

## GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!

### 2014 GREENPRINT RAMBLE A TOUR AND FEAST

#### GUIDED TOUR: \$5

Join the Madison-Morgan Conservancy on a 45-mile guided tour of the western portion of Morgan County. Buses will leave from behind the Courthouse promptly at 2 p.m. on October 18, 2014. Bus space is limited, so please reserve your seats by October 10, 2014. Bring a refillable water bottle, if you're inclined to "reduce, reuse, and recycle". We will make one stop for water and a restroom break at Hard Labor Creek State Park's Camp Daniel Morgan to explore the Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

#### SELF-GUIDED TOUR: FREE

Please take a self-guided tour along this Greenprint Ramble route anytime. On Saturday, October 18, 2014, the Madison-Morgan Conservancy will have erected signs to help guide the tour. If you tour that day, you will benefit from the signs designating turns and points of interest. The route is 45 miles long, so plan your time accordingly.

#### FEAST: \$100

A farm-to-table supper sourced almost entirely from local Morgan County farmers! Feast on local meats, cheeses, vegetables, eggs, fruits, and nuts – a menu co-designed by the farmers and Lee Epting. In recognition of the 150th Anniversary of Sherman's March to the Sea, we will be feasting at the Ainslie's Ardenlea Farm on Dixie Hwy, the historic site of Slocum's encampment the evening before the Union soldiers marched into Madison. There is limited space at the supper, and tickets must be purchased by October 6, 2014.

Contact the Madison-Morgan Conservancy at (706) 342-9252 or [info@mmcGeorgia.org](mailto:info@mmcGeorgia.org) to make your reservation for the bus tour and/or supper.

We look forward to rambling with you.  
Ramble on!

-The Conservancy Team



## GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!

### Greenprint Ramble Tour Guide

# SATURDAY Oct. 18, '14



## A RAMBLE THROUGH *the* WESTERN PORTION of MORGAN COUNTY

Sponsored By The Madison-Morgan Conservancy



**The Board of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy** acknowledges with gratitude the extraordinary work of co-chairs Emily Buck and Ken Kocher and the entire Ramble Committee in compiling this tour and hosting this year's Ramble Supper.

The narrative along this 45-mile route was compiled from hours of research and countless interviews and is now published as an invaluable record of Morgan County's heritage. The Conservancy owes a debt of gratitude to the Morgan County Archives, the Morgan County Heritage project, the Morgan County Board of Commissioners, the City of Madison Mayor and Council, and the City of Madison Planning Department for their many contributions to this project.

During this Ramble, you will see a variety of natural, agricultural, and historic resources, many of which are listed on the Morgan County Greenprint and/or on the Madison Greenprint. Some are even permanently protected by voluntary, donated conservation easements. You will only see a small piece of Morgan County's history—there are, of course, more stories, more beautiful landscapes, and more farms than we could pack into this short tour.

Enjoy the ride, as you come to know the people and events that shaped this land.

**Start your engines!!!** Set your tripometer; mileage numbers starting with “o.o” will appear in this guide to help you confirm your location with the accompanying site description.

#### **0.0 Leave the Courthouse Parking lot**

#### **0.0 Right on Jefferson Street**

Here you see Morgan County's second jail and fourth courthouse. As the seat of government for Morgan County, Madison was laid out in 1809 on a grid with a central public square. The square, where the Post Office is now, was home to the first three courthouses, the last two of which burned. In 1906, this Beaux Arts style courthouse was built to reflect the new century—cotton was king and Morgan County was thriving.

Madison was “the commercial center of an agricultural economy, and teemed with businesses serving the needs of cotton planters, small farmers, and townspeople alike... Wood frame storefronts dotted the downtown... until the devastating Fire of 1869, [which] destroyed forty-two structures and all but one business. The downtown area recovered slowly and redeveloped in the present brick commercial pattern.”

#### **0.1 Cross Main Street**

Obviously, you are in Madison's historic district, which is one of the largest protected historic districts in Georgia. Historic preservation ensures that Madison will continue to serve as a charming home for its residents, as a unique place to conduct business, and as a delightful destination for tourists.

**0.2** Town Park on your left, modeled after Savannah's town squares, was dedicated during the City's bicentennial in 2009 and is an excellent example of how green infrastructure spurs economic development. On the coast, everyone wants beachfront property, right? Town Park is a similar amenity, as desirable to Madison businesses and residents as beachfront property. The development of the entire block of buildings to your right was spurred by this new “beachfront.”

A \$4.5 million public-private investment, it was the single biggest improvement to the city and county tax base two years running, evidenced by a 917% increase in the tax base of a 3-block area. In the end, a \$2 million public investment spurred a \$218 million private investment and created 150 new jobs.

**0.3** A much-cherished symbol of Morgan County's agrarian foundation, **Godfrey's Warehouse** (255 W. Jefferson St) to your right was established in 1879 by Dr. James Ervin Godfrey. Still in its original location, Godfrey's began as a cotton warehouse and now sells feed, seed, and just about anything you need to run your farm. Through the years, the business changed along with the changing agricultural industry but is still an ag-based business, and is still owned by Godfrey descendants: Candler, Whitey, and Weyman Hunt.

Godfrey's is a beacon of light during the holidays. Notice the unlit star at the top of the grain elevator.



*Morgan County's second jail constructed c. 1895*



*A grand jury outside the 1844 Morgan County courthouse on the square.*



*A c. 1878 photo of Richter's Picture Gallery on Main Street in Madison. Note the remnant chimney from the 1869 fire.*



*A photo of the Georgia Railroad depot taken on September 19, 1924.*

Turn Right

#1

Next you will see Madison’s oldest train depot, built c. 1841 with the arrival of the Georgia Railroad. The structure is made with brick produced by John Byne Walker of Bonar Hall and has experienced many alterations, the first of which occurred in 1864, when it was burned by Union troops during Sherman’s March to the Sea. Consider it altered! The picture in the sidebar above shows the depot when it was a two-story building.

Madison’s prominence was secured by good soil and excellent transportation, the combination of which ensured delivery of goods to the market. On your left you’ll see a historic building that was once the **Mason Cotton Gin**. The building has also served as a fertilizer plant, more recently an icehouse, and now a restaurant and condos. See the sign painted on the side of the building? It reads “Mason’s Gin & Fertilizer Co.”

See Madison’s second train depot on the other side of the tracks? It was originally built in 1902, fourteen years after the arrival of the Central of Georgia Railroad, our second rail line. The wooden structure was built in the middle of this rail yard to facilitate passenger and freight traffic, but it was moved in October 2013, in preparation for restoration.

Cross  
Tracks

### 0.3 Cross Railroad Tracks

As we rattle across these rails think of all the cotton that has been shipped from here to Augusta, Atlanta, and points beyond.

#2

**0.3** Welcome to Cottage Row! These houses were built in the 1880s and 1890s on land subdivided from the ante-bellum Anchorage property. Nearly a century later this area had become one of disinvestment and several historic homes were lost. Most recently, demolition threatened the **McLeroy House**—second house in this remaining row. Thankfully the Georgia Trust Revolving Fund bought the property, stabilized it, and sold it to (Conservancy Board Member) Sandy Sanford with preservation easements to protect the house. Sandy has lovingly rehabbed the house, even turning the decorative elements on the porch with his own hands. He has another project waiting just next door!

Turn Right

### 0.4 Right onto Fifth Street

On your left a continuation of Cottage Row, the Turnell House was also purchased and protected by the Georgia Trust Revolving Fund, this time with the Downtown Development Authority as catalyst.

Turn Right

**0.5** Right onto Town Walk Circle. Continue all the way around the circle back to Fifth Street.

We are in the midst of the West Washington Gateway, a part of Madison’s Downtown Urban Redevelopment Area (DURA). Some of the redevelopment goals of this area are to enhance this entrance into Madison and to extend the success of the Town Park area to this side of the tracks through a mixture of commercial and residential development.

Much of this land was once the location of the Anchorage, a c. 1824 Greek Revival home built by John Watson Porter, a major stockholder in the Georgia Railroad. Mr. Porter was one of many supporters of education in Morgan County. He was a major contributor to the Madison Female College, which was located next door to what is now the Church of the Advent.

In the 1870s, Mrs. Elizabeth Nebhut and her daughter Jessie operated a different female school here on this property. The Forest Home Institute was run out of a small building near the Anchorage.

#3

**0.6 The Anchorage** later became the palatial residence of Louise Hill Foster Turnbull (daughter of Joshua Hill), where she and her daughter often hosted “scene[s] of unusual brilliance and beauty.” The Anchorage was moved to Walton County in 1985.

Sandy Sanford is now developing this site as a new neighborhood appropriately named “The Anchorage.” In the next few years we will see construction of historic-inspired buildings, including a few independent cottages, several patio homes, and a series of garden flats with gracious porches.

#3

**0.6** Mr. Sanford also donated the land on which the Anchorage once stood and to which the **Central of Georgia Depot** has been moved. In 2012, the depot was deteriorating when Madison’s DDA struck a deal with the Norfolk Southern Railroad to relocate and stabilize the structure in exchange for a replacement building. You can see both buildings from here. Future restoration plans for the depot will be based on the original blueprints. Stay tuned for its progress over the next couple of years.

Along the tracks we may soon see a restored McDowell Wholesale Grocery to the right of the Depot, a new business to the left of the Depot, and a boardwalk running alongside those buildings on the railroad side.

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



Remnant sign on the Ice House from its life as a cotton gin.



Rendering of the front of the Central of Georgia depot base on the original plans. Original plans courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.



A 1991 photo of the McLeroy House. Porch restoration was based on this photo.



The Anchorage in 1974. Moved because “no one was interested in renovating the house where it was. You couldn’t fix it up over there.”



## The Madison-Morgan Conservancy '14 Greenprint Ramble

The boardwalk will accommodate train watching, provide connectivity between businesses, and provide a continuation of the green infrastructure of Town Park by being part of a potentially extensive trail system in Madison and Morgan County.

#4

**0.7** As you approach Fifth St, look across to see the future site of a **historic-inspired multifamily complex**. The proposed development will use Transferable Development Rights (TDR) to shift density away from sensitive greenspaces to this more developable site. A new land use tool for Madison, TDR is an advanced planning technique, which allows both pro-growth and pro-greenspace proponents to achieve their goals.

#4

**0.7** Adjacent to that development site is **Silver Lakes**, which was once an attractive 12-acre park with four ponds, a swimming hole (where only boys could swim), and a track for walking and biking. Bicycling was a relatively new recreational fad when Silver Lakes was built in 1883. 130 years ago, the Madisonian reported "C.B. Atkinson is fixing a track around Silver Lakes for the walking match. It is the prettiest spot that could have been selected, and when completed, it will be the best arranged road for a walking match in the State. The track will measure six laps to the mile." Madison's TDR ordinance was designed to protect historically significant landscapes like Silver Lakes.

Turn Left

**0.7 Left onto Fifth Street**

Turn Left

**0.8 Cross Jefferson Street and go through the Liquor Store Parking Lot**

**0.8 Left onto Washington Street**

As you approach the railroad bridge, see progress of the early 1900s. This rail crossing was at grade until the early 1900s when the railroad was raised to accommodate an underpass. In his 1978 book *Appalachee Red*, local author Raymond Andrews referred to this as "the Great Wall."

Just on the other side of the Great Wall were two cotton gins: Gate City Gin and the Farmers Trading Company gin, conveniently located adjacent to the railroad for easy shipping.

#5

**1.1** Before you turn right onto Academy Street notice the historic livery stable ahead on your right. Until the mid-1940s, this area was Horse and Mule Central, with a total of four stables. Just imagine the early days with all the horses, wagons, and hitching posts along this then-unpaved street.

Turn Right

**1.1 Right onto Academy Street**

#6

**1.1** See the arbor to your right? Walk through it and you will enter a native species park on a trail that will carry you to the original town spring, known as Round Bowl Spring. The trail continues into Madison's cemetery.

#7

**1.2 The African-American Museum** (156 Academy St) is located in the house to your right, which serves as an example of emerging African-American property ownership during Reconstruction (1865-1877). Once the home of a successful freedman named John Wesley Moore, the c. 1900 building was moved here in 1989 to serve as a center for the preservation and celebration of black heritage and culture.

#8

**1.2 Calvary Baptist Church** (184 Academy St), built by the black community in 1876 after a mutually agreeable split with their white brethren of Madison Baptist Church, held services in the new building for the first time in 1883. In continuous operation since, today it serves as home of one of Madison's most active black churches, led by Pastor Hoke Smith, Jr.

Behind the African American Museum and Calvary Baptist Church is Madison's Cemetery. It actually includes four historic cemeteries, and interestingly, Madison's congregations have shared burial grounds rather than maintaining their own.

