

**THE
EARLY HISTORY
of
UNION CITY**

by

VESTA GULLATT DRAKE

April 1977

*Francis and Frank Green
With forefingers
Always*

Map by Vesta Gullatt Drake April 1935

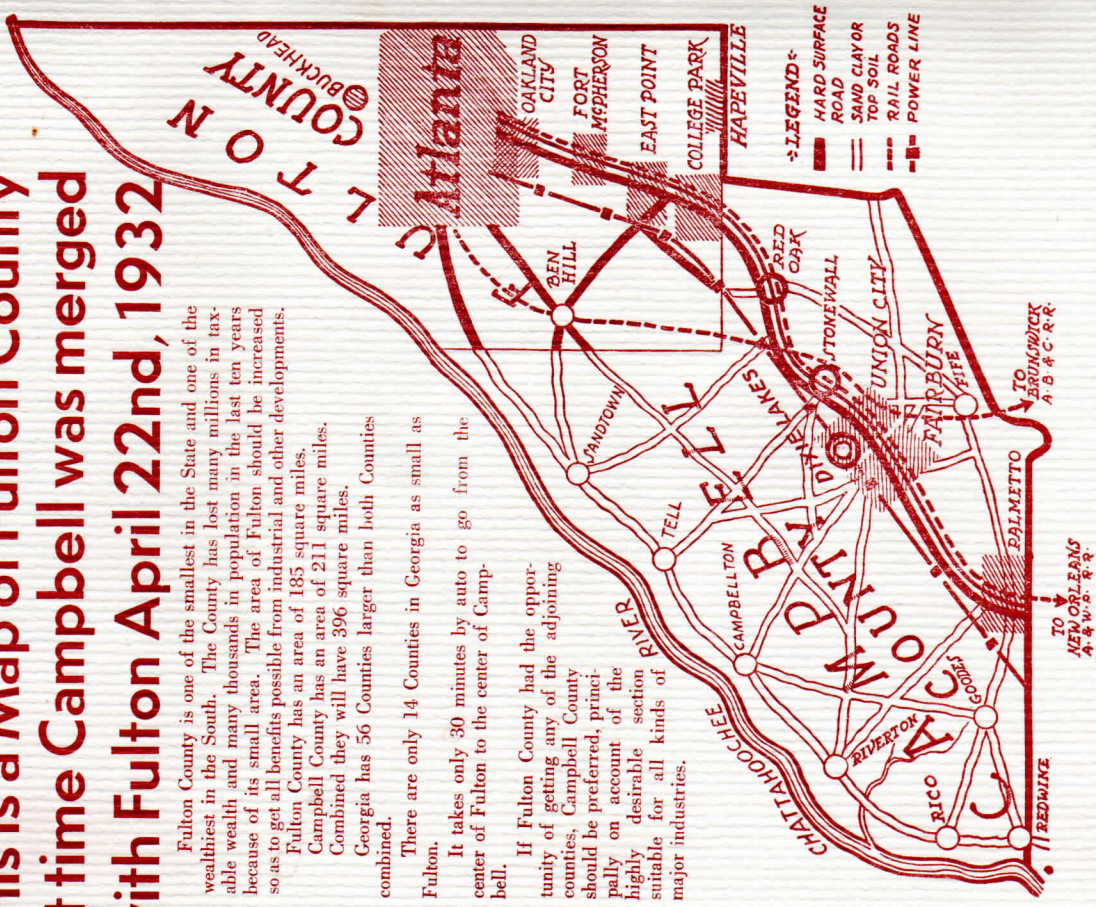
This is a Map of Fulton County at time Campbell was merged with Fulton April 22nd, 1932

Fulton County is one of the smallest in the State and one of the wealthiest in the South. The County has lost many millions in taxable wealth and many thousands in population in the last ten years because of its small area. The area of Fulton should be increased so as to get all benefits possible from industrial and other developments.

Fulton County has an area of 185 square miles.
Campbell County has an area of 211 square miles.
Combined they will have 396 square miles.
Georgia has 56 Counties larger than both Counties combined.

There are only 14 Counties in Georgia as small as Fulton.
It takes only 30 minutes by auto to go from the center of Fulton to the center of Campbell.

If Fulton County had the opportunity of getting any of the adjoining counties, Campbell County should be preferred, principally on account of the highly desirable section suitable for all kinds of major industries.



Industrial Opportunities

Campbell County has two railroads, the A. & W. P. and the A. B. & C. Sixteen miles of high tension electric lines, also several secondary lines. Three main pipe lines of the Southern Natural Gas Company pass through the county. The Chattahoochee River runs 22 miles through the county. Ideal sites for large industries are offered and such development would add enormously to Fulton's tax income.

