

## HISTORY

As the Europeans and early settlers began their movement Westward into Alabama and Indian Territory, many towns and small communities began to be developed. This population expansion developed into what was to become the State of Alabama in 1819. The rivers and creeks were the first highways into the new territory. Many migrated into the Southeast area that is now Geneva County and Samson Alabama.

One of these families was the Benjamin Parks McDuffie family.



### **Benjamin Parks and California Holley McDuffie Family - First Family in Samson**

Benjamin McDuffie and sons had the first store in what was to become the City of Samson. They also operated a sawmill, turpentine still and a livery. The store, McDuffie Mercantile, was located where the old police station was, across from the Rescue Squad building.

Source: Erika McDuffie Hutto 2015

#### Town Surveyed

On March 21, 1903, the town of Samson was laid out and plotted by Mr. W. J. Van Kirk. Until then, except for a few farmers and some woodsmen, the town wasn't even marked on a map. But in 1903, the L&N railroad had already laid out its Georgiana–Graceville line. The Central of Georgia Railroad ended at Sellersville, northeast of Samson. But in 1903, the Georgia line

officials decided to extend their line to Florala and Lockhart. Samson began to boom in that year.

Some of Samson's First:

- B.J. Lewis was Samson's first mayor.
- E.P. Galson was the first City Clerk.
- Mr. Tom Alford was the first police chief.
- Ezra Williams was the first man arrested in Samson charged with public drunkenness. He was fined \$10.00 and costs which amounted to \$13.60.
- Mrs. Della Jones was the first postmaster and wash Alford was the first mail carrier.
- Dr. Holley was the first practicing physician in Samson.
- Dr. L.C. Stephens was the first dentist in town.
- Dan Snead published the first newspaper in Samson. "The Samson News".
- Will Griffin owned the first automobile in Samson.
- Ben McDuffie, Jr. drove the first nail in a house; George Gilmore and S.A. Hendriks built the first two residences in Samson.
- S.D. Adkinson and son operated the town first store.
- Samson Drug Co. owned and operated by J.L. Lewis, was the first drug store.

Source: 1923 Issue of Ledger