Main attractions


BRICKSTONE - Built in 1827, this building served as the site of the first county court session and housed a general store, stagecoach stop, and post office throughout most of the 1800s. Old Social Circle Road was called Rouge Road and a major stagecoach route developed along what was probably an old Native American trading path. Intersection of Old Social Circle Road and US Hwy 278.

DOVE - Like most rural communities, Dove had grist mills, a store, and a blacksmith shop. Local lore holds that this is the original home of Dove when a 1912 photo, each child at the school can be seen holding his or her own cup for drinking fresh water instead of using a common dipper, thus avoiding the spread of germs. Intersection of Dove Road and GA Hwy 142.

PERRY PLACE/PONY EXPRESS - The Perry family historically owned and farmed much of the land nearby. The intersection of what is now highway 142 and 11 is shown in maps as early as 1819, at that time it was the intersection of Rogue Road (north south) and McGuffin’s Road coming out of Covington. The name Pony Express only dates to the mid-1850s, when a store by that name was built at the crossroads. Intersection of GA Hwy 142 and GA Hwy 11.

BURGE PLANTATION - Established in 1869, Burge has been owned by seven successive generations of the same family. 200 Merchouse Road, Mansfield, GA 30055.

STARRSVILLE - Originally located near the intersection of County Road 213 and Dove Road, the community moved to the current location when the railroad was built in 1873. Belfort-Dixon Farm is 1867 has been in the same family, and in continuous operation, for over 150 years. Intersection of CR 213 and Starrsville Road.

OLD STARRSVILLE STORE, C. 1830 - A Newton County Historical Society marker identifies the site of an old mercantile business that served as a meeting place and center of trade. The store was demolished in 1992. Intersection of CR 213 and Dove Road.

HAYSTON - The area was settled early in the county’s history by George Newton Hays and his descendants. In its heyday, the small farming community boasted a post office, train depot, a livery, cotton gin, sawmill, syrup mills, two stores, five churches, three schools, a doctor, and the county’s first rural telephone service. Intersection of CR 213 and Hayston Road.

MANSFIELD - When the community first formed in the late 1800s, the first mail station was called “Bob Lee’s.” The town boasted a full complement of businesses to support the agricultural community. The original bell from the 1910 school is on display at present-day Mansfield Elementary. In 1919, Mansfield held the best amateur baseball team in the state, and was the home of “MANSFIELD’S FAMOUS SOUTHPAW,” Sherrod Malone Smith (1891-1945), who played 23 years of professional baseball, including 14 seasons in the major leagues with Pittsburgh Pirates, Brooklyn Dodgers, and Cleveland Indians. Historical marker along GA Hwy 17 south of RR tracks in Mansfield.

NEWMON - First known as Cross Road or Sandtown, the area was settled around 1897 by Rufus Broome of North Carolina and Warren County, GA. Intersection of GA Hwy 142 and CR 213.

CHARLIE ELLIOTT WILDLIFE CENTER - Operated by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the center honors Charlie Newton Elliott (1906-2001), a dedicated conservationist and the first director of Georgia State Parks. The center includes the Brooks-Ager Discovery Area, which promotes nature education and wildlife conservation, Coyote Wildlife Management Area and Maiten Public Fishing Area. 111 Elliott Trail, Mansfield, GA 30055.

GAITHER PLANTATION - Gaither is part of 2,266 acres of land purchased in 1996 by Newton County for the Bear Creek Reserve. Most of the property will become part of the reservoir; however, the 1860s plantation home, barn, log cabin, Harris Spring Primitive Baptist Church and grounds will remain intact. The plantation hosts weddings, receptions, meetings, banquets and other public gatherings. It provides a hands-on agricultural experience for residents and hosts year-round cultural and social events. 270 Davis Ford Road, Covington, GA 30014.

HARRIS SPRING CHURCH SITE - One of the oldest churches in the county was located here. The building was moved to Gaither Plantation in 2004. 270 Davis Ford Road, Covington, GA 30014.

POPLAR HILL - This African American community west of Mansfield is still marked by the presence of Poplar Hill A.M.E. Church (est. 1873). Poplar Hill Road around East Bear Creek.

TV/ Film Locations - Several TV shows or movies were filmed in the east quadrant of Newton County. My Cousin Vinny and The Fighting Temptations near Mansfield, Black Dog and Letter from a Hippowald Son near Newton, and Boddy Jones - Stroke of Denus and Moody’s Family Reunion near Gaither Plantation.