sports activities and recreation facilities, including several parks and walking trails throughout the county. Harmon Park is a 50-acre park with amenities such as a lighted walking trail, four fish ponds, tennis courts, playground, restrooms, and picnic pavilions with tables and grills. Bark in the Boro Dog Park is located at the north end of Harmon Park and provides a dog-friendly park for dogs to run and play in a safe setting. Other SECRD parks include Vann Park, DeAlva Park, Gumlog Park, Fowler Park, PineBrook and Cross-Green Park. The Boneyard, located in downtown Swainsboro, offers an area for community events and includes a pavilion and restrooms. The Billy C. Carmichael is a 20-acre complex that includes a lighted walking trail, three ponds, cook shelter, picnic pavilions with tables and grills, two playgrounds, restrooms, four lighted fields, scoring tower, concession stand, batting cages. Also, located there is the Connie Kight Recreation Center that includes a gym, activities room, Hall-Lawson Conference Room, and the SECRD offices. During the summer, kids can enjoy Splash N Sports Splash Pad. The Baseball Complex has three lighted fields, scoring tower, batting cages, concession stand, restrooms, and a playground. The Vann Community House is available for rental for birthday parties, reunions, receptions, meeting, etc. The Swainsboro-Emanuel County Auditorium is available for large events including pageants, recitals, funerals, concerts, etc. Residents can count on the Recreation Department to do their very best to serve the recreational and leisure needs of the community.



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kappaomegabsp@yahoo.com
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smsinger75@gmail.com
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Mike Culbertson, Creek River District
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706-733-5277

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Bobbie Daughtry, Cubmaster
140 West Church Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401

Cub Scouts (Pack 205)

Serena Singer
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706-993-8018
smsinger75@gmail.com
Call for meeting information

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Larry Handsom, President
402 Parrish Pond Road
Twin City, Georgia 30471
763-3143
494-9710
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Emanuel County 4-H

Jakyn Tyson
129 North Anderson Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
237-1226
FAX 237-8451

Emanuel County Bar Association

J. Franklin Edenfield, President
P.O. Box 309
Swainsboro, GA 30401
237-6424
FAX 237-6425
jfe285@bellsouth.net
Meet as needed

Emanuel County Family Connection

Tammy Allen, Coordinator
tamra.allen@emanuel.k12.ga.us
Ann Rogers, Chairman
258 Tiger Trail, Swainsboro, GA 30401
237-7266
Meet 3rd Thursday, 12 p.m. at Sudie
Fulford Center, EGSC

Emanuel County Farm Bureau

Shirley Stapleton
P.O. Box 450, Swainsboro
237-8848

Emanuel County Historical Preservation Society

George Elder
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Swainsboro, GA 30401
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Emanuel County Homeschool Group

T'Neil Williams
299-4274
Facebook – Emanuel County
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emanuelcountyhomeschoolgroup@yahoo.com

Emanuel County Humane Society

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237-2116
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Donna Jo Campbell, President
763-3487
455-2888
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2:30 p.m. at Garfield Community
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Jessica Powell
299-0855
Renee O'Quinn
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renaemcneely13@gmail.com
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Johnny Mills, 478-494-4952
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Mack Griffin, Treasurer
Corey Kraus, Secretary
P.O. Box 1168
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763-2535
ckraus@pineland.net
Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month
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P.O. Box 1165
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331-4972
swainsborotigers@yahoo.com
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Mikell Clifton, 299-6340
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30401
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p.m. at Jaycee Fairgrounds

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Jane Durden, Membership Chair
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www.swainsborokiwanis.org
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Billy Chapman
494-4341
Meet as needed

Swainsboro Masonic Lodge No. 244 F&M

Vince Scott, Secretary
299-1054
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Swainsboro, GA 30401
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7:30 p.m.
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Betsy Johnson
763-3424
566 GA HWY 192 N
Twin City, GA 30471
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Wiregrass Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Wilder Smith, President
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hwsmithjr@bellsouth.net
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Rev. Charles Holloway

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Shine On, Oak Park!

USING TECHNOLOGY TO REVITALIZE A 20TH CENTURY TOWN AND OVERCOME AN OUTLAW HISTORY

by Michael Nancy Edge



Looking at Oak Park today, you might not realize the rich history it has. Other than tax and legal issues, the town has not seen media attention in decades. The community is working to change that by uncovering its roots with the use of 21st century tools.

