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A HISTORY OF THE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA

by

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A HISTORY OF THE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA

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the Faculty of the Graduate School
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by
Charles Shelton Edwards
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C. S. E.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There was a definite need for a detailed account of the history of education in Glynn County, Georgia. Many brief accounts had been made in past years relating some of the history of the county educational system. These brief histories primarily dealt with the history of the town commons. Almost no research had been done on the subject.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. It was the purpose of this study (1) to make a comparison of enrollment, expenditures, and facilities; (2) to examine illiteracy figures; and (3) to relate the problems of various years and tell how these problems were overcome by the educational leaders of the time.

Importance of the study. A history of the educational system of Glynn County will be valuable to writers of books or articles concerning the state of Georgia as a whole, but will be more important as a means to let the teachers, public officials and citizens of the county know and appreciate the achievements of those who have gone before them.

II. PROCEDURE

The writer began his collection of materials for this thesis in Glynn County itself. This work was done at the Brunswick and St. Simons Library. Next, the writer went to Atlanta, Georgia, and did research in the Carnegie Library. Following this, visits were made to the office of county superintendent. During several visits the writer read the minutes of the board of education, auditors' reports, and publications of the board of education. Personal interviews with residents of the town and county were held next in order to get information which had not been written. Final preparation for this study was made in the libraries of the University of Georgia at Athens, studying the Public Laws of Georgia, and other rare books pertaining to the county.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

I. REVIEW OF THE EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF GEORGIA

Very little was accomplished in the educational history of Georgia in the colonial period. Under the proprietors, education was carried on in conjunction with religion. Young men were hired as itinerant catechists and went from house to house for the purpose of instructing in writing and inculcating religious ideas. The remuneration was low, and many of these young men worked at other jobs to supplement teaching. Much of the education was carried on by the work of such men as Christopher Ortman of the Salzburgers who came to Georgia and settled near Ebenezer in 1734.¹ Dorothy Orr, in her History of Education in Georgia, states that "with few exceptions the teachers hired by the trustees were incompetent."² One exception was the teaching of Charles Delamotte, who came to Georgia in 1735 with Charles and John Wesley.

Delamotte began the first regular school which, under the leadership of James Habersham, was converted into an orphanage and called Bethesda. Stevens, in his History of

¹ Dorothy Orr, A History of Education in Georgia (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1950), p. 5.

² Ibid., p. 6.

Georgia, says that only the most elementary subjects were taught and that Bethesda was the only school which had equipment to meet the educational standards of that time.³

When Georgia became a royal colony in 1752, prosperity came with the new leadership. Private schools flourished throughout the coastal area. These schools were attended by the wealthy, of course, with little or no provision for the children of the poor class of people. Up until the time of the Revolution the colonists other than the wealthy found themselves without formal education.

After the Revolution the legislature enacted laws in 1783, 1784, and again in 1798, sanctioning academies and providing a mediocre financial support by granting land to the new schools. This type of support proved highly unsatisfactory as land sales were poor and title to much of the land was in dispute.⁴ The great boom in academies came after the War of 1812 with the period of prosperity which followed. A few of these academies which came into existence during this period still survive, notably Richmond, Chatham, and Glynn. Many academies other than those supported by the state came

³ William Bacon Stevens, A History of Georgia From Discovery by Europeans to Adoption of Present Constitution, MDCCXCVIII (New York: Appleton and Company, 1847), p. 291.

⁴ Orr, op. cit., p. 21.

into existence early in the nineteenth century. One such private foundation academy which was founded as a community project was Union Academy in Putnam County. The first teacher employed at this academy was William H. Seward of New York, who was later Secretary of State under President Lincoln.⁵

In 1784, a year after the first legislation founding academies, a body called the *Senatus Academicus* was founded. This body consisted of the governor, the judges of the supreme court, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the board of trustees appointed in the original act of 1784.⁶ This group was responsible for the "literature of the state." The plan was to erect a university and let the academies serve as "feeders." This university was founded as Franklin College in 1801, and construction began in the same year. One part was located in Greene County, with the main body itself in Clarke County. In 1849, the *Senatus Academicus* was abolished, and the powers turned over to the board of trustees of the University of Georgia.

In 1821, the question of endowing free schools came up for settlement. In 1817, the Georgia Legislature had

⁵ Ibid., p. 28.

⁶ Loc. cit.

appropriated money which was to be invested and the interest used to create and support free schools. In 1821, this fund was almost two hundred and forty thousand dollars. The legislature voted the same year to increase this sum to five hundred thousand dollars with the same instructions.⁷ The provision was made, however, to divide the money between the academies and the free schools.

A fight was made in the legislature in 1822 by Joseph J. Singleton of Jackson County and Representative Tomlinson Fort of Baldwin County to establish a system of education throughout the state. Through their efforts a bill was introduced to establish common schools in the state. This bill was defeated, as were two other bills presented in the same year.

In December, 1822, these men became discouraged and voted for the establishment of a poor school fund. This fund consisted of twelve thousand dollars divided among the counties according to the number of pupils enrolled in the school. It is to be assumed that this money came from the interest of the free schools and academies. From 1822 to 1829, the fund underwent many revisions. Dorothy Orr, in her Education in Georgia, states that "not only was the

⁷ E. Merton Coulter, Georgia, A Short History (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947), p. 285.

legal machinery clumsy, but the motive back of it was half-hearted."⁸

Nevertheless, the fund provided some elementary education for the children who would have probably had none. Many schools of this type were founded through local effort. As early as the period 1817 to 1823, schools for the indigent were established in Augusta, Savannah, and in Glynn, Richmond, McIntosh, and Baldwin Counties.

The most prevalent school in the antebellum period was the old field school, so named because of its customary location in the community. This school sprang from the same roots as the academies, but taught only the most elementary subjects. The teachers of this type school were, in general, men who wandered about the countryside and bid on a job to teach the children of the community. Usually no examination was given to the teacher, and men of low morals flooded the profession. The teachers generally boarded at the homes of pupils for periods varying in length with the number of pupils he had. Many were cruel according to the standard of even that time, and all enforced the type of discipline which would be frowned upon today. A few of these teachers were of a high type, especially those of Irish and Scottish origin.⁹

⁸ Orr, op. cit., p. 80.

⁹ Ibid., p. 81.

Further attempts were made in 1832 under Governor Lumpkin to establish a common system of schools, but nothing came of it. By 1835, Georgia had accumulated over a million dollars in the Federal Treasury which was its share from the sale of western lands. The advocates of common schools seized this opportunity and succeeded in 1837 in securing a common school law which gave the schools one third of the above sum.¹⁰

An amendment, however, to this bill robbed it of support by taxation, and after the national panic of 1837, the bill establishing common schools was rescinded. In the panic of 1837 the funds for the support of the schools in general were greatly reduced. In the following years the amount per pupil was less than one fourth that granted in 1837. The condition of the schools became worse during the next twenty years and continued this way, with the exception of the latter fifties, until the destruction of the educational system by the Civil War.

Although the condition of the schools was generally poor during the period before the Civil War, efforts were made several times in the 1850's to establish the common school in Georgia. These efforts culminated under Governor Brown in 1858 with the passage of a second common school law.

¹⁰ Coulter, op. cit., p. 287.

The law provided funds to meet the expense of teaching English grammar and geography provided the outlay per pupil was no greater than sixteen dollars.¹¹ These subjects were to be provided to pupils between the ages of six and eighteen. The effects of this law were great. The school fund was increased from approximately thirty thousand dollars in 1858 to one hundred and fifty thousand in 1860. This great improvement in the educational system of Georgia which had been long sought by many was short-lived, for in the year of the educators' greatest triumph the Civil War "rang down the curtain."

Immediately after the Civil War, Georgia, under the new constitutional requirements, enacted a law in 1868 providing for "a thorough system of general education to be forever free to all children of the state."¹² This act established the office of State School Commissioner, who was to be appointed by the governor, and also decreed that schools were to be financed by poll, show, and liquor taxes and the money paid in by conscientious objectors to keep out of military service. This was supplemented by a general property tax.

After the Act of 1870, many schools began operation

¹¹ Orr, op. cit., p. 174.

¹² Albert Berry Saye, A Constitutional History of Georgia, 1732-1845 (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1948), p. 288.

but found difficulty in getting the necessary funds for teachers' salaries and general operation. They were called "Godless, Negro, Yankee, and charity schools."¹³ At the end of the school year of 1871 the state owed three hundred thousand dollars in back pay to teachers. In 1872 when Dr. Gustabus J. Orr was appointed State School Commissioner, he directed school officers not to establish schools for 1872 until the finances could be straightened out. Upon his recommendation an act was passed to raise money to eliminate the indebtedness.

Dr. Orr, in his report to the governor in 1874, stated that thirty-five per cent of the population over ten years of age could not read or write. He further revealed that there was only one teacher for every 176 pupils of the school population. This situation was changed by the Constitution of 1877 which contained the provision that "there shall be a thorough system of common schools for the education of the children in the elementary branches of an English Education only."¹⁴ The financial support of these schools was to be provided by "taxation or otherwise."¹⁵

¹³ John C. Meadows, Modern Georgia (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1951), p. 139.

¹⁴ Saye, op. cit., p. 270.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 289.

Since this Act of 1874 provided only for the elementary school, by 1894 the secondary school had almost disappeared. By 1903 there were only seven four-year high schools in Georgia.¹⁶ Although no assistance was given by the state, cities and towns began to erect high schools. In 1910, a bill was proposed to amend the Constitution of 1886 and admit high schools into the school system but was defeated. Not until 1911 were the secondary schools of Georgia recognized as state responsibility, and funds delegated for their support.

Many improvements were made in the period before World War II, but the most notable was the school legislation passed in 1937 which assured a seven-month school term, free textbooks, and gave the teachers the first state salary schedule. In 1937, the state distributed almost four million textbooks, and in 1941 the free textbook distribution was valued at \$1,385,000.¹⁷

Since World War II Georgia students and teachers have benefited by acts which in 1946 increased the teachers' salaries by fifty per cent, and in 1951 the enactment of the Minimum Foundation Program which increased the pupil allotment and established the minimum salary for a teacher with

¹⁶ Orr, op. cit., p. 179.

¹⁷ Meadows, op. cit., p. 140.

four years of college at twenty-four hundred dollars. According to information furnished by the Georgia Education Association, Georgia spent \$95,237,681 for schools in the school year 1952-53. Approximately seventy per cent of this was state, twenty-seven per cent local, and three per cent federal support.

Looking to the future, the Georgia Education Association adopted a resolution in March, 1954, to support a program entitled An Adequate Program for Education in Georgia. This new program is designed to awaken the people of Georgia to their needs for the next ten-year period. Teachers in the state have given voluntarily three dollars each to secure radio time, billboards, and handbills in order to bring the needs of the schools before the public eye.

Unlike those of an earlier period, modern Georgians give active assistance to the educational needs of Georgia.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF GLYNN COUNTY

Glynn County is located on the eastern coast of Georgia between the Altamaha and the Little Satilla Rivers. It is composed of all the islands between the Altamaha and St. Andrews Sound and the mainland lying between the rivers mentioned above. The total area of the county is approximately 439 square miles.

