

J. C. Franklin

J. C. Franklin was born December 17, 1914 in the Dykestown Community near Jay, Florida. His parents were John L. Franklin and Rosa Belle Dykes. J. C. had three sisters and no brothers. Mrs. Franklin's parents were Willie Dykes and Annie Carnley Dykes.

J. C. "Carlton" Franklin married Queen Victoria Knowles and raised 12 children, three boys and nine girls.

As a boy, Carlton walked 2-3 miles to Ebenezer Community School. He grew up in a different world than the one we know today. No cars, no televisions, no air conditioning, no electricity, no tractors, no indoor plumbing, and there is a long list of other things they did not have in those days. But! There was a plus side to living then: Families were bigger and closer, neighbors visited and helped each other, Church and God came first with most folks. You didn't have to lock up your house, and a man's word was his bond. People would combine their work and socializing. There would be several families involved in hog killings, syrup making, building houses and barns, and other farm activities. They talked and laughed and worked hard all the same time.

Mr. Franklin has always lived close to Escambia River, so he always got to go fishing and hunting. The road by his property goes to the river where they used to cross over on a ferry to Bluff Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin divorced along about 1975. Mr. Franklin continued to live by himself on the old home place.

He worked all over Northwest Florida, South Alabama, and Mississippi with survey crews. It was during this traveling time that he started adding antiques to his collection. He'd loved antiques all his life and has enough now to fill up a museum. He's allowed a lot of people to come and see his collection. He just collected them. Among his inventory are: 5 old cars (Model T's and Model A's); 1 doctor's buggy, 1 farm wagon, old organs and pianos, ice boxes, pie safes and many more items.

Mr. Franklin is a member of the Jay Historical Society and has given them many of his antiques to go into their museum. Mr. Franklin has given and/or loaned other antiques to various societies and people.

Mr. Franklin has a lot of companions to keep him company. He has 11 little dogs. They are his alarm system.

Mr. Franklin, at 91, still drives and does not have to take any medicine and does not have to wear glasses. From "horse and buggy days" to "spaceships and computers," he says he's seen a lot of changes in his lifetime, some good and some bad.

Written by: Earl Murphy, President of Jay Historical Society, Jay, Florida





