#9

**1.3** There has always been a strong focus on education in Madison and Morgan County. In fact there were many schools and a number of colleges here. Only a year after Madison was incorporated in 1809, commissioners were appointed to organize Morgan County's first academy. By 1815 the **Madison Male Academy**, a fine two-story brick structure, was constructed on this corner to your right. Progressive for the time, Madison also had two ante-bellum Female colleges, one Methodist, the other Baptist.

**1.3 Cross W. Central Avenue**

Early academies were private, state chartered institutions, and several of these private schools were operational into the late 1880s. Private education waned when Madison began public education in 1895.



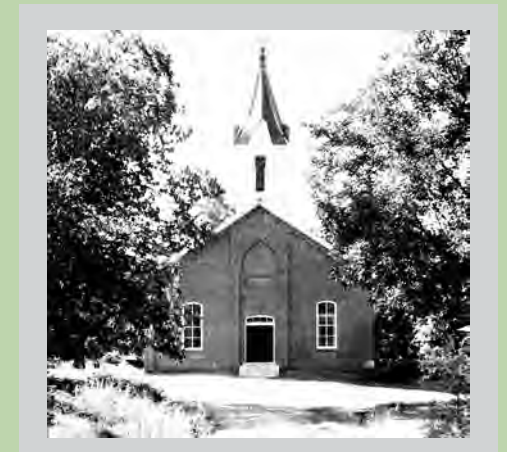
*The Madison Bicycle Club, c. 1900.*



*A photo of cotton wagons waiting in line at the Gate City Gin, around 1907.*



*W.S. Reid standing with Pete Bearden and two mules purchased by Bearden. These stable were on the north side of Washington Street.*



*Calvary Baptist Church. Note the unpaved street and the original, clear windows in the church.*

#10

**1.4** This house on your right, now the **Church of the Advent’s Parish House** (338 Academy St), sits on the site of the Methodist’s Madison Female College, which burned in 1864. Eighteen years later in 1882, this house was built.

#10

**1.4** Next door you will see the **Episcopal Church of the Advent** (338 Academy St). It was constructed in 1844 as a Methodist church and was later owned by the Christian Science Society. After the Episcopalians sold their church building to the City of Madison in 1937, they bought this property in 1953 and have been holding services here since 1963.

Welcome to **Madison’s first subdivision!** This area was originally platted in 1809 as part of Madison’s Town Commons, a public area actively used as a muster ground for the local 29th Regiment of the Georgia Militia and as a racetrack!

The commons shrank as Madison developed, and these residential lots were subdivided in 1837. These large, roughly one-half-city-block lots, were mostly developed for spacious homes with their small dependencies. The landscapes combined pleasure with utility and included formal gardens, vegetable gardens, orchards, and pastures.

Many of the structures you will see along Academy Street and Dixie Hwy are listed on the City of Madison’s Greenprint as Historic Landmarks and have been addressed in previous Greenprint Rambles, including: **Boxwood Hall, Broughton Hall, Carter-Newton House, Joshua Hill House and its Pecan Grove, Stagecoach House, Godfrey-Hunt House, Stokes-Barnett Cottage, Thurleston, Bonar Hall, Ainslie House, Robson-Mason House, and the Bennett House.**

#11

**1.5** Many plantation owners in the surrounding countryside built houses in town so that the children could go to school and the women could socialize. The **Edmund-Walker Townhouse** (484 Academy St) is one such house and was built in 1839 by the Walker family, whose plantation was south of Madison near Pennington, where Little River Farm is located today. The plantation house also still stands.

#12

**1.5** On your right you will see the **Carter-Newton House** (530 Academy St), one of Madison’s grand homes. This Greek Revival home with large Ionic columns, 12.5-foot ceilings, and nine fireplaces was once home to “Colonel Ed” and Polly Newton, who owned the Madisonian newspaper. Mrs. Polly was a driving force behind reestablishing the Episcopal Church and in renaming Second Street to Academy Street.

#13

**1.6** This is Dr. Godfrey’s home, the **Godfrey-Hunt House** (568 Academy St). Remember Godfrey’s Warehouse? This house was built in 1875 by Dr. Godfrey and his wife, Mary Perkins Walton Godfrey. Madison has many noteworthy houses from the 1800s, but this house is one of a few that have remained in the family since it was built. The current owners are Lyn and Whitey Hunt. Whitey is Dr. Godfrey’s great-great grandson. This house is also the only house in Madison that has been touched by Neal Reid, when in 1920 the Atlanta architectural firm of Hentz, Reid and Adler designed alterations to the house.

Turn Left  
Turn Right

#14

**1.7** On your right you will see the **Walton-Trammell-Newton House**, now known as Oak House (617 Dixie Ave.) This c. 1890 house, significantly expanded in the 1980s, has been used as the set for The Originals, a spin-off of the highly popular Vampire Diaries TV series. According the Georgia Department of Economic Development, “Georgia-filmed productions spent \$934 million in Georgia during 2013. The economic impact goes well beyond the productions themselves—with 11 soundstage facilities locating in Georgia, and more than 70 film-related companies locating or expanding here—this industry is creating jobs for Georgians.” In fact, films and television productions generated an economic impact of \$3.3 billion in the state during 2013.

#15

**1.9** On your right you will see **Thurleston** (847 Dixie Ave.), another site of a Madison private school, used for a short time as a “select school for boys.” The interior of Thurleston was built c. 1818 and allegedly moved from the Butler Plantation in southwest Morgan County to this site in 1841. Seven years later, Dr. Elijah Jones built the current façade. The wonderful boxwood alec was installed some time soon after 1919 when Mrs. Nicholson moved the boxwoods from her house on Main Street (currently 356 S. Main St, home of Louise and Ed Hannah).

#16

**2.1** Ahead on your left, you will see **Bonar Hall** (962 Dixie Ave.) built in 1839 in 15 short months by John Byne Walker. Bonar Hall is one of the few brick houses built in Madison before the Civil War and still retains

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*The original look of the Church of the Advent Parish House prior to the removal of its Victorian elements.*



*The Episcopal Church in 1913 just prior to the Methodist vacating the building for their new church on Main Street.*



*A portion of the original 1837 plat subdividing this portion of the Town Commons.*



*The Godfrey-Hunt House shortly after its renovation designed by Neil Reid.*



its detached kitchen, his-and-her brick outhouses, and brick orangery and teahouse. Walker produced bricks on his plantation, which were used in the c. 1859 First Baptist Church and in the c. 1841 train depot we saw earlier.

Happy Anniversary! Did you know we are one month shy of the 150th anniversary of Sherman’s March to the Sea? 150 years ago, on November 19th 1864, Sherman’s Left Wing, led by General Slocum, marched right into Madison on this road. That was the last time Madison was occupied by the left wing.

Just imagine 20,000 Union soldiers, with wagons, horses, dogs, and livestock marching down this then-dirt road on their way to Madison.

57 years later, this part of Dixie Hwy was paved—the first paved road in Morgan County! Dixie Hwy was part of the national highway running from Florida to Michigan, connecting the north to the south. Carl Fisher, known as the Father of the Dixie Hwy, proposed the idea in 1914. “Fisher was an entrepreneur, promoter, land speculator, and auto enthusiast. In 1912, he purchased an undeveloped island that would later become Miami Beach, Florida, in hopes of creating a winter vacation mecca for snowbirds from Midwestern states. Henry Ford’s Model T offered an affordable means of travel, but Fisher knew that one essential thing was missing—a paved highway that could withstand heavy rain.”

Dixie Highway is significant nationally as the first highway to link the rural South to the urban North. The construction of this interstate highway between 1915-1926 is associated with the modernization of the American South, as well as the general growth in U.S. transportation and automobile tourism in the first half of the twentieth century.

As reported in the Madisonian on May 27, 1921, the 10-mile section of Dixie Hwy that runs between Madison and Rutledge was paved in concrete for \$30,000/mile, begun in 1914 and completed in 1921. Imagine the first paved road in Morgan County—it was a site to see. Model T races were held, and you could even find a group of young men roller-skating from Madison to the Ainslie’s farm on Sunday afternoons.

John Bostwick, in a letter printed in the Madisonian dated February 2, 1923, stated “In 1921 a concrete road was built from Madison to Rutledge... That parade Tuesday afternoon of a hundred or more automobiles over the newly paved section of the National Highway was the most notable and far-reaching event the town has ever celebrated.”

**Dixie Highway is listed on the Morgan County Greenprint as a preservation opportunity and is designated as worthy of protection.**

**4.1** This yellow house on your left, known as the **S.B. Crawley House**, was built c. 1913. Note the image on page 22 of a sales ticket from the Madison Variety Works to S.B. Crawley on Feb. 1, 1913.

“Go West, young man, go West.” said Horace Greeley, founder and editor of the New York Tribune (1840-1870s). He continued, “There is health in the country, and room away from our crowds of idlers and imbeciles.” Greeley favored westward expansion for the economic opportunities agriculture could afford young men. This westward expansion began, of course, on the east coast, and is well illustrated by the story of Georgia’s Land Lottery system.

**4.5 Left onto Wilson Road**

Georgia’s lottery system was devised as a fair system for distributing newly opened land (ceded by or taken from the Native Americans) in reaction to the corruption involved in the Yazoo Act of 1795. Participants would enter their names on sheets of paper deposited in one drum while the lot numbers of the eligible properties were deposited in another drum. The number of times a participant’s name was entered into the first drum was dictated by their age, marital status, war service, and years of Georgia residence. If their names were drawn, they were “fortunate drawers,” and they could buy that land lot of 202.5 acres for four cents per acre.

Morgan County (then Baldwin County) was part of Georgia’s first two land lotteries of 1805 and 1807. By 1833 the land lotteries were completed. During the twenty-eight years in which the lottery operated, Georgia sold approximately three-quarters of the state to about 100,000 families.

**5.0 Right onto HWY 278**

After the land lottery, families established residence and began cultivating the land. The development pattern that arose from those 202.5-acre land lots is still evident, though subtle.



*The Walton-Trammell-Newton House before it burned and was replaced with Oak House.*



*Thurleston, HABS photo taken c. 1930.*



*Bonar Hall in 1919. Note the gable porch roof lost to a tornado in 1946.*



*Dixie Hwy c. 1924, described as “a concrete road near Madison, GA.”*

#17

Turn Left

Turn Right

Turn Left  
#18

#19

## 5.1 Left onto Davis Academy Road

**5.2** On your left you will see the site of the old **Ballard Homeplace**. See the remnants? The house sited on the hill, the big old trees, the historic dependencies? The house has been rehabilitated or even built anew, but the site is clearly one retaining some of its historic qualities.

**5.4** Ahead on your right you will see the **Samuel Hanson House** (1161 Davis Academy Rd), built c. 1816. The I-House was once used for storing hay before its most recent renovation—probably its saving grace, since you were sure to have a good roof over your hay.

The house was passed down in the family, and in 1855 Hanson’s grandson married Victoria Cox, whose family lived on Dixie Hwy near Rutledge. We’ll see that house soon enough. Their daughter married a Ballard, as did one of the Ainslie men.

Imagine in your mind’s eye this land stretching all the way back to Dixie Hwy. Before HWY 278 was built, this Hanson House property backed up to the Ainslie’s farm on Dixie Hwy, making the Ainslies, Hansons, and Ballards neighbors.

Hwy 278 eventually divided that land. The road parallels Dixie Hwy for the most part from Madison to the Walton County line. HWY 278 was commissioned in 1952 as part of the National Highway System and runs for 1,074 miles from Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, to Wickes, Arkansas.

The National Highway System is a 160,000-mile network of strategic highways within the United States important to the U.S. economy, defense, and mobility—the largest highway system in the world. Interstate 20 is also part of that system.

To your left you will be able to see I-20 running parallel to Davis Academy Road for a short while. Conceived in the 1930s to encourage economic development and provide efficient defense transportation, Dwight D. Eisenhower finally launched the nationwide interstate system through the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956.

This section of I-20 was constructed in the late 1960s. Thanks to thoughtful Morgan County leadership, I-20 follows a route through Morgan County. But it was not initially planned that way: the planned route of I-20 ran closer to Eatonton. Knowing that Madison and the county’s other communities would benefit from the economic development sure to follow the construction of the Interstate Hwy, Senator Roy Lambert and Mr. Waymon Carmichael went to Atlanta to visit with the GA DOT. They offered to donate 600 acres of Carmichael’s land at what is now Exit 114. So, I-20 came to Morgan County. Really, how could DOT refuse? That single donation was the largest land donation to DOT at the time and made it economically feasible for DOT to change the route.

