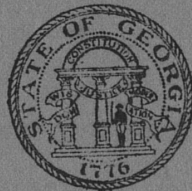


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INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES OF GEORGIA

NO. 32 CLINCH COUNTY
(HOMERVILLE)



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INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF GEORGIA

NO. 32. CLINCH COUNTY (HOMERVILLE)

Prepared by

The Georgia Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration

* * * * *

Atlanta, Georgia
The Georgia Historical Records Survey
September 1940

INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Historical Records Survey Program

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Clinch County Commissioners of
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FOREWORD

The Inventory of the County Archives of Georgia is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey Program of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Clinch County, is No. 32 of the Georgia series.

The Historical Records Survey Program was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, businessmen, and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey attempt to do more than give merely a list of records - they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire county will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey Program, even in a single county, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey Program was organized by Luther H. Evans, who served as Director until March 1940, when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child, who had been National Field Supervisor since the inauguration of the Survey. The Survey Program operates as a Nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

F. C. HARRINGTON
Commissioner

PREFACE

The Historical Records Survey in Georgia was organized in October 1936, as an independent State unit of the Nation-wide Federal Project No. 1 of the Works Progress Administration, under the supervision of Dr. Luther H. Evans, National Director. The project at the beginning was set up as a part of the Federal Writers' Project, and is indebted to Mrs. Carolyn P. Dillard, State Director of the Project, for its initiation. Miss Annie Laurie Hill was in charge of the Historical Records Survey as Assistant State Supervisor under Mrs. Dillard until November 1936, when the survey was separated from the Writers' Project. Raiford J. Wood was named State Director in November 1936 and served in such capacity until July 1939, at which time Philip Warren was placed in charge of the project. On September 1, 1939, the transfer of the Survey from a Federal project to the status of a State-wide project was effected. Mr. Warren resigned as State Supervisor of the project September 11, 1940, and the present writer was named Assistant State Supervisor in Charge.

The principal objective of the Survey in Georgia is to prepare complete inventories of the public archives of the State and its political subdivisions, and to make readily accessible to research students and historians this large store of source material. Such a survey should greatly aid and encourage a more systematic study of local governmental structure and should point the way to an improvement in the methods of storage and preservation of both current and non-current records.

The arrangement of agencies in Part B of the inventory classifies them according to governmental function: Administration; registration of property titles; administration of justice; law enforcement; finance; elections; education; health; welfare; public works; and miscellaneous. Records are classified, in general, according to the agencies which make them, unless other disposition of the records is directed by law. Under agencies, records have been classified insofar as possible, according to the subject with which they deal.

Records are described in entries whose style is formalized to give the following information: Title of record, dates for which available, quantity, labeling of volumes or containers, information on missing records of discontinuance, variant titles, manner of arrangement, indexing, and location. These title-line entries differ from full entries used in other County Inventories in that they do not give a description of record contents, nature of recording, or size of volumes or containers.

The Survey is now engaged in preparing a comprehensive statement of the general law regulating county government; to be entitled County Government in Georgia. It is expected that this book will serve as a handbook on the organization, structure, and evolution of county government in Georgia, and will make it unnecessary to repeat certain items of general information in the various inventories. The office essays in this inventory are, therefore, limited to the creation of the office and its present status, the manner in which it is filled, the term, and special legislation affecting Clinch County. Pending issuance of the volume on County Government in Georgia, it is suggested that the reader consult the Inventory of the County Archives of Georgia,

No. 81, Jefferson County, for more detailed essays than those found in the Clinch County inventory.

The Inventory of the County Archives of Georgia will, when completed, consist of a separate, numbered volume for each county in the State. Each county unit of the series is numbered according to its respective position in an alphabetical list of Georgia's 159 counties. Thus, the Inventory of Clinch County becomes No. 32, in accordance with such list. The inventories of the State archives, of municipal and other local records, will constitute separate publications.

The Survey was begun in Clinch County in June 1938, and the initial field work was completed in August of that year. The initial inventory was rechecked in May and June of 1940. For the completeness and accuracy of the inventory of the records, the field workers are responsible. The essays, entries, and other sections of the Inventory were prepared by the State Office staff.

The Georgia staff has profited in all phases of its work by the constructive advice and criticism of the National Office.

The publication of this volume is made possible through the assistance rendered on behalf of Clinch County by the Commissioners of Roads and Revenues. The valuable assistance rendered by other officials of Clinch County is also gratefully acknowledged.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made for the aid given by the various workers and officials of the State and District offices of the Work Projects Administration.

N. Cecil Hill
Assistant State Supervisor in Charge
The Georgia Historical Records Survey

Atlanta, Georgia
September 1940

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1. CLINCH COUNTY HISTORICAL SKETCH

Creation and Boundaries

Clinch County was created by an act of the General Assembly of Georgia on February 14, 1850, the ninety-fourth county to be created in the State of Georgia.(1) The county was named in honor of General Duncan Lamont Clinch (1787-1849), a prominent Georgian who saw service in the War of 1812 and in the Seminole War of 1835-36, and who later was a Representative in Congress. (2) At the time of its creation Clinch County was considerably larger than it is today. Parts of its territory have been added to other counties and its boundaries have been changed many times. In 1854 Coffee County was partially formed from Clinch.(3) From that year to 1877 the line between Clinch and Coffee Counties was altered no less than eight times.(4) In the latter year that line was defined and established by the General Assembly.(5) Echols County was formed in part from Clinch in 1858.(6) The line between Clinch and Ware Counties was changed slightly in 1876,(7) and a number of years later the General Assembly ordered the ordinaries of the two counties to appoint a person from each county to run the line, "plainly marking the same and setting a solid lightwood post at the end of every mile, having the letters 'C. L.' plainly cut on one face of each post."(8) In 1917 Atkinson County was formed from Clinch and Coffee Counties,(9) and two years later Lanier County was partly formed from territory embraced in Clinch County.(10)

Physical Characteristics

Clinch County is centrally situated in the extreme southern part of the State of Georgia. It is bounded generally on the north by Atkinson County, on the east by Ware County, on the south by the State of Florida and Echols County, and on the west by Lanier County. The soil is sandy, making the county better adapted to the production of naval stores and lumber than to extensive agricultural operations.(11) The streams of Clinch County are not large. All of them, with the exception of Red Bluff Creek, flow in a southerly direction and empty either into the Okefenokee Swamp or into the Suwannee River, which has its origin in the swamp. The largest of these streams are Suwanoochee, East Fork, and Jones Creeks, all of which flow into the Suwannee River in the southeastern portion of the county.(12) Most of the drainage of Clinch County therefore falls into the Gulf of Mexico.

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- 1) Ga. Code of 1933, #23-101; Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 2) Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927 (Washington, 1928), 823, 824.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1853-54, pp. 294-296.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1855-56, pp. 126, 127; 1862, p. 80; 1863, pp. 206, 207; 1870, pp. 26, 27; 1872, p. 402; 1876, pp. 304, 305.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1877, p. 280.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1858, pp. 37-40.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1876, p. 304.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1889, p. 1138.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1917, pp. 41-44.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1919, pp. 69-72.
 - 11) Information from the United States Geological Survey, Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.
 - 12) United States Geological Survey, (Map of) State of Georgia, A. F. Hassan, cartographer (compiled in 1932).

Creation and Organization of the County

By a treaty with the Creek Indians concluded at Fort Jackson in 1814, the State of Georgia acquired a vast strip of territory south and southwest of the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers. In 1818 the General Assembly laid out the counties of Early, Irwin, and Appling from this Creek cession.(1) In 1824 Ware County was created from Appling County,(2) and a year later Lowndes County was created from Irwin County.(3) On February 14, 1850, the General Assembly laid out Clinch County from the counties of Ware and Lowndes. It is impossible now to trace accurately the original boundary of the county. It commenced "at the mouth of Cane Creek, where it empties into the Okefenokee Swamp, thence along said Creek to the ford at Daniel Lane's, thence a direct line to the mouth of Reedy Creek where it empties into the Saltillo river near John B. Walls, then the river to be the line to the county line, thence the county line to the Allapaha river, thence the river to be the line to the Florida line, to the Okefenokee Swamp...." Five commissioners were appointed to employ a person to run and mark the lines at the expense of Clinch County and to fix upon a site for public buildings.(4)

The creating act empowered the commissioners to lay out the town of Polk and sell lots in the town for county purposes. All civil and military officers within the limits of the new county were continued in office, and an election for the various county officers was ordered held on the first Monday in April "at the house of Jonathan Knight, and at the different election precincts that are established by law...." The justices of the inferior court were empowered to carry out any business not done by the commissioners. All pending cases in the counties of Ware and Lowndes in which the defendant was a resident of the new county were transferred to the courts of Clinch. (5) The first officers elected for the county were: J. C. Kirkland, clerk of the superior and inferior courts; Charles Cowart, sheriff; Benjamin Cornelius, tax receiver; Ezekiel J. Sirmans, tax collector; David J. Blackburn, surveyor; Joseph L. Rogers, coroner; and David Johnson, Isham F. Johnson, Hiram Sears, and Manning Smith, justices of the inferior court.(6)

County Sites and Courthouses

The act of the General Assembly creating Clinch County provided that the superior and inferior courts and the courts of ordinary should be held at the house of Jonathan Knight until there was a courthouse for the county.(7)

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1818, pp. 27-40.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1824, p. 44.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1825, p. 54.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1849-50, p. 126. The commissioners were Elijah Mattox, Simon W. Nichol, Timothy Kirkland, Benjamin Sumon, and John J. Johnson.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1849-50, p. 127.
 - 6) Folks Huxford, History of Clinch County, Georgia ... (Macon, Georgia, 1916), 35. For some reason Blackburn did not qualify as surveyor and he was followed by Francis H. McCall. Only four justices of the inferior courts were elected. Possibly a justice of the inferior courts of either Ware or Lowndes Counties was resident in the new county. If so, he probably became the fifth justice in Clinch County according to law.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1849-50, p. 126.

Knight had previously been the first Representative of Lowndes County in the State legislature and his house was located about two miles north of the present town of DuPont.(1) The town of Polk, mentioned in the act creating the county, was named for James Knox Polk, former President of the United States. The first courthouse of Clinch County was not built there until the winter of 1852.(2) In January of that year the name of the county seat was changed from Polk to Magnolia,(3) which was incorporated in 1854.(4) Magnolia was always a small village, located approximately in the center of the county. The principal street ran from east to west, and the county buildings were situated on the north side of this street. A few stores and houses made up the rest of the village. The contract for the first courthouse was let by the inferior court to John and Elias Moore. It was a small wooden building and in 1856 was destroyed by fire, which was generally thought to be the work of an incendiary. Shortly afterwards another courthouse was constructed. This building was later moved to Homerville.(5)

Early in 1853 Dr. John Homer Mattox moved from the Suwannee River, and built a home and cleared a farm along the stagecoach route leading to Magnolia. The mail stages made his farm a point at which to change horses, and Dr. Mattox began calling the stop "Homerville," to which place mail began to be addressed. When the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad was constructed from Savannah to this point, the place was designated by the railroad as "Station No. 11" and mail was generally addressed to "Homerville, Station No. 11, A. & G. R. R." By 1859 the railroad was built to the town of DuPont and extended through the county during the following year. There began considerable agitation for the removal of the county site.(6) About 275 citizens of the county signed a petition asking the General Assembly to remove the county seat from Magnolia to Station No. 11. Dr. Mattox, who championed the change, gave bond to the inferior court that the removal would be made without expense to the county. Accordingly, in 1860 the General Assembly empowered the inferior court to move the county buildings on lot of land number 498 "at such time and upon such terms as they may deem advisable...."(7)

The exact date of the removal is not known. John Moore and Martin S. Corbitt were given the contract to remove the courthouse and Dr. Mattox employed Corbitt and Jackson S. Williams to rebuild it. The two-room log jail at Magnolia was not removed and a new one was constructed at Homerville. With the coming of the county buildings, several retail stores—first of log and then of plank—a number of houses, and even a hotel followed. A sawmill was soon built at Homerville, but the Civil War retarded the growth of the new seat of Clinch County.(8) The town was not incorporated until February 15, 1869, when five commissioners(9) were appointed by the General Assembly.

1) Huxford, op. cit., 11, 34.

2) Ibid., 36.

3) Ga. Acts 1851-52, p. 455.

4) Ga. Acts 1853-54, pp. 257, 258.

5) Huxford, op. cit., 36-38.

6) Ibid., 43-45.

7) Ga. Acts 1860, p. 165.

8) Huxford, op. cit., 46, 47.

9) Allen Smith, Alfred Nawbern, Joel Strickland, John J. Johnson, and B. G. O'Bryan.

The limits of the town extended one-half mile in every direction from the courthouse. The commissioners were to choose a president from their own number and to appoint a marshal, treasurer, and clerk. They were empowered to levy a tax on real and personal property, to tax "ten-pin alleys, billiard tables, and other establishments calculated to encourage idleness..." to regulate or prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors, and to call out residents five days in each year for road duty.(1)

The courthouse which had been moved from Magnolia to Homerville was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1867. The fire took place at night and was thought to have been incendiary. The building and all county records were destroyed. The loss of the building was not a great loss, but the destruction of the records, especially deeds, proved to be a great inconvenience. The inferior court shortly afterwards awarded a contract for a new courthouse to James Kussell, a native of Scotland and a carpenter by trade, who was then living at Homerville. In the interim a store building was rented from Sylvanus Hitch for use of the courts. Within a year a new courthouse, the third in the county, was built. It was a two-story wooden building, somewhat smaller than the previous courthouse, with outside stairs leading to the second floor.(2) In September 1868 the grand jury of the Clinch superior court recommended that "the room upstairs in the court-house be reserved for religious purposes for various denominations for all time to come."(3) This third courthouse served the county until the construction of the present building in 1895-96.

The contract for the courthouse now in use in Clinch County was let by a committee appointed by the ordinary in 1895 to T. J. Darling, of Waycross, Georgia. It was built on the site of the old courthouse, which building was sold at auction to a group of Primitive Baptists, who removed it and used it as a church for a few years.(4) This courthouse was remodeled in 1936. A jail built in 1873 of hewn logs was replaced in 1893 with a two-story brick building with steel cells.(5)

Considerable agitation for the removal of the county site from Homerville took place during the eighties and nineties. On being presented with a petition signed by a number of the residents of the county, the ordinary called an election on July 3, 1885, to let the people choose between DuPont and Homerville for the county site. Barbecues, public balls, and other attractions took place in the competing towns. The vote showed that a majority of five of those voting favored DuPont, but a majority of two-thirds was required by law to remove the county seat. A similar election took place in 1893, but the county seat remained, and remains, at Homerville.(6)

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1869, pp. 80, 81. The following year the limit of road duty was extended to 15 days in each year.—Ga. Acts 1870, p. 206.
 - 2) Huxford, *op. cit.*, 75.
 - 3) Quoted in *ibid.*, 75.
 - 4) Huxford, *op. cit.*, 90, 91. For a description of the present courthouse of Clinch County, see Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records, *infra*, p. 18.
 - 5) Huxford, *op. cit.*, 77, 90.
 - 6) *Ibid.*, 79, 86, 87.

