

GWINNETT GAZETEER

**Dacula also known as Hoke
Gwinnett County, Georgia**

Dacula

Located about six miles east of Lawrenceville on the Seaboard Railroad and on the Athens Highway is the thriving town of Dacula with a population of approximately 400 as progressive and energetic citizens as there are in Georgia.

The origin of the town dates back to 1891 when the 'Seaboard Railroad contractors and builders' selected it as a place in which to build their temporary camp, with its pine-pole cabins and commissary. In its earliest days the town was known as Hoke and a post office was established in this name in honor of an official of the Railroad to which it owed its birth. The name, Hoke, however, was destined to be a short-lived one, since the Railroad refused to have the town keep that name. The Government then asked John W. Freeman, the first postmaster, to submit six names. In order to get an original name, Mr. Freeman conceived the idea of taking certain letters from "Decatur" and "Atlanta" and forming the word "Dacula"-the name which has continued in use until the present day.

Since 1892, the following have served in order as postmasters: Alvin Sammon, Sam Hinton, Alva Loveless, and Anna Lee Hinton.

Even before the town was established, a Methodist Church stood nearby on four acres of land donated by Dr. S. H. Freeman, who was a large land owner of the community and a well known philanthropist. At a distance of about a mile, Hebron, a Baptist Church, was located. Later another church known as the First Baptist was erected.

Chinquelin Grove, the school which had served the community until this time, was soon supplanted by the Dacula Public School, in a new building with W. A. Davis as principal. This, in turn, gave way to a modern brick building in 1910, and today another brick building and a Community House, constructed of rock, have become parts of one of the most progressive schools in Georgia. Dr. Samuel H. Freeman, who lived at a distance of about a mile from town,

was nationally known as a physician. In many instances, patients came from other states and boarded with him while they took treatment. His magnificent home was noted for its hospitality and he at one time considered building a street car line from his home to the railroad station for the accommodation of his patients.

Mr. J. W. Hamilton was the pioneer citizen of the town. He built the first house, a little wooden building, in 1891 around which Dacula grew and prospered. He was born in Gwinnett County November 7, 1847. His originality and nobility of character made him one of the most influential citizens of Dacula. He served gallantly in the Confederate Army and took part in the battles around Atlanta.

The proprietor of the first drug store was Dr. Samuel L. Hinton, whom everyone loved and respected, and who was generally known as the "grand old man" of Gwinnett County.

After Dr. Hinton's death November 7, 1918, the arduous task of administering to the sick descended upon the shoulders of two highly competent general practitioners: Dr. William T. Hinton and Dr. Benjamin V. Wilson whose deeds of generosity, charity, and kindness were not restricted to Gwinnett County.

In 1905 Dacula was incorporated with Dr. S. L. Hinton as first mayor. Since then, the following have served as mayors: A. M. Wilson, L. C. Mauldin, Beverley Ambrose, G. F. Pharr, K. E. Taylor, Claude Hinton, Otho Pharr, J. W. Hamilton, and Taylor Whitley. Under the original charter the mayor had power to sentence offenders to the county chain gang.

Dacula is a progressive community. A new highway from Athens was graded through the town in 1928, and paved in 1931. The Georgia Power Company installed electric lights in 1929. A modern brick City Hall was built in 1935 at a cost of \$2500.

Dacula is also proud of its school. Several hundred students attend this school, a large part of whom are transported in modern steel busses. The school buildings are modern in every respect. Besides the usual courses in the primary and high school departments, vocational agriculture receives special attention, as does the department of domestic science.

Current Day: **City Population 2000:**
3,848

Metro area: Atlanta

Latitude: 33.988N

Longitude: -83.898W

Pronounced: da-CUE-lah

Municipal address:

PO Box 400

Dacula, GA 30019



Transcription from: J. C. Flanigan's History of Gwinnett County. Volume II.

Read the AJC's Dacula Article - 07062003 [http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/gwinnett/0703/06dacula.html?UrAuth=`N^NUObNVUbbTTUWUXUUUZTYU_UWU^UVUZU\]UZUcTYWYWZV](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/gwinnett/0703/06dacula.html?UrAuth=`N^NUObNVUbbTTUWUXUUUZTYU_UWU^UVUZU]UZUcTYWYWZV)

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