I-20 was not the only road Morgan County leadership courted. In 1916 leadership from Morgan, Newton, Rockdale, and DeKalb counties coalesced to bring the Eastern division of the Dixie Hwy to this area. They were successful, as we have just seen, and probably so because the paving of Dixie Hwy in Morgan County was already underway. It was reported on May 14, 1916, that “Morgan County has the best road on the entire trip. The entire road across the county is in first-class condition, straight, well graded, well surfaced and splendidly drained.”

**That Dixie Hwy and this Davis Academy Road are both listed on the Morgan County Greenprint as scenic roads worthy of protection.**

This end of Morgan County is slated for growth. And now that Baxter International has located at Stanton Springs, we are sure to see growth at Exit 105 and within the city of Rutledge. The Morgan County Board of Commissioners has been planning for that growth, and twelve years ago, they allotted SPLOST dollars for a park in this western side of the county.

Indian Creek Park was purchased from Weyerhaeuser and is in its early stages of development. Currently the park is known for its excellent disc-golf course. You will see Indian Creek Park in just a bit and you’ll be able to see how it’s moving into its next stage of development. They have cleared a number of acres in preparation for building recreation fields.

The parkland was once owned by Weyerhaeuser. Founded in 1900, Weyerhaeuser is now one of the world’s largest forest products companies. They start by planting trees, lots of them and mostly pine. They manage the forests over many decades, and eventually harvest the trees to be made into things like paper, plywood, building joists, or the like. On their website, Weyerhaeuser states, “We are proud managers of a remarkable, renewable resource that, when managed well, can provide jobs, products, recreation and environmental benefits for many generations to come.”

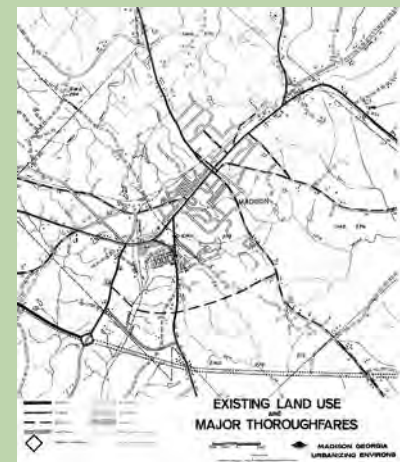
**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



Official Map of the Dixie Highway, issued by Dixie Highway Association, Chattanooga, Tenn., November 1st, 1922."



The c. 1816 Hanson House as it appeared before its most recent remodel.



A c. 1960 map of Existing Land Use and Major Thoroughfares, Madison, GA, Urbanizing Environs. Note the section of I-20 east of Rutledge is "proposed".



Turn Right

## 9.1 Right onto Fears Road

See the pecan orchard on your right? Before European settlement of this country, Native Americans widely consumed and traded pecans. After the cotton crops were devastated by the boll weevil in Georgia, many farmers diversified their crops and some planted pecans.



**Fun Farm Fact #1:** Georgia has been the top pecan producing state in the nation since the late 1800s. According to the 2013 Farm Gate Report, Morgan County ranks 64th of 159 Georgia counties in the production of pecans. The 230 acres planted in pecans has an annual Farm Gate value of \$235,000. Once irrigated, a managed acre of pecan trees will produce about 1,000 pounds of pecans.

The data of the Fun Farm Facts presented during this Ramble is taken from Georgia's 2013 Farm Gate Report. Undoubtedly, some of the data has changed in the last year.

#20

## 10.1 Ahead you will see a recent timber operation on your right and then the entrance to **Indian Creek Park**.

Did you know that Georgia has more privately owned timberland than any other state in the nation? The \$27.7 billion forest-related industries play a major role in our economy and provide 118,000 jobs. In addition to the economic benefits, the state's forestlands provide a myriad of other benefits, including clean air and clean water. Of Georgia's 37 million acres of land, 67% is forestland, and two out of every three raindrops falling in Georgia lands on forests. Our forests are, therefore, one of the most significant factors affecting our water quality and quantity.

Welcome to Shepherd Country! Much of the cotton you'll see between here and Rutledge is farmed by Mark Shepherd, a 3rd generation farmer. This corner here, and his house across the road (1591 Centennial Rd), was part of his father's farm, which stretches all the way over to Newborn Rd. Mark's son has joined the family business as the 4th generation Shepherd to farm this land, as has his nephew Walt.

Turn Right

## 10.8 Right onto Centennial Road

The Land Lottery system promoted settlement by yeoman farmers who farmed at a subsistence level, but the increasing market and profitability of cotton led to the crop's dominance and to consolidation of land fairly quickly. The resulting "planter class" farmed the land with slave labor until the end of the Civil War. The loss of that free labor gave rise to the tenant farming system, the imprint of which can still be seen on the land. That system perpetuated the cotton farming industry into the twentieth century.

In the early 1900s, though, the boll weevil came to the South moving eastward from Texas, in much the same way the armadillo is migrating now. During the 1920s this pest devastated the cotton crop in Morgan County, causing many farming families to lose their land. Shortly thereafter, another blow, the Great Depression, compounded the hardship felt by many of those farmers.

The collapse of cotton-based agriculture and a later increase in mechanization hit the tenant farmers equally hard triggering the migration of this largely African American population from the state. The combination of all these factors would completely change the face of Morgan County agriculture in the coming decades.

Turn Left

## 11.8 Left onto HWY 278

Turn Left

## 12.0 Left onto Hawkins Road

Diversification of agricultural products saved some Morgan County families. Their production of peaches, pecans, and livestock provided some protection from the financial devastation of the boll weevil. Others converted wholesale to dairy farming. By the 1950s, Morgan County ranked first in the state in the number of dairy cows and second in whole milk sales, which helped keep Morgan County agriculture viable during the mid-20th century.

Turn Left

## 12.3 Left onto Newborn Road

Changes in dairy technology led to the consolidation of farms, and the dairy industry here began a slow decline in the 1970s. Timber production and livestock then became important sources of income.



**Fun Farm Fact #2:** Morgan County ranks 5th in livestock (cows, horses, goats, etc.) and is still home to a number of dairies. Morgan County ranks 3rd in boarding, training, and breeding of horses with 3,000 head and an annual Farm Gate value of \$10.5 million.



*Sharecroppers moving, somewhere in Morgan County.*



*Mule pulling plow, somewhere in Morgan County.*



*Dairy farming, somewhere in Morgan County.*



Cotton still seems to be King around here, wouldn’t you say? This is more of the Shepherds’ cotton. The Shepherds have been leasing J&J Farm on your left for many years, which is helpful, since it connects their farm on Centennial (that you saw earlier) with their farm to your right. A 550+-acre swath of cotton!

Turn Right

## 12.8 Right onto Walter Shepherd Road

### 12.8 Look at the goats on your left!



**Fun Farm Fact #3:** Morgan County ranks 30th in goat production with 900 head and an annual Farm Gate value of \$113,000.

The UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences reports that “Goat meat production in Georgia is increasing thanks to the influx of people from Hispanic and Caribbean countries and those of Muslim faith... ‘In Atlanta... 2,500 goats are eaten weekly by somebody.’”

#21

**13.3** Alright, so this might blow your mind. See the **mid-century modern house** (1260 Walter Shepherd Rd) on your left? Next year it will be historic. “How could it be!? I grew up in a house like that!” you say? Well time is stubborn—it keeps marching on, and now that some of the houses built in the mid-20th century are 50 years old, they are considered historic. Hysterical, right? Well, this is what the preservation industry calls “the recent past,” post-war American Small Houses and ranch houses being the most frequent and readily identified in that 1935-1965 period.

Every generation has a style of architecture that it considers expendable. Today many consider the architecture of the recent past to be as expendable as its Victorian-era counterparts once were. The mid-20th century, especially after World War II, was a time of intense change and expansion for many communities, with significant population growth, housing shortages, urban renewal, and the construction of Interstate Highways.

It is estimated that approximately 70% of our built environment is made up of buildings built within the last 50 years, many of which are ranch houses.

Turn Left

## 14.1 Left onto HWY 278

**Old Mill Road ahead is listed on the Morgan County Greenprint as a scenic road worthy of protection.**

Our agrarian heritage is so very evident here. Farmers have shaped our land, created our local economies, and raised our children. The pace of life and the beautiful vistas found in Morgan County are directly related to that agrarian history.

Turn Left

## 14.4 Left onto Old Mill Road

Thanks to the Greenprint, we have a plan to protect our heritage, and as a result, over 1,750 acres have been permanently protected through conservation easements in Morgan County.

Conservation Easements are permanent restrictions on land, voluntarily designed and put in place by the landowners. The restrictions run with the land, so future generations must abide by the conservation easement. The root of much confusion, conservation easements are different than Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA or Conservation Use). CUVA is a 10-year covenant (not permanent like easements) and provides landowners a significant property tax break if they agree to farm instead of develop during that 10-year covenant. Given that residential land pays less in taxes than it receives in services, and the opposite is true for agricultural land, CUVA is a fair trade. Even land in CUVA pays more in taxes than it receives in services.

Ahead you will see a historic crossroads, three corners of which are permanently protected by conservation easements. In 2012, the Verner Family protected 28 acres here with a conservation easement through the USDA Grassland Reserve Program. Earlier in 2006 and 2008, the Jenkins Family donated conservation easements on two of the other corners. So three of these corners will remain in greenspace and agriculture for eternity.



**Fun Farm Fact #4:** Morgan County ranks 17th for hay production with an annual Farm Gate value of \$1.8 million.

Verner Farms is well known and highly regarded for its quality hay, and all the land you see to your right is farmed by the 3rd, 4th, and 5th generations of the Verner Family. A prominent farming family here for 135 years, the farm has been passed down from the Davis Family to the Estes, to the Breedloves, and to the Verners.

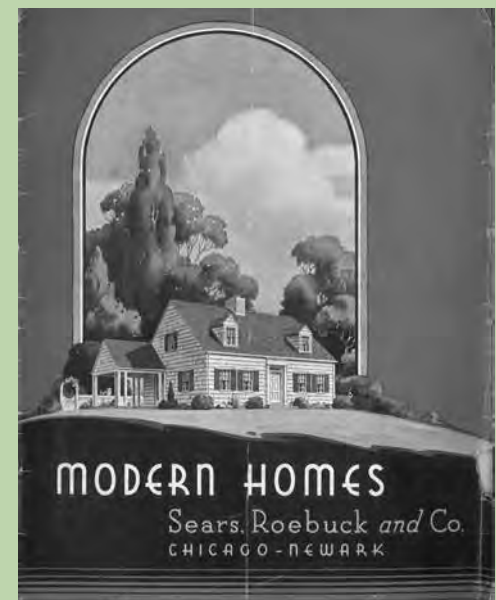
Turn Right

## 15.4 Right onto Davis Academy Road

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



Angelina Bellubono’s goat Maybelle.



Modern Homes, Sears & Roebuck catalog, 1938.



Hay rolls in Morgan County.

#22

Turn  
Around

The **Davis Cemetery** at this crossroads played many important roles in the lives of this community. It was here that you would pick up your mail. Through our research, we found that postcards were mailed often and for every reason: to arrange travel plans, to deliver good and bad news, and even just for fun. Folks used to say, "Send a postcard. They only cost a penny!" They were the emails of yesteryear. One postcard we read was addressed to Ms. Mattie Estes, dated October 23, 1909. Its message was simple: "You sure do look good today." The card was not signed.

**16.2** Ms. Mattie Estes, granddaughter of John Morgan Davis, married a Breedlove and lived in this house ahead on your left, the **Davis-Estes Homeplace**. Their daughter, Sara Davis Breedlove, married Henry Verner, hence the name Verner Farm. This Davis-Estes Homeplace now serves as the headquarters for the Verner Farm operations, which you can see on your left, and Mrs. Sara Davis Breedlove Verner, continues to enjoy living on her ancestral land. The farm is designated as one of Georgia's 451 Centennial Farms, all of which have maintained working farms for more than 100 years.

**16.2 Turn around at 4990 Davis Academy Road**

See the barns and chicken houses behind the house? The Verners have a relatively diversified operation here: they produce hay, beef, pork, and chicken.



**Fun Farm Fact #5:** Morgan County is ranked 1st in beef cattle production, 3rd in dairy cattle production, 15th in pork production, and 24th in chicken broiler production, with a combined annual Farm Gate Value of \$43 million.

Verner Farms has evolved with every new owner, and each generation leaves a modified imprint reflecting America's needs and changing tastes. Speaking of tastes—have you had a Verner Burger yet? Delicious and locally grown without hormones or antibiotics—the Verners are producing quality beef for the rapidly expanding consumer market for local food. And they are positioned perfectly to provide that healthy, local food to the vast majority of Georgia's population, thanks to their location near I-20.

