



BANKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Volume IV

NEWSLETTER

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Banks Family Newsletter Spring 2002

BANKS FAMILY GOING TO A BALL

Little Reunion Planned for Nov. 1-3

Get out that hoop skirt, dust off that Confederate uniform or rent a tux, we're going to a fancy dress ball in the Deep South!

John and Lucy Sheftall made a trip to visit kinfolk in Columbus, Miss., and learned that the first formal dress ball at Waverly, Miss., since before the War Between the States is scheduled for Nov 2nd. This event is being planned in the four-story, octagonal Waverly rotunda as an event during the Decorative Arts and Preservation Forum and Antiques Show sponsored annually by Columbus Historic Foundation.

Waverly, on the Tombigbee River, just out from Columbus, Miss., was built in 1852 by George Hampton Young and his wife, Lucy Woodson Watkins. Lucy was the sister of Sarah Watkins (Mrs. John Banks) of The Cedars, Columbus, Ga., and two of Lucy's children married grandchildren of Ralph and Rachel Banks of Coldwater Plantation in Elbert County, Ga. Waverly is an ancestral home, either directly or collaterally, of many Banks descendants. It is a National Historic Landmark, and as one of the most well known historic homes in America, it has been featured widely in publications and television productions, such as America's Greatest Castles.

There will be other events as well as lectures relevant to Waverly and its history throughout the weekend.

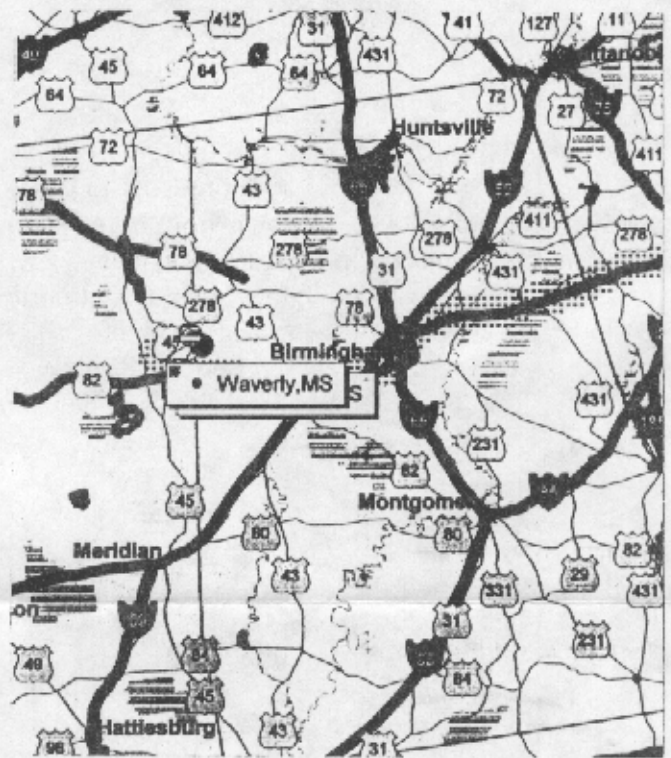
More detailed plans will be mailed to you in late August or early September. In the meantime,

please mark this weekend in November and make plans to travel to the Gulf States. John Sheftall, Vice President for Historical Research, is chairing the Little Reunion sessions and we can be sure the plans will be thorough and fun.

Thomas Dixon, President

Banks Family Association

MAP OF WAVERLY, MISSISSIPPI.



MORE INFORMATION ON WAVERLY

(The following information was taken from an article by Lucille Webb Banks and Anna B.A. Brown in The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn. on Nov. 1, 1906. The story is entitled "Waverly, the Heart of Hospitality")

This was the home of the Mississippi branch of the Young family, a family that has contributed much to the commercial, intellectual and historical development of the South. The house was built in the days when time and labor were plentiful, when the timbers might be chosen with care and seasoned in the Southern sun before being placed in position, when architecture was planned after the same times as the Southern heart, broad, hospitable, generous and strong.

The plantation founder, George Hampton Young, was born in Georgia in the last decade of the eighteenth century. Taking his share of his father's estate, he devoted it to the expenses of a good education and even after he had amassed a fortune in Mississippi as a planter, he still stood high in the legal profession and was considered one of the lights of the bar (courtroom) in his and neighboring States.

