TEACHER’S HERITAGE RESOURCE GUIDE

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MORGAN COUNTY

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In 1996, the Morgan County Landmarks Society sponsored a graduate intern from the University of Georgia to research historic landscapes. Many resources were utilized to collect as much information as possible about heritage plants, garden sculpture, structures, and garden club activities. The materials gathered were assembled to be added as an amendment to the Teacher’s Resource Guide for heritage education.
THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL WAS RESEARCHED BY SUSAN L. HITCHCOCK, THE MORGAN COUNTY LANDMARKS SOCIETY UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA GRADUATE INTERN. MISS HITCHCOCK’S SALARY WAS INCLUDED IN A GRANT RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL CENTER FOR PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING.

MISS HITCHCOCK HAS A BACKGROUND IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HORTICULTURE. SHE IS A SUPERB RESEARCHER AND TALENTED WRITER. WE HOPE SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE SHE MAY WRITE A HISTORY OF MADISON. SHE COMPILED THESE NOTES TO BE-INCLUDED AS THE HERITAGE LANDSCAPE SECTION FOR VOLUME II.
Morgan County was defined on December 10, 1807. The territory of 272 square miles having been laid from Baldwin county and portions of Greene County were added. It was named for General Daniel Morgan of Revolutionary War fame because many of the men who settled Morgan County had fought with him in the Battle of Cowpens. It was established at the same time the legislature carved the counties of Jasper, Laurens, Wilkinson, Telfair, Jones and Putnam out of the territory ceded to the United States by the treaty of 1805. This territory extended to the Ocmulgee on the west and the High Shoals of the Apalachee on the east. Madison, which grew up around Round Bowl Spring, was incorporated in 1809, named for the fourth President of the U.S., James Madison, because of a tactful treaty he was able to make with the fighting Creek Indians. The Indians from the wooded area were allowed to get water from this spring, but were not permitted within the community limits after sundown, for fear of trouble with settlers.

Original land grants: Mrs. Charles Chandler, Miss Mary Page Walker. One of the inducements that brought settlers to this fertile part of Georgia was the issuance of land grants as a reward for patriotic service during the Revolutionary War or for other reasons. In the 1800s lotteries were held among the settlers for portions of land divided into acreage. Many of the original land grants in the county were handed out in this way after the 1802 treaty with the Creek Nation--what had been Creek territory was divided up to form Morgan and surrounding Counties.

Daniel Sessions was the first county surveyor commissioned Jan. 14, 1808.

Race track situated on town plot No. 35. Deed Book A., page 329, shows that on Jan. 10, 1809 a plot of 25 acres was bought for a race track by a group of gentlemen. The site is believed to be across from the Stokes-McHenry home.

Streets were named for Presidents of the U.S. and patriots. Main Street was formerly named “Monroe.”

The first doctor is said to have been Dr. Seaborn J. Saffold. Dr. Elijah E. Jones followed him.

Atharates Atkinson built the first jail in 1848.

George White’s 1849 edition of *Statistics of the State of Georgia* described Madison: ‘In point of intelligence, refinement, and hospitality, this town acknowledges no superior.”

The Madisonian of 3-22-1895 carried an article by John Burney which described the town in 1829: “The town corporation was then limited on South Main street by said lot: on North Main by Hon. U.R. Thomason, on West Washington by a line just beyond the Georgia railroad, and on East Washington by the Speed lot. How modest and unpretending in size! How simple in her requirements! How few and easily supplied all of her municipal wants! A plain simple country town!”

*How changed! Her corporate limits have doubled in extent. An honorable mayor and city council have displaced the humble board of town commissioners with its chairman, and now run its affairs. The plain homespun marshal has been relegated to the rear by a chief and assistants. Railroads are here; colleges are [?] churches, electric lights, telephones a Turner-Butler.*
newspapers...oil mill, ice factory, and compress are well in hand, public schools and a city clock in sight—she stands today a fullfledged city, grasping for waterworks, factories, etc.”

Madison is described by Innez Parker Cumming in the Feb. 16. 1936 Atlanta Journal: “The physical beauty of Madison shows to the best advantage in the spring, when the longest branches of the grand old trees edging each side of Main Street touch in the middle and form a lovely shaded arch. Spirea bushes blossom between the trees, and on the little parks in front of each house are irises, yellow jonquils and other favorites of the home-owners.” (There is a photo in the Georgia Room of South Main Street which shows a tree-lined dirt Street with houses set back uniformly). Inez P. Cumming in “Madison: Middle Georgia Minerva”: “The feud over the coming of the railroad to Madison was probably not equaled until the cutting of trees on North Main Street to make way for a new paved highway sixty years later.”

Snow Hill: Purchased c. 1810 by Lancelot Johnston, who discovered the process of pressing oil from cotton seed. According to the Madisonian article (undated one?), he added the two wings to the house so that his two sisters could live with him (Mary Johnston and Jane Johnston Slade, both buried in the family cemetery). Between 1830 and 1832, he was granted an exclusive patent for a cottonseed huller. He mixed the oil he extracted with white lead and painted his house, roof and all, pure white--hence the name. Snow Hill. The Southern Miscellany described these gardens in May 1842:

Immediately adjacent to our town in a most beautiful and tastefully laid out Garden, planted with a great variety of shrubbery and flowers, many of which are very rare and curious. It also contains a pool, some fifty feet in circumference, and four deep, which is well stocked with the "finny tribe. “ This Garden is the property of Lancelot Johnston, Esq., to whose liberality and public spirit our citizens, and strangers, are indebted for the privilege they enjoy of visiting it at pleasure.

In May 1843:

We have thought several times since the commencement of the spring, to give this beautiful retreat a passing notice. We consider that the proprietor is entitled to the gratitude of our citizens for his liberality in thus setting apart and cultivating for them, such a lovely spot, such “common pleasures. “ in which

“To walk about and recreate themselves.”

We doubt not that Mr. Johnston finds his reward in the reflection, that the pleasure he derives from his lovely arbors and flower-environed walks, is enjoyed in common by his fellow citizens.

But to the garden. Such a spot—with its "purling brook " its umbrageous trees, its rippling pool and its fragrant flowers.

"With hues on hues expression cannot paint—"

in the vicinity of one of our dusty cities would be regarded as a miniature paradise—an oasis in the desert—and even here, where all is freshness and beauty at this season of the year, the garden has attractions for all who love to contemplate nature in her loveliest garb. At evening, when the sultriness of the day is over, how delightful to stray mid its embowered walks, to feel the cool zephyr that comes breathing the breath of blooming roses, to watch the
gold-tinted humming-bird, as he hovers from flower to flower, or listen to the carol of the mimic songster, as he sits perched upon some lofty bough, pouring a flood of melody over the enchanting scene. It is indeed a lovely retreat, and as we have said, one for which we cannot feel too grateful.

We have been told that it was formerly much more beautiful than now and that it has been permitted to fall into comparative neglect in consequence of the depredations which have committed upon the rare flowers and trees with which it had been planted by its proprietor. We remember upon visiting it last spring to have seen the works strewed with choice roots and cuttings, which seemed to have been torn up from very wantonness and left to perish upon the ground. This, we have no doubt, was the work of mischievous servants, and should be prevented in future. It is to be regretted that Mr. Johnston should find any difficulty in preserving the garden from such depredations, and we hope that hereafter his present reason for neglecting it, will cease to exist. Such a lovely spot should be cherished by all as one of he chief luxuries and ornaments of our town (May 13, 1843).

In March 1844 the paper reported: “We are pleased to learn that this delightful spot is at present undergoing a thorough improvement, under the superintendence of Mr. Kaas, a skillful Horticulturist--to whom, in common with our citizens, it has been granted for a series of years, by our liberal and public spirited townsman. Lancelot Johnston. Esq., as a place of public resort. We shall hereafter speak of the Garden, and improvements, more at length,” (Southern Miscellany, May 15, 1844).

Antoine Poullain, son of Thomas Poullain who owned the cotton factory at Scull Shoals, married his only daughter, Elizabeth Jones Johnston, in 1842, and the property eventually passed to the Poullains. In a September 23, 1898 article, the Madisonian described a party given by the Poullains.

The Butterfly party, given at the residence of Mr. Antoine Poullain last Friday night, was a delightful social event. The lawn and verandas surrounding this lovely old home had been beautifully illuminated by Chinese lanterns, kindly furnished and arranged by Mr. Charlie Atkinson. The soft silver rays of the September moon added a beauteous glow to the scene, the whole presenting a bright glimpse of fairy land.

In an undated article about Lamar Poullain, Antoine’s son, the Madisonian describes the Johnston-Poullain family cemetery:

The old family burying ground in the rear is covered with ivy whose tendrils cling tenaciously to the faded brick of the high wall around it…. And at last they laid them down to rest on their own land, in the family plot, where the magnolias sheltered them with their broad leaf shade during the long summer days....

In 1908 Levy Chambers purchased the property from the Poullains in anticipation of his forthcoming marriage, and in October he and his bride, Glennie Bearden Chambers, moved into Snow Hill (Madisonian October, 1908).

The Atlanta Journal (undated article reprinted in the Madisonian in the 1940s) described the grounds:
This typical home of the old south was in a beautiful grove of native oaks interspersed with cedar, beech, mimosa and elm trees. As can be seen from old-time pictures the front lawn was oval-shaped, surrounded by circular walks with lawns of blue grass and vanilla grass on either side. These were bordered by handsome boxwood hedges some of which still remain.

