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Where is Jacksonville, Pike County, MS?

(Contributed by Paul Walker)

I've been trying to trace the location of Jacksonville, the first seat of Justice for Pike County, MS with limited success. 'Memories of Mississippi' published by Goodspeed in 1891 gave this insight:

*"Originally, Jacksonville on the east side of the Bogue Chitto, was settled as the seat of justice, the commissioners who located it having been **Benjamin Bagley, Peter Felder, Sr., Obed Kirkland, William Bullock, and David McGraw, Sr.**, but after the county had grown in population, in 1816, it was moved to Holmesville." (Page 195).*

'A History of Mississippi' by Robert Lowry and William H. McCardle published in 1978, stated *"The first county site was Jacksonville, on the East side of Bogue Chitto River."* (Page 557).

Two territorial maps found at the MDAH show Jacksonville:

http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/series/maps/detail/186

http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/series/maps/detail/187

A spot is marked at the entry of what is now Leatherwood Creek into the Bogue Chitto River. The spot is noted on the West side of the Bogue Chitto. With the above insight, I have tried to determine the possible location of Jacksonville. The Territorial Survey Map for Pike Co., MS, T3N R9E can be found at:

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=survey&lst=MS&cty=113>

This survey was signed January 1810 by Elijah Pope, D.S. It shows that a hurricane crossed this area north of the current Holmesville location. The only other notation on the map is a "millseat" on what was called Beaver Dam Creek (now Leatherwood Creek). This is where the creek crosses the section lines of 26 and 27. Could "millseat" be the future location of Jacksonville?

Most early settlements were established around a good water source, and a grist mill would be a draw to the area. In looking for ownership of the land where the grist mill was located, I followed the early land patent records and believe this property was owned by Robert Love (Sec. 27 SE 1/4 Dec. 3, 1811). He also patented land in Sec 34 SW 1/4 Feb. 25, 1812, and Sec 27 NE 1/4 Jan. 22, 1818. Robert was born April 1784 in York District, SC. He came to Pike County with his parents William and Margaret McDowell Love. William Love left SC after the Revolutionary War and was briefly in Livingston Co., KY then in the Natchez District in 1809, in the Amite Co. 1810 Census (probably Pike) and settled on the Bogue Chitto River where Love's Creek enters (Sec 25 T2N R9E). While Robert was not one of the original commissioners, he was a lawyer and judge when he died August 25, 1865 in Madison Co., MS. He was appointed Pike Co. Commissioner on January 8, 1818 and replaced Benjamin Bagley.

David G. McGraw, Sr. was born about 1738 in Northern Ireland and patented land in Pike Co., North and West of Holmesville in Sec. 17 S/W 1/4 Mar. 23, 1811, NE 1/4 Dec. 14, 1811 and SE 1/4 Jan. 1, 1813. He later patented land in Sec 20 NW 1/4 Dec. 14, 1815 and NE 1/4 Oct. 22, 1816. All of the above land was in T3N R9E. He also patented land in Sec 26 SW1/4 Feb. 10, 1816. This property joined Robert Love and close to the "millseat." He resigned as commissioner Jan. 8, 1818, was replaced by Early Harris, and died Jan. 2, 1823.

Benjamin Bagley was born about 1776 and was in the Amite Co 1810 Census. He owned land in Lawrence

County (505 acres on the Pearl River) and in Pike County (480 acres on the Tangipahoa River in T2N R7E 1813). He was replaced as commissioner by Robert Love on Jan. 18, 1818.

William Bullock was born Mar. 1, 1764 in NC, moved to Franklin Co., GA about 1797, moved to Amite Co. in 1810, and was appointed overseer of the poor in Abner ONeals district. William patented land in Pike Co., Sec 35 NE 1/4 Nov. 26, 1811 and Sec 26 SE 1/4 and Sec 25 SW 1/4 all T4N R8E. He died in September 1834.

Obediah "Obed" Kirkland was born 1776 and was in Milledgeville Baldwin, GA. in 1809. He was in the War of 1812, 13th Regiment (Nixon's) of Mississippi Militia, as an Ensign. In 1816 he was Captain Obed Kirkland of the Pike Volunteer Rifle Company. I could find no land records for Obed, and it is indicated he died about 1835 in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Peter Felder born April 2 1759 moved to Mississippi in 1810-1811. Coming from Orangeburg Township, SC in 1810, he divided his family. While his son, John, and others came directly over land to then Amite County, Mississippi, Peter himself went to the Tennessee River and rafted to the Ohio, then down the Mississippi River to Natchez where John met him. John and his brothers brought the stock (mainly horses) overland, while his father and mother came by boat. After arriving in Mississippi in an area not too far from Magnolia in 1810, John left the stock near Magnolia and went on to Natchez where the old couple was to have landed. Upon his arrival, he was very distressed at not finding his parents there; a delay caused by the slowness of the vessel on which they were passengers. After a week's delay, the boat arrived and the Felders enjoyed a reunion.

They traveled on to Magnolia and established a permanent homesite. Peter Felder first settled in Amite County, but lived his last years in Pike County having settled the Vaughn place near Magnolia in 1811. A Methodist Church was established in this neighborhood, and in 1810 the first Methodist camp meeting was held here. It was afterwards known as Felder's Campground. Peter's land patents were Sec 22 NW 1/4 May 5, 1813 and Sec 21 SE 1/4 Dec. 13, 1815, T3N R9E. Peter died December 29, 1824.

