

GANT

Adolphus & Cora

The Roots of the Gant Legacy

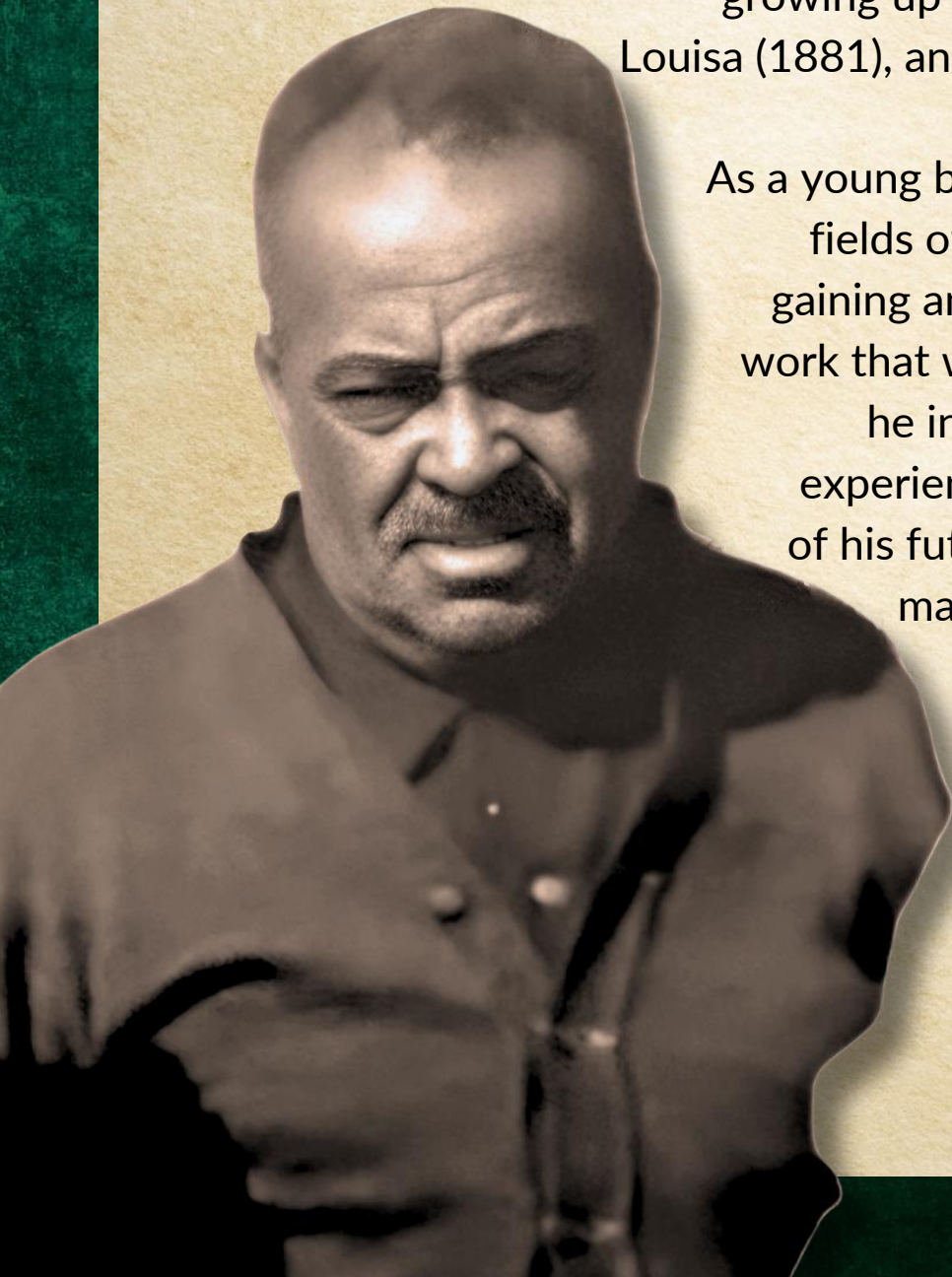


ADOLPHUS GANT

Adolphus "A.D." or "Adolph" Gant was born on March 7, 1884, in Liberty County, Florida, where he spent his entire life. His mother, Elizabeth "Bettie" Jefferson (1864-1917), was born in Attapulgus, GA and moved to Langston, FL to stay with her sister, Mary, who lived in Langston. Census records show that she married James "Jim" Ervine Gant (1860-1928). By 1910, the Gant family resided at Chester School House in Liberty County, with Adolphus

growing up alongside three siblings:
Louisa (1881), and Elliott and Epsey (1894).

As a young boy, he began working in the fields of C.W. Chester, plowing and gaining an early appreciation for hard work that would later shape the values he instilled in his children. These experiences became the foundation of his future trade as a contractor, a man adept at logging, farming, and building homes.



CORA LEE McLENDON

Cora Lee McLendon was born on June 3, 1904, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Her father, Thomas "T.J." McLendon (d. 1936), hailed from Florida, while her mother, Nancy Arline (1878-1954), was classified as "mulatto" from Militia District 1183 in Baker County, Georgia. The McLendons settled in Defuniak Springs, Florida, where, in 1915, T.J. purchased 40 acres of land that would remain a part of the McLendon family heritage. The McLendons moved to Chester School House (Liberty County), Florida, where Cora met and married Adolphus.

Cora's parents and siblings would make one final move, and settle in Bainbridge, GA.

Cora's siblings:

Nathaniel Calvin (1900)

John Thomas (1903)

William Ellis (1907)

James Creolus (1909)

Ernest ONeil (1914)

Edna Pearl (1917)

General Pershing (1920)