The garden of flowers, vegetables, as well as the vineyards and orchards were of immense proportions. One very large and beautiful garden was on the right of the house. This particular garden became one of the show places of the south, because it contained, not only the choicest and most beautiful native shrubs and flowers obtainable, but a great variety of exotic plants, also. A foreign gardener was employed to tend these rare plants.

WPA writer John Booth wrote the following in 1937: “Especially noteworthy on the grounds surrounding the house are the fine hedges of boxwood.”

On April 30, 1996, this cemetery was photographed. One magnolia and two dogwoods survive inside the crumbling brick wall.

Snow Hill burned in 1962. According to Marshall Williams, the remnants of the garden are on Luke Allgood's property which appears as just a large grove of trees. Miss Florida Prior has two photographs of Snow Hill taken when the Poullains owned it, showing a circular sandshell drive bordered on the right side by large red cedar trees, with a panel of grass on axis with the house in front of the drive. Both photos show Florida, Sallie, Sue, Marylou, and Rita Poullain dressed in late 19th or early 20th-century style clothing posing on the lawn. Antoine Poullain is on the porch in one of the photos (these are also part of Vanishing Georgia).

**Bonar Hall:** (1000 block of Dixie Avenue) Built in 1832 by John Byne Walker and his wife Eliza Fannin Walker. From the Garden History of Georgia:

> It stands a couple of hundred feet from the road on a hundred-acre tract of lawn, garden and orchard development which formerly was enclosed on the front by a brick wall and picket fence, on the rear and sides by an impenetrable hedge of osage orange.

> The grounds show careful planning and a classical sense of balance. The lawn was surrounded by a brick wall pierced in a diamond shape pattern Bisecting the lawn and encircling the house is an eighteen foot walk edged by a six foot bed of bulbs. Within the borders stands a line of granite posts supporting standards of vines, between which madonna lilies were planted. A summer house and an orangery of matching design flank the house. The very fine boxwood garden lies to the left, outside the brick wall. It contained rare shrubs and trees, many of which still live; beyond this was a water garden of which practically nothing remains. The family burying ground, now removed, was box bordered and approached by a long walk edged with the same shrub. The vegetable garden, orchards, slave quarters and plantation buildings lay to the rear.

The story goes that when he went off to his farms in Texas, she would plant roses everywhere. When he returned he would have all the flowers plowed up and plant soybeans or cotton. Their portraits by Thomas Sully are displayed at the Cultural Center. It was stated in his death notice (the Madisonian, December 22, 1883) that he built the Georgia Female Academy "at his own expense" and was the author of the annual Georgia Railroad convention system. Bonar Hall was used as a hospital during the Civil War after the Battle of Chickamauga.

In John Burney's March 1, 1895 “Bits of Reminiscences” column for the Madisonian he recounts:
Jno. B. Walker, the youngest, was born in Burke county February 1805. In early manhood he married Miss Eliza Fannin, and the first permanent home was on Little Indian Creek, now called the Butler place. Here he was greatly prospered in basket and store. His servants and lands grew in number and area... Here he had a model farm for years. But, a family of children soon to be educated demanded that provision be made and feeling that his finances warranted, he proceeded to execute a plan projected some time previous of erecting a handsome home in Madison. Preparations were made, the site chosen and materials collected, and his fondest hopes materialized in the magnificent home now owned and occupied by Hon. Wm. A. Broughton.

Ample in dimensions, complete in all its surroundings and beautiful to behold, it stands today as a monument to his skill, taste and superior management. The dwelling from his country home was taken down and removed to Madison and is now known as the “George House,” the first occupant of which after removal, was Prof. Loud of “Georgia Female College” fame.

At the period of which I write, the landed possessions of these three brothers extended, covering either one or both sides of the public highway from the present home of Jno. T. Newton, Esq., to the Dr. George lot in the city of Madison, (except a gap of three fourths of a mile) the greater portion being the property of Jno. B. Walker. The rapid increase of his servants soon turned his eye to the rich lands of the west. In 1848 he made his first visit to Texas, and purchased a farm in Wharton county, a strip of the richest land on the Colorado River. His purchases, made with an eye to the future of his children, continued year by year until they contained 10,000 acres. It was the privilege of the writer, in April 1860, to accompany Uncle Jack on one of his business trips. I will only say “the lands were rich indeed.” While there I rode daily over one of the most complete farms I have ever seen. A good Georgian asked Uncle if he would entertain an offer of $100 per acre, which he answered in the negative.

Uncle Jack was no ordinary man. He was the embodiment of all that enters into a man. He was honest to a fault, charitable and full of good cheer. Many happy years were his, though greatly afflicted by the death of his wife and some children just entering life. His soul was Large enough to take in all mankind.

After the battle of Chickamauga he took into his home over forty wounded Texans. Sons of his neighbors out there, supplied every want and nursed them to health. One of them, Lt. Marston, afterwards claimed at his hands the daughter who had so tenderly ministered to him.

This daughter was Martha Walker and she married Henry Marston December 13, 1864. He died in 1867, and she later married Dr. William T. Brantley, a noted Baptist preacher. According to documents found in the Morgan County Archives, John B. Walker’s son, John B. Walker, Jr., was living in Wharton County, Texas, after the Civil War, where he had acquired large debts. Consequently, John B. Walker, Sr. was forced to sell Bonar Hall and its adjoining 600 acres "to relieve him of his indebtedness in Georgia and Texas.” He sold it to his son-in-law, William T. Brantley who rented John Sr. the house for $714/ year with the understanding that he could buy the property back for the same price anytime within the next five years, which he did in 1872. John Walker, Sr. sold John Walker, Jr. over two hundred acres of land adjoining Bonar Hall “for the sum also of few dollars” in 1872, and he apparently moved back to Madison. In 1875 John Walker, Sr. assumed $2500 of John Walker, Jr.’s debts. It is said that John B. Walker moved out of Sonar Hall leaving his daughter and her husband living there and spent his last days in a small house that was part of the Walker estate inherited by Eliza Fannin from her father, Isham S. Fannin. Legate Foster is said to have looked after him during his last days and he commented on passing the Baptist church that it was all he had to show for his former wealth (Madisonian June 8, 1934). In fact, in a deed recorded March 10, 1880. Ida F. Harris, John Walker, Sr.’s daughter (Ida Walker married John T. Rowland in 1858), sold Bonar Hall “the late residence of John B. Walker, embracing the brick house and out-houses, garden and orchard” and the one hundred acres of land surrounding it for $5500 to John A. Broughton. John B. Walker Sr. acted as trustee for his granddaughter Annie P. Rowland who received $3000 “as my full interest in the property so deeded” from John A. Broughton. John B. Walker Sr.’s estate inventory in 1884 showed that he owned only 30 acres of land valued at $120 and household goods.
“Madison Middle Georgia Minerva” (Georgia Review, Spring 1951) gives the following description:

He…turned his own attention and assets to making this one of the most beautiful Southern gardens found anywhere. There was a water garden beside the small stream, seven varieties of magnolias… plants imported from Europe and Asia, circles of boxwood, sparkling white sand down the long front walk, and all of this beauty enclosed inside a brick wall with a great iron gate. There were summer houses, an orangery, and stave houses of brick clustered around the main building….

The original portico of Bonar Hall was removed by the Broughtons and the present Victorian-era veranda was added. When John Broughton died in 1881, his brother, William Broughton, was already living at Bonar Hall. The July 8, 1898 Madisonian described a lawn party given by the Broughtons:

Madison’s society circle has been unusually active the past two weeks, and a number of elegant and delightful entertainments have followed in quick succession. Among them all there has been none more elegant and enjoyable than the reception tendered by Miss Annette Broughton at her palatial home on West Avenue on Wednesday evening, complimentary to her charming guest. Miss Sarah Morris, of Atlanta. The Broughton home is one of the most cultured and refined in the state, and the imposing residence, beautiful grounds and location make it an ideal one in every respect. For the occasion the lawn had been beautifully arranged with cozy seats and illuminated with Japaneese lanterns, and the scene was one of indescribable loveliness Mrs. Broughton received her guests with charming ease and cordiality that at once removed formal coldness, and made her guests feel at once free and pleasant. She was quite graciously assisted by Miss Annette Broughton, one of the loveliest debutantes ever welcomed into our social circle. The rain of the late afternoon precluded the use of the lawn and made the large parlors and balcony the scene of enjoyment. Delightful music was furnished by Baldwin’s Orchestra, adding greatly to the pleasure of the evening. An interesting game of hearts was arranged by the hostess, which was one of the most pleasant features of the evening. In the library, parlors, porch and hall were hidden dainty hearts, two of them bearing prizes. For these the guests searched with interest, many of them finding unique and tender couplets thereon well suited to their respective feelings. At eleven o’clock delicious refreshments of ices, cakes and bonbons were served on the balcony, and the party chatted merrily over them, with brilliant repartee and delightful tête-à-têtes. From 9 to 12:30 the scene was one of uninterrupted pleasure, and the hour of departure came only too early for the happy party.

