

Lowndes County Georgia
List of Emigrants to Arthington, Liberia

By

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One hundred and twelve Black men, women, and children emigrated from Lowndes County Georgia to Liberia in 1871 and 1872, just 7 years after the Civil War. This was made possible with the support of the American Colonization Society. The immigrants were families of farmers, craftsmen, and laborers who left Lowndes County looking for a better life, one free of terrorism and racism. When the Union Army withdrew from the region during Reconstruction, the civil unrest was so bad that on June 30, 1869 a local citizen made a jaded plea for help in the South Georgia Times (now called The Valdosta Daily Times). "The person stated, "Dead (expletive)! In this and neighboring counties. The land is literally strewn with deceased colored gentlemen. Every log has one behind it, 'clay root' conceals some half dozen, every gopher hole is trying to swallow; and has one half way down, every frog pond contains one or more... we need the military. These Ku Klux outrages must be stopped until the crop is gathered."

The first group of 63 emigrants was headed by Jefferson Bracewell, a farmer and carpenter who was cited in the 1870 Census as having \$6,000 of personal property. Aaron Miller, a farmer that owned 450 acres of land in what is now known as Hahira, Ga., led a second group of 59 people. The two groups settled in Arthington, Liberia. Liberia was founded by the American Colonization Society and former American slaves in 1822.

Some of the Lowndes County settlers in Liberia prospered for a while then fell upon hard times. Aaron Miller was also one of those who died a few years after their arrival. There were some who fared well after this difficulty. Today descendants of former American slaves only make up 5% of the Liberian population. The civil conflicts in the past two decades have devastated the countryside and have caused many Liberian to emigrate to the USA

[This document was made possible through the help of Renate Kraus Milner of the Lowndes County Historical Society, Dr. Crowley, Professor of History, Valdosta State University, and last and foremost.

Mark David Howard, who wrote a Valdosta State University Masters Thesis titled *African Departure: a History of the Liberian Emigrant from Georgia in the Reconstruction era.*]

**Lowndes County Georgia
List of Emigrants for Liberia**

By Barque Edith Rose, From Hampton Roads, Virginia, November 7, 1871

No.	Name	Age	Occupation	Education	Religion
1	Jefferson Bracewell	47	Carpenter	Read & Write	
2	Rhoda Bracewell	40			Baptist
3	Joseph Bracewell	19		Read	
4	Isaac Bracewell	18		Read	
5.	Littleton Bracewell	16		Read	
6.	Scinthea Bracewell	14		Read	
7.	John Bracewell	13			
8.	Dennis Bracewell	11			
9.	Nathaniel Bracewell	10			
10.	Joshua Bracewell	5			
11	Sarah Bracewell	2			
12.	Virginia Bracewell	1			
13	Jefferson Bracewell, Jr.	21	Farmer	Read & Write	
14.	Emily Bracewell	16			
15.	Henry Bracewell	2			
16.	Phyllis Bracewell	6mos			
17	Toby Washington	24	Farmer		
18.	Laura Lane	16			
19.	Eli Ponder	22	Farmer	Read & Write	
20.	Grace Ponder	20			
21.	Isaiah Ponder	2			
22.	Levi Ponder	1			
23.	Nancy Ponder	50			
24.	William Dickerson	45	Farmer		
25.	Catherine Dickerson	42			Baptist
26.	Polly Dickerson	21			
27.	Frances Dickerson	17			
28.	Sara Dickerson	16			
29.	Grace Dickerson	14			
30.	William Dickerson, Jr.	10			
31.	Lewis Dickerson	6			
32.	Andrew Turkett	38	Farmer		Baptist
33.	Edith Turkett	40			Baptist
34.	Mary Turkett	15			
35.	Annice Turkett	11			
36.	Moses Turkett	8			
37.	Cornelia Turkett	6mos			

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By Barque Edith Rose, From Hampton Roads, Virginia, November 7, 1871

No.	Name	Age	Occupation	Education	Religion
38.	James Robertson	21?	Farmer	Read & Write	
39.	Henry Jones	38	Farmer		Baptist
40.	Martha Jones	28		Read	Baptist
41.	Jefferson Jones	7			
42.	Henry Jones	1			
43.	Lewis Hart	24	Farmer	Read & Write	Baptist
44.	Judy Hart	30			Baptist
45.	Laura Yerby	14			
46.	Lawson Yerby	10			
47.	Caeser White	34	Farmer	Read & Write	Baptist
48.	Elizabeth White	38			Baptist
49.	Katie White	12			
50.	Isaac White	11		Read	
51.	Jonas White	9		Read	
52.	Mary White	8		Read	
53.	Frances White	6			
54.	Ann White	4			
55.	Wesley White	2			
56.	Simmie White	6mos			
57.	Hood Kershaw	40	Farmer		Baptist
58.	Mary Kershaw	25			Baptist
59.	Reuben Kershaw	15			
60.	Lewanna Kershaw	10		Read	
61.	Charlotte Kershaw	8			
62.	John Kershaw	5			
63.	James Kershaw	1			

The Edith Rose, Captained by A. Alexander sailed from Hampton, Virginia on Tuesday, November 7, 1871 direct for Monrovia, Liberia. The Emigrants settled in the Liberian town of Arthington.

Source: The African Repository: Vol. XLVII. December, 1871 (No. 12) pg.353-356

Lowndes County Georgia
List of Emigrants for Liberia

By Barque Jasper, From New York, November 21, 1872

No.	Name	Age	Occupation	Religion
36	David Wright	39	Farmer	Methodist
37.	Mary Wright	38		Methodist
38.	Samuel Wright	16		Methodist
39.	Richard Wright	15		
40.	Thomas Wright	13		
41.	Caroline Wright	11		
42.	William Wright	9		
43.	Andrew Wright	7		
44.	Ellick Wright	5		
45.	Fereby Wright	2		
46.	Clarissa Wright	2mos		
47.	Fortune Lemmon	39	Farmer	Methodist
48.	Lucretia Lemmon	35		Methodist
49.	Silvia Lemmon	18		Methodist
50.	Abaraham Lemmon	16		
51.	Jordan Lemmon	14		
52.	Julia Lemmon	9		
53.	David Lemmon	8		
54.	Emeline Clemmon	36		Methodist
55.	Marshall S. Clemmon	15		
56.	William Clemmon	8		
57.	Daniel Clemmon	2		
58.	Rachel Nelson	55		Methodist
59.	Eliza Nelson	16		Methodist

The people traveled to Savannah, direct from their homes in Lowndes County early Saturday Morning on November 16. On the same day they took the steamer, "San Salvador," which arrived at New York on the night of the 20th. The next morning they were transferred by the government steamer "Henry Smith" to the "Jasper". The "Jasper" left New York on Thursday November 21, 1872. The "Jasper" arrived at Monrovia on January 1, 1873 and the emigrants joined there friends and Family in the Liberian town of Arthington.

Source: The African Repository: Vol. XLVIII. December, 1872 (No. 12) pg.353-356

Reference

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“Local Melange.” *South Georgia Times*. 30 Jun. 1869.