Since Glynn County lies in the coastal area, the

elevation is generally low, but varies between a height of fifty feet and below sea level, with a mean elevation of fourteen feet.

Approximately a third of the county is marshland, with swamps located in the southwest and the west. Some small areas of swamplands are also located in the northwest. The largest marshland area occurs between St. Simons Island and the mainland, with a similar area along the Turtle River on the northwest.

Along the broken coastline of Glynn are found many rivers and smaller streams. Between the island and the mainland are the Makay and Frederica as well as the Hampton between St. Simons and Little St. Simons. The chief rivers in the southern part of the country are the Turtle and South Brunswick.

The only town in Glynn County is Brunswick, which is on a peninsula between Turtle River and St. Simons Island sounds. The town itself is situated on high ground between the East River and the marsh on the east.

The climate in Glynn County is a mingling of subtropical and temperate. The nearness of the Gulf Stream protects the area from extremes of winter weather, and the summers are tempered by the refreshing sea breezes.

The earliest inhabitants of Glynn County were the Guale Indians, who are believed to have been a branch of the

Muskogee family which covered most of the southern states. The women of the tribe planted small patches of corn, pumpkins, and beans, while their men hunted and fished. They were very peaceful and offered no resistance when the Spanish attempted to civilize them.¹⁸

The Jesuit Missionaries were the first white men to settle in this region. In 1568, Domingo Augustin and Pedro Ruiz came to Guale and established missions on St. Simons, Jekyll, and on the mainland at Talaxe, which was located on the south bank of the Altamaha.¹⁹ In 1570, these missions were deserted because of the uprising of the Yemassee and other powerful Indians to the north.

More missionaries came to Guale in 1595. These were of the Franciscan Order. They reopened the missions, and by 1675 there were four missions in Guale.²⁰

In 1685, the English to the north evidently persuaded the Creeks and Yemassee to make open warfare on the Spanish and their Indian allies. The missions were all destroyed or abandoned by 1686, and many of the priests and Guale Indians were slaughtered or captured and sold into slavery in the

¹⁸ Caroline Couper Lovell, The Golden Isles of Georgia (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1932), p. 4.

¹⁹ Margaret Davis Cate, Our Todays and Yesterdays (Brunswick: Glover Brothers, 1931), p. 18.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 30.

West Indies.²¹ Thus ended the last attempt by the Spaniard to colonize the Georgia coast, although they held claim until 1763.

The next white settlement was that of James Oglethorpe in 1736. Oglethorpe came south of the Altamaha, which was then considered Spanish territory, and founded the town of Frederica, named in honor of Frederick, Prince of Wales.²² The purpose of founding Frederica was to establish a fort as a defense of the southern boundary of the colony against the Spanish. The town was located on St. Simons Island at a bend of the Frederica River which separates the island and the mainland. The ruins of the old fort which is now in the process of being restored marks the site of the town. A fort was built on the bank of the Frederica River, and a town laid out behind it. On the south end of the island Oglethorpe built another fort called Fort St. Simons. The site of this fort is near the present St. Simons lighthouse.

The town was well laid off, having one street seventy-five feet wide, and by 1740 had a thousand inhabitants. This number included Oglethorpe's soldiers and their families.²³

²¹ Ibid., p. 30.

²² Lawton B. Evans, A History of Georgia (New York: University Publishing Company, 1906), p. 24.

²³ Cate, op. cit., p. 58.

Charles and John Wesley came to Frederica in 1736 and while there founded Christ Church, which still stands. The time spent by John was very short. Charles stayed for almost three months but became critical of Oglethorpe and soon left.²⁴

The Spanish demanded in 1736, in Frederica and in London, that the town be abandoned. Oglethorpe sailed immediately to London to refute the Spanish claims and returned the following year as commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in Georgia. Realizing that he would need the help of the Indians in case of war, Oglethorpe met with the Creeks and received a promise of help from them. At this time the Creeks declared that they had always owned the land from the Savannah River to the St. Marys River, and would let no one but the English settle on it.²⁵ This agreement was reached with the great Chief Tomochichi of the Creeks and proved of great value to Oglethorpe when the Spanish invaded St. Simons Island.

In July, 1742, the Spanish sent a fleet of fifty ships under Don Monteano up the Georgia Coast to rid it of the English settlements. Oglethorpe with a small fleet met the Spanish as they entered Cumberland Sound but was forced to retired to Frederica. The Spanish landed on the south end

²⁴ Evans, op. cit., p. 24.

²⁵ Lovell, op. cit., p. 41.

of the island and captured Fort St. Simons. The following day a scout brought Oglethorpe word that the Spanish had moved up the island and were near Frederica. Oglethorpe, with his body of seven hundred men, which included some Scotch from Darien and his Indian auxiliaries, surprised the Spanish while they were bivouacked and killed two hundred of them. The Spanish thought themselves outnumbered and immediately left the island and sailed southward to St. Augustine. On July 11, the Spanish fleet came to Frederica but were scared away. This was the last attempt to destroy the settlements.²⁶ It is believed that this battle saved the colony for English civilization.

Oglethorpe returned to England in 1743 to face charges against him and never returned. For some time after the Battle of Bloody Marsh, troops remained at Frederica, but were withdrawn after the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. In 1763, after the removal of troops, Frederica declined, and by 1774 nothing remained but ruins.²⁷

Final settlement came in 1763 at the Treaty of Paris, when all territory north of the St. Marys River was ceded to England by Spain. The new territory was divided into

²⁶ Charles Wylly, Annals and Statistics of Glynn County, Georgia (n.p.: Published by the author, 1897), p. 7.

²⁷ Cate, op. cit., pp. 53-65.

parishes, two of which were St. Patricks and St. Davids.²⁸ These parishes were to become part of Glynn County.

Most historians agree on the date of the founding of Brunswick as 1771, but Charles Wylly in his Annals and Statistics of Glynn County, Georgia, states that Brunswick was founded in 1737, and was re-surveyed in 1771.²⁹ The town was named for the English House of Brunswick from which came the King of England of the time. Many of the streets bear the names of outstanding Englishmen of the period.

With the coming of the Revolution, many people left the newly formed town of Brunswick because of their pro-British feeling. During the war itself General Prevost of the British Army crossed the St. Marys River and headed toward the Altamaha, burning many homes in Glynn County.³⁰ This was the only noteworthy action in Glynn during the Revolution.

In the Constitution of 1777, Glynn County was created as one of the eight original counties of Georgia. It was formed from St. Patricks and St. Davids Parishes, and named in honor of John Glynn, a noted English attorney.

The period after the Revolution and until the Civil

²⁸ George and Robert Watkins, A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia (Philadelphia: R. Aitkin, 1800), p. 114.

²⁹ Wylly, op. cit., p. 11.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 9.

War is referred to by local historians as the Plantation Era in Glynn County.³¹ During this time Glynn County was made up of many large plantations. Perhaps the most famous of these is that of Pierce Butler, who at one time held six hundred slaves.³²

Brunswick was re-surveyed in 1788, and lots were sold. The money received from the sale of these lots was to be used to finance an academy.³³ During the following years, Brunswick did not grow rapidly, however, and by 1823 the town became deserted and allowed to grow up in briars.³⁴

In 1826, Urbanus Dart and William R. Davis, finding the town deserted, secured a headright from the state. Part of this headright contained some of the town commons, which had been set aside in 1771 to be used for the town as a whole. In 1836, Thomas B. King secured a headright for the remaining seven hundred acres of the town commons, but this was not contested because of the boom which had hit Brunswick and the people thought that any action might hinder the

³¹ Cate, op. cit., passim.

³² Lovell, op. cit., p. 11.

³³ Watkins, op. cit., p. 381.

³⁴ Glynn County Board of Education, One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County, Georgia and the City of Brunswick (Brunswick: Published by the Board of Education, 1906), p. 63.

economic growth of the community.³⁵

During the boom several railroads and a canal from Brunswick Harbor to the Altamaha were contemplated.³⁶ According to tradition some work was done on the canal, but the only evidence the **writer** was able to secure was photostatic copies of documents in the City of Brunswick Surveyor's Office dealing with the proposal of the canal. The bubble finally burst in 1840, and Brunswick returned to a village and finally a small farming community.³⁷

Evidently the original charter was rescinded, for in 1856 a new charter was obtained for Brunswick, and James Houston was elected mayor.³⁸ In this same year a suit was brought against Urbanus Dart, William R. Davis, and Thomas B. King seeking recovery of the town commons. The decision as to who would control the lands was held up until 1880 when the board finally won out. The decision was that anyone holding lots which Dart, Davis, or King had sold them should pay the board forty dollars and receive a quitclaim.³⁹

³⁵ Ibid., p. 64.

³⁶ Loc. cit.

³⁷ Loc. cit.

³⁸ Ibid., p. 65.

³⁹ Loc. cit.

The Civil War marked the end of the Plantation period in Glynn County. As the war progressed the people living on the islands fled inland to escape the federal gunboats which harried the coast and laid waste many of the plantations.⁴⁰

After the war many planters tried to restore their plantations, but met failure. Many of them were cut up and sold as small farms, while others were bought by northern businessmen. All of Jekyll Island was bought by New York capitalists, but in recent years has been purchased by the state. At the present time lots are being leased to various income groups, on which they can build cottages as summer homes.

As soon as the war was over, many people returned to Brunswick, and the town began to grow rapidly. Joseph Smith, in his Visits to Brunswick, Georgia and Travels South, says that in 1883 Brunswick was relatively small but rapidly growing.⁴¹ By 1903, Brunswick was a bustling city with many businesses, two railroads, and a steamship line.⁴²

After 1900, the boom seems to have ended. Many people who lived in Brunswick during this period state that the

⁴⁰ Coulter, op. cit., p. 247.

⁴¹ Smith, op. cit., p. 84.

⁴² Miss Jane Macon, personal interview, May 7, 1954.

growth gradually came to a standstill with few exceptions until the early 1930's. There was some boom in shipbuilding during World War I, but this ended shortly after the war. In 1920, the Hercules Powder Company came to Brunswick and proved a lasting asset to the economy of the town. In 1936, a large pulpmill came. This mill now employs several hundred men.

During World War II, shipbuilding once again became an important business in Brunswick, but ended with the war. In 1951, the harbor was reopened, and shipping is improving somewhat.

Today, Brunswick and Glynn County enjoy a large tourist trade. Not only the rich history of the county attracts tourists, but Brunswick is on United States Route Number 17, which is a direct route south. It is estimated that the tourist trade ranks second in importance in the industries of the county.

Perhaps the product or industry which has played a most important part in the industrial development of the city has been that of naval stores. In 1937, there were many turpentine distilleries operating and producing turpentine and resin from the gum of the pine tree. In 1935, a new industry came to Brunswick and began to produce naval stores from stumps which had hitherto been left to rot. There are many uses for naval stores such as paint, lacquer, shoe

polish, and pharmaceuticals.

