
CHILTONIAN

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QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chilton County Historical Society will hold its fall meeting on Sunday, October 8th, at 2:00 PM at the Senior Connection building. The speaker will be Mr. Carey Heatherly, the University of Montevallo Archivist and Special Collections Librarian. His talk will explore the Archives at the Carmichael Library and especially the digitization project of our own Union Banner newspaper, among others! The Facebook page “Milner Archives and Special Collections” – is the official Facebook page of the Anna Crawford Milner Archives and Special Collections at the University of Montevallo.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

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P. O. Box 644, Clanton, Alabama 35046-0644

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Annual:	Individual \$9, Couple \$12, Student \$5 (Dues payable in January)
Lifetime:	\$100

NOTE: ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL, THE TWO-DIGIT NUMBER AFTER YOUR NAME INDICATES THE YEAR THROUGH WHICH YOUR DUES ARE PAID. AN “L” INDICATES LIFE MEMBER.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This quarter the Chiltonian presents an article detailing research into my Duren ancestry. I hope this is interesting and, perhaps, useful! If anyone has information, corrections, or other comments, please let me know.

A Brief History of Fulton Nathaniel Duren

By Derric Scott

Fulton Nathaniel Duren was the patriarch of the Duren family in Central Alabama. He moved his family from DeKalb County, Georgia to Chilton County, Alabama between May 1891 and June 1894 (according to the birth states of his children). Fulton hails from a large Duren family located in several counties surrounding Atlanta and also from areas to the west and southwest. The origin of the family in the United States seems to be the Augusta, Georgia area in the late 1700s. One of two known Duren sons moved into Central Georgia about 1824 and began this large family line.

The first documented appearance of Fulton is on the 1860 US Federal Census. He is a five year old boy living with his family in the “Several Districts” section of Coweta County, using the Palmetto Post Office. His family includes his mother, Emily Sarah Light Duren Hollis (age 30), older brother, George W. (age 8), and younger sister, Mary S. Duren (age 3). Even though Fulton is very young, a lot has already occurred in his life. It appears his father has died and his mother has remarried to Samuel P. Hollis. They are also living with Samuel Hollis and his other children (step siblings). Samuel is listed as being a railroad hand, and everyone in the listing was born in

Georgia. Also, it is noted that Samuel and Emily were married within the year. Fulton's father's name was George Washington Duren.

By August 1870 the family is living as a unit apart from the Hollis family members. However, they are all listed with last name "Hollis" including a new family member, Jane Hollis (age 10). Others listed are Emily (age 30), George (age 17), Fulton (age 13), and Jane (later called Mandy E. or Jennie, age 10). The census says they are living in the Goods District in Campbell County near the Powder Springs Post Office. However, they MAY NOT have moved, see below.

Campbell County had been carved out of the original Coweta County about 1828 and is the neighboring county due north of Coweta. Campbell County was fully incorporated into Fulton County in 1932. Note that Palmetto (where Fulton resides in 1860) is in the section of Coweta County that was cut out to make Campbell County. Palmetto was in Campbell County in 1870 and is today in Fulton County. So, most likely, our Duren family did not move between 1860 and 1870 – the county borders changed. This area is all west and southwest of Atlanta.

Mandy E. Hollis, Fulton's half-sister, married Joel R. Miles in 1878, had a large family (12 children or so), lived, and died in Georgia. One late note was made of her in Fulton's obituary on January 4, 1940, where it said he had "one half-sister, Mrs. Jennie Miles of Georgia."

I believe Fulton's sister (Mary S.) was later called Lottie and she seemingly never married. Lottie (Mary S.) Duren and Mandy E. Hollis Miles are buried with their mother in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery. Joel Miles is also buried there. Today, the church has been torn down and the cemetery is all that remains. The site is located at the intersection of Wesley Chapel Road and Snapfinger Creek Road in DeKalb County, which is about 12 miles east of Atlanta, just off of I20. The 1870 census may provide a clue about how they went from living west of Atlanta to being buried east of Atlanta...

Interestingly, Fulton has two separate entries in the 1870 US Census. On the 8th of August 1870, he is listed with his family in Campbell County, as described above. However, in the same census, on the 1st of September 1870, he is listed as 15 years old, at the Cross Keys Post Office, Shallowford District, DeKalb County, as a laborer on the farm of Noah and Nancy Dilda.

It appears that Fulton went from his family at home to work with Noah Dilda in DeKalb County. It isn't unreasonable that his mother and sisters followed him a little later. In fact, his sister, Mary, continued to live in the Stone Mountain area until her death on August 9, 1932.

George Washington Duren, Jr. was Fulton's older brother. He married and raised a large family of Durens west of Atlanta. Most stayed in the Palmetto and Fairburn areas. I have researched no further than his children and a few grandchildren.

On January 18, 1877 Fulton married Rebecca Elizabeth "Lizzie" B. Abbott (b. 1856, d 1911), daughter of Walton D. Abbott and Margret Adaline Blount. They lived in Georgia and started their family. They had eight children (7 daughters, 1 son) before they moved to Alabama sometime between May 1891 and July 1894. The first child born in Alabama was Essie Mae on July 4th, 1894. Altogether, they had 10 children: nine daughters and one son (Edgar). One daughter, Maud, died at age 15 (in 1902). Fulton, Lizzie, and most of his children (and their spouses) are buried in the Mars Hill Cemetery, outside of Jemison, Alabama.