The William T. Bacons bought the property in 1920. Described in Rambles Through Morgan County as “one of the handsomest in Madison. . . with its. . magnolia garden is the home of Miss Therese Newton, inherited by her when the estate was bought back into the family. It was long known as the Broughton place for a distinguished family of that name, who owned and occupied it for years.” A Madisonian article after the death of Mrs. William T. Bacon (mother of Therese Newton) describes the garden:

The wind sighs wistfully through the tall magnolias and the box-wood hedges ripple gently in the breeze. The wisteria hangs its purple head in sorrow and the flowering-pear and bridal-wreath and white dog-wood, with its cross and crown, bloom on in silent tribute, while the birds sing at Bonar Hall (Rambles p. 153).

Therese Newton was a close relative of Eliza Fannin Walker, as they were both descended from Douglas Watson, an officer in the Revolution and his wife Margaret Park (The Madisonian May 15, 1936). The garden is often described in articles and books as having seven varieties of
magnolia and six variety of boxwood, but primary documentation on the design of the gardens is missing (1950 Tour of Century-Old Homes sponsored by La Flora Garden Club mentioned the orangery tea house and kitchen building and the 1957 Morgan County Sesquicentennial Tour of Antebellum Homes described the garden as having seven varieties of magnolias and six varieties of boxwood). Mamie Bearden (now living in Florida), who played here as a child says that the orangerie was in fact used as a greenhouse for plants in the winter. There are three huge Japanese magnolias that survive next to the teahouse that were in the peak of bloom on 2/27/96. Rick Crown identifies the brick outbuilding next to the kitchen house as a privy. The family cemetery described in the GHG is still somewhat outlined by daffodils, although Miss Carroll Hart remembers the back being solid with bulbs in the spring (the spring of 1996 was a very bad year for photographing bulbs, as many were damaged in the late freeze).

It is described by John N. Booth, the WPA writer for Madison in 1937 as having "once had a splendid botanical garden: shrubs gathered from all parts of the world. Many survive, especially an unusual number of varieties of Magnolias “(WPA Writers Project Collection for Morgan County).

The following were observed during the spring of 1996:

* Magnolia grandiflora
* Magnolia x soulangiana
* Illicium parviflorum
* Buxus sempervirens
* Aucubajaponica
* Camellia japonica
* Cornus florida
* Juniperus virginiana
* Ilex opaca
* Spiraea thunbergii
* Wisteria sp.
* Lagerstroemia indica
* Ligustrum lucidum or japonicum
* Elaeagnus pungens
* Prunus caroliniana
* Large old conifer (ask Rick and Richard which one)
* Daffodils

**Thurleston:** (837 Dixie Avenue) Built in 1818 by John Walker, the house was originally a five-room Piedmont Plantation Plain style farmhouse located at Three River Farm. He left the property to his three sons (John Byne, Edmund, and Isaac) and daughter. After their sister’s death, the three sons gave the house to her husband. Rev. John Dawson. The house was dismantled and reassembled in 1841 on its present site in town. After passing through several hands, and serving for a time as a select boy’s school, the house became the property of Elijah E. Jones, a pioneer citizen and early physician, who added the massive front gable in 1848. A new house emerged under the guidance of architect Benjamin Peeples, more than double its original size. The house was sold in 1863 to Col. David E. Butler and his wife Virginia Walton Butler.
David E. Butler had practiced law in Washington, Georgia before going to Augusta in 1850 to become a member of a mercantile firm. He married Virginia Fitzpatrick Walton, the oldest daughter of Peter and Mary Fitzpatrick Walton of Madison, on December 18, 1850. They moved to Madison in 1852 and he became a large cotton planter, as well as deciding that it was his duty to preach the gospel, which he did without charge at the Baptist church in Madison. Only after the war did he receive recompense, Col. Butler and his wife had six children: Edward W., Peter W., Mary Francis, Elizabeth (Bessie), Virginia (Daisy), and Annie. He was for many years president of the Board of Trustees of Mercer University, as well as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention (from “Thurleston A Visit with the Whiteside Family,” Jan. 1989 Lake Oconee and David Edward Butler from Men of Mark). Thurleston got its name from a poem by Sir Walter Scott, (All this from Kathy Whiteside interview in March 1996, who has a copy of the poem).

Miss Bessie inherited Thurleston from her father, where she lived with her sister, Daisy, until her death in February 1942. The Feb. 8, 1907 Madisonian describes the Madison Floral Circle and states that “Miss Bessie W. Butler will deliver a short talk on ‘Rose Culture’ at some future meeting. Miss Butler has had fine success with the queen of flowers . . . .” In a letter of January 9, 1925, Josephine Inman Richardson of Broadlands in Atlanta writes to Miss Bessie (Butler Family Papers).

Our little trip to Madison and Eatonton had a distinctive charm, thanks to your extremely cordial hospitality in giving us the pleasure of knowing you and your lovely sister in a social way. The hours spent in your wonderful old home were indeed happy ones and I want to assure you of our sincere appreciation of your kindness. May we bring the children down to see your garden when it is in bloom? I want them to have a glimpse of the days of long ago which your home so perfectly exemplifies.

There used to be a large oak tree on the grounds named for Joyce Kilmer in honor of the author of the famous poem “Trees.” An article in the March 9, 1930 Atlanta Journal has photographs of the garden: “iris-bordered walk leading to spreading tree named for Joyce Kilmer; field of gorgeous iris declared to be one of the most beautiful sights in Georgia; shaded walk showing forest oaks on the estate.” The oak finally blew down in a storm in 1995.

Thurleston eventually became part of the vast inheritance of Virginia Butler Nicholson, the granddaughter of Senator Joshua Hill and the niece of Bessie and Daisy Butler. Virginia Nicholson left it to her husband. Dr. J. H. Nicholson, who, in turn, left it to his second wife, Gladys and her children. The second Mrs. Nicholson moved the boxwoods from the house on Main Street to Thurleston. A 1919 Vanishing Georgia Collection photograph shows a tree-lined front entrance, before the boxwood was moved here by Gladys Nicholson, Col. Harold Wallace, her son, sold the house to Kathy and Clarence Whiteside in 1983, who have carefully restored the main body of the house under the guidance of Atlanta architect Norman Askins. Since acquiring the property, they have been clearing out the Japanese honey suckle, smilax, etc. which had taken over the back part of the property, and are taking up grass and putting in other garden areas on the side of the property where the scuppernong arbor is located.

In March and June 1996 the property was photographed Boxwood of varying sizes are planted in the front. There are several very old palms in the back, heritage camellias down near the pond,
two large Burford hollies near the drive, the scuppernong arbor, smoke house, and a 20th-century greenhouse. The slave cabin was still standing after the Whitesides bought the property but had to be taken down after a tree fell on it. There are no surviving plans for the gardens here, but the letters between Dr. Hunt and the Butler sisters is a partial record of what they were planning. For example, there are dogwood trees planted near the pond, and the scuppernong arbor still survives. Horticulturist Tom McClendon has also identified hardy orange in the garden, also mentioned in one of the letters. There is also a circular garden room outlined in oakleaf hydrangeas that could also have been part of the Butler sisters’ garden plan. 1936 HABS photograph is a closeup of the front facade of the house, before the foundation was bricked in, showing a swept yard, wrought iron benches and urns with very low palms on either side of the steps.

Plants observed at Thurleston during June 1996 that predate the Whitesides:

- **Buxus sempervirens**
- **Cornus florida**
- **Azaleas**
- **Ilex cornuta ‘Burfordii’**
- **Aucubajaponica**
- **Mahonia bealei**
- **Camellia japonica**
- **Ilex opaca**
- **Lagerstroemia indica**
- **Lonicerafragrantissima**
- **Rosa sp.**
- **Pinus sp.**
- **Nandina domestica**
- **Abelia x grandiflora**
- **Windmill palm**
- **Cuminghamia lanceolara**
- **Magnolia grandiflora**
- **Hydrangea quercifolia**
- **Quercus sp.**
- **Juniperus virginiana**
- **Buddleia davidii**
- **Figs, pear tree**
- **Cotinus coggyria**

There were also two articles about the garden in the Atlanta papers August 22, 1926 (*Atlanta Journal*) and March 9, 1930 (*Atlanta Journal*).

**Shepherd-Carter-Newton House:** (530 Academy Street) According to the 1957 Morgan County Sesquicentennial Tour of Antebellum Homes, it was the site of the Male Academy which was chartered in 1818 and burned in 1848. Present house built in 1852 by Carter Shepherd on the original foundation; he was killed in a freak accident at his plantation in 1858. Mrs. Shepherd (Nancy Whitfield) continued to live here, but sold the house in 1868 to Mrs. Isaiah Carter, great aunt of the late Cal. Edward T. Newton. It is the home of Mrs. Edward T. Newton (Polly), who owns and has preserved the open space behind the house as unpaved lanes. There is a surviving pit garden next to the house. The house is surrounded by boxwood hedges on all sides. There is a large stand of oakleaf hydrangeas on the back side as well.

**Boxwood:** (Kolb-Pou-Newton House -375 Academy Street) The house was built in 1854 by Wilds and Nancy Kolb. Architecturally, the house features a double facade—the Academy Street side is Italianate and the Old Post Road side is Greek Revival. Complementing these two styles of architecture are twin boxwood parterre gardens, created at the same time that the house was built. Unfortunately, there is no documentation as to who laid out this very intricate garden, enclosed on both sides by a white picket fence.
The Garden History of Georgia described the garden in 1933:

The Kolb house…boasts a rare possession, twin box gardens. Their exquisite geometric patterns are obviously the work of some one thoroughly familiar with and-practiced in design. The euonymous hedge fringed with crape myrtle that framed them is gone but clipping has preserved the dwarf box borders in excellent condition. Some of the tree box and one of the giant magnolias still stand. It is to be regretted that the coronial plantings of cedar were cut down a few years ago and that as is so frequently the case, casual shrub and tree plantings of a later date disturb no little the symmetry of the original designs. Some of the old roses and lilacs grow in these gardens as do Pyrus japonica. Japanese magnolia, cherry laurel and January jasmine.