The Land and the People

The first white persons known to have settled on the land which became Clinch County made their homes in the Mud Creek district, then in Irwin County, in December 1822. About the same time Joseph Sirmans, Sr., his four sons and three nephews, Moses, John, and William Tomlinson, and David Johnson settled along the Alapaha River near the present site of Stockton.(1) William Smith, a Primitive Baptist preacher, settled on Red Bluff Creek about 1823. (2) Gradually other settlers came into the region to make their homes. Generally dressed in homespun, these early settlers were "plain men, honest and thrifty."(3) Constantly harassed by the hostile Seminole Indians, they finally put an end to these depredations by the red man in 1836. A number of the settlers were killed in the Indian war of that year before the Seminoles were pushed out of the Okefenokee Swamp back into Florida.(4)

Little progress was made in Clinch County until the construction of the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad just prior to the Civil War. What produce the farmers had for market was sent to Brunswick or some other point over the poor roads in caravans of wagons drawn by oxen. The owner of the wagons generally took a percentage of the proceeds of the sales in payment for the transportation. On the return trip the wagons brought those articles which the inhabitants needed. Frequently such a trip required two or three months. Stagecoaches were practically the only means of communication with other parts of the country. A line of stages ran from Waresboro through Magnolia and into Lowndes County. Another ran from Troupville in Lowndes through the Mud Creek district, making a connection with the other stage.(5)

The census of Clinch County in 1850 showed a total of only 637 persons in the county, of which 506 were whites. In 1860 there were more than three thousand persons in the county in spite of the fact that a part had just gone into the formation of Echols.(6) Generally the farms in Clinch County during the antebellum period were small. Of the 225 farms listed in the county in 1859, 183 were between 10 and 100 acres. Ninety-three of these were between twenty and fifty acres in size. Ten of the farms in Clinch were between three and ten acres. The largest farms in the county numbered 32 and contained between 100 and 500 acres of land. In 1860 there were 11,602 acres of improved land and 154,393 acres of unimproved lands in the county. The cash value of the farms was placed at \$368,176 and the livestock at \$135,751. Only 216 bales of cotton were produced in 1859, which indicates that other crops were raised on the farms. Much corn and sweet potatoes and some sugar and molasses were produced.(7)

That Clinch County was a region of small farms is further demonstrated by the number of Negro slaves and slaveholders in 1860. There were only 74

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- 1) Huxford, op. cit., 11, 20. In 1919 Stockton was included in the new county of Lanier.
 - 2) Huxford, op. cit., 21.
 - 3) Ibid., 17.
 - 4) Ibid., 12-16.
 - 5) Ibid., 12, 16.
 - 6) See Population of Clinch County, 1850-1940, infra, p. 13.
 - 7) Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Agriculture of the United States, 22, 23, 25, 196.

slaveholders in the county in that year. Of this number 61 owned less than 10 slaves each. Six owned from ten to fifteen each, and five from fifteen to twenty. Of the two largest slaveholders in the county, one owned from twenty to thirty slaves, and the other from thirty to forty.(1)

The Civil War and Reconstruction

Clinch County did not suffer from the Civil War and the Reconstruction period as severely as did some other sections of Georgia. No fighting took place within the bounds of the county; and, after the war, the small number of Negroes was never a menace to white control of the county.

To the convention of the people of Georgia which met in Milledgeville in January 1861, Clinch County sent Benjamin Sirmans and T. G. Ramsey, who were instructed to vote in favor of the secession of the State from the Union. Sirmans was one of the first settlers in Clinch County and had been a member of the Senate of Georgia. Ramsey had been a justice of the Clinch inferior court for a number of years.(2)

In spite of the relatively small number of people in the county, many men from Clinch saw service in the war. A military company was formed at Stockton in July 1861 and left for the front on the last day of that month. This company became Company H of the 29th Georgia Regiment, and its captain was Francis M. Jackson. A few months later another company composed of men from the counties of Clinch and Ware was organized under Colonel William A. McDonald and became Company K of the 28th Georgia Regiment. On March 4, 1862, Company G of the 50th Georgia Regiment was formed at Homerville and left for the battlefields a month later. Its captain was John Riley O'Steen. A company of cavalry was organized on the first day of 1863 at Homerville, headed by Colonel John C. Nichols, and became Company I of the 4th Georgia Cavalry. Clinch County men served in a number of other companies organized in other counties. There were six captains in the war from the county, some of whom rose to higher ranks. John R. O'Steen, Reuben Y. Stanford, and Isaac Burkhalter were killed in battle. John C. Nichols, Quarterman B. Staten, and Francis M. Jackson survived the war.(3)

Although no battles were fought in the county, many refugees from the war zones found a haven there. A large number of immigrants came into the county during and after the war.(4) The effect of the war can be seen by a 65 percent decrease in property values of the county from 1860 to 1868.(5) A large part of the decrease was no doubt due to the extinction of property in Negroes. Throughout the period of Reconstruction, Clinch County remained in debt.(6)

1) Ibid., 226.

2) Huxford, op. cit., 56.

3) Ibid., 57, 65, 66. For a list of the Civil War soldiers from Clinch County, see Huxford, op. cit., 59-65. A camp of Confederate Veterans was organized in the county in 1899. At that time there were 47 survivors of the Civil War in Clinch County.—Ibid., 91.

4) Huxford, op. cit., 57, 58, 67-70.

5) Ibid., 71.

6) Ibid., 75, 76.

In 1868 Clinch County voted for Rufus B. Bulloch, the "Radical" or Republican candidate for Governor. The vote was due to a large degree to the enfranchisement of the Negro. However, there seems never to have been a trace of the Ku Klux Klan in the county. A Democratic mass meeting on September 1, 1868, at Homerville passed resolutions supporting the Democratic ticket and pledging the supporters not to employ any Negro, or sell or rent land, or in any way extend aid to any Negro who supported the Radical ticket. The county elected Radical Republican members of the State legislature, but in every case they were natives of the county and not "carpetbaggers." After 1870 no Radical was elected in the county and according to the grand jury the county was tranquil in 1871.(1)

Post-War Development

The social and economic development of Clinch County has taken place in large measure since the days of the Civil War. The population of the county increased by nearly nine hundred between 1860 and 1870, reaching nearly four thousand persons. In 1900 the total population had more than doubled since 1870, reaching an all time high of 8,732. The greatest increase by far was among the Negro population, which in the 30-year period increased sevenfold. Due to the formation of new counties and to other causes, the population has shown a steady decrease since 1900. In 1930 there was a total of slightly more than seven thousand inhabitants of the county, of which more than forty-three percent were colored.(2) A preliminary report shows that the population in 1940 is 6,427, a decrease of over 500 persons in the last decade.(3)

Since the Reconstruction period Clinch County has voted Democratic with few exceptions. In 1876 a split occurred among the Democrats of the county and an independent was elected to the State legislature. This representative was reelected two years later, but harmony was restored in the Democratic ranks. About 1890 the Populist (or People's) Party made considerable inroads in county politics. In that year Dr. L. C. Mattox, a leader of the new political party, was elected over the Democratic candidate to the legislature. The Populists also elected W. A. Ecord as clerk of the superior court of Clinch County. The DuPont Guide, a weekly newspaper devoted to the Populist cause, was established in the early nineties at DuPont by W. F. Miley, but ceased publication about 1896. The party declined as rapidly in the county as it had risen. In 1898 the average Populist vote in the county was 325; two years later it had dwindled to fifty.(4) Since then the Democrats have had little trouble holding their political dominance in Clinch.

The most significant economic development in Clinch County since Reconstruction has been the naval stores industry. Before the Civil War the State of Georgia produced a negligible amount of turpentine and resin. By 1880 the State was producing nearly a fourth of that produced in the United States, and ten years later Georgia was providing the world with more than half of that

1) Huxford, op. cit., 72, 73, 76.

2) See Population of Clinch County 1850-1940, infra, p. 13.

3) Preliminary announcement by Turner L. Smith, Manager, Area 16, Bureau of the Census, Macon, Georgia, July 19, 1940.

4) Huxford, op. cit., 73, 74, 87, 89.

produced in this country.(1) The first turpentine still in Clinch County began operation in 1866, two miles west of Homerville under the ownership of William M. Nichols and A. S. Bigelow. Two years later John L. Morgan, Sr., and his son set up a steam saw and grist mill.(2) In 1870 only one manufacturing establishment was listed in the county which was probably the Morgan business. This enterprise employed 25 hands and its products for the year were valued at \$21,450.(3) During the seventies H. A. and H. P. Mattox opened a turpentine and mercantile business at Homerville, operating several stills a few miles from the town. A new turpentine business was opened in 1875 by some "new comers" from South Carolina with a capital of \$12,000. As the years followed new companies were formed and the naval stores industry became the most important one in the county.(4) The growth of the naval stores and lumbering industries accounts for the large gains in the population of the county, especially of the colored inhabitants whose labor were needed in these operations.

The pine trees in the region were slashed from spring until early fall in such a manner that the resin drips into tin cups fastened beneath the cuts. At present there about four million trees in the county which are being used for the production of turpentine and resin.(5) In 1937 there were 21 manufacturing establishments in Clinch County whose products were valued at \$1,220,477.(6) The naval stores and lumber industry accounts for practically the entire industrial production of the county. For the conservation of the pine trees, firebreaks, telephone lines, and watch towers have been established. The State and an association of lumbermen share the expense of retaining inspectors, who work under the supervision of the State Division of Forestry and report by telephone to Homerville from the tops of the towers.

Less than a tenth of the 478,080 acres of land in Clinch County was laid out in farms in 1935. There were 341 farms, of which number 297 were operated by white farmers and 44 by colored. The percentage of farm tenancy in the county is much less than in some other parts of Georgia. Of the 341 farms, 204 are fully owned by the operators and 134 are tenant farms. These farms are valued at \$458,010, including the land and buildings.(7) Most of the farms are comparatively small. Fifty-three are under ten acres each. A large majority (147) are between ten and fifty acres in size. Thirteen of the farms range in size between five hundred and a thousand acres, and only three farms contain more than a thousand.(8)

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- 1) Gamble's International Naval Stores Year Book for 1930-31 (n.p., n.d.), 65.
 - 2) Huxford, op. cit., 48.
 - 3) Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, The Statistics of the Wealth and Industry of the United States, 506.
 - 4) Huxford, op. cit., 48-52.
 - 5) Information from the United States Forest Service, Atlanta. There are 3,751,000 "faces" or slashed trees in the county whose owners are co-operating with the Naval Stores Conservation program of the United States Government. These are between 80 and 90 percent of the pines being used for naval stores in the county.
 - 6) Biennial Census of Manufactures: 1937, I, 1444, 1445.
 - 7) United States Census of Agriculture: 1935, I, 496.
 - 8) Ibid., II, Second Series, 520.

The decade from 1880 to 1890 was a period of great excitement over the prospects of railroad building. In 1881 the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad Company was incorporated to run from Macon by way of Homerville or DuPont, in Clinch County, to the Florida line.(1) However, four years later the charter of this railroad was amended whereby the route was changed, running through Lowndes instead of Clinch County.(2) In 1887 two railroads were incorporated running through the county at the instigation of a group of citizens of the county and some capitalists from New York. The DuPont, Macon and Florida Railway was to run from Macon through DuPont to the Florida line.(3) The DuPont, Decatur, Alabama and Florida Air-Line Railroad was to pass through DuPont with its ultimate destination at Jacksonville, Florida. A branch road was planned from DuPont to Milltown in Berrien County.(4) These grand projects, however, came to naught and the charters soon lapsed. It was at this time that the town of DuPont was the most enthusiastic about having the county seat located there.(5)

About 1900 the Southern Railroad built a line through the southern end of the county to Jacksonville, Florida. At the point where the railroad crosses the Suwannee River, a group of eastern capitalists erected a large sawmill, which became the flourishing lumber town of Fargo. The villages of Colon and Council also grew up along this railroad in the southern part of Clinch County, bordering the Okefenokee Swamp.(6) At present the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad extends through the central part of the county, running through the towns of Argyle, Homerville, and DuPont. A branch of the same road runs from DuPont south into Florida.

As in most parts of the State the Baptist and Methodist churches predominate in Clinch County. Few of the present congregations can trace their history to the years prior to the Civil War, for many of the churches of that period have either become extinct or were removed. Robert F. Lanier, a circuit rider of the Methodist Episcopal Church, moved to the county in 1857 and preached to the various congregations of that faith. A Methodist church at Homerville used the courthouse for a meeting place until a building was erected in 1875 on a lot granted by the railroad company. A new building and parsonage was erected in 1913-14. A non-denominational Sunday school, begun in 1863 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Crum, was taken over by the Methodists of Homerville in 1876. Two years later the Methodists established an open-air tabernacle in the same place for revivals and camp-meetings. The Lott Memorial Methodist Church was established at DuPont around 1880 and a new building dedicated in 1899. Other early Methodist churches in Clinch County are Antioch Methodist Church, several miles south of Argyle; the Shiloh Methodist Church, established in 1875; and the Argyle Methodist Church, established in 1887.(7)

Prior to the Civil War the Baptists of Homerville worshipped at a church

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1880-81, p. 277.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1884-85, p. 269.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1887, pp. 153, 154.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1887, p. 196.
 - 5) Huxford, *op. cit.*, 84, 85.
 - 6) *Ibid.*, 85, 86.
 - 7) *Ibid.*, 40, 106-111, 114-124.

on Cane Creek, founded around 1852, about three miles from the town. After the war the Baptists used the courthouse and the Methodist Church for their services. In 1880 they built a frame church in the town. This building was used until the construction of a brick church in 1912. One of the oldest Baptist churches in Clinch County is Prospect Church, begun early in 1859, four miles north of DuPont.(1)

The period following Reconstruction witnessed the growth of the movement for the prohibition of intoxicating liquors. The demand for the restricted sale of liquors led to legislation on the subject. Cheap licenses made liquor selling a lucrative business, and most of the general stores had bar-rooms attached to them. In 1876 the license for retailing in Homerville was raised to a hundred dollars annually.(2) Five years later by an act of the General Assembly the license fee to sell liquors in Clinch County was raised to \$1,500 per annum.(3) In 1889 the act creating a board of commissioners for the county fixed the minimum cost of liquor licenses at \$10,000, which was, in effect, a prohibition of its sale in the county.(4) A few years later Clinch County went "dry" by adopting the State local option law.(5)

In addition to the Populist newspaper, the DuPont Guide, published during the 1890's, Clinch County has had several other weekly papers. The first in the county was The DuPont Okefenokean, begun around 1876 at DuPont by J. P. A. DuPont, but failed after a year or so. Around 1882 E. J. Benton established The Wiregrass Cracker at Homerville. This newspaper was the official organ of Clinch County during its brief life. In the latter part of 1894 M. E. Tison established the Homerville Chronicle. Three years later the name of this newspaper was changed to The Clinch County News, which is being published today.(6)

