

A Brief Introduction

Berrien County is Georgia's 116th county, with an area of 452 square miles. The county was named for John McPherson Berrien, a Savannah lawyer who served variously as a judge, including the Supreme Court of Georgia, a state senator, a United States senator, and the United States attorney general under President Andrew Jackson. The county seat of Berrien County is Nashville, which was incorporated in 1892. Other incorporated towns in the county are Alapaha, Enigma, and Ray City. Alapaha was incorporated in 1881 on the site of a Seminole village with the same name. Its city hall is located in the old Alapaha Station, the former depot for the now defunct Brunswick and Albany Railroad. Some believe that Alapaha was the Creek word for "other side"; others believe it was the word Timucuan Indians used for "bear." The Alapaha Station Celebration occurs the second weekend of each November. Enigma was incorporated in 1906. Histories of the town's name are apocryphal, and so as one source opined, the name remains an enigma. The Georgia writer Harry Crews used Enigma as the setting for his first novel, *The Gospel Singer* (1968). Ray City was incorporated in 1909 as Ray's Mill. The white settlement dates to 1863, when locals knew it as Rays Pond. The current name was adopted in 1915, after the town was moved to the railroad junction. Four Buildings in Berrien County are on the National Register of Historic Places; the courthouse, the Alapaha Colored School, the old Berrien County Jail, and the William G. Harrison/Eulalie Taylor House. The economy of Berrien County is very diverse. Agriculture remains a valuable component of the economy; however, we are home to several manufacturing plants. Our community also plays host to several unique retail shops and eateries.