The Oak Park Moonshine Festival was held on Saturday, September 20, 2019 at the Oak Park School House. Now in its eighth year, the festival is hosted by a community group (called the Shiners) as a fundraising event to support the renovation of the property. What began as a grassroots effort of concerned local citizens has become a cultural heritage celebration of the rural southern moonshining community with partners from many sectors. This year featured a concert by Craig Campbell, local performance

artists, a car show with more than 100 entries, and 40 vendors.

This year's festival also included the first ever 5K run, held in honor of Mick Lindsey, Oak Park native and son of the current mayor. The town was a sea of gold as they honored the young man who was not able to overcome his battle with the devastating disease over a decade ago. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, represented by the color gold. Painting the town gold this year brought a special reminder to pray for another child battling the disease: Carson Akins, great-grandson of Oak Park resident Rev. Homer A. Aspray Jr. (who occupies what was formerly Ide's Café).

An original play by the Kingdom Players (students of a homeschool co-op) called Petticoat Rule was performed. The play is

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based on the 1934 Oak Park elections which led to an all-female government and made national headlines. This is only one effort of the community's efforts to celebrate, document,, and preserve its history in an effort to be designated as a "Preserving America Community." Keep Thinking, a social entrepreneurship that specializes in development, education and social support, is assisting in the process. Owner Michael Nancy Edge has deep ties to the community and hopes to assist in its revitalization. Seeing youth use the schoolhouse that has been vacant since before her birth is a dream come true for her. Her love for the old building is what led to the discovery of Oak Park's incredible, forgotten history.

Look around Oak Park today and the only business you will see is the newly-built Dollar General located beside Highway 1. Since Highway 1 was turned into four lanes, Oak Park is often passed completely. While unfortunate, Oak Park has always been

a town whose success was dependent on transportation. In the past, Oak Park was able to change as needed in order to survive as a community. The town is betting on this resilience as it moves forward with plans to revitalize the community.

Records of Oak Park were not kept within the community, and many records from Emanuel County have been destroyed in its history. While many records exist elsewhere, they often survive in small summaries in anthologies of public records. For the first time ever, we have the ability to document and analyze this information, as well as capture and preserve family histories, to give a more complete picture of the town. The effort has become known as the Oak Park History Project led by Keep Thinking, Oak Park citizens, the Shiners, and Ladson Genealogical Library.

In 1885, Horace can be found on a map of Emanuel County in the location of what is now known as Oak Park. A publication of local history reports that

the town was named after Horace Williamson, whose family had occupied the land since shortly after the French and Indian War. During those times, waterways were the mode of transportation. Oak Park is close to the Ohoop-ee River and heavily wooded, which was perfect for the timber industry because they used the waterways to transport the timber.

By 1907, this name had been changed to Oak Park. Although previous researchers were unable to locate the original town charter, a Google search in 2019 led to the discovery of a 1907 charter. This charter further demonstrates the dependence of Oak Park on transportation; the city limits are set as a one-half mile radius of the train depot. While the train depot and rails no longer exist, this information revealed the location of the depot to have been where the park and community house sit today.

Finding the first charter was followed by finding the repeal for that charter. Two charters for the city have been

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located thus far, but it is likely (from the dates of each charter) that there are at least one and more likely two more charters in Oak Park's history. Discoveries like this are not uncommon and lead to a more complete picture of what Oak Park looked like at its peak. Similarly, finding information about the first train in Oak Park was exciting. Imagine the delight of the community when it was discovered two separate trains come through town!

Local train history is difficult to follow because of the frequent changes made to lines, as well as the frequency with which they added new lines and the innumerable amount of depots found throughout the rural south. Much of the history has been lost, and what railroad history does remain focuses on the larger trains that survived. Technology, like Google search engines and digitized historical records, helps finding the small tidbits of information concerning these smaller lines that are often contained in published public records. Once this data is organized and preserved, it will help provide details for each of these communities that can then be submitted to libraries (like Ladson and DLG) to provide a more comprehensive history for the region that will be available to historians anywhere in the world.

This is just one example of how 21st century technology is being utilized to resurrect the history of Oak Park. Technology developed in the past two decades has given everyone who possesses a device with internet capabilities the tools they need to assist with the documentation and

preservation of their local history. Cell phone cameras and online property records have proved useful to expedite the research process. A decade ago, copies of maps would need to be made from each individual source and then compared side-by-side, often accompanied by hand-written notes, books, and magnifying glasses. Now, you can snap a picture of an old map in a reference book using their cell phone and use the internet to search county property records. Using the screenshot feature, you can then copy and paste the old map on the current map and save the image. Analyzing the two maps becomes much easier because you can use the zoom feature on your device to enlarge hard-to-read text. That image can then be shared on social media for community input for an instant dialogue. Facebook has turned into an asset for small communities like Oak Park who are attempting to revitalize their communities based on heritage tourism.

