

Jackson County from 1812-1840

Some Statistics and Facts about Jackson County Early Jackson County Public Officials Who Paved the Way

On December 12, 2012 Jackson County will be 200 years old!

- Catholic priests performed many religious rites in the area of Jackson County from the very early French and Spanish Catholic era until the late 1800's when a Catholic church was established in Pascagoula. Those marriages, baptisms and burials are in the *Mobile and New Orleans Catholic Diocese Records*.
- **1811** – Feb 3, Justices of the Peace for Pascagoula Parish (*From Bay of Biloxi to Mobile Bay*) were George **Farragut** and Benjamin **Goodin**
- **1811** – Aug 11, Justices of the Peace for Pascagoula Parish (*From Bay of Biloxi to Mobile Bay*) were Zenon **Orso**, Theophilus **Powell**, Nicholas **Cook** and Theophilus **Brightwell**
- **1812** – May 14, all of West Florida between the Pearl River and the Perdido River was added to the Mississippi Territory.
- **1812–1817** – Mississippi Territorial period.
- **1812** – There were 55 land entries for new settlers
- **1812** – May-Dec – **Ellis Fairbanks** is Sheriff for Mobile County, Mississippi Territory which at that date included all the territory from Pearl River to Mobile Bay, excluding the City of Mobile.
- **1812** – Aug, Justices of the Peace for Mobile County (*From the Pearl River to Mobile Bay*) were George **Davis** and Benjamin **Youngblood** and Justices of the Quorum Court were Wheeler **Gresham**, Noel **Jourdan** and Robert **Williamson**
- **1812** – Nov 2 to Dec 24 - Mississippi Territorial Assembly. John **Burnett** & Theodore **Brightwell** represented Mobile County in Mississippi Territory 7th Assembly, which at that date, included all of the Gulf Coast from Pearl River to Mobile Bay, excluding the City of Mobile. **On December 12, 1812, Jackson and Hancock Counties were created from the one large Mobile County.**
- **1812–1817** – **Perry King** is first Sheriff of the new County of Jackson, Mississippi Territory.
- **1812** – December 12 - Jackson County in Mississippi Territory was established and named after General Andrew **Jackson**. The County of Mobile was divided into three counties – Mobile County, Hancock County and Jackson County. The new county seat was “at the house of Thomas **Bilbo**”. Thomas Bilbo’s land was on both side of the Pascagoula River in the area of Wilkerson’s Ferry.
- **1812** – December, the new Jackson County’s first sheriff was Perry **King**
- **1812** – Jackson County’s new Clerk of Court was Green **Caller**
- **1812** – December, Justices of the Peace for the new Jackson County were Malcolm **Monroe**, George **Davis** and Moses **Collins** and Justices of the Quorum Court were Thomas **Bilbo**, James **Ware**, Wheeler **Gresham**, Benjamin **Youngblood** and Robert **Williamson**
- **1813** – May, The first recorded election held in Jackson County

