

# A Century of Clack & Broach

Regina and Wilson Broach love their farm, and for good reason: it's beautiful, productive, a significant part of Morgan County's history, and of course, it's their home. It's been home to Wilson Broach and his ancestors, the Clacks, since J.J. Clack moved here in 1873.

Regina and Wilson wanted to honor their family and the history of this special place by listing it as a Centennial Family Farm. The Conservancy assisted them in the application process, and in October they received their award.

We were thrilled to have been part of this project. If you or someone you know would like to explore this option for your family farm, please contact us. In order to be listed as a Georgia Centennial Family Farm, the farm must be owned continuously by members of the same family for 100 years or more.

## Clack-Broach Family Farm Story:

Legend has it that J.J. Clack came to Morgan County from Alabama in 1873 and "squatted" on "a good number of acres" in a two-room house, all of which had been abandoned by its owner, presumably during the Civil War. J.J. Clack brought with him his thirteen-year-old nephew, Arthur Broach, to help him on the farm.

37 years later, Arthur Broach bought 36.7 acres from J.J. Clack. The land included one house, where Arthur and his wife, Ellen, raised their five children. One of their children was named after Mr. Clack: James Clack (J.C.) Broach, born 1903.

In the early 1900s, the boll weevil came to the South moving eastward from Texas. In 1920 cotton yielded 36,197 bales on 76,041 acres in Morgan County. But during the 1920s this pest devastated the cotton crop, causing many farming families to lose their land.

Presumably in response to the devastation of the boll weevil, J.C. Broach moved to Florida to make enough money to save the family farm. He was successful and in 1927, he paid off the 36.7 acres his father, Arthur, had bought from J.J. Clack in 1910.

In 1929 J.C. Broach married Nannie Ruth Moon (from Godfrey), and they had three children. While farming the 36.7 acres in cotton and corn, J.C. Broach grew the farm to almost 500 acres by purchasing other tracts of land, and started a dairy operation. And to complete the circle, in 1945, J.C. Broach bought the c. 1842 "Clack House" that was his name-sake J.J. Clack's house original two-room "squatter house."

J.C. Broach left to his son, Wilson Broach, the 489-acre farm, including the c. 1842 Clack House. Wilson married Martha Regina Watkins in 1955, and they built a house next door to the Clack House, in which they still live. Wilson and Regina continued to dairy until 1983, and today they raise beef cattle and hay.



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