The development of the public school system in Clinch County has taken place almost wholly since the Civil War. Until 1868 the inferior court administered whatever poor or common schools existed in the county. In 1870 a board of education was established composed of one member elected from each militia district. The secretary of the board was ex officio county school commissioner. Two years later the system was changed. The board was then composed of five members elected by the grand jury. Later the county school commissioner was elected by popular vote, and in 1911 the name changed to county school superintendent.(7)

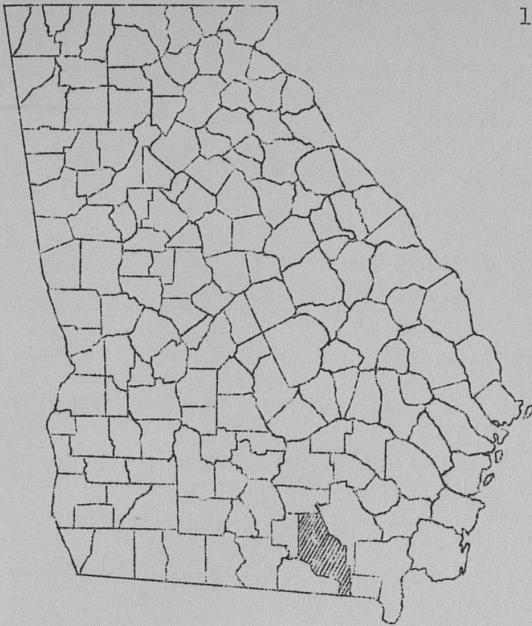
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- 1) Huxford, op. cit., 116, 117, 127, 128.
 - 2) Ibid., 83.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1880-81, p. 601.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1889, p. 1106.
 - 5) Huxford, op. cit., 83.
 - 6) Ibid., 87, 88. Also, see entries 47, 87, 111.
 - 7) Huxford, op. cit., 99, 100. The first board of education in Clinch County elected in January 1871 was composed of Josiah Sirmans, Sr., H. D. O'Quin, Moses Tomlinson, Duncan Giddens, W. J. Strickland, Elias L. Moore. O'Quin was made secretary and school commissioner, which position he held from 1871 to 1882. The first board of education to be elected by the grand jury (in April 1872) was composed of D. H. Johnson, H. A. Mattox, W. J. Rivers, S. W. Register, and Charles A. Griffis. The first two named were elected for four years; the others, for two years.

However, in spite of legal provisions, the growth of schools was slow. In 1873 Commissioner O'Quin reported to the grand jury that about \$800 had been received by the county for education for the fiscal year. He wished to organize one or more 3-month schools in each militia district. Four years later O'Quin said that he had appointed school trustees in four districts, had licensed twenty teachers, and contracted with sixteen. Schools were irregular even at Homerville prior to 1895. In that year DuBignon Institute was built largely through the generosity of F. G. DuBignon. The two and a half story building was destroyed by fire in 1909, and was replaced by a brick structure erected by the sale of town bonds in the amount of \$8,000. The town of Homerville owns DuBignon Institute, which is administered by local school authorities.(1) In 1938 the county had a total of 22 schools, 8 white and 14 colored. Five of the white schools had under five teachers, and thirteen of the colored schools had only one or two teachers each. One of the white schools employed seventeen teachers and one school seven. The county has three standard elementary schools, one approved junior high school, and one accredited senior high school. The total number of pupils enrolled in 1938 was 1,959.(2)

Clinch County has a number of small towns in addition to the county seat. The town of DuPont was begun in 1858 by J. P. A. DuPont who came to the county from Darien, Georgia. The settlement was known as "Station No. 12" when the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad was run to that point. The town was named Suwannoochee, Lawton, and finally DuPont.(3) The extension of the railroad gave rise to other towns. Stockton, originally Registerville, was named in honor of the man who had charge of the grading for the railroad and was incorporated in 1876.(4) Argyle, located on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in the eastern part of Clinch County, was first named Saussy. The town was incorporated in 1901.(5) Cogdell was originally known as Hodges, the name being changed when the Waycross and Western Railroad was built and a post office located there.(6) Homerville, the county seat and the largest town in Clinch, obtained the service of telephone in 1910 and electric lights and a water plant several years later. In 1937 the town government was replaced with a city government by action of the General Assembly.(7)

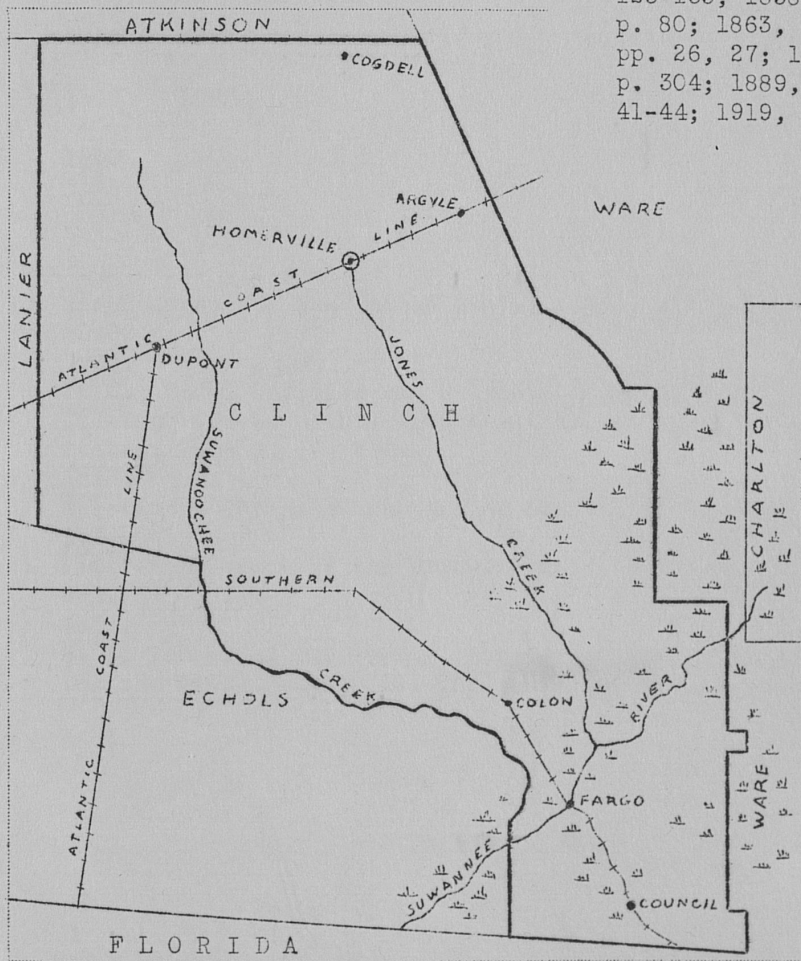
Flem C. Dame was the first school commissioner elected by popular vote. For other provisions relating to Clinch County schools, see Ga. Acts 1872, pp. 490-492; 1877, pp. 348, 349.

- 1) Huxford, op. cit., 49, 51, 100, 101, 104.
- 2) Georgia State Department of Education, 66th and 67th Annual Reports, 9, 11, 13, 139, 141.
- 3) Huxford, op. cit., 77, 78. For various charters of DuPont, see Ga. Acts 1874, pp. 156, 157; 1884-85, pp. 315, 316; 1889, pp. 1056-1065; 1911, pp. 1115-1123.
- 4) Huxford, op. cit., 80; Ga. Acts 1876, pp. 151, 152. Stockton is now in Lanier County.
- 5) Huxford, op. cit., 92; Ga. Acts 1901, pp. 301-305.
- 6) Huxford, op. cit., 96.
- 7) Ibid., 53. For laws regarding the incorporation of Homerville, see Ga. Acts 1869, pp. 80, 81; 1870, pp. 206, 207; 1876, p. 167; 1896, pp. 187-191; 1907, pp. 723-728; 1926, Ex. Sess., pp. 114, 115; 1927, pp. 1215-1228; 1933, pp. 989-993; 1937, pp. 1921-1971.



Current map of Georgia showing location of Clinch County (shaded) therein.

The boundaries of Clinch County have been changed several times by the General Assembly. (Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126-127; 1853-54, pp. 294-296; 1855-56, pp. 125-135; 1858, pp. 37-40; 1862, p. 80; 1863, pp. 206, 207; 1870, pp. 26, 27; 1872, p. 402; 1876, p. 304; 1889, p. 1138; 1917, pp. 41-44; 1919, pp. 68-72).



Current map of Clinch County

POPULATION OF CLINCH COUNTY 1850-1940

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Free Persons of Color</u>	<u>Negroes</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Totals</u>
1)	1850	506	2		129	637
2)	1860	2609	5		449	3063
3)	1870	3437		507		3945
4)	1880	3300		838		4138
5)	1890	4292		2360		6652
6)	1900	5142		3590		8732
7)	1910	5046		3378		8424
8)	1920	5027		2957		7984
9)	1930	3966		3049		7015
10)	1940					6437

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- 1) Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, I, Statistics of the Population, 20-22.
 - 2) Ibid.
 - 3) Ibid., Total includes one Chinese.
 - 4) Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890, Population of the United States, Part I, 14, 406.
 - 5) Ibid.
 - 6) Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population, II, 376.
 - 7) Ibid.
 - 8) Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Population, III, Part I, 481.
 - 9) Ibid.
 - 10) U. S. Bureau of the Census, Summary of Preliminary Population Figures for the State of Georgia: 1940 (Release of September 3, 1940).

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The Georgia county is a civil division of the State for judicial and political purposes; a local organization invested with certain functions of corporate existence.(1) The county serves as agent of the State in the collection of taxes and cooperates in the promotion of public health, education, welfare, and the enforcement of law.

Counties are created by amendments to the constitution, which, until the year 1904, were limited in number to the 145 then existing.(2) Since that date 16 additional counties have been created aggregating 161, but the merger in 1932 of Campbell and Milton Counties with the county of Fulton reduced the number to 159.(3) There are no limitations or restrictions as to size, population, or taxable value in the creation of counties.

Clinch County was laid out and formed from the counties of Ware and Lowndes in 1850, and upon its creation, became a part of the First Congressional District and one of the three counties composing the Fifth Senatorial District at that time. It was attached to the Southern Judicial Circuit, and was included in the second brigade of the sixth division of Georgia Militia.(4) A new judicial circuit, the Alapaha, was created in 1919, and Clinch, together with Atkinson, Berrien, Cook, and Lanier Counties, were transferred to this circuit.(5)

An inferior court was established in Clinch County upon its creation,(6) and this tribunal exercised jurisdiction over county affairs until 1868, when it was abolished.(7) Following the abolition of this court, the ordinary was given jurisdiction over county affairs,(8) a function he continued to exercise until the creation in 1889 of a board of commissioners of roads and revenues.(9) When in 1893 the county board was abolished the ordinary again administered county affairs,(10) and continued to function in this capacity until the creation in 1915 of the second Clinch County board of commissioners of roads and revenue.(11)

Serving in Clinch County at the present time are the following courts, officers, and agencies: a board of five commissioners of roads and revenues, one being elected from each of the five commissioner districts in the county;(12) the superior court, the highest State tribunal of original jurisdiction;(13) the superior court clerk, who in addition to his duties as a clerical

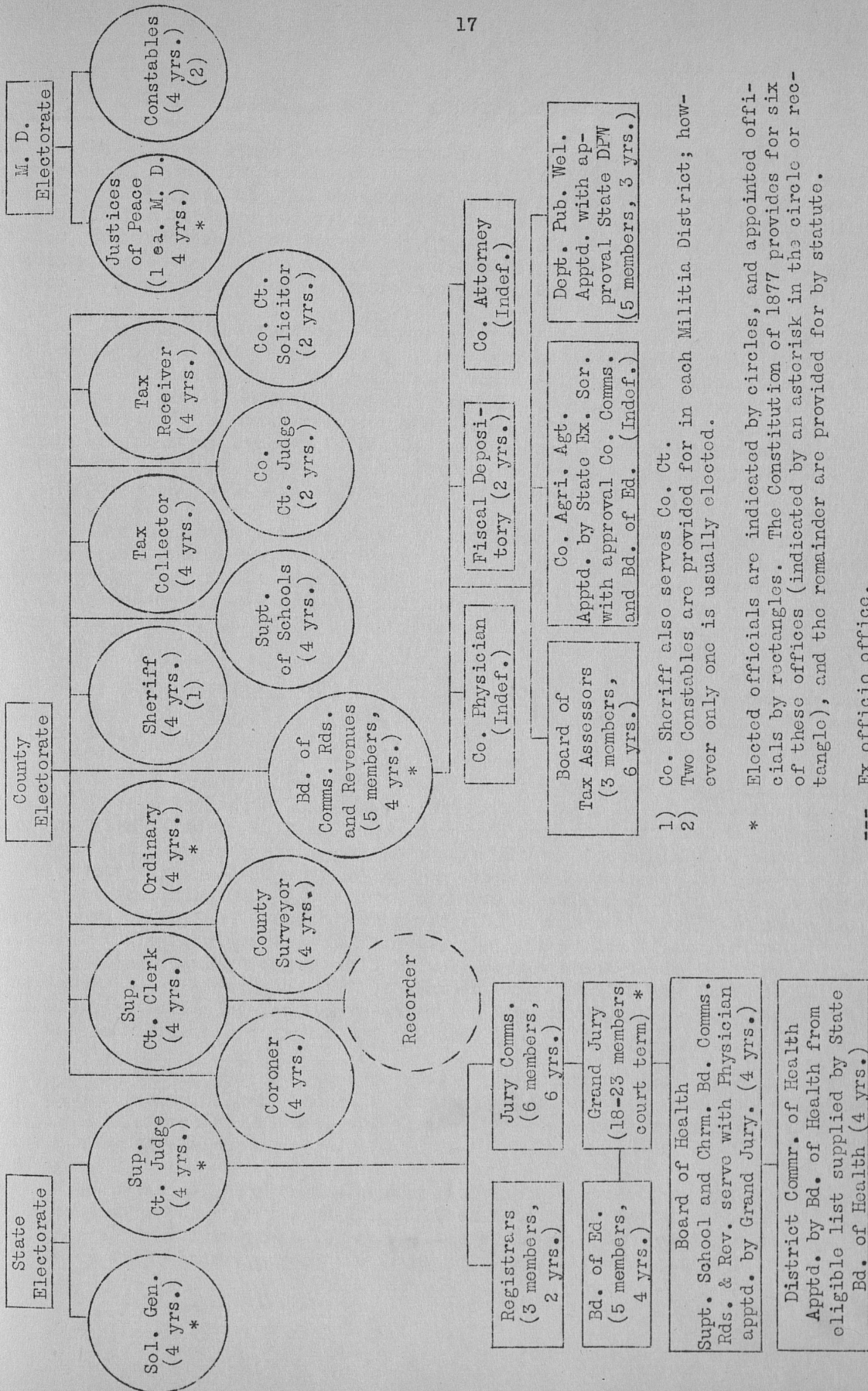
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- 1) Hammond v. Clark, 71 S.E. 479; 136 Ga. 313 (1911).
 - 2) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-8201.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1929, p. 551; 1931, p. 527.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1919, p. 109.
 - 6) Ga. Const. 1789, art. III, sec. I.
 - 7) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, sec. XIV.
 - 8) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, secs. V, XIV.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1889, pp. 1104-1106.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1893, p. 359.
 - 11) Ga. Acts 1915, pp. 190-197.
 - 12) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, secs. V, XIV; Ga. Acts 1915, pp. 190-197; 1933, p. 456.
 - 13) Ga. Const. 1777, arts. XXXVI-XL; Ga. Code of 1933, #24-3201.