In the 1880 US Census (June 7-8) Fulton is living with his wife and two daughters in the Panthersville District of DeKalb, Georgia. His wife is R. E. (age 23), and his daughters are Evarilla (age 2), and L C (age 1). Fulton is listed as working on a farm.

There is no existing 1890 US Census, but on June 9, 1900, Fulton's entire family appears on the 1900 US Census in the Jemison precinct of

Chilton County, Alabama. Fulton is listed as a farmer.

In the 1910 US Census, Fulton is living with his wife and six children. Maud has died and three have married and moved out. By now some names have evolved. Dony is listed as Donnie, Ros as Rossie, Lester as Celeste (Lech to some), and Georgia as Sennie. Essie and Eula remain the same. Celeste married Joel T. Childress and is living next door with their son Rufus (5). They have been married seven years. Eva Rilla married John Franklin Lowery on October 28, 1897, has three children, and is living in Shelby County. John is listed as a foreman on the railroad. Vannie married Richard William Wilkes (listed as a merchant) in 1904. They are living in Montgomery (with no children yet).

Unfortunately, Lizzie Abbott Duren dies the next year, December 18, 1911. She is buried at Mars Hill Cemetery. There is no death certificate and no obituary has been found, so the cause is unknown.

Fulton continues to live in the Mars Hill area as a farmer into the 1920s. On the 1920 US Census (January 17) he is listed as widowed and living with his daughters Essie Duren and Donnie Allen (married Jack Allen) and two of Donnie's children: Joel Allen (age 7), and Estell Allen (age 3 10/12). Rossie has married James J Sims, is living nearby, and has two daughters. Joel and Celeste Childress and children are still living next door. Sennie married Joseph Smitherman and is also a neighbor. Eula has married Ruben W. Mims. They are living with Ruben's parents in Mignon, Talladega County with a son and a daughter. Ruben is a spinner in the cotton mill there. Edgar has married Fannie Mae Scott and is living next door to his in-laws in the Mars Hill area. Edgar and Fannie so far have four children: Richard, Roland, Linnis, and Fulton (Snook). Edgar is a laborer in a lumber mill.

Fulton and his daughter, Donnie Allen, and her son, Joel, move to the Columbiana (Shelby County) area by 1930, and both are listed as widowed. Fulton is 72 years old. Edgar continues

to live, with all of his ten children, in the Mars Hill area as a farmer in 1930.

According to his death certificate, Fulton N. Duren died on December 27, 1939 due to pneumonia from influenza at the age of 84 years, 11 months, 17 days; his father was G. W. Duren and his mother was Jane Light (both born in Georgia). His birth date is listed as January 10, 1855. The informant for the death certificate was E. D. Duren (Edgar).

Note that Fulton's headstone has contradictory information listing his birth date as February 27, 1855 and death date as December 28, 1938. The death date is certainly wrong on the headstone, since the death certificate's dates are all in 1939 (and his obituary was printed in January, 1940). Also, since the 1900 US census lists his birth as January 1855, as does the death certificate, then most likely the headstone is wrong on that account as well.

Fulton's father, George Washington Duren, was one of ten brothers and one sister. Their father (Fulton's grandfather) was George Duren (middle name unknown). This Duren family was well represented during the Civil War with all males (that were living) seeing service. Apparently Fulton's father, George Washington, was already deceased by the time of the war, but I have no record to prove and date his death. Two brothers died in the war: John G. Duren at Richmond, Virginia, and Griffin T. Duren at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The highest ranking brother was Corporal James Andrew Jackson Duren who served in the Georgia Cavalry. Corporal James A. J. Duren is buried in the Confederate Cemetery in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Fulton's grandfather, George, was one of two (known) brothers from Augusta; the other was Thomas. Thomas left the Augusta area and isn't further known. Their father (Fulton's great-grandfather) was from the north of Ireland of Scotch-Irish ancestry, settled in Augusta as a skilled blacksmith, and lived out his life there. Unfortunately, his name is currently unknown. As

a young man, George drove stage coaches from Augusta into Central Georgia. Eventually he bought land and settled in Gwinnett County (just north of Atlanta). As described above, the Duren family then slowly settled more and more to the west and southwest.

When Fulton moved from Georgia to Alabama, he apparently came as part of a good sized group of extended family and friends, especially the Abbotts. Fulton's wife was Elizabeth "Lizzy" Abbott Duren, and from her large family, at least three siblings moved to the Jemison area about 1893; her sister Dulcinea Abbott (married Thomas Parker), her brother John W. Abbott (married Francis E. Treadwell) and her sister Frances Emma Abbott (married George Calloway Shaw). One older relative recounted that they left Georgia because the soil wouldn't support cotton anymore.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Message from the President

We greatly appreciate the years of dedication that Colyn Moatts has provided to our organization and the *Chiltonian* in particular. Thanks again Colyn!

An important consequence of Colyn's retirement as Editor is that we now have an opportunity for another member to step up and assume the editorial responsibilities. If you are interested or know someone who would be well suited, please contact one of the officers or leave a private message on our Facebook page.

Finally, we are about to begin what I think will be a very busy and interesting year. 2018 will be the 150th Anniversary (Sesquicentennial) of the establishment of Chilton County. By our next meeting, in January, planning activities should be well underway. Please check our Facebook page for updates and participation opportunities.


