

George Martin “Buck” Johns
1915 – 1994



George Martin “Buck” Johns was born on September 28, 1915 in Charlton Co GA, and died January 11, 1994 at his home in the Bachlott Community of Brantley County, GA. He was the son of Albert “AB” Lewis Johns (January 26, 1877 – March 11, 1946) and his second wife, Irene Estelle Nettles (September 08, 1894 – April 10, 1965). George married Flora Leoa "Leo" Rowell June 06, 1937 in Brantley County, GA, daughter of Joseph Layton “Joe” Rowell and Lydia Virginia Crews. Flora was born May 17, 1919 in Charlton Co GA, and died September 19, 1997 in Brantley County, GA. Both are buried at Bachlott Cemetery in the Bachlott Community of Brantley County, GA. George acquired the nickname of “Buck” from childhood and it stuck with him throughout his adult life. He was called for the draft but because he was the oldest and during those times hardships occurred he was never made to go. His family farmed all of their life as well a pulp wooded. George owned his own pulp wood truck operation which helped to supplement their meager income and later he owned his own long logging operation being one of the first in that area. His daughter, Annie Ruth Johns, took over the logging operation as his health failed and made it into a million dollar business operation. George was of the Primitive Baptist faith although he did not attend regular service and his wife Flora was of the Baptist faith.

George and Flora had a total of five children, two of which are still alive. Their children, in birth order are:

Margie Faye Johns was born at home in the Bachlott Community, Brantley County, GA. She married Mack Crews, December 12, 1959, Charlton County GA. Mack was born June 16, 1937, Charlton Co GA and died July 27, 2001, at his home in Winokur, Charlton County, GA. Margie helped her father farm in the summer and when school was out during school term. She started her career outside of the home working at the King Edward Cigar Factory in Jacksonville, Duval County, FL. After she and Mack married, she went to cosmetology college and became a master cosmetologist. She continued this career, along with doing the bookkeeping at her sister’s parts store, until Mack became ill. She quit all employment to stay home and take care of him. She is now retired and continues to farm.

Infant Johns, was stillborn in 1940, Brantley County, GA, and is buried at Bachlott Cemetery in the Bachlott Community of Brantley County, GA.

Albert Layton Johns was born on January 25, 1942, at home in the Bachlott Community, Brantley County, GA and died June 07, 2002, at his home in Blackshear, Pierce County, GA. He is buried at Bachlott Cemetery in the Bachlott Community of Brantley County, GA. He married first Arla Dean Wilson on June 04, 1961, in Brantley County, GA and second Maria Lucille Esser on November 19, 1981. Layton "was a member of the Brantley County High School's 1958 state championship basketball team, and attended Auburn University on an athletic scholarship. A three-year starter at center, he led Auburn in scoring and rebounding as a junior and

senior. He averaged 15 points and 12.4 rebounds in 1962-63 and won All-SEC honors. His 10.2 career rebounding average is the second highest in Auburn history. He was a member of the Auburn "A" Club." (excerpt was taken from the *Waycross Journal Herald* newspaper article dated Monday, June 10, 2002.)

Annie Ruth Johns was born on February 11, 1946, at home in the Bachlott Community, Brantley County, GA and died April 01, 2006, at her home in the Bachlott Community, Brantley County, GA. She is buried at Bachlott Cemetery in the Bachlott Community of Brantley County, GA. Annie Ruth, as she was always called, never married. She was a member of the Brantley County High School Basketball team where she was an all-star player. Annie Ruth continued her basketball prowess at Georgia Southern College as a high scorer in most games. After college she taught school in both Camden and Charlton County schools. When her father's health began to decline, she quit teaching and took over his logging operation and built it into a million dollar operation. Her name became well known in the logging industry as a shrewd and intelligent business woman. She continued her career in the logging industry along with building a parts store (big truck and automobile parts) and a maintenance shop in Nahunta, Brantley County, GA which stayed in operation until two years before her death. With her failing health she decided to close down her operation completely and sell the parts store. Annie Ruth was large in stature, solid as a rock, over 6 feet tall and was compared locally to her aunt, Lydia Smith Stone Crews, Queen of the Okefenokee not only for her stature but her keen business sense.

Catherine Joan Johns was born at home in the Bachlott Community, Brantley County, GA. She married Benjamin Gregory Middleton on December 06, 1968, at the home of her parents, George & Leoa Johns in Brantley County, GA Greg was born April 23, 1950. Catherine joined her sister, Margie, in becoming a master cosmetologist.

References:

- United States Census, 1930, Militia District 1768, Brantley, Georgia
- United States Census, 1930, Militia District 32, Charlton, Georgia.
- United States Census, 1920, Wayne, Georgia
- George Johns - Brantley County, Georgia Courthouse Marriage Records 1921-1970
- Margie Faye Johns - Charlton County, Georgia Courthouse Marriage Book LL, page 569
- Albert Layton Johns - Brantley County, Georgia Courthouse Marriage Records 1921-1970
- Family History
- Tombstone Inscriptions