When he came to Mississippi to live, he chose the present site of Waverly for his home because of the beauty and richness of the surrounding country. Possibly he did not then know that the site had also a historical value, for it was down the old buffalo trail below Waverly and across the Lincacum Shoals in the Tombigbee that DeSoto led his footsore, war-scarred followers in his progress toward the Mississippi nearly three centuries before. By his energy, Col. Young made of Waverly a model plantation and the richest holding in the State. A large brick warehouse by the river held his own and his neighbors' cotton until the boats came up from Mobile to take it away. On the hill above the river his old office still stands; here he transacted all the great business affairs of his estate, conferring each day with his overseers. His private office and law library occupied a suite of rooms over against the left side of the house. Among the factories that supplied the needs of the plantation and its people were a woolen mill, a hat factory and mills for flour, grist and lumber. The first felt saddle blankets made in the United States were the products of Waverly mills. A tanyard supplied all the leather goods used on the place including the show leather for the slaves. An ice pit twenty feet deep and hooded over by a latticed

room kept the Big House in ice during the heated season, extensive orchards and gardens supplied the table, while a swimming pool, a bathhouse and a fish pond supplied with water from an artesian well are proofs conclusive to the skeptics of the day that progress has not rested solely in this generation.

Entertaining at Waverly was as much of a habit with Col. Young and his household as were the habits of breathing and moving. It was a place where house parties were perpetual and where the lady of the manor could remember no meal at which there was not a guest to share the lavish products of garden and field.

Prior to 1861 there was not a happier family to be found in the State. Then the war took its toil from happy fireside. There were six sons and four daughters living then, two of the sons and two of the daughters being married. At the call to arms for the defense of the South, five sons and a son-in-law properly enlisted, each bearing himself with the soldierly distinction of those who honorably wore the gray. Beverly was killed leading his men in the forlorn hope at Gettysburg. Capt. Billy was captured and confined in a Northern prison, from which he made his escape. The daughters of the house sewed, worked, encouraged and comforted that men at the front might remain inspired.

Many noted Confederate leaders were entertained at Waverly in war times. Gen. W.H. Jackson, Gen. N.B. Forrest, Gen. Stephen D. Lee, Gen. Lyons, Gen. A.J. Vaughan, Gen. B.F. Cheatham, Gen. Ruggies and their respective staffs at some time or other during the four years' struggle were guests there.

When Miss Belle Edmondson was banished from Memphis by Gen. Osborne because she waved a Confederate flag, she sought refuge at Waverly, remaining there until the close of the war. Here, too, came Mrs. Hal Rogers of Memphis, banished by Federal authorities for sending contraband goods through the lines.

Waverly stands in the midst of wide sweeps of field and forest, the many-sided observatory commanding a view of the territory for miles

As the 79-years-old Banks held back tears, she asked humbly, "Is this really happening to me? There are others that do much more than me."

Edith Banks was born in Franklin County in 1922. She graduated from Piedmont College and taught at Plainview School in Franklin County for two years before going to work with a wholesale business in Toccoa. From there she moved to Atlanta where she worked for nearly 40 years in the wholesale auto supply business. After retirement, she returned to Banks County. Edith Banks is Assistant Secretary for the Banks Family Association.

(Editor's Note: The Georgia State Legislature named the newly-formed county Banks County in 1859 for Dr. Richard Banks in recognition for his work with the Cherokee Indians especially during a Smallpox epidemic. Dr. Banks pioneered many medical procedures including the removal of cataracts.)

DEATHS

Jack Knox Acree, 88, a prominent educator and civic leader, died on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2001, at his home in Snellville, Ga. Acree provided statewide leadership as Executive Director of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.(1979-1992), Executive Secretary of the Georgia School Board Association(1960-1979), President of the State YMCA and a leader in Kiwanis International. In his early career, he served as Supt. Of Education for Cartersville City Schools, the Elberton City Schools and Manchester City Schools.

He was a World War II veteran who served as a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S.Navy. A native of Stephens County, Ga., Acree married to the late Nell Taylor Acree.

He is survived by his second wife, Jackie Shartle Acree; two daughters, Jackie Acree Walsh and Gay Acree Little; stepdaughter, Gretchen Ozburn.