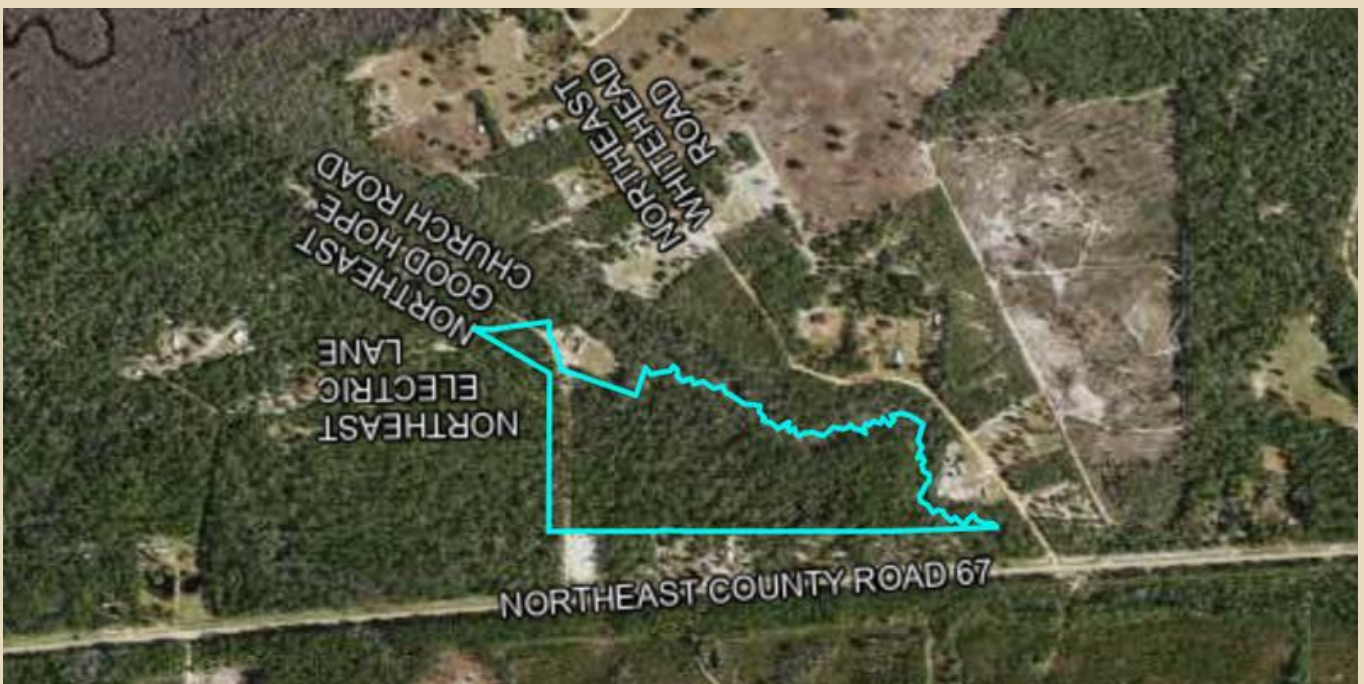


Establishing Our Roots



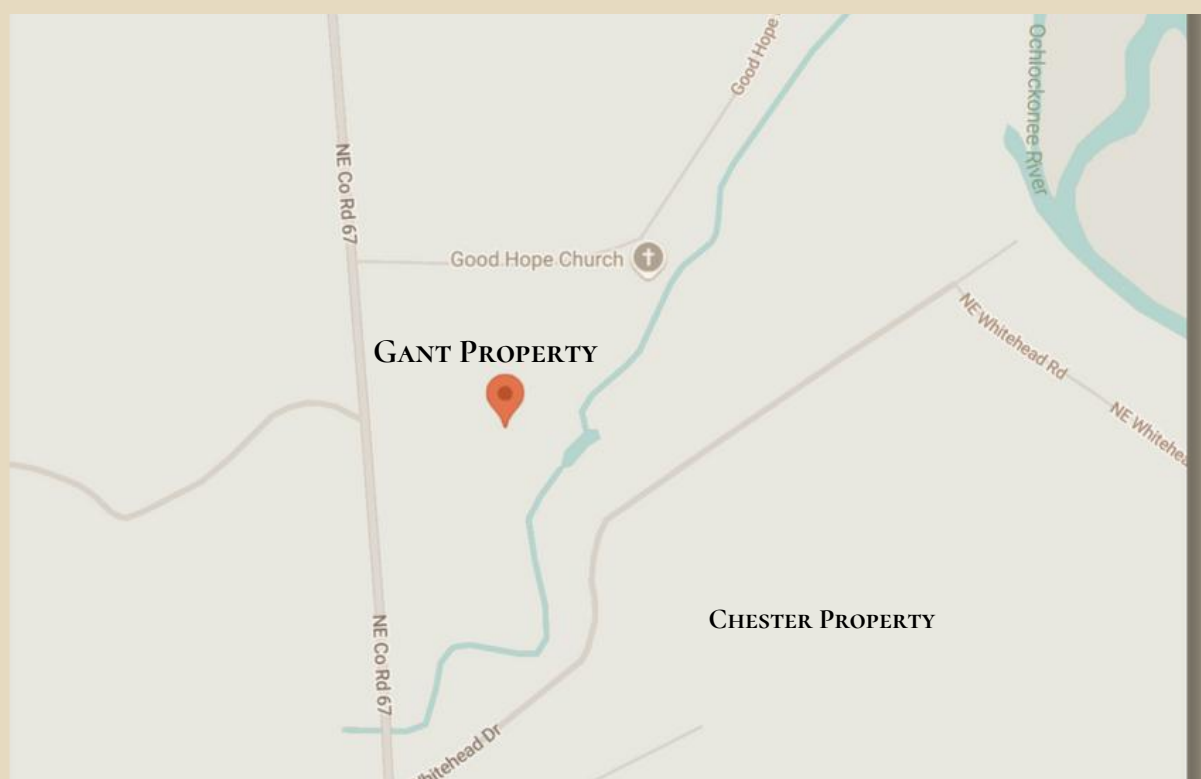
In 1928, Adolphus built a family home in Telogia, Florida, a powerful milestone that anchored his family's future. He and Cora welcomed four children to their union: Dorothy Louise (1923), Alfred Jefferson (1925), James Lamar (1927), and Bettye Jewelle (1932).

This property included a reliable water source, Mill Branch, which connected to the Ochlockonee River and divided the Gant property from the Chester property. They also had access to a spring for drinking water. For the Gant children, this land offered both sustenance and adventure, as they helped haul water, swam, fished, and carried out daily chores.

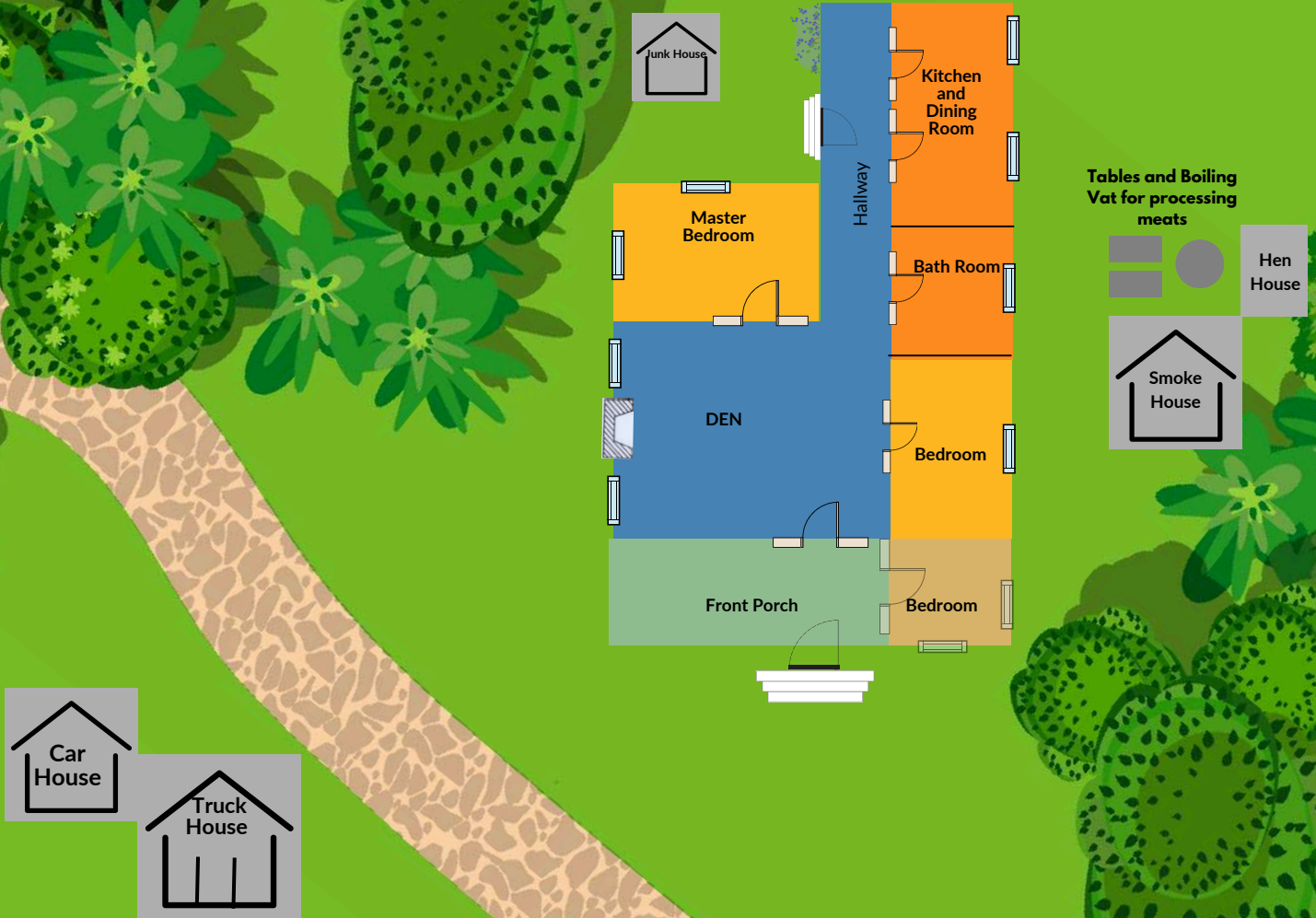


Map of the A.D. Gant Est. in Telogia, FL

For an African-American family to own land and build a home in the South during the 1900s was a bold achievement, signifying independence and stability in the face of racial and economic challenges. AD's land provided the family not only security and status but also a critical lifeline during the Great Depression. During this period AD supported both his family and his community, which included a diverse "brotherhood of loggers" with essential supplies. Over the years following, his neighbors were able to pay him back this kindness which they deeply appreciated for the duration of their lives.



GANT HOME & PROPERTY



Farming Plot

LIFE AMONG THE PINES

The Gant family home was a spacious, solidly built wooden house with high ceilings and a practical layout. It featured three bedrooms in the main section and a large living room with a fireplace. A long front porch and a central hall connected the back door, dining room, and kitchen. The house rested on wooden pilings and had wooden floors throughout.

The property included several functional outbuildings:

- the truck house (a three-stall garage, which housed a non-functional T-model truck often used for childhood play)
- a separate car garage,
- a one-room junk house for storing extra goods and broken items for potential reuse,
- a smokehouse and
- a hen house.

Water was drawn from the branch bordering the property. Rainwater was also collected in a large tub for washing. Behind the smokehouse were tables and a huge boiling vat - all used for meat processing reflecting the self-sufficient and industrious lifestyle of the family. A.D. established a huge garden where they grew watermelon, sugar cane, okra, green beans, corn, greens and other vegetables providing sustenance for his family.