Though a town house, the service yard, which in this case lies to the side contains not only carriage house and stables but a cow barn as well, and is flanked on one side by a vegetable garden and orchard and on the other by a pasture. Balancing these is a strip of ground running from street to Street still spoken of as the cotton patch. It was also used for the raising of fodder.

WPA writer John Booth described the gardens in 1937: “In front of both entrances there are fine formal gardens of boxwood, one of angular design and the other circular. In addition there are many bay trees to be found on the premises.”

An architectural description of Boxwood is found in Medora Field Perkins’ White Columns of Georgia. The property was purchased in 1869 by Lewis W. Pou from the estate of Wilds Kolb, and occupied by his family until 1906, when it was purchased by John Thomas Newton. In an April 29, 1951 article in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Miss Kittie Newton (his daughter) described the gate at Boxwood: “Father took the gate down years ago and stored it in the basement. It stayed there until I put it up again about 10 years ago.” The article goes on to describe the garden: “On either side of the wide, swept-sand walk to the front steps the boxwood hedges fill the yard with a maze of geometric designs that enclose beds of bulbs and old-fashioned flowers. This garden has mothered hundreds of boxwood all over town. When Miss Kittie clips the low, green hedges--once every 8 or 10 years--she puts a notice in the paper that cuttings are available for anybody who will come and get them.” Again quoting Miss Kittie: "All the timbers in my house.. were cut here in Morgan County, taken to Augusta to be sawed and fitted, and then hauled back here on ox carts. It was a ‘prefabricated’ house 100 years ago, even to the solid mahogany staircase that goes all the way to the third floor.” Miss Kittie was active in the garden club (she was president of La Flora Garden Club in 1950).

Her nephew, Floyd C. Newton, Jr., and his wife bought the house after her death and are the present owners. He states that the hedge referred to in the Garden History of Georgia was actually privet and that some still survives. He confirms the story that Miss Kitty his aunt, used to give away cuttings of the boxwood when she pruned it. Floyd pruned his this year and could find no one who wanted any of it. Also, he had a copy of one of the HABS photographs, which shows a large oak which is no longer there. They are renovating the old slave quarters for rental property. It probably housed two families, as there are three doors downstairs. Two go to the separate sides and the other goes to the hallway upstairs but cannot enter either side from this entrance. The other outbuilding is a smokehouse. Both have e bargeboard detailings and were built at the time of the house in the 1850s. There also used to be a barn and a horse pasture and the side of the house next to the Mason house was a cultivated field. They are also putting in a
Broughton-Sanders-Mason House: (411 Old Post Road) Acquired in 1850 by John A. Broughton, it was described in the 1950 Tour of Century-Old Homes as having the original boxwood garden and a large collection of young azaleas and camellias and other shrubs set about extensive lawn and grounds (1950 Tour of Century-Old Homes). White Columns: “has its original boxwood garden and one of the largest collections of azaleas and camellias in the country.” Celeste Broughton Sanders Speer inherited the property from her father when he died in 1881. Her daughter Dena Sanders married Henry Furlow. Miss Dena suffered some kind of tragedy from which she never recovered and was known by all in Madison to wear only black, including a long veil, and to be a recluse. She allowed the vegetation around the house to go wild, and it grew up like a jungle. Her brother, Charles Sanders, inherited the property and sold it to Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Mason in 1941 (3-1-1941). It was their residence for many years, and later that of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Mason. It has twin garden structures on the side facing Academy Street. It has recently been bought by the Mc Williams family, who are doing extensive renovation, including a brick kitchen addition and underground tennis courts, 1966 aerial photographs show a boxwood allee leading to the entrance facing Academy Street and a quadripartite garden on the Old Post Road side.

Barnett-Stokes House: (752 Dixie Avenue) only “raised cottage” type architecture left in town according to 1957 Sesquicentennial Tour of Ante Antebellum Homes.

Honeymoon: (928 Eatonton Rd.) Built in 1851 by Charles Mallory Irvin, a distinguished Baptist minister and political leader, on the Eatonton Road according to 1950 Tour of Century-Old Homes it has a “large collection of iris in side garden.” This was the old Ed Walton home place, which stood empty for many years until Mrs. Peter Walton Godfry (Miss Carrie) brought it back to its former elegance. She named it for her old family home in Florida where a young bridal couple had come to stay. After Gone With the Wind's publication, there was a week long gathering of debutantes from Atlanta here to toast Mrs. Godfrey’s granddaughter. Carolyn Candler (this was apparently reported on in the newspapers and also went to Bonar Hall and McHenry House). Now owned by Mrs. Frances Godfry Candler Shumway, Mrs. Godfry’s granddaughter. Described in Rambles (p. 138):

> For a long lime the stately old house on the hill was vacant, sleeping in the sun and dreaming in the moonlight. The lilacs and rose bushes were tangled in the unkempt gardens and flung upon the air a fragrance mingled with old memories. The pale pink petals of the wild crabapple tree drifted dreamily down to the ground. The wisteria clinging so the greying Doric columns, untrammeled in its growth, hung over the edges of the eaves and drooped around the windows as if peering into the old rooms, where the moonlight made long slanting shadows across the bare floors.
Like magic the house was beautiful again within and without, with neatly clipped hedges, landscaped gardens, myriads of flowers….

This 6-acre garden was photographed in June 1996 and the following were noted: two very large specimen sasanquas (15-20 ft.). camellias, roses, gardenias, spireas, yuccas, dogwoods, magnolias, smoke trees, fringe tree, crape myrtles, bearded and Siberian irises, large collection of unnamed hybridized daylilies brown turkey and celestial figs, abelia, nandina, peonies, lilacs, wisteria, very large boxwood said by Mrs. Shumway to be over 100 years old, ligustrum, pecans, walnuts, oaks, and a vegetable garden. There is also a smokehouse, a scuppernong arbor with brick supports, a very old bird bath, and slave quarters (at one time there were twelve of them when the property was much larger this used to be the old Walton home place).

Stokes-McHenry House: (458 Old Post Rd.) The same family has occupied this house (1820), an early member having obtained the lot by lottery when the town was established.

Neil Vason House: (549 Old Post Rd.) This old inn built by John Colbert is now known as the Neil Vason House. Mrs. Mary Chiles Ware, the daughter of the Rev. James M. Chiles and Frances Butler Chiles (the sister of David E. Butler), was reared in this house when it known as the Madison Inn, “a large two-story frame house with offices or rooms built on each side of the wide, central building. It sits near the sidewalk although there is ample room in the grounds on both sides and to the back which extends to Second Street, where were the servants’ quarters and kitchen. The veranda has tall columns and a wide doorway leads into a hall which extends the length of the house. The large rooms with extra wide windows give a spacious antebellum atmosphere to the roomy old house.” (*The Albany Herald*, 10-23-1939). Her garden was described in the July 27, 1900 *Madisonian*:

> The fall meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society at Mrs. Ware’s on Friday afternoon of last week was charmingly entertained…with pleasant conversation delightfully interspersed with delicious refreshments….We feasted our eyes as well on a vase of handsome roses of several varieties, and there was an arrangement of nasturtiums and tube roses that we particularly admired, and just across from there was a stand that held the queen of all roses--the marechal niel--and these claimed our lingering gaze. They were all beautiful, and the arrangement was artistic in the extreme. Mrs. Ware has time to keep books for the Garden Club, the Aid Society, the Memorial Social and as president of the Missionary Society, she still finds time to cultivate flowers…

> These flowers that we enjoyed are the especial care of Mrs. Chiles who is now more than eighty years of age. We had a walk in this lovely old-fashioned flower garden, where the greatest variety of choicest blossoms are found, and here and there an apple tree laden with fruit and so many of the red-striped apples lying around made us…feel that childhood days were not so far behind. We noted with interest that the magnificent grape-arbor was the dividing line between the flowers and the vegetable garden. Wherever our glance might reach there was [sic] flowers fruits, and vegetables all so nicely worked, not a sprig of grass could be seen. All of these well cared for vegetables squares and nicely worked walks, I am told, is [sic] Mrs. Wares special delight.

The Neil Vasons later purchased the property, and they created the formal boxwood garden that separates the two houses.
Mrs. Mary Chiles Ware House: (571 Old Post Road) Mrs. Ware moved both wings of the main house to a corner of the garden and here “in this alluring cottage behind a hedge, under oaks and pecan trees, she makes her home, alone.” *(The Albany Herald. 10-23-1939)*

Both of these properties were photographed on April 30, 1996–both are vacant and the gardens, especially that of Mrs. Ware, are endangered depending on what happens to these properties. A photo of the boxwood garden in the 1978 Madison Tour of Homes published by the *Madisonian* states that “on the south side of the house is a beautifully designed garden of American boxwood and in the rear is a picturesque garden of English boxwood and winding walks”. The Vason garden today consists mainly of grandiflora magnolias, boxwood, dogwood, with a few azaleas, spirea, ivy, smilax, hollies, cherry laurel, and elaegnus. The large grape arbor referred to in the above article survives, 1966 aerial photographs show the formal gardens and an oval shaped area behind these, which can be seen in the photograph in the 1978 Tour of Homes. The property is at present vacant and is becoming overgrown.