As you approach the crossroads, look around. **You are seeing a view listed on the Morgan County Greenprint as a scenic resource worthy of protection.**

**16.9 Right onto Old Mill Road**

**16.9** John Morgan Davis established this **Davis Family Cemetery** in 1863 when his 12th child, a twin daughter, died the day after she was born. Buried here are members of the Davis family and their descendants, including the Estes, Hollis, Jenkins, Adams, and Malcom families, among others. All but three people buried here are related. One of those three is W.M. Hannah, a classmate of Mr. Davis' children and a well-loved and respected young man. When he passed away at the age of 28, John Morgan Davis allowed Mr. Hannah to be buried here.

As you approach the Davis House, notice how the house doesn't face the road. Obviously Old Mill Rd changed course, and it did so when I-20 was built about a half a mile south of here.

**17.4 Turn around at Davis House, pause here to see the evolution of the house construction**

**17.4** In 1811, the Kimble family built a one-room house, where the big old oak tree now stands to the left of the house. In 1829, the Crawley family built this two-story house. 50 years later in 1879, John Morgan Davis bought the place, and soon thereafter moved the one-room building to the back of the two-story house for an addition. Can you see that evolution? The **Davis House** (1960 Old Mill Rd) remained in the Davis Family for many years, eventually being purchased by John Morgan Davis' great-great-grandson, Felton Jenkins. In 1994, Julie and Felton Jenkins hired architect Lane Greene to move and rehabilitate this house to a property across the road. In the end, however, Julie and Felton built in Madison instead.

**17.4 Continue back north on Old Mill Road**

A long 12 years later, a real estate agent introduced this same house to the architect and his wife Nancy—they were surprised to see the house was for sale and quite pleased they already had drawn plans and elevations of the entire structure! The Greenes bought the house in 2006 and began restoration immediately.

In 1871, John Morgan Davis was appointed to the Morgan County Board of Education. As stated in the Board of Education minutes of that year, they were charged with securing "by gift, grant, purchase, lease, or otherwise, School House Sites... in localities where (30) thirty or more Scholars can be found..."



*Davis Family Cemetery.*



*Ms. Mattie Estes Diploma from Davis Academy School, 1907.*



*Sandra Verner (Latimer) and Alan Verner playing at the Davis-Estes Homeplace.*



*Verner Cow for sale, VER Miss Prissy 247YET.*

Turn Right

#23

Turn  
Around

#24

Continue



The Board of Education further resolved “To establish for the present, one school for white and one school for colored children, in their respective districts...”

### 17.9 Right onto Davis Academy Road

By the early 1900s, there were at least 100 black schools in Morgan County, and almost that many white schools, well representing the distribution of black and white students. Only one black school from that time period still stands on its original site: the Wallace Grove School, just south of here, was built in 1901 and was recently restored by Wallace Grove Baptist Church with assistance from the Conservancy.

**18.4** Ahead on your right, the **Davis Academy School** (4250 Davis Academy Rd), now a home, was built in 1915 to replace an earlier school for whites. That earlier school was organized by John Morgan Davis and eventually burned. This building was built using a standard plan, as were the Brobson, Centennial, Reese, and Sugar Creek schools—they all shared this same form.

Given the large black population in Morgan County in the early 1900s, it’s not surprising that Julius Rosenwald came to Morgan County to assess the quality of education for rural black children. In 1912, Booker T. Washington approached Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck and Company, with an idea for a pilot program to improve rural black schools.

As a result, over the next 25 years, the Julius Rosenwald Fund provided funding and plans for the construction of 259 schools throughout the state. Not a single one of them is in Morgan County. Why? Maybe given the concerted effort that began in 1871 to provide schools for both black and white students, Mr. Rosenwald chose to spend his money elsewhere—in counties where it was needed more.

### 18.9 Left onto Chilton Woods Road

**19.8** Ahead on your left, you will see **Hilda and Blue Chilton’s place**. Known for her green thumb and his artistic handiwork, Hilda and Blue are two of Morgan County’s non-native treasures.

Hilda’s gardens are prolific: a Master Gardner, she grows a number of heritage varieties of vegetables, fruits, and flowers and donates much of it to Harvest of the Heart, a local nonprofit feeding needy families with locally sourced food.

Blue is also prolific: he has made 94 sculptures out of metal and found objects, anything from shovels, to pipes, to hot water heaters. Some of his work is commissioned, some derived solely from his own imagination. Have you seen his Elvis with the guitar made out of a bedpan? It resides at Goose Creek Farm in Morgan County, as does the *Mule and Farmer* pictured here.

Blue moved to this 30-acre property in 1969 and rehabilitated a barn into his house. It wasn’t until 1990 when he found his stroke of luck—marrying Hilda, he says, is the best thing he’s ever done. And that’s saying something if you’ve ever seen that Elvis sculpture!

### 20.1 Cross Walter Shepherd Road

You’ve been here before. We’re crossing Walter Shepherd Road and are about to see the guts of the Shepherd’s agricultural business. You’ve seen much of their cotton crop, but they also plant wheat, hay, and sesame and raise beef cattle.

Ahhhh, don’t you love Morgan County’s gravel roads? There are 86 miles of gravel roads in Morgan County, making 20% of all our roads gravel. Gravel roads slow you down and demand that you relax. Not to mention, dirt roads contribute to the character of Morgan County, providing the agri-tourist the opportunity to have an authentic agrarian experience. Paved roads invite development, and while some development is desirable, we hope Morgan County’s development will remain in balance with our timber and agriculture, which is, somewhat literally, Morgan County’s bread and butter. The Conservancy’s Development Review Committee is organized to do just this—to influence developers to incorporate the protection of our critical resources within their development plans.

You might notice that this is the only gravel road on this Ramble. In previous Rambles, mostly on the eastern side of the county, we spent much more time meandering down dirt roads. Not surprising, since this western side of the county sees growth before the eastern side.



*Davis Family in front of Davis House, 1875.*



*Wallace Grove School restored, 2012.*



*Davis Academy School, built 1915.*



*Mule and Farmer by Blue Chilton. On display at Goose Creek Farm, Morgan County.*

The Madison-Morgan Conservancy '14 Greenprint Ramble

As you cross Hwy 278, look to your left. You can't see it, but under Hwy 278, there is a cattle tunnel that Mrs. Eleese Shepherd uses to move her cattle from pasture to pasture—under the road!

20.7 Cross HWY 278

Welcome to Rutledge. Small but Special! Population 783. Incorporated in 1871, about 30 years after the railroad arrived.

In the 1840s, a widow, Polly Rutledge, and her son, Frank, owned the land at the end of the Georgia Railroad line. Rutledge served as the terminus of the line for a few years, and a turntable was located here to turn engines back toward Augusta.

21.0 Right onto Dixie Hwy

As the tracks were being laid here, Polly took a keen interest in the work and was seen often by the workers, allegedly resulting in them calling this place Rutledge.

21.1 Left onto Fairplay Road—go slow to see all the buildings in Rutledge

As with many Georgia towns, the railroad brought development to the area, and a thriving civic and commercial center emerged. Despite its size, Rutledge still teems with activity. This ain't no sleepy town!

In the Gay Nineties, Rutledge was bustling, too. Once located down W. Main St to your left, the **Freeman Hotel**, or Royston House, was an impressive two-story structure with over 25 rooms. In addition to the hotels, the town boasted many boarding houses and bars.

21.1 Stop for a bit at the stop sign and see the buildings mentioned below

As you stop here in the middle of town for a moment, notice a unique modern feature of Rutledge—their **barrel stop sign**. Allegedly one of only two in the country, the barrel is always drawing attention, being the subject of photographers, vandals, and in one instance a streaker!

21.1 To your left, you will see the town's **park**, donated by Mrs. Lady Sue Nolan and her brother Roy Wallace in 1951. Around 1900, Lady Sue's daddy, W.P. Wallace, built a house just down W. Main St from the **Rutledge Baptist Church**. You may know the log cabin playhouse that sits in what was once the side yard of the grand Wallace-Nolan house. The playhouse remains, but the house was burned by arsonists in 1981.

21.1 Next to the church, you will see **West Morgan Storage**. Currently owned by Gregory Hollis, the building once housed one of Rutledge's two banks. In 1897, the **Bank of Rutledge** (108 W. Main St) was organized by W.P. Wallace, M.L. Wallace, and Earnest C. Ponder, among others. These three soon thereafter also organized the Rutledge Oil Company in 1903. This block of buildings also contained a **general merchandise store, barber shop, and beauty shop**.

21.1 Right onto E. Main Street

21.2 On your right you will see another Blue Chilton sculpture, crafted in 1995, in front of what was once Rutledge's **fire station**. Next is the old **jail** (0 Martha Ln). City Hall was located upstairs before it moved to its current location in the train depot. Just past the jail you'll see an **old cotton warehouse** (129 E. Main St) owned at one time by James Hollis, who was Mayor of Rutledge for 40 years. Built in the 1890s, the building still shelters a cotton banding repair machine made of two railcar wheels with a big flame designed to reshape and refasten metal cotton bands for reuse.

21.2 Right onto a dirt street that has no name

21.2 Ahead you will see City Hall located in Rutledge's historic **train depot**.

21.2 Right onto the road that passes by the train depot

The original depot here was burned by the Union soldiers during Sherman's March to the Sea. This current depot was built in 1919. At one time, the depot was leased to the Hollis family as a cotton warehouse, but now the City leases the train depot for \$1/year from CSX Railroad for City Hall.

21.3 The corner store on your right used to be the **post office** (114 Fairplay St). See its corner entrance? That was a common architectural detail of the Victorian era. Emory Davis, descendant of John Morgan Davis, was the Postmaster for 35 years (1924-1959), followed by Horace "Speck" Whitaker's reign of 22 years (1960-1982).

12 Tickets available from the Madison-Morgan Conservancy at (706)342-9252



Cattle Underpass. Under HWY 278 near Rutledge.



The Freeman Hotel, or Royston House, in Rutledge c. 1840.



Downtown Rutledge c. 1900 as pictured in a postcard.



Downtown Rutledge c. 1900 as pictured in a postcard.



#35

**21.3** Before you turn right, look to your left across the tracks and see the old **service station**. Once owned by Speck Whitaker, the section to the right served as a bus stop. This is one of those mid-century modern buildings that is becoming historic.

#36

**21.3** Across Fairplay Rd, you’ll see Rutledge’s **Back to Wellness** center. Housed in what was once Paul Jones’ furniture shop.

Turn Right

#37

**21.3 Right onto Fairplay Street**

**21.3** On your right, next to the post office, you’ll see **Rutledge Hardware** (116 Fairplay St). Currently owned and operated by Paul Jones, this store has been here since 1891 and was at one time owned by James Davis, Felton Jenkins’ grandfather. The Smithsonian Museum got wind that there was a boll weevil eradication machine here, in its original shipping crate with shipping label and price tag intact. In 1998, Pete Daniel, a curator for the Smithsonian, came down from D.C. to take a look. He was ecstatic to find a Cole Boll Weevil Killer Machine. He also had the pleasure of talking to Speck Whitaker (Uncle Speck to Paul Jones) about the old cotton days and other Rutledge history. Speck described to Mr. Daniel how he “mopped” cotton bolls in the old days, with rags dipped in a mixture of arsenic, molasses, and water to kill the weevils. Mr. Daniel packed the machine in a custom-made crate like any other piece of fine art, hauled it back to Washington D.C. in a climate controlled truck, and displayed it in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in a permanent exhibition about the technological history of our country.

#38

**21.3** Next to the hardware store, you’ll see what used to be **Saye’s Grocery** and is now again a grocery!

#39

Next to the grocery you’ll see a two-story building, in which the Masonic Lodge was located upstairs, and the **Rutledge Drug Store**, soda fountain and doctor’s office were located downstairs. Flop Davis, another descendant of John Morgan Davis, ran the drug store for many years. This block also contained at some point another grocery, feed store, and paint store.

Pause

**21.3 Pause at Main Street**

#40

**21.3** The two-story building ahead on your right was the **Wallace’s sewing factory**, one of Rutledge’s major industries and the first (and maybe only) building in Rutledge to have an elevator. In the 1960s the sewing plant basically took over Rutledge, eventually owning many buildings here downtown. With all those folks working here, there was no parking to be found. As a result, the bank, post office, and bus station moved out of downtown.

#41

**21.3** Also in this block of buildings was the **telephone exchange**, where many county residents made their first phone calls.

**21.3 Cross Main Street**

#42

**21.4** The house on your right is the first **Ponder House** (160 Fairplay St) we’ll see today. Built in 1903 it was the home of Paul Holloway and Mary Graham Ponder. Can you see the evolution of this house beginning with a Queen Anne massing onto which large columns were later attached?