officer, is ex officio county recorder, and is responsible for the recordation of titles to property, mortgages, and liens;(1) the solicitor general, who is the State prosecuting officer of the circuit embracing Clinch County;(2) jury commissioners, who are appointed by the judge of the superior court,(3) and select the names of citizens of the county to be placed in the grand and trial jury boxes;(4) the grand jury, whose principal duty it is to investigate criminal offenses that come to its knowledge and indict law violators,(5) and also to make recommendations concerning county matters;(6) court of ordinary and clerk, with jurisdiction over estate and probate matters;(7) county court, with concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court over criminal cases below the grade of felony and all civil cases not vested by law in other courts;(8) the county court solicitor, whose duty it is to prosecute all criminal cases in the county court;(9) nine justice of the peace courts,(10) one serving in each militia district in the county,(11) and in addition there can be a commissioned notary public ex officio justice of the peace in these districts;(12) constables, who are the process servers and arresting officers of justice of the peace and commissioned notaries public ex officio justice of the peace courts;(13) the county attorney, representing the county in a legal advisory capacity, at the discretion of the board of commissioners;(14) county coroner, whose duty is to conduct inquests in all sudden or violent deaths where there are no eyewitnesses;(15) the sheriff, the county's principal law enforcement officer and process server;(16) the tax receiver, who receives returns of taxable property from all taxpayers of the county;(17) the board of tax assessors, who are appointed by the board of commissioners of roads and revenue(18) and are charged with the duty of assessing property for taxation at a fair valuation;(19) the tax collector, who collects both State and county taxes and keeps a permanent record of qualified voters;(20) fiscal depository, in lieu of abolished office of county treasurer, appointed by the board of commissioners of roads and revenue;(21) a board of three registrars,(22) whose principal duty is the

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- 1) Ga. Const. 1777, arts. XXXVI, XL; Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2714.
 - 2) Ga. Const. 1798, art. III, sec. III.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1878-79, p. 27.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-106; Ga. Acts 1878-79, pp. 27, 34.
 - 5) Ga. Const. 1777, art. XLV; Ga. Code of 1933, #59-309.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-317; Ga. Acts 1889, p. 156.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 117, 118; 1851-52, pp. 49, 50, 91-98; Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1701.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1865-66, pp. 64, 71.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1875, pp. 69-71.
 - 10) Tax Digest (White and Colored), 1939, see entry 117.
 - 11) Ga. Const. 1777, art. LIII; Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1001.
 - 12) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3601; Ga. Const. 1877, art. VI, sec. VIII.
 - 13) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-817.
 - 14) Minutes (County Commissioners), vol. 1, 1915--, p. 4, see entry 1.
 - 15) Ga. Code of 1933, #21-202; Ga. Acts 1858, pp. 37-40.
 - 16) Ga. Const. 1777, art. XL; 1798, art. III, sec. XI.
 - 17) Ga. Acts 1810, pp. 132, 133.
 - 18) Ga. Acts 1913, pp. 123, 134.
 - 19) Act 1813, Cobb, p. 1059; Ga. Acts 1851-52, p. 290.
 - 20) Act 1796, Watkins, p. 614; Ga. Code of 1933, #92-4901.
 - 21) Ga. Acts 1915, p. 196.
 - 22) Ga. Acts 1894, pp. 115-118.

preparation of lists of registered voters of the county;(1) a board of education of five members;(2) a superintendent of schools, who is secretary of the county board of education and its chief executive officer;(3) the board of health, composed of the chairman of the board of county commissioners, the superintendent of schools, and one reputable physician appointed by the grand jury, with supervision over all matters relating to health and sanitation in the county;(4) a district commissioner of health, appointed by the county board of health,(5) his principal duties being the enforcement of the State health laws, the conservation of public health, and the prevention of disease;(6) a county physician, appointed by the commissioners of roads and revenue, to give medical attention to county prisoners and to inmates of county charitable institutions;(7) a department of public welfare;(8) a county surveyor, who surveys county and district lines, executes surveys required by court order, and plats all surveys made by him;(9) county agricultural agent, selected by the college of agriculture of the University of Georgia, with the approval of the county commissioners and board of education.(10)

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- 1) Ga. Code of 1933, #34-401; Ga. Acts 1908, p. 59; 1924, p. 47.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1859, pp. 29, 31; Ga. Code of 1933, #32-902; Ga. Acts 1919, p. 320.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1911, p. 101.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-201; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 125.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-303; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 127.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-309; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 131.
 - 7) Minutes (County Commissioners), vol. 1, 1915--, p. 2, see entry 1.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1937, p. 364.
 - 9) Ga. Code of 1933, #23-1101; Act 1838, Cobb, p. 125; Ga. Code of 1933, #23-1108.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1914, p. 1243; 1923, p. 86; Barnes Federal Code, #8413, #8414.



- 1) Co. Sheriff also serves Co. Ct.
- 2) Two Constables are provided for in each Militia District; however only one is usually elected.

* Elected officials are indicated by circles, and appointed officials by rectangles. The Constitution of 1877 provides for six of these offices (indicated by an asterisk in the circle or rectangle), and the remainder are provided for by statute.

--- Ex officio office.

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The present Clinch County courthouse was built in 1895-96,⁽¹⁾ and remodeled in 1936. It is the fourth such building, the first two having been destroyed by fire, and the third having given way to the present structure when additional space was required. Although Clinch County was created in 1850, the fires which destroyed the first two courthouses also destroyed the county's records and the oldest extant public documents of the county date from 1867, at which time the third courthouse was erected.

The present courthouse, a Colonial type of symmetrical form, is 128 feet 6 inches by 51 feet. It is two stories high and constructed of brick and concrete painted white. The roof is of slate. The front, which faces east, is ornamented by a portico, the roof of which is supported by eight massive square columns. A balustrade surmounts the portico at the roof line, and a small second-story balcony is inside the portico, directly above the main entrance. The main floor is approximately 18 inches above the ground level, the concrete floor of the portico being at this height.

There are eight windows on the first floor front, and nine on the second floor front, the additional one here being above the entrance. All windows throughout the building are of uniform size and spacing, and dark-colored shutters serve also to ornament the structure. Each window has two sashes and nine panes of glass are set in each sash, presenting a most attractive appearance.

A two-room extension has been constructed at the courthouse rear on the northwest side. This is of similar design and treatment to that of the main structure.

A central hall, 9 feet wide, leads from the entrance to a main corridor running north and south, and divides the rooms on the east and west sides of the first floor. This main corridor is 8 feet wide and 104 feet long. At both ends, stairways rise to the second floor. Opening off of the corridor at its north end is a small hallway which leads into the offices of the board of education and of the superintendent of schools, these being in the northwest extension. Rooms opening off of the main corridor, from north to south, at the front of the building are the main office of the ordinary, and from this latter room a small private office which leads into the ordinary's vault. The entrance hall is next in order, and to its left are the combination office of the tax receiver and the tax collector, and the office of the commissioners of roads and revenues.

Rooms at the rear of the courthouse, from north to south, are the office of superior court clerk, the superior court clerk's vault, the office of the department of public welfare, the office of the sheriff, and the office of the county agricultural agent.

The principal room on the second floor is the courtroom, which occupies the central section of the building. This room is 45 feet 6 inches long and extends 49 feet from front to rear of the building. Natural light is supplied by five windows across the front and a similar number at the rear.

1) Huxford, op. cit., 91.

The judge's bench is at the north end of the room. Behind the bench is a door opening into a small hallway from which the arrangement is as follows on the north side of the building: an office of the health department, the stairway and landing, a washroom, the office of bailiff, and another office of the health department.

The south end of the building is occupied by the grand jury room, the stairway and landing, the office of solicitor general, and the office of county attorney.

The distribution of the records is as follows:

Commissioners of Roads and Revenue - office: This room, 25 by 20 by 16 feet, houses 16 volumes, 54 bundles of documents, 1 folder of papers, and 1 desk drawer containing papers, all of the commissioners' records.

Superior Court Clerk - vault: This room, 19 feet 4 inches by 14 feet 8 inches by 16 feet, houses 145 volumes, 51 file drawers, 45 volumes of newspapers, 1 folder and 1 notepad of the records of the clerk, and 11 volumes and 34 file drawers of county court records.

Superior Court Clerk - office: This room, 25 by 20 by 16 feet, houses 3 volumes and 38 file drawers of the clerk's records.

Ordinary - vault: This vault, 18 feet 8 inches by 11 feet 4 inches by 15 feet, houses 57 volumes, 13 file drawers, 1 volume of newspapers, and 14 bundles of newspapers, all the ordinary's records. Also 2 volumes each of the following justices of the peace: 1052nd, 1061st, 1224th, and 1280th militia districts; 28 volumes of the commissioners of roads and revenues; 14 volumes of the tax receiver, and 12 volumes of the tax collector.

Ordinary - office: This room, 22 by 20 by 16 feet, houses 10 volumes and 12 bundles of records of the ordinary, and 3 volumes of the 1224th militia district justice of the peace.

Justice of the Peace, 1224th Militia District - residence: two volumes of this justice's records are kept at his residence.

Sheriff - office: This room, 25 by 20 by 16 feet, houses five volumes, three file drawers, and three volumes of newspapers of this official, and one volume of records of the commissioners of roads and revenue.

Tax Receiver and Collector - office: This room, 25 by 20 by 16 feet, houses 72 volumes, 2 file drawers, and 1 bundle of records of the two officials who jointly occupy the office.

Superintendent of Schools - office: This room, 24 by 18 by 12 feet, houses 3 volumes and 10 file drawers of the records of the superintendent, and 2 volumes of records of the board of education.

Board of Education: No records are kept in this room, which is 17 feet 6 inches by 16 feet by 12 feet.

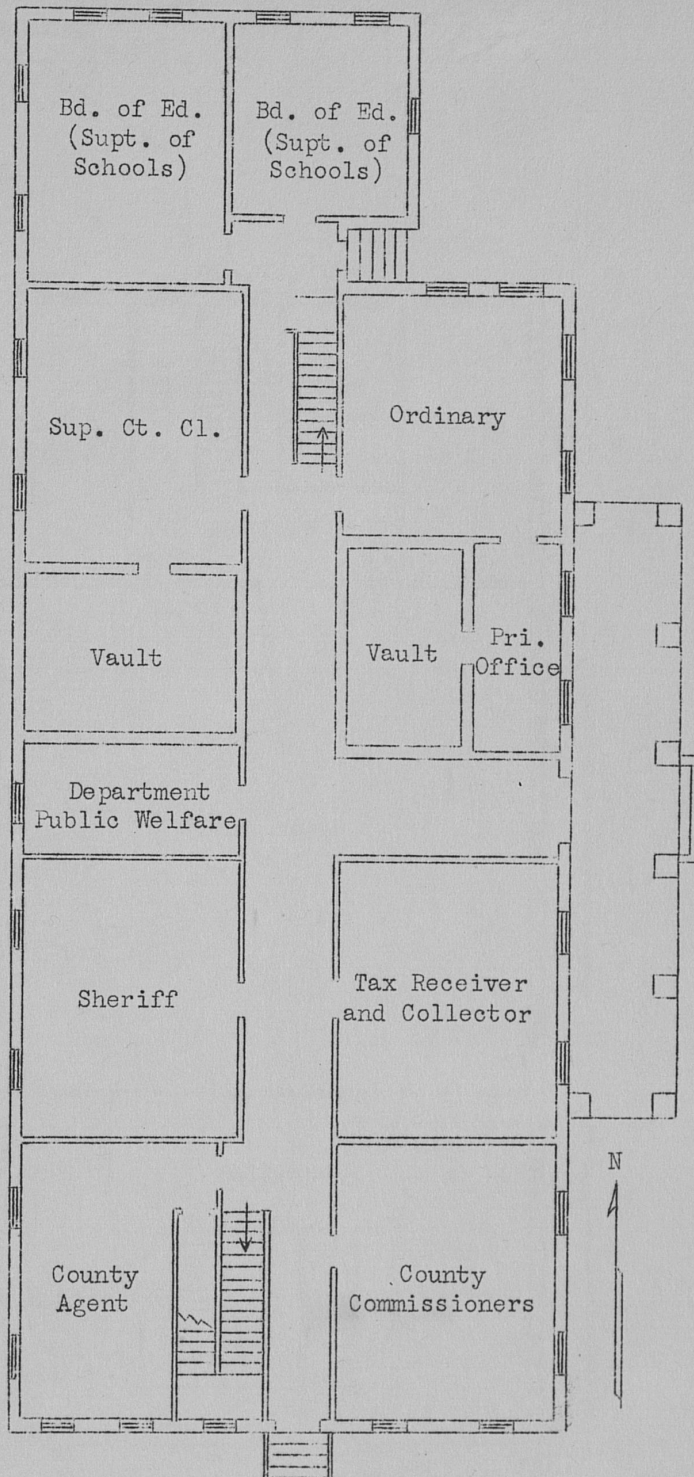
Housing, Care, and Accessibility of
the Records

(First entry, p. 26)

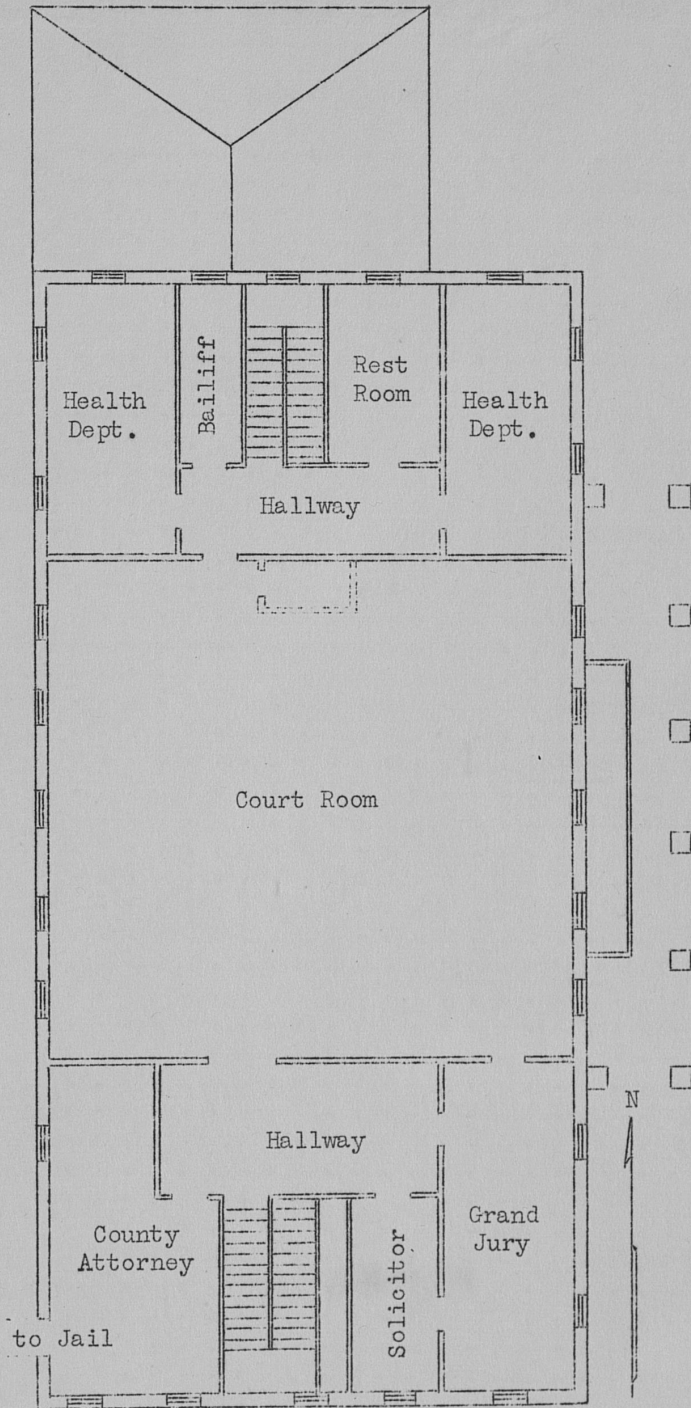
County Health Offices: One volume and five file boxes contain the records of this agency, and are housed in the two rooms, each 25 by 12 by 16 feet.