- **1813** – Clerk of Court was William **Howell**
- **1813** – Justices of the Peace were George **Farragut** and Benjamin **Lanier**
- **1813–1814** – (*Dec 6 to Jan 22*) Harry **Toulmin** was the single representative for Jackson & Mobile Counties in Mississippi Territorial 8th Assembly. Contest filed by Theodore **Brightwell** and Harry **Toulmin** was unseated on the grounds that he was a Federal Judge. Brightwell was not named in Toulmin's place.
- **1814** – Sheriff was Perry **King**
- **1814** – Justices of the Quorum Court were John **Dease** and William **Hamilton**
- **1814-1816** – (*Nov 2, 1814 to Dec 13, 1816*) William **Crawford** represented Jackson County at the 1814, 1815 and 1816 Mississippi Territory Assembly Sessions.
- **1815** – Clerk of Court was Archibald **McManus**
- **1815** – Justices of the Peace were Walter **Denny** and Charles **Holland**
- **1816** – Sterling **Dupree** represented Jackson County, attending the Pearl River Convention held to request statehood for the Mississippi Territory. Judge **Toulmin** represented Jackson County in Washington, protesting the proposed state and county boundaries.
- **1816** – Jackson County population in November: 756 white, 225 slaves; all slaves were owned by 40 of the 107 families.
- **1816** - May, Five men were to be elected who would select the county seat and order the courts to be held at this place. No records are found to give the names of the five men, but the selection was believed to be at Brewer's Bluff on the Pascagoula River, moving the county court from Thomas Bilbo's place upriver.
- **1817** – Statehood. The sovereign State of Mississippi is established. Jackson County was represented by **Thomas Bilbo**, surveyor of U. S. Lands, and John **McLeod** at the Constitutional Convention which adopted the first State Constitution under which Mississippi was admitted into the Union of the United States of America. The boundaries were set approximately as they are today.
- **1817** – The Senator representing Greene, Jackson and Wayne Counties was Josiah **Skinner**
- **1817** – John **McRae** moved from Winchester, Wayne County, to the West side of the Pascagoula River. He shipped the first barges of cotton down the Chickasawhay and Pascagoula River system.
- **1817-1818** (*Oct 6 to Feb 6*) Archibald **McManus** was Jackson County's 1st representative at the 1st Assembly, the 1st Session in the Lower House of the Legislature of the new state of Mississippi.
- **1817-1819** – John **Brewer, Jr.** is named as the 2nd Sheriff of Jackson County, the 1st after statehood.
- **1818** – The population from the tax roll showed 143 heads of white families and 226 slaves.
- **1818** – Perhaps the first known Jackson County School was held in the area of present day Benndale, with twenty to thirty students attending. It is believed that the patrons of that school were Jacob **Holland**, Charles **Holland**, Peter **Fairley**, Thomas **Bilbo**, Isaac **Ryan**, Aaron **Parker**, Neil **Little**, John **Dees**, Ezekiel **Cowart** and **Cochran**.

- **1818** – Justices of the Peace were Walter **Denny**, Henry **Fletcher**, Richard **Brashiers**, Valentine **Delmas** and Peter **Fairly** and Justices of the Quorum Court were John **Williams**, Samuel **Davis**, John **Davis** and John **Dease**
- **1818** – Efforts were made by the legislature to raise \$3,000 to improve the navigation of the **Pascagoula**, Leaf and Chickasawhay Rivers with a proposed lottery by naming a committee of James, **Patton**, James **Earthman**, Clinch **Gray**, John **Dease**, John **Williams**, Thomas **Bilbo**, Peter **McCaskill**, Asa **Hartfield**, and Elisha **Morgan**
- **1819** – Walter **Davis** was Jackson County’s representative at the 2nd Session of the Legislature.
- **1819** – The Sheriff was Edward **Williamson**
- **1819** – Archibald **McManus**, William **Eubanks** and Walter **Denny** were appointed by the legislature to build a Jackson County jail at Brewer’s Bluff, apparently the county seat since 1816.
- **1819** – A Justices of the Peace was James **Hubbard** (may be James **HAVARD**), and Justices of the Quorum Court were Thomas **Bilbo**, Stephen **Bradford**, John **Brewer**, Peter **Fairly**, Archibald **McManus** and Phillip **Howell**
- **1820 – 1840** plus – **Frederic’s** School, also known as the Valentine **Delmas-Frederic de St. Ferol** School operated in Pascagoula. There are scant records, but from several family stories and letters, it is known that three sons of John **McRae**, Malcolm b. 1812, Colon b. 1813 and John b. 1815, all attended this school. W. C. **Ramsay** boarded with the **McRae’s** and also attended this school.
- **1820** – Archibald **McManus** was Jackson County’s representative at the 3rd Legislative Session.
- **1820** – The legislature postponed till 1823 the time for the completion of the County Jail at Brewer’s Bluff.
- **1820** – **Donaho’s** School near **Ramsay** Springs is believed to been in session for three months, according to descendants of W. C. **Ramsay** and Willis **Holden**. The teacher, “Mr. **Donaho**, was an Irishman.”
- **1820** – Justices of the Peace were Thomas **Hubbard** (may be **HAVARD**), Perry **King** and Daniel **Pickett** and Justices of the Quorum Court were Daniel **Pickett**, William **Starkes** and Daniel **McInnis**
- **1821-1823** (*Jan. 1, 1821 to Jan. 27, 1823*) **Thomas Bilbo** was Jackson County’s representative at the 4th, 5th, 5th additional & 6th Legislative Sessions.
- **1821** – Edward **Williamson** was named Sheriff
- **1821** – The same school near Ramsay Springs was open for six months and taught by Samuel W. **Francis**.
- **1821** – The legislature appointed a committee composed of Valentine **Delmas**, John B. **Boudreaux**, William **Cates**, George **Davis**, Sterling **Dupree**, Malcolm **Black** and Peter **Fairley**, Jr. whose duty it was to “select a permanent seat of justice,; and specified that until this was done the court records were to remain at “the old courthouse,” wherever that may have been. *Four Centuries on the Pascagoula, Vol 1, p 50, Cyril Cain.*
- **1822** – The court records were ordered to be moved to the “new courthouse at **Brewer’s** Bluff.” This was the county seat for at least four years.