Services were held at the Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Decatur on Monday, Oct. 15. Interment was at New Bethel United Methodist

Church, Elberton, Ga. Donations may be made to the Rabun-Gap Nachoochee College Scholarship Fund. Rabun Gap, Ga., 30568.

*****NEWS FROM ANNETTE JACKSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – She was not able to arrange travel plans for a family tour with the same company her mother, Sarah Banks Franklin, used in the past. But if you and your immediate family want to travel to the area of England where the Bankes family had homes and vast holdings of whole towns, farm lands and the lead mine, then Annette would be glad to suggest interesting sights to see. Be sure to visit Christ's Church at Oxford where Sir John Banks is buried. You may write her at 126 Riverbottom Circle, Athens, Ga. Or email her at annettejackson@charter.net.

*****We hope you have been able to view the Banks Family Website established by Banks Edwards Jr. of Pensacola, Fla. He is a descendant of Henry Banks, son of Ralph and Rachel Jones Banks of Coldwater Plantation in Elbert County. <banksfamilyassociation.org>.

*****Dues are due and Treasurer Tom Wilkerson would love to receive your \$7.50 per family at 501 North Randolph Ave., Eufaula, Ala., 36027. His phone number is 334-687-4682.

*****We apologize for sending out the newsletter so late. Both computers are giving us fits. Ginger's just plain died after the last newsletter and replacements parts are hard to find for that ancient machine-15 years old. Then Thomas put in a new Windows program and the printer pitched a fit at new instructions. We hope to get all these problems worked out so the next issue will be on time – shortly after the Nov. 1-3 meeting in Waverly, Miss. Hope to see you there with your anti-bellum finery on.

Please make every effort to visit this castle and see how our kinfolk lived in bygone days. It's part of our heritage and a once-in-a-lifetime event.

around. Every line of the family suggests the ideal family of Young for several generations in their portraits, with other studies done in oil. On the second floor are the bedrooms, measuring 22X25 ft., and one reaches the observatory by a flight of steps from the balcony and the stairway itself of walnut, and from the ceiling 65 ft. above the lower floor hangs a great bronze chandelier that lights the balcony and the big hall below.

NEWS FROM BOBBIE GRINE

(picture of women in anti-bellum dresses)



WOMEN OF THE 1860s – Bobbie Grine, Anne Bonner and Sue Perry are all decked out for a Massing of the Colors ceremony performed by their UDC group. Similar costumes will be seen by women attending the fancy dress ball to be held at Waverly, Miss., on Nov. 2, 2002.

E-MAIL TO THE EDITOR

Bobbie Grine writes: So glad to get you e-mail, and pleased that you liked the UDC picture. With me, left to right are Anne Bonner and sue Perry. We put on our shows (Massing of the Colors) to raise money for the homeless Viet Nam veterans in our county. We do not charge a fee, but ask for donations. We received \$100 from a State sorority convention, but most organizations give \$25 or \$50. Maybe it will inspire other UDC members to get out the word that there was a War Between the States!

Talked to my brother the other day to see what information he had given you on our pedigree papers. He didn't make a copy, but said you were returning it. I did not want to duplicate what he had

furnished you, so I'll wait until he get his copy back. I have a lot more information on the Young family than he does, so will give you more if I have it. We only live 10 miles from each other.

Our 60-member UDC chapter has a web page if you would like to see some of our doing. Address:<http://www.johnwill.net/udc/>. We were the first chapter to have a website, and are so proud of it. When I was president last year the State President made a big to-do over it at our Convention. Incidentally, the Massing of the Colors is only performed in seven places in the U.S., and our Brevard Community College campus is one of the seven. It is really a very impressive sight. Five of our members marched with SCV last year. Will keep in touch. You do the same, Bobbie <kenbobbiegrine@msn.com>

E-MAIL TO THE EDITOR

John Sheftall writes: The revised write-up looks grand (for the reunion plans Nov. 1-3). Thanks for making the little changes as suggested. As for kin currently serving in the military, we don't know a soul on the Banks side of the family. Sorry I can't be of more help there. Will proceed with Columbus, Miss., plans after returning from our family trip to Germany May 31st through June 14th. In the meantime, children's photo is in the mail, and I imagine you will be getting the newsletter out soon now, so cousins will understand that there won't be any reunion in June this year. Thanks again and again for all you do the keep the family together! John <JMS@hatcherstubbs.com>

E-MAIL TO THE EDITOR

Betty Banks Jarrell Oetjen writes: Thank you very much for the pictures from the reunion (2001, in Elberton, Ga.) of Mother (Elizabeth Banks Jarrell). I have a few myself. Will scan and send if you want.

