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The Jackson County Chronicles

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The Jackson County Chronicles is published quarterly by The Jackson County Historical Association (JCHA) .

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January 2017 Meeting: The Jackson County Historical Association will meet Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Scottsboro Depot. Our guest speaker will be General Ulysses S. Grant—or at least, his modern representative, Dr. E. C. (Curt) Fields, Jr., a one-man Civil War reenactment. Dr. Fields lives in Memphis and has been an avid and lifelong student of the American Civil War. He brings General Grant to life with his costumed, first-person presentation. He quotes from General Grant's memoirs, articles and letters the general wrote, statements he made in interviews or wrote himself, and first-person accounts of people who knew the general or were with him and witnessed him during events. For more information see, http://www.generalgrantbyhimself.com. Plan to join us for this entertaining special program.

New Voices: The *Chronicles* is happy to feature articles in this issue by some of our members this issue. **Ed Carter**, who taught North Sand Mountain High School students history for 45 years, is now teaching us about his adopted hometown with an excerpt from his upcoming book on the history of Bryant. Native son **Tom Underwood** writes about his early career as a DJ for WCNA. **Jimmy Thompson**, who provided good information for David's article last issue about air rescues, tells us about a local hero, the class of 1947's General Fate Melton. We know you will enjoy their writing. We are happy to have such good help.

Walk Around the Square and Hollywood History: Remember the two ongoing JCHA projects where we can use your help. If your family's name was once on a building around the square, we need to talk. We are looking for facts, stories, and photos. Also, Annette Bradford and Paul Machen are writing a history of Hollywood and would love to hear from Hollywood experts.

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Bryant: A community in the corner

Bryant, Alabama is a rural community located in the extreme northeast corner of both Jackson County and the state of Alabama. Its geographical boundaries are loosely defined by the Tennessee state line on the northern end, the Georgia state line on the east, and the brow of Sand Mountain, overlooking the Long Island community in Hogjaw Valley, on the west.

The community's southern boundary is imprecise because Bryant is not an incorporated town. The boundary on the south end has varied over the years. Currently, visitors are greeted by a "Welcome to Bryant" sign at County Road 315. One hundred years ago, this spot was in a different community called Eliza. However, the name Eliza eventually faded away. It is now only a name found on historical maps and in brittle newspaper columns.

Centuries before the first curious Europeans set foot on North America, the land area that is now called Bryant was claimed by various Native American groups. The Cherokee Nation was the last tribe to possess it. During their era of occupation, tribal members lived from time to time at various places on the northern end of Sand Mountain. However, so far as is known, there were no large residential villages upon the plateau. The tall virgin forest which covered the mountain's landscape was used primarily as a hunting ground. In the second half of the 1700s, the closest Indian villages were Long Island Town and Nickajack Town, located beside the Tennessee River in the nearby Sequatchie Valley.

Bryant developed slowly over a long period of time as a farming, sawmilling, and coal mining community. It had close ties to the areas around it, particularly the Shellmound community in Marion County, TN and the nearby town of Bridgeport, AL. The residents of the Long Island community in the valley and those on the northern end of Sand Mountain also shared the Long Island Post Office and the Carpenter Depot. Both facilities were established beside the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, shortly after the railroad was completed in 1854. Federal census records were recorded for decades under the Long Island name, not the Bryant name. The voting precinct for both communities was called Carpenter for many decades. When rural free delivery started on the mountain in 1909 the mailing address for present-day Bryant was Route One, Long Island, Alabama. This address did not change until a permanent post office was established in Bryant in 1966.

Early Settlers

The first people to settle on the northern end of Sand Mountain arrived in the early 1850s. They came primarily from North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. Surprisingly, several of the early Bryant families had roots in the northeastern states. A few of them were born abroad.

The U. S. General Land Office issued land patents in the early 1850s to the following individuals: Zachariah H. Gordon (1851 and 1859), Goodson McDaniel (1851), Jesse Reeves (1852), William J. Hughes (1852), Marnoch Glazier (1852) and William Worley (1853). In 1854, the number of patents issued grew to include: George Albert Grant, Silas Anderson, William Harris, William Price, Thomas Pyburn, and Simeon Wheeler. After a three-year hiatus, the General Land Office resumed the practice by issuing a patent in 1858 to James J. Chadwick and in 1859 to Isaac M. Chadwick, George W. Jones, William Ridge, Henry Rutledge, Nancy E. Worthington, John Warren, Francis Henry, Nathan Reeves, and Thomas Henegar. Some of these land purchasers were settlers. Others were likely land speculators who hoped to resell their new large tracts in smaller plots.

The above mentioned George Albert Grant was born in 1813 in the small town of Frankfort, Maine. He and his wife, the former Anna J. Childs, were married in 1838 and had nine

The Grant Family in Bryant in 1905, left to right: Herbert Ambrose, Samuel Charles, Anna May, Edward Albert, and William Francis. Sitting: Samuel Childs Grant.

children. The first seven were born in Maine. The last two in Alabama in 1856 and 1858. Mr. Grant followed three brothers and a sister to the South, primarily for health reasons. He farmed in the valley near Shellmound, TN before he moved to the northern brow of Sand Mountain. He also served as the postmaster at the Shellmound Post Office for 3 years. His daughter, Susan Marie Grant, attended college in Kentucky. The family's genealogy states that he was a farmer, builder, and an agent for farm sales. He built a comfortable home on the mountain, which he called "Montebello."

The warmer southern climate apparently worked for Mr. Grant. He died at age eighty-two in 1895 and was buried at Grant Cemetery a few hundred yards northwest of his home site on the brow of Sand Mountain. The Grant family home is still standing within the walls of a much larger dwelling. Several of George Albert Grant's descendants remain in the Bryant community.

Zachariah H. Gordon, a Georgia native, secured two tracts of land on Sand Mountain in the 1850s. The larger tract was 160 acres located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 17 in Fractional Township 1-S, Range 10-E, adjacent to the Alabama-Georgia state line. The Federal Census of 1860 states that two Gordon households were living on the land. Zachariah Gordon was a 66 year old farmer living with his wife Malinda, age 54, their five children, and four slaves. The oldest child, also named Zachariah, was listed as a miner. Zachariah Gordon, Sr. was a minister of the gospel and had real estate worth $50,000 and personal property worth $31,200. Oral tradition holds that Rev. Gordon was involved in establishing a church on the mountain called Gordon's Chapel.

Living near Zachariah Gordon was his second son, John Brown Gordon, age 28, who was also listed as a miner. He and his wife, Frances, had two young children and one slave. John B. Gordon had real estate worth $3500 and personal property valued at $14,900. Other slaves owned by the Gordon family lived across the state line in Dade County, Georgia.

The mines of the Gordon's Castle Rock Coal Company were located in the edge of Georgia, overlooking Cole City Hollow. The fact that the Gordons lived in Alabama, mined coal in Georgia with slave labor, and received their mail at the Shellmound Post Office in Tennessee is well documented in John B. Gordon's autobiography, *Reminiscence of the Civil War*, published in 1903. John B. Gordon became a Confederate soldier during the Civil War and rose to the rank of brigadier-general. After the war, he twice represented Georgia in the U.S. Senate in Washington and later served two terms as the Governor of Georgia.

Before the Civil War, several families with roots in New York and the New England states settled along Porter's Bluff, the western brow of Sand Mountain.

Alpine House on Porter's Bluff in Bryant, AL

Among the early arrivers were Henry and Elizabeth Porter, William and Nancy Guilford, Ben and Wealthy Castle, George and Elma Starkweather, and Stephen Fitch. In time their neighborhood came to be called Jamestown. Many other northerners joined them after the Civil War.

In the first two years of the 1860s, the General Land Office issued patents for mountain-top land purchases to the following twelve men: Malcolm McDaniel, John Ellis, Jacob Bost, William Reece, Robert Hembree, John Chadwick, Isaac Hembree, James Gipson, Davis Gowens, John D. Cunningham, Clancy Morrice, and Oswald Chadwick. The Federal Census of 1860 contains the names of several other mountain residents who arrived before the Civil War — namely, Thomas and Sarah Petit, Thomas and Cynthia Pyburn, Edward and Mary Price, Absalom and Earnestine Lively, Emiline and Elmira Smally, Joseph and Jane Massey, Edward and Mary Price, Berlin and Vienna Sapps, Sam and Sarah Norwood, Isham and Mary Gillum, Thomas and Rebecca Sims, Joseph and Rebecca Potts, Benjamin and Lucinda Howard, Edward and Charlotte Brown, William and Pamela Stuman, Rebecca Wilburn, Nancy Higdon, Martha Bryant, and Elizabeth Ray.

Union Blue on the Mountain

A few weeks before the momentous Battle of Chickamauga took place in northwest Georgia on September 19-20, 1863, a large number of Union soldiers marched across the northern end of Sand Mountain. Three of the four divisions of General George H. Thomas's Fourteenth Army Corps, composed of about 20,000 men, marched through the area that is now called Bryant. The Fourteenth Corps was part of the huge Army of the Cumberland commanded by General William S. Rosecrans.

Excerpts from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* provide the details of the Fourteenth Corps' experience crossing over the mountain. Major General James S. Negley's division was the first group to make the journey. His soldiers crossed the Tennessee River on a pontoon bridge at Caperton's Ferry near Stevenson and marched up Hogjaw Valley to an encampment site at Moore's Spring. It was at the base of Sand Mountain, directly below the present-day Bryant community.

General Negley's official report about the journey includes the following specifics: "September 3, 8 a.m., marching in the direction of Trenton. Found the mountain road very rough, rocky and steep. I at once discovered that it would be impossible to cross my transportation in safety until the road was repaired. I therefore set the entire division at work repairing the road and assisting the trains over; at dark all my regimental trains, together with ambulances and ammunition trains, had reached the summit without the loss of a wheel. Camped 1 mile from Warren's Mill; sent Sirwell's brigade forward to repair crossing at mill. By 11:30 p.m. a bridge 121 feet long and 20 feet high had been constructed."

"September 4, 7:30 a.m., marched the command forward; Third Brigade crossed bridge at 7 a.m., trains commenced crossing at 8 o'clock. ... 3 p.m. arrived at Brown's Spring, foot of mountain. Found a small spring at this point, which, after being excavated and dammed up, afforded sufficient water for my command. By 8 p.m. my entire train was parked at foot of the mountain, except 8 wagons of supplies, which were left at Moore's Spring."

Major General Philip Sheridan's division was the second group to cross the northern end of the mountain. Sheridan sent the following message at 12:15 P.M. on September 4, 1863, from "On Top of Sand Mountain" to Brigadier-General James A. Garfield, the Chief of Staff of General Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland, then headquartered in Stevenson: "I have no news. I have heard no firings. I am in a good position to hear it, if there had been any. The last of General Negley's train reached the top of the mountain at 11 o'clock this morning, when I immediately started. My division is coming up now."

Additional details about the journey of General Sheridan's troops are included in a work entitled *A History of the 73rd Regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers*. An excerpt of it is reprinted as written:

"September 5th – The 73d Regiment was astir early on this date. Weather cool; also a very heavy dew which dropped from the tree-tops, when swayed by the wind, almost as if a shower of rain was falling. Regiment remained quietly in bivouac until noon, at which time orders came to move to the foot of the mountain. The regiment moved promptly, with the exception of Company C, which was left behind to act as rear guard to train when it came along, which was not until 3:00 P.M. At five P. M. the train having passed, Company C started, and came up with regiment at foot of mountain. Four men were detailed to each wagon, to help the mules when necessary. From an old mountaineer we learned that Chattanooga was thirty miles distance. Same man had heard that Bragg had left with his army for Rome or Atlanta. We moved on four miles further, and halted for the night. The road was comparatively good on top the mountain, with the exception that it was very sandy."

"Up at three o'clock on morning of September 6th. Had orders to march at four A. M., but did not get underway until five. Weather cool early in the day, the dust was a drawback, and made the marching exceedingly disagreeable. Some of the views we got while passing along the elevated highway – truly is high way – were beautifully grand. Oak, pine, and cedar trees cover the mountain top on either side of the road. Here and there huts, built of logs, could be seen, generally somebody living or staying in them. Near by each hut would be a patch of cleared land, indifferently cultivated. To an Illinoisian [sic] it looked like a hard place to live, or make a living. We came to the Georgia line at 6:45 A.M. We were marching in a southeast course, on the road to Trenton, still on the table-land. At 7:30 we came to the eastern slope of Sand Mountain, having traveled nine miles since leaving the western slope. On going down the eastern slope of the mountain we found the road very rough in places. We passed several broken wagons ..."

The activities of General Thomas' Corp during the Battle of Chickamauga are well documented by historians. Thomas' men kept the Union army's defeat at Chickamauga from being a complete rout. Afterwards, General Thomas became known historically as the "Rock of Chickamauga."

Other Yankees on the Mountain

After the Civil War, Miss Susan Z. Standish and her mother, Mary Standish, homesteaded land on the mountain in the Jamestown settlement. Miss Standish had previously taught at the short-lived Lookout Mountain Educational Institution, near Chattanooga. She and Mrs. Ruby Chubbuck opened a small school in a building near Porter's Bluff. Vocal and instrumental music lessons were taught in the home of Henry and Mary Porter.

Later, Miss Standish opened a boarding school for girls in her own spacious home — with emphasis on music.

Home of Music Teacher Susan Z. Standish in Bryant

In 1884, Samuel Hart McGee and his wife, Mary Carpenter McGee, took up residence at William Guildford's former property on the brow. Mr. McGee had visited the property during the Civil War while he was in Bridgeport helping build river boats for the Union army. Mr. McGee liked the location and decided to buy it when Mr. Guilford, a professor of languages, decided to move to Atlanta. The McGees moved their belongings in two chartered railroad cars from Detroit, Michigan to Shellmound. The rail trip took two weeks. The McGees' mountain top home burned in 1888, but most of their household furnishings were saved. A more spacious house

Samuel and Mary McGee, early Bryant settlers

was constructed to replace it. It was named the Alpine House and still stands today on County Road 194 as a Bed and Breakfast.

