

GWINNETT GAZETEER

Duluth
Gwinnett County, Georgia

Duluth

The town of Duluth and surrounding community have an interesting history. Where the town of Duluth is now located was first and for a long time afterwards known as Howell's Cross Roads.

Evan Howell came from North Carolina in 1821 and settled in that community. He farmed, sold goods, operated a ferry across the Chattahoochee River and joined Sweetwater Baptist Church and was baptized in the Chattahoochee near his home. He accumulated a large estate and was an outstanding citizen until his death.

His son, Clark Howell, came to Lawrenceville and married Martha Ann Winn, daughter of Elisha Winn, and with his brother-in-law, R. D. Winn, engaged in the mercantile business for some years. After the death of his wife, he moved across the river in Milton County, erected a modern brick dwelling and farmed on a large scale.

Thomas L. Lenoir was also an early settler on the river just north of Howell's plantation. He, too, was a prosperous farmer. Above Lenoir's farm near where Abbott's bridge now stands lived George M. Waters who owned 100 slaves in 1840. An interesting story about Waters is on record in volume one of the History of Gwinnett County.

In 1871 when the railroad was constructed to Howell's Cross Roads, a depot was erected there and Evan Howell, grandson of the first Evan Howell, was invited to deliver an address and name the new town. The country at that time was laughing about a speech delivered in the national house of representatives by Congressman James Proctor Knott. A bill was before the Congress to finance the building of a railroad in a certain section of Minnesota and to terminate at an obscure village by the name of Duluth. Knott's humorous address brought down the house of representatives and the country got a good laugh. Mr. Howell, therefore, gave the name of Duluth to Howell's Cross Roads. (Read this history at <http://www.duluthhistory.com>)

Duluth has passed the age of three score years and ten. And the older it is the faster it grows. It has been an enterprising town during its entire history. The fertile bottom lands of the Chattahoochee River lay at its back door. The vast territory across the river that never had a railroad found Duluth to be its nearest and best market. So Duluth prospered and became an important trading center.

Among the well known families that are closely connected with the life of Duluth are these: Knox, Parson, Dodson, Dodd, Taylor, Findley, McClure, McDaniel, McGee, Rutledge, Lowe, Barker, Cook, Ware, Wilson, Little, Summerour, Jones, Pittard, Strickland. These are a few of the many who have made Duluth a thriving community.

The town has two churches, Methodist and Baptist. An accredited high school is the pride of the town and community.

A water and sewerage system was installed throughout the town in 1946-47.

The Summerour & Son tannery gives employment to a number of men.

Joan Glancy Hospital was erected and began operations in 1941. A large manufacturing enterprise is operated in connection with the hospital. The profits of this concern go to the hospital.

In 1876, the community officially became a town with its charter Howell, the crossroads' founder, is buried at Duluth Church Cemetery. It's just up the hill from downtown, located on a ridge ringed by magnolias and sycamores, a collection of limestone and granite markers extolling the qualities of Duluth's earliest residents.

The 1990 census showed 9,029 people living in Duluth, 2000 shows 22,122 residents.

The cities budget 1993 was approximately \$4.35 million, in 2003 it was approx. 38 million.

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

"Other information Eye on Gwinnett and AJC"

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