



"What more enduring monument could a man desire than that his name and memory be linked with the destiny of a town populated with intelligent, cultured, patriotic and resolute citizens, a majority of whom are united in a ceaseless endeavor to render that town a highly desirable location for the homeseeker, the manufacturer and all kinds of legitimate business enterprises. A town of this character is bound to attract good substantial people from every section, and Loganville shall continue to grow and expand through the coming years and stand as a monument to the wisdom of the man who selected this place as a site for a town."

**From an unidentified author,
taken from the May 1, 1914 edition
of the Loganville Record**

Loganville's early years

Loganville is named for James H. Logan, the son of William Logan and Catherine Guy, both natives of South Carolina who had a total of eight children of record. William Logan owned large swaths of land in what was in the late 1700s was North Carolina but today is Tennessee. At the time of his death, the elder Logan owned about 1,000 acres.

James H. Logan was born in 1800 in Tennessee and married Charety G. Cruce in 1820 in Jackson County, Georgia. Following in his father's footsteps, Logan first became a landowner after winning land in the Cherokee Land Lottery in 1838 in Murray County, Georgia. At the time being a resident of Wynn's in Gwinnett County, the land acquired was south of the Tennessee border. Then, on Nov. 9, 1842, he attended a sheriff's sale in Monroe and purchased 62.5 acres for \$150 in the Fourth Land District. Logan moved to what was then known as Buncombe in Walton County.

There were quite a few settlers already in the area before Logan arrived. Much of the land in and around Loganville was originally granted to Ezekial Hull of

Burke County on November 7, 1821. The communities of McElvany's Mill and Bay Creek were thriving in the 1820s, with Bay Creek Church having been established in 1821 on the only existing road at the time: Lawrenceville-Monroe Road.

Logan built a house on what is today CS Floyd Road where he and his son also started a leather shop, making shoes and other leather goods to meet the needs of a community where cotton was king. On June 11, 1851, after the reappointment of William F. Kennedy as postmaster, Buncombe became what is today known as Loganville. Logan's stay in the community he founded was somewhat short-lived, as U.S. Census records show him as being a farmer and resident of Pike County in 1850 with an estimated \$500 worth of real estate and by 1860 he moved to Griffin in Spalding County. He died Sept. 12, 1889, and is buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Griffin. When he left Loganville, the town had about 500 people.

Logan had six children but only one remained in the community he founded — a daughter named Elizabeth,

Citizens begin to organize Loganville Historical Society

With every funeral, the community loses a piece of its history. But there is a group hoping to do something about it.

The nascent Loganville Historical Society has set its goals to research, document and publicize the history of Loganville and the community. They will acquire, preserve and exhibit artifacts pertaining to the history of the town and the community. And they will promote community-wide understanding of the value of history and heritage.

Following the first two

meetings in 2016, the groundwork is in place for the group of residents who will work to save what they can before the city's early history is lost. And organizers are quick to point out that is their goal — to preserve history, not like other historical societies which are often intertwined with the city government and enforce rules and regulations related to the architectural history of the community.

Organizational meetings began in January with Peggy Garrett serving as the driving force. This group will be able to trace its history back to her effort to

recognize Nell Foster, who in the spring of 2015 was embarking on her 109th birthday. Garrett was working to recognize Foster not only in having an intersection in the community named in her honor but also to recognize her as the oldest living person in Gwinnett County. But the search to confirm that information proved to be more daunting than Garrett expected.

"There are no real records of people who are turning 100 or who are older than 100 and I don't think that is right," she said. "It just got me thinking of a bigger picture: I know there is a lot of history to be preserved



here. There are a lot of citizens who have pieces of history that tell the story of our city."

So Garrett mailed out 14 letters to people she thought would be interested in attending the first meeting of the Loganville Historical Society in January and added some for the next one. By February, the first officers were appointed, with Gloria Bienstock as president, LeRoy Seigler as vice president, Janice Tribble as secretary and Marsha Byrd as treasurer. In addition, Garrett was named

executive administrator as well as director at large, a role she will share with Kent Henderson, Tom Carter and Wendell Geiger. The group also formed a by-laws committee and the Centurion Committee, charged with identifying residents in the community over the age of 90.

Meetings are often a walk down memory lane for many of these first members, but it is not hard to see that each of those gathered see the importance in what they are trying to accomplish. And they recognize

the fact it may take a while to get the group going full steam, there is an end project they are working toward.

"Personally I would like for us to have a place somewhere to put up some of the pictures and information we gather, someplace people can find out about the history of Loganville," said Dan Curry, who is a part of group not as the city's mayor but as someone whose family has roots in the city.

To learn more, call 770-466-4480.

who was born in 1832 and married George W. Boss in 1850 in Walton County. She died in 1913 in Loganville.

When the city we know today was first incorporated in 1887, drafted by E.S.V. Briant, the city limits were defined as being a

half-mile in every direction from the front door of the Justice of Peace Courthouse of the 417th Georgia Military District. Under the legislative act, C.C. George



A picture circa 1903 of what today is Braxton's Antiques in downtown Loganville.

was named mayor and the councilman were identified as R.A. Hammond, John R. Wilson, John J. Floyd, W.H. Braswell and Edward R. Floyd. But George

resigned from the post of mayor before ever assuming office, with Dr. J. I. Robinson officially recognized as the town's first mayor.

Other points of interest in the city's early history include a fire in 1882 that destroyed about half of the business section of Main Street, one of several fires that impacted the downtown area — with evidence of later ones evident in some of the buildings that still exist today.

In 1897, a branch line of the broad gauge railroad was organized by the citizens between the town and Lawrenceville and opened on Dec. 1, 1898. A depot was built for the Loganville & Lawrenceville Railroad Company in 1898 and the Seaboard Air Line Railroad purchased it from the Georgia, Carolina and Northern Railway in 1901. The town continued to grow but the railroad line

was abandoned in 1932 due to the Great Depression.

The establishment of the railroad was followed by the building of a \$10,000 school building and the adoption of the free school system.

The city's original charter from 1887 was replaced in 1905, where the city limits were redefined as extending a mile from the water well in the downtown center after a fire destroyed the previous marker. George Garrett was listed as mayor under the new charter, with commissioners serving the city being J.W. Braswell, A.J. Garrett, J.B. Gurley, H.S. O'Kelley and Tryon Smith. By 1907, the City of Loganville had 12 mercantile businesses as well as four physicians and two dentists. L

— Special thanks to Kent Henderson whose research into the history of Loganville is included here.