

*Berrien County*, in South Georgia, and one of the most progressive in the wire-grass section, was named in honor of John McPherson *Berrien*, who for many years represented Georgia in the United States Senate. It is bounded by the following counties: Irwin on the north, Coffee and

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Clinch on the east, Lowndes on the south, Worth and Colquitt on the west. It is watered by the Allapaha, Withlacoochee and Little rivers, and Cat, Allapacoochee and other creeks. It is traversed by the following railroads: Brunswick and Western of the Plant System; Georgia Southern and Florida; Tifton and Northeastern; Tifton, Thomasville and Gulf; and the Sparks, Moultrie and Gulf. The first four of these cross each other at Tifton in the northwest corner of the county. This is the most important town of the county, thriving and rapidly increasing in population, which by the census of 1900 was 1,384 in the corporate limits and including the whole district, 3,145. Here are large saw-mills, a canning establishment, foundry and machine works. Near the town are several large vineyards, whose grapes are unsurpassed in flavor. The Delaware grape grows to perfection, and matures earlier than in any other locality where it is at this time (1901) cultivated.

Peach orchards are very successful, the fruit enjoying great exemption from injury by frosts.

The forest growth of the county is the long-leaf pine, the immense forests of which are furnishing great quantities of naval stores and timber. As the forest disappears, a fine agricultural and horticultural interest is being built up. All through the county the wire-grass grows in profusion, affording splendid pasturage, on which sheep and cattle can be fed at very little expense.

The face of the county is generally level. The soil is gray and sandy in many parts, but in others is rich loamy and dark with a good clay sub-soil. The lands will yield to the acre according to location and cultivation, corn from 10 to 20 bushels; oats, 10 to 20 bushels; Irish potatoes, from 50 to 75 bushels; sweet potatoes, 100 to 200 bushels; field peas, 10 to 15 bushels; ground-peas, 20 to 35 bushels; seed cotton (upland), 750 pounds and sea-island cotton, 500 pounds; hay from native grasses, 2,000 pounds.

According to the United States census of 1900 the cotton ginned in the county of the crop of 1899 was 6,086 bales, of which 1,142 were upland and 4,944 sea-island cotton.

According to the United States census of 1890 there were 13,699 sheep with a wool-clip of 28,161 pounds, 15,323 cattle, 3,928 milch-cows, 347 working oxen, 21,323 hogs, 50,191 poultry of all kinds, 824 horses, 696 mules and 3 asses. Among the productions were 213,943 gallons of milk, 20,192 pounds of butter, 16,564 pounds of honey and 63,215 dozens of eggs. Fifty-three schools for whites have an average attendance of 1,717 pupils, and 17 schools for colored have an average attendance of 543.

According to the report of the State School Commissioner rendered in 1900, the public school fund of *Berrien* county was \$10,688.24.

Nashville, connected with the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad by the Nashville and Sparks, a short road  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, is the county seat. The district of the same name has 1,821 inhabitants, of whom 293 live in the town.

Sparks, Adel and Cecil are towns on the Georgia Southern and Flor-

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ida Railway. The population of each is as follows: Sparks, 683 in the corporate limits and in the entire district 2,170; Adel, 721 in the corporate limits, and in the entire district 1,799; Cecil, 394 in the corporate limits, and in the entire district, 1,178.

The town of Allapaha, on the Brunswick and Western Railroad of the Plant System, has in the corporate limits a population of 429, and in its entire district 1,986.

Thus we have in *Berrien* county five good towns, the largest of which, Tifton, described in the beginning of this sketch, did not appear on the census report of 1890, but in the last ten years has shown a rapid growth.

Near Lenox on the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad is a large brickyard.

At Sparks a company has been organized for manufacturing brick and building materials, and for operating gins and planing-mills.

According to the United States census of 1900 the population of *Berrien* county was 19,440, a gain of 8,746 since 1890. The area of the county is 810 square miles, or 518,400 acres.

The following items are taken from the Comptroller-General's report for 1900: acres of improved land, 481,174; of wild land, 18,998; average value per acre of improved land, \$2.11; of wild land, \$1.00; city or town property, \$420,250; shares in bank, \$23,150; money and solvent debts, \$379,544; value of merchandise, \$183,388; stocks and bonds, \$3,430; cotton manufactories, \$15,938; iron works, \$50.00; capital invested in mining, \$650.00; value of household and kitchen furniture, \$185,653; value of farm and other animals, \$339,397; plantation and mechanical tools, \$63,013; watches, jewelry, etc., \$11,549; value of all other property, \$284,635; real estate, \$1,458,659; personal estate, \$1,496,759; aggregate value of whole property, \$2,955,418.

Property returned by colored taxpayers: number of acres of land, 4,531; value of land, \$10,233; city or town property, \$10,522; money and solvent debts, \$161.00; merchandise, \$225.00; household and kitchen furniture, \$11,646; watches, jewelry, etc., \$377.00; farm and other animals, \$9,578; plantation and mechanical tools, \$2,007; value of all other property, \$1,839; aggregate value of whole property, \$46,618.

The tax returns for 1901 show an increase of all property in the county amounting to \$307,781.

Population of *Berrien* county by sex and color, according to the census of 1900: white males, 6,908; white females, 6,586; total white, 13,494; colored males, 3,248; colored females, 2,698; total colored, 5,946.

Domestic animals in barns and inclosures, not on farms or ranges, in *Berrien* county, June 1, 1900: 223 calves, 90 steers, 22 bulls, 298 dairy cows, 187 horses, 121 mules, 400 sheep, 829 swine, 8 goats.

A partial list of the Industries of *Berrien* county: sawmills and turpentine distilleries (the exact number of neither being accurately ascertained), one woolen-mill, two large brickyards, several gins, ten flour and grist mills operated by water (the number by steam not ascertained), a canning establishment and foundry and machine works.