The area noted "millseat" on the map has a history. As late as 1918 there was a community near Leatherwood Road where the creek crosses. On the 1918 soil map there is a Leatherwood school and church which looks to have a graveyard. There is a road that leads down off Leatherwood toward the Bogue Chitto that could have gone to millseat:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/mississippi/pikeMS1918/Soil_map.pdf

The Jesse Thomas Cemetery is "Assumed Lost" according to 'Cemetery Inscriptions, Pike County, Mississippi 1750-1978' by Ray & June Sartin Parish. (Page 698). The cemetery location given is 'NE 1/4 of Sec 27 T3 R9 on the N side of Leatherwood Creek about 300-400 yards S of the Holmesville -Smyrna Road (entrance through a pasture .8 mile E of Topisaw Bridge. Reported by Frank Lewis Brown, Kentwood, LA. Site searched for by him, A. E. Andrews and Ray Parish on March 4, 1978. Searched again by Frank Brown, A. E. Andrews and Mrs. Ruth Williams Statham on March 18, 1978.' Members of the Jesse Thomas family and slaves are buried there.

The Thomas place was a large two-story house located on the north side of Leatherwood Creek. Although the cemetery cannot be located today, the house site can. C. Jerome Moak (b. 1899, living 1978) and Ruth Williams Statham (b. 1899, living 1978) vouch for its existence as late as the 19-teens, the former living on the adjoining farm and latter having lived in the Thomas house as a child. This land was patented by Robert Love January 22, 1818.

The Thomas Place, the Thomas Ford Place (across Leatherwood) and the Thomas name are names closely associated with the prosperous planters on Leatherwood. Early Thomas men moved elsewhere in Mississippi by the 1840's except for Jesse Thomas who remained and reared a family. His sons and daughters intermarried into other known Pike County families.

Jacksonville was a perfect name for our first seat of justice. Col. Carroll had traveled through this area on his way to meet Andrew Jackson for the Battle of New Orleans. It is noted in Luke Ward Conerly's book that on his return trip one of his men died and was buried on the bank of the Bogue Chitto River. Obed Kirkland was a ensign in the war, son's of William Bullock and Peter Felder and other notable Pike County soldiers were

President's Corner

...Rick Penick

Thanks to Janice Brock for hosting our July cookout at her beautiful camp on the Bogue Chitto River. We had a good attendance from members, many guests, and great food so a good time was had by all.



(Picture with names is posted on our website.)

We had a light response on going to Natchez for the 'Angels on the Bluff' Cemetery Tour so dropped the idea of our sponsoring a group trip. It's on November 5-7 and tickets are \$25. If you're interest in going on your own, contact the Natchez Visitor Reception Center at 1-800-647-6724 for tickets and information.

The trip to Vicksburg is still in the works but it's probably going to be in the spring before we can work it in.

Pike County Bicentennial

Plans for the Bicentennial activities are coming along. A print of the Holmesville Courthouse and a copy of the Official Pike County Bicentennial Proclamation are on sale for \$5.00 each with the money to go to fund Bicentennial events. Saturday, November 14, has been chosen as the day for the main activities and unveiling of the plaque at the Holmesville Courthouse.

The next planning session is at 6 PM September 14 at the McComb Library meeting room and the public is invited. You can keep up with the Bicentennial Events on the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pike-County-Bicentennial-Celebration/500733736754141>

also in the war. Since the battle of New Orleans was fought December 5, 1815, and Jacksonville was founded shortly afterwards, it was good way to show appreciation for their efforts.

I have enjoyed this research and am disappointed that the exact location has not been found for Jacksonville. I will pursue this search if additional insight can be obtained. Any suggestions or ideas for research would be appreciated. You can contact me at paulwalker@bellsouth.net.

Paul Walker

September Meeting

September 29 at 6 PM at
McComb Library Meeting Room

Speaker:

Grady Howell, Author and
Historian at the MS Dept. of Archives & History

New Books at the PAWLS

by Monica Wilkinson, Genealogy Librarian

Residents of the Natchez District: 1784

by Carroll Ainsworth McElligot / G 929.309762 MCE

Little Railroads which Helped Build Communities

A Study of Southeast Louisiana Railroads

by E. E. Puls / G 385.09763 PUL

Autobiography & Stories of Henry P. Lewis, Itinerant Minister

New, revised edition, with added stories & photos about Methodism, the times & places in Mississippi, as well as Henry's ancestors, his wife, Rebecca Tillery & their children, well sourced with new, detailed index
Compiled by Martha A. McKay & Edward Allen / G B LEWIS

William Magee and Mary Margaret James

And Their Descendants, 1770-1993 / G 929.2 MAG

The Youngblood Family

Some Descendants of Three Generations:
Benjamin and Susannah (Collins) Youngblood (Marion County, MS) Henry and Sarah (Harvey) Youngblood John Pearl and Matilda Elias (Norwood) Youngblood Of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas Compiled by Reba Holmes Brown / G 929.2 YOU

The Richest Poor Man of Two Centuries

The true story of our daddy, Claude Boone (1895-1965) Written and compiled by A. D. Boone, a family member Sartinsville, Mississippi (Published in Summit, MS) / G 929.4 BOO