

The Community of Waverly

In the early 1830's, the community of Waverly was established by a group of families from Alabama. The first white settler was James W. Winters in 1835, followed several years later by the Fishers, Abercrombies, Lewises, Scotts, Hills, Traylor, Powells, Basses, Browders, Campbells, Cunninghams, Elmores, Hardys, Robinsons, Thompsons, d'Armonds, Neiderhofers, Sewells, Tabbs, and their slaves. These were families of wealth who had been educated in Eastern colleges and universities, so education of their children was a primary concern. They established two academies – one for boys and one for girls.

The first church in Waverly was the Methodist, followed by the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Baptist. By 1856, Waverly had become the cultural center of the entire area.

By the start of the Civil War, Waverly was a prosperous commercial trading center with doctors, dentists, shoe shop, numerous mercantile stores and two colleges. The Civil War began the decline of the thriving community. The slaves were freed, and an attempt was made to bring immigrants from Poland and Germany. However, only six families came. The planters felt sure that the Negroes would return, but this did not happen.

In 1870 a railroad company representative came to Waverly to ask for right-of-way for the railroad. The owners of the land set such high prices on their acreage that the railroad refused to buy, and instead, it was built ten miles west of Waverly. By 1875, Waverly was dying. Most families moved away. Today Waverly is a very small community with no schools, one church and only a few families remaining. However those remaining families have retained the pride and character of their early ancestors.