Farm Land

Campbell County has more than fifty dairies and large numbers of vegetable and poultry farms—farm land is better than the average for the State. If Campbell and Fulton are merged it is generally agreed that farm land values in Campbell will more than double the first year.

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The founder of Union City was D. A. Carmical, who was born in Moreland, Georgia, and later moved to Campbell County, where he married Cora Westbrook. In time Mr. Carmical bought a good part of the land where Union City is now located. Since he considered it an ideal location for a town, he succeeded in persuading the Farmer's Union to establish it's national headquarters in the new town. Hence, we got the name Union City around the time of 1906 or 1907. He built a two story brick building and furnished the offices for the Farmer's Union. In addition, he outlined the charter of the new town and had it drawn up by the city attorney J. A. Drake. William Schley Howard was the solicitor of the Stone Mountain District then. He got the charter through and it was signed by Hoke Smith, the governor of Georgia - August 17, 1908. Since then the Charter has been revised a number of times. However, the section which forbids the sale of alcoholic beverages within the city still stands.

C. S. Barrett, a native of Pike County, Georgia, was brought to Union City by Mr. Duckworth, who had met him while organizing the Union in other parts of the state. Mr. Barrett first became the state president of the Union and later it's national president, where he spent considerable time in Washington representing the Union. However, he maintained his home in Union City until his death on April 14, 1935.

There is presently no one living here who worked with the Farmer's Union. Mrs. George Eubanks did live here. She lives in Fairburn now. She came here as a young woman and worked for J. G. Eubanks who was state business agent for the Union and president of the Union Phosphate Company. Later she married Mr. Eubanks son, George. He was order clerk for the State Business Department of the Farmer's Union News.

The late Mr. Walter Cowart was advertising Manager of the Farmer's Union News. He was the Mayor, and served time on the board of education. He spent most of his adult life here. He died at the age of 84, on July 13, 1970.

The first school built here was over a wooden store building. All grades were taught there by Miss Mertie Smith. As far as is reported, Tom W. Smith and C. G. Drake are the only living ones who attended the first school in Union City. Later a two story building was erected on College Street for pupils of all ages to attend. Mr. Jessie Smith was the first principal and Mrs. Ruby Foster was his assistant. Vera Carmical and others from this area taught school there.

After the merger with Fulton County in 1932, all the High School children were bussed to Fairburn, where they still attend school.

In 1940, a new grade school was built on Dixie Lake Road. The land was given by C. H. Gullatt.

The first doctor's in Union City were Dr. Hurd & Dr. Miles. Along with them came a dentist, Dr. Marrow. After they left, a Dr. J. J. Wadkins practiced here. He married Annie Gates who came here with her mother and five brothers. The Gates brothers ran a cabinet shop.

Dr. Wadkins died in 1919 during the flu epidemic. His widow is still living at the age of 84, in Richmond, Virginia.

J. T. Braswell, formerly of Meriweather County, built the first full size dry goods grocery store in Union City in 1908. He and his wife "Miss Lillian", lived in Union City longer than any other residents. Mr. Braswell died at the age of 92, and "Miss Lillian" died at the age of 97, on March 31, 1974.

In 1932, Campbell County, an area 211 square miles, was merged with Fulton, which at that time had only 185 square miles and was the wealthiest county in the state. Even after the merger, there were 56 counties in the state larger than Fulton, but the added territory did give Fulton considerably more room for industrial and business expansion. The merger was engineered by C. H. Gullatt who had been Campbell County's representative in the state legislature since 1924. This was the first case of county merger in the history of the United States.

Electricity came to Union City about 1920. We bought it from Fairburn and three men owned it. They were Walter Cowart, Dr. A. J. Green, and C. H. Gullatt. Later, it was sold to Georgia Power Company for \$600. The first sidewalks were paved about this time.

J. H. Harris, an early developer of the town, conceived the idea of building a street car line, a vehicle with a gasoline motor running on rails. The original plan was to build the line from Fairburn to College Park, but when Harris asked the leaders of the Fairburn community to help in it's construction, they hesitated. However, when Harris answered that with the lack of their co-operation, the line would stop in Union City, Fairburn joined in the enterprise also.

This so called "Dummy Line" was a great help to the farmers and working people who had to travel to Atlanta. Lillie Eubanks Lester, who now lives in Macon, is the only living former employee of the first street car line. The line is presently "Marta", which goes to Palmetto now.

Shadnor First Baptist Church was first called New Hope. It dates back to May 11, 1840. Later the church was called Shadnor. The name was changed around 1853. Shadnor was supposed to have donated the land for the first church. There were families of Westbrook, Carmicals, Wallace, Richardson, Jeans, and Meeks connected with the first church. The church was built of logs, and it was located about where the Westbrook Cemetery lots are now. This log building was destroyed during the Civil War. In July, 1897, W. H. Westbrook deeded Shadnor Baptist Church one acre of land and the church still stands today. Mr. Westbrook's funeral was the first funeral held in the new church.