- **1822** – The teacher, Samuel W. **Francis**, moved near the Thomas **Bilbo** family and taught for several years. W. C. **Ramsay** was to have attended this school, boarding with the Francis family.
- **1822** – Justices of the Peace were Neal **Little** and Wm. C. **Seaman** and Justices of the Quorum Court were George **Davis**, Sr. and Peter **Fairly**, Sr.
- **1822 -1829** – Norman **McLeod** was a teacher in the area near the **Bilbo's**.
- **1823-1824** (*Dec 22 to Jan 23*) **Walter Davis** was the representative for the 7th Legislative Session.
- **1823** – Justice of the Quorum added was Thomas **Bilbo**
- **1824** – The Sheriff was Bartholomew **Childress**
- **1824** – Justices of the Peace were Walter **Denny**, Charles **Holland**, John **Brewer**, Ellis **Fairbanks**, Sr., and Wm. C. **Seaman** and Justices of the Quorum Court were Stephen **Bradford**, John **Fairly** and Moses **Ward**.
- **1824-1829** – A. C. Ramsay taught school at this father's home in Ramsay Springs.
- **1825** – Thomas **Bilbo** represented Jackson County for the 8th Legislative Session.
- **1826** - Methodist Archives and the ***Carter Family Letters*** record that the Salem Methodist Campground and church was in existence in the Jackson Courthouse area of Jackson County from 1826 until today.
- **1826** – Justices of the Quorum Court were William **Stark** and Joseph **Morris**
- **1827** – Justices of the Peace were Thomas I. **Tucker**, William **Graham**, Edmund **Moss** and Allen **McLendon**.
- **1827** – The legislature moved the Jackson County Courthouse from Brewer's Bluff to "the house of Moses Ward on Cedar Creek." An election was believed to have been held between the "West side" and the "East side" of the Pascagoula River in the selection of the location, with the "East side" winning. The new courthouse location on Cedar Creek was called Jackson Courthouse until 18
- **1827–1853** – All records of those who served as Jackson County Justice of the Peace are missing.
- **1828** – The Sheriff was Charles S. **Holland**
- **1828** – Justices of the Quorum Court were William **Stark** and Burrell **Whittington**
- **1828–1830** – William **Starks** was elected as a member of the Lower House of the Miss. Legislature.
- **1829** – The Sheriff elected or appointed was Chauncy B. Stevens
- **1829** – The first postmaster of Pascagoula was Louis Augustus **de St. Ferol Frederic**.
- **1830** – U. S. Census recorded 1,356 white, 400 slaves and 38 free colored residents.
- **1830** – The Sheriff elected was H. **Vaughan**
- **1830** – Baptist Elder George **Davis** of Georgia moved to Greene County and began preaching up and down the Pascagoula River, including Jackson County and west to Back Bay Biloxi.
- **1831–1840** – Bartholomew **Childress** was County Sheriff.
- **1832** – A Baptist Church was organized by George **Davis** and named **Tidewater** Baptist Church, at the home of Sarah **Davis** on Davis Bayou, where Baptist Deacon Samuel **Davis** had recently died. This church was resolved in 1840 but revived in 1847 by P. P. **Bowen**.
- **1833–1853** – Samuel **Davis** was elected Jackson County Clerk of (all) Courts