A few years ago people thought that the lumber industry in Brunswick and Glynn County was about gone, but in 1936 the Works Progress Administration estimated that the forests were growing forty-nine per cent more than the commodity drain.⁴³ This is probably not true today because of the pulp mills in Brunswick which use much wood. Lumber and pulpwood, however, must still be rated as one of the chief industries.

Agricultural interests seem to have increased in the last few years. In 1930, there were only 47,774 acres in farmlands, while in 1950, this had increased to 87,202 acres.⁴⁴ Much of the increase has been due to the increasing number of small farms producing lettuce and other crops suited to the warm climate. Cattle and poultry have also increased the acreage in this area.

Glynn County has many modern highways which connect it with the other areas of Georgia. Brunswick is located on United States Highway Numbers 17, 25, and 84. There are two radio stations representing the major networks, two public libraries, and one daily newspaper.

⁴³ Works Progress Administration, The Real Property Survey of Brunswick, Georgia (Washington: Federal Works Agency, 1939), p. 2.

⁴⁴ From material copied from the United States Department of Commerce--Bureau of Census by the Georgia Education Association, for the years 1930, 1940, 1950. Mailed to Local Unit Presidents, March, 1954.

Many attractive churches line the wide palmetto bordered streets of Brunswick. There are twenty-six Protestant Churches, two Catholic Churches, and one Jewish Church for the White race, while the Negroes worship in forty-three Protestant Churches.⁴⁵ Almost without exception these are well attended and supported.

Today Brunswick is a prosperous, growing town. In 1878, it had a population of about three thousand.⁴⁶ The United States Census Report of 1950 gave the population for that year as 17,953.

The educational history of the county will be discussed in the following chapters.

⁴⁵ Georgia Power Company, A Favorable Location for Industry, Brunswick, Georgia (Brunswick: Georgia Power Company, 1953), p. 5.

⁴⁶ Smith, op. cit., p. 37.

CHAPTER III

THE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF GLYNN COUNTY
FROM EARLIEST TIME TO THE CIVIL WAR

The preceding chapter has given the historical background of Glynn County and Brunswick from which came the educational life of the people. This chapter is devoted to the study of the educational development in Glynn County from the meager beginnings to the destruction of education brought about by the Civil War.

There is a relatively small amount of source material on this period. Records in the county superintendent's office date back only to 1883. An effort has been made to determine the development of the educational history of the county during this period from the Acts of the General Assembly pertaining to Glynn County, and two rather complete histories of the town commons contained in Reports of the Board of Education. Another important aid has been a general account of the history of Glynn Academy from 1847 to 1855 as recorded by Urbanus Dart in an answer published to charges made by the trustees of Glynn County Academy in 1856. Other sources have also been helpful.

During the colonial period Glynn County had very few educational facilities. The few which did exist were on the islands, for Brunswick and the other section of the county

were wooded areas and for the most part uninhabited during the colonial period.

As has been pointed out in the historical background of the county, Frederica was the only town of any importance in Glynn County during the colonial period. In 1745, the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts suggested to the common council of the Trustee that if a school master were appointed for Frederica, it would furnish his books.¹

John U. Driesler was appointed the teacher at Frederica and was also granted the job of serving as chaplain of a regiment in order to supplement his annual salary of ten pounds. Driesler gave instruction in German and English at the school until his death which occurred before the year had ended.² As far as can be ascertained, no one was appointed to take his place for the few years that remained before the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1748 which spelled the end of the town of Frederica. There exists no record as far as the writer could find of any other school in Glynn County before the Revolutionary War.

After the war, when new families came into Brunswick, many families were desirous of having facilities for the education of their children and the boundaries of their lots

¹ James Ross McCain, Georgia as a Proprietary Province (Boston: Richard G. Badger, 1917), p. 283.

² Loc. cit.

fixed.³ An act of the legislature was approved February 1, 1788, appointing certain commissioners whose duty it was to survey and sell any lot in Brunswick, except such as were reserved for public use, and the money derived from the sale to be used for the erection and maintenance of an academy, "and for no other purpose."⁴ What kind of school was erected, who were the teachers, and how many pupils were enrolled in school, neither history nor tradition tells. It is only evident that the town did not grow rapidly, and the school must have been small.

In 1796, another act was passed in the General Assembly appointing five commissioners for Frederica. The act charged the commissioners of Brunswick with having the town re-surveyed. Any lots which were unclaimed after a period of nine months were to be sold "and the monies arising from such sale shall be applied to the support of an academy or seminary of learning in county of Glynn, except, so much thereof as may be necessary to defray a part of the expenses in laying off the said town commons."⁵ The commissioners were

³ Glynn County Board of Education, Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County and the City of Brunswick, hereafter cited as Thirty-first Annual Report (Brunswick: Board of Education, 1904), p. 48.

⁴ Loc. cit.

⁵ Robert and George Watkins, A Compilation of the Laws of the State of Georgia (Philadelphia: R. Aitkin, 1800), p. 599.

also empowered to rent or lease any part of the commons in order to make a speedy settlement of the town of Brunswick.⁶

An act passed in 1797 appointed Richard Prichard, Martin Palmer, and Moses Burnett as commissioners of the courthouse and jail in the county of Glynn.⁷ This courthouse was to be erected on one of the most convenient public lots in the town of Brunswick. This act also authorized the conveyance of the lot to the aforesaid commissioners by the commissioners of the town of Brunswick. Another provision of importance was that which authorized the commissioner of the town of Brunswick to sell five hundred acres of the commons, and use one part thereof for the erection of a courthouse and the other to the use of an academy.⁸ Although there is no proof of the existence of an academy, the wording in this section of the Act of 1797 seems to indicate that such an institution existed.

For the next several years the picture of education in Glynn County is blank. There are no records which show the establishment of any school in the county before 1819. As has been said previously, if such an institution did exist, it must have been very small.

The next written record of education in Glynn County

⁶ Watkins, loc. cit.

⁷ Ibid., p. 669.

⁸ Loc. cit.

occurs in the year 1814. In this year an act was passed in the General Assembly combining the commissioners of the town and commons of Brunswick and the commissioners of Glynn Academy. The men appointed to fill the positions were William Page, Henry Dubignon, George Dupree, Leighton Wilson, and William Houston.⁹ This act stipulated that not more than one fourth of the rents of the town commons should go toward the erection of the courthouse, and the remainder should go to the academy. In 1818, in order that the courthouse might be built, a tax of one dollar was levied on unimproved lots in the town of Brunswick, and three dollars on improved lots was authorized.¹⁰

In the One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County, Georgia and the City of Brunswick is found the following:

In 1819, the commissioners had constructed a neat and comfortable building for school purposes. This building was erected upon the commons being on a site of what is now D and L Streets. A school was supported here until 1823, when Brunswick became deserted and was permitted to grow up in briars and bushes. The streets and parks were obliterated, nothing was left to tell that a village had once occupied the site.¹¹

⁹ Glynn County Board of Education, One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County and the City of Brunswick (Brunswick: Glynn County Board of Education, 1906), p. 63. Hereafter cited as One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report.

¹⁰ Loc. cit.

¹¹ Loc. cit.

In 1821, Samuel Boyd, Henry Dubignon, James Moore, Isaac Abraham, and John Gignialet were, by an act of the legislature, appointed trustees of Glynn Academy, with the instruction to promote the interest of the academy and to erect suitable buildings for the education of youths as well as to care for all monies belonging or pertaining to the academy.¹²

The legislature in 1823 appointed two additional commissioners for Glynn County Academy. By the same act the legislature authorized the commissioners to appropriate the funds of the academy to establish two free schools and employ a teacher for each. No child was to receive tuition free whose parents paid as much as two dollars tax.¹³ The following quotation is from the same act:

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the operation of Glynn County Academy shall cease after the time expires for which the present teacher may be employed, until the funds of said institution shall so increase as to enable the commissioners to carry into effect the above named free schools.¹⁴

In 1826, Urbanus Dart and William R. Davis, finding the town deserted, proceeded to obtain a headright from the

¹² William C. Dawson, A Compilation of the Laws of the State of Georgia (Milledgeville: Grantland and Orme, 1831), pp. 6-7.

¹³ Ibid., p. 13.

¹⁴ Loc. cit.

state. When this became generally known, it created somewhat of a sensation. Many of the former owners who had failed to pay the taxes because they believed the land to be of no value were pacified by a manifesto appearing in the Darien Gazette stating that no land would be held against the claim of a true owner. The other group, those who were aware of the right of the commissioners of the Academy, received a letter from Urbanus Dart stating that he had given up all idea of the headright.¹⁵ For ten years following this action, no attempt was made to claim the land under the headright. Also in 1826, Robert Hazelhurst, James H. Couper, Charles C. Cooper, John Harris, Henry Dubignon, Samuel Wright, and Daniel Blue were appointed commissioners of Brunswick and granted the power to lay out the town.¹⁶

Evidently people began to come back into Brunswick in the years between 1826 and 1829, for in 1829 an act was passed by the General Assembly authorizing the Inferior Court of Glynn County to sell the Academy Building and to apply the proceeds of the sale to the education of the poor people of said county and for no other purpose.¹⁷ There is

¹⁵ One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report, op. cit., p. 63.

¹⁶ Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia (Milledgeville: Camak and Ragland, 1826), p. 175.

¹⁷ Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia (Milledgeville: Camak and Ragland, 1830), p. 7.

no record showing to whom this property was sold, but the tradition is that John Flynn bought the building and lived in it for many years.¹⁸

The record fades out here until the year 1835, when the General Assembly passed an act declaring that the commons of Brunswick contained nine hundred acres; as this was more than necessary, the law authorized the sale of three hundred acres of the land.¹⁹ The act also directed that one half of the proceeds go to the immediate support of the academy and one half to become a permanent investment with only the interest to be used. The land was divided into five acre ranges and sold, with the exception of the academy range, for about fourteen thousand dollars.²⁰

In the first chapter an account was given of the boom which occurred in Brunswick about 1835. A canal from Brunswick Harbor to the Altamaha River and several railroads were planned. In the interest of one of these railroads, Thomas Butler King, then a member of Congress, obtained a headright to the remaining six hundred acres of the commons and immediately transferred it to the Brunswick and Florida Railroad.

¹⁸ Miss Jane Macon, personal interview, May 7, 1954.

¹⁹ Thirty-first Annual Report, op. cit., p. 50.

²⁰ Loc. cit.

There was some talk of contesting the claim, but nothing was done because public sentiment was that such action might hinder the prosperity and growth which the town was enjoying.²¹

During the boom, in the year 1838, application was made by the representation from Glynn County to the State Legislature to incorporate a new academy to be known as Brunswick Academy. Beginning in this year, there is a rather complete account of the history of the academy in Glynn contained in Urbanus Dart's Answer of Urbanus Dart.²² The account which follows is based on Dart's answer. Brunswick Academy was authorized by the legislature at which time it also repealed the Act of 1823 establishing two free schools in the county. According to Dart, this was done because the people in Brunswick felt that the money arising from the rent of the town commons should not be used for free schools.

When the legislature incorporated Brunswick Academy, it also delegated that certain funds held by Glynn Academy should be turned over to Brunswick Academy. The Trustees of Glynn County Academy refused to do so on the grounds that they were members of a private corporation and not under the jurisdiction of the state, but added, as something to soothe

²¹ Ibid., p. 51.