Department of Public Welfare - office: This room, 10 by 20 by 16 feet, houses 4 volumes and 13 file boxes of this agency.

County Agricultural Agent - office: This room, 23 by 18 by 16 feet, houses five volumes, four file boxes, one file drawer, and one bundle of maps of the agricultural agent.



Clinch County Courthouse, Homerville, Georgia
First Floor, Scale 1" = 16'



Clinch County Courthouse, Homerville, Georgia
Second Floor, Scale 1" = 16'

4. ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Abbreviations

alph.	.....	alphabetical(ly)
arr.	.....	arranged, arrangement
art.	.....	article
aver.	.....	average
bdle(s).	.....	bundle(s)
chron.	.....	chronological(ly)
cl.	.....	clerk
comm.	.....	commissioner
Const.	.....	Constitution
co.	.....	county
C.C.	.....	County Courthouse
ct(s).	.....	court(s)
dept.	.....	department
D.P.W.	.....	Department Public Welfare
est.	.....	estimated
f.b.	.....	file boxes
f.d.	.....	file drawers
fl.	.....	floor
gen.	.....	general
Ga.	.....	Georgia, Georgia Reports
hdw.	.....	handwritten
<u>ibid.</u>	.....	<u>ibidem</u> (in the same place)
indef.	.....	indefinite
J.P.	.....	Justice of the Peace
M.D.	.....	Militia District
no(s)	.....	number(s)
numer.	.....	numerical(ly)
off.	.....	office
<u>op. cit.</u>	.....	<u>opere citato</u> (in the work cited)
ord.	.....	ordinary
p., pp.	.....	page(s)
par.	.....	paragraph
pr.	.....	printed
pr. fm(s).	.....	printed form(s)
pr. hd(s).	.....	printed head(s)
rm(s)	.....	room(s)
sec.	.....	section
supt.	.....	superintendent
supt. ct. cl.	.....	superior court clerk
tax rec.	.....	tax receiver
treas.	.....	treasurer
va.	.....	vault
vol(s).	.....	volume(s)

Symbols

--	.....	current
'	.....	foot, feet

" inches
 # space marks are used in footnote citations preceding sections of the Georgia Code, as a symbol for Section.

Explanatory Notes

The exact titles of records, as they appear on the spine or outside of volumes and record containers, are written in solid capitals without parentheses. In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid capitals and enclosed in parentheses. If a record title is not adequately descriptive of the contents of the record, an assigned explanatory title, written with initial capitals and enclosed in parentheses, has been added to the exact title. If in a single series the title of a record varies, the current or most recent title is used as the entry title, but variations are shown in the title lines, as well as volumes that have no title.

Figures or letters in parentheses, immediately following the number of volumes or file drawers, indicate the labeling of a record.

Where no statement is made that the record was discontinued at the last date shown in the entry, it could not be definitely established that such was the case. Where no comment is made on the absence of prior or subsequent records, no definite information could be ascertained.

Title-line cross references are used to complete a series where the record is kept separately for a period of time, and in other records for different periods of time. They are also used in all artificial entries for the purpose of showing, under their proper office, records kept in the same volume or file with unrelated records of a different office; and in cases where a distinct record has never been kept separately, but has been carried in two or more separate sets of records covering different periods of time. In both instances, the master entry carries a body-of-entry cross reference back to the artificial entry, or the entry completing the series, showing its title and entry number. No dates are shown in a body-of-entry cross reference unless the dates of the record covered by the cross reference vary from those of the master entry in which it appears. See entries 17-20, 31.

Separate third-paragraph cross references from entry to entry, and "see also" cross references, are used to guide the reader to prior, subsequent, or related records which are not a part of the same series.

Unless the index is self-contained, an entry for the separate index immediately follows its record entry where possible. Cross references are given in an entry for a separate index to the record entry or entries it serves; and conversely, cross references are given in a record entry to the separate index serving it, or entries where there are more than one separate index.

All records are located in the county courthouse, unless otherwise indicated.

Unless otherwise specified, it is to be assumed that the records are in good condition.

Most of the citations shown in the footnotes are in abbreviated form. The full title of these references may be found in the bibliography on pages 53-55.

I. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ROADS AND REVENUES

A board of commissioners of roads and revenues was established in Clinch County in 1889.(1) It succeeded to the jurisdiction over county affairs exercised by the inferior court from the county's creation in 1850(2) until 1868, and by the ordinary from 1868(3) until 1889. The board of commissioners was abolished in 1893, at which time the ordinary again administered county affairs,(4) but it was reestablished in 1915,(5) and has continued to function to the present, although acts of 1929, 1931, and 1933 abolished the then existing boards and each time established new boards in their stead.(6) There are five members of the board, one being elected from each of five commissioner districts of the county. The election of each, however, is by the county electorate.(7) The commissioners serve for 4-year terms.(8) The board elects a clerk, either from its own membership, or from the county at large.(9) In addition to its jurisdiction over county affairs and its other powers and duties, the board controls all county property.(10)

All records of the board of commissioners of roads and revenues are located in its office unless otherwise indicated in the entries.

Minutes

1. MINUTES, 1915--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index.

Warrants

2. (RECORD OF COUNTY WARRANTS), 1923--. 4 vols.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index.
3. (PAID WARRANTS), 1915--. Est. 15,000 papers in 53 bdles., 1 desk drawer.
Arr. chron. by date of warrant. No index.

Taxes

4. (RECORD OF DEFAULTERS), 1937--. Est. 300 papers in 1 folder.
Arr. chron. by tax year and alph. by name of defaulter thereunder. No index.
5. TAX DIGEST, 1887-1925. 28 vols. (dated).
Vol. divided in sections by militia districts and arr. alph. by name of taxpayer thereunder. No index. Ord.'s va.
See also entry 117.

-
- 1) Ga. Acts 1889, pp. 1104-1106.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 3) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, secs. V, XIV.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1893, p. 359.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1915, pp. 190-197.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1929, pp. 568-576; 1931, pp. 412-424; 1933, pp. 455-469.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1933, p. 457.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1937, p. 1292.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1933, pp. 459, 460.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1933, pp. 467, 468.

6. (TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS), 1932, 1937--. Est. 132 papers in 1 bdle.
Arr. chron. by date of report. No index.

Audits

7. (AUDITORS' REPORTS), 1931--. 8 vols. (dated).
Arr. chron. by year and alph. by title of schedule and exhibit thereunder.
No index.

Penal Institutions

8. EXPENDITURES, ACCOUNT OF CONVICTS, 1908-16. 1 vol. Discontinued.
Arr. chron. by date paid. No index.

Road Record

9. ROAD RECORD, 1905-8. 1 vol. Discontinued.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index.

County Property

10. RECORD (Inventory) OF PUBLIC PROPERTY, 1895-1920. 1 vol. Dis-
continued.
Arr. chron. by date of inventory. No index.

II. SUPERIOR COURT CLERK AS EX OFFICIO COUNTY RECORDER

The principal recording officer of Clinch County is the superior court clerk, although some important instruments are recorded and registers are kept by the ordinary and other county officials.(1) The records immediately following this essay have been separated arbitrarily from those kept by the clerk in his capacity as a court officer. The manner of his selection, term of office, and similar subjects are treated in the next following essay, "Superior Court and Clerk."

All records of the superior court clerk as ex officio county recorder are located in his vault.

Real and Personal Property

Deeds and Mortgages

11. FILING DOCKET, 1897-1934. 2 vols. (A, B). 1917-- also in Filing Docket and Index to Deeds and Realty Mortgages (Grantor), entry 17; Filing Docket and Index to Deeds and Realty Mortgages (Grantee), entry 18; Filing Docket and Index to Chattel Mortgages (Grantor), entry 19; Filing Docket and Index to Chattel Mortgages (Grantee), entry 20.
Arr. alph. by first letter of grantor's surname and chron. thereunder. No index.

1) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2714, #24-2715, #24-2726, #24-1804, #92-4901, #92-4902.

County Recorder -
Real and Personal Property

(12-21)

12. DEED (and Realty Mortgage) RECORD, 1868--. 43 vols. (A-Z, AA-QQ). Arr. chron. by date recorded. 1868-82, no index; 1883--, separate indexes, see entries 14-18.

13. MORTGAGE RECORD (Chattel), 1892--. 25 vols. (A-O; 1-10). Arr. chron. by date recorded. For indexes, see entries 14-16, 19, 20.

Indexes

14. GENERAL INDEX, 1883-1916. 2 vols.
Serves as index to Deed (and Realty Mortgage) Record, entry 12; Mortgage Record (Chattel), 1892-1916, entry 13. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantor's surname and chron. thereunder.
15. DIRECT INDEX TO COUNTY RECORDS (Deeds and Mortgages), 1883-1916. 2 vols.
Serves as index to Deed (and Realty Mortgage) Record, entry 12; Mortgage Record (Chattel), 1892-1916, entry 13. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantor's surname and chron. thereunder.
16. REVERSE INDEX TO COUNTY RECORDS (Deeds and Mortgages), 1883-1916. 2 vols.
Serves as index to Deed (and Realty Mortgage) Record, entry 12; Mortgage Record (Chattel), 1892-1916, entry 13. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantee's surname and chron. thereunder.
17. FILING DOCKET AND INDEX TO DEEDS AND REALTY MORTGAGES (Grantor), 1917--. 3 vols. (labeled by contained letters of alph.).
Also contains: Filing Docket, entry 11. Serves as index to Deed (and Realty Mortgage) Record, entry 12. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantor's or mortgagor's surname and chron. thereunder.
18. FILING DOCKET AND INDEX TO DEEDS AND REALTY MORTGAGES (Grantee), 1917--. 3 vols. (labeled by contained letters of alph.).
Also contains: Filing Docket, entry 11. Serves as index to Deed (and Realty Mortgage) Record, entry 12. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantee's or mortgagee's surname and chron. thereunder.
19. FILING DOCKET AND INDEX TO CHATTEL MORTGAGES (Grantor), 1917--. 2 vols. (labeled by contained letters of alph.).
Also contains: Filing Docket, entry 11. Serves as index to Mortgage Record (Chattel), entry 13. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantor's surname and chron. thereunder.
20. FILING DOCKET AND INDEX TO CHATTEL MORTGAGES (Grantee), 1917--. 2 vols. (labeled by contained letters of alph.).
Also contains: Filing Docket, entry 11. Serves as index to Mortgage Record (Chattel), entry 13. Arr. alph. by first letter of grantee's surname and chron. thereunder.

Land Title Registers

21. REGISTER OF DECREE OF TITLE, 1920--. 1 vol. Last entry 1938.

Arr. chron. by date registered. Indexed alph. by first letter of owner's surname and chron. thereunder.

22. TITLE REGISTER, 1920--. 3 vols. (1, 2; 1926--., 1 vol., not labeled). Arr. chron. by date registered. Indexed alph. by first letter of owner's surname and chron. thereunder.

23. REGISTER FOR POSTED LANDS, 1903--. 1 vol. Last entry 1934. Arr. chron. by date registered. No index.

24. WILD LAND DIGEST, 1899-June 1900, April 1902-6. 5 vols. (dated). Digest of land in a state of nature, as distinguished from improved or cultivated land. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Ord.'s va.

Land Maps and Plats

25. PLAT BOOK, 1896-June 1924, Dec. 1928--. 2 vols. (1 vol. not labeled; 1928--., 1 vol., A). Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index.

Charters of Incorporation

26. CHARTER RECORD, 1901--. 1 vol. Last entry 1934. Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of applicant's surname and chron. thereunder.

Trade Names

27. TRADE NAME AFFIDAVIT, 1929--. 1 folder. Last entry 1937. No obvious arr. For index, see entry 28.

28. INDEX TO TRADE NAMES, 1929--. 1 vol. Last entry 1937. Serves as index to Trade Name Affidavit, entry 27. Arr. alph. by first letter of trade name and chron. thereunder.

Professional Registration

29. PHYSICIANS REGISTER, 1884--. 1 note pad (dated), 1 vol. (1). Arr. chron. by date registered. Indexed alph. by first letter of physician's surname and chron. thereunder.

Soldiers

30. HONORABLE DISCHARGE RECORD, 1919--. 1 vol. Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of veteran's surname and chron. thereunder.

III. SUPERIOR COURT AND CLERK

Clinch County, upon its creation in 1850, was attached to the Southern judicial circuit and was provided with a superior court clerk.(1) It was

1) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.

transferred in 1919 to its present circuit, the Alapaha circuit, (1) which also includes Atkinson, Berrien, Cook, and Lanier Counties. (2) One judge serves this circuit, and he is elected by the qualified voters of the State (3) for a term of 4 years. (4) There is one superior court clerk in each county of the circuit. The Clinch County superior court clerk is elected by the voters of the county (5) for a term of 4 years. (6) The superior court is the highest State tribunal of original jurisdiction, (7) and has exclusive jurisdiction over divorce, equity, and land title cases, and felony criminal cases. (8) It has concurrent jurisdiction over all other cases except probate and estate matters, original jurisdiction of which is vested in the ordinary. (9) Although the principal jurisdictions and functions of the superior court are listed above, numerous other duties are vested in this court and its officers.