Pierce Coal Mines

Dr. F.D. Pierce of Syracuse, NY came to Bryant in 1883 and purchased almost two thousand acres of land. The January 25, 1906 issue of Scottsboro's *The Progressive Age* contained the breaking news that Dr. Pierce's North Alabama Coal Company had just begun commercial operation on Sand Mountain, across the Tennessee River from Bridgeport. The article reported that the first load of coal had been transported down the mountainside on two miles of narrow gauge railroad. At the foot of the mountain the coal went up an 1100 foot incline to the river's edge. Tipples and chutes then loaded the coal on to a large barge anchored to the shore. The first shipment of coal was sent up the Tennessee River to a contractor in the Chattanooga area. The mine was expected to produce fifty to seventy-five tons of good quality coal per day.

Dr. and Mrs. F. D. Pierce, with their puppy

Early Churches

After the Civil War, a second settlement also developed on Sand Mountain about two miles south of the Jamestown settlement. It was situated a little east of the point where the steep mountain road from Hogjaw Valley reached the brow. According to Kennamer's *History of Jackson County*, William Henry Bryant, a well-to-do farmer and sawmiller, and his wife Rebecca Campbell Bryant donated a plot of land to the North Alabama Methodist Episcopal Conference for a church site. When the church building was completed, it was named Bryant Chapel, in honor of W. H. Bryant. This act of appreciation had a much larger impact on the history of the area than anyone expected at the time. The settlement that grew up around the church came to be called Bryant. In time, the Jamestown name faded away and all of the neighborhoods on the northern end of the mountain eventually became Bryant, Alabama. This happened in spite of the fact that the community had a Route 1 Long Island, Alabama mailing address throughout this period.

The original Methodist church building did not last as long as the community's name. In 1932, Bryant Chapel was destroyed by a tornado. Because of the Great Depression, a new church building was not ready for dedication until August 27, 1938. *The Bridgeport News-Herald* reported that several hundred citizens attended the dedication service.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church congregation, likely much older than Bryant Chapel, worshiped for a long period of time in a white, wood-framed building northeast of the settlement around Bryant Chapel. Local tradition holds that it was rooted in a congregation called Gordon's Chapel

that met in a log building. The fact that Zachariah Gordon was a minister of the gospel lends support for this tradition. However, the lack of written records makes it difficult to historically document the accuracy of this community tradition. The wood-framed Ebenezer church house was destroyed by fire in 1959. It was replaced with a large, modern brick building in the early 1960s and is currently the largest congregation in Bryant.

Over the years several other churches were organized in Bryant — Straightway Baptist Church, Bryant Baptist Tabernacle, Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Mountain View Church of God, Bryant Church of God, Glendale Church of Christ, Bryant Free Home Holiness Church, Brown's Chapel Holiness Church, and Floral Crest Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Schools

In the late 1800s and first third of the 1900s, several schools existed in the Bryant community. An article published in *The Daily Sentinel* on August 5, 1971 documents their names: Ebenezer School, Dean School (which officially was Crescent Hill School), Scott School, Center Point School, and Mountain View School. When the Mountain View School building burned in 1930, a new one-room Bryant Schoolhouse replaced it. The new school building opened in 1931 with Mr. Henry Evans of Sheffield, AL serving as both principal and teacher. It was built on ten acres of land donated by Mr. E. C. Marona and a Mr. Rigsby. A second room was added to Bryant School in time for the 1932-33 school term. The two teachers that year were Miss Elberta Clark of Bridgeport (grades 1-3) and Mr. Carlus Page (grades 4-6). They later became Mr. and Mrs. Carlus Page of Scottsboro.

The next leader of Bryant School was Rev. John B. Armstrong. Three additional rooms were added to Bryant School in the early 1930s. In the 1940s the number of grades was briefly increased to twelve. Home economics and agriculture classes were a part of the curriculum.

In 1952, while Mr. A. T. Bottoms was the principal, the Bryant Schoolhouse burned to the ground. Community opinions differ as to who was responsible for the arson. Classes were held at various locations in Bryant while the present school building was constructed.

Bryant School, 1931-1952

When Bryant Junior High School reopened in 1953, it consisted of grades 1-9. Today, it is a K-8 school.

Private schools have also been an integral part of the Bryant community for many years. A Seventh-day Adventist school opened in 1905 as the Old Paths Industrial School. Its name was later changed to Floral Crest School, an arm of the Floral Crest Seventh-Day Adventist Church. It has educated six generations of students. Mountain View Christian Academy is relatively new. It is a K-12 non-denominational ministry of the Mountain View Church of God. It opened in 1982 with Mrs. Beverly Gilmer as the first principal.

Changing Economy

By the middle of the 20th century, coal mining and large scale logging were decades long gone. Farming was the mainstay of most families. However, many residents of Bryant had already transitioned away from farming as a livelihood. Some individuals broke their ties to Sand Mountain and moved to various urban areas to secure industrial employment. An even larger number began to commute in daily car pools to various mills, factories, foundries, and large

manufacturing firms in the Chattanooga area. This transition was made possible by two main factors — the paving of the main mountain roads in the late 1940s and early 1950s and the affordability of automobiles. The worker's daily commutes were eventually made quicker and safer by the completion of the Interstate Highway System from Trenton, GA to Chattanooga. The higher paying industrial jobs helped lift the income level of the Bryant community and contributed to its growth and prosperity.

Today, the Bryant community is still very closely tied to the greater Chattanooga area, both as a place to work and a place to shop. Bryant's younger generation of professional and non-professional workers still tend to follow the pattern established by their elders years ago — urban employment coupled with rural living on the northern end of Sand Mountain.

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Edward H. Carter, a native of Section, Alabama, is a retired high school teacher. He taught history at North Sand Mountain High School in Higdon, AL from 1969-2014. He has resided in Bryant, AL since 1980 and is currently working on a book about the Bryant community. Anyone with old photos or historical information they desire to share can contact him by email at ebcarter@farmerstel.com or by calling 256-597-3531.

News from Bellefonte, 1851

Southern Advocate, Huntsville, AL, September 1851: "BELLEFONTE NEWS: With the exception of frequent hunting and fishing excursions, life in this place is especially monotonous. One day is but the duplicate of its predecessor, steady, sober, and quiet. Life, variety, and news, and all that makes the great world so noisy would shock the good old fashioned notions of this town's residents. But FASHION, that unmitigated permeator of all moral fastness, has been heard of even here. The town of Bellefonte was immensely startled the other day by the appearance of a real, live "BLOOMER" upon modes: vanquette. She strolled the principal streets which amounted to a walk around the square, and retired to her domicile covered all over with breeches and glory. An informal jury of the sovereigns pronounced the costume decidedly outre. The wearer is in the field for matrimony, and, of course, she can not persist in wearing the breeches in the face of such a pronunciamento. The act was presumed so grievous that they cry to Heaven."

A personal recollection: Sgt Sammy Baker

I began writing profiles of prominent Jackson Countians in 1968 when Dr. Ralph Sheppard hired me as a photographer and feature writer at the *Jackson County Advertiser*. Today, I marvel at Dr. Sheppard's confidence that as a 17-year-old, I was fit for the job.

But those I interviewed sometimes lacked his confidence. There were those who were dismissive and, in one memorable case, even contemptuous, that a boy had been sent to do the interview.

Almost five decades later, I selfishly remember my subjects more frequently for their reaction to me as a young writer rather than for the stories they told.

One story in particular remains vivid. It was among the first profiles I wrote. It was one that I had fretted about most in advance of the interview. Perhaps of all articles I've written, it was the one that I felt most inadequate to write: I could not understand how to convey how deeply I was moved by the man I had interviewed.

The subject of the feature was Peniel Roy "Sergeant Sammy" Baker, a prizefighter who came within one or two contests of being welterweight champion of the world. He was living in Scottsboro at the time, in a small house off Winn Road, near the Scottsboro City Park.

He was a small man, probably holding within 20 pounds of his fighting weight of 145 pounds. His eyes were etched with white swaths of old wounds. His ears were mounds of scar tissue. His speech was slightly slurred and halting. His nose was disfigured and asymmetrical. He spoke in a soft voice, with his hands primly folded on his lap. He answered every question deliberately, waiting patiently for the next. He was respectful and cordial, even solicitous. His house was spare and orderly, in contrast to the chaos and mayhem that had marked the man's life. His modesty made it necessary to delve deeper on every question regarding his successes.

My father prepared me for the interview by telling that Baker had the reputation of being one of the most brutal and tenacious fighters ever to enter the ring. Recent research bears out that assessment. Potential opponents who scouted Baker's fights noted his feral aggressiveness and his refusal to go down.

Peniel Roy "Sergeant Sammy" Baker in 1968

Graphic descriptions and pictures of Baker's contests are unnerving. In one contest at Tyler Bowl in Cleveland, Baker was knocked down six times, twice for long counts, before finally collapsing so completely that his opponent, "Baby Joe" Gans, feared for Baker's life and followed him to the ambulance still wearing his gloves and begging for assurance that Baker would be OK. "I'm going to die," the typically stoic Baker told his attendants before entering a coma in a Cleveland hospital.(1)

According to a passport presented for the crossing from Havana to Florida in 1930, Baker was born New Hope, AL on February 12, 1902.(2)

In the 1920 census, he is working as a weaver in a cotton mill in Merrimack, AL. He was the fourth of eight children born to James and Lucy Lyons Baker, a Scottsboro native.

Promo photo, archives of the Smithsonian Art Museum (undisplayed)

On November 8, 1920, he joined the Army. According to family lore, related by Hoyt Baker who grew up living next door to the boxer, Baker's enlistment papers were forged by his sister because she was eager to have him out of the house: he had gotten in a fight with her boyfriend and won decidedly.

He was immediately shipped to Hawaii, where he donned gloves for the first time. Although an avid amateur, he showed little promise, he told me in 1968. His left hand was useless, he recalls.

He participated in tournaments while in Hawaii, and he advanced quickly. In fact, he was allowed to return to the mainland to try out for the U. S. Olympic team. He didn't make for the team, but he managed to be reassigned to Mitchel Field (coincidentally named for General O.M. Mitchel who was active in Madison and Jackson Counties during the Civil War) on Long Island, NY, a base with a reputable boxing program. There, he was placed under the tutelage of Sergeant Steven Webber, a notable trainer and promoter of intramural bouts in the Army. In his debut for Webber, Baker scored a knockout. In fact, he won six straight bouts, five of them by knockout, before moving beyond Mitchel field.

In 1924, he left the Army,. By the end of that year, Baker had fought 24 bouts, losing only two and fighting one to a draw.(3)

On January 3, 1927, Sammy Baker got his shot at the title. He fought Pete Latzo, holder of the welterweight championship, in Madison Square Garden. In the two years running up to the contest (1925 and 1926), he had fought 46 times, losing nine. Baker lost to Latzo in a decision.

It's possible that Baker was disadvantaged when he fought Latzo by having been overbooked. It was his third bout in two weeks, a demanding schedule that would be unheard of for a professional fighter today.

It was 18 months and 22 professional contests later, in September of 1928, that he got a second chance at the title. Baker fought Young Corbett III at Madison Square Gardens in Sept 1928 and lost by a narrow margin on points. He fought him again 13 days later at Ebbetts Field in Brooklyn in a run-up to what was expected to be a shot at the championship for the winner.

Baker won the rematch despite an illegal maneuver by Corbett at the end of the second round. After the bell, Corbett hit Baker, resulting in Baker being unable to answer the bell at the outset of the third round. (4) As the Pittsburgh Press described the incident: "As Baker turned to go to his corner, Corbett let fly both fists and knocked him down. Baker's seconds had trouble bringing him [back to consciousness] between

rounds, and one of them held Baker's arm to prevent him continuing the fight. Another second shook Baker free and he advanced to meet Corbett. A crowd gathered around the ring between the second and third rounds, demanding that Corbett be disqualified, and it took a dozen policemen to make them go back to their seats. The crowd was decidedly against Corbett, yelling uncomplimentary remarks to him throughout the fight because of his mauling and holding."(5)

The New York State Boxing Commission stated that the winner of the Baker-Corbett fight was to be given a chance at the welterweight championship by fighting the winner of the upcoming contest between Joe Dundee and "Black Jack" Thompson. Dundee won, but despite Baker's defeat of Corbett, Baker never got his shot at the title. Dundee's manager steadfastly refused to book the match. Ultimately, Dundee would be stripped of his championship because of his refusal to book fighters who were legitimate threats to his title. Corbett would go on to become welterweight champion five years later, in 1933.

Baker prospered financially during his years as a contender. Nephew Hoyt Baker says that when his uncle visited the family in 1928, he was driving a Stutz Bearcat, and he opened the trunk to reveal to his astonished family $30,000 in cash that he was carrying in the trunk. He said the money was "the take" from matches in Los Angeles. The official records show that he had indeed fought two high-profile matches in Los Angeles and Hollywood in January and February of 1928.

Baker continued to fight until 1937, marring his won-loss record by losing 16 of 21 of his last contests. His lifetime professional won-loss record by the end of his career stood at 136-57.

1940 census records list his marital status as "divorced." Family members relate that he had one son by that union, Edward. Census records from 1940 show that Edward Baker, four years old, was living in Oyster Bay (Long Island) with his mother, Julia Sadowsky (alternately listed as Ladowski). Edward Baker also had one child, a daughter, who visited Baker at least once, for an extended period in 1968. The previous year, Baker had visited his estranged family in New York where he was the special guest of restauranteur, former roommate, and one-time heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey. The son, Edward, attended Baker's funeral in 1984, but has not been

L to R: "Legs" Diamond; boxing promoter/manager Nick Florio; boxer Sid Teris; heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey; Sgt. Sammy Baker; Unidentified, but believed to be a body guard for Diamond. 1926. The unidentified man's right hand is resting on a pistol butt.

in contact with the Scottsboro branch of the family since.