The Ponders’ son Graham and his wife Adelaide owned the *Madisonian* newspaper from 1957 to 1996 and were instrumental in Morgan County’s development. Along with their notable achievements in newspaper publishing, they also made significant contributions to education, historic preservation, and the arts.

#43

**21.5** The **Wallace-Hollis** House on your left (171 Fairplay St) was built in 1910, by M.L Wallace and was eventually purchased by Gregory Hollis’ father, Boyce Hollis. Gregory remembers the state of disrepair this house was in when they bought it. His father was in the building business and was eager to take on this fixer-upper.

#44

**21.6** On your right you will see the historic **site of the Rutledge School** now the recreation center. Also a victim of arson in the 1980s, the two-story, six-room, brick building on six acres was in operation from about 1915–1970, after which all schools in Morgan County, black and white, were consolidated into Madison and integrated.

In 1915, there were 145 students in the 10 grades. In 1918, the class motto was “Impossible is Un-American” apropos for the time, given that the Allies won WWI that same year. Speck Whitaker’s first memory was being a boy in the Reese Community when everyone danced at the crossroads, celebrating the end of the war. Interestingly, 1918 was also the year Daylight Savings Time was established by Congress, and the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment was established. Thank goodness that Prohibition thing is over!

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



Postmaster Emory Davis and Clerk Carter Pace in the Rutledge Post Office, c. 1959.



An undated photo of Roy Elder, Pete Astin, Speck Whitaker and Wade Davis in front of the Standard Gas Station.



The old way of killing boll weevils: soak rags in a mixture of water, molasses, and arsenic, and mop the cotton bolls. The molasses attracts the weevils, and the arsenic kills them.



The home of Mr. & Mrs. Boyce Hollis on Fairplay Road, near the end of construction in 1910. The sign on the balcony says the house was built by Winder Lumber Company and M.L. Wallace.

Veer Left

Can you remember your last day of school? Imagine joining the kids from the Rutledge School on their annual trek to Hard Labor Creek State Park on their last day. They'd walk right up this road on their way to the beach at Lake Rutledge for a picnic. One Rutledge native fondly remembers her soggy pineapple sandwich on that picnic.

**22.6 Veer left to stay on Fairplay Road**

So many of Rutledge's children joined their families in the cotton business after they graduated from high school or college. In 2005, in her lovely southern accent, Adelaide Wallace Ponder shared her story about growing up in Rutledge, being married to Graham Ponder, and owning the *Madisonian*. She said "the newspaper came up for sale. The cotton world was sort of falling apart, and I told Graham that I knew everything about running a newspaper because I had edited the college newspaper. I didn't, but we bought it, and I did all the editorial work and he did the business end. We enjoyed it a lot. And it was unusual for a woman to be editor... [Soon after we bought the paper] I remember going into the drug store... to get a *Coca-Cola* and I heard someone behind the fountain say, 'well I give her about 3 months.' I thought about that 40 years later when we sold the paper. It was always sort of a challenge. One of the biggest things that happened to us was the school crisis. There was a difference of feeling on integrating the public schools, and our paper took a very moderate stand. We weren't always the most popular people in the world, but I think it helped. We didn't have any of the bad trouble that a lot of towns had and a lot of schools had."

**23.4 Pass Old Mill Road on left**

Deacon George Williams echoed her sentiments. A member of the black Plainview Baptist Church and Sunday school teacher of author Raymond Andrews, Deacon Williams said in an interview with Jesse Freeman, "Morgan County, to my knowledge, went into integration better than a whole lot of counties that I know of... I did a good bit of race-relations work and my main objective was to get people to register to vote. You know your vote is your buckle of defense. And when we got enough people registered, and then got people to run for office, and then got them elected, that changed the tide.... And if I do say so, I think Morgan County is one of the better little counties that I know of."

Turn Right

**23.9 Day of tour, October 18, 2014, turn right into Camp Daniel Morgan**

**23.9 Any day other than October 18, 2014, turn left onto Knox Chapel Road**

First came the boll weevil, then the Depression. By the 1930s the landscape of Morgan County was dominated by treeless eroding pastures, dilapidating sharecropper houses, farmsteads, and a few groves of pecan and oak trees. How in the world, then, did such a landscape become a National Park? Well, in 1934 the feds began buying land here to create a "recreational demonstration area" to illustrate how land reclaimed from poor agricultural practices could be used for recreation. The Wallace and Nolan families sold a significant amount of that land to the feds.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933 to put men to work during the Great Depression. The New Deal program was organized to restore the country to its "former beauty" and to "preserve the natural resources of these United States."

First on the docket here was to dam Hard Labor Creek and build two lakes—Lake Brantley and Lake Rutledge. The Corps also built two camps—Camp Rutledge and Camp Daniel Morgan—as well as bridges, roads, and retaining walls. The men were also charged with reshaping and reforesting the land. Much of the CCC influence can still be seen today in Morgan County, where the extant buildings are the only remaining CCC camp-buildings in the state of Georgia.

By 1936 nearly 500,000 enlistees were enrolled nationwide in Corps camps. Each CCC camp had a commanding officer, normally a lieutenant or colonel in the army, a mess hall, laundry, and tool house. The camps also had a recreation hall and canteen, where the men could buy candy and tobacco. Each CCC "boy" would receive \$30.00 a month, \$25.00 of which would go to his wife or family. He would keep the rest.

In a 1936 radio address, FDR said, "Idle through no fault of your own, you were enrolled from city and rural homes and offered an opportunity to engage in... projects of definite practical value to all the people of the Nation." The CCC gave work, income, and hope to many families during that arduous time, and only the international situation in 1941 forced the end of the CCC.



*The Rutledge School, constructed c. 1915.*



*An undated photo of Gibbs Ponder and son; Roy, Lovic Ponder and son, Lovic Jr.; Ernest C. Ponder (father); Paul Ponder and son, Paul Jr.; and Herbert Ponder.*



*Civilian Conservation Corps Storeroom, SP-8, Rutledge, GA.*



*Civilian Conservation Corps Canteen, SP-8, Rutledge, GA.*



Willy Oliver is 96 years old today and worked for the CCC in neighboring Putnam County. In a recent interview, he said "the CC was good for men back then. It gave them something to do and kept them out of trouble... It wasn't nothing but the army. They were training us for the army, and we were going to be the first ones called up. We wore uniforms, slept in barracks, drilled, and everything. We just didn't carry guns."

Deacon George Williams worked here in this CCC camp. He said, "... you had camps all over America, you know. Young men built roads, built bridges, planted forest trees and did it all. And it was a good thing that they had done a lot of that work because, [had they not]... when the war broke out... we'd a been in bad shape. Cause you see, Japan didn't give us no notice, they give us a sneak attack. [Before] we knew anything, they done bombed Pearl Harbor, and... the army wasn't so large at that time but most of these CC Boys had enough training that they could come out and go right into it."

### 23.9 Day of tour, October 18, 2014, leave Camp Daniel Morgan, cross Fairplay Road onto Knox Chapel Road

Welcome to Hard Labor Creek State Park (HLCSP)!!!!!!!!!!!! There is so much to do here—you can hike, bike, swim, fish, camp, horseback ride, golf, and boat. These amenities provide a diverse income stream for the park, allowing it to be one of the few state parks to operate in the black, not to mention providing a very fulfilling experience for its patrons. FDR was right: there are endless opportunities here for recreation. At 5,804 acres HLCSP is the second largest of Georgia's state parks.

130 years before FDR began to transform this cotton eroded landscape, the place looked much different. It was wilderness and hunting ground used by Native Americans who also farmed and conducted what we would consider today to be controlled burns.

In 1773, botanist, artist, and explorer William Bartram began a four-year journey of exploration and discovery through America's southern colonies. He explored areas near Morgan County, and his writings from those places can give us a sense of what it might have been like here.

About a forest he encountered, Bartram wrote, "... the scene opens, and discloses to view the most magnificent forest I had ever seen. ...many of the black oaks measured eight, nine, ten, and eleven feet diameter."

In the late 1790s, white settlers moved into this area from the east, even though it was still officially Indian Territory. The early skirmishes between white settlers and the Native Americans are well known, and unfortunately they did not end when the Native Americans ceded this part of Georgia to the whites in 1802.

One such conflict, a massacre, occurred right here. On Nov. 6, 1813, a band of Creek Indians attacked the settlers on several farms around here. At least nine people were killed, including "Mrs. Lewis Brantley and her son, another adult man and woman, and a negro slave girl." Mr. Lewis Brantley, Morgan County's Justice of the Peace, was injured but survived.

**25.4** Augustus Studdard came here in 1807 from South Carolina and settled 22 feet from the Indian border and less than a mile from the ill-fated Brantleys. This **Studdard House** is near that original homeplace and was built by his son, also Augustus Studdard, who cultivated this land in cotton, grew his land holdings, and became one of the wealthiest men in Morgan County. He also served in the state Legislature.

As we leave Morgan County and enter Walton County, we will be crossing that historic Indian boundary. Most of Walton County was not ceded by the Indians until 1818 and not distributed in the Land Lottery until 1820, 13 years after Morgan County's first land lottery.

OMG we're OMC (Outside Morgan County)! Don't break out in hives!

**25.7** On your left you'll see **Hard Labor Creek Blueberry Farm**—a pick-your-own type operation, which is becoming more and more popular given the local food trend. This kind of agritourism is a growing industry, and is represented on FARMeander—the Conservancy's tour guide to farms and farm related entities in Morgan and Newton Counties.

### 26.2 Right (hard right) onto Browning Shoals Road

As we turn onto Browning Shoals Rd, it's a good time to talk about water. Browning Shoals is a shallow place in Hard Labor Creek, underlain by granite. It's a beautiful spot on the river for a picnic or a swim, and is, of course, known by locals as a place of a youthful indiscretion or two.

Many of the tributaries to Hard Labor Creek originate from springs, where water bubbles up from the groundwater reserves (aquifers) and creates stream flow. It's a great example of how all our water is connected: rain seeps into the ground in groundwater recharge areas; that groundwater bubbles up through springs

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



*Civilian Conservation Corps Corps Quad, SP-8, Rutledge, GA.*



*Map of Bartram's travels through this region in the late 1790's.*



*The Studdard House as seen today.*



*FARMeander is a map-based tour guide of local farms and farm-related entities in Morgan and Newton Counties, published by the Madison-Morgan Conservancy.*

and becomes surface water; and that surface water is often diverted to provide community drinking water supplies.

Every drop counts. “The drought of 2006-2008 and the present tri-state water disputes have certainly under-scored [that]... To that end, Walton and Oconee County have formed a regional partnership to develop the Hard Labor Creek Regional Reservoir project to meet the future water supply needs of the Northeast Georgia Region.”

Water is important—you can’t live without it, you can’t live under it, but you very well may want to live near it. Remember the beachfront property theory that made Madison’s Town Park such a success? Well what you’re about to see may soon be another example.

**27.3** Well, DAM!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Would you look at that! It’s the beginning of a new dam. Hard Labor Creek is being dammed to create that reservoir to supplement Walton and Oconee counties’ drinking water supply.

By 2017, the reservoir will be a 1,370-acre lake (about a tenth of the size of Lake Oconee), filled with water from Hard Labor Creek and with water pumped 18 miles from the Apalachee River in an 8” pipe. The lake will supply 52 million gallons a day to the residents of Walton and Oconee counties.

To your right, as you cross the bridge, you will be able to see Browning Shoals.

Hard Labor Creek is one of Madison’s sources of drinking water and has been since the 1950s. The Apalachee River also feeds Lake Oconee, Madison’s other source of drinking water. Are you concerned about the effect of this reservoir on Madison’s drinking water supply or on the fertile floodplains, prime farmland, forests, and wildlife habitat flooded by impounded waters? What about any reduced flow downstream?

The City of Madison has explored these issues and is confident that the safeguards in place through EPA, EPD, DNR, and others will protect downstream communities (critters and people) from losing water quantity and quality. And who knows, one day Morgan County residents may need to tap into this water supply. Most Morgan County residents drink groundwater, making our groundwater recharge areas important. If those recharge areas are covered with impervious surface (roads and rooftops), or contaminated, county residents will need a new source of clean water.

**The vast majority of this 45-mile route is in a huge groundwater recharge area listed on the Morgan County Greenprint.**

**28.1** On your right you’ll see what was, until recently, a bison farm. Bison, you ask? It’s not such a far stretch from what used to be here before colonization. Bartram writes “The buffalo... once so very numerous, is not at this day to be seen in this part of the country; there are but few elks... The dreaded and formidable rattle-snake is yet too common.”

Bartram wrote about an area near Athens and the Broad River “...We came into an open Forest... [At] the foot of the hills of the great Ridge is the great Buffiloe Lick which are vast pits licked in the Clay, formerly by the Buffiloes, & now kept smoothe and open by Cattle, deer & horses.”