THIS INDENTURE Made this 15th. day of June A.D.1917 BETWEEN W.B.Chester of the County of Liberty and State of Florida party of the first part and Jim Gant of the County of Liberty and State of Florida party of the second part, WITNESSETH That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has granted bargained sold and transferred and by these presents does grant bargain sell and transfer unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever all that certain parcel of land lying and being in the County of Liberty and State of Florida more particularly described as follows:- From the Northwest Corner of Section Thirty-Three (33) Township Two South range Five west run south 690 yards thence east 210 yards thence south 275 yards thence south 275 yards thence north to the beginning of beginning

The property was initially purchased by Adolph's father, Jim Gant, in 1917. Upon marrying and starting his own family, it was prime time to start developing the land.

Subsequent acreage was purchased in 1940, expanding and solidifying the Gant influence within their community.

Deed.

THIS INDENTURE, Made this 5th. day of February, A.D.1940, between Olean S. Davis and her husband J. Forrest Davis, of the County of Gadsden, State of Florida, parties of the first part, and A.D.Gant of the County of Liberty, State of Florida, party of the second part, WITNESSETH, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained and sold and transferred, and by these presents do grant bargain, sell and transfer unto the said party of the second part and his heirs and assigns forever, all that certain parcel of land lying and being in the County of Liberty and State of Florida, more particularly described as follows:-



THE GANT HOME WAS A MEETING PLACE FOR FAMILY FOR YEARS TO COME.

- 1- Cora
- 2- Mama Nancy McLendon
- 3- Joey King III (Bettye's Son)
- 4- William McLendon (Cora's Brother)
- 5- Brenda (William's Granddaughter)
- 6- Gloria Gant (Jack's Wife)
- 7- Edna McLendon (Cora's Sister)
- 8- Jimmy (JC's Son)
- 9- Erma McLendon (William's Daughter)
- 10- Adolphus
- 11- Ernie, Jr. (Cora's Nephew)
- 12- Pershing (Cora's Brother)
- 13- Bettye
- 14- James Creolis (Cora's Brother)
- 15- Ernie McLendon (Cora's Brother)
- 16- Alfred
- 17- Joe King (Bettye's Husband)





"Persh" (Pershing), "Buddy" (Alfred), Ernie Sr, Ernie Jr and "JC" (James Creolis)



Family fun at the creek. Joe King (Bettye's husband), Persh, Ernie and others



Jack's Son, Michael Gant (far left) and Dot's son, Alfred "Rusty" Richie (far right) pictured outside the back porch of the Teogia house with family friend on steps.



The Gant-McLendon Family Reunion visits the family home (1990)



Joe, Nancy and Jim pose in front of the house. The property was so overgrown, Jim carried pregnant Nancy through the brush on his back to get to the house.





Gant Cousins visit the house in 2024 during a family gathering,

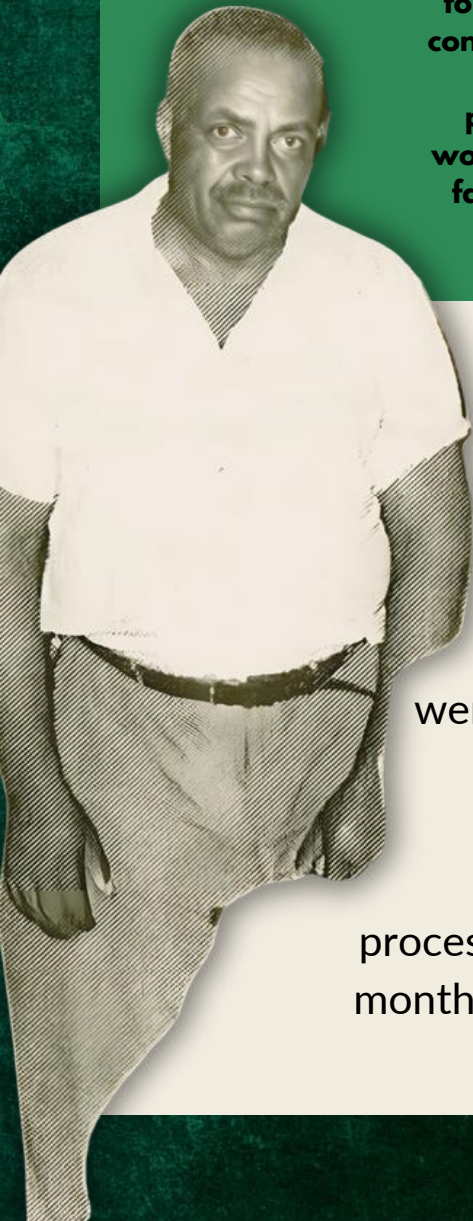


Gant Home. Photo taken 2024

During the Great Depression, A.D. took on work at the Jewel Forest Fire Tower CC Camp near Telogia. He worked closely with the camp's captain, William Barksdale, who had a fondness for fishing and relied on A.D. to paddle him along Telogia Creek for his favorite pastime—jigger fishing. Despite the segregated society around them, Barksdale and A.D. shared mutual respect and even corresponded in later years. At AD's passing, Capt. Barksdale, now a retired Brigadier General, expressed his condolences for the passing of his friend.

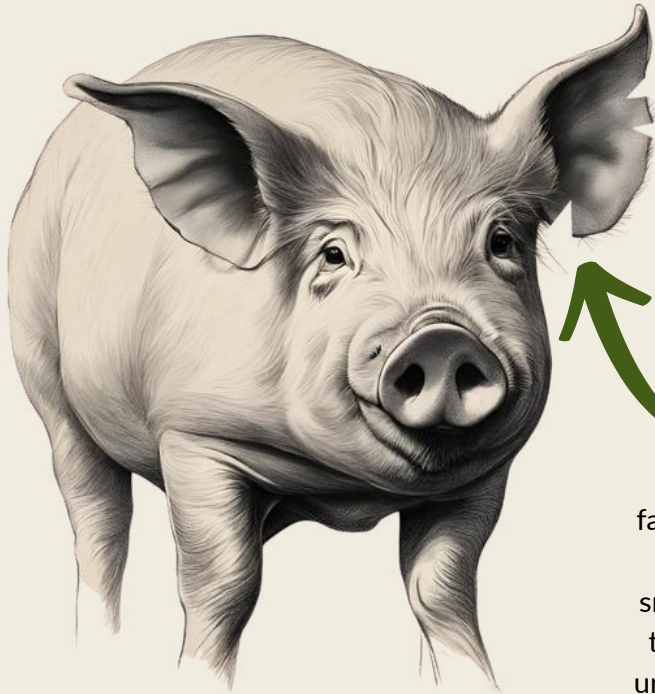
(See letter in Final Farewell)

The Jewel Forest Fire Tower Civilian Conservation Corp (or CCC) Camp was part of a 1933 U.S. relief program to provide jobs for men. Known as the "Tree Army," CCC workers combated soil erosion, maintained forests, eliminated stream pollution, created wildlife sanctuaries, and conserved natural resources. President Franklin D. Roosevelt supported the CCC to stimulate the economy after the Great Depression and protect valuable land while providing young men with meaningful work. The men earned \$30 monthly, sending most of it to support their families, and contributed to conserving America's natural resources.



A.D.'s resourcefulness extended to securing meat for his family by managing livestock with efficiency. Each spring, he purchased pigs, marked them with the Gant brand, and sent them to graze in nearby Gadsden County under the care of a trusted gentleman. By Christmas, the pigs, now fully grown into 150-pound hogs, were divided equally—half returned to A.D. while the caretaker kept the rest. This marked the start of the traditional “hog killing time,” a communal event that brought neighbors together to butcher and preserve meat. The labor-intensive process not only provided sustenance for the holidays and winter months but also fostered a strong sense of community and mutual support, making it a cherished annual tradition.

“HOG-KILLING TIME”



THE Gant Brand

Two slits on the ear and undercut at the base of ear.

Pig ear notching is a method used in livestock farming, especially with pigs, for individual animal identification. This technique involves creating small, permanent notches in specific positions on the pig's ears, with each position representing a unique number or code. Farmers use ear notching as a simple, low-cost and efficient way to keep track of individual animals, especially in large herds where other tagging methods may be less practical or durable.

Ear notching is commonly applied shortly after birth, as the notches remain identifiable throughout the pig's life. Today, alternative methods like ear tags or electronic chips are becoming more popular as technology advances.

“Hog killing time” refers to a time when rural families would butcher hogs, and it had several meanings:

A time of cold weather

In the days before refrigeration, cold weather was necessary to keep meat from spoiling. “It's hog-killin' weather” was a common way to describe a time of persistent cold weather.

A communal ritual

Hog killing was a communal event where neighbors would help each other butcher hogs.

A time to prepare for winter and holidays

Hog killing took place before the Christmas season to provide meat for the holidays.

A time for Celebration

“Hog-killing” can also describe a party or celebration, symbolizing a sense of shared joy and abundance.