²² Urbanus Dart, The Answer of Urbanus Dart (Brunswick: Urbanus Dart, 1858), pp. 10-16.

the anger among the townspeople, that they believed that the inhabitants had increased enough to erect a new building at the center of the town. This met with much favor since this had been one of the reasons for incorporating Brunswick Academy.

In the meanwhile, the Trustees of Brunswick Academy, realizing that they could only demand a small amount from the Act of 1835, which left in the hands of Glynn County Academy funds for the purpose of supporting free schools, decided to let it be known that they were in favor of combining the two boards and the funds to erect a new academy building. This was done, and Urbanus Dart, Joseph Bancroft, and William Howard were appointed by the board as a building committee to contract and build a new building. This building was laid out on Hillsborough Square and was completed in 1841.

Teachers were hired, and school was kept as long as there were enough students to justify employment of a teacher. From 1847 to 1852, an English School was held at the academy. The principal teacher during these years was Jacob Moore. When the population increased and a teacher of higher attainments was needed, Moore resigned and recommended the hiring of Reverend James T. Waite, who was recommended by the Theological Seminary of South Carolina. Waite was employed for the academic year 1853. At the end of the year, citizens attempted to throw him out on the grounds of incompetency,

but failed. He served to the end of the academic year 1854, at which time he declined as applicant for the year 1855. James Houston, one of the men who had attempted to remove Waite, applied for the job but was turned down in favor of a Mr. Adams. Adams began the year 1855 but became ill and procured Waite to serve as substitute for the remainder of the year. This ends the account based on The Answer of Urbanus Dart.

In the meantime, James Houston, who had been refused the job, managed to arouse public sentiment against the Trustees of Glynn Academy to the extent that when the Grand Jury, under the law of 1854, appointed the trustees, Houston and his group were elected.²³ The old group of trustees refused to recognize the new trustees, thus setting off a quarrel between the people supporting the two factions. The decision of who was in the right was finally appealed to the courts.

Meanwhile, in 1854, a charter was obtained for the city of Brunswick, and James Houston was elected mayor with a Board of Aldermen who favored him.²⁴ Since the courts had not decided as yet which body of trustees was to be recognized, the Houston group passed an amendment to the City of Brunswick

²³ One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report, op. cit.,
p. 65.

²⁴ Thirty-first Annual Report, op. cit., p. 65.

Charter making the city trustee of the town commons.²⁵ A legal battle followed this action in an attempt to secure the commons property which had been headrighted by Dart, and Davis in 1826 and since then resold many times. The case in which the trustees became involved was the case of Orme, et. al. vs. Dart, et. al.

This case was not settled immediately but continued until the 1880's when Urbanus Dart died. A compromise was reached in 1857 which most of the parties accepted, with the exception of Dart. The Trustees of Glynn Academy agreed to quitclaim 240 lots for the sum of forty-two hundred dollars, and further stated that anyone else holding a lot should pay forty dollars to the trustees and receive a quitclaim.²⁶

During the years which this account of the academy covers, there is also evidence of free schools operating in the county. The United States Census Report for the year 1849 lists Glynn County as having one graded school and academy with forty pupils.²⁷ While there is no written evidence to this effect, it is commonly accepted that the two occupied the same building. In the United States Census

²⁵ Thirty-first Annual Report, loc. cit.

²⁶ One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report, op. cit.,
p. 67.

²⁷ United States Bureau of Census, Sixth Census, 1840
(Washington, D. C.:Blair and Rivers, 1841), p. 235.

Report of 1850, Glynn County is listed as having six schools, including the academy, seven teachers, and an enrollment of 147 pupils.²⁸

The financial record during this period is very inadequate, but in 1841 Glynn County received for the years 1834 to 1838 inclusive, the sum of \$218.62 as its share of the poor school fund being distributed by the state during this period.²⁹ In 1850, the United States Census Report for that year lists as income for Glynn County the sum of \$3,534.00.³⁰

There were evidently many tutors being employed among the wealthier families because of the low illiteracy rate of Glynn County in 1850. This assumption is based on the facts that there were few schools in Glynn County in 1840, as has been previously stated, yet in 1850, the illiteracy of the total white adult population was only from three to eight per cent, while many other counties had as much as fifteen per cent and over illiterate in the same group.³¹

²⁸ United States Bureau of Census, Seventh Census, 1850 (Washington, D. C.: R. Armstrong, 1953), p. 370.

²⁹ Public Laws of Georgia, 1841, op. cit., p. 83.

³⁰ Seventh Census, op. cit., p. 372.

³¹ Richard H. Shryock, Georgia and the Union in 1850 (Durham: Duke University Press, 1926), p. 24.

In all probability the number of free schools in Glynn County increased in the period before the Civil War in the wake of the great movement for common schools during the period throughout the state. Although some attempts were made to educate the children of the county during this period, in general, the achievements were not very notable.

CHAPTER IV

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO 1900

The second chapter of this thesis gave an account of the desertion of Brunswick with the coming of the Civil War. In the third chapter, the growth of education in Brunswick and Glynn County from earliest time to the Civil War was traced. It is the purpose of this chapter to show the development of education following the Civil War until around 1900.

How soon after the war any schools were established in Glynn County, there is no record to show. The first record of a school is found in the year 1867. Educational difficulty occurred here as elsewhere in the South following such a devastating war.

The General Assembly in 1866 passed an act to amend the charter of Brunswick giving the mayor and council the right to lease the town commons.¹ This would indicate that some thought was being given as to how the city and county could get proper financial support for education as early as a year after the war. In 1867, the council and the mayor of Brunswick succeeded in leasing a portion of the town commons, which, together with a small amount of funds from the state, made possible the establishment of a school in the old academy

¹

Public Laws of Georgia for 1866, p. 184.

building.² There are no statistics as to how many enrolled or length of term, but the assumption of the writer is that the facilities were limited, terms short, and few pupils enrolled. This assumption is based on the facts that the financial support was insufficient and that education throughout Georgia was inadequate during this period.

In the year 1866, in order to meet the requirements set forth by the North in order to be re-admitted into the Union, the General Assembly of Georgia passed an act creating the office of State School Commissioner and authorizing a public school system for the state.³ This same act also provided for a county school commissioner to be appointed in each county and trustees to be appointed in each militia district in the counties. Evidently, nothing was done in Glynn to meet this provision until 1873. In this year an act was passed by the General Assembly which gave the county a better educational system.

This act provided for a county board of education to be composed of three "freeholders" of the town of Brunswick and one member from each of the three militia districts in the county at the time. H. B. Gould was appointed from the

² C. P. Goodyear, "The History of the Schools," Public Schools of Glynn County and Brunswick, Georgia (Brunswick: Board of Education, 1892), p. 9.

³ Public Laws of Georgia for 1866, loc. cit.

Twenty-fifth District, F. D. Scarlett from the Twenty-seventh District, and W. M. Gynilliat from the Twenty-sixth District. These men, along with the freeholders from Brunswick, were to serve terms of three years with two members being appointed by the grand jury each year.⁴

The powers and responsibilities granted to this board are contained in the following quotation:

With the care and custody of all school houses, sites, school libraries, apparatus, or other school properties belonging to the educational department of the county as now organized or hereafter to be organized, also with the title, care, and custody of all property, funds, securities, books and papers belonging to the Glynn County Academy, to hold, invest and dispose of the proceeds from the same as provided by law. And the existing board of trustees of Glynn Academy are hereby authorized and instructed to turn over to the County Board of Education, as soon as it shall have been organized under the provisions of this act, all titles to the property, funds, securities, books and papers as aforesaid.⁵

Under the same act Glynn County was instructed to elect a county school superintendent or commissioner, not by popular vote, but by a vote of the newly formed board.⁶ Glynn County used this method of electing a county school superintendent for years following this act. In recent years many other systems have adopted this method.

⁴ Public Laws of Georgia for 1873, p. 256.

⁵ Ibid., p. 257.

⁶ Ibid., p. 259.

The act further instructed the new board to examine teachers and to grade them as first, second, and third grade teachers according to their score on an examination which was to be given by at least two members of the board of education with assistance by other individuals, if the board so desired. The principals of the various schools were to be placed in the fourth grade or classification.⁷

Instructions were also given that the county should make provision for instruction of white and colored children but in separate schools. Requirements for teachers, facilities, and length of term were to be the same for both races.

Up until this time, there had been no public supported school for Negroes although the Risley School, which was begun by D. G. Risley and supported by charities in the North, was in operation by 1870.⁸ After the Act of 1873, this school was taken over by the new board.⁹ Roland Dart, a Negro living on St. Simons Island, remembers the early days of the Risley School well. He recalls that the school was well supported and was apparently a very good school.¹⁰

⁷ Public Laws of Georgia for 1873, op. cit., p. 259.

⁸ Goodyear, op. cit., p. 9.

⁹ Loc. cit.

¹⁰ Roland Dart, personal interview, June 15, 1954.

Financial support during these years was very meager. As we have seen previously, the state owed a huge debt in 1872 and was forced to discontinue schools for part of a year; therefore, allocations from this source must have been small. The schools, however, apparently managed to struggle along on this small amount, with the aid of money received as rent on the town commons.

In 1874, the report of the State School Commissioner lists Glynn County as receiving \$1,028.25 from the state as its share of the common school fund.¹¹ This same report shows Glynn County as having 483 white and 1,015 colored children between the ages of six and eighteen. Glynn County did not report its enrollment figures for that year.

In 1877, Glynn County had two graded and six ungraded schools.¹² The enrollment figures are given for the ungraded schools as 157 white students and 163 Negro students. The school term for that year was only three months. Even if the two graded schools had a high enrollment, many children were not going to school. The same source lists 513 white and 1,253 colored as being between the ages of six and eighteen. At this time there were seventy-seven white and 696 Negroes

¹¹ Third Annual Report of the State School Commissioner (Atlanta: W. A. Hemphill, 1874), p. 62.

¹² Seventh Annual Report of the State School Commissioner (Atlanta: Department of Education, 1878), Appendix, p. 12.

between the ages of ten and eighteen who were illiterate. For the adult population there were eighteen white illiterate and 964 Negro.¹³

The following year, 1878, the school term had been lengthened to four months. There were enrolled at this time two hundred white and only 187 Negro pupils. The average cost per month of the tuition was \$1.45 per pupil. Average attendance figures for this year show that the average attendance was 335, with only 394 enrolled during the year.¹⁴

A four-month school term evidently was in use between 1878 and 1880, for in that year the school term was once again listed as four months; however, the number of schools in the county had greatly increased. For the year 1880, Glynn County reported to the State Department of Education that it had two graded schools and nineteen ungraded schools, with a teaching staff of twenty-five teachers.¹⁵ This was an increase of thirteen schools over the year 1878, and taking into consideration the above figures, one would be led to believe that most, if not all, of the ungraded schools employed only one teacher.

The writer could find no mention of Glynn County education in the intervening years until 1883. The records of

¹³ Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 19.

¹⁵ Ninth Annual Report of the State School Commissioner (Atlanta: Department of Education, 1880), p. 23.

