

JOHN WILLIAM BARROW

John William Barrow first became a merchant in Bowdon at the age of 21.

“J. W.” Barrow built 7 of the brick store buildings in the town of Bowdon.

His first store building was in partnership with S. B. Little and was next door to the bank building which stood on the north west corner of the intersection. In 2004 it would be where a part of the building occupied by the current bank now stands. Years ago I believe it was the Copeland store (with the great pop corn and parched peanuts).

He then traded his ½ share of the Victory Mills property to George McDaniel for a wooden store located where the Allen’s 5 & 10 Cents store used to be.

His first brick store building was built where the J. B. Moore store used to be. It was the second brick store building in town as John Shelnutt built the first one where Witt’s Electric shop is

His second brick store building was where the Rexall Drug Store was. The bank having moved to the corner where Bean’s (Dobson’s) Drug Store was.

His third brick store building was the building which was where the Pearl Holmes Grocery store was.

His fourth brick store building was where the Mary Holland store was.

The fifth brick store building he built was on the north side of the street and which was occupied by Warren’s Barber Shop. (probably now part of the corner bank?)

The sixth brick store building was the Barrow Hardware two-story (also with a basement) and the only building in Bowdon which had an elevator.

The seventh brick store building he built was the old Place Theatre building.

He also built over 25 dwelling houses for sale or rent in Bowdon. He was a major stock holder in the Bowdon Oil Mill, the pickle factory, Bank of Bowdon and the Bowdon Railway. He served on the Board of Trustees of Bowdon College, was Chairman of the Carroll County Board of Education for a number of years, gave scholarships to Bowdon College and was a Deacon of the Bowdon Baptist Church for many years.

Unfortunately he lost his entire fortune during the depression years. He never lost faith in the people of Bowdon and always was Bowdon’s biggest booster. In his very old age he drew a small “old age state pension” as he was before Social Security and kept busy trading pocket knives from his cigar box especially on “Second Tuesdays”, Bowdon’s trade day which brought large crowds of all types of traders to town.

Some of the above was taken from Mrs. H. M. Bird’s “*March of Time*” article that appeared in the October 3, 1946 issue of the *Bowdon Bulletin*.

Hugh W. Barrow October, 2004 (Grandson of J. W. Barrow)