The time of year for hog killing varied by region:

- **Appalachians:**

Hog killing usually took place between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- **Deep South**

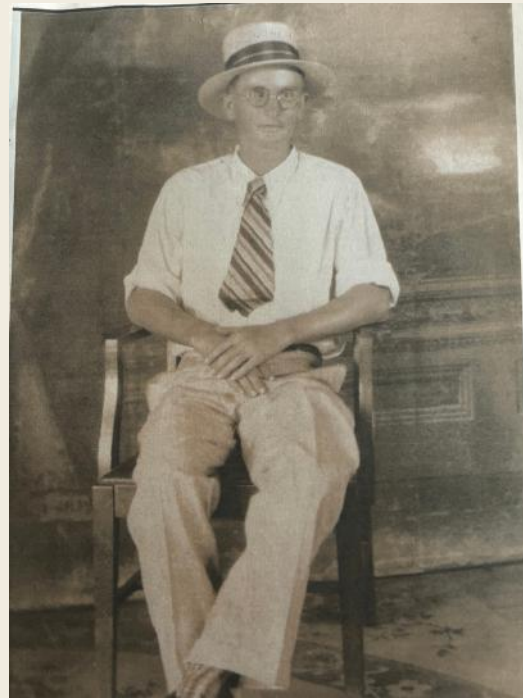
Hog killing usually took place between Christmastime and February.



*A.D. (far right)
photographed with friend
Beater Chester and other
loggers, cutting trees for the
sawmills in Telogia*

The Gant and Chester families shared a close bond, shaped by their shared roots and work as loggers in the same community. A memorable moment that highlights this connection was a time when rising floodwaters covered a narrow wooden bridge with no sides. Nathan Chester, riding in the front seat with A.D., got out to test the submerged bridge's safety, wading through the rushing water. Guiding A.D. across the bridge, he ensured the family stayed on the runners while water was rushing into the car. Jack and Buddy, young boys at the time, were in the back seat yelling that water was coming into the car and A.D. shouted for them to be quiet. Though frightening, the event revealed their trust and teamwork through life ordeals.

When the Gant children were small, Mrs. Sue Chester Brown and her two sons, Nate, Loak and their families lived there. Loak and his wife Ruby had no children. Nate (Nathan) and his wife Nellie had three children at that time: Lois, Jimmie and Judy. Later, Janet, the fourth child was born after the original house burned. Their fifth child was Trish (Patricia).

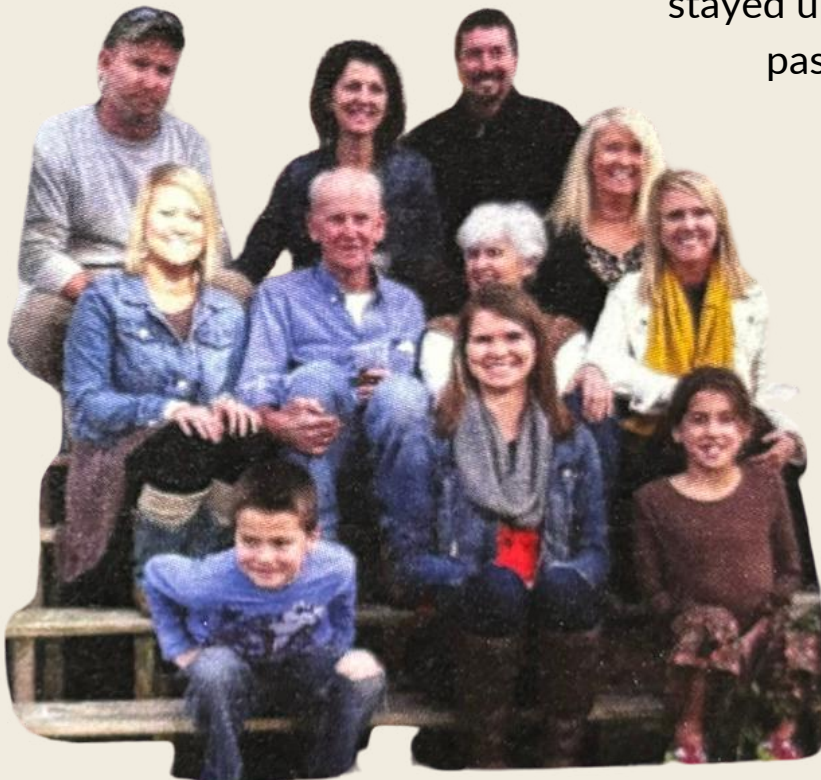


James "Jimmy" Sylvester Chester.

During hurricanes, the Chester family would stay with the Gants. The excited kids slept on the floor while the adults got the beds. The men stayed up all night. After the storm had

passed the men would survey the land for damage, which there never was serious damages.

These shared experiences deepened the bond between the families and highlighted their mutual support and camaraderie.



Jimmy and Follette Chester surrounded by children (Daughters, Sonjia & Lynn, and son Jamie) and grandchildren



*A.D. in his car with Nathan and Nellie
Chester's daughter, Patricia, along side.*

Every Sunday morning after breakfast, Adolph would make his rounds in the neighborhood, where most of the families were white, except for his Uncle Mash and Aunt Mary. A.D.'s steady presence and support made a difference in the lives of those around him, particularly during the Depression. He often provided resources for neighbors—staples like flour, meal, coffee, seeds, and fertilizer that couldn't be grown at home—all purchased out of his own pocket.



Follette and Betty embracing during a visit to Telogia.



Jackie and Nancy with Follette at Jimmy's Funeral Service.

Jimmy Chester and his wife Follette live just across the branch from the Gant property. Their close ties have endured for decades and are still supported to this day.



Debbie Follette and Joe during a visit to the Chester home



Follette showing Rusty and Butch photos and telling them of our history together.



Cora's Legacy of EDUCATION

Cora had a profound respect for education. When their eldest, Dorothy, approached school age, Cora's devotion to her children's education became clear. Adolph had finished only the 5th grade, and Cora had completed the 10th.

Yet, she wanted more for her children and felt strongly about the importance of proper schooling. So much so that she threatened to leave Adolph if their children were not properly educated. She and Adolph reached a compromise: Adolph would build a house for Nancy if the children could live there and attend school. And so, a home was built at 801 Sims Street, Dwelling 204 (family number 204). Over the years, Alfred, James and Bettye joined her there, each embarking on their own educational journey living with Mama Nancy, as they affectionately called their dear grandmother.



James (Jack) recalls his brother Alfred, or Buddy making the transition to Bainbridge.

I don't remember my trip but I am told that my brother cried a lot when he had to stay as Mama, Daddy and I left to go back to Telogia. At that time, we had a 1928 A Model Ford. It would have been filled with groceries: meal, flour, ham, grits, rice, potatoes, and lard to last until October when we would see our parents again. Another supply of food would be brought during October. I can remember how excited we would be to see Mama and Daddy and in later years, Bettye, my little baby sister. It was such a joy to see them. Mama would hug us and kiss us. My daddy was not much of a hugger. It felt so good to see Mama. Tears come to my eyes as I recall her leaving to go back home. I know that she missed us as much as we missed her."



Cora's mother, Nancy Arline McLendon, or Mama Nancy as the Gant Siblings called her.

The Gant children attended Union Normal School, a private institution with classes from grades one through ten. Housed in a two-story building, grades one through five shared a large auditorium on the first floor with two teachers, while the upper grades occupied classrooms upstairs.

The school was run by Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, active members of the First African Baptist Church, the same church the McLendon family attended. When Bettye turned five years old and ready for school, she entered Union Normal, and Dorothy finished tenth grade and was ready for college. The public school, Hutto High School, was located next door to Union Normal.

When Dorothy left for college, the other siblings were moved to the public school and graduated Hutto.