Trammell-DuPree House: (617 Dixie Ave.) Built in 1898 by Lee Trammell on the site of the Godfrey and Walton house, which was built in the early 1800s. Mrs. Floyd C. Newton, Sr. (Lee Trammell was Floyd Newton’s grandfather) inherited the house from her father, and she was responsible for putting in the boxwood gardens. According to Floyd Newton, Jr. the boxwood for this garden came from the Newton country place (interview of April 2, 1996).

A party hosted by Mary Walton Trammell was described in the July 17, 1908 Madisonian:

“No prettier reception has been given in Madison than the one given by Miss Mary Walton Trammell to their guests, Miss Virginia Anderson, Miss Sara Vaughan, Miss Frances Stockton and Miss Cora Vaughan. The beautiful colonial home was made most attractive by many lights over the house and on the lawn--here many cozy corners and tete-a-tete chairs were to be found. On the broad veranda Miss Virginia Butler and Miss Hattie McHenry served refreshing punch.”

1966 aerial photography reveals an oval and fourpart formal garden. The original kitchen, built in the early 1800s, is a part of the house today (from 1978 Madison Tour of Homes). The Torn Duprees have added a pool house, pool, and other features to the courtyard.

Hilltop: (534 N. Main) Built in 1833 by Samuel Shields for his daughter, Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Burney T. J. Burney was the father of Sam (famous Baptist minister) and John Barney (wrote articles for the Madisonian). Additions have been made to the side and rear-- according to Chris Lambert, the pit garden was taken up at this time. The property was purchased by the Lambert family in the 1920s, and is described as one of the best examples of Georgian architecture in the region. The house has been featured in *The Early Architecture of Georgia, White Columns* and other books about southern homes.

Billups-Van Buskirk House: (651 North Main) House built c. 1853 by Gen. Jeptha Vining Harris, for his daughter. Susan, the first Mrs. Joel Abbot Billups. Joel Abbot Billups was born in Lexington, Georgia on September 6, 1826, and moved to Madison after he married Susan Harris. The second Mrs. Billups was Jane Victoria Cone Billups of Greensboro, Georgia, born September 16, 1835 (married Joel Billups 1-7-1885; he died 12-25-1905; she died 10-19-1918).
She was for many years the President of the Ladies Memorial Association. There is a pit garden still surviving on the property, whose contents were described in the Feb. 1, 1907 Madisonian:

“On one side are healthy vigorous geraniums, just dozens of them rejoicing and glad because they are living. On that side, too, are the primroses so pale and sweet and dainty they seem a mute reproach to anything unclean or impure. Near the geraniums are the pink cyclamens, and the dark red ones too, with beautiful foliage standing proudly on guard around them.

The sunny azaleas have been blooming beautifully since November. Fern fronds everywhere wave you a graceful welcome, and many tropical looking plants with gorgeous striped or spotted leaves allow you to survey them admirably. The dracena is noticeably beautiful. A lynum with numerous yellow blossoms fairly illuminates one side of the greenhouse. And when you leave two gracious gentle women receive your thanks for a happy time and fill your hands with tea olive and Christmas honeysuckle and branches of spicy things that murmur to you for days with sweet smelling voices.”

It was later the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Van Buskirk, who established an outstanding fruit orchard. 1966 aerial photographs show the orchard in the back.

**Thomason-Miller House:** (498 South Main) The house, described in the December 1, 1883 Madisonian as “the most elegant country home in middle Georgia.” was built by Legare H. Foster in that same year. It stands directly on top of the foundation remains of the Georgia Female College, which had burned sometime before December 1882. The college was never rebuilt, and the land was sold to L. H. Foster. The article describes the house as having “a dense shade of large live oaks in front.” During archeological excavations in 1987 prior to installation of landscaping on the property, the remains of a pit garden, probably constructed in 1883 on the north side of the house, were found. It appears to have been filled in around 1910. This very elegant house was purchased by Robert Usher Thomason in 1889, and members of the Thomason family resided here until heirs sold the property to the Richard Millers, who have meticulously restored the house, receiving the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation award in 1986 as an outstanding example of restoration. The recent rose garden and other landscaping installed by Mrs. Miller reflects what would have been historically appropriate for this time, the period of significance for the property having been established as 1883-1916.

**Jones-Turnell-Manley House:** (277 South Main) House built prior to 1835 by Dr. Elijah E. Jones, one of Madison’s most prominent early citizens. It was owned by the Steven Turnell family for many years and was moved “nearer the street” in 1908 (Madisonian April 10, 1908). The barn and several outbuildings were taken down when the church annex was built next door. It served for many years as a travelers inn when the hotel burned in 1933 (undocumented). Miss Carroll Hart has preserved the Turnell kitchen garden as part of her property.

**The Magnolias:** House built c. 1839 by John Robson, who mortgaged the property to Nathaniel G. Foster in 1853 and apparently lost it. Foster sold the property to a local dentist. Dr. William H. Burr on December 17, 1853. He sold the house to Mrs. Sarah Ann Ogilby in 1868. The house was purchased by Col. Edward W. Butler in 1890, and his family owned the house for
many years. Virginia Butler Nicholson bequeathed the property to Dr. J. H. Nicholson, and he deeded the place to his second wife, Mrs. Gladys Nicholson. The beautiful boxwood gardens were taken up by Dr. Nicholson and his second wife and moved to Thurleston. In 1993 the Madison Baptist Church sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. George F. Hannah.

**Poullain Heights:** (Campbell-Thomas-Hannah House - 766 East Avenue) House build in 1905 by Mrs. Campbell and by Mr. and Mrs. C. L. C. Thomas. The May 12, 1905 *Madisonian* reported: “Architect Bill Cavin is drawing the plans for the large modern residence Mr. C. L. C. Thomas will build on Hancock Avenue, opposite the home of Mr. Levy Chambers. Madison is fast becoming a city of beautiful homes.” August 18, 1905: “Workmen are busy erecting Mr. C. L. C. Thomas’ new residence on Hancock Street. It will be a large and handsome home after the old colonial style. Mr. John Ingram is superintending the building.” The gardens were established by Mrs. Thomas. All the stone in the gardens was brought to the house at Mrs. Thomas’ instruction from the cotton fields surrounding the house; the rock walls are still standing. Features that have not survived are twin colonial revival arbors with built in garden seats. There was also a lake with a boat house and pavilions. The property was left to Mrs. Thomas’ niece, Mrs. Truman Prior. Her daughter, Miss Florida Prior, has a photograph album for the house and gardens. ****Get Oct. 1935 article on the gardens.*****

**Atkinson Brick House:** (West Washington Street) The house was purchased by Atharates Atkinson on December 3, 1849. The filigree of elaborately scalloped gables and the porch were added by the Atkinsons, whose company, the Madison Variety Works, specialized in such detailings. The present owner, Dr. Josephine Hart Brandon, is a descendent of Atharates Atkinson. Heritage camellias, large specimen boxwoods, old roses, and the remnants of a formal herb garden survive here.

**LaFlora:** (601 Old Post Road) The house was built c. 1895 by A. K. Bell. LaFlora garden club was established here c. 1932 by Mrs. Harris Richard, mother of Dorothy Richard Baldwin, whose husband’s family owned the property for many years. The house was sold to John Miles in 1992 and has a beautiful old banana shrub in the side yard.

**Campbell-Carbine-Lawrence House:** (453 North Main Street) The house was built in 1850 by Judge Charter Campbell (father of Harris Campbell), and it was the home for many years of the P. V. Carbine family who owned the Farmers Hardware. The November 1901 *Madisonian* reported on the Garden Club’s annual chrysanthemum show, in which Mrs. Carbine won best floral display and best display of cut flowers. “Mrs. P. V. Carbine’s design in cut flowers was a “horn or plenty” made of golden chrysanthemums, from which came pouring in picturesque confusion, the rich fruits and flowers from garden and hot-house” (Nov 8, 1901). It is now the home of Mrs. Allen Lawrence. In the spring of 1996, the property was observed as follows curving drive with red cedars and another large conifer, magnolias, boxwood, spirea, azaleas, and a very large *Cydonia sinensis* with beautiful exfoliating bark. According to Florence Griffin, all of the quince trees that they have found in Georgia are of this type and this is one of the largest ones they have seen.
Rogers-Shields-Runt House: the present house was framed around the original log cabin when the Shields bought the house in 1820. The brick wall (built in the 1960s) is said to be a cops of the wall that once enclosed Bonar Hall.

William Burr House: (223 or 270 ? South Main Street) Dr. William Burr was a successful dentist from Philadelphia, having lived in Madison for fifty years. He organized the first dental association in Georgia and was its first president. He was married to Joshua Hill’s niece, who died in 1900: their only child, Charlie, had died some twenty years previously. Dr. Burr died in April 1901. Dr. Burr once owned the Magnolias but sold it in 1868 and purchased a house on S Main from Joseph Vason (Deed Book M263) on August 3, 1868. He was described in the June 1888 *Madisonian* as a “successful horticulturist” who “raised the finest tomatoes that we have seen.” The property was described in the January 13, 1908 *Madisonian* as the “old Burr place from which Mr. W. P. Bearden has just moved.”