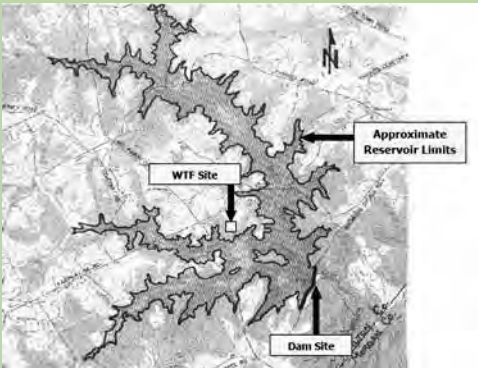
After much research on Bartram’s “great buffalo lick” scholars believe that it was an exposed bed of kaolin and served the buffalo and other animals much as Kaopectate (originally made with kaolin) serves humans with stomach upsets. Scholars also believe they have located the buffalo lick, in Oglethorpe County, just north of here.

**28.5 Right onto Social Circle–Fairplay Road**

**29.8 Right onto Pannell Road, which becomes Prospect Road**

See the chimneystack on your right? It’s a remnant from the tenant farming days. So is the name of the road ahead, Malcom Rd. Much of this area and stretching north all the way to Malcom’s Crossroads was farmed by the Malcom families. At one point their land holdings included approximately 5,000 acres, mostly planted with cotton. Just imagine that view!

Here at the Morgan-Walton line, we’re fortunate to see some of these historic agrarian landscapes. Some but not all have been subdivided and developed. Morgan County has 5-acre minimum zoning in the agriculturally-zoned areas, which means landowners can build one house on five acres. This zoning has helped the agricultural community retain what they need most: intact large acreage to farm. And it has provided the rest of us with some of the most beautiful vistas in Georgia.



Map of the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir.



Browning Shoals just downstream from the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Dam.



Dam construction as of August, 2014



#47

Turn Right

#48

#49

#50

**30.2** Ahhhhhhh, back to Morgan County. **Prospect Road here is listed on the Morgan County Greenprint as a scenic road worthy of protection.**

In early August, 1864, during Stoneman’s Raid, union soldiers raided this area on their way from Madison back north. “Adams’s brigade had ridden fifty-six miles in twenty-one hours by the time they reached George F. Ponder’s place early that afternoon. Ponder raised fine horses on his 3,500 acres and ran a store at a crossroads called Fair Play. Union troops compelled some of his slaves to halter and bridle eight horses and broodmares and sixteen fat mules. Then they emptied his crib, barn, and smokehouse. Adams arrived in time to post a guard around Ponder’s white pillared home, but turned a deaf ear to the planter’s pleas to spare his livestock and provisions. His dismounted men must be mounted, Adams said simply, and the hungry had to be fed.”

**31.3** On your right you will see that white pillared home referenced above, known as the **Ponder House** (3500 Prospect Road), built c. 1850. This is the second Ponder House we’ve seen today. George F. and Sara Ponder lived in this house, and their nephew, Earnest Ponder, owned a cotton gin in Rutledge, a gristmill on Hard Labor Creek, and was partner in both the Rutledge Bank and the Rutledge Oil Co. Earnest’s grandson, Graham Ponder, owned the Madisonian newspaper.

**31.4 Right onto Fairplay Road**

**31.6** George and Sara Ponder had 16 children, all of whom died before the age of 10. They are all buried in this **Ponder Cemetery** at the back of the property.

As we head back into HLCSP, imagine 25 miles of horse trails winding throughout the park, over the river and through the woods. Look out for fox squirrels! You may pass by a Barren Strawberry, or a Baystar Vine, or possibly even a rare goldenrod—all uncommon and state-protected plant species. Mountain laurel even covers the hills of some of the steepest slopes. If you get to the lake, you’re apt to see osprey, blue herons, egrets and even some unusual spider lilies. The bald eagles nesting in the Park for the last few years have not returned this year. We don’t know why. But they may have moved to Dorsey, where a pair have been sighted.

As recorded on the 1805 Land Lottery survey map of witness trees, we can gather that most of the native trees here before white settlement were short leaf pine, oaks, hickories, and chestnuts. However, through cultivation throughout the 1800s and reforestation by the CCC, this landscape has changed dramatically.

**32.8** Also tucked back in the forest here is an observatory. Professional astronomers from Georgia State University take advantage of the dark skies out here, away from the light pollution of the big city. You can observe objects as near as the Moon and as far away as the edge of our visible Universe. You can join those astronomers once a month from March through October, when the observatory opens to the public.

Joel Eidson owned and operated the Creamery in Madison and was a previous owner of the Cox-Hanson-Bal-lard property, which we will see soon. Apparently he was also a speed demon. He boasted to many over the years about holding the speed record around this curve over Lake Brantley. The bridge, by the way, was built by the CCC, as was the concrete spillway. Imagine in the 1950s, Joel behind the wheel, certain he won’t end up in the lake, when he takes this curve at 72 mph! Was he serious???

Lake Brantley was constructed to be a catchment for downstream Lake Rutledge. Hard Labor Creek carried so much sediment in the 1930s from the eroded farmland that the CCC had to build a small lake just to catch all that sediment before it reached the much larger Lake Rutledge.

**33.5** FYI, the film Friday the 13th was filmed in these woods around the cabins to your right. Boo!

During the early 1900s, the Ponder Family’s gristmill was located here on Hard Labor Creek. Using the stream’s water flow for power, the Ponder family ground wheat and corn.

**34.1** Look closely when we reach the golf course, and you can see the remaining **water wheel**. HLCSP staff is rehabilitating it to make it functional again.

Have you noticed that gristmills and cotton gins were everywhere in Morgan County? Each community had their own since horses and mules hauled the cotton, corn, and wheat to be processed. Today we will have passed gin and mill sites in Madison, Centennial, Davis Academy, Rutledge, Hard Labor Creek State Park, Studdard, Fairplay, and Dorsey.

So what is this Greenprint you’ve heard about? In its simplest form, a Greenprint is a map of natural, agri-cultural, and historic resources and a plan to protect those resources. In 2004, Morgan County conducted

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



*The house of George F. and Sara Ponder, built c. 1850, and the family cemetery where they and all their sixteen children are buried.*



*Map of Land Lottery in 1807.*



*Photo of Hard Labor Creek State Park Observatory facility.*



*Water Wheel of Ponder's Mill in 1974.*

the first countywide Greenprint in the state, and was the first county in Georgia to adopt such a document as part of their Comprehensive Plan. It's a good inventory of places the public thinks are worthy of protection. For instance, **a scenic perimeter around HLCSP is listed as a resource worthy of protection. This Fairplay Road is also listed as part of a scenic perimeter around the county.**

Five years later, in 2009, the City of Madison conducted a Greenprint addendum to collect and map more information specific to Madison. Madison's Greenprint prioritizes greenspace projects and was very useful to the Madison Greenspace Commission in drafting the new Transferable Development Rights (TDR) ordinance.

Along this Greenprint Ramble tour, you see many of the resources identified on these two Greenprints, including the Historic Landmarks in Madison, Groundwater Recharge Areas, scenic roads, scenic views, and other important natural, agricultural, and historic resources. In the next two years, the Comprehensive Plan will be updated, and the Conservancy is advocating that the Greenprint be updated, too. If the County and City choose to do this, it will be your chance to weigh in on what you think is special about Morgan County.

The purpose of this Greenprint Ramble is twofold: First, to get you out into areas of Morgan County where you might not otherwise go, so you can see for yourself the places that tell Morgan County's story. Second, to support our agricultural industry by feeding you delicious local food at the supper following the tour. This year, the supper will be held at Carolyn and Andy Ainslie's Ardenlea Farm. We will pass by the farm soon, and you will hear its amazing story. And if you are joining us for supper, you will get to explore that farm and taste the bounty of Morgan County—beef, veggies, cheeses, fruits, and nuts from our local farmers.

We, at the Conservancy, are dedicated to promoting the wise use of our resources and to supporting our local farmers. We hope you will enjoy this Ramble; and we hope what you see today will impress upon you the importance of protecting the places that are the founding elements of Morgan County's many communities. They tell our story and give us life.

**36.4** In downtown Rutledge, you will see an old **caboose** (104 W. Main St) on your right, converted from a boxcar during WWII. In 1971 the Nolan family bought the caboose from the Georgia Railroad for \$500 and used it as a playhouse. In 1996 Ed Hogan and Molly Lesnikowski bought the caboose and moved it to this corner and started what has become the best darn sandwich shop in 13 counties. Listed on FARMeander, The Caboose sells Verner Burgers!

**36.4 Cross Main Street**

As we turn onto Dixie Hwy, notice the mural on the train depot, entitled "Front Door to Rutledge." The mural was painted by Molly Lesnikowski and depicts Father Peter, the Catholic Priest, in his vintage car. The child pictured is Richard Hubbard to whom the train conductor threw a biscuit each morning. On the luggage cart is a roll of canvass, which symbolizes the artistic presence here in Rutledge. And it was conceived and paid for by the Rutledge Garden Club, aka the Dirt Girls.

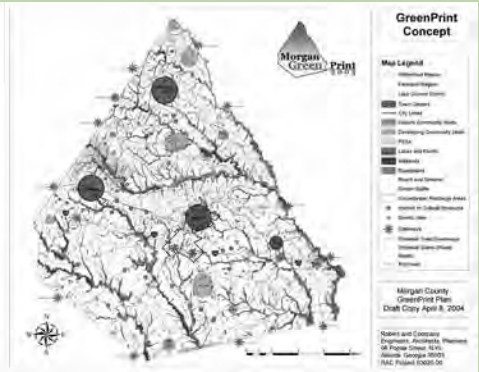
**36.4 Left onto Dixie HWY**

Despite the monumental changes in farming practices over time, patterns of the past are still discernible on the land. A remarkable number of the old homesteads still stand, as you've seen today, as do several rural crossroads communities, which harken back to the era of cotton.

The future of agriculture in Morgan County appears bright. Located in proximity to the four largest food markets in Georgia (Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, and Macon), the area is well positioned to satisfy Georgians' increasing desire for locally produced food. Related to the local food movement is increasing interest in agri-tourism, giving consumers a direct experience with the land and people involved in producing their food. With Morgan County's two largest industries being agriculture and tourism, Morgan County's farmers continue to be presented with new opportunities to participate in emerging agricultural-related economies.

Considering this, the Conservancy has been trying to court a regional food hub to Morgan County. The idea is being realized in pieces over time, and we're thrilled. We hope you will visit the new Heritage Farm Market south of Madison when it's completed. A public-private partnership between Morgan County and Kelly Products, Inc., the development will include a farmers market, restaurant, retail shops, and you can even take classes to learn woodworking, pottery, metalsmithing, and the like.

Well, Hello!!!!!!!!!! We're entering the Hello District. Not even our superhuman archivist, Woody Williams, can figure out why it was called the Hello District, by the way. What he can figure out, though, is that the



Morgan County Greenprint Concept Map. Adopted as part of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.



2009 Madison Greenprint Concept Map.



Scraping Dixie Hwy at the intersection of Dixie Hwy and FairPlay Road in Downtown Rutledge.



Train Riders in the late 1800s. Source unknown.



Cox-Hanson-Ballard House ahead was built c. 1831 by William Cox. Cox appeared in the Morgan County tax digest for the first time in 1809, and by 1831, the Cox plantation consisted of almost 1500 acres and 60 slaves who farmed the land and performed other domestic duties on the plantation. William Cox died in 1856 after which time his remaining children lived in the house with their older sister Victoria and her husband James Hanson.

William’s son Edward Cox became famous. After the abolition of slavery, Robert A. Alston was “the road commissioner for the State of Georgia, and all the convict labor camps came under him. He and [Edward Cox] leased land for growing cotton and used convict labor which was perfectly legitimate at the time. Mr. Alston took care of the business, and after the cotton was sold in the fall, [Cox] found... [that] Mr. Alston had spent all the money.” Cox challenged Alston to a duel.

The practice of dueling was falling out of favor at the time, so when Cox drew his pistol, shot, and killed Mr. Alston in the Capitol Building in Atlanta, he was sentenced for life, as “the only man in Georgia, perhaps in the South, who had ever been subjected to really severe punishment for killing in a perfectly ‘gentlemanly’ manner.” In 1882, two years into his sentence, Cox was pardoned by Governor Alexander Stephens.