BETTYE'S FIRST YEAR AT UNION NORMAL SCHOOL

(Bettye- second row, 2nd student from right)



Bettye as a school girl



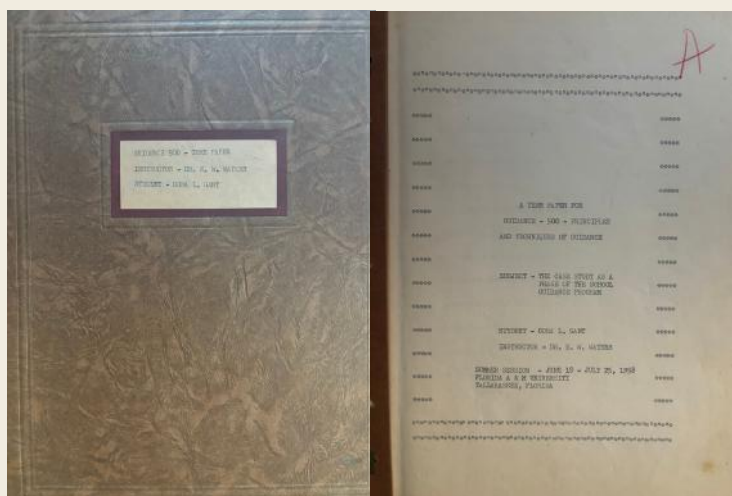
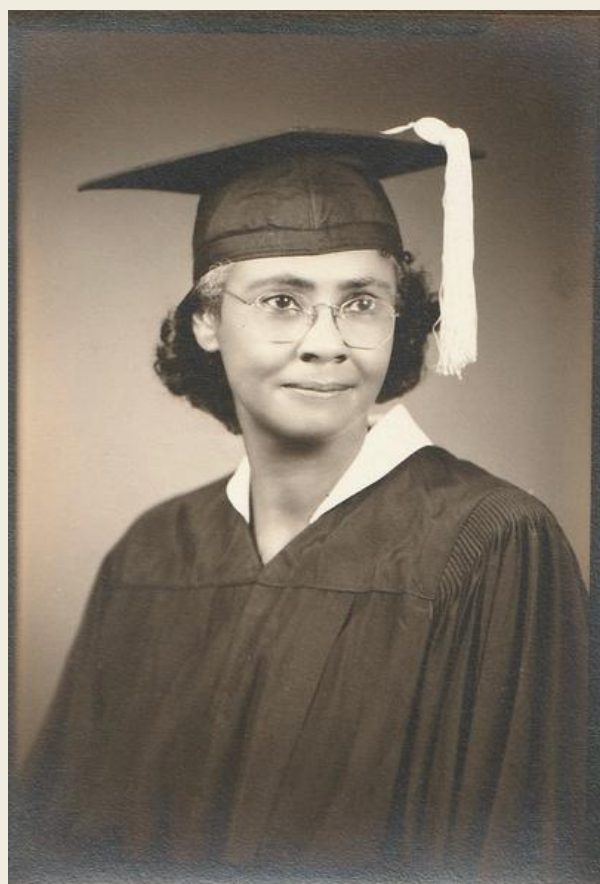
Buddy and Bettye



The Gant siblings with their mother, Cora, and their grandmother, "Mama Nancy" in front of the house that their father built in order for them to live and go to school in Bainbridge, GA.

Because of Cora's unwavering dedication, all her children completed their schooling and earned college degrees. Dorothy, Alfred, and Lamar graduated from Florida A&M College, and Bettye from Fisk University. Once her children were educated, Cora fulfilled her own dream, earning a degree from Florida A&M with a GPA that outshone them all. She left an indelible mark on her children, who each pursued careers in education and continued advancing their studies throughout their lives—a legacy of lifelong learning that endures through her family for generations.

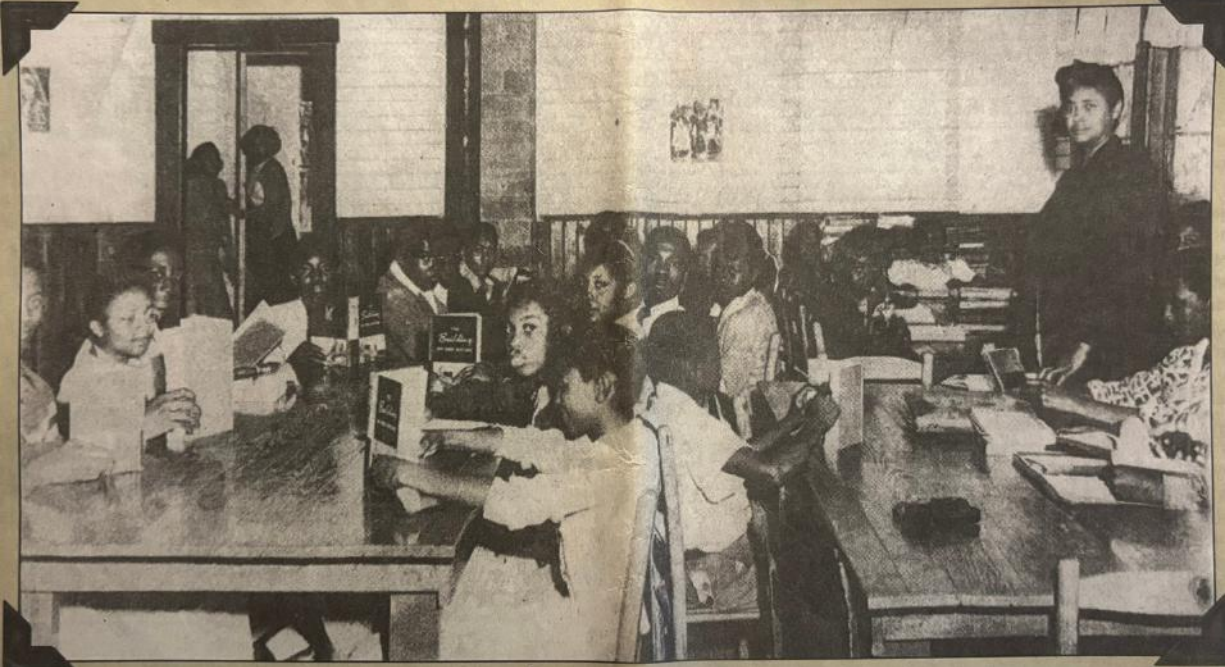
Cora's graduation photo from Florida A & M University. Below is a term paper that indicates the kind of student that Cora was.





Gant Cousins honoring Cora's Legacy of Learning by wearing their college sweatshirts in front of the old homestead in 2024.

ROY SCHOOL



Cora devoted herself to teaching, working in a one-room schoolhouse in Hosford, FL, traveling each week back and forth. Her commitment to education extended to the communities she served, moving with families across Hosford, Vilas, Rock Bluff, and Bristol as work and life shifted. Her last school was Bethune High School in Bristol, FL.



BETHUNE SCHOOL



ABOVE: A recent photo of the former Bethune School built in Bristol before integration. LEFT: Some of the Roy School and Bethune students who attended Saturday's reunion. Seated is Jean Black. Front row, from left: Patricia Beckwith, Wanda Douglas, Martha Dickson, Diane Curry, Cynthia Giles, Joyce Hines, Alice Solomon, Geraldine Pouncy, Karen Dudley, Betty Beckwith. Back row, Gary Solomon, Carl Beckwith, Diana Bellamy, Saisha Coleman, Ozie Eggleton, Lynn Monson, Silvia Solomon, Wayne Wiggins, Maybell Sylvester, Horace Hardy, Jerry Solomon and Warren Canty.



Raleigh Brinson is congratulated on his delayed graduation ceremony by another Bethune alumnus, Ozie Eggleton.



ABOVE LEFT: Joyce Hines and Martha Dickson reminisce about days at Roy-Bethune School. BELOW: Attendees included Silvia Solomon, Martha Dickson, Carol Solomon, Cynthia Giles, Wanda Douglas, Lynn Curry, Diane Curry, Karen Dudley and Saisha Coleman.

ABOVE RIGHT: Hines shares a laugh with Otto Brinson and Warren Black. BELOW: Veterans in attendance were honored at the banquet, including (but not limited to) Warren Canty, Jerry Solomon, Lynn Curry, John Hall, Carl Beckwith.

DOMENICK ESGRO PHOTOS



From the December 31, 2014, Calhoun-Liberty Journal: Cora is pictured with students of Bethune High and Roy School, including the girls' basketball team.

She was a respected educator and her dedication helped shape the educational landscape of her community, where her influence as a teacher and mentor was deeply felt.

ROY SCHOOL



ABOVE: A scene from a classroom at the second Roy School building in the early 1950s. The group includes a fifth and sixth-grade class. Shown at right is their teacher, Cora Gant.



LEFT: Homecoming Queen Alice Berlium was crowned Miss Roy High.



RIGHT: The Roy School girls' basketball team in the 1950s. Shown in the center holding the ball is Eleanor McGlockton. Jean Black is pictured standing at far right in the back row.

