

# The Ludowici News

P. O. Box 278

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## The Passing Of An Era . . . .

The day of the general practitioner is coming to a close. There has been a time when the family doctor living in the community was called in case of illness, no matter how slight,

and he came to the house. He was not only a physician. He filled the place of a psychologist in diagnosing the family's troubles. And he was also a confidante, to whom the family could talk. He went far beyond the line of duty.

But those days are over. When a person becomes ill now, he or she goes to the doctor's office and if the ailment is sufficiently severe the patient is soon in the hospital.

In the passing of Dr. O.D. Middleton last week who was Long county's last practicing

physician there were many comments on the end of the era of the country doctor. He will be missed here and in Liberty county where he had made his home for a few years.

During his residence here he was a part of the community in many ways.

Before Dr. Middleton's day, there passes in review the faces of those doctors here before him whose contribution to the community is still recalled by local people. The others whom we recall who were here for years were, Dr. J.A. Leaphart, Dr. W.E. Miller, Dr. D.W. Baggs, Dr. A.C. Branch, Dr. G.S. Roach, Dr. F.C. Hack, Dr. John H. Weaver, Dr. A.L. Wynn and Dr. Jim Middleton, the two latter we do not remember.

the name of the railroad to be the Georgia Coast and Piedmont. During its prosperous days there were two passenger trains each way a day and a freight train each way every day.

In the development of the village of Donald early in this century, the land was owned by T.J. Harrington who offered any one who would build a home there an acre of land. At one time he owned ten thousand acres of land.

(Mrs. Nan Harrington Ellis of Ludowici is his daughter.) The two-story Harrington home (later burned) was located on what is now U.S. 301. From it Mr. Harrington built a road directly in front of it to his lands where he developed Donald, which he called "The North Road." On it was built the Donald school the successor to Baxter Branch School.

Before the town was laid off into lots and streets by Mr. Harrington and his son, George M. Harrington, a civil engineer, the only people living there was Margaret Gault and her family. She was a former slave who had belonged to Simon Harrington, the father of T.J. Harrington. Since she was the lone resident, it was decided to name the town Margaretville, but due to a conflict in the name with another place in Georgia, the town was named for the McDonald family who lived in that section and who later moved to Donald. There are those who say the name was shortened to Donald when

There had earlier been a post office at Bay View out in Liberty County and after the one at Donald was established the Bay View office was merged with the one at Donald. Tom Long of Ludowici says he recalls that the first postmaster at Donald was the late Nathan Rolls, who was among the first settlers of the town. He married the former Mattie Chapman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel N. Chapman of near Ludowici. In a 1907 issue of the newspaper at Ludowici, the Liberty Times, is an advertisement of "Nathan Rolls, Jeweler and Optician, Donald, Ga."

From the Donald post office there was a rural mail route to Gum Branch and that vicinity. The first mail carrier there was Arlie Flowers. Gordon Pinkston at Ludowici says that he carried the mail by Donald on his rural route and at that time the late W.H. Deal was postmaster. The late C.W. Dawson of Ludowici and formerly of the Donald community succeeded Mr. Pinkston. Mr. Dawson, father of Ralph and Tom Dawson and Mrs. Rosalie D. Phillips of Ludowici was a former school teacher, a native of Tattnall County. He was Long County's first Clerk of the Superior Court.

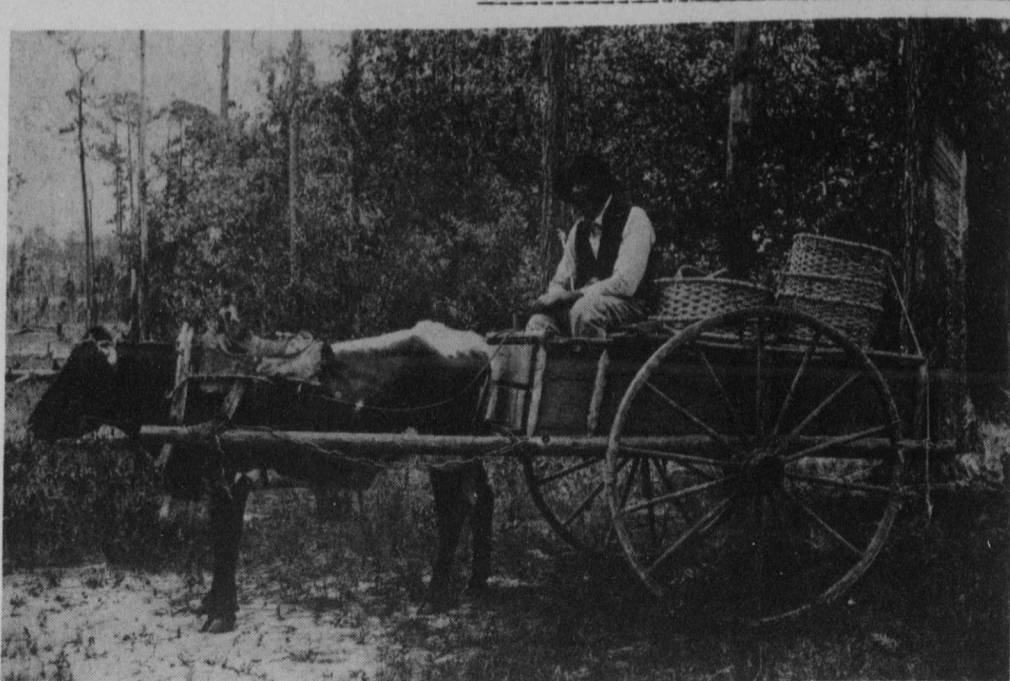
The first general store at Donald was run by H. Lewis who moved his store there from Bay View. It was later owned by Kaminsky. The late Howard brothers, S.H. and T.L. Howard operated a grocery store there and conducted a large naval stores operation. The T.L. Howards lived at Donald for many years. Their old home was destroyed by fire.