Don't know of any news that anyone would be interested in. But I have found much info on other families. Last weekend, July 28, Mother and I went hunting in Harris County for an old cemetery. We found it – very bad condition. Mother stayed in the car and I climbed a fence, walked about 50 yards. And there it was. Rock walls of native stones

about 5-6 different size walled areas. The biggest contained my GGG grandparents, John and Nancy Brannon, with 1 son and 2 daughters. These were the only marked graves. I got chiggers to prove I found the cemetery. This John was the G grandfather of Bessie Cotton, my Mother's Mother, who married Thomas Bobo Banks, both of Grantsville, Ga. I have other cemeteries to find. Would love to find some Banks while in Elbert County sometime.

Betty Banks Jarrell Oetjeti <b22duz@knology.net>

IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:

We are proud to list members of the family connection who are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please remember them in your prayers as they are committed to lay down their lives for our freedom. We would like to have names of others as we plan to continue the listing in future newsletters.

Brig. Gen Bruce Byrum USMC (ret.), son of the late Major (ret.) Banks and Susan Byrum of Seneca, S.C.

Lt. Col. Owen Englander, National War College, Washington, D.C. Owen is the husband of Liz Banks Englander, daughter of John and Eleanor Banks of Greenwood, S.C.

Lt. Col. Timothy Dixon, son of Thomas and Ginger Dixon transferred to France in June. He is assigned to the Paris office of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). His wife is Irmgard Kramer, daughter of Hans and Rose Kramer of Bonn, Germany. Their children are Theresa, 14, and Daniel, 12.

1Lt. Dustin Byrum, Naval Air Station, Lemoore, Ca. He is undergoing flight training in the F/A-18 Hornet. He is the son of Brig. Gen. (ret.) And Mrs. Bruce Byrum.

Sgt. Jonah Hudson, son of Larry and Sheryl Hudson, of Lavonia, Ga., is stationed in Hahiawa, Hawaii. His wife is Bambi Banks, daughter of Lanny and Sandy Banks of Carnesville, Ga. Their son, Cabe is 3 ½ years old.

Russell M. Banks III, Tyndal AFB, Panama City, Fl., son of Mr. And Mrs. Russell Banks, II of Birmingham, Ala.

HEALTH CONCERNS

George Banks is recovering from rotor cuff surgery
Jane Allen had left knee replacement

May Bailey Dixon has had surgery to relieve carpal tunnel syndrome

Dr. Bob King and Rev. Rodolph Dixon are on the mend from prostate cancer treatment

Michael Banks and Thomas Dixon have had hip replacements

EDITH BANKS HONORED

Good Citizen 2001

(Editor's note: The following information was gleaned from an article in The Banks County News by Shar Porier dated July 18, 2001. We are proud of Edith and salute her for her good works and loving nature.)

Edith Banks of Homer was named Good Citizen 2001 of Banks County at a Banks County Chamber of Commerce picnic. She was presented a crystal bowl by Bonnie Johnson, chamber president.

In making the announcement, Johnson read from letters of nomination. In one she was referred to as an "angel of mercy" for her caring deeds for others around her.

Quoting from the article - "Many people in the crowded meeting hall at the Herbert Garrison Civic Center stood to give their praise. Bonnie Hill, a friend of Banks, said, 'We wouldn't be Homer without Edith Banks.'"

House of Representatives Jeannette Jamieson said, "Edith came to me during the election and told me I needed signs in Banks County. I told her I was waiting on some and she asked if she could take what I had and put them up. It would take 50 of me to equal one Edith Banks. She's the kind of person that makes you happy to be with her."

BANKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION -- THE NEXT GENERATION

(Editor's Note: Tempus fugit (Time flies) and before long the leadership of the association will pass to members of the younger generation. We are pleased to include pictures, mostly Christmas cards, of some of the youngest family members. We would like to have pictures of your youngest, also.) Family names are: #1, Hudson, #2, Dixon, #3, Alewine, #4, DeBord, #5, King, #6, Sheftall.