Dr. Albert E. Andrews House: (South Main Street) Dr. Andrews was trained as both a pharmacist and a medical doctor, graduating from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1860. He was born July 4, 1837 near Montgomery, Alabama and died in Madison on September 15, 1897. He married Elizabeth M. Flournoy of Sandersville in 1863. During this same year he was struck down with rheumatoid arthritis, which also damaged his heart, keeping him from the active practice of medicine. During the Civil War he was a member of the First Georgia Regiment--first the Oglethorpe Infantry and then the Home Guards. He was discharged from the army in 1861 due to ill health. He returned to Madison and took charge of the drug store. The Federal officers captured in the battle of Shiloh were sent to and imprisoned in the old factory building in Madison in April, 1862. Dr. Andrews was employed as the surgeon to attend the sick of that prison. Dr. Andrews was described in the 1886 *Madisonian* as having over 100 roses on his property. This was the old Bearden place on S. Main (Deed Book T197 and 529).

The Anchorage: The house is thought to have been built around 1824 by John W. Porter after his marriage to Ann Mapp Fannin (according to John Burney article). At one time it featured elaborate gardens and a “lattice house.” It was once said it was worth a stop in Madison just to see the gardens. The house was moved to Walton County in 1985, and the gardens were bulldozed (article 10-14-85). The *Madisonian* often referred to parties Louise Hill Foster Turnbull.

July 1895 *Madisonian*: “The Anchorage,” the palatial residence of Mrs. Louise Hill Foster, has been the past week a scene of unusual brilliance and beauty, the occasion being a house party given by Miss Louise Foster. On Friday evening quite a number of the elite of Madison’s young people attended a reception, given by Miss Foster, which for elegance and true pleasure has never been eclipsed by any of Madison’s many delightful entertainments. Mrs. and Miss Foster are royal hostesses, and on this occasion were charmingly assisted in receiving by Misses Lyra Reid and Marie Griffin. Those present were: Misses Anna Black Walton, Mary Josie Walton, Alma Hough, Maude Leak, Sallie Mustin, Sallie Poullain, Rita Poullain, Katie Barnett, Fannie Walton, Misses Judd, of Macon: Messrs, Dennie Peteet, Claude Peteet, Jim Penick, Josh Hill, Edgar Leak, Fred Foster, Charlie Furlow, Charlie Baldwin, Will Shepherd, Ervin Godfrey, Usher Thomason.
Sept. 3, 1897: “Mrs. Richard Turnbull returned to her home in Atlanta after a sojourn of several weeks at her elegant home ‘The Anchorage,’ “in this place.”

May 5, 1899: “One of the most elegant homes in the city is ‘The Anchorage,’ the home of Miss Louise Foster and her mother. It has been the scene of many delightful entertainments, but doubtless none have surpassed in pleasure to the assembled guests that of Friday evening, when Miss Foster entertained a few of her friends. The game was progressive hearts, and the game was one of the most pleasant and closely contested of the season. The lady’s prize, beautiful silver belt buckles, was won by Miss Elizabeth Callaway, and the gentleman’s prize, a silver match safe, was awarded Mr. Claude Peteet.”

November 24, 1899: “Beneath suspension arches of gorgeous chrysanthemums and autumn vines, in the soft mellow light of myriads of tapers and in the presence of a large congregation of relatives and friends Miss Louise Hill Foster and Col. Percy Middlebrooks were joined in the holy bonds of the wedding vows on Wednesday evening.

The wedding took place at the Methodist church.... After the ceremony at the church an elegant reception was tendered by the bride’s mother, Mrs. Richard Turnbull, at ‘The Anchorage.’ Mrs. Turnbull received her guests very cordially and gracefully.... The entire lower floor was thrown open, and was beautifully decorated and illuminated. The refreshments were delicious and elaborate.” (this article also lists all the gifts given-and describes in detail the dresses and flowers, etc.)

**Silver Lakes:** An attractive park with walks around the lake edged with mulberry and magnolia trees owned by Mr. Charlie Atkinson. (from “Madison: Middle Georgia Minerva,” p.134.) A blurb in the June 6, 1884 Madisonian reported that “C. B. Atkinson is fixing a track around Silver Lakes for the walking match. It is the prettiest spot that could have been selected, and when completed, it will be the best arranged road for a walking match, in the State. The track will measure six laps to the mile.”

In Feb. 10, 1888 Madisonian reported that Mayor Bearden had asked Doctors G. B. Knight and A. K. Bell to investigate the various fish ponds that surround the city; they did this and condemned these ponds as breeders of sickness and death. Mayor Bearden and council gave notice to the proprietors to appear before them to show cause why said ponds should not be declared nuisances, and abated. The notice caused great excitement, as some of these ponds, notably the beautiful Silver Lakes, owned by Mr. C. B. Atkinson, were not only places of resort and amusement, but had cost their proprietors considerable expense. The above named, we suppose, are as attractive as any ponds we ever saw.

July 22, 1898: “Mr. Charlie Atkinson had the walks, grounds, and pavilions beautifully cleared and illuminated by Japanese lanterns suspended from the trees and shrubbery.”

June 16, 1905: “In this inviting retreat the air is fragrant with magnolias and cooled by breezes from the lake, the eye is charmed with green hilt, waving trees and blooming plants.”

July 14, 1905: “Miss Katie Pou entertained delightfully Friday evening at Silver Lakes in honor of her guest, Miss McElmurray, of Waynesboro. Under the pavilion near the lakes a conversational was arranged with a merry exchanging of partners which kept the conversational bell going with much sparkle of wit and laughter. Music on guitars and mandolins added much to the evening.”
The Square: the old Madison Hotel burned, and early in the 20th century the Turnell-Butler was built on one side of the Court House Square to take its place. It was a miniature Kimball House, modelled from the successful new Yankee hostelry in Atlanta. It was later sold and renamed. The Morgan Hotel (photo in Georgia Room), and was finally destroyed by fire as was the Court House it faced. The new Court House was built across the street to the north of the Square, and in recent years, after a long and bitter battle between two factions, one of which wished to keep the Square as a park, a post office was erected in the Square, (from “Madison: Middle Georgia Minverva” by Inez Parker Cumming, Georgia Review. Spring 1951, p. 132). Photographs from Vanishing Georgia show the square before the courthouse burned.

W. H. Crawford Home: see section from the Madisonian - described a picnic there in 1884 (this cannot be the Grant Perry Home which burned, as Maude Crawford Perry, wife of Grant Perry, was Dr. W. W. B. Crawford’s daughter). W. H. Crawford, Jr. was a farmer and noted orator, who was married to Rhoda W. Simmons of New York.

The Oaks: Built in 1832 by the Cousins family (check Madison folder in Georgia Room) - along the old Eatonton Road that was one of the routes of the Union soldiers. It was restored in the 1940s by the Clarence T. McIntires. It is presently owned by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bennett.

Little River Farm: Built 1815 by Edmund B. Walker members of the Walker family resided here for generations and the house was known as “Walkerest.” It was restored and extensive gardens developed in 1957 by Henry Green who had one of the finest collections of American furniture in the country (interior featured in Sept. 1959 Antiques**). It is presently owned by Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Williams.

Cedar Lane Farm: Built c. 1815 - check Southern Living Sept. 1983.*****

Old/New Cemetery: Described in a blurb in the May 14, 1886 Madisonian: “We took in the old cemetery Sunday evening and were made glad in observing the great improvements made since Alderman Booth took hold of it. When it comes to looking after the silent resting place of our sacred dead, he is the right man in the right place. There are few more public spirited clever mean than Sam Booth in this city.” Also: “We are requested to state that in cleaning the old cemetery of rubbish and superfluous trees, the city authorities have some five or six cords of wood for sale, which they will sell cheaply. The wood Consists of oak, pride of China and cedar, the latter when thoroughly dried is equal to the richest pine for kindling purposes. The Madisonian reported on May 12, 1905: “The great scarcity of available burial lots in the new cemetery has made it necessary that another cemetery be provided, and several enterprising gentlemen took advantage of the opportunity to open up Fairview Cemetery, just west of the new cemetery, and separated from it by a small ravine. What was recently a rough hillside has been transformed into a gently sloping, level area, that furnishes a beautiful cemetery site, and the name of “Fairview” is a very appropriate one. The cemetery is made into sections and lots, and the lots are already finding reads sale. Walks and drive-ways will be laid out, and the grounds beautified with flowers and shrubbery.”
March 24, 1905: “Mr. Morgan McNeel, of the McNeel Marble Company, Marietta. Cordele and Gainsville, is here this week placing several large and handsome monuments in the old and new cemeteries Mr. McNeel is a popular gentleman and has many friends in Madison, where he has often visited on business. His company is one of the largest and most reliable in the south. The beautiful products of their marble yards, their approved and business-like way of fulfilling their contracts, and their reasonable prices, commend them to the public, and whenever any of our people want monument work done they invariably write to Mr. McNeel.

**Lucius Wittich House (Dixie Apts):** Located on South Main, it was a well-proportioned home of the Federal period, circa 1830. At some later date, probably around 1850-60, a Greek Revival style was applied to the original in the form of changes to the front door, windows, and the addition of a columned porch. There was an early cottage or service building, dating before 1810, complete with Williamsburg detailing: beaded weatherboard, shaped end cornice boards and original sash. It was torn down in 1968 to build a gas station. Alexander Stevens lived here when he taught school in Madison before the Civil War.