Glynn County were destroyed in a fire in December, 1883, leaving no record for this year except a few brief notes on the happenings in 1883, which is attached to the first page of the minutes of the board in 1884.

Mention is made in the minutes of the board for December 10, 1883, which is part of the attachment, of salaries for various teachers, although no names are given. The principal of the academy and his four assistant teachers were to receive a total salary of two hundred dollars per month. Two other teachers outside the academy were to receive twenty dollars per month for two months of teaching.¹⁶ This would seem to indicate that the rural schools had only a two-month term for the same year.

In January, 1884, references are made to salaries being paid various teachers in the county.¹⁷ R. G. Gibson, who was then principal of Glynn Academy, was to receive seventy dollars, and four other teachers listed with him were to receive total salaries of \$130.00 per month. Another teacher, who was not listed under the academy group, was to receive thirty dollars per month for three months of teaching.

Glynn County began the first taxation for education in

¹⁶ Minutes of the Board, Brunswick, Georgia, December 10, 1883.

¹⁷ Ibid., January 4, 1884.

1884. The legislature in that year authorized an ad valorem tax of three eights of one mill to be used for none other than educational purposes.¹⁸ The same act delegated the authority to elect a board member from the newly formed 135th Militia District, and in order to have the board balanced as to county and city representation, an additional member from the city of Brunswick.

The minutes of the board of education for the year 1887 tell of the election of A. I. Branham as principal of Glynn Academy and show that he submitted a plan for the re-organization of the school system.¹⁹ The plan itself is not contained in the minutes, but later on in the same year, the statement is made that very good schools exist under A. I. Branham.²⁰ Whatever his plan, it was meeting the favor of the board of education.

There were many private schools in Glynn County during the seventies and eighties. Mr. Harry F. Dubignon gives from memory facts that show many private schools to have been in existence during this period. One of these schools was operated by a relative of his, Mary Dubignon. Others that Mr. Dubignon recalls were schools operated by a Professor Lee,

¹⁸ Public Laws of Georgia, 1884-85, p. 602.

¹⁹ Minutes of the Board, Brunswick, Georgia, July 12, 1887.

²⁰ Ibid., December 10, 1887.

Miss Phene Williamson, and Miss Mattie Gould. He further states that there were also private schools for the Negroes, as well as a parochial school for Negroes operated by the pastor of the Episcopal Church.²¹

In 1888, two important events took place in the educational history of Glynn County. The first was the election of A. I. Branham, who had been principal of Glynn Academy, to serve as county and city superintendent of schools.²² This placed the city of Brunswick and the Glynn County administrative units under the same head, as has been done for succeeding years. The second was the enactment by the state legislature of additional financial aid of the schools. In this year the legislature granted the right to levy a special tax on the taxable property of Brunswick in the amount of one tenth of one mill.²³

The first class graduated from Glynn Academy in 1888. This class consisted of two boys and four girls.²⁴

During the decade before the turn of the century, the board of education stayed in financial difficulty. In the

²¹ Mr. Harry F. Dubignon, personal interview, June 18, 1954.

²² Minutes of the Board, Brunswick, Georgia, June 11, 1888.

²³ Public Laws of Georgia, 1888, p. 1084.

²⁴ Miss Jane Macon, personal interview, May 7, 1954.

minutes of the board for May 8, 1893, a record is made showing the total indebtedness to be \$11,398.84.²⁵ The minutes of the board constantly show instances of money being borrowed to meet expenses and pay debts in the years before 1900. In 1889, a new brick building had been built to house the academy and Nelson Grammar School.²⁶ Much of the indebtedness of the schools was apparently resulting from having to meet notes on this debt while operating during a period of financial stress.

The finances of the schools in the latter part of the century were such that in 1897 the board appointed a committee to approach the city and county officials in an effort to get financial aid from them. At the same meeting of the board, a financial statement showed that only about one third of the money for teachers' salaries would be available for the following year.²⁷ The committee which was appointed was moderately successful, for at the next meeting the committee stated that they had received two notes from the city and county totaling \$3,480.00.²⁸

²⁵ Minutes of the Board, Brunswick, Georgia, May 8, 1893.

²⁶ Glynn Academy Student Publication, "The Beach Comber," Brunswick, Georgia, February 4, 1948.

²⁷ Minutes of the Board, Brunswick, Georgia, March 27, 1897.

²⁸ Ibid., April 12, 1897.

The period from 1860-1900 would almost seem one of degradation rather than growth. Although the total income was larger than in previous years, the great increase in population demanded a larger outlay. In the Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County and the City of Brunswick for the year 1900, the president of the board of education stated that the system could not successfully operate on the amount of less than fourteen thousand dollars per year for the entire system.²⁹ Edwin Brobston, who was then president of the board, in the same message suggested that the board should do away with the high school and place these teachers in the lower grades.

The schools of Glynn County for the years 1889-1900 were operating on a one hundred and sixty day term for the city schools and a one hundred day term for the county schools, with the exception of Frederica and St. Simons Mills, which were kept open longer by subscription.³⁰

In 1900, there were four white schools operating in the city of Brunswick and seventeen white schools in the county. The Risley School, which included the elementary grades and the high school, was operating in Brunswick, as well as eighteen

²⁹ Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County and the City of Brunswick (Brunswick: Board of Education, 1900), p. 6.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 7.

schools out in the county.³¹ The enrollment for the white schools was 810, while that for the Negro schools was 1004. The teaching load for the Negroes during this year was almost double that of the whites.³²

With the turn of the century, Glynn County was still experiencing financial difficulty. The city of Brunswick was yet indebted to the board in the amount of over four thousand dollars, which had not been turned over from the rent of the town commons.³³ This lack of cooperation on the part of the city certainly helped to bring the schools to their great need at the turn of the century.

Much credit is to be given the educational leaders of the time who brought about a very good beginning for the present educational system of the county.

³¹ Ibid., pp. 19-20.

³² Ibid., p. 17.

³³ Ibid., p. 10.

CHAPTER V

A PERIOD OF PROGRESS--1900-1920

As has been previously pointed out, at the beginning of the new century Brunswick was at the height of its boom period. Although the years since 1865 to the turn of the century unfolded many educational advances, Glynn County could be considered as still being in great educational need in the year 1900.

In 1900, G. J. Orr, then Glynn County School Superintendent, reported to the board of education that the average pupil tuition per month was only eighty-one cents, while most schools throughout the state were getting more than one dollar.¹

Orr's criticism on the amount of tuition charged students brought results. By the school year 1903-04, the average tuition was over a dollar, while the tuition for the high school was one and one half dollars.²

The total expenditures for the year 1900-01 were slightly more than fourteen thousand dollars for an enrollment of 1,827.³ The finances of the county were apparently

¹ Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County and the City of Brunswick (Brunswick: Board of Education, 1900), p. 7.

² Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County, Georgia and the City of Brunswick (Brunswick: Board of Education, 1904), p. 37.

³ Ibid., p. 22.

better by the school year 1903-04. Although the enrollment for 1903-04 was only about two hundred more than the school year 1900-01, the expenditures had now increased to more than thirty-two thousand dollars.⁴

Much of this progress was probably due to the efforts of N. H. Ballard, who was elected County School Superintendent in 1901.⁵ Ballard was disturbed by the poor conditions of the schools in the county. When he was elected superintendent, the schools were, in his words, "without reputation at home and without repute abroad."⁶

The progress under Ballard began to take shape in the year 1903. In 1900, only one new building was built. This was at Cyprus Mills and at a cost to the board of education of less than three hundred dollars.⁷ In 1903, a modern grammar school was built at a cost of over fifteen thousand dollars, which along with repairs to other buildings brought the total construction costs to well over eighteen thousand dollars.⁸

⁴ Report of the Public Schools for 1900, op. cit., p. 13.

⁵ Minutes of the Board, Brunswick, Georgia, September 11, 1901.

⁶ Thirty-first Annual Report, op. cit., p. 7.

⁷ Report of the Public Schools for 1900, loc. cit.

⁸ Thirty-first Annual Report, op. cit., p. 22.

The following is a description of the new school which was named the Purvis School:

The building consists of seven grade rooms, furnished with adjustable chair-desks and all other appurtenances that go to make a complete grade room; one large room, equipped for shop work, domestic science and elementary experiments in physics and chemistry; one teacher's room, and a library, and all other equipments that go to make up a first class school building are of the modern type and of the best workmanship.⁹

Enrollment and attendance in the schools were very poor for these years when compared with the school census. During the school year 1905-06, the enrollment was only 2,111, while at the same time the school census listed more than forty-one hundred in the county between the ages of six and eighteen.¹⁰ While there were 2,101 enrolled in this year, the average attendance was only 1,337.¹¹

Meanwhile, the various schools made many improvements in the equipment and teachers. Superintendent Ballard, in 1905, reported the high school as having a well equipped laboratory and a library stocked with books necessary for the history and English departments.¹²

⁹ Thirty-first Annual Report, loc. cit.

¹⁰ One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County, Georgia and the City of Brunswick (Brunswick: Board of Education, 1906), p. 26.

¹¹ Loc. cit.

¹² Ibid., p. 15.

In the same report, Ballard expressed his appreciation of the well trained teachers in the high school and added that "due to the small salaries paid in the county and the great inconvenience to which the teachers of these schools are often placed, have caused great difficulty in obtaining satisfactory teachers for the rural schools."¹³

The financial support of the schools continued to be inadequate during the next five years. Money was borrowed from year to year in order to meet expenses.¹⁴

In 1911, the financial stress of the board of education was somewhat alleviated. In this year, the General Assembly passed a resolution authorizing the sale of the town commons.¹⁵ All leases were to be cancelled and the lots sold immediately. The mayor and the council of the city of Brunswick were to be placed in charge of receipts of the sale and were further authorized to appropriate the money.¹⁶

This same act further strengthened the county educational system by giving authority to levy a tax of from one

¹³ Ibid., p. 16.

¹⁴ Annual Reports of the Public Schools of Glynn County and the City of Brunswick, 1904, 1910, passim.

¹⁵ Public Laws of Georgia, 1911, p. 857.

¹⁶ Loc. cit.

to three mills on the taxable property in Brunswick and to turn over this money to the board of education.¹⁷ In 1912, the board of education, finally finding itself in fairly good financial status, did away with the tuition which was being charged the high school students.¹⁸

The sale of the town commons and the passage of the city tax for school purposes seems to have changed the financial situation in the schools. In the succeeding years before 1920, the writer could find no yearly deficit in the records of the board of education.

In 1914, the schools, which had been under a 4-3-4 plan, were reorganized to have six grades in the elementary schools, two in the junior high school, and three years in the high school.¹⁹

Also in 1914, the state legislature amended the Act of 1873, which created the board of education and the system which had been followed for years. Under this act, the newly created 1499th District and the city were each to receive a new board member. This act further authorized the consolidation of schools by the board of education.²⁰

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 858.

¹⁸ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, July 3, 1912.

¹⁹ Ibid., June 11, 1914.

²⁰ Public Laws of Georgia, 1914, p. 279.