#52

**39.0** On Hightower Road just on the other side of the tracks, lived Doris and Moses Hill (1911 Hightower Rd). Members of Union Springs Baptist Church in Rutledge, she was a Mother of the church, and he was a Deacon for 40 years. Before Moses’ 19-year career working at Dargis Wire in Covington, they were sharecroppers just south of here “planting, chopping, and picking cotton” their daughter Mary Nell Griffith said in a recent interview. Moses’ brother, Clyde Hill, did similar work sharecropping on the Cox-Hanson-Ballard property and lived in one of the two tenant houses remaining on the property.

#53

**38.7** See the **Cox-Hanson-Ballard House** (3930 Dixie Hwy), where William Cox raised his family, descendants of which married Hansons and Ballards who we have already heard a little bit about. Cox’s granddaughter, Jesse Hanson, married a Ballard, hence the name Cox-Hanson-Ballard House. Jesse Hanson and W.W. Ballard lived here from 1909 until the 1930s and gave the grove of oaks and pecans the name “Ballard’s Grove.”

This property no longer retains slave-era dependencies, but does retain two post-slavery tenant houses, built c. 1900. In addition to the extant buildings, foundations remain of other tenant houses, a smoke house, and a large barn. The historic development pattern of the property is still somewhat evident, and in 2008, current landowners Mary and Bob McCauley placed a conservation easement on the property to permanently protect that history.

#54

**39.4** On your right you will see **Gralan Tree Farm** (3600 Dixie Hwy), one of Morgan County’s large field nurseries. Once part of the Cox-Hanson-Ballard cotton plantation, this farm transitioned to a dairy farm in the mid 1900s. See the silo? A relic from the dairy farm.



**Fun Farm Fact #6:** Morgan County ranks 2nd in Field Nurseries in the state, with 600 acres planted and an annual Farm Gate value of \$6 million. Gralan and Jack’s Creek Farm (listed on FARMean-der) are just two of these agricultural operations.

From here you can see that Hightower Trail parallels Dixie Hwy on your left. A well-established route in the 1700s, the Hightower Trail was a major Indian thoroughfare and part of a network of trails connecting Augusta to Alabama. After the railroad tracks were laid here in the 1830s, Hightower Trail criss-crossed the rails. When Hightower became part of the Dixie Hwy and was paved (1914-1921) the county decided to connect and pave the portions of Hightower on the south side of the tracks. The portions of Hightower on the north side remained gravel and are so today.

You are approaching the historic community of Dorsey. As early as 1839, historic maps identify a community here. Post Office records indicate that there were 200-300 residents, and Dorsey boasted a store and a cotton gin, as well as two churches and schools for both white and African American children. None of the civic structures associated with Dorsey still exist.

#55

**40.3** On your right you will see a **pond**, which was used by the Harmony Baptist Church for baptisms. This white church was just on the other side of the tracks, while the black Harmony Church was at the other end of Dorsey.

#56

**40.4** Next on your left across the tracks is a **cemetery** where many of those who lived in Dorsey are buried. On your right, you’ll see where the **Dorsey Store** once stood.

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



*Doris Hill worked as a cook at the CCC camp at Hard Labor Creek State Park, while residing on Hightower Road with husband Moses Hill. They were members of Union Springs Baptist Church in Rutledge.*



*Clyde Hill sharecropped on the Cox-Hanson-Ballard property and lived in one of the tenant houses currently remaining on the property.*



*Cox-Hanson-Ballard House c. 1890.*



*Dorsey School c. 1900.*

#57

**40.8** Farther down on your right you will see a historical marker. This is where the **Post Office** stood. The cotton gin was located just across the tracks.

On November 18, 1864, 150 years ago, during Sherman's infamous March to the Sea, General Slocum and his Union troops walked right down Hightower Trail, from Rutledge to Madison. They camped along here on what is now the Ainslie's Ardenlea Farm. Brigadier General A.S. Williams wrote to his superior at 5:30 p.m. that evening from "Headquarters Twentieth Corps, Doctor Jones' House... Colonel: I have encamped Ward's division at this place, four miles from Madison. I have ordered General Jackson's division to encamp at Brown's house, one mile and a half in the rear... P.S.... – Unless otherwise ordered I shall march at 5 o'clock in the morning."

#58

**40.9** On your right you will see the historic site of **Dr. Jones' house**, now **Carolyn and Andy Ainslie's Ardenlea Farm** (2900 Dixie Hwy). Dr. Jones' house was burned as the Union soldiers left the next morning, but was rebuilt and named "Wisteria Lodge." Wisteria Lodge burned in 1908 and was once again rebuilt, this time in brick. The "old dining room" with its 18-inch-thick brick walls still remains behind this c. 1921 Craftsman style house.

Just a few years after the war, a Union soldier who had camped here returned south, and his family purchased this land naming it Ardenlea Farm ("woodlands and meadows") for his Scottish roots. They assimilated themselves into the community and found acceptance. That Union soldier was Capt. James H. Ainslie, Andy Ainslie's great grandfather. Capt. Ainslie married Dorsey native Bennie Luta Ballard (W.W. Ballard's sister and great granddaughter of William West an original Morgan County settler). Their family and descendants farmed this 1,400 acres and about 500 acres remain in the family today. The house and seven acres was sold out of the family in 1972. Seven years later, though, Carolyn and Andy Ainslie bought the family home back.

#59

**41.4** On your left, you will see the historic site of the **Gandy Dancers houses**. The term Gandy Dancers likely originates from the dance-like movements the railroad workers employed while straightening the long sections of track by hand, using Gandy-manufactured tools. The rhythm of the work, and the work songs that developed, kept the men in tune with each other.

#60

**41.4** On your right across from the Gandy Dancers houses was the black **Harmony Church**, located in what seems to have been the heart of the African American section of Dorsey.

Imagine being a former Union soldier in the South in 1870. We were probably a tough crowd. But Capt. Ainslie seemed to be well loved by his life's end. His obituary reads, "In 1870 Capt. Ainslie came from Ohio to Morgan County and settled near the scene of his death. Amid the demoralizing conditions he cast his lot, at once identifying himself with the important work of building up his community, his county and his state. Capt. Ainslie was no ordinary man, striking in appearance—six feet two inches, broad and erect shoulders, with a bearing that spoke the nobility of his character.... A big man—big in physique, big in intellect and big in character... [F]ew men in Morgan County were so well known and so highly esteemed."

Stay Left

#61

**43.2 Stay left at fork with Confederate Road to stay on Dixie HWY**

**43.2** At this fork with Confederate Rd, you see a boarded up structure that was once a **gas station**. A relic from the Dixie Hwy glory days when it was the main route for tourists from north to south. To take advantage of that tourism traffic, and the dollars travelers brought, landowners began developing gas stations like these and began adding small cabins for tourists. Initially these were known as tourist courts and were the primitive precursors of what more fashionably became known as motor courts, motor hotels, and finally motels. You've seen those motels—these days their pools are dry, their diners deserted, and their totally rad signs dark.

#62

**44.0** Hightower Rd, now Dixie Hwy, served as the stagecoach route between Charleston and New Orleans. In 1914, as Dixie was being paved, author Lucian Lamar Knight retraced the stagecoach route into Madison. Ahead there was a tavern, about which Knight said of travelers, "They doubtless here tarried, where an abundant dinner with much liquid refreshment awaited." The tavern was owned by J.A. Hilsman in 1914 and was located here on the corner. The DAR marker placed here states, "With fresh horses and refreshed passengers the stage coach followed an old Indian trail now Dixie Highway Avenue thru fertile plantations and thru the town of Madison, the wealthiest and most aristocratic village on the stage coach route."

#63

**44.3** As Slocum marched down this stagecoach route that fateful day in November, 1864, the residents of this c. 1850 **Bennett House** (1170 Dixie Avenue) were about to sit down for their noontime dinner. Frightened by the Yankees, the family just up and left, leaving their plated dinners for the Yankees to enjoy. We don't know if that's really true, but it's a cute story.

**20** Tickets available from the Madison-Morgan Conservancy at (706)342-9252



Campaign map drawn by Major R.M. McDowell, Chief Topographical Engineer, Left Wing, Army of Georgia showing the 20th Corps' encampment west of Madison, November 18, 1864.



The Ainslie Family's Ardenlea Farm on Dixie Hwy. The site of Union General Slocum's encampment on November 18th, 1864.



The Gandy Dancers houses on Dixie Hwy and the Gandy Dancers working on the railroad.



The Bennett House, c. 1850.



Union Sergeant Rufus Mead, marching with Slocum wrote: “Under way at sunrise... Passed through madison, found it the prettiest village I’ve seen in the State. One garden & yard I never saw excelled even in Conn(ecticut.) the frost had not killed anything, so flowers of all kind were in full bloom and fragrance. Such roses I never saw, and hundreds of plants I never saw before. Boxwoods and evergreens were trimmed in all shapes such as armchairs, sofas, cones, houses, etc., and what is strange to me a woman of 50 years or so says she has done all the work in the garden for 20 years.”

#16

**44.6** Peek back through the trees here at **Bonar Hall**, and you will see a boxwood garden. Originally planted in the 1840s by Eliza Fannin and John Byne Walker, the original design has been periodically renewed over time, though some original specimens are still extant. The Garden History of Georgia states “The grounds show careful planning and a classical sense of balance.” And the garden is well renowned for its many interesting plantings, both native and exotic. Currently the garden is being lovingly restored by current owners Betsy Wagenhauser and Alex Newton. Maybe they will eventually trim the boxwoods and cedars in shapes such as armchairs and sofas...

#64

**44.6** To your right you will see the third Ponder house of the day, the **Burney-Ponder House** (912 Dixie Avenue). Built c. 1870 as an ell-shaped structure by the Burney Family, the house was altered by Paul Holloway Ponder and his wife after they purchased it in 1948. They added a matching wing to the front, giving it symmetry. Bobbie and Bill Rushing purchased the house in 1999, and only three years later, it burned. They painstakingly rebuilt and restored it, inside and out.

#65

**44.9** Another allegedly true story about Slocum’s troops that November day is about a mark left by a Union soldier on one of the doors in this c. 1835 **Barnett-Stokes House** (752 Dixie Avenue). A previous owner knows the mark well on the door to the left in the entrance hall. Owner Col. Joel Barnett was off fighting the war when a Union soldier marched up the steps. When no one answered his knock, he barged in yelling and demanding that the people come out. Col. Barnett’s wife and child and a female slave were inside and would not come out. The soldier wielded his sword, and cut a four-foot gash in the door. When Col. Barnett returned from the war, he decided to leave the mark on the door as a testament to what had happened there.

Veer Right

#### **45.1 Veer slight right onto Old Post Road**

And this is Old Post Road, which was part of that aforementioned stagecoach route from Charleston to New Orleans. Some of the older houses on your right were built to face Old Post Road. When Main Street became the main road through town, many of the landowners reoriented the facades of their houses to face Main Street. As a result, some of the houses have what appear to be two facades, a unique characteristic of Madison’s historic district.

#66

**45.2** On your left you will see the **Joshua Hill House** (485 Old Post Road), named for the man credited with saving Madison from the fiery brand of Sherman’s troops. Prominent among a minority of anti-secessionists in Madison, Joshua Hill was elected to the United States Senate in 1868 and is credited for keeping Sherman’s army from destroying the antebellum homes you see in Madison’s historic district. The Union soldiers and Joshua Hill would not recognize the house, though, because W.W. Baldwin made significant changes in 1918.

Now imagine 20,000 troops milling around this part of Madison. Most women and children had barricaded themselves in their homes. Some of the men stood guard or fetched for the enemy what they were instructed. As the troops moved northeast through Madison, smoke started to fill the air from the fires, and wrenching sounds, metal on metal, were coming from the railroad. “In [this] vicinity of Madison they destroyed all railroad buildings, warehouses, and laid waste to virtually every factory, destroying any cotton they came across, over 200 bales.” Thanks to Joshua Hill, the houses remain.

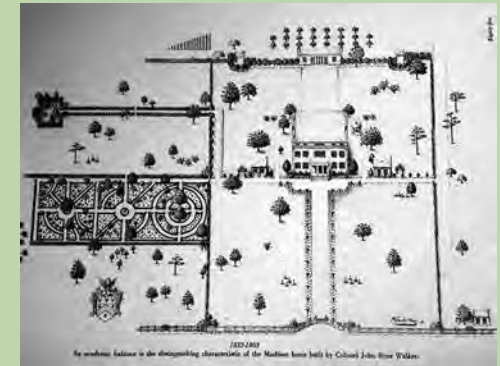
#### **45.4 Turn left onto W. Central Ave and then right onto First St**

On this 150th anniversary of Slocum’s March to the Sea, we are honored that you have joined us on the Ramble to explore Morgan County’s history. A significant part of our history here, the Civil War/Recent Unpleasantness/whatever you choose to call it has transformed our landscapes, molded our families, and shaped our culture.