**Home Tours and Garden Clubs**
The first tour of homes in Madison was promoted and directed by Miss Kittie Newton when she was president of La Flora Garden Club in 1950, sponsored by the State Garden Club. She also promoted subsequent tours. In 1957 the Sesquicentennial committee instigated a tour of the century old homes in celebrating Morgan County’s one hundred and fiftieth birthday. Since that time the ladies of the Episcopal Church of the Advent have most successfully conducted a number of tours of Madison homes, including some of the century old homes beautifully restored, all tours being sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

The very first garden club in Madison was organized in 1893, a representative from Athens coming over for the organization. This was one of the earliest garden clubs in Georgia, being organized a short while after the Athens Ladies Garden Club, the first garden club in the United States. The Madison Garden Club continued active until 1920 when it was forced to disband. The Madisonian often announced upcoming meetings. Spring and Autumn Flower Shows included exhibits of cut flowers, potted plants, and vegetables from around the county and "reflected great credit on the gardeners and flower lovers" (*Madisonian* May 8, 1908). Some of the more interesting information on the flowers grown in Madison can be gotten from descriptions of house parties written up in the Madisonian. Typical descriptions include:

March 17, 1905: “The spacious rooms and halls were decorated in bamboo and jonquils, dozens and dozens of these flower trumpets of springtime being used. Masses of these flowers were in bowls and vases all over the house.”

March 31, 1905. “In the spacious rooms violets held high carnival. From vases and bowls theses lovely blossoms appealed to the artistic sense with their glowing color and delicious perfume, and in contrast was rich green smilax over mantels and mirrors.” (Mrs. H. W. Baldwin)

May 26, 1906. “In the dining room, where cakes and ices were served, pink and white sweet peas in all their dainty bloom made ever nook and corner a delight to the eye….From a cut glass bowl masses of sweet peas were reflected in a mirror plateau which rested on a lace cover.
Pink ribbon entwined with smilax defined the table and fell in graceful garlands from the corners.” (Mrs. Charles Sanders)

February 2, 1906: “Bowls and vases of fragrant violets were on the tables and mantle in the hail and parlor. The same lovely flowers fringed the mirror in center of the tea table and were arranged with dainty ferns in slender vases in other parts of the room.” (Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Vason).

April 27, 1906: “The decorations on Tuesday were a veritable ‘feast of roses.’ In the hall… pink rose bowls on the tables vied in grace with the luxuriant ferns in handsome jardinieres. In the reception room fragrant Paul Neron roses filled urn shaped vases of white and gold. The same roses were banked over the mantels, their rich coloring in exquisite contrast to the white enameled wood work and green tinted walls of the rooms.” (Mrs. William E. Shepherd)

“Quantities of lovely white roses and ferns were used in the parlor. LaFrance roses adorned the dining room. On the round tea table a mirrored plateau fringed with pink roses and maiden hair ferns and a silver cupid holding a crystal vase of the same lovely flowers made an exquisite center piece. (Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vason) "The rooms were most beautifully decorated in flowers. In the hail and reception room pink roses were used in artistic profusion. Garlands of these flowers were twined round the stairway, banked on the mantels and filled vases and bowls….On the handsome lace centerpiece on the dining table rested a round mirror bordered with apple geranium leaves and blossoms--reflected in the mirror was an exquisite basket of white roses tied with green tulle. Quantities of those quaint old flowers, snow balls, filled the handsome vases on the mantle and buffets, and maiden hair ferns defined the mirrors and trailed their graceful foliage over the curtains and windows.” (Mrs. J. L. Reeves)"

April 6, 1906: “Quaint old fashioned double blue hyacinths in blue and white jardinieres were in the halls. Violets and Marshal [sic] Neil roses filled vases and bowls in the front parlor, and graceful ferns and quantities of violets were again in evidence in the back parlor.” (Miss Emma High)

April 13, 1906: “Hyacinths and violets are especially lovely this Easter season. These filled bowls…in the parlor, and in the sitting room quantities of white lilacs and flame colored nasturtiums were used. Handsome ferns graced the hail. (Mrs. Percy Middlebrooks)"

Around 1932, Mrs. R. H. Richard reorganized the club, naming it “La Flora Garden Club. “and it was an affiliated chapter of the Garden Club of Georgia. Serving as past presidents of the organization have been, Mrs. Walter S. Adams. Mrs. Florence Treadaway, and Miss Kitty Newton (president in 1950). Mrs. J. Hill Cochran was the last president of this chapter of the club. In recent years, Mrs. Robert Carter instigated a revival of interest in organizing a series of garden clubs over the town. The most active of these are the Boxwood Club and the Magnolia Club. The Jan.-Feb. 1964 issue of Garden Gateways featured Madison.
Madison as an Educational Center

White’s *Statistics of the State of Georgia*, published in 1849, says about Madison: “There are as many well educated gentlemen and ladies in Madison as in any portion of the State. Many of the citizens are wealthy and live in much style. The ladies are remarkably pretty, and many of them highly accomplished. The amusements are dancing, hunting, fishing, etc.”

Two flourishing “female colleges” were located in Madison. The “Madison Collegiate Institute” was chartered Jan. 17, 1849 and changed by the legislature in 1851 to “Georgia Female College.” The “Methodist Female College” was chartered on Jan. 26, 1849 (Rebecca Latimer Felton, first woman to become a U.S. senator, graduated in 1852). Sherman’s army burned the Methodist Female College, but the Georgia Female College reopened in 1873. It also burned in 1882, but a single building survived the fire. It was purchased by Judge Thomas B. Baldwin (South Main Street) and later owned by Q. L. Williford and Durell Ruffin.

Academies: John Burney’s Madisonian article “Old School Days in Madison” from 3-22-1895 describes the Madison Male and Female Academies: “Leaving...Mainstreet at the Baptist Church, turn up Central Avenue... and reach the knoll upon which ????? Madison Male Academy, a building 60 x 89 perhaps with its wooden shutters and modest cupola. The grounds were ample for all purposes, containing about a third of what is now the old cemetery, and extending across the old spring lot branch to the lot of Dr. Seaborn Safford, and bounded on the south-east by Second Street. The entire slope from street near residence of Col F. C. Foster to Saffold lot, was comparatively smooth and covered partially with grass. Numerous large oaks and chestnuts shaded the grounds, adding greatly to comfort and attractiveness. Those immediately around the academy were quite large and well proportioned chestnuts. Everything about the premises was about the best attainable in that period. Again the scene and place shift. Go now to the lot on which stand the Georgia depot and the Madison compress. The entire space included between the Hough lot and the home of Mrs. Louise Foster was a beautiful grove of oaks and hickory trees, and the surface well carpeted with wild grasses. Upon the crest of the slope and about where the compress warehouse is situated, stood a roomy, two-storied house, an exact counterpart in architecture of Dr. Burr’s residence. The slope, from house to street, was an enchanting spot—a paradise, as a playground, for girls and boys. The was the Madison Female Academy, under charge of Mrs. Speed, of great repute as a teacher.

He continues in the 3-29-1895 edition:

“After a few years of successful service, Mrs. Speed retired from the academy and established a home school. The old Female Academy took on a newer and more pretentious life-Prof. Osgood Pierce, of Massachusetts, was chosen principal. From Philadelphia he gathered a full corpse of thoroughly equipped assistants and opened a “High School.” The old building was renovated, a music hail was erected and Prof. Chase was put in charge. While the foregoing events were enacted in and around the memorable spot the car of progress moved steadily onward. The Georgia railroad had reached the outposts of the town, and was vigorously knocking at its doors for admittance. The great car entered and ruthlessly, under the plea of necessity, pushed aside the old academy and took possession of its attractive grounds. The poor cripple was given a home on the plat now known as the Carter Shepherd lot. Carefully nursed for years by those
good true men, Hendee, Snowden and L. L. Wittich, it served its purpose until supplanted by the Baptist and Methodist colleges.

Had not the opposition to the Georgia railroad been so marked and determined, the academy would have remained in its lovely grove, and our railroad depot been located on the southeast side of town. A historical truth!

After the “High School” succumbed to the railroad, Prof. Pierce accepted the chair of Physics and Chemistry at Mercer, which position he held for many years….Prof. Chase removed to Penfield and assumed control of the Female Seminary’s music.”

Alexander Hamilton Stevens, later Vice President of the Confederacy taught at one. Another “Male Academy” was situated on South Second Street, where later Carter Shepherd built his comfortable antebellum home. Foundations of the old school are under this house. Thurleston was once used as a boy’s school. Madison Female Academy, located on lot between Hough lot and the home of Mrs. Louise Foster, was a beautiful grove of oaks and hickory trees, and the surface well carpeted with wild grasses. Upon the crest of the slope and about where the compress wareroom is situated, stood a roomy, two-storied house, an exact counterpart in architecture of Dr. Burr’s residence. The slope, from hose to street, was an enchanting spot—a paradise, as a playground, for girls and boys. This was the Madison Female Academy, under the charge of Mrs. Speed, of great repute as a teacher. The regulations in force there admitted lads under ten years to its classes... (from “Old School Days in Madison by John W. Burney in March 22, 1895 Madisonian).

Mr. John Bostwick was instrumental in bringing an Agricultural College to this District, situated in Madison. Large sums of money were given by private citizens for the grounds and buildings.