The enrollment in the schools remained almost the same in the years between 1900-1920. The enrollment for the year 1900-1901 was 1,827. This increased gradually throughout the years, with the exception of the year 1910-11, when it declined over previous years, to reach the number 2,660 in the year 1920.²¹

Most of this increase came in the white and Negro high schools, while the elementary school enrollments remained almost the same. The number enrolled in Glynn Academy in 1900-01 was only forty-seven. By 1910, the enrollment had mounted to 120 and by the year 1920, 341 were enrolled in the school. During the same years the number of students in Risley High also increased substantially.²²

The number of schools decreased very rapidly after 1911, when the General Assembly granted the board the power to consolidate the schools.²³ Twenty schools were operating for the white race at the turn of the century. With the erection of Purvis School in 1903, the number was increased to twenty-one.²⁴ The number of schools remained at this

²¹ Manuscript showing enrollment figures for various years kept in Superintendent's Office.

²² Loc. cit.

²³ Loc. cit.

²⁴ Loc. cit.

figure for the whites until after 1915. Between 1915 and 1920 the schools were consolidated to such an extent that in the year 1919 there were only twelve schools operating in the county for the white race.²⁵

The Negro schools were being consolidated also, but not to the extent of the white schools. Negro schools operating in 1900 numbered eighteen, but by 1919 the number had been reduced to fourteen.²⁶

The illiteracy figures greatly improved during the years from the turn of the century to 1920. The improvement seems to have been about the same for the white and Negro races. In 1903, the percentage of Negroes who could read or write was eleven and three tenths per cent of the total population between the ages of six and eighteen.²⁷ In 1908, the illiteracy rate for Negroes was reduced to nine and three tenths per cent of the same age group.²⁸ For the same years the white illiteracy rate dropped from three and seven tenths per cent to two and four tenths per cent in the age group from six to eighteen years of age.²⁹

²⁵ Manuscript, loc. cit.

²⁶ Loc. cit.

²⁷ Georgia State Department of Education, Census of School Population of Georgia (Atlanta: Charles P. Byrd, 1908), p. 14.

²⁸ Loc. cit.

²⁹ Loc. cit.

By 1913, the illiterate were greatly reduced in number. The illiteracy among the Negroes was little more than a third what it had been in 1908, while the percentage of whites between the ages of six and eighteen who were illiterate had been reduced by one half.³⁰

In 1919, Glynn County was employing sixty-two grammar grade and thirteen high school teachers.³¹ The white teachers received for the year 1919 an average salary of eighty-six dollars per month, while the average salary for the Negro teachers was only twenty-eight dollars.³²

The library was one phase of the educational facilities which was in great need of improvement at this time. One report states that Glynn County had fourteen libraries containing two thousand six hundred volumes.³³ Miss Jane Macon says that these were only room libraries in the various schools.³⁴

³⁰ Ibid., 1913, p. 8.

³¹ Georgia State Department of Education, Forty-ninth Annual Report of the State Department of Education to the General Assembly (Atlanta: Department of Education, 1921), p. 417.

³² Ibid., p. 178.

³³ Ibid., p. 376.

³⁴ Miss Jane Macon, personal interview, May 7, 1954.

Total receipts for the schools in the county climbed from less than twelve thousand in 1900 to more than eighty-three thousand in 1919.³⁵

The school property evaluation was listed as less than forty thousand dollars in 1900. In 1919, the evaluation was one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars.³⁶

Better trained teachers than those of an earlier period were being employed in 1919. As has been shown earlier in this chapter, the teachers of 1903-04 were generally poorly trained. In 1919, thirty-five white teachers and five Negro teachers had normal school training.

The period from 1900 to 1920 was not one of outstanding laws or decisions, but one of steady growth. The comparisons of various phases of the educational life of the county indicate something of the great work of N. H. Ballard, who resigned as county school superintendent in 1919.³⁷

³⁵ Report of the Public Schools for 1900, op. cit.,
p. 15.

³⁶ Forty-ninth Annual Report of the State Department,
op. cit., p. 366.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 316.

CHAPTER VI

A PERIOD OF ACHIEVEMENT---1920-1937

The period from 1920-1937 was one of great growth and many accomplishments in the educational history of Glynn County. In this period outstanding improvements were made upon the good education foundation produced by the previous superintendent, N. H. Ballard.

In 1920, a commission from the United States Bureau of Education made a survey of the Glynn County School System. This survey was presented under twelve heads which covered the schools in detail. In order to make a comparison for later years, a brief summary of the findings of the commission will be given in this thesis.

The teaching staff of the county in 1920 was generally weak. The commission criticized the lack of supervision and leadership, as well as the scholastic preparation of the teachers. The commission went on to say, however, that this lack of academic preparation did not apply to the high school teachers.¹

The need for an attendance officer in the county was unquestionable, according to the commission. Only forty-one per cent of the total school population was enrolled in the

¹ Department of the Interior--Bureau of Education, A Survey of the Schools of Glynn County (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1920), p. 21.

schools. The attendance of those who were enrolled was very irregular, and many students dropped out before the end of the term.²

The report further showed that Glynn County could easily improve the financial support offered the schools. When compared with other areas similar in size and industry, the report showed Glynn County as spending less than half as much per capita as the other cities.³

The buildings employed for school purposes were reported by the commission as generally dilapidated in the county and rural schools, while those in the city needed repairs. Most of the rural schools were one room buildings. Only a few two room buildings were in use in the rural schools.⁴

This report of the commission appointed by the United States Bureau of Education revealed to the people of Brunswick and Glynn County the most pressing needs of the schools. Steps were taken to improve these conditions almost immediately.

In 1920, following the survey, a building program got under way. The sum of forty thousand dollars was set aside for the construction of a building near the Atlantic Refinery.⁵

² Ibid., p. 5.

³ Ibid., pp. 26-32.

⁴ Ibid., pp. 32-41.

⁵ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, April 3, 1920.

The building, which was completed in 1921, was situated on a large lot containing several acres. The Atlantic Refinery constructed streets on all four sides of the lot and further aided by furnishing the water and electricity for the school.⁶

In 1922, a contract was let for the building of a new Negro high school.⁷ This building, which was constructed at a cost in excess of twenty-eight thousand dollars, contained twelve classrooms and a large auditorium.⁸

Also in 1922, a new high school building for the white children was begun.⁹ This structure was composed of a large auditorium and more than twenty rooms.¹⁰ Several of these rooms were occupied as offices by the superintendent, county board of education, and principal. These rooms have continued to be in such use for several years since.

Rural schools had received very little aid during the early years of this period. In 1920, a two room building was constructed for the consolidation of Magnolia and Union Schools

⁶ Miss Jane Macon, Brunswick, Georgia, personal interview, May 7, 1954.

⁷ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, February 1, 1922.

⁸ Loc. cit.

⁹ Jane Macon, loc. cit.

¹⁰ Loc. cit.

for Negroes.¹¹ In July of the same year a one room building was constructed at Bladen.¹²

In 1921, free textbooks were distributed in the first grades of the schools of the county.¹³ This was a great step forward, preceding the state adoption of free textbooks by sixteen years. By 1926, free textbooks were being furnished the first five grades in the elementary schools.

In 1921, an old landmark was removed from the city of Brunswick. This was the old academy building, which had been built in 1841. The building was torn down and the timbers and lumber used to build a Negro school at Sterling.¹⁴

In 1924, an increase in the salaries of the teachers for the year 1925 was passed by the board.¹⁵ No figures were given as to the amount of increase, but the total amount set aside for teachers' salaries for the following year was \$73,530.

A twelve year school program was begun at Glynn

¹¹ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, June 2, 1920.

¹² Ibid., July 7, 1920.

¹³ Miss Jane Macon, loc. cit.

¹⁴ Loc. cit.

¹⁵ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, November 5, 1924.

Academy in 1926.¹⁶ In 1927, the first class to complete the program was graduated. This class numbered thirty-two.¹⁷

In 1927, a twelve year program was begun at Risley High. At the end of the school year 1927-28, a class of thirteen pupils was graduated under this program.¹⁸

The depression stopped for a few years the educational expansion in Glynn County. During this period, the supervisors for the elementary grades and the teachers of such subjects as art and music were not employed.¹⁹

In 1933, George W. Wannamaker was elected to succeed R. D. Eadie as county school superintendent.²⁰ Realizing the needs of the schools, he immediately made application to the Public Works Administration for a grant of funds for building purposes.

A grant was approved in October of the same year for the sum of \$122,726.00. On October 8, a bond election was held and passed for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.²¹

¹⁶ Mr. Sidney Boswell, Brunswick, Georgia.

¹⁷ Manuscript containing enrollment figures in Superintendent's Office.

¹⁸ Loc. cit.

¹⁹ Miss Jane Macon, loc. cit.

²⁰ Loc. cit.

²¹ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, November 4, 1935.

The following year another grant was made by the Public Works Administration, making a grand total of over three hundred thousand dollars available for building purposes.²²

The largest building which was constructed with this money was a new elementary school. The building was located across from the old Preparatory High School building on Mansfield Street. It was a large brick building containing more than twenty rooms and a cafeteria. The total cost of this building was approximately two hundred thousand dollars.²³

A new high school building for the Negroes was also constructed at a cost of about fifty thousand dollars.²⁴ This building was somewhat smaller than the new elementary school. It contained eleven classrooms, a science laboratory, and the necessary offices and restrooms.

Improvements were also made on the Community School. These improvements cost almost as much as the new Negro high school. When finished the school contained ten rooms. A central heating system was installed as a part of this construction, making the building modern in every sense of the word.²⁵

²² Ibid., December 5, 1936.

²³ Mr. Harry F. Dubignon, Brunswick, Georgia.

²⁴ Loc. cit.

²⁵ Miss Jane Macon, loc. cit.

When these buildings were completed, the new building was named the Sidney Lanier School in honor of "The Marshes of Glynn." The Community School was renamed the N. H. Ballard School in honor of the outstanding superintendent of the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The enrollment in all the schools of the county had increased very much by 1937. The enrollment for the Negro schools in the county increased from 1,035 in 1920 to 1,265 in 1937. For the school year 1930-31, the enrollment in the Negro schools reached its highest figure. In this year the total number of Negro students enrolled was 1,358.²⁶

The schools for the white race in Glynn County also showed an even greater increase in enrollment during this period than did Negro schools. The enrollment for 1920 was 1,710. This decreased to 1,593 in the year 1924, but by the year 1937, the number enrolled was almost twenty-five hundred. The enrollment in Glynn Academy had increased from 341 in the school year 1920-21 to more than five hundred in 1937.²⁷

In January, 1937, the board of education authorized Wannamaker to try to buy five lots at the corner of K and Wold Streets for further construction purposes. These lots were finally purchased in December of the same year for two hundred

²⁶ Manuscript containing enrollment figures in Superintendent's Office, Brunswick, Georgia.

²⁷ Loc. cit.

dollars.²⁸

The teachers of the county benefited by the passage of a sick leave plan by the board of education in 1937. This plan allowed a teacher to be absent from school ten days with full pay if sick. After ten days the teacher was required to pay a substitute teacher.²⁹

Glynn County was greatly benefited by the passage of a state law in 1937 which made the state responsible for the textbooks. In July, 1937, the books owned by the county were sold to the state in order to prepare for the issuance of free textbooks.³⁰

The period from 1920-1937 was one of many achievements for the educational system of the county. The introduction of a twelve year school program, the large scale building programs, and the introduction of free textbooks were definitely signs of progress.