So much else has happened here before and after that war, that has made Madison and Morgan County a unique place, and in spite of the many setbacks since our incorporation in 1807, we are here, thriving.

Turn Left  
Then Right

**Green Text** denotes resources listed on either the Morgan County Greenprint or the Madison Greenprint.



*Sketch of the grounds at Bonar Hall.*



*The Barnett Stokes House built c. 1835 on the stage coach road reflects coastal architecture.*



*Sketch of the 20th Corps in front of Madison Baptist Church, Harpers Weekly, January 7 1865 edition.*

The Madison-Morgan Conservancy '14 Greenprint Ramble

We hope you will cherish the history and the natural and built environments you’ve seen today. We also hope we, as a community, can retain these natural, agricultural, and historic resources for future generations. The protection of those resources will be up to many of you. The Madison-Morgan Conservancy is here to help you.

On behalf of all of us at the Conservancy, we thank you for joining us today on our 4th Greenprint Ramble! Ramble on!

Turn Right  
End

45.6 Turn right onto Jefferson St.

45.7 End at Courthouse

Thank you for supporting the Madison-Morgan Conservancy by rambling through Morgan County. We hope you enjoyed your tour!

Thank You To Our 2014 Greenprint Ramble Contributors

The Madison-Morgan Conservancy is thankful for all the time and assistance provided by countless individuals throughout the Ramble’s year-long research process. We are especially thankful to those of you who shared your stories with us:

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NANCY GREENE

MARY NELL GRIFFITH

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SUE ELLEN & ALAN VERNER

SARA DAVIS BREEDLOVE VERNER

BETSY WAGENHAUSER

ELLEN WARREN

KAREN WIBELL

WOODY WILLIAMS

Thank You To Our 2014 Greenprint Ramble Committee

The Madison-Morgan Conservancy Board of Directors is immensely grateful for the Committee who made the 2014 Greenprint Ramble happen. We give a special thanks to Co-chairs Emily Buck and Ken Kocher for their creativity and passion for their respective roles: sourcing healthy, local food and ensuring academic excellence in historical research.

Co-Chairs:

EMILY BUCK  
KEN KOCHER

Tour Committee:

JULIE DAVIE  
COLLEEN HALL  
KEN KOCHER  
CHRISTINE MCCAULEY  
BECKY SHERWOOD

Supper Committee:

CAROLYN AINSLIE  
ELIZABETH BRANCH  
REBECCA BONAS  
EMILY BUCK  
CHRISTEL GREEN  
WES HOLT  
MARY MCCAULEY  
JENNIFER PALMER  
KERRIE SAMPSON

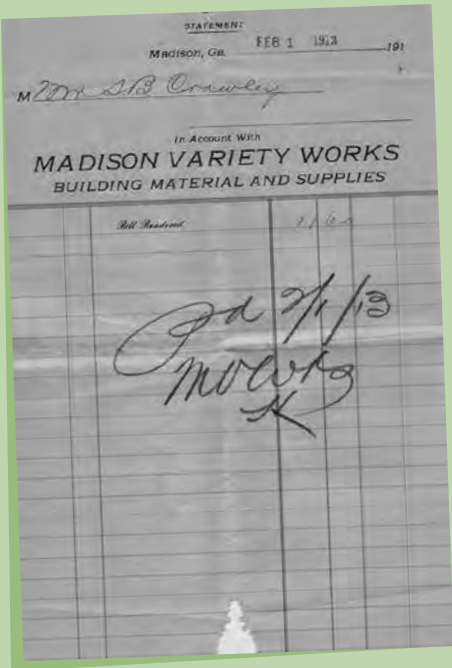


One of the many cool motel signs along the Dixie Hwy.

AFTERGLOW

By Rose Koralewsky

The sun has set behind the hills, / But limpid skies its radiance show;  
The heavens bloom like one vast rose– / It is the afterglow.  
Dear Lord, when my life’s sun has set, / And I am gone,  
as all must go,  
Grant that I too may leave behind / A lovely afterglow.



Receipt from Madison Variety Works for a purchase by SB Crawley in 1913, presumably the year the Crawley House was built.



**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC):** *n.* a public work-relief program enacted by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933 to put men to work during the Great Depression. The New Deal program was organized to restore the country to its former beauty and to preserve the natural resources of these United States.

**Conservancy:** *n.* an organization designed to conserve and protect natural, agricultural, and historic resources. The Madison-Morgan Conservancy was the first county-wide conservancy in Georgia and is a non-profit designed to provide public education on conservation matters and to protect and enhance the heritage and quality of life of the residents of Morgan County by preserving historic sites, greenspace, farmland and timberland. The Conservancy is funded by membership dues and foundation grants.

**Conservation Easement:** *n.* a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently restricts use of the land in order to protect the land’s conservation values.

**Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA):** *n.* a preferential tax assessment for landowners who elect to commit their property to a conservation use; a program implemented by the State of Georgia to protect agricultural properties from being converted to commercial or residential use.

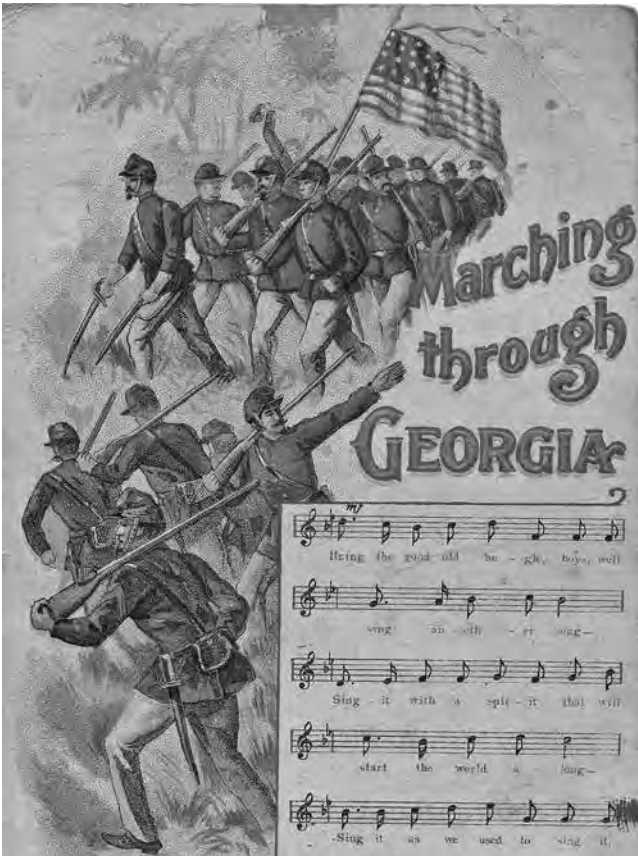
**Greenprint:** *n.* a map of natural, historic, and cultural resources and policies and procedures for the protection of those resources. Morgan County’s Greenprint was the first county-wide Greenprint in the state and the first to be adopted as part of a community’s comprehensive plan.

**Groundwater Recharge:** *n.* the process by which ground water is replenished. A groundwater recharge area is where water from precipitation is transmitted downward to an aquifer.

**Sharecropping:** *n.* a system of farm tenancy (see also Tenant Farming) developed after the Civil War and lasting into the 1950s in which sharecroppers agreed to farm a certain plot of land in exchange for a share of the crops raised; the tenant provided labor and the land owner provided such items as mules, machinery, seed, fertilizer, and housing. Living expenses were not included.

**Tenant Farming:** see Sharecropping

**Transferable Development Rights (TDR):** *n.* a program put in place by a local governing authority through which development rights are severed from one parcel and attached to another parcel. The intention of TDR is to shift density away from critical resources toward developable land. TDR is known nationwide as a land use tool that allows both pro-growth and pro-greenspace proponents to meet their goals.



**Hurrah! Hurrah! we bring the jubilee!**

**Hurrah! Hurrah! the flag that makes you free!**

**So we sang the chorus from Atlanta to the sea**

**While we were marching through Georgia.**

*Chorus of  
"Marching Through Georgia"*

Few events in the history of Morgan County, or Georgia for that matter, have affected the psyche of generations as much as William Tecumseh Sherman’s March to the Sea. It has literally become the stuff of legends—some true, some... well, let’s say unverifiable. What is certain is that the March to the Sea was devastating to the Confederacy. Sherman said his intent was to “make Georgia howl.” One hundred and fifty years later that howl has turned into a crow as Madison and Morgan County now wear this trial of the past as a badge. Today, as we Ramble through the western portion of Morgan County, we will criss-cross one line of that march, from the county line into Madison, and see the land that witnessed thousands of Union soldiers pass by, leaving a path of destruction in their wake.

**FROM THE CITY OF MADISON  
GREENPRINT:**

“The City of Madison has set a precedent for protecting its quality of life through actively managing its growth patterns, providing high quality services, preserving its history and culture, and providing greenspace and parks to its residents. With significant public and stakeholder involvement, Madison’s Greenprint Addendum was created to inventory and prioritize the many greenspace and recreation resources that are valuable to residents...30 Greenspace Opportunities and 38 Historic Landmarks were identified through the Greenprint Addendum process as important to the existing and/or future greenspace pattern in Madison. The Greenprint Addendum will serve the City well as a basic planning tool and should be used as the foundation for the City’s Greenspace Policy.”

**FROM THE MORGAN COUNTY  
GREENPRINT:**

“The Morgan County Greenprint Plan will serve as a long-term strategy for the preservation of features that are valuable to Morgan County residents and landowners: the rural landscape, open spaces, agricultural lands, forests, environmentally sensitive resources, historic properties and structures, and a general quality of life. The Plan recognizes the inevitability and desirability of growth and economic expansion, seeking to balance allowance for growth with strategies to achieve significant preservation goals. Implementation of the Greenprint will involve actions from government leaders as well as private entities and citizens, beginning with the inclusion of Greenprint concepts in the Morgan County Joint Comprehensive Plan. Ultimately, the success of preservation efforts in Morgan County will be greatest if Greenprint planning continues as an ongoing process of collaboration among all members of the Morgan County community.”

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 SPONSORS

### **Ardenlea Farm Rambler**

*Bank of Madison*

*Jim Boyd & Associates*

### **Dixie Highway Ramblers**

*Mary & Bob McCauley*

### **New Deal Ramblers**

*Janet & Bob Beauchamp*

*Hall Smith Office*

*Ann-Marie & Frank Walsh*

### **Davis Academy Ramblers**

*Rita & Lane Dennard*

*Environs Landscape Architecture  
& Ecological Planning*

*Lambert Farm Operations*

*Becca & Godfrey Newton*

*Diane & Will Pharr*

*Becky & Tom Sherwood*

## 2014 HOST COMMITTEE

**Roberta & Ira Block**

**Elizabeth & Jim Branch**

**Emily & David Buck**

**Miryn & Kyle Davidson**

**Alice & Art Domby**

**Linda & Steve Huggins**

**Vicky Mooney**

**Betsy & Sandy Morehouse**

**Dan Rather**

**Sharon & Bill Ross**

**Anne & Robert Trulock**



## **ARDENLEA FARM GREENPRINT RAMBLE SUPPER**

On this 150th Anniversary of Sherman's March to the Sea, Carolyn and Andy Ainslie will host the Ramble Supper at their Ardenlea Farm: the site where Union soldiers encamped the evening before their march through Madison. Join us to explore the historical site, and while you're there, feast on a farm-to-table supper 'sourced from the following local farms:

*Burge Organic Farm | CJ Orchards | Darby Farms | Garden At Broughton | Greendale Farm | Green Glades Farm | Heirloom Gardens | Johnston Dairy Farm | Gay & Roy Morris | Nunn Lane Cattle Farm | Sunflower Farm | Tagerit Farm | Tewksbury Farm | Verner Farms*

SUPPER MENU—LOCALLY GROWN,  
RAISED, AND PREPARED

### **THE BOUNTY OF MORGAN COUNTY**

FIRST

Dog Lick Stew | Charcuterie | Ham Biscuits

ON THE BUFFET

Smoked Pork Shoulder | Braised Short Ribs  
Over Stone-Ground Grits | Roasted Chicken  
With Peppers & Tomatoes

*Tomato Pudding | Apples & Potatoes |  
Butternut Squash Gratin | Fried Corn | Pea  
Medley | Mixed Green Moser Salad With  
Roasted Beets, Toasted Pecans, & Goat  
Cheese | Roasted Hill Vegetables | Collard  
Greens With Chow-Chow | Cornbread &  
Sorghum Syrup*

DESSERT

Blueberry Cobbler | Peach Cobbler | Fresh  
Whipped Cream

Dark Chocolate Conservancy Squares  
by Antique Sweets

## THANK YOU FOR RAMBLING WITH US! GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!

Sponsored By The Madison-Morgan Conservancy