

GWINNETT GAZETEER

Norcross

Gwinnett County, Georgia

Norcross

Written By John T. Simpson, Jr.

Norcross became a city October 26, 1870, and is on the Southern Railroad a few miles from the Gwinnett-DeKalb county line.

Mayors

John Thrasher was the first mayor. He served from 1870 to 1878.

Other **Mayors** have been as follows:

M. L. Lively 1878-1882;

E. G. McDaniel, 1882-86;

S. T. McElroy, 1886-90;

Dr. O. O. Simpson, 1890-92;

J. M. Holbrook, 1893-94;

H. M. Lively, 1895-96;

A. A. Martin, 1897-98;

J. E. McElroy, 1899-1900;

W. M. McElroy, 1900-01;

C. A. McDaniel, 1901-02;

D. K. Johnson, 1903-04, during which bonds were issued for the old school building;

A. A. Johnson, 1905-06;

T. E. Johnson, 1907-08;

W. M. McElroy, 1909-10;

B. F. Clement, 1911-12;

Dr. A. H. Wingo, 1913-14;

Dr. O. O. Simpson, 1914-18; bonds were voted for new school house;

L. H. Letson, 1919-29;

B. F. Summerour, 1921-24;

J. T. Simpson, 1925-26; bonds were floated for water works in 1926;

D. B. Phillips, 1927-30;

B. F. Simpson, 1930-35, resigned to become a candidate for solicitor general of Piedmont Circuit and was elected;

W. M. Dodd.

The People of Norcross

Norman Favius Cooledge, famed educator, moved to Norcross in 1877 and established a boarding school.

Arthur Capper, governor and United States Senator of Kansas, graduated from this school in 1880, having been transferred from the Garnett high school, Kansas. His parents lived here for some time.

Former senator, William Goodein, of Arkansas, also graduated here in 1880. He boarded with Professor Cooledge.

Mr. Cooledge retired as superintendent of the Norcross school in 1896 and died the next year. He was a native of Vermont and was a first cousin of John Coolidge, father of former president Calvin Coolidge.

Terrell E. Simmons opened a school here in 1883 under the name of the Georgia School of Language, Science and Art. He sold his school property in 1888 and moved to Sandersville and took charge of the school there.

Edward F. Buchanan, 1871-1910, an orphan boy, was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Tedder of Norcross. He learned telegraphy here and in time was employed as an operator by A. O. Brown, cotton broker, Wall Street, New York. He later was connected with that firm. He erected a granite dwelling here and at a house warming July 4, 1907, one of his New York friends estimated his holdings then at seven million dollars. He built a plow and implement factory here, also a telegraph instrument factory and an automobile factory. Horace Greely Martin invented the vibraplex telegraph instrument while employed by Mr. Buchanan. The first automobile made in the South was manufactured at Norcross in 1908. Several cars were manufactured which were shipped to his New York friends. Mr. Buchanan died in 1910 and was buried in the Norcross cemetery.

James L. Key, son of Dr. T. T. Key of Norcross, was born in the community now known as Lilburn in 1867. He was a well known Atlanta lawyer and was mayor of that city three times, a period of ten years. He died in 1939.

E. Winn Born was a citizen of Norcross. He was judge of the City Court of Gwinnett County. He had an office in Atlanta and was one of the prominent attorneys of that city until his death.

Frank S. Leavitt, widely known as Man Mountain Dean, was a citizen here. He was known far and wide in the sports world. He was a wrestler. Mrs. Leavitt is the former Miss Doris Dean of Norcross.

Norcross & Sports

Norcross boys have won fame in the realm of sports.

Ivy Brown Wingo came to Norcross from Flowery Branch at the age of 17. He played baseball with Royston and Greenville in 1910.

He was sold to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1911 for \$1,000, a high price at that time. During the winter after the 1913 season, he toured Japan, Australia and Europe with John McCraw's National League All Stars. In 1915 he was traded to the Cincinnati Reds. He was manager of the Columbus, Ohio, team in the American Association in 1926. He was catcher for Atlanta in 1927-28. He died in 1941.