Around 1940, Baker reenlisted in the Army where he trained combat troops in Trinidad. On August 24, 1944, he left the Army and relocated to Scottsboro where his lived with his parents. He continued to live in the family home on Winn Road until around 1980, when he moved to Decatur to live with a brother.

Baker was a familiar sight around town. He would frequently stop to talk to walkers while on his frequent runs around the three-mile Winn Road loop. He held forth to attentive audiences at local barber shops and to the crowds of boys who loved

his stories. Numerous people remember giving him "lifts" from downtown to his home.

Despite some disabilities for him boxing career, Baker remained engaged and alert. Scottsboro City Attorney Joe Lee, who taught GED classes for several years, told Baker's family at the funeral that Baker was one of the brightest students he had tutored.

Baker died February 10, 1984 in Decatur, of what was believed to be "legionnaire's disease," perhaps contracted during a stay in a VA hospital that immediately preceded his final illness and death. He is buried between his parents and a sister in Scottsboro's Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Today, boxing fans who participate in online forums still discuss Baker's accomplishments and bemoan his being passed over for a second shot at the welterweight championship. When I spoke with him, he betrayed no bitterness about his being denied his big chance. He simply told his story without rancor.

Shortly after my profile of Sergeant Sammy Smith was published, I returned his copy of *Sport Topics*, and I delivered several copies of *The Advertiser* that featured my profile of him on the front page. He was visibly pleased, and he placed a copy of *The Advertiser* alongside his prized issue of *Sport Topics*. He asked me to visit him again. He offered to give me boxing lessons.

I would have disappointed him as a boxing student, but I could have held my own in a conversation.

I never went back to visit. Too bad. His kind never passed my way again.

David Bradford

(1) *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 3, 1930, Page 13.
(2) The Social Security Death index lists March 20, 1902 as his birth date. In my 1968 interview, he gave his date of birth as September 9, 1903. His marker in Cedar Hill Cemetery lists his birth date as February 20, 1902.
(3) Statistics are drawn from boxrec.com.
(4) *The Lewiston Daily Sun*, Sept 28, 1927, p. 11.
(5) *The Pittsburgh Press*, Sept 27, 1928, p. 33.

Help us be ready for the World War I centennial

April 2017 is the 100 year anniversary of America's entry into World War I. Our April issue will begin a year in which the state of Alabama, and indeed, the entire nation, remembers the brave young men who fought in this sad, nearly forgotten war. To help us remember, Ralph Mackey has created an index of all the men in Jackson County who fought that is kept in the Heritage Center. The war memorial in front of the court house lists the young men who lost their lives in the war. Annette Bradford is working through findagrave to develop a virtual cemetery of Jackson County men lost in World War I. Later this year, an Auburn University traveling show will be available for a time in our county.

How can you help the county and the JCHA commemorate the World War I Centennial? We are collecting stories and photos for articles that will run next year. Do you remember family stories? Do you have family pictures of men in uniform that you could share in the Chronicles and on a poster? Please contact us: jcha@scottsboro.org.

Roy Ulrick Grider, Seaman Second Class, U.S. Navy, who died December 9, 1917 when his vessel was torpedoed by a German U-Boat. Photo from the Alabama Archives Goldstar Database.

Recollections of working at WCNA-FM and the Jackson County Advertiser

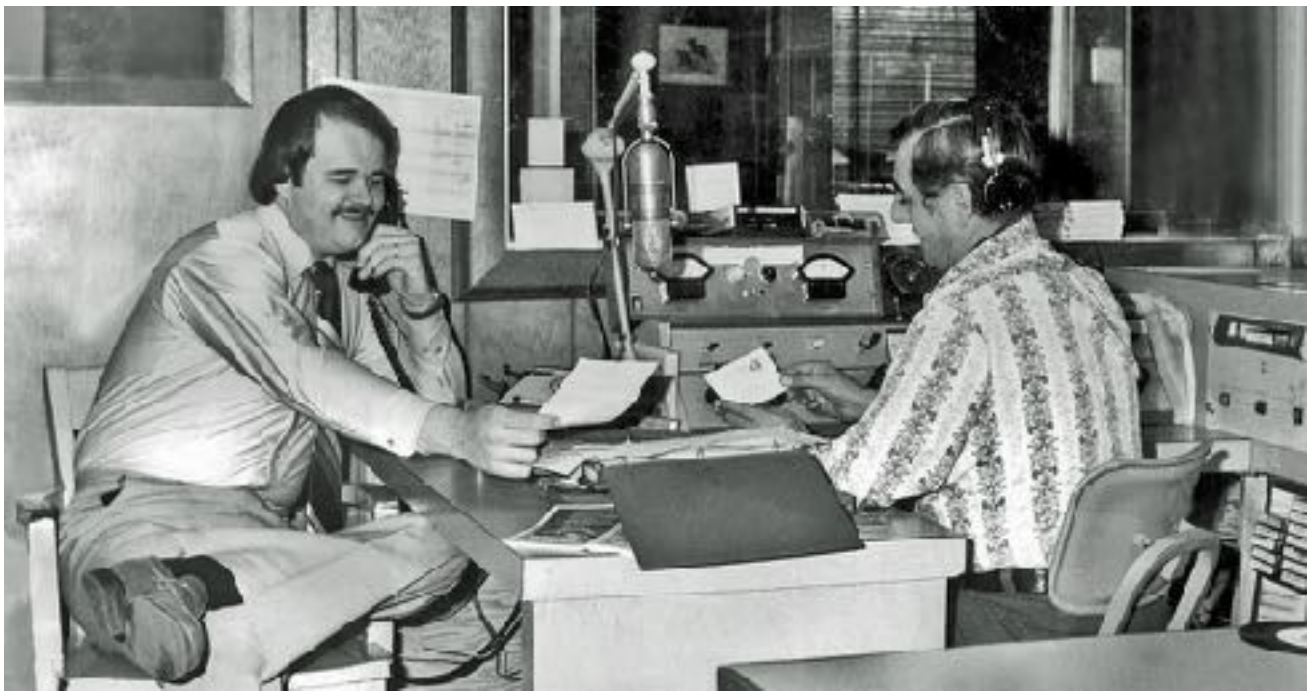
It was the Spring of 1968 that I was first aware of a new radio station and newspaper operating in Scottsboro near Five Points on the second floor of the Howland Building above Thomas Apothecary. It was through my friends David Bradford, Van Gable, and Jim Robertson (who were already working there) that I was encouraged to stop in and check it out.

I would spend several nights per week visiting the night time announcers/ disc jockeys, including Doug Hodges, still today one of the best natural radio voices I recall. While Doug later devoted full time to his family's profession of pharmacy, he did occasional radio work such as play-by-play of Friday night Wildcat football. There was Nathan Black, who was as cool as his handle "Snake" and who was known for his occasional session work in Nashville with the Jordanaires, the vocal group who recorded dozens of songs with Elvis. Snake was therefore admired because everyone was sure that to Snake, Elvis was only a phone call away.

Then was Richard Matthews, who would spend time burning up the local race tracks, driving a Petty-blue race car tuned out by brother Rowland.

One night somebody offered me the opportunity to read the nine o'clock news on the air. I don't know how well I did but somebody—probably Norton Arnold—heard my attempt and offered me a weekend spot to learn the craft.

The radio and newspaper offices would soon relocate downtown to Market street in a space formerly occupied by Julian Hambrick near the post office. Now you may remember that in 1968, FM radio wasn't "cool". Most programmers of FM radio delivered elevator music. And WCNA-FM was broadcasting a good amount of this including classical, Broadway show tunes, jazz, and a lot of what was referred to as "pop." Not exactly rock and roll, but a lot of covers by artists like Andre Previn, Mitch Miller, and such. There was also a country/folk hour. My takeaway from



Tom Underwood and Jack Dobbs anchoring "Party Line" on WCRI around 1976.

this period is that I was able to experience a wide spectrum of musical styles that are with me today (well, maybe not Mitch Miller so much).

I believe my starting wage was a dollar an hour. I would have done it for nothing. I became so obsessed with broadcasting that by my senior year of high school I had taken on both a morning shift (before school) and an evening shift. After graduation, I continued working at the FM station in the morning, attending Northeast State Junior College (known today as Northeast Alabama Community College) and working at WVSM in Rainsville in the afternoon. After NESJC, I returned to WCNA full time at a salary of $125 per week. This would have been 1970-1972.

By then, WCNA had settled on a country music format and so in addition to the radio job, I was asked to write a weekly column in the *Advertiser* about the news from Nashville. For some reason I titled the column "Big Country" and after all these years, some of my longtime friends in Scottsboro still refer to me by that name. Go figure.

I once did a feature on the Louvin Brothers, Grand Ole Opry performers who were from Sand Mountain. A few days later I received a note from the Louvins' sister, Charlsey, thanking me for the article and "please find enclosed a dollar for coffee

The Jackson County Advertiser, 1968.

money." This was the closest I ever came to receiving "payola." By the way, their birth name was Loudermilk and at the time, you could buy a lot of coffee for a dollar.

Some people I remember working with included Ben Kitchens, Bob Carney, Jerry Gentle, Josh Varner, James Lambert, Chuck Nelson, Don Johnson, and part-timers including Randy Airheart, Ricky Boles, Jerry Williams, David Swain, and Donny Jones. Cactus Gay was the station's engineer. On the newspaper side were Billy Pendergrass, Anne Hamilton, Hollis Smith, Pam Coffey, Sandra Carter and (with apologies) many others. A few are gone now—I wish I could have one more visit with them.

As for the three friends who encouraged me to stop by WCNA/*Advertiser* in 1968, David became an accomplished writer/ photographer and would culminate with a 30 yr+ career at IBM. Jim became a newspaper publisher, moving to Texas before returning and retiring in Scottsboro. Van left the area for radio experience in Talladega and then located in Illinois with a television station and an ad agency. As for me, I gained further experience at the *Daily Sentinel* and WCRI-AM before leaving the area and relocating to North Carolina. I switched careers but never left my first love of music and how it should be presented on the radio. I am retired and living in the small town of Hillsborough, NC. In some ways the town reminds me of my early days in Scottsboro.

I can't recall those years at WCNA and the *Advertiser* without paying homage to Dr. Ralph Sheppard, founder and owner of WCNA-FM and *The Advertiser*, who gave so many of us "youths" an opportunity to test our skills and develop our confidence. Some of us rode the train for a few years and others made a career based on what was learned as young adults searching for a calling. All of us benefited from his willingness to provide the opportunity, even at a dollar per hour.

Tom Underwood

Tom Underwood, a Scottsboro native and 1969 graduate of Scottsboro High School, is a retired human resources manager now living in Hillsborough, NC.

General Fate Melton, Class of 1947

The graduating Class of 1947 had the unusual distinction of having entered the seventh grade at Jackson County High School in the fall of 1941. On Monday, December 8 of that year we gathered in the auditorium and listened to President Franklin D. Roosevelt call on Congress to declare war with Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The result for us was that we spent the next four years immersed in the effort to win the war with Japan, Italy, and Germany. On graduation, we were the first class in which males were not immediately drafted in military service. Some of our male graduates did volunteer and immediately enter a branch of military service. Others headed off to college or went to work and got married in the post-war world.

In ensuing years, members of our class have distinguished themselves in many ways, living productive and successful lives—those who remained in Scottsboro, those who returned from college, or those who moved to many other locales to be appreciated members of their communities.

As the former president of our senior class, I want to spotlight one member of our class whom I consider to have had a remarkably successful career. Albert L. Melton was born in Woodville, Alabama but moved to Scottsboro where he completed high school. Now in my late eighties, I want to share with others what our friend "Fate," as he was known, has accomplished.

As a member of the Class of 1947, Fate was a quiet, unassuming student who, after worked after school at Hodges Drug Store, primarily behind the soda fountain, but also helping the pharmacists, delivering prescriptions, and helping in other ways. After graduation from high school, he continued working at the drug store. Had he not gone into the Air Force, probably he would have gone to college and become a pharmacist. However, one of the pharmacists, a co-owner of the drug store, Charles Hodges owned a Luscombe Silvaire, and allowed Fate to learn how to fly it. It was an act that would have a remarkable effect on Fate's life.

In 1949, the United States Air Force experienced a need for additional aviators and offered high school graduates an opportunity to apply for pilot training. Fate, with a pilot's license, applied, was accepted for flight training, and graduated a year later with a bright, shining set of silver Wings as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. The rest of the story is best related through a biographical sketch of the career of Brigadier General Albert L. Melton. The following is from the archives of the United States Air Force.

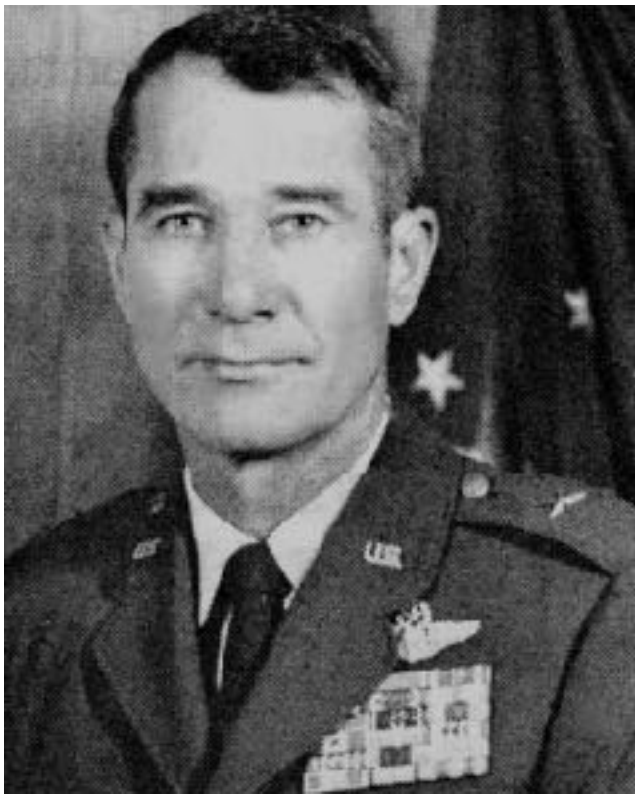
General Melton was born in Woodville, Ala., in 1928, and is a graduate of Jackson County High School, Scottsboro, Ala. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force under the aviation cadet program in September 1949 and received his pilot wings and commission as a second lieutenant at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., in October 1950. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, 1965, and the Air War College, 1970.