- **1833** - From letters and the journal of Andrew **Ramsay** we know there was a small Methodist Episcopal Church, known as “**Graham’s Church**” in the Cumbest Bluff area. It is assumed by references made that there were many small Methodist Episcopal gatherings in homes and meeting houses in the county.
- **1836** – Bartholomew **Childress** was named Sheriff
- **1836** – February 23, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas. Many of the Jackson County residents were affected by the Texas settlements and Mexican War. Between 1840 and 1860 many left Mississippi and moved to Texas.
- **1836–1837** – A. W. **Ramsay** was elected legislative Representative for Jackson County.
- **1837–1842** – Hanson **Alsbury** was elected Senator for Greene, Hancock, Jackson and Perry counties.
- **1837** – Besancon stated that the only Jackson County church was the **Presbyterian Church** in Pascagoula, but we now know there were many “churches” scattered throughout the county.
- **1837** - The Jackson Courthouse was burned in 1837 by James **Copeland**, the noted outlaw and son of Isom **Copeland** and Rebecca **Wells**.
- **1838–1839** – Colin J. **McRae** was elected legislative Representative for Jackson County.
- **1838** - **Jackson Courthouse** is situated near the centre of the county on a small stream called Cedar Creek, on the east side and a few miles from the Pascagoula River. There is nothing at this place to distinguish it from the ordinary farms of the country. It contains no public buildings whatever. The courts are usually held in a room of the dwelling house of the only family residing at the place.
- **1838** - There is also a post office kept at the same place. The postmaster at **Jackson Courthouse** was Samuel **Davis**, per U. S. Postal Records and was kept in the only farm house there.
- **1838** – There was also a post office at **Cross Roads**.
- **1838** – **Pascagoula Town Company** – An Act to incorporate the “Pascagoula Town Company” was approved by the Mississippi State Legislature, February 9, 1838. This company was given the right to hold lands on the bay of Pascagoula; lay off and sell a town called Pascagoula, erect wharves, store houses, ware houses and any other improvements deemed necessary. This corporate body consisted of four men, Jacob **Baptiste**, W. D. Forest **Holley**, Joseph B. **Earle** and James B. **Wallace**. None of these men are listed in the 1840 Census of Jackson County.
- **1838** – White Hall Hotel of Pascagoula, owned by Jacob **Baptiste** and Mr. **Holley** was established.
- **1838** – There were 1,319 white residents and 403 slaves.
- **1839** – Capt. John **Grant**, dredged successfully a six foot channel named “Grant’s Pass”, creating a safer passage for sailing vessels from Mobile Bay to the Gulf Islands, Pascagoula and Lake Pontchartrain.
- **1840–1841** – Charles S. **Holland** was legislative Representative for Jackson County.
- **1840–1844** – The Sheriff was James **Goff**
- **1840** – Capt. John **Grant** dredged a channel six feet over the bar at the mouth of the West Pascagoula River, allowing the passages of vessels in and out of the river.
- **1841** – Harrison County was created from western Jackson County and eastern Hancock County.

- **1842** – John J. **McRae** of Jackson County, the son of John (deceased by 1840) & Elizabeth **McRae** and future governor of the State of Mississippi, ran the **first steamboat round trip** from Lake Pontchartrain up the Pascagoula River to Enterprise and back down to Lake Pontchartrain. This was an important boost by now being able to ship cotton out of the interior counties through the Pascagoula River.
- **1842–1854** – A. W. **Ramsay** was elected Senator, for Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Perry Counties
- **1842–1844** – John **Grant** was elected legislative Representative for Jackson County.
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Sources: Annual Register of the State of Mississippi for the year 1838, Vol. 1, L. A. Besancon; May 1838 Publication, Four Centuries on the Pascagoula Volumes I and II, by Cyril Cain, and U. S. Postal Records Microfilm, Mississippi Methodist Archives, The Christian Advocate newspaper; Early Schools in Jackson County by R. L. Flurry, Sr.