While Oak Park has uncovered much about its roots in a short amount of time, there is still much to learn. The Preserving America Community application requires supplementary documentation that Oak Park needs to recover. There are always renovation needs at the schoolhouse, and many of the leaders of the community are aging. Partners like Ladson Genealogical Library face budget cuts and depend on the support of the community for funding of this and similar projects. The new government of the City of Oak Park continues to work diligently to overcome the criminal legacy left by the former administration. While organiza-

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tions have expressed interest in using the Oak Park Schoolhouse for programs, the issue of insurance has been raised. Immediate needs to move forward include fundraising of \$3500 to cover the costs of insurance, internet and supplies for the Oak Park History Project to continue programs for the next 12 months.

Plans for the Oak Park History Project include the submission of a grant application to support an oral history project of Oak Park, documenting yearbooks of the Oak Park School, mapping the town of Oak Park during each decade of the 20th century and identifying news articles of the area that can be used to develop more original plays like Petticoat Rule. Ladson Genealogical Library will be assisting with the preservation of local history. Anyone who wishes to donate collections for replication or be a part of the oral history project is encouraged to contact the library directly. You do not need a library card to participate, and there are no fees associated with the use of materials owned by the organization.

2022 will mark 100 years since the Oak Park Schoolhouse was built. While that is several years away, Oak Park already has its eyes set on a centennial celebration with an exhibit on that features the history of Oak Park as a 20th century town. If you have knowledge you would like to share with the project, contact Michael Nancy Edge on Facebook, email opgahistory@gmail.com, or contact Ladson Genealogical Library.



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EMANUEL

The Emanuel Arts Council, Inc. (EAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to empower and grow the community through cultural programs in all areas of the arts. The EAC operates through membership, donations, fundraisers, and grants. Executive director of the EAC is Jacquie Brasher; EAC board president is Kenny Griffin, and Katelyn Moore is secretary/treasurer. Members of the EAC board serve on numerous committees in the county, including Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce, Family Connection, Pine Tree Festival, Downtown Development Authority, and the Emanuel Coalition for Cultural & Economic Development.



In 2019, the Emanuel Arts Council's Art Camp was held June 17-19 at the Sudie Fulford Community Learning Center of East Georgia State College. Each summer, the camp has enrolled up to 28 students in rising third through sixth grades. The art instructor for the second summer in a row was Mark Lillquist, art teacher at Emanuel County Institute. This year, two assistants were hired to help Mr. Lillquist: Terrie Daniel and Susanna Hall, students at EGSC.

Art camp participants in 2019 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the NASA moon landing. Art projects related to this historic event included creating video skits depicting Mission Control at NASA, space bugs, lunar landscape art, vinegar and baking soda bottle rockets, and "cosmos" sponge art. Campers also made star medallions, Mayan face masks, crayon melt paintings, and tie-dye T-shirts. As in years past, each participant in the camp was generously sponsored by Mill Creek Foundation and attended free of charge.



The EAC is also sponsor of the annual Mother-Son Dance. In its fourth year, the event was held at the Vann Community House on April 26 and is organized by Jill Scarboro, owner of Growing Communication, Inc. and EAC board member. Candy Powers and Zrinka Dunn are the two local artists who facilitate the very popular handprint art for the boys to give to their mothers.

The EAC is proud in its efforts to revive the rich history of community theatre in Emanuel County. A production of *Steel Magnolias* is



ARTS

scheduled for early December this year at the Luck Flanders Gambrell Auditorium of East Georgia State College. Cast members are Pam Baggett, Kay Farner, Donna Haddock, Kimberly Page, Dedra Shuman, and Cole Smith. The play's director is Christian Kraus.



The Emanuel Arts Council will eventually have an office suite and an art gallery in the Barbara & Tobe Karh Community Arts Center of the Historic Dixie Theatre in downtown Swainsboro. This community arts center will also be a venue for workshops and classes in art, theater, and arts and crafts. There will be ample opportunity for students and residents to participate in on-site performances and demonstrations.

For news and updates about programming, check out Emanuel Arts Council on Facebook.



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