After graduating from Pilot Instructor School at Craig Air Force Base, Ala., in February 1951, General Melton served as an instructor pilot with the 3555th Pilot Training Wing, Perrin Air Force Base, Texas. In January 1952 he was assigned to the 3525th Pilot Training Wing, Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., where he continued to instruct students in the T-6, T-28, F-80 and the T-33.

In May 1954 General Melton was transferred to Taegu Air Base, Korea, and was a T-33, F-84G and F-86F pilot with the 311th Fighter Bomber Squadron of the 58th Fighter Bomber Wing. From December 1954 to July 1955, he participated in Project Checkout as a T-33 instructor pilot with the 6000th Operations Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

General Melton spent the next four years at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., as a T-33, F-84 and F-100 instructor pilot, flight commander, squadron operations officer, and wing operations and training officer with the 3600th Combat Crew Training Wing, later designated the 4510th Combat Crew Training Wing.

In June 1959 he began a two-year tour of duty as an operations adviser with the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Taiwan, flying F-86F and RF-100A fighters with the Nationalist Chinese Air Force at Taoyuan Air Base.



General Melton was an instructor pilot and chief of standardization and evaluation for T-33s and T-37s with the 3550th Pilot Training Wing at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., from July 1961 to August 1964. He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va.

In January 1965 he went to Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, where he served as an operations officer and then commander of the 3645th Pilot Training Squadron until May 1968 when he became deputy commander for operations of the 3646th Pilot Training Wing, for the undergraduate pilot training program. He attended the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., from August 1969 until May 1970, then completed Sea Survival School at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., Survival School at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., and underwent T-33 Refresher Training and F-4 training.

From March through December 1971, General Melton served as vice commander and later as commander of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phu Cat Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. During this period, he flew a total of 90 combat missions and 131 combat hours in the F-4D. On Dec. 31, 1971, General Melton inactivated the wing, closed the base, and transferred it to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.

In February 1972 General Melton was assigned as vice commander, 58th Tactical Fighter-Training Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and became commander in August 1972.

General Melton assumed command of the 14th Air Division at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., in September 1974.

His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation Emblem, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and three oak leaf clusters, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm. He is a command pilot with more than 8,200 flying hours, of which 5,200 have been as an instructor pilot in fighter and trainer type aircraft.

General Melton's hometown is Scottsboro, Ala.

He was promoted to the grade of brigadier general effective Aug. 1, 1974.

Circumstantially, I'm in a unique position to comment about Fate. In 1950, out of college for the summer, I worked at First Presbyterian Church in Troy, Alabama, as a youth director, trying to decide if I really felt called to enter Christian ministry. During that time, attending a meeting of Westminster Fellowship Synod Moderators in North Carolina, I received notice that I was being drafted into the Army. Immediately, I asked the draft board if they would allow me to take the tests required to qualify for pilot training in the United States Air Force. They agreed. I took the tests, qualified, and was notified I would be assigned to a class. Back in college, waiting to be called to a pilot training class, I went under the care of East Alabama Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry. Later that year, still waiting to get into a class, I had a personal contact with then Second Lieutenant

Fate Melton, who affirmed and encouraged me with my pilot training initiative.

In the spring of 1951, I entered the Air Force as an enlisted person, with the assurance I would be assigned to a flight training class, I took basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. I had a memorable experience as the lowest ranked member of the Air Force, a Basic Airman, marching, doing K.P., hauling garbage, and learning to say "Yes Sir," and doing whatever I was told—an experience that subsequently gave me a wonderful, caring attitude in relating with enlisted personnel after being commissioned as an officer.

I had a wonderful experience in the United States Air Force—a year of learning how to fly, having an opportunity to become a fighter pilot, flying the Air Force's first supersonic fighter, the F-86 in Korea, flying wing for aces like Colonel Royal Baker and Captain Robinson Risner, and being fortunate enough to be awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for skill and bravery in aerial combat. Having received a Commission in the Regular Air Force, I began thinking that maybe the Air Force was what God had in mind for me as a career. I loved flying. I loved military life, and was "all in" when I returned to the states and became an instructor pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. There, I also got deeply involved again in the Presbyterian Church and reconnected with the possibility that pastoral ministry might really be where God wanted me to be. There was no way I could remain in the Air Force and attend theological seminary, so, as an act of faith, with four very fulfilling years in service of my country, I resigned my commission to attend theological seminary and seek to fulfill the calling I had experienced years earlier.

All having been said, I am in a unique position to make a judgment about Albert L. Melton and his remarkable, distinguished military career. I think of all members of the graduating Class of 1947 at Jackson County, he has been fortunate enough to have achieved more in some ways that any of the rest of us, including some graduates who have done remarkably well with their chosen careers.

So what I have written is not to take anything from other achievers, but to spotlight a class member whom I value as a friend, a fellow military aviator, and remarkable success in his chosen career.

Second Lieutenant James K. Thompson getting ready to climb out of his F-86 Sabre Jet fighter at K-14, an Air Force Base just outside of Seoul, Korea, in January of 1953, during the Korean War.

Fate Melton entered the United States Air Force as a high school graduate. He worked his way from being an Aviation Cadet to becoming a General Officer—a Brigadier General. It was a remarkable achievement. I know that Houston Maples, a Scottsboro native and graduate of the United States Naval Academy became an Admiral. Only three or four Jackson Countians have attained the rank of General officer.

I wish the people of Scottsboro, Alabama would find a way to recognize and honor him before he makes his final flight.

Rev. Dr. James K. Thompson
Retired Presbyterian Minister

Drug stores in downtown Scottsboro

Drug stores have been the subject of historical essays in Scottsboro for as long as local writers have chronicled the square. The soda fountains, the ice cream, the soda jerks, the romances launched and the hearts broken, the practical jokes and protracted discussions—all have been remembered fondly. But for the most part, these accolades have been showered on two establishments: Payne's and Hodges'. Yet many more drug stores have come and gone on the square, and these establishments celebrate both families long gone and those still here, and mirror the evolution of the drug business in the nation as a whole.

Druggists have been part of the commercial landscape in Jackson County since our earliest records. As early as 1861 when the freight depot in Scottsboro was built, business houses began to sprout up around the depot, populating what is today Maple Avenue but in 1861 was Main Street. The town of Scottsboro was incorporated December 28, 1868, and the amended 1869 city limits extended the city limits to encompass all land within a .5 mile radius of the depot. The town literally grew up around the railroad.

For the fledgling town of Scottsboro to grow, it needed a legal system, law enforcement, and health care. Ann Chambless noted in the "Scottsboro before 1881" article in the July 2006 *Chronicles* that in the 1860 census for Scottsboro, there were "no lawyers, no physicians, no druggists, and no law enforcement officers enumerated in Scottsboro." But by time the 1870 census was taken, the professions evidenced by the census were numerous, including many builders and merchants and also, five physicians and four druggists. (*Chronicles*, V18N3, July 2006)

In discussing the beginnings of American pharmacy practice, historical pharmacist Gregory J. Higby noted that "Although the pharmacy had origins going back to medieval Europe, what became the American drugstore arose in the early 19th century from four roots: the traditional apothecary's shop; doctor's shops—where physicians prescribed and dispensed; the general store; and the wholesale druggist." (1) All four of these types were evident in the evolving drug businesses in downtown Scottsboro.

The apothecary's shop: the Payne drug stores

The earliest pharmacy in Scottsboro was established in 1869 and belonged to W. H. Payne and Meredith Price. It was located on Railroad Avenue (now Mary Hunter) south of the tracks. According to Elizabeth Snodgrass' early 1900 recollections, the first W. H. Payne Drug Store was (going east on Mary Hunter), the third business, between the first post office and John Hargiss' Tin Shop. (*Chronicles*, V5N3, July 1993)

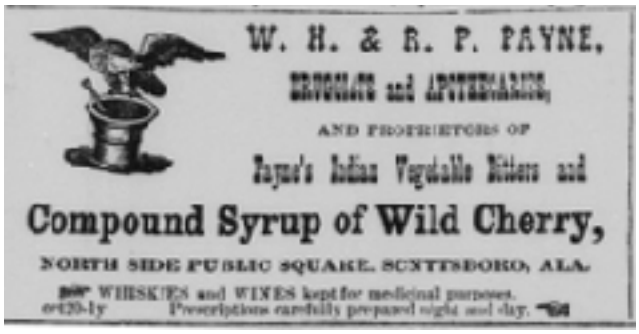
Though W. H. Payne staked his reputation on his compounding capabilities, the soda fountain was big news from the very beginning. "Our enterprising young friends Payne and Price at the Drug Store, have a Soda Fount and everything necessary to furnish all who call on them with soda water," *The Southern Industrial Herald* wrote on June 24, 1869. "This is the place to spend your money and improve your health."

Payne's partner died in 1876, and *The Alabama Herald* on January 11, 1877 noted that " W. H. Payne has removed his Drug Store to the A. W. Skelton House where Ledbetter & Co. sold goods last year." In March 1877, Payne installed an Arctic soda fountain that produced sparkling, ice-cold beverages that he sold for five cents a glass." (*Chronicles*, V26N3, July 2015) By January 1878, W. H. Payne had moved his business yet

again. The *Alabama Herald* announced, "Payne has moved to the Snodgrass Building opposite the depot" (corner of present-day North Houston and Mary Hunter Avenue). This 1883 ad in the *Scottsboro Citizen* illustrates the range of goods you could expect to find there: "drugs, medicines, chemicals" [the minimum to earn the title druggist] "fine toilet soap, fancy hair and tooth brushes, perfumery, and toilet articles....Trusses and shoulder braces." And of course, "Pure Wines and Liquors for Medical Purposes."

It is significant that Pharmacist Payne was a compounding pharmacist, in a time when most compounding by done by doctors. His ad in the *Scottsboro Citizen* states "Physicians' Prescriptions Accurately Compounded." In the absence of trustworthy manufactured medicines, a quality pharmacist with equipment, skills, and a working knowledge of chemistry was essential.

The December 24, 1880 *Scottsboro Citizen* noted that W. H. Payne's brother Rufe was opening a second drug store on the square. "Dr. Rufe Payne will open a drug store in his brick house on the square about the first of January." Ann Chambless notes that "this is not the same drug store owned by W. H. Payne who was a brother of Dr. Rufe Payne. The W. H. Payne Drug Company did not move to the square until February 1891." Rufe Payne's drug store was in the building later owned by Harry Campbell (a frame building on Lot 4, the easternmost of the two lots on which the current Bank Building stands). On February 17, 1881 the *Citizen* noted, "Dr. Rufe Payne has been generally complimented on the handsome appearance of his new drug store." (*Chronicles*, V26N2, April 2014).


W. H. & R. P. PAYNE,

AND PROPRIETORS OF

Payne's Indian Vegetable Bitters and

Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry,

NORTH SIDE PUBLIC SQUARE, SCOTTSBORO, ALA.

WHISKIES and WINES kept for medicinal purposes.

Prescriptions carefully prepared night and day.

Later in 1881, ads in the *Scottsboro Citizen* indicate that W. H. Payne provided some drug-compounding services to his brother R. P. Payne, though W. H. Payne's Drug Store was still located along the railroad track. But Rufe is selling his brother's popular compounded remedies described in one ad as "Payne's Indian Vegetable Bitters and Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry" and that prescriptions were "carefully prepared night and day." This ad states that W.H. and R. P. are "Druggists and Apothecaries." In February 1881, the *Citizen* reported that the brothers' firm had been "dissolved by mutual consent."

Payne Drug Store soon after its opening in February, 1891.

In 1890, the *Bridgeport News* reported that "Dr. W. H. Payne has bought the C. S. Freeman lot on the northwest corner of the Square giving $80.00 a front foot for it, the highest price ever paid for a Scottsboro lot. On this lot Dr. Payne will erect a handsome two-story building with a glass front which he will use for a drug store." The rest, one might say, is history that has been documented extensively in the *Chronicles* in the past. In 1891, W. H. Payne's drug store opened at the familiar location on the corner of Laurel and Broad, which is the oldest continuously operating business in the state of Alabama, though it ceased to be a pharmacy in 1991.

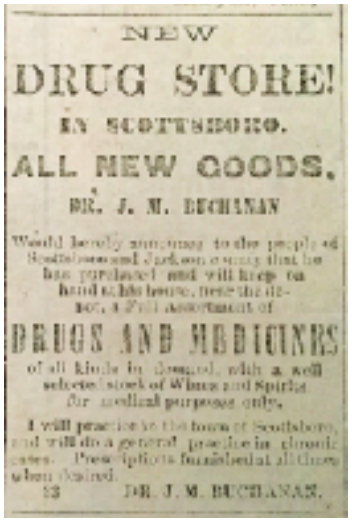
For the earliest of times, Payne's established itself as a "serious pharmacy" where drugs were not just dispensed but also formulated, where the druggist did not merely distribute manufactured preparations, but instead compounded remedies and sold them under his name.