PHOTOS COURTESY JEAN BLACK



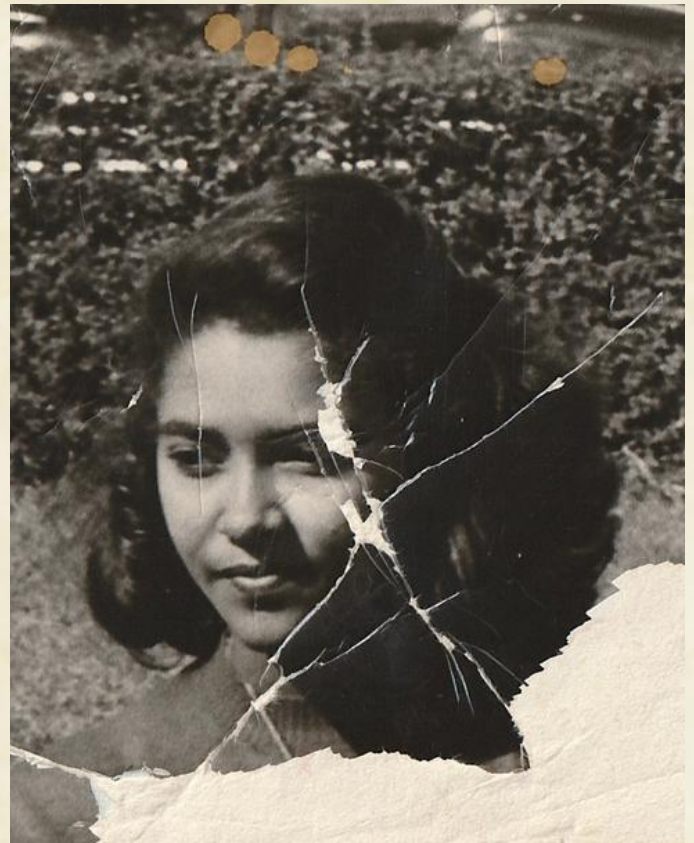
Dorothy (Dot)



Alfred (Buddy)



James (Jack)



Bettye



Jack



*Buddy, Aunt Louisa
(A.D.'s sister) and Dot*



Dot

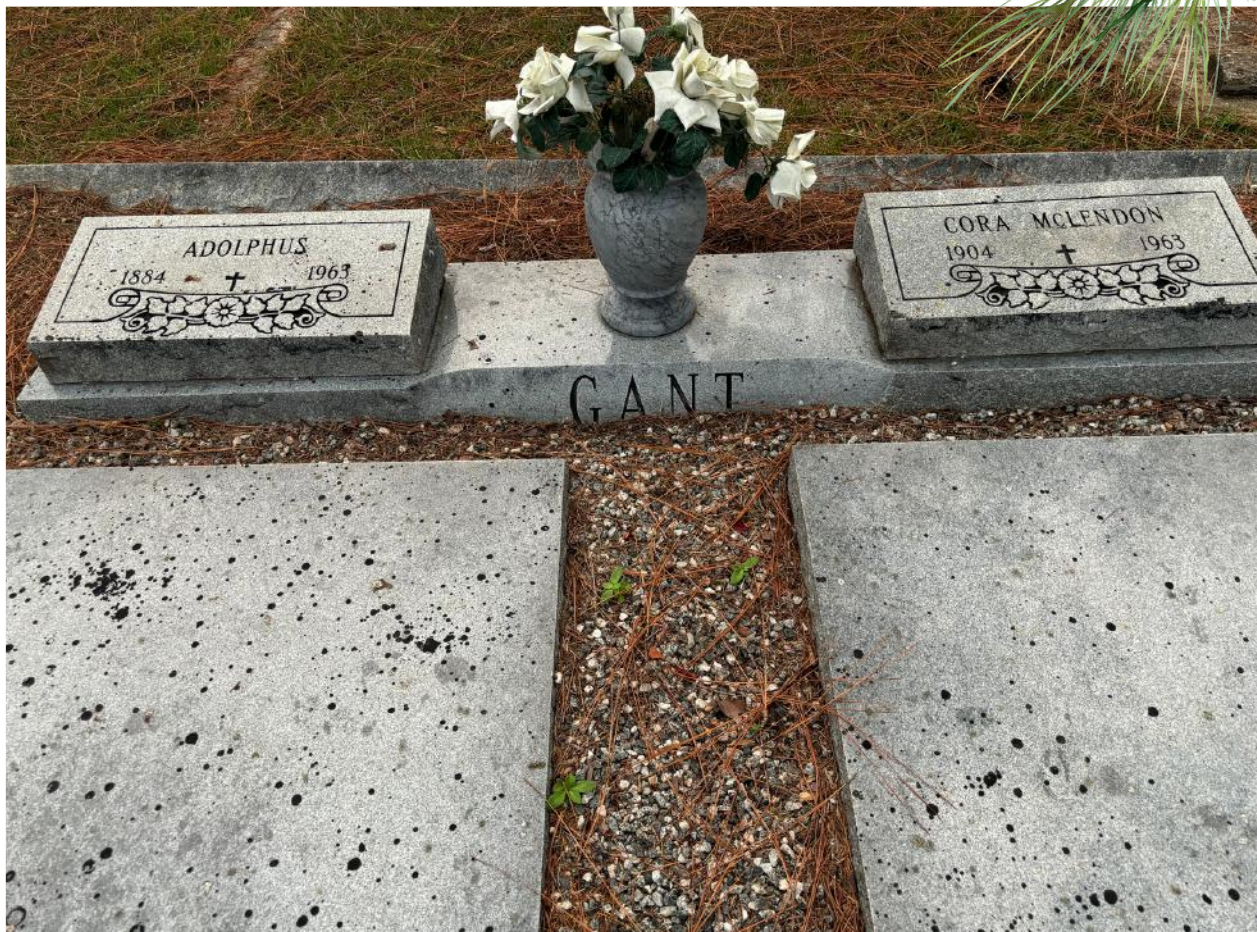


*Mama Nancy holding
great-grandson, Joey.*

FINAL FAREWELL

In January 1963, as Cora paused to post a letter to Bettye, she suffered a heart attack and passed away. Less than six months later, Adolphus also passed, each traveling the familiar route that had carried them through their lives and to the family they loved so dearly. They are both laid to rest at the Pineview Cemetery, in Bainbridge, GA. Together, A.D. and Cora left a lasting legacy in their community, remembered and respected for their dedication and the profound contributions they made to their family, neighbors, and society.





**ADOLPHUS AND CORA ARE BURIED AT
PINEVIEW CEMETARY, EAST COLLEGE
STREET IN BAINBRIDGE, GA.**

Other McLendon family members are buried on the plot including her mother, Nancy Arline McLendon (1877-1954); her brother, Calvin Nathaniel (1900-1944); and her son, Alfred Jefferson Gant (1928-1984).

MEMORIAL SERVICES

For

Mrs. Cora McLendon Gant

Saturday, January 19, 1963

1:00 P. M.

First African Baptist Church

BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA

REV. MOSE PLEASURE, Minister

Obituary

Mrs. Cora M. Gant was born in Biloxi, Mississippi June 3, 1904, to Thomas J. and Nancy A. McLendon. She attended Snow Hill Institute and Florida A. & M. University.

She was married to Adolphus Gant and resided thereafter in Telogia, Florida. They became the parents of four children.

She was a teacher at Bethune High School in Bristol, Florida.

A devoted wife and mother, she leaves to mourn her in loving memory a husband, Adolphus Gant; four children—Mrs. Dorothy Richie, Mr. Alfred Gant, Mr. James Gant and Mrs. Bettye King; a sister—Mrs. Edna Adams; four brothers—Messrs. William, James, Ernest and Pershing McLendon; four sons and daughters-in-law—Mr. Joseph C. Richie, Mrs. Mary Gant, Mrs. Gloria Gant and Dr. Joseph King, Jr.; six grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!

And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.

For though from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,

I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

—Alfred Tennyson

Program

Processional Goin' Home
Selection Choir
Scripture
Prayer
Selection Choir
Eulogy Rev. Mose Pleasure, Jr.
Solo — "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" Mrs. Josie K. Williams
Recessional Abide With Me

Interment

Pineview Cemetery

Guyton Brothers Funeral Home

Bainbridge, Georgia

Honorary Pallbearers

A. B. Pugh, Jr.	Joseph Bland
H. B. Walden	H. S. Dixon
Luther Conyers	Isaac Conyers
L. O. Edwards	Gilbert Porter
W. E. Combs	W. D. Mann

T. R. Mayo

Active Pallbearers

T. R. McKelvy	James Glenn
Willie J. Conyers	R. O. Wiggins
S. B. Bryant	J. H. Thomas

Flowerbearers

Faculties of Bethune High School and
Hutto High School

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
FLORIDA

STATE FILE NO. _____

REGISTRAR'S NO. _____

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Liberty		CODE NO. 49-XXX	2. USUAL RESIDENCE (If here deceased lived // institution: Residence before admission) a. STATE Florida b. COUNTY Liberty	
b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Hosford		c. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Telogia	
4. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Highway 65		e. LENGTH OF STAY IN H. 30 MIN	d. STREET ADDRESS P.O. Box 147	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) Adolphus Gant			4. DATE OF DEATH Month June Day 14 Year 1963	
5. SEX Male	6. COLOR OR RACE Negro	7. MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>	8. DATE OF BIRTH March 7, 1884	9. AGE (In years last birthday) 79
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Contractor		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Public Highways	11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Florida	12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.
13. FATHER'S NAME Jim Gant		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Betty Jefferson		
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) no none		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE Alfred Gant Address 413 1/2 1st St. Bainbridge, Ga.	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH [Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).] PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Brain Concussion Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last. } DUE TO (b) Motor vehicle accident DUE TO (c) _____ PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a)				19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
20a. (PROBABLE) ACCIDENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/>		20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.) Motor vehicle accident		
20c. TIME OF INJURY Hour 8:10 a. m. Month, Day, Year 6/14/63 p. m.		20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.) Highway		
20f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Hosford		COUNTY Liberty STATE Florida		
21. I attended the deceased from after death , to _____, and last saw ^{her} _{him} alive on _____ Death occurred at 8:10 _____ m on the date stated above; and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.				
22a. SIGNATURE Raymond Peddie		22b. ADDRESS Bristol, Florida		22c. DATE SIGNED 6/14/63
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Removed		23b. DATE June 14, 1963	23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Quincy, Florida	
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE Shepley Jackson, Quincy, Fla.		25. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG June 14, 1963	26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Wilson T. Souder, Jr.	

