

of county commissioners. After the organization of Major Blount's Company in March, 1862, William Durrance acted as sheriff and John Davidson, clerk of the court until the end of the war. There are no records that give any account of the assessed valuation of property up to several years after the war. The taxes collected in any one year up to 1866 for all purposes never amounted to one thousand dollars. No courts were held during these years of strife, and, all taxes collected during that time, after paying the commissioners and sheriff for their services, were used in supporting the poor soldiers' families. Committees were appointed by the county commissioners for each commissioner's district to look after their wants, and the tax money was turned over to them for that purpose by the sheriff. Spinning wheels were provided for the soldiers' wives, and James B. Crum was elected wheelmaker at a cost of \$8.50 per spinning wheel, and he did his work faithfully and honestly.

The courthouse being at this time one of some interest to the county. There was no courthouse built at the city of Mud Lake during the one year's time of its existence as the capital of Polk County, neither at Jefferson during its four years' term, but there was a hewed log store-house, not in use as such after the war, four miles south of Bartow, and a hewed-log Baptist church house two and one-half miles south of Bartow, in both of which circuit court was held after the war for two years by Judge Bush and Judge Gettis, and also in the old Summerline Institute, which was completed before the new courthouse was begun by John A. McAulay.

On June 15, 1867, the county commissioners awarded the contract to build the first courthouse in Polk County to John McAulay for \$3,800. The house was to be framed and weatherboarded on the outside and ceiled on the inside. The frame was very heavy, being heavily braced top and bottom and every brace tenoned and draw-pinned into the timbers at each end, and all the studding was tenoned and draw-pinned into the sills above and below. A good deal of the timbers were hewn out by hand, and all of the weatherboarding and ceiling was dressed by hand and the house was never painted. Twelve months was allowed in which to build this house and it was to be paid for in current money or its equivalent in county bonds at 25 per cent discount. The first jail was also built at the same time at a cost of \$1,600 and paid for in cash or bonds of the same valuation. It was built by U. R. Durrance out of hewn timbers eight inches square, laid one upon the top of the other. It was about sixteen feet square and two stories high, and was utterly worthless as prisoners could not be kept in it. It soon became rotten and was condemned and was afterwards burned to the ground by some good, law-abiding citizen. The second jail was built a few years later and worth little more than the first. The second courthouse was built in 1884 by J. H. Thompson at a cost of \$9,000.

The third and present courthouse was erected at a cost of \$100,000 without the issuance of one dollar of indebtedness. The courthouse and lot is valued at \$160,000.

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HARDEE COUNTY: NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

Continued from Issue #6:

- Pleoman, dau. of R. A. & F. Roberts Sept. 7, 1896 - May 28, 1908
- O. K. Roberts Oct. 14, 1901
- Mrs. Julia Rutledge Sept. 12, 1838 - April 24, 1913
- J. A. Gough 1852 - 1935
- Mrs. J. A. Gough Jan. 6, 1861 - Feb. 19, 1915