The doctor's store: Dr. Buchanan's drug dispensary and the Blakemore family

Scottsboro's best example of Higby's second type, the doctor-druggist, is Dr. James Monroe Buchanan. In the absence of laws that regulated medical and pharmaceuticals practice, Higby noted, "self-styled physicians...diagnosed and dispensed medicines in an environment that was not much different from the back of an apothecary shop. In fact, men often went back and forth between the two occupations, depending on their comfort level." (2)

Scottsboro's Dr. Buchanan was both a doctor and a druggist. Born in 1821, he completed his medical training before he left Tennessee and was identified as a physician in the 1850 census for Lincoln County, TN, where he was newly married to Mary Hughes and living with his in-laws. He came to Alabama around 1857, the date when he purchased land in Larkinsville. He and his oldest son Milton served in Company K of the 4th Alabama Infantry. Dr. Buchanan provided medicine and medical care to the men working at Sauta Cave during the Civil War.

When the Civil War ended, Buchanan was one of the county commissioners who met in Bellefonte on August 16, 1865 to begin pulling the county back together. In 1868, he was president of the board of trustees of Larkinsville High School, and is found in the 1870 census living in Larkinsville with his third wife, 28-year-old Mary Alford, and a new baby daughter, along with two sons (the oldest 24) and three daughters from his previous marriage. In 1879, he was charged with bigamy.


NEW
DRUG STORE!
IN SCOTTSBORO.
ALL NEW GOODS.
DR. J. M. BUCHANAN
DRUGS AND MEDICINES
DR. J. M. BUCHANAN.

Buchanan home on Mary Hunter Avenue in the 1970s. Photo by Bill Bradford.

Some time after 1870, Dr. Buchanan built two homes along Railroad Avenue where he practiced medicine and dispensed drugs, and the 1880 census finds him living in Scottsboro. His first home was destroyed along with other homes and businesses on the south side of the tracks on February 17, 1881, in a fire that started in a blacksmith shop. "The fire here on the night of Thursday last, 17th inst. was the most extensive and destructive, with regard to the number of buildings consumed that we have ever known in a small town," the *Scottsboro Citizen* reported. The home of Dr J. M. Buchanan was listed as one of the homes destroyed in this fire.

His second home, whose location is referenced in the ad, still stands in ruin near the corner of North Houston and Mary Hunter. It was originally adjacent to Judge Tate and the "little courthouse" building used for record storage that has been moved to the Heritage Center. An advertisement in the August 17, 1882 *Alabama Herald*: states that "Dr. James M. Buchanan has opened a new drug store south of the railroad and opposite the depot. All new merchandise, wine, spirits, confections, and medicine. In the same building an office has been opened for administering to my patients." And this more detailed ad later states that Dr. Buchanan "has purchased and will keep on hand at his house, near the depot, a Full assortment of DRUGS AND MEDICINES of all kinds of demand, with a well selected stock of Wines and Spirits for

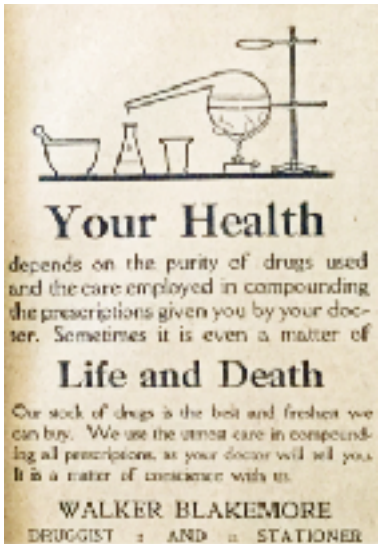
medical purposes only.... Prescriptions furnished at all times when desired."

It is interesting to note that Dr. Buchanan's name is on the ledger at W. H. Payne's drug store 1877-1882 (*Chronicles* V4N3, July 1992). Druggist Payne seems to have produced many of his own remedies, and it is likely that Buchanan kept some of these familiar local formulations on hand for his patients, or else bought the quality supplies from Payne to create his own remedies. Buchanan's drug business ended with his death October 18, 1883.

Another pharmacist-doctor connection is found between Dr. Andrew Newton Blakemore and his sons M.D. Joe N. Blakemore and Druggist Walker McCutchen Blakemore. Dr. Blakemore was a lifelong Jackson County resident; both his druggist and physician sons practiced briefly in Scottsboro, but moved on quickly to other areas.

According to a published biography, Dr. A. N. Blakemore was born in 1854 in Cherokee County, AL, the son of Joseph and Nancy Saxon Blakemore. He served two terms as county health officer and as president of Jackson County Medical Society (3). He married Jessie McCutchen, daughter of William Walker McCutchen and Margaret Harrison, and they had six children: Mary Francis "Fanny" who was a teacher; Emma who married William Larkin; Walker McCutchen who died young and left a wife and son in Texas; Joseph N. who married Ruby Shelton and was practicing in Texas when he died; Elizabeth who married James David Snodgrass Jr; and Alma who married Harold Coffey and lived in Birmingham. Dr. A. N. Blakemore is found in 1900 census in Larkinsville, but was living in Scottsboro in 1910.

This prominent family was often featured in period newspapers, and much can be gleaned from those references. In 1878, the *Alabama Herald* notes that Dr Blakemore is in town investigating real estate. He had just sold his 80 acres of river property. On October 19, 1899, Dr. Blakemore was having timber delivered to a site in Larkinsville "where he expects to have a dwelling erected." His children grew up in the 1900s. His oldest, Fanny, received her teaching certificate in 1900. In the 1908 *Scottsboro Citizen*, Dr. Blakemore is referred to as the county health officer, with Dr. W. C. Maples referred to as the town health officer, and the article of January 3 is about the pair identifying a new case of smallpox. The March 1906 *Citizen* noted that "Dr. Walker Blakemore, a handsome young druggist of Gadsden, is on a visit to his parents, Dr. and Mrs Blakemore, near town," the same son who later opened a drug store in Scottsboro briefly in 1917.



With his children grown, Dr. Blakemore moved his practice to Scottsboro about 1908. The *Progressive Age* reported on January 9 that "Dr. A. N. Blakemore, of Larkinsville, has bought the Dr. McCord farm on the Tupelo pike near town and will move his family here in a few weeks. Dr. Blakemore will be a valuable acquisition to the town." On February 27, 1908, it was reported that "Dr. A. N. Blakemore has at last gotten moved to his Scottsboro house" and on June 11, 1908, "Dr. A.N. Blakemore has rented John Proctor's office."

In December 1909, the *Scottsboro Citizen* reported that Doctors Blakemore and Maples have moved to fine new offices over the Tennessee Valley Bank. Son Dr. Joe N. Blakemore married Ruby Shelton of Larkinsville in 1909, where he was described as a "prominent young physician" and a member of the firm of Maples and Blakemore.

Dr. Blakemore died in 1920 and is buried in Cedar Hill. Neither son trained in medicine remained in Scottsboro. Walker moved to Lorenzo, TX by 1924 where he practiced pharmacy for 30 years before his death in 1954. According to *Directory of Deceased American Physicians*, Joe practiced in

Scottsboro until 1907, then in Florence, AL until 1915, and it is assumed also practiced in Lorenzo, TX where he died in 1927. (4)

It is interesting to note that not all doctors were druggists. The 1909-1913 ledger for Dr. Hugh Boyd, for example, showed that "at times he charged for drugs he evidently paid for at a drug store and delivered to his patient" but his ledger shows no evidence that he compounded medicines himself. (*Chronicles*, V2N3, January 1989)

The general store as drug store

The 1901 *Dun Alabama Mercantile Agency Reference* for Jackson County recognized only five drug stores in the entire county: one in Bridgeport, one in Hollywood, one in Paint Rock, one in Stevenson, and one in Scottsboro, W. H. Payne. (*Chronicles*, V1N2, April 1975). With so much area and so few drug stores, it is evident that at the turn of the century not all drugs were purchased in drug stores. Farmers could not drive to town every time they had a cough or cold. They depended on the local general store.

In the early days of the 20th century, Higby notes, "without regulations in place, general stores were free to sell medicines of all sorts including opiates. Usually they kept their medicine departments simple: packaged herbs and patent medicines. In contrast with apothecaries, these shopkeepers made no claim to special expertise. They did not have a backroom laboratory or requisite heat, water and necessary apparatus."(5)

But consider the times. Drugs were simple. There were no antibiotics, and not many pills. Coca Cola contained cocaine if you needed a pick-me-up. Laudanum was available without prescription. Paregoric, an awful-tasting opioid pain reliever, was one of the few really effective drugs available. Analysis of the 1929 Petty Store ledger from the *Chronicles* in 2016 found that customers in a six-month period purchased many over-the-counter drug products: chill tonic, sulphur, vaseline, turpentine, Cardui, Black Draught tonic, iodine, Vicks salve, aspirin, castor oil, cold tablets, cough syrup, quinine and "dirrah mixture." It was hardly worth a drive into town when so much relief was available locally.

The wholesale druggist: the growth of patent medicines

Toward the end of the 1800s, the growth in patent medicines made it possible to open drug stores whose main function was not compounding remedies but selling prepared drugs. Wholesale drug manufacturers filled the remedy niche, and druggists doing less of their own compounding could hone their retail and soda fountain skills.

"With the interest in laboratory work declining," Quimby explains, the APaA, the governing body of pharmacy practice in the US, "brought forward issues concerning the suppression of quackery and commercial problems. Questions concerning preparations dropped off as large-scale manufacturers took over the making of not only ingredients and preparations but entered the field of end dosage forms. The corner pharmacist could not match the elegance of the modern sugar-coated pills or the low price of the machine-made tablets that appeared at the century's end. By 1900, one young woman in a factory could operate a pair of machines punching out 100,000 headache tablets. Compounding, the crux of professional practice in the late nineteenth century, started its great decline." (6)

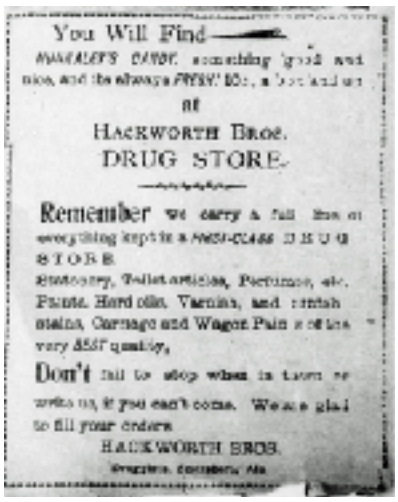
Between 1900 and 1920, ads for patent medicines were the mainstay of advertising in the local newspapers. Some remedies were local but most had a national following.

In the years that followed the explosion of patent medicines, new drug stores appeared and disappeared quickly during this period when less expertise was needed.

Before the days when the drug industry in Alabama began to regulate itself (1930s), some of these stores might have existed over more years than are shown here, but they can be validated during the years listed by their names.

1904-06—Hackworth Brothers Drug Store: Ads for a business briefly known as the Hackworth Brothers Drug Store appeared for a time in period newspapers about 1905-06. While the ads touted cold drinks, ice cream, candy, stationery, toilet articles, perfumes, and, oddly enough, house paints, which were typical of the time; Payne's also sold house paints during this period, probably because they required precise mixing. The Hackworth brothers also sold hammocks, showing a movement toward gifts and leisure goods that is evident in drug stores today. Notice that this 1906 *Scottsboro Citizen* ad states that they also sold carriage and wagon parts.

There were two Hackworth brothers living in Scottsboro in 1900, sons of Newton Hackworth (1825-1906) and Eliza Shipp (1836-1894), both of whom were born in Tennessee and died in Jackson County. This large family included seven sons and three daughters. The two sons found in Scottsboro in the 1900 census were: John L., a lawyer married to Pearl Haley; and James B., a clerk in the probate office, married to Nellie Starnes, daughter of T.D. Starnes and Eliza Parks (a sister to W.D .Parks who had operated a business on this site). This Starnes connection is significant because the pharmacy was located in a wooden building built by James' father-in-law Tom Starnes on the site of the current Hackworth Building, as shown in the 1920s photo. James' and Nellie's only child was Eliza Hackworth who owned the current Hackworth building until her death in 1999. A third brother, Charles, was living in Bass with their father, a year away from graduating from Chattanooga Medical College. In 1908, he married Grace Bible and was living in South Pittsburg by 1910. Grace's brother, George Bible, is a druggist.


You Will Find
HACKWORTH BROS.
DRUG STORE
Remember we carry a full line of
STORE
Stationery, Toilet articles, Perfumes, etc.
Paints, Hard oils, Varnish, and finish
stains, Carriage and Wagon Paints of the
very BEST quality,
Don't fail to stop when in town or
write us, if you can't come. We are glad
to fill your orders
HACKWORTH BROS.

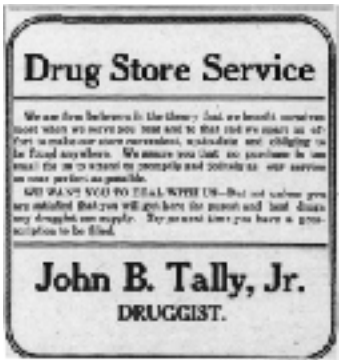
In the 1900 census, these three entries are together: Jesse and Virginia Brown; John B. and Sidney Skelton Tally (with brother-in-law John M. Skelton, Deputy Sheriff, living with them); and Lawyer John L. Hackworth with his wife Pearl and their two young sons. The Tally family lived next door to the Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Willow and Market. Two pages earlier, 54-year-old Druggist Kibble T. Daniel (who would open City Drug Store in 1909) is found with his 22-year-old son Ephriam and his 29-year-old married son Terrah C. living with him, both of whom list their occupations as druggist.

By 1909, it seems that the Hackworth Brothers had returned to the practice of law, and it is likely that they sold their business (but not their building) to John B. Tally. The location was associated with the drug business as early as 1904. J. L. Hackworth and young John B. Tally were already lawyers in practice together. That John B. Tally would buy the Hackworth drug store business is both logical and likely.

1909-1923 John B. Tally Drugs, K. T. Daniel, and City Drugs: Those of us familiar with Scottsboro lawyers and judges named John B.