All records of the superior court and clerk are located in his vault unless otherwise indicated in the entries.

Civil

Case Papers and Pleadings

31. (CIVIL CASE PAPERS), 1888--. Est. 13,500 papers in 50 f.d. (1-48; 1936--, 2 f.d., not labeled).

Also contains: (Criminal Case Papers), 1936--, entry 39. Arr. chron by date filed. No index.

Dockets

32. ISSUE DOCKET (Bench and Bar), 1867--. 6 vols. Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

33. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1867-Jan. 1890, Feb. 1927--. 2 vols. (1 vol. not labeled; 1927--, 1 vol., B).
Docket of executions issued on superior court judgments. Arr. chron. by date of judgment. No index.

34. GENERAL EXECUTION DOCKET, 1892--. 4 vols (A; 2, 3, 3).
Docket of executions issued on judgments from all courts. Arr. alph. by first letter of plaintiff's surname and chron. thereunder. No index.

35. CIVIL SUBPOENA DOCKET, 1890-Feb. 1914, Oct. 1931--. 3 vols. (1890-1914, 1 vol., A; 2 vols. not labeled).
Arr. chron. by court term. No index. Sup. ct. cl.'s off.

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1919, p. 109.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1939, p. 1463.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3101, #2-3102.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3101.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-8301.
 - 6) Ibid.
 - 7) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2615.
 - 8) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3201.
 - 9) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2615.

Superior Court and Clerk -
 Criminal; Financial; Notaries
 Public; Voters

(36-45)

Minutes and Proceedings

36. MINUTES (Civil and Criminal), 1867--. 10 vols. (A-J).
 Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of defendant's
 surname and chron. thereunder.

37. SUIT RECORD, 1887-Jan. 1894, Jan. 1896--. 10 vols. (A, C-K).
 Arr. chron. by date recorded. For index, see entry 38.

38. INDEX TO SUITS, 1887--. 2 vols. (1 vol. not labeled; 1912--,
 1 vol., 2).
 Serves as index to Suit Record, entry 37. Arr. alph. by first letter of
 plaintiff's surname and chron. thereunder.

Criminal

Case Papers

39. (CRIMINAL CASE PAPERS), 1885-1935. Est. 3,400 papers in 36 f.d.
 1936-- in (Civil Case Papers), entry 31.
 Arr. chron. by date filed. No index. Sup. ct. cl.'s off.

Dockets

40. CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1888--. 5 vols. (1910-13, 1 vol., B; 4 vols.
 not labeled).
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

41. CRIMINAL SUBPOENA DOCKET, 1869--. 6 vols.
 Arr. chron. by date of subpoena. No index.

Minutes and Proceedings

42. EVIDENCE RECORD, 1927--. 1 vol.
 Transcript of evidence educed in criminal trials. Arr. chron. by date
 evidence given. No index.
 For principal minutes, see entry 36.

Financial

43. (INSOLVENT ORDERS), 1890--. Est. 200 papers in 1 f.d.
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

Notaries Public

44. (REGISTER OF JUSTICE OF PEACE, EX OFFICIO JUSTICE OF PEACE, AND
 NOTARY PUBLIC), 1909--. 1 vol.
 Arr. chron. by date commissioned. No index.

Voters

(See also entries 120, 121)

45. (QUALIFIED VOTERS LIST), 1894--. 1 vol. and est. 600 papers in 2 f.d.
 Divided into sections by district and arr. alph. by voter's name thereunder.

No index. 1 vol., 1894-98, sup. ct. cl.'s va.; 2 f.d., 1898--, sup. ct. cl.'s off.

Newspapers

(See also entries 87, 88, 111)

46. HOMERVILLE CHRONICLE, Jan. 1895-Aug. 1897. 3 vols.
Arr. chron. by date published. No index.

47. THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS, Nov. 1897-Apr. 1932, Apr. 1933--. 40
vols. (dated).
Arr. chron. by date published. No index.

48. ED RIVERS WEEKLY, Apr. 1932-Apr. 1933. 2 vols. (dated).
Arr. chron. by date published. No index.

IV. SOLICITOR GENERAL

Clinch County is served by the solicitor general of the superior court circuit in which it is included. This was, at the county's creation in 1850, the Southern judicial circuit,(1) and is now the Alapaha circuit.(2) This official is elected by the voters of the State for a term of 4 years.(3) His principal duty is to serve as State prosecuting officer of the superior court.(4)

V. JURY COMMISSIONERS

A jury commission was established in Clinch County under authority of an act of 1879 which provided for such boards in all counties.(5) It succeeded to those duties concerning the selection of jurors performed from the creation of Clinch County in 1850 until 1869 by the inferior court justices, the superior court clerk, and the sheriff,(6) and from 1869 until 1879 by the ordinary, the superior court clerk, and three commissioners appointed by the superior court judge.(7) The commission consists of six discreet persons who are appointed by the superior court judge for terms of 6 years.(8) The superior court clerk serves as clerk of the jury commission.(9) The jury commissioners select the names of citizens of the county to be placed in the grand and trial jury boxes.(10)

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1939, p. 1463.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3901.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2908.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1878-79, p. 27.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1805, p. 43.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1869, p. 139.
 - 8) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-101; Ga. Acts 1878-79, p. 27.
 - 9) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-104; Ga. Acts 1878-79, p. 28.
 - 10) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-106; Ga. Acts 1878-79, pp. 27, 34.

VI. GRAND JURY

A grand jury was established in Clinch upon the county's creation, in conformity to the State's first constitution which authorized the setting up of such bodies in all counties.(1) The grand jury consists of not less than 18 or more than 23 persons.(2) Selection is by drawing from a box containing the names of eligibles as chosen by the jury commissioners.(3) No citizen can be compelled to serve on the grand jury, or any other jury, for more than 4 weeks in 1 year.(4) The grand jury foreman may be appointed by the superior court judge. However, the foreman may be elected by the grand jury if the judge so directs.(5) A clerk is elected by custom, there being no legal provision for the office. The legal counsel of the grand jury is the solicitor general.(6) The principal duty of the grand jury is to investigate criminal offenses that come to its knowledge and to indict law violators.(7) It also makes recommendations concerning county matters.(8)

All presentments, indictments, and other proceedings of the grand jury are returned to the superior court clerk.

VII. INFERIOR COURT

Clinch County was provided with an inferior court by the act creating the county,(9) and this tribunal exercised jurisdiction until 1868, when it was abolished in toto.(10) There were five justices of the inferior court,(11) and they were elected by the qualified voters of the county for terms of 4 years.(12) A clerk of the inferior court was also elected by the qualified voters of the county,(13) and the same person could serve as clerk of both the superior and inferior courts.(14) The inferior court functioned in Clinch County in three capacities, as a court of ordinary with jurisdiction over estate and probate matters,(15) as a court of law with jurisdiction inferior to that of the superior court,(16) and as the administrative agency in charge of county affairs.(17) It was shorn of the first of these jurisdictions, ordinary functions, in 1852, only 2 years after the creation of the county, at which time a separate court of ordinary was established.(18) Its

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127; Ga. Const. 1777, art. XLV.
 - 2) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-202; Act 1799, Cobb, p. 547; Ga. Acts 1869, p. 140.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-106; Ga. Acts 1878-79, pp. 27, 34; 1892, p. 61.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-118; Ga. Acts 1872, p. 15.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-208.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2908.
 - 7) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-304; Act 1829, Cobb, p. 553.
 - 8) Ga. Code of 1933, #59-317; Ga. Acts 1889, p. 156.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 10) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, sec. XIV.
 - 11) Ga. Acts 1849-50, p. 127.
 - 12) Ga. Acts 1811, p. 128.
 - 13) Act 1811, Prince to 1820, p. 120.
 - 14) Ga. Acts 1799, Jan. An. Sess., sec. 36, p. 38.
 - 15) Ga. Acts 1799, Jan. An. Sess., pp. 71-73.
 - 16) Act 1797, Marbury and Crawford, pp. 285-287.
 - 17) Act 1796, Marbury and Crawford, pp. 171, 172.
 - 18) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 117, 118; 1851-52, pp. 49, 50, 91-98.

second function, as a court of law, was transferred to other agencies in 1866,(1) and its administration of county affairs was terminated with its abolition in toto.(2)

No inferior court records were found in Clinch County.

VIII. COURT OF ORDINARY AND CLERK

A court of ordinary, with jurisdiction over estate and probate matters, was established in Clinch County in 1852 under the provisions of a general act.(3) It has continued to function to the present,(4) and from time to time, has been vested with various other powers, duties, and jurisdictions. There is one ordinary in the county, and he is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 4 years.(5) The ordinary is by virtue of his office his own clerk, but he may appoint, at his own expense, one or more clerks, for whose conduct he is responsible.(6) With the abolition of the inferior court in 1868, the ordinary was given jurisdiction over county affairs,(7) a function he continued to exercise until the creation in 1889 of the board of commissioners of roads and revenues.(8) With the abolition of the county board in 1893, the ordinary again administered county affairs,(9) and continued to function in this capacity until the reestablishment of the Clinch County board of commissioners of roads and revenues.(10)

All records of the court of ordinary and clerk are located in the ordinary's vault unless otherwise indicated in the entries.

Minutes

49. MINUTES, 1867--. 4 vols. (A-D).
Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of estate's or petitioner's surname and chron. thereunder.

Wills

50. RECORD OF WILLS, 1869--. 2 vols. (1; C). Title varies: Record, 1869-1911, 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of testator's surname and chron. thereunder.

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1865-66, pp. 22, 71.
 - 2) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, sec. XIV.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 117, 118; 1851-52, pp. 49, 50, 91-98.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1701.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1702; Ga. Acts 1872, pp. 81, 82.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1801; Ga. Acts 1851-52, p. 50.
 - 7) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, secs. V, XIV.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1889, pp. 1104-1106.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1893, p. 359.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1915, pp. 190-197.

Court of Ordinary and Clerk -
Estate Papers; Administration of
Estates, Records of

(51-60)

Estate Papers

51. (WILLS AND ESTATE PAPERS), 1868--. Est. 880 papers in 11 f.d.
(labeled by contained letters of alph.).
Original estate and miscellaneous papers, including pistol toters' license
applications, disqualified voters lists, and disabled veterans' license to
peddle or conduct business. Arr. alph. by first letter of estate's or
petitioner's surname and chron. thereunder. No index.

Administration of Estates, Records of

Letters, Representatives of Estates

52. ADMINISTRATOR'S BONDS AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY, 1903--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by first letter of administra-
tor's surname and chron. thereunder.

53. LETTERS OF TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION, 1913--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date issued. Indexed alph. by first letter of administra-
tor's surname and chron. thereunder.

54. LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1892--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date issued. Indexed alph. by first letter of administra-
tor's surname and chron. thereunder.

55. LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP, 1884--. 2 vols. (A, B).
Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of guardian's
surname and chron. thereunder.

56. LETTERS OF NATURAL GUARDIANSHIP, 1906--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date issued. Indexed alph. by first letter of guardian's
surname and chron. thereunder.

Dockets

57. DOCKET (of Applications Made to Ordinary), 1922--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of name of estate
and chron. thereunder. Ord.'s off.

Bonds, Representatives of Estates (See also entry 52)

58. GURADIAN'S BONDS, 1884--. 1 vol. Last entry 1936.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of guardian's
surname and chron. thereunder.

59. NATURAL GUARDIANS BONDS, 1906--. 1 vol. Last entry 1936.
Arr. chron. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by first letter of guardian's
surname and chron. thereunder.

Inventories and Appraisements

60. INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT (of Estate Property), 1895--. 2 vols.
(A, B). Last entry 1932.

Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of name of estate and chron. thereunder.

Widows' Year's Support

61. TWELVE MONTHS SUPPORT (Widows), 1892--. 2 vols. (A, B).

Record of report of appraisers appointed to appraise and set aside property for support of widow for year following date administration is granted on estate. Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of petitioner's surname and chron. thereunder.

62. TO CONVEY OR ENCUMBER PROPERTY UNDER YEARS SUPPORT, 1937--.
1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date granted. No index. Ord.'s off.

Returns

63. ANNUAL (and Final) RETURNS, 1889--. 1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date of return. Indexed alph. by first letter of representative's surname and chron. thereunder.

Letters of Dismission

64. LETTERS OF DISMISSION FROM ADMINISTRATION, 1917--. 1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date dismissed. Indexed alph. by first letter of administrator's surname and chron. thereunder.

65. GUARDIANS DISMISSION, 1919--. 1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of guardian's surname and chron. thereunder.

Lunacy

66. LUNACY RECORD, 1899--. 2 vols. (1, 2).

Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of alleged lunatic's surname and chron. thereunder.

Marriages

67. (MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS - WHITE AND COLORED), 1924--.
15 vols.

Arr. chron. by date of application. No index.

68. MARRIAGE RECORD (White), 1867--. 6 vols. (A-F).

Also contains: Marriage Record (Colored), 1874-1921, entry 69. Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of male's surname and chron. thereunder.

69. MARRIAGE RECORD (Colored), 1921--. 1 vol. 1874-1921 in Marriage Record (White), entry 68.

Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of male's surname and chron. thereunder. Ord.'s off.

Court of Ordinary and Clerk -

(70-78)

Homesteads and Exemptions; Voters;
Habeas Corpus; Official Bonds;
Pensions and Confederate Records;
Spirituos Liquors; Licenses

Homesteads and Exemptions
(See also entry 72)

70. PONY (\$300) HOMESTEAD, 1906--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of application. Indexed alph. by first letter of applicant's surname and chron. thereunder. Ord.'s off.

Voters

71. (REGISTERED VOTERS LISTS), 1889-94, 1927--. 1 vol. and est.
2,280 papers in 12 bdles.
Divided into sections by district and arr. alph. by name of voter thereunder.
No index. 1 vol., 1889-94, ord.'s va.; 12 bdles., 1927--, ord.'s off.

Habeas Corpus

72. WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, APPLICATIONS TO SELL PERISHABLE (Estate)
PROPERTY & SHORT ORDER HOMESTEAD, 1891--. 16 papers in 1 f.d.
Arr. chron. No index.

Official Bonds

73. OFFICIAL BONDS (County Officers), 1908--. 1 vol.
Arr. alph. by first letter of officer's surname and chron. thereunder.
No index.

74. CONSTABLES OATH AND BOND, 1868--. Est. 95 papers in 1 f.d.
Arr. chron. by date of bond. No index.

75. CONSTABLES OATH AND BOND, 1904--. 1 vol. Last entry 1934.
Arr. chron. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by first letter of constable's surname and chron. thereunder.