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

CERTIFIED COPY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE ABOVE TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD ON FILE IN THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

(NOT VALID UNLESS THE SEAL OF THE FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH IS AFFIXED)

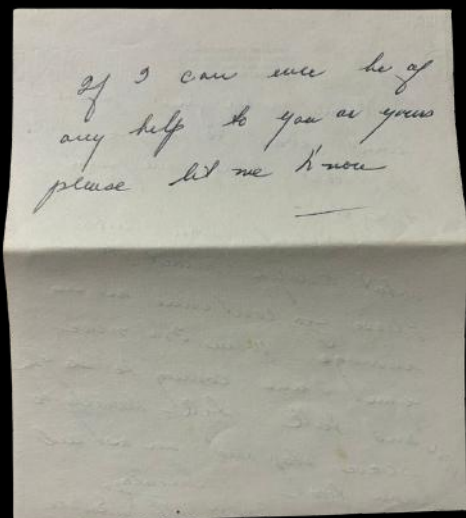
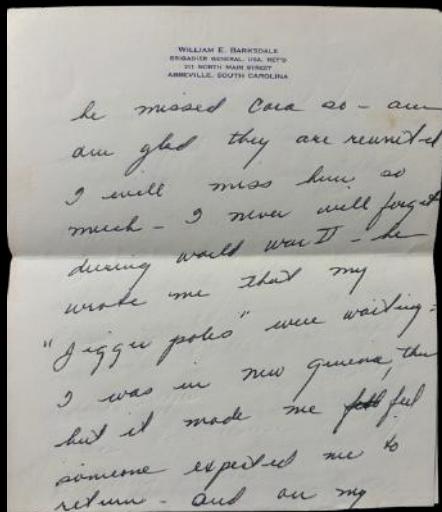
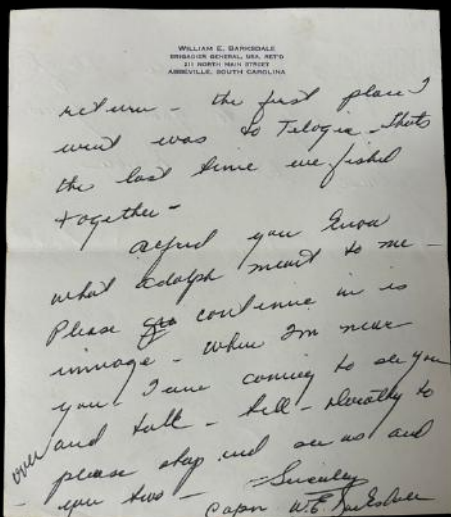
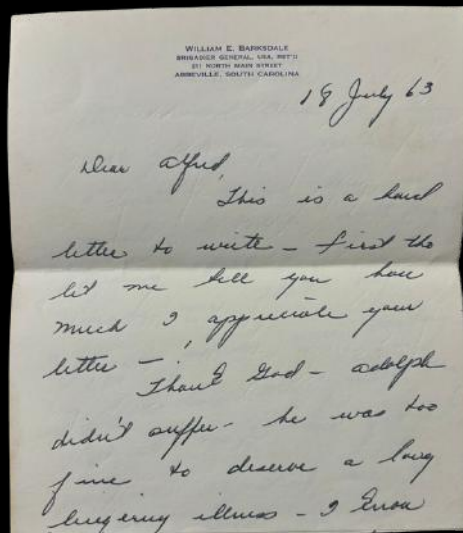
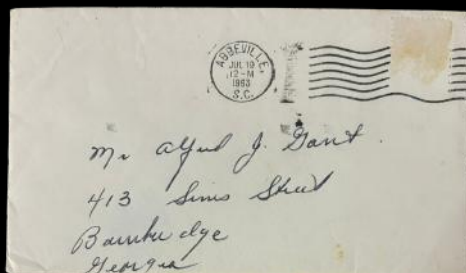
Wilson T. Souder, Jr.
STATE REGISTRAR

Everett H. Williams, Jr.
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

JUL 3 1963



LETTER FROM CAPN BARKSDALE



Dear Alfred,


This is a hard letter to write- first tho let me tell you how much I appreciate your letter!

Thank God- Adolph didn't suffer- he was too fine to deserve a long lingering illness- I know he missed Cora so and am glad they are reunited. I will miss him so much. I never will forget during World War II- he wrote me that my "jigger poles" were waiting. I was in New Guinea then but it made me feel someone expected me to return- and on my return, the first place I went was to Telogia. That was the last time we fished together. Alfred you know what Adolph meant to me. Please continue in is image. When I'm near you, I am coming to see you and talk. Tell Dorothy to please stop and see us and you too.

Sincerely,
Capn W.E. Barksdaless

(Over)

If I can ever be of any help to you or yours, please let me know.

A photograph of a dense evergreen forest, likely spruce or fir, with a thick layer of mist or fog hanging between the trees. The lighting is soft and diffused, creating a serene and somewhat ethereal atmosphere. The trees in the foreground are darker and more detailed, while those in the background are shrouded in mist. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

HISTORIC PLACES & REFERENCES

GANT-McLENDON

TIMELINE



1884 ADOLPHUS BORN

MARCH 7, 1884

Bettie Jefferson, age 23, is a widow. In her household are

- Louisa Jefferson, age 4
- Adolphus Jefferson, age 1 (1885 FL Census)

July 21, 1889: Mary Jefferson, sister of Bettie Jefferson, marries Mash Lanxton (sic) Langston

GANTS EST. 1891

1890

October 14, 1891: James Ervine Gant marries Betty Jefferson.

January 10, 1894: Elliott Gant is born.

January 15, 1898: Louisa Gant marries Thomas Williams



1900 CORA BORN

JUNE 3, 1904

1900: Cora's Brother Calvin born

1903: Cora's Bro, John T born .

June 3, 1904: Cora Lee McLendon is born in Biloxi, MS

1907: Cora's Bro William is Born

1909: Cora's Bro, James C is born

GANTS WWI DRAFT

1910

April 5, 1915: Adam McGert marries Louisa Jefferson Williams.

1915: TJ McLendon purchase

DeFuniak Springs Property

August 10, 1917: "Betty" Elizabeth Jefferson Gant dies and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

(Source: Florida Deaths, 1877-1939)

1914: Cora's Bro, Ernest, born

1917: Cora's Sis, Edna is born

June 5, 1917: Elliott Gant registers for WWI.

(Source: WWI Civilian Draft Registration)

1918: Adolphus Gant, age 34, registers for WWI.(Occupation Truck Driver)

(Source: WWI Civilian Draft Registration)



World War I (July 1914-Nov 1918)

- July 1914 -WWI begins
- April 6, 1917- US declares war on Germany
- May 18, 1917, Congress passed the act on authorizing President Woodrow Wilson to temporarily increase the military
- June 1917 -General John J. Pershing, newly selected commander of the American Expeditionary Forces
- Men ages 21-30 were initially required to register, but the age limit increased to 45 as the war continued

Influenza Pandemic (Feb 1918-Apr 1920)

- November 11, 1918- Germany signs the Armistice at Compiègne, ending WWI.

GANT-McLENDON

TIMELINE



1920 A.D. MEETS CORA

Cora Lee McLendon, age 15, lives with parents, Thomas Jefferson McLendon and Nancy Arline McLendon- Chester School House, Liberty, Florida, USA (1920 Census)
1920: Cora's Bro, Pershing is born

1922- Adolphus and Cora Marry
1923- Dorothy Louise born
1925- Alfred "Buddy" Jefferson born
1927- James "Jack" born
1928- James "Jim" Ervine Gant dies
1928- Gant House Built

TJ MCLENDON DIES

1930



1936: Thomas Jefferson McLendon dies and is buried in New Hope Cemetary.