Detail from the 1920s cotton production photo

Tally will be surprised to see that this name once belonged to a druggist, the great grandfather of lawyer Bill Tally. Ads for a Tally-owned drug business began to appear around 1909 and persisted until the early 1920s.



Ads for "John B. Tally Druggist" disappeared in 1910, and it is likely that Druggist Tally took on a partner and changed the name of his business.

The 1910 county-wide business supplement to the *Progressive Age* recognized a new drug business on the square: City Drug Company (later Scottsboro Drug Company). This new business was operated by Kibble T. Daniel who had, according to the October 1910 business supplement, "moved to Scottsboro about a year and half ago and started in business at his present location on the square." The supplement states that "Mr. Daniel is an old and experienced druggist having been in the drug business some twelve years previous to his coming here. His trade since he settled in Scottsboro some fifteen months ago has steadily increased and is now in a flourishing condition ....The entire equipment of the pharmacy is thorough and cosmopolitan including every conceivable necessity to be found in any large city drug store."

This partnership seems to have ended about 1923. This final ad is from the 1923 *Progressive Age*

indicates that Tally was still a practicing druggist in 1923, in business with the dentist upstairs, Fain Webb, a dentist from Piedmont. Bill Tally says that his great grandfather sold his drug business in Scottsboro about 1923 and moved first to Abbeville and then to St. Augustine, Florida where he practiced pharmacy until his death in 1929. The 1923 business index lists this business as Webb and Presley.

Fewer compounds, more soda: the golden age of the soda fountain

The growth in patent medicines meant that pharmacists had to devote less of their time to formulating complex chemical combinations required by doctors. What did these smart men do with their time? They turned their attention to the sundries and retail side of their businesses.

"Before the Civil War," Higby explained, "pharmacists put their compounding areas near the front of their shops to benefit from the natural light from windows and to demonstrate their professional abilities. But by the 1890s, stores were arranged with the prescription table moved to the back of the shop, using most of the old laboratory area. This opened up the front for more profitable goods such as tobacco products and candy. Above all else, the shift of pharmacy practice to the back of the shop gave the soda fountain front and center position. Ironically, it was the pharmacists's practical chemistry expertise that allowed him to make up flavorings and to handle temperamental carbonated water generators. Some pharmacists turned their inventiveness to developing new soft drinks, including root beer, Dr. Pepper, and Coca Cola. Unfortunately, the public soon came to see pharmacists more as sellers of chocolate sodas than health care professionals." (7)

In 1893 in New Bern, NC, for example, a pharmacist named Caleb Bradham invented a drink made from a blend of kola nut extract, vanilla, and "rare oils" initially known as "Brad's Drink." On August 28, 1898 the drink was renamed Pepsi-Cola.(8) The always-popular soda fountain in Scottsboro became the social center of the town. The drug store became the domain of groups of old timers who settled the world's problems around a pot-bellied stove, and when school was out, the place to be for teenagers.

A number of pharmacies grew up around the square during this period, but none so typified it as Hodges Drug Store. A short-lived location made infamous by the murder of young Harry Cunningham Jr. in 1930 was Drug Sundries in the Proctor Building.

1926-early 1930s: Drug Sundries The Drug Sundries was located in the left side of the Proctor Building; the post office was on the right. James W. Holland was 27 years old in the 1930 census and is identified as the proprietor of a drug store. He is reported as the owner of Drug Sundries in the accounts of the Harry Cunningham murder in 1930 that took place in his store. He is living with his parents, Albert and Sue Holland, on College Avenue in the 1930 census. Ads for this business can be found in the JCHS bulletins from 1928 and 1929. In the 1940 census, James is married and living in Anniston, no longer associated with the drug business.

Drug Sundries was a short-lived business when young James Holland was its manager. It was a popular hangout with the JCHS class of 1926 when Pearl Cunningham's beau Clyde Matthews and young John T. Reid from the Paint Rock Valley were both soda jerks there. She reported that 1926 regulars were Ollie Mae McClendon, Virgie and David Walsh, Ollie Ruth Matthews, Nannie, Cal, and Gene Hess, Mary Virginia Payne, Dorothy Gold, Lucy Blevins, Ruby Hall, Ruth Swaim, Veda Shelly, Ed Kennamer, Maxie Byrum, Mary Claybrook, Brooks Moody, and Lela Outlaw. Jim Holland was Pearl and Clyde's best man when they married in 1930.

According to Inez Starnes, John T. Reid, later mayor of Scottsboro, bought this business from Holland and operated it briefly at this location as a young man (Reid graduated in 1931) before he put a sign on the door of his business "Gone to Hitler's Funeral" and left for World War II. When he returned, he opened Reid's Sundries on the west side of the square, no longer in the drug business.

1923-1937 Presley Drugs: When young James Boyd Presley (1897-1975) was a high school student, he worked part-time with a local druggist who encouraged him to make pharmacy his profession. But World War I intervened, and James served in the Navy. When he returned, he married Vivian Goolsby in 1918 and readied himself for a career as a druggist. Their daughter Mary Presley Cox recalls that while her father attended pharmacy school in Mobile, her mother stayed in Scottsboro with her first child (born in 1922) at the home of her in-laws. When his education was complete, he started the Presley's Drug Store business in the location of Webb and Tally Drugs. Webb and Tally became Webb and Presley.

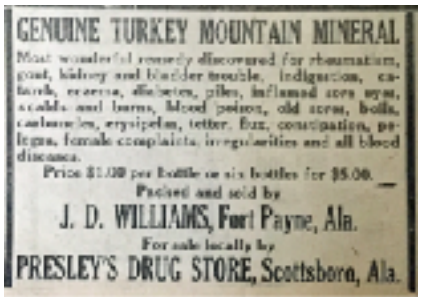
1923 photo of Presley Drugs on the north side of the square, from Martha McClendon Hughes

1937 photo of Presley Drugs in the brick Hackworth Building, from Mary Presley Cox.

Presley's Drugs was open on the square from 1923 to 1937. This photo (from Martha McClendon Hughes) was taken between 1923 and 1927 and shows Presley Drugs in the frame building that is the precursor to the Hackworth building (the tall building to the right is the two-story Brown building). The brick Hackworth building was built in 1927.

The photo that follows, from around 1937, is from Mary Cox's family scrapbook and shows Presley Drugs in the current brick Hackworth Building. Between these two photos, Presley Drugs moved to a temporary location while the new brick Hackworth Building was constructed. The new brick Hackworth building was completed in 1927.

Presley's Drugs flourished in this location for another 10 years before James, who had several diverse business interests, sold the drug store business to Mess Hodges. A couple of trends worth mentioning surface in early ads for Presley's Drug Store.


GENUINE TURKEY MOUNTAIN MINERAL

Most wonderful remedy discovered for rheumatism, gout, kidney and bladder trouble, indigestion, catarrh, eczema, diabetes, piles, inflamed sore eyes, scalds and burns, blood poison, old sores, boils, carbuncles, erysipelas, tetter, flux, constipation, pellagra, female complaints, irregularities and all blood diseases.

Price $1.00 per bottle or six bottles for $5.00.

Packed and sold by

J. D. WILLIAMS, Fort Payne, Ala.

For sale locally by

PRESLEY'S DRUG STORE, Scottsboro, Ala.

First, highly favored local remedies were still being produced. This 1923 ad from the *Progressive Age* show that J. D. Williams of Ft. Payne was producing the "most wonderful remedy discovered for rheumatism, gout, kidney and bladder trouble, indigestion catarrh, eczema, diabetes, piles, inflamed sore eyes, scalds and burns...the list goes on and on. Presley's served as the distribution point for this miracle drug.

Second, Presley's supported the growing photography industry, selling Kodak film, as this 1930 ad shows. Drug stores later served as pickup points for printed photos. Today drugs stores support photographs sent electronically and printed on site. David Bradford remembers that the support for photography continued when the Hodges brothers owned this drug store. Charles Hodges was a photographer with a darkroom who stocked a full range of processing and printing products, the only person in town to do so.

1937-1970: Hodges Drugs on the Square: When L. C. "Mess" (short for "Messenger," harkening back to his delivery boy days) Hodges bought James Presley's drug store business, Mess generated this hand-written note: "Purchased from J. B. Presley on Nov 18th 1937 - Firm known as Presley's Drug Store - All Stock and fixtures for $7500.00 - $3000.00 in hand - $4500 in Notes & other valuable documents. L. C. Hodges...Oct. 13, 1937 10:30 am." Mess was the founder of Hodges Drugs. Only eight years later in 1945, when Mess was 35 years old, he died in a motorcycle accident on the square. His brothers R. L. and Charles purchased the business from Mess's widow, Elizabeth, and the business was known informally as "Hodges Brothers Drug Store."

In 1945, Hodges was not just a busy drug store but also a thriving sundry business with curbside

Durwood Hodges, Paul Conley, and Bill Fred Word at the H&H lunch counter, from Nancy and Doug Hodges

service and the passenger station and ticket office for the Trailways Bus. The business stayed on the square more than 30 years.

Hodges Drug Store was the favorite late afternoon hangout of Congressman Bob Jones, and a regular stop for other local luminaries. Doug Hodges remembers working at the soda fountain on afternoons when Dr. Julian Hodges came in promptly at 2:00 every day for a bowl of peach ice cream and a glass of water. Doug, amazed that in the midst of a flu epidemic he never saw Dr. Hodges falter, asked him one day, "Do doctors ever get sick?" Dr. Julian slammed his fist down and looked Doug in the eye and told him in no uncertain terms, "Doctors get sick, caregivers die, and preachers go to hell."

As Scottsboro grew, so did the reach and scope of the Hodges drug business. The Hodges brothers opened a second location called H&H Pharmacy in the early 1960s on the corner of Houston and Laurel Street, across from the office of Doctors Julian Hodges and Carl Collins.

In the 1964-65, the Hodges brothers opened a third location, a modern scientific apothecary shop named Mortar and Pestle that specialized in compounding, located on Broad Street diagonally across from the library.

In 1970, all three locations were closed, and the Hodges brothers reopened as H&H Pharmacy on Parks Avenue, taking advantage of the movement of doctors' offices to Parks Avenue locations.

Even as most drug stores became "all business" and stopped operating luncheon counters, H&H on Parks kept the luncheon counter and made famous cheeseburgers.

One of the features of the new H&H on Parks was the morning coffee club. When R. L. came into work at 5:30 in the morning, his first task was to make a big pot of coffee, which he gave away to early risers—municipal workers, power board members, folks up before light. All coffee was free between 5:30 and 8:00 am. The free coffee consumed by coffee club members was commemorated by the sign, "Home of the World's Worst Coffee" posted by the coffee maker. Charles died in 1983 and R.L. in 1984. The business closed in the late 1990s.

Early 1950s: Drug stores on the west side of the square: McCamy and Skelton Drugs.

When Blackwell Brothers Feed and Seed gave up its important location at the corner of Broad and Peachtree, McCamy Drugs was ready to take the space. The McCamy family moved to Scottsboro in December 1954, and pharmacist Gene McCamy opened his first pharmacy in the Skelton Building, the white two-story building no longer standing on the corner of Laurel and Market. He moved to the corner of Broad and Peachtree by 1955 when this photo that appeared in the JCHS yearbook

McCamy Drugs remained at this location until the 1970s when Gene McCamy bought William Thomas' Drug Store at Five Points. He moved to

McCamy Drugs, from the 1955 JCHS yearbook

the rock building location at 371 Parks Avenue, where his pharmacy practice remained until K-Mart opened and he set up the pharmacy in K-Mart, where he remained until he retired. Skelton Pharmacy took the corner of Peachtree and Broad after Gene McCamy left. David Skelton operated on this corner until 1979 when CASA took over this space.

The movement off the square

As Scottsboro grew, drug stores, like many other businesses, moved off the square. Ironically, the very thing that keeps the square alive—the courthouse with its court sessions and lawyers and many business offices—has compelled a lot of commerce to flee to other locations. Parking was always an issue. Most modern drug stores have a drive-in window, and it is difficult to position such a potential traffic hazard on the busy downtown square (the last drive-in windows were Jacobs Bank on the corner of Broad and Willow and Palace Cleaners on Peachtree).

In September 1949, Thomas Drugs opened at Five Points, and Family Drugs continues that Five Points tradition today. Hodges Drugs positioned its later stores for proximity to doctors and the hospital. Hood's Drugs opened in the small shopping plaza beside Lays. CVS located later on Broad Street.

Today "drug stores" are hidden in department stores and grocery stores. The sole exception to the exodus off the square was Big C Drugs, which opened in the Claybrook Building on the corner of Laurel and Market in 1971 where it remained until 1973.

Today, pharmacies are more important than ever, a key part of overall health management. They provide flu shots and other common inoculations, and many offer quick clinics that diagnose simple illnesses and prescribe remedies. Today's pharmacists are half of a partnership with physicians that is vital keeping us healthy. Pharmacists, who see all of our prescriptions flow through their computers, protect us from harmful drug interactions. They mix chemotherapy drugs. They answer our questions and caution us about potential side effects. They dispense the precious substances that allow us to live with conditions that would have killed our grandparents.

The drug business is gone from the square, but the sundry business is still there and growing again. The square is the most perfect place for sidewalk tables, and Pine Brothers Coffee and Payne's are continuing this meeting place tradition. After a time when the square was closed up tight by 6pm, it is nice to see businesses open into the evening again—the square dotted with gamers catching Pokemon, baseball players practicing their batting in the old Benson Building, body builders cultivating muscles in Elmores, and cars clustered around Pine Brothers, young people talking and working on homework and enjoying good coffee and each other's company. Who has enjoyed a red slaw dog in Payne's without feeling the history of this 125-year-old location? We bring our children and grandchildren to spin on the 1939 stools and enjoy the ice cream treats of our childhood, grateful for an experience shared over time.