Pensions and Confederate Records

76. PENSION RECORD (Confederate), 1890-1934. 2 vols. Discontinued.
Arr. alph. by first letter of veteran's surname and chron. thereunder.
No index.

77. ROSTER OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS, 1862. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date enlisted. Indexed alph. by first letter of soldier's surname and chron. thereunder.

Spirituos Liquors

78. WHISKEY REGISTER, 1916. 1 vol. Discontinued.
Register of whiskey shipments into county. Arr. alph. by first letter of consignee's surname and chron. thereunder. No index.

Licenses
(See also entry 51)

79. EXPLOSIVE REGISTER, 1921--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of applicant's surname and chron. thereunder.
80. PISTOL TOTERS APPLICATION, BOND AND LICENSE RECORD, 1924--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. Indexed alph. by first letter of applicant's surname and chron. thereunder.
81. SPECIAL LICENSE, 1919--. 1 vol. 1907-18 in Peddlers' License, entry 82.
Contains: Druggist register; register of fuel distributors; register of sewing machine agents. Arr. chron. by date tax paid. No index.
82. PEDDLERS' LICENSE, 1907-18. 1 vol.
Also contains: Special License, entry 81. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index.
83. RECORD OF EX-SOLDIER TO PEDDLE OR CONDUCT BUSINESS (Disabled Veterans' Applications and Licenses), 1935--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Ord.'s off.
84. LIVE STOCK DEALERS APPLICATION AND LICENSES, 1937--. 1 vol.
Last entry 1937.
Arr. chron. by date of license. No index.
85. REGISTER OF LIVE STOCK DEALERS, 1937--. 1 vol. Last entry 1937.
Arr. chron. by date of license. No index. Ord.'s off.

Marks and Brands

86. RECORD OF (Animals') MARKS AND BRANDS, 1868--. 2 vols.
Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index.

Newspapers
(See also entries 46-48, 111)

87. THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS (Weekly), Jan. 1925-July 1932, April 1933--. 1 vol., est. 1,250 papers in 13 bdles.
Arr. chron. by date published. No index.
88. ED RIVERS WEEKLY, July 1932-April 1933. Est. 97 papers in 1 bdle.
Arr. chron. by date published. No index.

IX. COUNTY COURT

A county court was established in Clinch County in 1866,(1) but was abolished by the Constitution of 1868.(2) It was again established in 1882,(3) and existed until it was abolished by an act of 1885.(4)

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1865-66, p. 64.
2) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, sec. XVI.
3) Ga. Acts 1871-72, pp. 288-298; 1878-79, p. 71; Huxford, op. cit., 181.
4) Ga. Acts 1884-85, p. 494.

Reestablished in 1901, (1) this court has functioned to the present, except for a short period during 1937-38. (2) One judge serves this court and he is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 2 years. (3) The superior court clerk acts as ex officio clerk of the county court. (4) The court has concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court over criminal cases below the grade of felony and all civil cases not vested by law in other courts. (5)

All records of the county court are located in the superior court clerk's vault.

Civil

Case Papers and Pleadings

89. (CASE PAPERS - CIVIL AND CRIMINAL), 1901--. Est. 11,000 papers in 34 f.d.
Arr. chron. by date filed. No index.

Dockets

90. ISSUE DOCKET (Bar and Bench), 1902--. 2 vols.
Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

91. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1902--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of execution. Indexed alph. by first letter of plaintiff's surname and chron. thereunder.

92. CIVIL DOCKET, MONTHLY, 1901--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of plaintiff's surname and chron. thereunder.

93. CIVIL DOCKET QUARTERLY TERM, 1902--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of plaintiff's surname and chron. thereunder.

94. SUBPOENA DOCKET (Civil and Criminal), 1901-6. 1 vol.
Discontinued.
Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of defendant's surname and chron. thereunder.

Minutes

95. MINUTES (Civil and Criminal), 1902--. 2 vols. (A, B).
Arr. chron. by court term. Indexed alph. by first letter of plaintiff's and defendant's surnames and chron. thereunder.

-
- 1) Huxford, *op. cit.*, 181.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1937, p. 1182; 1937-38, Ex. Sess., pp. 690-705.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1937-38, Ex. Sess., p. 693.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1937-38, Ex. Sess., p. 695.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1937-38, Ex. Sess., p. 690.

Criminal

(For case papers, see entry 89; for minutes, see entry 95)

96. CRIMINAL RECORDS (Docket), 1901--. 3 vols. (A-C). Last entry 1935.

Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

X. COUNTY COURT SOLICITOR

The office of county court solicitor was established in Clinch County with the creation of the county court in 1866,(1) but ceased to function with the court's abolition in 1868.(2) Although the county court was reestablished in 1882,(3) no provision was made for a solicitor. The court was again abolished in 1885,(4) but was recreated in 1901, when a county court solicitor was chosen.(5) The office of solicitor was abolished with the court's abolition in 1937,(6) but the court and solicitor's office were created again in 1938,(7) and have functioned to the present. The solicitor is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 2 years.(8) It is his duty to prosecute all criminal cases in the county court.(9)

XI. CRIMINAL COURT

Provision for establishing criminal courts was made in 1868 by the legislature,(10) but the act was repealed 2 years later.(11) Two judges were provided for each criminal court, these being the justice of the peace and the commissioned notary public ex officio justice of the peace in the militia district in which the county seat was located, or in any militia district in which there was an incorporated town.(12) The court had jurisdiction over all offenses, except those punishable by death or confinement in the penitentiary.(13)

No records of this court were found in Clinch County

XII. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

Justice of the peace courts functioning within the area later set off in

-
- 1) Ga. Acts 1865-66, p. 70.
 - 2) Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, sec. XVI.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1871-72, pp. 288-298; 1878-79, p. 71; Huxford, op. cit., 181.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1884-85, p. 494.
 - 5) Huxford, op. cit., 181; Ga. Acts 1890-91, vol. I, p. 98.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1937, p. 1182.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1937-38, Ex. Sess., pp. 703, 704.
 - 8) Ibid.
 - 9) Ibid.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1868, pp. 19-21.
 - 11) Ga. Acts 1870, p. 31.
 - 12) Ga. Acts 1868, p. 19.
 - 13) Ibid.

Justice of the Peace Courts -
 1052nd Militia District; 1061st
 Militia District; 1224th Militia
 District

(97-101)

1850 as Clinch County were continued in office until the election and qualification of their successors.(1) There are now nine militia districts in the county,(2) each served by a justice of the peace court,(3) and, in addition, there can be a commissioned notary public ex officio justice of the peace in each of these districts.(4) The justices of the peace are elected by the qualified voters of their respective districts and serve for terms of 4 years.(5) The notaries public ex officio justices of the peace are appointed by the superior court judge on recommendation of the grand jury, are commissioned by the Governor and also serve for 4 years.(6) These courts, among other powers, have jurisdiction over civil cases up to \$100, (7) and are charged with the maintenance of the peace in their respective districts, and may issue warrants for the apprehension of persons charged with any crime, sit as a committing court and commit to jail, bind over, or discharge such persons.(8) The justices can perform marriages.(9)

All records of the justice of the peace courts are located in the ordinary's vault unless otherwise indicated in the entries.

1052nd Militia District

97. CIVIL DOCKET, 1903-15. 1 vol.
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

98. CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1907-11. 1 vol.
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

1061st Militia District

99. CIVIL DOCKET, 1901-12. 2 vols.
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

1224th Militia District

100. CIVIL DOCKET, 1897-May 1899, June 1905-Aug. 1916, Apr. 1931--.
 4 vols.
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index. 3 vols., 1897-99, 1905-16, ord.'s off.; Apr. 1931--, j. p.'s home.

101. CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1899-Nov. 1905, Dec. 1914--. 3 vols.
 Arr. chron. by court term. No index. 2 vols., 1899-Nov. 1905, Dec. 1914-17, ord.'s va.; 1 vol., 1918--, j. p.'s home.

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 2) Tax Digest (White and Colored), 1939, see entry 117.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3501, #24-401.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3601, #24-501.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3503, #24-401.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3601, #24-501.
 - 7) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-3502, #24-1001; Act 1811, Cobb, p. 638; 1819, Cobb, p. 649.
 - 8) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1501.
 - 9) Ga. Code of 1933, #53-201.

1280th Militia District

102. CIVIL DOCKET, 1899-1915. 2 vols.
Arr. chron. by court term. No index.

XIII. CONSTABLES

Constables are the process servers and arresting officers of justice of the peace and commissioned notaries public ex officio justice of the peace courts.(1) Two constables may serve in each militia district,(2) of which there are nine in Clinch County.(3) Constables are elected by the qualified voters of their respective districts,(4) but where a vacancy exists from any cause, the office can be filled by appointment by the justice of the peace of the district.(5) Constables hold office for 4 years.(6)

XIV. COUNTY ATTORNEY

The minutes of the Clinch County board of commissioners of roads and revenues show that a county attorney was appointed in September 1915.(7) However, Georgia counties are corporate bodies with the power to sue and be sued,(8) and as such have acted under their implied authority to employ attorneys since an early period in the State's history. The county attorney serves at the discretion of the board of commissioners.

XV. CORONER

Provision was made by the act creating Clinch County for the election of a coroner,(9) and such an official has continued to function in the county to the present.(10) He is elected by the qualified voters of the county and holds office for a term of 4 years.(11) It is a duty of the coroner to conduct inquests,(12) and he is the only county official empowered to arrest the sheriff.(13) In the event the sheriff is disqualified, or refuses to act, the coroner can act in his stead.(14)

The coroner is not required to keep any records, but returns all papers relating to inquests to the superior court.(15)

-
- 1) Ga. Code of 1933, §§24-817.
 - 2) Ga. Code of 1933, §§24-801; Act 1829, Cobb, p. 213.
 - 3) Tax Digest (White and Colored), 1939, see entry 117.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, §§24-801; Act 1829; Cobb, p. 213.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, §§24-806; Act 1811, Cobb, p. 201.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, §§24-801; Act 1829, Cobb, p. 213.
 - 7) Minutes (County Commissioners), vol. 1, 1915--, p. 4; see entry 1.
 - 8) Ga. Code of 1933, §§23-1501; Ga. Acts 1863-64, pp. 72, 73.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 10) Ga. Code of 1933, §§21-101.
 - 11) Ibid., Ga. Acts 1914, p. 43.
 - 12) Ga. Code of 1933, §§21-201.
 - 13) Ga. Code of 1933, §§39-114; Act 1847, Cobb, p. 517.
 - 14) Ga. Code of 1933, §§21-106.
 - 15) Ga. Code of 1933, §§21-215; Act 1823, Cobb, p. 539.

XVI. SHERIFF

The election of a sheriff was provided for in the act creating Clinch County,(1) and such an official has continued to function in the county to the present.(2) The sheriff is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 4 years.(3) He is the county's principal law enforcement officer and process server.(4)

All records of the sheriff are located in his office.

103. SHERIFF'S EXECUTION DOCKET, 1917-July 1931, March 1936--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date execution issued. No index.

104. SHERIFF'S EXECUTION DOCKET (Sale Record), 1916--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of sale. No index.

105. UNSERVED WARRANTS (Criminal), 1937--. 40 papers in 1 f.d.
Arr. chron. by date of warrant. No index.

106. WARRANTS THAT HAVE BEEN SETTLED, 1937--. 28 papers in 1 f.d.
Arr. chron. by date of warrant. No index.

107. BONDS FOR (Appearance) SUPERIOR COURT, 1937--. 30 papers in 1 f.d.
Arr. chron. by date of bond. No index.

108. SHERIFF'S BONDS, 1937--. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by first letter of principal's surname and chron. thereunder.

109. REGISTER OF PRISONERS, 1925--. 2 vols. (dated).
Arr. chron. by discharge date. Indexed alph. by first letter of prisoner's surname and chron. thereunder.

110. CRIMINAL RECORD (Convicts), Apr. 1897-Dec. 1908. 1 vol.
Discontinued.
Arr. alph. by first letter of convict's surname and chron. thereunder.
No index.

111. THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS, Jan. 1, 1937--. 3 vols.
Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index.
See also entries 46-48, 87, 88.

XVII. COUNTY POLICE

Provision was made by the legislature in 1914 for the appointment of

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 2) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2801; Act 1799, Cobb, p. 198; Ga. Code of 1933, #24-1701.
 - 3) Ibid.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #24-2813.

county police,(1) and under this authority one county policeman was appointed by the Clinch County commissioners of roads and revenues in March 1920. (2) Another appointment was made in January 1921.(3) The office remained vacant from 1921 to 1933, when a county policeman was chosen to serve until 1934. Since the latter year, apparently no county policeman has been appointed. The term of office is left to the discretion of the board of commissioners.(4) County police have the same power as the county sheriff to make arrests and execute criminal warrants.(5)

XVIII. TAX RECEIVER

The office of tax receiver was provided for Clinch County in 1850 by the act creating the county.(6) In 1861 this office and that of tax collector were consolidated in Clinch County,(7) one official serving both offices until 1863 when they were made separate and distinct.(8) Since that time the office of tax receiver has continued as a separate agency. The tax receiver is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 4 years.(9) His principal duties are to receive tax returns from all taxpayers of the county and to prepare tax digests.(10)

All records of the tax receiver are located in the tax receiver's and tax collector's office unless otherwise indicated in the entries.

112. TAX RETURNS (White and Colored), 1915-Jan. 1929, Dec. 1930--. 24 vols.

Divided into sections by districts and arr. alph. by name of taxpayer thereunder. No index. 14 vols., 1915-29, ord.'s va.; 10 vols., 1930--, tax rec.'s and col.'s off.

113. WHITE (Applications for Personal Property and Homestead Tax Exemption), 1938--. Est. 600 papers in 1 f.d.

Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index.

114. COLORED (Applications for Personal Property and Homestead Tax Exemption), 1938--. Est. 316 papers in 1 f.d.

Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index.

XIX. BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS

Clinch County was provided with a board of tax assessors under the

-
- 1) Ga. Code of 1933, #23-1401; Ga. Acts 1914, pp. 142, 143.
 - 2) Minutes (County Commissioners), vol. 1, 1915--, p. 97, see entry 1.
 - 3) Ibid., pp. 101-118.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #23-1407; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 143.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #23-1403; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 142.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1861, p. 29.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1863, p. 16.
 - 9) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-8301.
 - 10) Ga. Code of 1933, #92-4611, pars. 1, 2.

authority of an act of 1913.(1) It is the duty of this board to see that all property is returned at a just and fair valuation.(2) The board consists of three members, who are appointed for 6-year terms by the board of commissioners of roads and revenues.(3) It is authorized to employ a secretary and an agent to seek out and report on all unreturned property.(4)

XX. TAX COLLECTOR

The act creating Clinch County in 1850 provided for the office of tax collector.(5) This office and that of tax receiver were consolidated in this county in 1861,(6) one official serving both offices until they were made separate and distinct by an act of 1863.(7) Since that time the office of tax collector has continued as a separate agency. The tax collector is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 4 years.(8) His principal duties are to collect State and county taxes and pay to the State and county treasurers their proportionate share of the taxes.(9) Among other duties he collects poll taxes and keeps a permanent record of qualified voters.(10)

All records of the tax collector are located in the tax receiver's and tax collector's office unless otherwise indicated in the entries.