²⁸ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, December 1, 1937.

²⁹ Ibid., February 2, 1937.

³⁰ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, July 14, 1937.

CHAPTER VII

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GLYNN COUNTY EDUCATION

FROM 1937 TO THE PRESENT

The previous chapters have related the educational growth of Glynn County from the earliest times to the year 1937. In that year, the state began to assume more of the responsibility for the education of the youth of the state.

Aid came by way of free textbooks and a state salary schedule, plus the assumption of a greater share of the financial support of the schools. A comparison is made in the minutes of the board of education in 1938 of the various sums received from different sources of income for the years 1937 and 1938. In 1937, a sum of \$33,158 was received from Brunswick as its share for the support of the schools.¹ By the year 1938, this amount dropped to \$27,024. The funds from the county also decreased in the year 1938. The amount received from the state increased greatly in 1938 over the previous year. The amount received from the state in 1937 was \$11,309.00, while in 1938 the amount was increased to \$22,545.00.²

In spite of the apparent improvement of the financial status of the schools immediately before 1937, mention was

¹ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, February 2, 1938.

² Loc. cit.

made in the minutes of the board of education for August 3, 1938 of the borrowing of \$25,740.00. This money was probably used for construction purposes, for in the minutes of the board for the same date, mention was made of the crowded conditions in the schools. At this meeting, application was made to the Federal Government for assistance in the construction of more buildings. The period of industrialization beginning in the early thirties was responsible for the crowded conditions in the schools.

The Federal Government gave the needed assistance, and construction began in April, 1939.³ No mention is made of the location of the new buildings.

At this time, the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges became dissatisfied with the conditions in Glynn Academy. An increase of seventy-five cents was made in the per pupil expenditure to meet the standards of this group.⁴ Further improvement was made when the state permitted the use of ten per cent of the textbook fund to buy library books.⁵ These improvements were evidently not enough,

³ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, April 5, 1939.

⁴ Ibid., January 3, 1940.

⁵ Ibid., May 1, 1940.

for in November, 1940, a letter was read before the board of education containing a warning against teacher overload and inadequate shelf space in the library.⁶

A change was made in the administrative head of the county schools in the year 1940. George Wannamaker was inducted into the armed forces in this year, and Sidney Boswell was made acting superintendent.⁷ In 1941, R. E. Hood was elected superintendent, and Mr. Boswell resumed his duties as principal of Glynn Academy. A few years later, Mr. Boswell was placed in the position of assistant superintendent of schools.

When Mr. Hood took over the office of the superintendent, he was immediately faced with the difficult task of meeting the needs of an ever increasing school population. This great increase was a result of the many defense plants which began operation in Brunswick.

An immediate problem was that of keeping teachers. Many of the men teachers were called into the armed forces, and the attractive wages of the defense plants caused many others to leave their teaching jobs. In 1942, in order to encourage the teachers to remain in school work, a salary increase was granted by the board of education. A ten per

⁶ Ibid., November 6, 1940.

⁷ Loc. cit.

cent raise was given those whose monthly salary was \$110.00 or under, and a five per cent increase to those whose monthly salary was above \$110.00.⁸

Not only the retention of teachers, but also the money to pay the extra teachers needed for the great influx of population constituted a serious problem. At the meeting of the board of education in December, 1942, a resolution was sent to the State Department of Education insisting that the state pay the salaries of all extra teachers hired because of the defense influx of population.⁹ The action taken by the State Department of Education is not given in the minutes of the board.

Application was made to the Federal Government in 1942 for financial aid for maintenance and operation expenses. In 1943, the amount of \$58,583.00 was granted for this purpose.¹⁰ In July, 1943, further aid was requested from the Federal Government to be used for the purpose of constructing additional buildings.¹¹

⁸ Ibid., November 10, 1942.

⁹ Ibid., December 2, 1942.

¹⁰ Ibid., January 6, 1943.

¹¹ Ibid., July 7, 1943.

While waiting for the additional buildings which were needed, the schools of the county began using a two-shift method of attendance. Half of the children came to school during the morning hours and left at noon. The other half came in the afternoon to receive instruction. While under this program, no lunches were served in the elementary schools since the double shift made this unnecessary.

The teachers received several salary increases after the two-shift program was begun. The teachers who taught two shifts were to receive five dollars per day as extra pay.¹² Principals of schools under a two-shift plan received an increase in salary of fifty dollars per month.¹³

In November, 1943, the money requested from the Federal Government for school buildings was granted. The amount of the grant was \$224,227.00.¹⁴ Early in 1944, work was begun on new buildings at Reynolds Street and on St. Simons Island.¹⁵ It was evident, as this construction got under way, that only two buildings would do little to remedy the situation. By this time, the population of the county had increased from

¹² Ibid., October 12, 1943.

¹³ Ibid., December 15, 1943.

¹⁴ Ibid., November 16, 1943.

¹⁵ Ibid., March 1, 1944.

21,420 in 1940 to 41,898 in 1943.¹⁶

Realizing the need, the board authorized the construction of three additional school buildings from the funds allocated by the Federal Government. These schools were Wolf Street, Fourth Street, and Goodyear. All of these schools were completed by 1945.¹⁷

Further aid was received from the Federal Government in 1944. In July, the board of education received an amount of \$154,673.00 to be used for child care facilities.¹⁸ In November of the same year, the Federal Government granted almost three hundred thousand dollars to be used for operation and maintenance costs.¹⁹

The school system in Glynn County was rapidly becoming big business. The budget for the school year 1943-44 was four hundred and thirty thousand dollars.²⁰ This was many times greater than the budget of 1900. Ten years later the budget has reached the million dollar mark.²¹

¹⁶ Morris H. Hansen, compiler, County Data Book, Supplement to the Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1947), p. 106.

¹⁷ Mr. Sidney Boswell, Brunswick, Georgia.

¹⁸ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, July 14, 1944.

¹⁹ Ibid., November 1, 1944.

²⁰ Ibid., April 5, 1944.

²¹ Miss Caroline Way, personal interview, June 16, 1954.

This great increase in expenditures was partially made possible by the increased amount of tax money used for educational purposes. In 1938, the tax rate for school support was five mills in the county and seven mills in Brunswick.²² In 1953, a tax rate of thirteen mills was collected countywide for the general school fund and three and three eighths for bonded indebtedness.²³

Construction ceased with the end of the war, but it began again in 1948. In this year four additional rooms were built at the N. H. Ballard School.²⁴ At the present time (1954) a building program is under way which includes a new white junior high school, remodeling a building for the use of Glynn Academy, and fifteen new classrooms for St. Simons, C. B. Greer, and Sidney Lanier Schools. A cafetorium, kitchen, and library are being built at Arco. A new Negro high school is being constructed also.²⁵ The funds for this construction come from the Federal Government and a local bond issue. The amount contributed by the former is \$481,000.00.²⁶

²² Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, February 2, 1938.

²³ Mr. Sidney Boswell, personal interview, June 11, 1954.

²⁴ Minutes of the Board of Education, Brunswick, Georgia, March 3, 1948.

²⁵ Mr. Sidney Boswell, loc. cit.

²⁶ Loc. cit.

In 1954, nine schools for white children were operating in the county. These schools have a teaching staff numbering 170. Of this number, forty-six were teachers at Glynn Academy. At the same time, there were thirteen Negro schools operating in the county. Seven of these were one-teacher schools. Mr. Boswell said that this will soon be remedied and that by 1955 there will be only two elementary schools for the Negroes in the county. The Negro schools have a staff of teachers numbering seventy-five.

The enrollment in the schools increased from almost thirty-eight hundred in 1937 to more than six thousand in 1953. During the war years, the enrollment in the schools was greater than at the present. This enrollment gradually fell after the war, reaching a bottom figure for the last decade of 5,639. This low occurred in 1946-47, but it has gradually increased every year since.

As was mentioned earlier in this chapter, the budget for 1953-54 was over a million dollars. Several tables are included in this chapter giving a detailed account of expenditures and income for the school years 1951-52 and 1952-53. Table I gives the income and expenditures for the above years. Table II breaks down these expenditures into the amount spent by each school. Transportation expenses and number transported are given in Table III. The per pupil expenditure for various schools is given in Table IV. A comparison of the

two years is made in each of the tables, showing the amount of increase or decrease.

Today, Glynn County has a school system which is generally accepted as being among the best in Georgia. The schools are staffed with well prepared teachers and excellent administrative officials. The Glynn County School System is today an outstanding example of progress and achievement.

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TABLE I

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN THE GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOLS
FOR THE YEARS 1951-52 AND 1952-53

INCOME			
Source	Year ending 6-30-1953	Year ending 6-30-1952	Increase
Brunswick City taxes	\$ 251,541.25	\$ 209,823.17	\$ 41,628.08
Glynn County taxes	172,298.43	150,941.13	21,357.30
State of Georgia	645,000.44	474,639.05	170,361.39
Housing Authority	4,716.50	4,596.80	119.70
Federal Works Agency	124,833.32	107,476.52	17,356.80
Miscellaneous	2,685.16	2,269.13	416.03
Totals	\$1,200,985.10	\$ 949,745.80	\$251,339.30
EXPENDITURES			
Explanation	Year ending 6-30-1953	Year ending 6-30-1952	Increase
General Expense	\$ 99,674.26	\$ 79,738.50	\$ 19,935.76
Instructional expense	749,614.00	595,746.74	153,867.26
Operation of school plant	60,027.28	54,350.37	5,676.91
Maintenance of plant	24,982.41	38,928.14	13,945.73
Transportation	39,432.36	38,807.82	624.54
Auxiliary agencies	17,597.34	17,047.84	549.50
Capital outlay	145,721.36	103,137.05	42,584.31
Totals	\$1,137,049.01	\$ 927,756.46	\$ 209,292.55

Copied from Auditor's Report, July, 1953.

TABLE II
AMOUNT SPENT BY EACH SCHOOL IN GLYNN COUNTY

CITY SCHOOLS			
School	Year ending 6-30-1953	Year ending 6-30-1952	Increase
Glynn Academy	\$ 204,839.74	\$ 161,222.79	\$ 43,616.95
Prep High	93,674.71	85,236.40	8,438.31
Sidney Lanier	91,315.08	78,318.56	12,996.52
Purvis	24,120.04	22,432.05	1,687.99
Goodyear	24,058.90	22,390.43	1,778.47
Greer	51,117.07	37,801.23	13,315.84
Reynolds Street	34,339.87	25,368.30	8,971.57
Perry	54,288.49	31,646.08	22,642.41
Risley High and Elementary	184,049.05	155,208.79	28,840.26
Totals	\$ 761,802.95	\$ 619,624.63	\$ 142,178.32
COUNTY SCHOOLS			
Arco	\$ 24,821.64	\$ 20,269.31	\$ 4,552.33
N. H. Ballard	59,180.84	50,636.28	8,544.56
St. Simons	42,889.89	31,595.44	11,294.45
Rural colored	45,602.63	46,638.09	- 1,035.46
Totals	\$ 172,495.00	\$ 149,139.12	\$ 23,355.88

Copied from Auditor's Report, July, 1953.