Annette Norris Bradford

Footnotes

Citations from local newspapers are included inline. Reference to *The Jackson County Chronicles* are also noted inline, and the author is assumed to be Ann B. Chambless unless otherwise noted.

1. Gregory B. Higby, "Chemistry and the 19th century American pharmacist," *Bulletin of Historical Pharmacy*, V28N1 (2003), pp. 9-17.
2. Higby, op. cit.
3. *Directory of Deceased American Physicians 1804-1829*, online database accessed through ancestry.com.
4. *Directory of Deceased American Physician*s, op. cit.
5. Higby, op. cit.
6. Higby, op. cit.
7. Higby, op. cit.
8. Wikipedia article on Caleb Bradham, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caleb_Bradham

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The Jackson County Chronicles

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In this issue:

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When the House of Happiness opened its doors at the foot of July Mountain in 1925, impoverished families and orphaned children found compassionate friends to help them through the tough Depression years ahead. Augusta Martin of the Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Alabama had come to Scottsboro in 1923 to begin her mission that would serve the area for thirty years. The facility started with the purchase of 160 acres in Sauta Bottom in 1925, which included a shack, a barn, and an occupied tenant house with water provided by Birdsong Spring. In time, a large, permanent log house was built some 200 feet above the spring, and the tenant house was converted into Happy Hollow School. The school closed about 1939, and the property sold in 1953. The house and barn burned in the mid 1960's, leaving two huge stone chimneys that stand today.

House of Happiness, from file photos at the Heritage Center

Wear your jeans and walking shoes. The Jackson County Historical Association will meet **Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 2:00 p. m. at the House of Happiness site.** Learn about this wonderful piece of Jackson County history from Joan Clemens whose father, Scott Clemens, was associated with the House of Happiness during his teenage years. For more information about the House of Happiness, see Ellie Smith's article in the July 2011 *Chronicles*: http://www.jchaweb.org/chronicles/2010ChroniclesV22N1-4.pdf

Directions: The turnoff to the House of Happiness is located on Highway 79 between Highway 35 and Highway 72. Follow the signs and turn onto the paved road marked Happiness Drive. Park your car in the parking areas as directed and follow the signs to the meeting site, about 100 yards up a slight incline along a logging road. Assistance in the form of six-seater ATVs will be provided to members and guests requiring help reaching the meeting site. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, the meeting will be at the depot.

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Members we will miss

This dreary winter quarter included the loss of two precious members of long standing, one to death and one to South Korea.

Ann Chambless

Ann, of course, is not really gone. She sold the contents of her home in a living estate sale last November, put her home and family land on the market, replaced a cranky hip, and left Jackson County for a new life in South Korea that affords her closer access to her son, Heath, daughter-in-law, Yeongha, and adorable grandson, Joe.

Ann Chambless at her going-away party, February 12,

Since she did not sell her encyclopedic knowledge of the county, however, she can still be called upon to settle a Facebook dispute and answer email questions. Her email address is rabc123@scottsboro.org. She promises to write an article from time to time.

She left her 40+ years of books and records with Northeast Alabama Community College, the Heritage Center, and the Bradfords.

We all plod onward bravely without the woman whose willpower created the Jackson County Historical Association, whose passion was instrumental in saving the depot, whose leadership produced so many wonderful quarterly programs, and whose skills gave us 40 years of the *Chronicles*. A goodbye party was held at the depot on February 12. Good luck, Ann, in your new life. Don't be a stranger.

John David Snodgrass

John David Snodgrass, a prominent judge and friend of the Jackson County Historical Association, died on his family farm in Scottsboro in early February.

John David was a charter life member of the JCHA and donated thousands of dollars to support JCHA projects, including the largest single donation to the JCHA-sponsored Bellefonte Cemetery Fund. He contributed heavily to the landmark Alabama Historical Association Conference hosted by the JCHA in the Spring of 2014. He instilled his abiding love of history and historical preservation in his friends, colleagues, and children.

Judge Snodgrass received a BS from the University of Alabama and graduated from the University of Alabama Law School in 1962.

He began his career as an attorney for Ford, Caldwell, Ford, and Payne in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1963. He was elected to the Alabama State Legislature in 1966, then appointed to the Circuit Judgeship in Place One of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit in 1968, and was re-elected in 1970, 1976, and 1982. He was appointed as Presiding Judge of the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit by the Chief Justice in 1973 and then elected Presiding Judge 1977-1989. He was President of the Alabama Association of Circuit Judges in 1980-1981.

Throughout his career, he had several Supreme Court of Alabama appointments, including the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and delegate to the National Conference of State Trial Judges. In 1989, he joined the law firm of Balch Bingham and in 1995, became an arbitration mediator, the position he held until he retired.

Judge John David Snodgrass with his grandson

Judge Snodgrass was an avid gardener and relished the time he spent planting flowers and vegetables and sharing them with family and friends. He was an avid reader of biography and history. He was always surrounded by family, friends, dogs, horses, and cattle.

In his eulogy for Judge Snodgrass, his colleague and long-time friend, Bob Hodges, said:

Some who don a black robe find that they are not suited to it, whether by inability to grasp the law or lack of temperament which is necessary for day after day presiding over contentious cases with emotionally charged parties, or other factors which may not be known until then, since the judiciary is a profession which brings most to it as newcomers.

John David Snodgrass was born to it. He was raised by a father who was a circuit judge, and a well-respected one, and a father whom he revered and tried to emulate. And that reverence led him to sit on the bench for decades, unopposed, with a grasp of the law, a thirst for the reading of it, and the temperament for resolving conflict that afforded him the skills to be a mediator after he left the bench.

He never pretended to speak for all over the world, but he raised his voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice in this corner of Alabama his forebears left him, and we who today celebrate the voice he raised – his family and those of us so privileged to have been called his friends – we are all the better for it.

Sources for the JD Snodgrass profile include Judge Snodgrass's obituary, Bob Hodges' eulogy, and remembrances from JCHA co-founder Ann Chambless.

A note to our readers: *The Jackson County Chronicles* has moved into offices just off the square in Scottsboro at 208 East Laurel. The office accommodates the accumulation of maps, photos, and documents entrusted to the editors for safekeeping and houses the extensive genealogical records compiled by Ann Chambless and other researchers. By early June, the office will be open for longer and more predictable hours after the editors complete their move from North Carolina to Scottsboro. Correspondence with the JCHA, including membership renewals, should still be directed to JCHA, PO Box 1494, Scottsboro, AL 35768. Our email address is jcha@scottsboro.org.

Wannville's brush with Broadway

There was little about Sally Washington's birth and childhood in Wannville that indicated she was destined to live on New York City's Park Avenue, marry into the city's prominent Chase family, perform on Broadway, and cross the Atlantic frequently on the age's plushest luxury liners.

Born in 1908, she was one of three children born to Rena Rich and Frank Washington. Frank built a small house for Rena, whom he never married, on the outskirts of the massive Washington plantation (located north of Mud Creek on what today is designated as County Road 592). In the 1910 census, Rena is listed as living on the outparcel with two-year-old Sally, a three-year-old brother (Charlie), and a 20-year-old half brother (James). Additionally, a sister, Luella, who is 15 years older than Sally, is listed as living in the

Sally Washington, age 14

Washington home with Frank and Frank's unmarried sister and only surviving sibling, Mazie.

Although Frank Washington acknowledged paternity of the two girls, he denied his family name and a share of the inheritance to the son, Charlie. Family lore has it that Charlie left home for a stint in the Navy and residence in Delaware after Frank beat him with a plow line.

By the 1920 census, Sally was living with her older sister in Stevenson. That same year, Frank Washington died, leaving half his assets to each of his two daughters. He did not name the mother of the children or his sister Mazie as beneficiaries.

The fortune that Frank Washington left to his daughters must have been considerable. His niece, Catherine Johnson Bradford (daughter of Frank's sister Sara), remembers that his money was the focus of Frank's life. In her family history, she recalls: "My Uncle Frank didn't speak to my mother or notice us children on entering the old home. Uncle Frank was a small man and I remember him as always figuring interest or loaning money. He had many visitors on business and I never remember him smiling. His life was not a very happy one with all his money."

Within two years of her father's death, Sally left Stevenson to attend St. Cecilia's Convent school in Nashville, TN, where she converted to Catholicism. After graduating from St. Cecilia's, she attended the Cincinnati College of Music and the University of Cincinnati where she studied piano, dance, and drama.

After completing her studies in Cincinnati, she joined the Stuart Walker Repertory Company. Walker was famous for the design of The Portmanteau Theatre, a touring theatre for young audiences, for which he received considerable attention and excellent reviews in the late 1920s. The company failed during the Depression after a run of 20 years.

She stayed with Stuart Walker for two years before moving east. Her first role in the northeast was with the Wharf Players in a summer theater in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Within a year, she was cast in the New York production of *The Bride the Sun Shines On* with Dorothy Gish and

won a role in *Misleading Lady*, a movie with Claudette Colbert and Edmund Lowe.

Misleading Lady is notable historically for being the last feature film made in the Paramount Studios in Astoria, Long Island. The production company joined other studios in migrating west.

Sally then played stock and summer theaters in Hempstead, Long Island, Stamford, and Guilford, CN. Her next New York engagement was the leading role in *Old Fashioned Girl*, a dramatization of a Louisa May Alcott novel.

The first time she can be documented as appearing in a Broadway theater is when she appeared in *Lost Horizon*, described as an original fantasy play in 21 scenes in which she played the roles of Sybil and a "Second Actress." The play opened on October 15, 1934 and closed in December after 54 performances.

She spent some time in 1935 back home in Stevenson, where she granted interviews to the Chattanooga and Birmingham press about her future in Broadway and the likelihood of her moving to Hollywood.

In those interviews, she offered little detail about her upbringing. *The Birmingham News-Age Herald* offered the following information: "Asked for biographical data, Miss Washington said she was born in Stevenson, where her father was a private banker. Her parents died 14 years ago." (1) The statement is peculiar since her mother had died only three years before. (2)

After her brief sabbatical in Stevenson, she returned to New York in the fall to resume her stage career, appearing later that year on Broadway, acting in the play *Prelude: Bury the Dead* by Irwin Shaw. It opened April 18, 1936 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre and closed in July 1936, after 97 performances.

In a 1936 installment of the *News of the Stage*, *The New York Times* makes mention of her, saying "Sally Washington, seen earlier this season in *Lost Horizon*, and Elizabeth Hendrick will appear next Tuesday and Wednesday nights at Old Chatham. N.Y. in *Brief Escape*, a new play by Peter Chase and Paul Coonradt." Three months after that performance, she would marry the co-author of the play, Peter Chase.

The wedding announcement in *The New York Times* noted that the newlyweds Sally and Peter sailed the evening of their wedding day on the ocean liner *The Europa*, bound for England. They returned to New York on September 4, 1936,

Sally Washington, late teens

sailing from Southampton, England on *The Bremen*. Sally's name was listed as a passenger on other ocean liner passenger manifests in the coming years.

Peter Chase was a "blue blood" New Yorker. His father was on the faculty of Hamilton College. He had attended the prestigious Moses Brown preparatory school in Providence, RI and the Dragon School in Oxford before graduating from Hamilton in 1930.

When Sally and Peter Chase returned to Manhattan from their honeymoon, they lived at 42 Park Avenue, Sally's address before her marriage. In 1939, when the the first of two

children arrived, *The New York Time*s listed their address as 34 West 11th Street, a stately brownstone that is still standing today in a prestigious Manhattan neighborhood.

There is no record of Sally having appeared on stage or on screen after marriage, despite her stated intent to continue her acting career.

The extended Washington family speculated in later years that Sally's lavish life style was enabled by the affluent Chase family, a prominent New York banking dynasty. However, the surviving child of Peter and Sally's marriage, John Chase of Philadelphia, dispels that notion. "We were the academic Chases, not the banking Chases," he said in recent correspondence. "All the money was Mother's."


Stevenson, Ala., Girl Is Appearing In Actors' Repertory Production

Peter Chase died in 1953 at age 44. He had served as a speech writer for Harry Truman, a researcher at the Library of Congress, and a reporter for The Syracuse (NY) Herald). His obituary reads "Survived are his widow, Mrs. Sally Washington Chase, a descendent of Lawrence Washington, brother of George Washington." (3)

The mistaken notion that the Wannville Washingtons were the direct descendants of Lawrence Washington persisted until genealogists Patty Woodall and Marymac Johnson established that the local Washington family was only distantly related to George Washington through a connection in Surrey, England that predated the American colonies by generations.

Sally died April 21, 1962 at age 53. At the moment of her death, she was speaking on the phone with her son, John, who had called to tell her of his admission to college.

A funeral mass was held at St. Mary's Church in Stamford, CN. She was buried locally in the Walker-Arnold section of the Washington Cemetery, outside the wrought iron fence enclosing the Washington family. There are deep sinks on either side of her grave, indicating she might have been buried contiguous with other family members, perhaps her mother and brother.

Her local services were presided over by a member of the faculty at St. Cecilia's Academy in Nashville, the school she had attended after leaving Wannville following her father's death and where she converted to Catholicism.

Sally's ascent from a small cottage on the periphery of the Washington plantation to Broadway is made all the more remarkable because the ten Washington children surviving to adulthood were hobbled by the poverty brought about by the Civil War. After the war, none of the children attended college. Only with the private banking business conducted by Frank Washington, Sally's father, would the family regain any portion of the wealth lost during the conflict.

Sally was survived by her two children. Jean Chase Linandois Twomby was born February 9, 1939 in Manhattan and died January 23, 2007 in Rockland, New York. She taught history at Columbia University and La Sorbonne. Sally's son, John Chase, is a retired building contractor who lives in Philadelphia.

David Bradford

Notes:

(1) The exact date of the *The Birmingham News-Age Herald* article cannot be determined. The article was extracted from a family scrapbook with only the publication's masthead, not date, attached. The year is 1936.