115. TAX RECEIPTS (Stubs), 1937--. 3 vols. (dated).
Arr. numer. by serial no. No index.

116. (CASH BOOK), 1932--. 5 vols.
Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index.

117. TAX DIGEST (White and Colored), 1901--. 39 vols. (dated).
Divided into sections by district and arr. alph. by name of taxpayer thereunder. No index.

118. SPECIAL TAX DIGEST, 1928--. 3 vols.
Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. 2 vols., 1928-31, ord.'s va.; 1 vol., 1932--, tax rec.'s and tax col.'s off.

119. TAX COLLECTOR'S EXECUTION DOCKET, 1892-95, 1899, 1901, 1903-9, 1914--. 17 vols. (dated).
Arr. chron. by date execution issued. No index. 4 vols., 1892-1909, ord.'s va.; 13 vols., 1914--, tax rec.'s and tax col.'s off.

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1913, pp. 123-134.
 - 2) Ga. Code of 1933, #92-6911.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #92-6903, #92-6904; Ga. Acts 1913, p. 124.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #92-6910; Ga. Acts 1913, p. 126.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1861, p. 29.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1863, p. 16.
 - 8) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-8301.
 - 9) Ga. Code of 1933, #92-4901, par. 1.
 - 10) Ga. Code of 1933, #92-4901, par. 11.

120. (VOTERS REGISTRATION LIST), 1936--. Est. 20 lists in 1 bdl. Divided into sections by districts and arr. alph. by name of voter thereunder. No index.

See also entry 45.

121. (LIST OF QUALIFIED VOTERS), 1896-Dec. 1897, Jan. 1916--. 2 vols. (dated).

Divided into sections by districts and arr. alph. by name of voter thereunder. No index. 1 vol., 1896-97, ord.'s va.; 1 vol., 1916--, tax rec.'s and tax col.'s off.

XXI. FISCAL DEPOSITORY (Formerly County Treasurer)

The office of county treasurer, which had existed since the creation of Clinch County in 1850, was abolished by an act of 1915, effective January 1, 1917.(1) The board of commissioners of roads and revenues were authorized to designate a bank or trust company as the county depository, and the fiscal agency so designated succeeded to the duties of the county treasurer. The depository is selected for a period of 2 years.(2)

XXII. REGISTRARS

A board of three registrars was established in each county by an act of 1894, and such a board has continued to function in Clinch County to the present.(3) The members are chosen by the superior court judge, and must be from more than one political interest or party. Their terms of office are for 2 years.(4) Their principal duty is to prepare on or before June 1 of each election year a list of registered voters of the county. If, in the opinion of the superior court judge, the registrars cannot prepare such a list within the required time, one or more assistant boards of registrars may be appointed by him.(5)

The registrars are required to deposit the voters lists, after completion, with the clerk of the superior court; see entry 45.

XXIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Boards of education were provided for all counties under a general act of 1859,(6) and this act remained in force until 1866.(7) However, in Clinch County, the inferior court is said to have administered school affairs until

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- 1) Ga. Acts 1915, pp. 197, 198.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1915, p. 196.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #34-301; Ga. Acts 1894, pp. 115-118.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #34-301, #34-302; Ga. Acts 1894, p. 118.
 - 5) Ga. Code of 1933, #34-403; Ga. Acts 1908, p. 59; 1924, p. 48.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1859, pp. 29-31.
 - 7) Ga. Acts 1866, pp. 58-64.

1868.(1) A legislative act substituted a county commissioner of schools for the board of education from 1866 to 1870,(2) and, since records are lacking, it is assumed that such an official succeeded to the school administrative duties in Clinch County in 1868. A board of education was established in the county under a legislative act of 1870,(3) and, with modifications, has been retained to date.(4) There are five members of the board,(5) these being selected by the grand jury and holding office for terms of 4 years.(6) The county school superintendent acts as secretary of the board.(7)

122. MINUTES, 1893--. 2 vols. (1893-1925, 1 vol., 1; 1 vol. dated). Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. School supt.'s off.

XXIV. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The office of superintendent of schools was established in Clinch County in 1911.(8) He succeeded to those duties of a county school executive officer, supposed to have been administered since the creation of the county as follows: 1850-68 by the inferior court justices;(9) 1868-1911 by a commissioner of schools.(10) In the latter year, the title of commissioner was changed to that of superintendent of schools.(11) The superintendent is elected by the voters of the county for a 4-year term.(12) He is secretary of the county board of education and its chief executive officer.(13)

123. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION - RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1917--. 5 vols. (1917-26, 2 vols., dated; 3 vols. not labeled). Arr. chron. by date recorded. No index. Supt.'s off.

124. (TEACHERS' MONTHLY REPORTS), 1932--. Est. 900 reports in 10 f.d. Arr. chron. by date of report. No index. Supt.'s off.

XXV. BOARD OF HEALTH

Provision was made in 1914 for the establishment of a board of health

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- 1) Huxford, op. cit., 99, 100.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1866, pp. 58-64.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1870, pp. 49-60.
 - 4) Ga. Acts 1871-72, pp. 279-283; Ga. Code of 1933, #32-902; Ga. Acts 1919, p. 320.
 - 5) Ibid.
 - 6) Ibid.
 - 7) Ga. Code of 1933, #32-1004; Ga. Acts 1919, p. 350.
 - 8) Ga. Acts 1911, p. 101.
 - 9) Huxford, op. cit., 99, 100.
 - 10) Ga. Acts 1866, p. 59.
 - 11) Ga. Acts 1911, p. 101.
 - 12) Ibid.
 - 13) Ga. Code of 1933, #32-907, #32-1009.

in each county.(1) Prior to that time county health matters had been under the general supervision of the authority having charge of county affairs.(2) The board is composed of the county superintendent of schools and the chairman of the commissioners of roads and revenues, who are members by virtue of their offices, and a reputable physician elected by the grand jury. The latter serves for 4 years. The board of health has supervision over all matters relating to health and sanitation in the county.(3)

125. CLIPPINGS, 1937---. 1 vol.

Reports and memos of transactions of health department, written by director. Arr. chron. by date written. No index. Co. health off.

XXVI. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

The office of district commissioner of health was established in Clinch County in 1937,(4) under authority of an act of 1914.(5) The district commissioner is appointed by the county board of health from an eligible list furnished by the director of the State Board of Health and he serves for a term of 4 years.(6) His principal duties are the enforcement of the State health laws, the conservation of public health, and the prevention of disease.(7)

126. SCHOOL CARDS, 1937---. Est. 600 cards in 2 f.b.

Divided into sections by school grades and each section arr. alph. by child's name. No index. Co. health off.

127. (Typhoid) IMMUNIZATION RECORDS, 1937---. Est. 450 papers in 2 f.b.

Divided into sections by schools and each section arr. alph. by name of child. No index. Co. health off.

128. BIRTHS (Certificates), 1927---. 2 vols. (A, B).

Arr. chron. by date of birth and numer. by registration no. For index, see entry 130. Ord.'s off.

129. DEATHS (Certificates), 1927---. 1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date of death and numer. by registration no. For index, see entry 130. Ord.'s off.

130. VITAL STATISTICS INDEX (Births and Deaths), 1927---. 1 vol.

Serves as index to Births (Certificates), entry 128; Deaths (Certificates),

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- 1) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-201; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 125.
 - 2) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127; Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, secs. V, XIV; Ga. Acts 1889, pp. 1104-1106; 1893, p. 359; 1914, p. 125.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-201; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 125.
 - 4) Statement of Dr. Guy D. Lunsford, Director of division of local health organizations, State Board of Health, June 7, 1940.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1914, pp. 124-134.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-303; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 127.
 - 7) Ga. Code of 1933, #88-309; Ga. Acts 1914, p. 131.

entry 129. Arr. alph. by name of infant or deceased. Ord.'s off.

131. LETTERS (and General Information), 1937---. Est. 120 papers in
1 f.b.

Arr. alph. by first letter of name of correspondent or subject and chron.
thereunder. No index. Co. health off.

XXVII. COUNTY PHYSICIAN

A Clinch County physician was appointed in September 1915,(1) and several succeeding entries in the records of the commissioners of roads and revenues show subsequent such appointments.(2) The county physician is chosen by the commissioners of roads and revenues and serves at their pleasure. His principal duties are to give medical attention to county prisoners and to inmates of county charitable institutions.

XXVIII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The department of public welfare was established in Clinch County in 1937,(3) and assumed welfare activities previously under the general supervision of the authority having charge of county affairs.(4) Five members comprise the county board of public welfare and they are appointed by the board of commissioners of roads and revenues subject to the approval of the State Department of Public Welfare. The county board members serve 3-year terms.(5) The county director, appointed by the welfare board, subject to the approval of the State department, serves as board secretary.(6)

All records of the department of public welfare are located in its office.

Cases

132. CASES APPROVED (Active), 1937---. Est. 680 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of client. For index, see entry 134.

133. CASES TO BE COMPLETED AND APPROVED, 1937---. Est. 600 papers
in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of applicant. For index, see entry 134.

134. MASTER INDEX CARD, 1937---. Est. 300 cards in 1 f.b.
Serves as index to Cases Approved (Active), entry 132; Cases to be Completed and Approved, entry 133. Arr. alph. by name of client.

-
- 1) Minutes (County Commissioners), vol. 1, 1915---, p. 2, see entry 1.
 - 2) Ibid., pp. 62, 393.
 - 3) Ga. Acts 1937, pp. 363, 364.
 - 4) Act 1792, Marbury and Crawford, p. 220; Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127; Ga. Const. 1868, art. V, secs. V, XIV; Ga. Acts 1889, pp. 1104-1106; 1893, p. 359; 1915, pp. 190-197; 1937, pp. 363, 364.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1937, p. 364.
 - 6) Ga. Acts 1937, pp. 364, 365.

Department of Public Welfare -
Applications; Special Assistance;
Financial Records

135. IN C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) CAMP, 1935---. Est. 102 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of enrollee. No index.
136. C. C. C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) DISCHARGED, 1935---. Est. 68 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of enrollee. No index.
137. (ACTION OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE ON APPROVED, MODIFIED AND CANCELLED AWARDS), 1937---. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date approved and numor. by certificate no. No index.
138. IDENTIFICATION CARDS, 1933---. Est. 118 cards in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index.

Applications

139. W.P.A. (Work Projects Administration); C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) APPLICATIONS CLOSED, 1936---. Est. 360 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index.
140. (SERVICE REQUEST FOR OLD AGE, DEPENDENT CHILDREN, AND NEEDY BLIND), 1937---. Est. 380 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of client. No index.

Special Assistance

141. OLD AGE (Award and Modification), 1937---. Est. 316 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of client. No index.
142. AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN (Award and Modification), 1937---. Est. 96 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of child. No index.
143. AID TO THE BLIND (Award and Modification), 1937---. 18 cards in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of client. No index.
144. COMMODITY CASES, 1937---. Est. 85 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index.
145. COUNTY CASES, COMMODITY CASES, 1936---. Est. 80 cards in 1 f.b.
Contains: Georgia Emergency Relief Cases, Federal Emergency Relief Cases, Welfare Financial Records, and Requisitions for Surplus Commodities. Arr. alph. by name of client. No index.

Financial Records

146. (REGISTER OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS), 1937---. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by month. No index.

Road Commissioners; County Surveyor;
County Agricultural Agent

(147-148)

147. (PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, AID TO NEEDY BLIND,
AND AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN), 1937---. 1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date of schedule and numer. by application no. No index.

148. (LEDGER AND ALLOTMENT REGISTER), 1937---. 1 vol.

Arr. chron. by date of allotment. No index.

XXIX. ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Road commissioners were provided for Clinch County on its creation in 1850,(1) under authority of a legislative act of 1818.(2) Three road commissioners were appointed by the board of commissioners of roads and revenues to serve in each road district for 2-year terms.(3) They were required to inspect and report to the board of commissioners of roads and revenues on the condition of public roads, bridges, and ferries within their districts.(4)

XXX. COUNTY SURVEYOR

The office of county surveyor was established in Clinch County with the county's creation in 1850,(5) and has continued to function to the present. The surveyor is elected by the qualified voters of the county for a term of 4 years.(6) Among his duties are the surveying of county and district lines, the execution of surveys required by court order, and the platting of all surveys made by him.(7)

XXXI. COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

The office of county agricultural agent was established in Clinch County in 1917,(8) under authority of a legislative act of 1914,(9) and has continued to function to the present. The act of the legislature gave assent of the State to the provisions of the Federal Smith-Lover act, which inaugurated a program of cooperation with State agricultural colleges for the improvement of productive methods and living conditions of farmers by extension work.(10) The county agricultural agent is selected by the college of agriculture of the University of Georgia with the approval of the county commissioners and the board of education. This is a slight variation from

-
- 1) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 2) Act 1818, Cobb, p. 947.
 - 3) Ga. Code of 1933, #95-301, #95-302; Act 1818, Cobb, p. 947.
 - 4) Ga. Code of 1933, #95-307.
 - 5) Ga. Acts 1849-50, pp. 126, 127.
 - 6) Ga. Code of 1933, #2-8301, #23-1101; Act 1799, Cobb, p. 198.
 - 7) Ga. Code of 1933, #23-1108; Act 1838, Cobb, p. 215.
 - 8) Minutes (County Commissioners), vol. 1, 1915---, p. 64, see entry 1.
 - 9) Ga. Acts 1914, p. 1243.
 - 10) Barnes Federal Code, #8413, #8414; 38 Stat. L. 372.

the manner provided by law.(1) His term of office is fixed by agreement.(2)

All records of the county agricultural agent are located in his office.

149. COTTON FILE (Adjustment Payments), 1934---. Est. 600 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by name of grower. No index.

150. TOBACCO AND GENERAL FILE, 1936---. Est. 680 papers in 1 f.d.
Arr. alph. by subject. No index.

151. INFORMATION (Cotton Records), 1935---. Est. 300 papers in 2 f.b. (dated).
Arr. alph. by subject. No index.

152. TOBACCO RENTAL (Parity Payments), 1934---. 2 vols. (dated).
Arr. chron. by date paid. No index.

153. (CONSERVATION PROGRAM VOUCHERS), 1935---. 2 vols.
Arr. chron. by date paid. No index.

154. (LIVESTOCK CENSUS), 1935---. 1 vol.
Arr. chron. by date of report. No index.

155. 4-H CLUB FILE, 1934---. Est. 300 papers in 1 f.b.
Arr. alph. by subject. No index.

156. (FARM MAPS), 1937---. 45 maps in 1 bdle.
Arr. alph. by name of farm operator. No index.

1) Ga. Acts 1923, p. 88; Statement of Director, Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, State of Georgia, September 21, 1939.
2) Ibid.

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