In 1905-1907, Shadnor bought almost three more acres of land from Mr. Carmical.

From the early 1900's, Shadnor has grown. They now have a bricked up church with all the conveniences of city churches.

Before Mr. Carmical built the Methodist church, they met upstairs over the Union Cotton grading school. Later Mr. Carmical built the church. It has been built larger and has all the conveniences of the big city churches. Mr. H. C. Emory was their first minister. The Charter members were Barretts, Braswell, Carmical, Fowler, Hendrix, two families of Pattons, Pierce, and Young families.

Some of the members of the first Church of Christ here, worked for the Farmer's Union. We met in halls of homes till the first church was built on Roosevelt Highway in 1928. This was a wooden building. In 1935, a brick building was erected below where the old church stood. The first members were the Drakes, Goodson, Guilpins, Duckworths, Henry & Joiner families. We have all the comforts of the city churches now on Roosevelt Highway.

There are twelve Churches in Union City. I haven't named them, not knowing what they are.

You might say that Union City was a city of small churches.

This is a true story that Mr. John Fowler tells: In the early 1900's, there came a drought such as hadn't been known before. All of the farmer's corn and vegetables were dying from lack of rain. The members gathered their families together and went in buggies and wagons to pray for rain. The church didn't have many pews at this time. The children were out on quilts and pillows. As they joined at the church, the sun was shining and not a cloud in the sky. While they were there a cloud came up, and there came a big rain. The little creek on Flats Shoals Road on the east side of Shadnor, rose so high it almost covered the wagon gate on which he was riding. The gate was out of the wagon in the back and his feet dug the water to his knees.

Shortly after World War 1, President Herbert Hoover appointed Paul Barrett to direct the distribution of grain to Russia. It's believed that his interest in vocational rehabilitation grew out of his experience there. He brought Georgia honors in his field and was National President of rehabilitation for 21 years. He died September 30, 1955.

There was a golf course down at Dixie Lake along with a swimming pool. The building there was burned and it was not rebuilt.

There was a dog track down at Dixie Lakes also. The Atlanta courts put it out of business for gambling.

When Tom Watson was running for the Senate in 1921, Mr. Barrett invited him to come here for a barbecue. He spoke here to people from all over the state. John Carson, an old-time fiddler and entertainer was a big attraction for them also. This was held down at the Union City Lake. Taft was invited here for a possum supper. This was held at the school on College Street.

Early Hayes was the first depot agent. He served many years during the time the Farmer's Union was flourishing. During the depression, the trains quit stopping, and the depot was sold. The Woman's Club bought it for \$100., and moved it to Watson Street where it is still being used as a Woman's Club house.

The Mayor's of Union City followed in this order: D. A. Carmical, J. O. Yarbrough, Walter Cowart and C. H. Gullatt. These four men served more than one term. (There is no record as to how many years.) Ed Creel, Paul Barrett, Grady Cook, Bernard Yarbrough, (4-terms), Bill Hendrix, Elton Crowe, (2-terms), Raymond Burdett, W. H. Thornton, Harold Braswell and the present mayor, Bonny D. Adams.

In the early days of Union City, there was a cotton grading school. In this building a Phosphate Company was started.

It was called the Union Phosphate Company and they built farming equipment and cabinets.

Union City is now the largest city in this end of the County, with a population of 5,000.

There have been three big fires in the early days of Union City. Both hotels in Union City were destroyed. The Reed hotel was located where the City Hall is now. The Duffy hotel was located where Ed Martin Green's place is. The two story building on Union street that housed all the offices for the Farmer's Union burned in 1919. The telephone exchange was housed in this building.

A young man from Fairburn was the night operator who perished in the flames. The person who saw the fire burning was Alvin Banks. He ran down the street at 10:30 P. M., yelling "Fire, Fire!". He tried to rescue the boy, but was overcome by the smoke.

The C. H. Gullatt Elementary School was dedicated at the school on November 18th, 1976. The building, located on a twenty acre site in the Shannon Villa Community of Union City, was constructed to serve the recently created development.

Perry J. Hudson, Vice President of the Fulton County Board of Education, officially presented the school to the community. School Superintendent, Dr. E. E. Baker, made dedicatory remarks and introduced special guests: Mrs. Vesta G. Drake, sister of C. H. Gullatt, and her immediate family, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith. (Mr. C. G. Drake and Mr. Tom Smith, are the only living members who attended the first Union City School.)

Mrs. Edith Eubanks Jones, painted the portrait of C. H. Gullatt, which Mrs. Drake presented to the school at the dedication service.

Mr. Marvin Rivers, former Representative of the Board from South Fulton, delivered the eulogy to Mr. Gullatt and his work, then unveiled the Gullatt portrait.