

# GWINNETT GAZETEER

Lawrenceville  
Gwinnett County, Georgia

## Lawrenceville

Records are not available to give the personnel of the boards from 1823 to 1882. Had the records been preserved, as they should have been, many events in the history of the town could now be made known.

### **After Incorporation in 1821**

After Lawrenceville was incorporated in 1821, a jail and a courthouse were erected, mercantile establishments were opened, lawyers and doctors rented offices and the population of the town grew rapidly. In 1829, Lawrenceville had forty dwellings, ten stores, ten machine shops, three law offices, three doctors, one academy, one Methodist church, one Baptist church and one Presbyterian church. Red Land was the Baptist church and Fairview the Presbyterian church.

### **Businessmen locating in Lawrenceville after 1821**

including lawyers locating in the town were Philip Alston 1821, N. L. Hutchins 1823, John G. Parks 1823, E. W. Chester 1825, Jas. C. Martin 1829. Martin married a daughter of Elisha Winn and was killed in the battle of Shepherd's Plantation by the Creek Indians in 1835. Seven other men from Gwinnett County lost their lives in the same battle and all eight were buried in the same grave on the courthouse square in Lawrenceville. A monument was erected over their grave in 1840.

### **Doctors**

Dr. Philo Hall, native of Connecticut, Dr. Bangs, Dr. Jesse Lowe, Dr. Wildman, Dr. John W. Maltbie and Dr. T. W. Alexander practiced their profession in Lawrenceville's early history.

### **Merchants**

#### **Featherstone, Smith**

Edward Featherstone and Asahel R. Smith were among the town's first merchants. The last named continued to be leading merchant in the county for thirty years. He was the father of Charles H. Smith, known to the literary world a generation ago as Bill Arp.

### **Moving Forward:**

In 1968 "A Horrible Event and reported much by the Media brought

"unwanted" attention to the city. A Florida heiress by the name of, Barbara Mackle was kidnapped and buried alive in Gwinnett County. The city served as the station headquarters for police and reporters who waited for word from the kidnapers after a \$500,000.00 ransom was paid. Barbara Mackle, who was buried in a box only slightly larger than a coffin, had a tube for air and a little food and stayed in the box for 81 hours. After freeing the young lady police captured the kidnapers. While the story had a good ending, the very thought that this could happen here was an eye-opener for this small town in Metro-Atlanta. This is not what this town wants to be remembered for.

In 1993 a unique monument to the memory of Confederate Veterans from Gwinnett County was erected in the old courthouse square. (See Photos in Gallery on this website).

Lawrenceville has seen a tremendous amount of growth and continues to grow,

Population (Year 2000): 22,397, Est. population in July 2002: 25,576 (+13.8% change) - Land area is 13.0 square miles.

---

Transcription from: J. C. Flanigan's History of Gwinnett County. Volume II.  
Atlanta Journal and A/P reports.

Electronic version - 2004 -gad.