**Stage Coaches and Inns**

Madison was a favorite stop-over place for the stage on the coach road between Charleston and New Orleans, and horses were changed here with a fresh supply to continue the trip. This was important to the development of Madison: if you traveled from New York to New Orleans, or, later, from Savannah toward Chattanooga, you went through Madison. The Neil Vason House was once the Colbert Inn.

**Railroad**

The Georgia Railroad was chartered in Dec. 1833. The western terminus was originally Athens, then Madison, and finally, by 1845, Atlanta (then called “Marthasville” for Martha Lumpkin, daughter of Georgia Gov. Wilson Lumpkin at one time a citizen of Madison). When the railroad reached Madison around 1840, there was great opposition to the railroad running through the town proper, and Judge Adam G. Saffold gave part of his own land for the project. According to John Burney (Madisonian, March 29, 1895), the grounds of the “Madison Female High School” were also “ruthlessly snatched” and converted into a grand wagon yard “where lodged and rested the hundreds of teams that brought to our doors the rich stores of traffic and trade.” When Madison was the terminus, passengers left the train and continued their travel by stage coach. With the advent of the railroad, the popular old inns were becoming less and less in use. Eventually, a handsome wooden hotel with white columns was built.
Newspapers

The Southern Miscellany was published in the 1840s but did not last. It was followed by The Madisonian, which was established in 1867. The Georgia Weekly Visitor published for a short time in the 1860s, as did the Madison Home Journal in the 1870s.

Fire of 1869

In April of 1869, a fire almost destroyed the business section of the city and many private dwellings. Forty-two buildings, stores, and dwellings were on fire at one time. The Masonic Hall was completely destroyed, and the fire finally stopped at the home of Captain Vason, where handsome brussels carpets were used to extinguish the leaping flames. Following the fire, the city passed an ordinance that all future construction in the business district be of brick and mortar materials.

Farmers’ Hardware: established in 1836 by W. M. Burnett, it is believed to be the oldest continuous hardware business in the nation. (Papers are in the Georgia Room)

Other Towns and Communities

Buckhead: Benjamin Fitzpatrick and a group of hunters killed a large buck deer and hung his head on the branch of a tree, hence the name Buckhead. In 1833 when the Georgia Railroad was organized. Buckhead was an important stop between Augusta and Atlanta. The inn at Parks Mill--once an important old tavern--was moved to its present location when the land for Lake Oconee was flooded. This was a popular gathering place for travelers crossing the Oconee into Morgan County and was also on the stage line from Philadelphia to New Orleans. (Madisonian, Spt.5, 1963)

Saffold home has a head high boxwood bordered walk. This was the home of Col. Thomas P. Saffold lawyer and son of Dr. Seaborn J. Saffold and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Reid Saffold.

The Alford family home, situated on the Eatonton road about 3 miles out of Buckhead proper, was completed in 1839 and partially burned by Union soldiers. The Alford family have been agricultural leaders in the area, among the first in the county to bring a large herd of Jersey cows here, and divert to dairying after the boll weevil had been so disastrous to the cotton crops.

Parks Mill community is the site of a former tavern built by the Parks family. A small community surrounded the tavern, with a grist mill, store, and other buildings. The saw mill was on the other side of the river. Being on the stage coach line from Philadelphia to New Orleans, this was a stop over place to change the horses. The big house at Park’s Mill was built by James E. Park and contained his home, an inn and a tavern. He built a toll bridge across the Oconee, which was washed away by floods in 1840: they put in a ferry to replace it. Union soldiers burned the ferry and the mill, but the house was saved by a slave named Cyrus, who went out on the roof with wet blankets. They rebuilt the ferry and the grist mill. In 1887 the Oconee swept away everything but the big house (it had been anchored by dropping hundreds of bricks between the peg walls). Charles L. White bought the property in 1897. In 1981 Georgia Power moved the deteriorating structure 1.5 miles south of its original location and restored it, as the house was on land to be flooded by Lake Oconee.
It is said that Jeff Davis stopped here to sleep in his attempt to evade the Union soldiers at the end of the war.

Buckhead was once an important stop between Augusta and Atlanta on the Georgia railroad.

Godfrey: Much land in this vicinity was given as land grants to the Walton family. Mary Perkins Walton married Dr. Ervine Godfrey and for them the town was named.

Apalachee: As early as 1820 there was a settlement around what is now the town of Apalachee. The name was adopted around 1896, being named for the nearby Apalachee River, and located on a high ridge between the river and Indian Creek. The town was incorporated in 1907.

Key families: Few, Shockley, Prior

Bostwick: The town was named for the man who did the most to develop it, John Bostwick. He built a cotton gin here and organized and established a railroad running from Bostwick to Apalachee, and later to Monroe. It was largely due to his efforts that an Agricultural College was established in Madison.

Swords: It was formerly called Blue Springs; when the Union soldiers came through they burned most of the houses in the small community. The town was incorporated as Swords years later and was named for its greatest benefactor, John Buchanan Swords, who came here to farm around 1899, and immediately made plans for the development of a town.

Rutledge: The largest and most prosperous town in the county outside of Madison. It was settled by families from South Carolina, such as the Wallace family from Jasper County. The Ponders were an early family here, as were the Sayes (Dr. Albert Saye has written two books on Georgia history).
Site of two CCC camps and a national park, which is now a state park, Hard Labor Creek, a popular recreational center.

Communities
Brownwood: The first log cabin in the county was built in the Brownwood community by William E. West, a Revolutionary soldier coming from Virginia before Morgan County was established. The first frame house was built in 1809 by West’s son-in-law, Benjamin McCoy. It was later used as an inn and is still standing. McCoy’s daughter married James Neville Brown, for whom the community was named. The stage coach ran along this road and the old inn stop-over. Location of Big Indian Creek and the Old Brown’s Mill.

Centennial: This community borders on to Brownwood. Gov. Wilson L. Lumpkin lived here with his first wife and family before moving to Athens.

Pennington: Some of the oldest and most representative citizens of the county have lived and fanned large acres of land. Among them are the Newtons, Walkers, and Penningtons (Brooks Pennington).
Sugar Creek: One of the early settlers here was Charles Smith, who came with his father, Peyton Smith, from Virginia to Georgia.
April 9, 1996

Meeting with Marshall Williams at the Morgan County Archives

- John B. Walker married Eliza Fannin (9-3-1815 to 9-8-1867) on 8-29-1832 (Morgan County Marriage Record 1808-1865) she was Isham Saffold Fannin’s sole heir and had finished school in New England before they married. They went to live at the home John B. had established about two miles from Indian Creek Baptist Church. They decided to build a house on Old Post Road on land owned by her father, overlooking the new town of Madison. The house was sold by a daughter in 1880. The Bacons bought the house in 1920. Eliza Fannin and Therese Newton, who inherited the house from her mother, Mrs. Bacon, shared the same lineage: Both are descended from Douglas Watson, an officer in the Revolution, and his wife Margaret Park (Madisonian 5-15-1986).

- Martha Walker (Mattie) was the daughter who married the confederate soldier after the Battle of Chickamauga his name was Henry Marston, a Texas captain. They married 12-13-1864; he died in 1867 and she later married Dr. William T. Brantley, a great and noted Baptist preacher who died in Baltimore. She died at her winter home in Florida and was also buried in Baltimore (from a Madisonian article of 6-8-1934 plus Morgan County Marriage Record 1808-1865).

- His other daughter Frances Ann married William H. Goddard 3-30-1854.

- The 1837 Crawley map shows that Mrs. Katherine Swift owned the Boxwood lot before it was sold to Wilds Kolb, who owned the Frederick Foster house before it was altered. This is where Dolly Lunt Burge lived with the Kolbs. The Mason lot was owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Reese, whose husband, Joseph Reese, died in 1834. She married Reuben Mann in 1841.

- In 1854 Robert Taylor sold the residence of Katherine Swift, town lots 79 and 80 and 1/2 of lot numbers 81 and 82 to Wilds Kolb on 7-4-1854 (K736, 737). She had willed the property to Robert Taylor. Oct 5, 1869 the executors of W. Kolb sold “Boxwood” to Lewis W. Pou (M420). Mrs. Caroline Pou sold the Boxwood place to John T. Newton 12-31-1906. Bounded on the south by Mrs. C. B. Speer (2/210).

- John A. Broughton died 1881. His daughter Celeste Broughton Sanders inherited the property. She had three children, a son who died, Deena Sanders Furlow, and Charles Sanders. Celeste Broughton later married Judge A. M. Speer. Miss Deena Sanders Furlow inherited the property from her mother and later her brother, Charles Sanders, inherited. The Masons bought the property from Charles Sanders in 1941.

Interview with Florida Prior

She has two photographs of Snow Hill taken at the turn of the century showing the Poullain sisters sitting out in the front lawn on the right side of the circular unpaved drive lined with red
cedars. These photos are part of the Vanishing Georgia collection.

She has many photographs of the lake on the property of the Campbell-Thomas- Hannah house across the street, which her grandparents built (Sara Poullain Campbell and Robert Harris Campbell). There was a summer house and gazebos. The yard of this house also had twin latticed garden arbors with seats. Florida has a photo album which we did not have time to look at with many more photos of the garden. The property is now owned by a young couple from Atlanta who are restoring the lake.

Florida’s great-great-grandfather was Thomas Poullain, one of Georgia’s first millionaires. Florida’s mother was Florida Lamar Poullain Campbell Prior.