WORLD EVENTS

Influenza Pandemic (Feb 1918-Apr 1920)

Worldwide influenza epidemic strikes; by 1920, nearly 20 million are dead. In U.S., 500,000 perish.

The Great Depression (Sept 1929- Sept 1935)

- Aug 14, 1935- Social Security Act is passed

World War II (Sept 1939- Sept 1945)

- September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland, marking the start of World War II.
- December 8, 1941: US Declares war on Japan (Pearl Harbor bombing)
- August 6, 1945: Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshim
- August 9, 1945: Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- September 2, 1945: Japan formally surrenders, marking the end of World War II

1940 BUDDY IS DRAFTED



1944: ALFRED J Gant is in military - Private at CP BLANDING FLORIDA
1945: Adolphus (age 59)and Cora Gant (age 45) lives in Telogia.
In the household are:
-Buddy, age 19 - Army
-Dorothy, age 22 - Teacher
-Lamar, age 17, School
-Bettye, age 12, School
Source: 1945 Florida State Census

MAMA NANCY DIES

1950

1954: Nancy Arline McLendon dies and is buried in Pineview Cemetary, Bainbridge, GA.



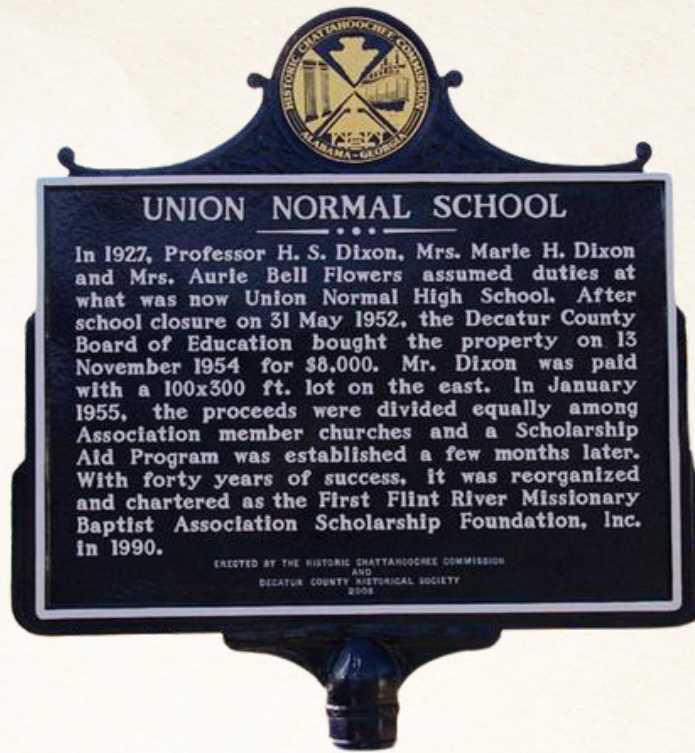
- May 17, 1954- **Brown v. Board of Education** Landmark Supreme Court decision declares that racial segregation in schools is unconstitutional

1960 FINAL FARWELL



January 1963: Cora Lee Gant dies and is buried in Pineview Cemetary, Bainbridge, GA

June 1963 Adolphus Gant dies and is buried in Pineview Cemetary, Bainbridge, GA



First Flint River Baptist Normal Institute

In 1876, the First Flint River Missionary Baptist Association was formed to help "lift the veil of ignorance from its people" using land purchased in 1896 and 1915. The Association established First Flint River Baptist Normal Institute in 1918 with the Reverend H.F. Taylor as its head. The work of the school was entrusted to the care of Reverend James Graves, Mrs. L. Jackson and Mrs. Josie King Williams. This facility gave black children an opportunity for an education beyond the elementary schooling provided by Decatur County. Children from the county lived with Bainbridge area families until a dormitory could be built.

Union Normal School

In 1927, Professor H.S. Dixon, Mrs. Marie H. Dixon and Mrs. Aurie Bell Flowers assumed duties at what was now Union Normal High School. After school closure on 31 May 1952, the Decatur County Board of Education bought the property on 13 November 1954 for \$8,000. Mr. Dixon was paid with a 100 x 300 ft. lot on the east. In January 1955, the proceeds were divided equally among Association member churches and a Scholarship Aid Program was established a few months later. With forty years of success, it was reorganized and chartered as First Flint River Missionary Baptist Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc. in 1990.

https://historicalmarkerproject.com/markers/HMRF8_back-to-HMRF8.html



GEORGE RUBIN HUTTO



Addie Hutto



- 1865: The American Missionary Association (AMA) established the first school for former slaves in Decatur County, Bainbridge, possibly in a house or church.
- 1869: A new building, Whittier School and Tabernacle for Colored Children, was completed on Shotwell and Donalson Streets. It taught grades 1-7, emphasizing teacher training and literacy. It later became Whittier Normal School.
- 1895: George Reuben Hutto and his wife Addie, originally from South Carolina, arrived to lead Whittier Normal. After Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), the school moved to Planter Street (now Dr. Martin L. King Drive) and was renamed Bainbridge Colored Graded School.
- 1922: Following George Hutto's death, the school was renamed in his honor. Addie Hutto became Principal, extending grades and securing a high school building through the Rosenwald Foundation. By 1929, Hutto High achieved state and regional certification.
- 1940: After a fire destroyed the elementary school, it was rebuilt. Students and teachers collaborated on construction and improvements. Restrooms and other amenities were gradually modernized.
- Post-WWII: Veterans returned to complete their education, enriching school life with shared experiences.
- 1947: Addie Hutto retired after 52 years, becoming Principal Emeritus. William David Mann succeeded her, continuing her programs and adding new ones.
- 1950s-1961: Fires destroyed several buildings, including the Rosenwald facility. New structures included a gymnasium, library, cafeteria, and football field, named Sam Burgess Stadium.
- 1970: During desegregation, Hutto High became Hutto Junior High for grades 7-8.
- 1989: Major renovations restructured it as Hutto Middle School, serving grades 6-8.

Tap here to learn how Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald influence education in Southern States:

ROSENWALD FOUNDATION.

HUTTO HIGH SCHOOL



Hutto was the first school for former slaves in Decatur County. The AMA established it in Bainbridge around 1865. A rundown house or an old church could have been its original setting. A new building was constructed on the corner of Shotwell Street and Donalson Street for the Whittier School and Tabernacle for Colored Children (Hutto's original name). It was completed March 6, 1869, and served grades one through seven.

During the early education of former slaves, volunteers from the North taught at the school. A method was soon devised whereby students who learned to read taught others to read. Students could complete seventh grade, pass a state test and become a teacher. The word normal was added to the name of some grade schools to emphasize this process. Thus, the Whittier School and Tabernacle became known as Whittier Normal School. Whittier was a public school when George Reuben Hutto and his wife Addie came to Bainbridge in 1895. The Hutto's, who originally lived in South Carolina, were influenced by friends to move to Georgia. They were working near Camilla, Georgia, when Commissioner Sumpter Bradwell of Decatur County persuaded George to become Principal of Whittier Normal. At that time it was a three teacher school with a five-month term. George, Addie and Lena Whaley comprised the faculty.

A short while after the Hutto's arrived at this school, the Supreme Court decision in 1896 of the Plessy v. Ferguson ruling (separate but equal) was handed down. Deemed to be too close to a white neighborhood, Whittier Normal was torn down and the school was relocated. George Hutto was authorized to erect a school on Planter Street (now Dr. Martin L. King Drive).

Some of the original lumber was used in rebuilding. The school was renamed Bainbridge Colored Graded School. The school had three large rooms, a broad front porch that stretched all the way across the building. Steps were at the west and south ends. In back of the rooms were two tiny storage areas for janitorial supplies used by the faculty for cleaning. A few years later, three more rooms were added to the north of the building. This made the same number of rooms on each side of a wide hall. The curriculum then extended through ninth grade. Upper grades were in the original rooms and the 1st through the 6th grades were in the new addition.

To help finance teacher salaries, students paid tuition and bought their own textbooks. Tuition per month was: 1st and 2nd grades, \$.50; 3rd and 4th grades, \$.75 and higher grades, \$1.00. Immediately following the death of George Hutto in July of 1922, the Board of Education named the school in his honor and elected Addie E. Hutto as Principal. She continued to extend the grades

Through the Rosenwald Foundation, Mrs. Hutto was able to secure a building to house the high school. The architectural design had three rooms on two wings and a large auditorium between the wings. In the front was a long porch that had columns.

References to Census Records of Nancy Arline McLendon

- The term “mulatto” is a racial classification that refers to a person of mixed African and European ancestry. It was commonly used in the United States during the era of slavery to describe the offspring of Black and white people. In the United States, the US census no longer includes the term “mulatto” as a form of categorization.
- During the colonial period, Georgia counties were divided into "Militia Districts" for the purpose of organizing a military company to defend the area from Indian raids or other threats.

Nancy Arline