Billy Peacock had a blacksmith shop in the edge of the town. The first garage was operated by the Deal brothers, Calvin and Rufus, it is said.

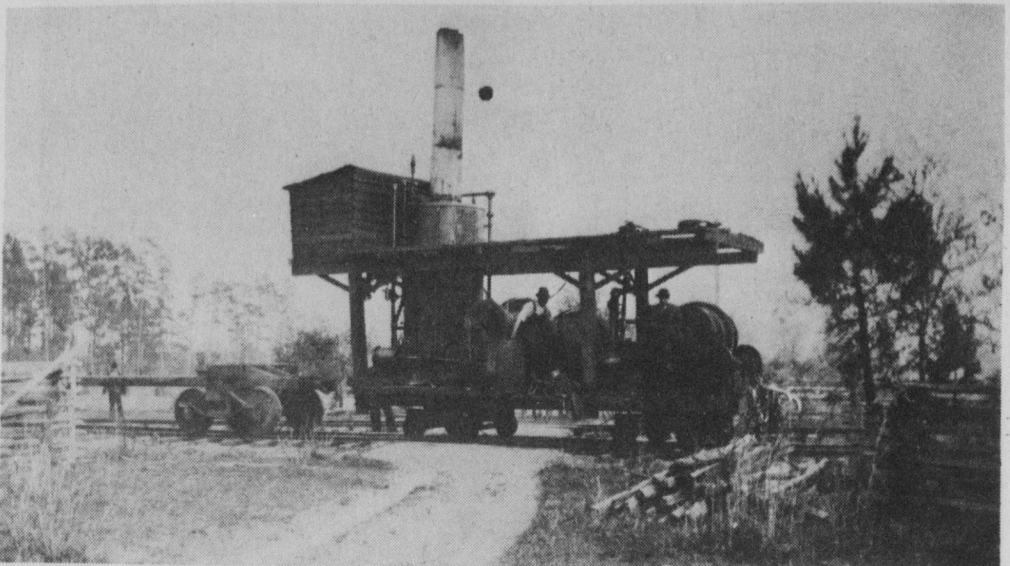
The first hotel was "The Donald" operated by the late Shellman Baxter. It was later the home of the late Miss Annie Baxter, and is now the home of Steve McDonald. The second hotel, the Baldwin, was owned by Mrs. Etta Baldwin. The cotton gin was early operated by W.H. Deal, north of the railroad. The first sawmill there was owned by T.J. Harrington and Son and later operated by Mr. Harrington's son-in-law, John Sullivan.

When the Baptist Church was established the first pastor was the Rev. L.M. Rowse, who was the father of Mrs. Paul Evans at Ludowici.

Tom Long, now of Ludowici was born and raised north of Donald. He says that the "biggest hit Donald had" was when the Savannah River Lumber Company established its logging operations there. He says that they employed 250 men in the woods. The Company had a railroad that ran from Donald to the lands of the late Captain J.W. Hughes and the late brothers, Joseph and J. Edgar Parker. It crossed what is now the present route of U.S. 301 about the home of



"VANISHING AMERICA"—Basket maker who was out selling his wares. The picture was made in front of Baxter Branch School in 1904 by Wyman Parker, whose sister, Miss Mary Parker loaned it.



THE SAVANNAH RIVER LUMBER COMPANY SKIDDER—The track of the Company's railroad ran from Donald across the Parker land just in front of the Joseph H. Parker home. (The picture was loaned by Miss Mary Parker.)

the late Scott Parker. Another railroad spur ran out North of Donald to the J.E. Long lands. Clifford Livingston and Cecil Brewton were with the Company. Other well known young men of the village about that time who have not been named (according to some of the old residents) were Parker Howard, Rufus Deal, George Deal, Tom Long, Hart Blocker, Liney Driggers, and Keller Baxter. Also was the late Fred Beasley of Statesboro, who married the former Elise Baggs of this place. He became the mayor of Ludowici.