TABLE III
 TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES AND
 NUMBER TRANSPORTED IN GLYNN COUNTY

Item	Year ending 6-30-1953	Year ending 6-30-1952	Increase
Drivers' Wages	\$ 24,592.70	\$ 20,183.73	\$ 4,408.97
Other expenses	18,762.90	20,730.65	- 1,967.75
Total expenses	43,355.60	40,914.38	2,441.22
Average number transported	1,427	1,356	71
Average cost per pupil	30.38	30.17	.21

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TABLE IV
EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL FOR THE SCHOOLS OF GLYNN COUNTY

CITY SCHOOLS			
School	Year ending 6-30-1953	Year ending 6-30-1952	Increase
Glynn Academy	\$ 207.96	\$ 170.23	\$ 37.71
Prep High	143.23	134.23	9.00
Sidney Lanier	140.92	129.69	11.25
Purvis	168.67	136.78	31.89
Goodyear	140.70	133.28	7.42
Greer	150.79	114.55	36.24
Reynolds Street	152.62	128.77	23.85
Perry	149.56	114.66	34.90
Risley High and Elementary	171.85	181.74	-9.89
Average for city schools	\$ 165.65	\$ 148.41	\$ 17.24
COUNTY SCHOOLS			
Arco	\$ 142.65	\$ 114.52	\$ 28.13
Ballard	145.77	128.52	17.25
St. Simons	157.68	127.40	30.28
Rural Colored	127.38	71.09	56.29
Average for county schools	\$ 142.56	\$ 101.11	\$ 41.45
Average for all schools	\$ 160.84	\$ 136.06	\$ 24.78

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Glynn County had almost no facilities for the education of its youth before the Revolutionary War. The few which did exist were on St. Simons Island. After the Revolution, in 1788, the establishment of Glynn Academy was authorized. Although authorized, it is doubtful that the academy or any public school operated before the War of 1812.

After the War of 1812, in the year 1819, a building was constructed for the academy, and many attempts were made to establish free schools. The years before 1850 were years of progress followed by decadence, and vice versa. After 1850, many free schools and the academy were operating and continued to operate until the beginning of the Civil War. The Civil War brought about the destruction of the school system.

After the Civil War, the people of Glynn County, while experiencing a boom period, made efforts to reconstruct their educational system. Many private and church schools began operation in the early 1870's. Glynn Academy and several free schools also began operation a few years after the war. Progress, however, was very slow in the period before 1900. The inadequate financial support of the state and county kept the board of education in debt during most of these years

before the turn of the century. A few buildings were constructed during this period, but little was done to improve the teaching staff.

After the turn of the century, the movement for improved education in the county gained momentum. In 1903, N. H. Ballard was elected superintendent of the schools of the county. Through his leadership the teaching staff was improved, new buildings constructed, and better financial support was obtained. These years from 1900 to 1920 were almost without exception ones of steady growth and achievement.

From 1920 to 1937, further improvements were made in the teaching staff of the schools, and many progressive ideas, such as a twelve year school program and introduction of free textbooks, are noted. The greatest improvement, however, was the construction of many buildings toward the end of this period.

The years of greatest achievement in the educational growth of Glynn County were those from 1937 to the present time. In all these years, education made great strides in almost all phases. Many buildings were constructed, and others remodeled. Instructional aids and increased use of trained supervisors added to the school program. The teachers hired in these years were carefully selected and well paid in comparison with other areas in Georgia. Increased taxation

rates approved in these years further stabilized the finances of the system.

Today (1954) the entire system of Glynn County is far superior to the average system in Georgia. Not only does the system have a good reputation for the past few years, but it is also recognized by leading educators as one of the most advanced and progressive systems in all of Georgia.



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January 14, 1884	July 7, 1943
December 10, 1887	October 7, 1943
May 31, 1889	November 16, 1943
October 14, 1889	December 15, 1943
June 9, 1890	March 1, 1944
July 6, 1891	April 5, 1944
September 12, 1901	July 5, 1944
July 3, 1912	July 14, 1944
June 11, 1914	September 6, 1944
April 3, 1920	November 1, 1944
June 2, 1920	November 7, 1945
July 7, 1920	April 7, 1946
February 1, 1922	November 6, 1946
November 5, 1924	December 11, 1946
November 4, 1935	April 17, 1947
December 5, 1936	December 18, 1947
January 6, 1937	March 3, 1948
February 2, 1937	May 24, 1948
July 14, 1937	July 7, 1948
November 3, 1937	October 6, 1948
January 6, 1938	March 8, 1950
February 2, 1938	July 9, 1952
August 3, 1938	November 5, 1952
April 5, 1939	January 7, 1953
January 3, 1940	
May 1, 1940	
November 6, 1940	
November 10, 1942	
December 2, 1942	

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1826

1837

1841

1847

1867

1873

1876

1884-85

1887

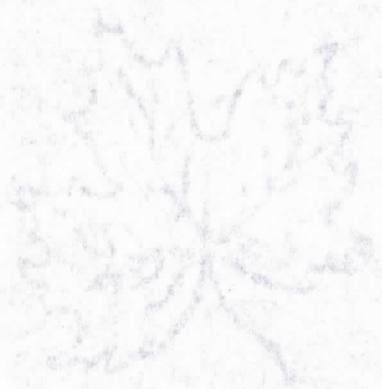
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APPENDIX

TABLE V
ENROLLMENT BY GRADES FOR WHITE SCHOOLS

YEAR	GRADE									TOTAL
	1	3	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1920-21	216	173	138	127	79	76	47	30	X	1,336
1926-27	218	155	172	136	26	113	115	62	32	1,548
1929-30	343	242	243	149	164	166	79	36	59	2,226
1930-31	280	253	210	170	138	159	98	61	36	2,116
1931-32	265	262	222	144	161	139	131	61	62	2,179
1933-34	267	274	237	196	191	199	112	76	70	2,429
1941-42	257	224	261	258	192	214	149	149	97	2,565
1942-43	340	317	280	276	218	216	177	152	111	2,946
1943-44	723	600	547	418	281	295	205	200	126	5,111
1944-45	870	714	615	516	375	309	242	183	155	5,822
1945-46	562	449	419	416	345	291	236	160	109	4,439
1947-48	441	416	353	323	309	156	194	224	264	3,796
1948-49	472	373	379	333	304	301	234	196	159	4,147
1951-52	369	425	377	357	337	336	267	270	208	4,542

Copied from manuscript showing enrollment figures in Superintendent's Office, Brunswick, Georgia.

TABLE VI
ENROLLMENT BY GRADES FOR COLORED SCHOOLS

YEAR	GRADE								TOTAL
	1	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1920-21	131	44	21	9	7	X	X	X	540
1925-26	136	72	54	32	23	X	X	X	745
1926-27	154	85	41	24	20	18	X	X	754
1927-28	156	103	75	41	32	27	27	13	933
1932-33	244	186	74	74	36	45	36	21	1,325
1934-35	187	155	119	73	44	46	22	34	1,351
1939-40	243	142	100	78	41	49	36	32	1,413
1941-42	253	146	86	80	58	59	28	27	1,454
1943-44	284	184	113	93	78	69	33	37	1,740
1944-45	333	204	124	92	93	53	45	21	1,858
1947-48	276	206	111	121	89	70	41	48	1,803
1951-52	231	241	152	119	133	85	53	81	1,959

Copied from manuscript showing enrollment figures in Superintendent's Office, Brunswick, Georgia.

TABLE VII

TEACHERS' SALARY SCHEDULE - GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

4 years College - No experience		\$ 2700.00
4 years College - No experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	2800.00
4 years College - No experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	2900.00
4 years College - No experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3000.00
4 years College - No experience	plus 24 S.Hrs.	3100.00
4 years College - 3 years experience		2850.00
4 years College - 3 years experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	2950.00
4 years College - 3 years experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	3050.00
4 years College - 3 years experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3150.00
4 years College - 3 years experience	plus 24 S.Hrs.	3250.00
4 years College - 6 years experience		3000.00
4 years College - 6 years experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	3100.00
4 years College - 6 years experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	3200.00
4 years College - 6 years experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3300.00
4 years College - 6 years experience	plus 24 S.Hrs.	3400.00
4 years College - 9 years experience		3150.00
4 years College - 9 years experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	3250.00
4 years College - 9 years experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	3350.00
4 years College - 9 years experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3450.00
4 years College - 9 years experience	plus 24 S.Hrs.	3550.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - No experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	3100.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - No experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3200.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - No experience	plus 1 year	3300.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 3 yrs. experience		3400.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 3 yrs. experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	3500.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 3 yrs. experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	3600.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 3 yrs. experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3700.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 3 yrs. experience	plus 1 year	3800.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 6 yrs. experience		3600.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 6 yrs. experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	3700.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 6 yrs. experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	3800.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 6 yrs. experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	3900.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 6 yrs. experience	plus 1 year	4000.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 9 yrs. experience		3800.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 9 yrs. experience	plus 6 S.Hrs.	3900.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 9 yrs. experience	plus 12 S.Hrs.	4000.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 9 yrs. experience	plus 18 S.Hrs.	4100.00
Master's and 5 yr. Certificate - 9 yrs. experience	plus 1 year	4200.00

These salaries based on Professional Certificate.

TABLE VIII

 STATE OF GEORGIA SALARY SCHEDULE FOR 1953-54
 ANNUAL SALARY BASED ON 10 MONTHS WORK

Type of Certificates	Yrs. of College Training	Beginning Base Salary	After 3 Yrs. Approved Experience	After 6 Yrs. Approved Experience	After 9 Yrs. Approved Experience
Professional	5		\$2900	\$3100	\$3300
Provisional		\$2400	---	---	---
Professional	4	\$2400	\$2550	\$2700	\$2850
Provisional		\$1900	---	---	---
Professional	3	\$1900	\$2100	\$2200	\$2300
Provisional		\$1700	---	---	---
Professional	2	\$1700	\$1850	\$1900	\$1950
Provisional		\$1500	---	---	---

THE ANNUAL SALARY OF TEACHERS AS INDICATED ABOVE SHALL BE DISBURSED IN TWELVE MONTHLY PAYMENTS AS SHOWN BELOW:

Type Certificate	Yrs. of College Training	Beginner	After 3 Yrs. Approved Experience	After 6 Yrs. Approved Experience	After 9 Yrs. Approved Experience
Professional	5		\$241.67	\$258.33	\$275.00
Provisional	5	\$200.00	---	---	---
Professional	4	\$200.00	\$212.50	\$225.00	\$237.50
Provisional	4	\$158.33	---	---	---
Professional	3	\$158.33	\$175.00	\$183.33	\$191.67
Provisional	3	\$141.67	---	---	---
Professional	2	\$141.67	\$154.17	\$158.83	\$162.50
Provisional	2	\$125.00	---	---	---