Absalom Holbrook (Red) Wingo, brother of Ivy, began playing baseball with Atlanta in 1923. He played with Toronto in 1924 and with Detroit in 1925 under manager Ty Cobb. He remained with Detroit until 1930 and was sold to the Pacific Coast League at San Francisco. He quit baseball after playing with Chattanooga in 1931.

Roy Edward Carlyle played baseball and football for Oglethorpe University in 1920. He played baseball with Griffin in the Georgia Alabama League in 1922. Here a leg was broken and he gave up playing for a while. He was with Charlotte in 1923 and with Memphis in 1924. This year he knocked the first ball ever hit over the right field fence at Ponce de Leon Park in Atlanta. He was with Washington and Boston in 1925, with the New York Yankees in 1926, with the Newark Bears in 1927, and with the Oakland, California, Pacific Coast League in 1928-29 and part of 1930, with the Kansas City Blues part of 1930, and with Atlanta in 1931-32. After knocking the ball for the second time over the right field fence in Atlanta, he retired and entered the hardware business at Norcross.

Hiram Cleo Carlyle began his ball career with Charlotte in 1924. He was with Toronto in 1925-26-27, with the Boston Red Socks in 1928, with Hollywood in the Pacific Coast League in 1929-35, with Los Angeles Angels in 1936-37, with New Orleans in 1938, with the Tulsa Oilers the first of the season and the end with San Diego. He then retired.

Frank Robinson started with Griffin in 1915. He pitched for Columbus in the Sally League in 1916-17. He pitched one game for Atlanta in 1917. After returning from the first World War, he was unable to pitch and settled down in Norcross.

Amos Martin played football and baseball for Oglethorpe University 1927-29 and with Atlanta in 1930 and part of 1931.

Arnold Davenport played halfback on the football team and third base on the baseball team for Oglethorpe in 1920, with Bartow in the Florida State League in 1921, and with Carrollton and Griffin in the Georgia-Alabama League in 1922.

Frank Simpson played football and baseball for Oglethorpe in 1917 and baseball for Georgia in

1918. He returned to Oglethorpe in 1920 and played football and baseball. He played with Bartow in the Florida League in 1921, coached at the University School for Boys and taught classes in 1923-24. He studied law and was solicitor-general of the Piedmont Circuit from 1936 until his death in 1939.

George Reynolds played for Oglethorpe in 1917-18, was with Bartow Florida State League in 1921 and with the Virginia State League at Portsmouth in 1922.

Eldon Carlyle played with Columbus in 1928, with Charlotte in 1929 and with Kansas City part of 1930. He died at Norcross in 1932.

Worley Adams pitched for Oglethorpe in 1921 and with Asheville in 1922.

Hollis Rochester won ten games and lost none for Norcross in 1930 and played with Montesuma in 1932. He died in 1934.

Harold Carlyle played for Charlotte in 1930.

Cecil Rhodes played with Americus in 1933, with Daytona Beach in 1934, Knoxville in 1935-36, with Jacksonville in 1937, with Savannah in 1938, with Greenwood, Miss., 1939, with Spartanburg in 1940 and with Charleston in 1941.

Oliver Kelley played with Waycross in 1939, with Miami in 1940, with Waycross in 1941 and with Savannah in 1942.

Troyce Cofer played with St. Augustine in 1940 and with Charleston in 1941.

Ollie Simpson was a football player. He played with Dahlonega in 1913.

Morris Nesbit played football for Ga. Tech in 1917-18-19.
Roy Carlyle played football for Oglethorpe in 1920.

Wyatt Davenport played football for Georgia Military College in 1920. He received a skull fracture playing baseball against Tech freshmen the following spring. He lived a week and a day and died on Easter Sunday 1921.

John Reynolds played football at Ga. Tech in 1924.

Carroll McDonald played football at Ga. Tech in 1926 and 1927.

William Calhoun Davenport played on the 1928 Tech High team.

Three Norcross boys, **Dave Barrow, Amos Martin and Kenneth Myers**, played for Oglethorpe in 1929 when Oglethorpe defeated Georgia in the first game ever played in Sanford Stadium.

Vernon Morris played on the Monroe Aggie team in 1939 and on Ga. Tech freshmen team in 1940.

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