At near-by Roderick (near the present home of the W.H. Parkers) was the branch of the Brunswick company that shipped light-wood stumps. Later Brown and Kendrick moved in to Donald with cross tie operations.

In the year 1919 there were three candidates for public office in Liberty County from Donald and all were elected. They were, John H. Baxter, sheriff, A.O. Flowers, tax receiver, and Tom W. Long county school superintendent. T.L. Howard, who lived in Don-

ald was in the Georgia House and Senate, from Liberty County. T.J. Harrington had already served in the Legislature in 1909-1910 and Joseph H. Parker who lived near-by was in the State Senate.

Among the other families whose names have not been mentioned but who have been prominently identified with Donald through the years have been the Williamson, the Driggers, and the Swindells, the late J.H. Swindell being Long County tax receiver at the time of his death.

Theseneotes have been made over a period of time and there is much to be added to Donald's history. But this is the beginning and it should be recorded What do you know about it? And who has any old pictures? H.W.C.

## CLASSIFIED

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BAXTER BRANCH SCHOOL ABOUT 1909—Front row, from the left: Leonard McDonald, Albert Parker, Simon Harrington Steven McDonald, Nannie Baxter, Edelle Baxter, Agnes Baxter, Eulalie Harrington, Bessie Baxter, Flossie Baxter. Second row, from the left: Jake Harrington, Jim Parker, Clarke Sullivan, John Parker, Philo Sullivan, Ed Parker, Julian Parker,

Wallace Harrington, Harry Baxter. Third row, from the left: Sallie McDonald, Izola Baxter, Mary Parker, Katie Baxter, Marie Harrington, Edith Harrington, Leary Baxter, Lucile Parker. Back row, from the left: Eula Baxter, Carrie Baxter, Annie Baxter, and the teacher, Charles W. Hodges who was from the Rye Patch community. (The Picture belongs to Miss Mary Parker)

## SEEN and HEARD HERE and THERE

Donald, Georgia, once advocated for the county seat of Liberty County by its promoter, the late Thomas J. Harrington, is no longer a town. It was

dealt practically a death blow when the Georgia, Coast and Piedmont Railroad was discontinued. That railroad extending finally from Brunswick to Col-

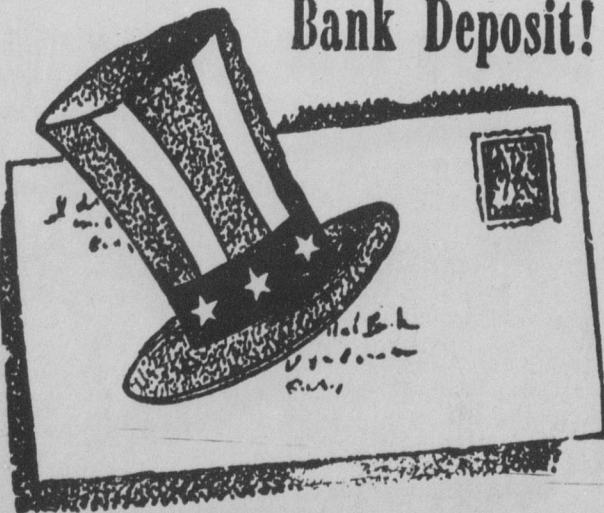
lins in Tattnall County was originally the Darien and Western.

Records that we found in the Liberty County court house show rights of way being sold locally to the Darien and Western in 1904-1905. By 1909 the Liberty County records show

the railroad was established there by its president, Donald McKay.

The first railroad agent there is said to have been the late J.K. Moore of Glennville, who was succeeded by Audie Ward. Later Arthur Surrency held that job.

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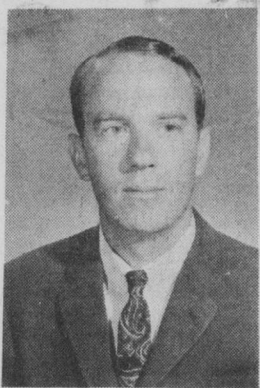
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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### DUE TO PUBLIC DEMANDS

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**NEW OFFICE HOURS**  
**For Your Convenience**  
**10:00 A.M. till 8:00 P.M.**

**WHY BE SICK WHEN YOU CAN BE WELL.**

### To Whom It May Concern:

Before trying chiropractic, I was tired, I moved only because I knew I had to go. There was numbness in my hands and legs, there wasn't any feeling, sick headaches and pressure at the back of the neck which would make me vomit and itching over the blood vessels of the skin, I would scratch and this would result in a black and blue spot. All of the following condition had been going on for a very long time. I was most skeptical about receiving any help truthfully, I almost didn't come. But I figured that it wouldn't hurt any.

Following one week of gentle chiropractic adjustments, the results were fantastic and unbelievable. There is no itching! There is not one bit of numbness in the hands and legs! There are no sick headaches! There is not bit of tiredness on awakening in the morning! I wish I had come to chiropractic three years sooner.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Clara Bell Cox  
Cambridge City, Ind.

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