(2) Rena Rich, Sally's mother, died September 17, 1932 at age 68. Her burial site is not recorded, but presumed to be contiguous with Sally's grave in the Walker-Arnold cemetery.

(3) Extracted from the *The New York Times* online archives. The original obituary ran in the paper on October 19, 1953.

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Admiral Houston Ledbetter Maples

March 4, 1896- February 15, 1980

In 1913, when it was relatively uncommon for someone from Scottsboro to go to college, much less one out of state and almost unprecedented for that college to be a military academy, Houston Maples left for the Naval Academy.

Born in 1896, he was the son of Dr. William Caswell and Sophronia Maples. He had 6 siblings; Ann, Will, Emmett, Robert (Jack), John and Jim.

Houston was not initially accepted for the Academy, however a vacancy occurred at the last minute and he became the last to join the Class of 1917. Weight was a problem, but aptitude and intelligence were not. The family told of his having to eat lots of bananas and other filling foods in order to reach the required minimum weight. His yearbook claimed he returned for summer training his junior year weighing only 86 pounds. One supposes his duties had been in boiler rooms! At the Academy he was an excellent student, earning academic stars and finishing second in his class. In addition he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant in the Midshipman organization and was in charge of his company.

Thanks to his personal records, correspondence and family reminiscences we have a very good picture of his life as a naval officer in the early-20th century. He had many unique experiences that give us both personal and historical insights.

The United States entered WWI in 1917 and Ensign Maples was assigned to the USS Rhode Island, an Atlantic Fleet battleship. This was followed by a second battleship tour onboard the USS Texas. He then went to the USS Hannibal, a survey ship based in the Panama Canal Zone.

After 5 years of sea duty he was assigned to the Naval Academy as an instructor. While in Annapolis he met and courted his future bride, Marjorie Brewer, a member of a prominent local family. They were married in 1924 and three days later left by merchant ship for the Philippines. He was assigned to the Asiatic Fleet's Yangzi Patrol, whose ships generally spent the summers in Chinese waters and the winters in the Philippines. His destroyer, the USS Smith Thompson, was then in Tsingtao, China, a former German colony. Families followed the fleet between these two areas. He next served on the destroyer tender (repair ship) USS Blackhawk in the same area.

Official photo with Captain stripes.

Returning stateside, he was assigned again as a Naval Academy instructor. While in Annapolis, the Maples' first child, Houston Jr., was born. As was typical in this era, sea and shore duty alternated, and therefore the family moved to the west coast when he transferred to USS Niagara. The Niagara had been built as a steam yacht for the railroad baron Gould's family and was converted to naval use during WWI. Lieutenant Maples was commended for saving the life of a sailor who had fallen overboard in shark-infested waters.

His next tour was even more exotic than those before. He was assigned as Aide to both the Governor and the Naval Commander of Samoa in Tutuila. Among the odd jobs (collateral duties in Navy-speak) he picked up were Captain of the Yard, Vice President of the American Bank of Samoa, and Chairman of the Red Cross. What he did in his "free" time was not mentioned, but he spent no small effort organizing teams for an international "Million Player" bridge tournament and accounting for each player's $2.00 fee. His hand-drawn diagrams show the positions of tribal chiefs at the Governor's formal ceremonies. As Aide, he had to procure and present gifts of corned beef and salmon to the chiefs.

Guadalcanal 1943

After these tours in the far stretches of the American empire, in 1932 he rejoined the fleet on the battleships USS New York and USS Texas (a second assignment on the latter). The Texas' commanding officer was then-Captain Husband Kimmel, who was in command of the fleet in Hawaii on 7 December 1941.

(While he was following this far-flung naval career, back in Scottsboro his widowed mother and her children: Will, Jack, John and Jim had founded the original Maples Company.)

He returned to Annapolis for his third assignment in 1935-1936. He was made an instructor of electrical engineering, a field he enjoyed for the rest of his life. The high point of this period was the birth of the Maples' second child Ann, born in 1935.

Again he went to sea on the cruiser USS Astoria and the destroyer USS Melville. While on the Melville he was promoted to Commander. At this point his career had somewhat of a pattern - sea duty to satisfy career progression requirements, followed by shore assignments that took advantage of his intelligence and gave him some time with his family.

In 1940, as world tensions were building, Commander Maples was sent to Philadelphia to take command for the tanker Esso Albany which was being converted to become the fleet oiler USS Sabine (technically, "tankers" transport fuel between ports, while "oilers" refuel warships at sea).

When the United States entered WWII his experiences became the stuff of history. He commanded Sabine when she refueled the "Doolittle" task force as it conducted the historic 1942 raid on Tokyo. A photo taken from the carrier Enterprise shows Captain Maples on the bridge of the Sabine as fuel is being pumped between the ships. Newsreels showed the Sabine near the Enterprise. Maples received the Legion of Honor for leadership in the Tokyo, Samoa and Wake Island raids.

He next went to the war zone as Guadalcanal Naval Station commander. It should be noted that the Japanese had not been driven from the island and Maples was commended for his leadership in the face of air, land and sea attacks. After great American losses and the Japanese had been cleared out, he became Commanding Officer of Naval Bases-South Pacific. In this position he encountered and had to cope with the difficult General Douglas McArthur. He recounted one instance of being asked to provide gold-plated plumbing fixtures for the General.

In 1943 he returned to Washington and was able to rejoin Marjorie and his children, who had moved to Arlington, VA when he went to the South Pacific. The Navy had the confidence in Captain Maples to send him to a crucial assignment to our erstwhile Ally, the Soviet Union. He flew to Russia in multiple hops via Bermuda, the Azores, Casablanca, Cairo and Tehran.

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First assigned to the U.S. Military Mission to the Soviet Union and promoted to Rear Admiral, Maples was shortly named Naval and Air Attaché to Moscow. He sent a series of letters home to his mother as he traveled to and settled into Moscow. These narratives were circulated throughout the extended Maples family.

His voluminous personal records include contemporaneous letters to and from friends and colleagues containing observations on both common people and the Soviet hierarchy. For instance he comments, "Russians must be experienced to be understood." and in 1945 he wrote, "Russians appear to be getting a little more food" (i.e. more bread and potatoes). The Admiral who was to relieve him in 1947 was advised, "It is easy to meet Russians, but is hard to maintain contact." In fact the Russians who have frequent contact with Westerners were called 'trained seals' alluding to their certain connection to the Organs of State Security such as the infamous KGB.

Red Square, Moscow, May 1, 1946, L to R, Admiral Maples, General Guillaume (French Military Attache), Brigadier Allard (Canadian Military Attache), Lieutenant Colonel Bardae (Polish Military Attache), General Rokosovsky (U.S.S.R), and Captain Egipko (Russian Navy).

Russia, he and the other Attachés were expected to gain as much information as possible on what was really going on in the Soviet Navy and help lay the groundwork for anticipated USSR operations against the Japanese. Of course the Soviets did not actually declare war until after VE day, when Japan was close to surrender, in what was basically a land grab.

Perhaps the highpoint of his assignment was attending, as a Soviet expert, conferences at both Yalta (with Roosevelt) and Potsdam (with Truman). In later years he reflected on Stalin and the other Soviet leaders, whom he regarded as nothing more than thugs. By visiting the National Archives in Washington one can read a then-Top Secret report from Admiral Maples to the Chief of Naval Operations in which he assesses the possibility of a US-USSR conflict. Bottom line, he thought a war would only occur if the Soviets made a grave miscalculation.

The Admiral's family joined him in Moscow via ship to the Crimea and then rail to Moscow. When his duty was complete they came back to Scottsboro via Warsaw, Prague, Salzburg, Zurich, Paris, Bremen, Bremerhaven, New York. They traveled though bombed out cities, which two years after the war were largely rubble.

Retiring in 1948 with some 30 years of service, he and his wife returned to Scottsboro and lived on Mary Hunter Ave in a small house that faced the Southern Railroad passenger station. He also assembled a war-surplus cabin on Preston Island. His retirement years were spent among Scottsboro, Preston, and Annapolis. While in Scottsboro, he took his mother on rides and fishing, fiddled with electronic projects, and played golf with Marjorie.

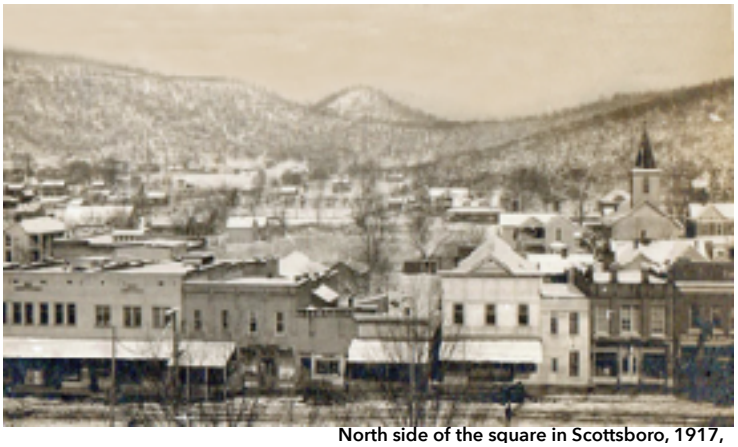
He died in 1980 and is buried at the Naval Academy Cemetery. After his death, Marjorie returned to Annapolis and enjoyed her hometown until she passed away in 1988. Their children are also deceased, but their daughter-in-law Mary Lee Maples resides in the District of Columbia, grandson Alan Maples lives in Scottsboro, his brother Arthur in Denver, and their cousin Elizabeth Brewster in Oregon. (After sale to J.P. Stevens, the Maples Company was reestablished as Maples Rugs headed by the Admiral's nephew, Wade and his son John.)

Charles Maples Heath and Alan Maples

Lieutenant-Commander (ret) Charles Maples Heath is great-nephew of Admiral Houston Maples, and Alan Maples is the Admiral's grandson.

Jackson County in World War 1

Imagine that it is 1916 and you are living in Jackson County. It is a simpler time. Women cannot vote. Crimes were not so violent in nature. Charlie Chaplin has just made it big in the movies, and Babe Ruth is wowing baseball fans. The 2nd Rose Bowl game was played between Washington State and Brown. On June 7, 1916, Theodore Roosevelt declined nomination of the Progressive Party and gave his support to Republican Charles Evans Hughes. The Democratic Convention convened in St Louis on June 14, 1916 and nominated Woodrow Wilson for another four-year term, campaigning on the slogan, "He kept us out of war."



North side of the square in Scottsboro, 1917,

Henry Ford was already making Model T's, but most Americans couldn't afford a car with a price tag of around $200, though a gallon of gas cost about 12 cents. The cost of buying a house for an average-sized family was approximately $3,500, and it was common for extended families to live in the same home to share the expense and the work. The average annual salary, as reported by *Courant*, was $577. Though people in cities worked at industrial jobs, farming was still the most common job, and marrying young was also fairly common. Many young people did not finish school because they had to work to support their families.(1) Country schools typically ran two or three months a year during a time when sons and daughters were not needed as farm help.

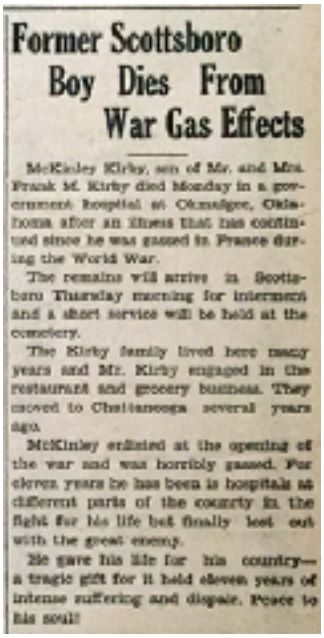
In their analysis of America 1915, *Atlantic* magazine noted that half of all families lived on farms. The population of the country was young. "In 1915, 100 million people lived in the United States, and more than half were under 25. One century later, the population is more than 300 million, but the share of people under age 25 has fallen to one-third. Meanwhile the share of people over 65 tripled, from 5 percent to 14 percent." (2)

In 1916, we were a young and largely rural country, and Jackson County was a rural county compared to the rest of the country. Into this self-contained, agrarian economy came America's entry into World War 1. The war took our young men away in great numbers to camps all over the eastern part of the country, sons whom their fathers needed to make a crop. It packed these young men together in tight quarters and exposed them to Spanish flu, and many of them died from it. It instituted the first national draft, and "slackers," those who failed to register or to report, were publicly humiliated or worse, hunted down and, in at least one instance, killed. It was 1916 and no one in Jackson County was itching for a fight.

April 17, 2017 marks the centennial of America's entry into World War 1. The county, the state, the country, indeed the world, are involved in a reexamination of our role in this war. PBS is running a World War 1 series. Memorial Days and Veterans' Days across the country will feature World War 1. It has been 100 years, and the time has come to remember.

The U. S. was in the war only 19 months. By the numbers, 4.5 million Americans were mobilized, 2 million arrived in France before Armistice in November, 1 million served in combat, 115,000 died (half from disease, half in battle), and 200,000 were wounded. By comparison, 1.4 million French and 950,000 Brits

lost their lives. This wounded figure does not include the long-term wounded, those men who suffered lung problems because of exposure to poison gas.



Former Scottsboro Boy Dies From War Gas Effects

McKinley Kirby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Kirby died Monday in a government hospital at Okmulgee, Oklahoma after an illness that has continued since he was gassed in France during the World War.

The remains will arrive in Scottsboro Thursday morning for interment and a short service will be held at the cemetery.

The Kirby family lived here many years and Mr. Kirby engaged in the restaurant and grocery business. They moved to Chattanooga several years ago.

McKinley enlisted at the opening of the war and was horribly gassed. For eleven years he has been in hospitals at different parts of the country in the fight for his life but finally lost out with the great enemy.

He gave his life for his country—a tragic gift for it held eleven years of intense suffering and dispair. Peace to his soul!

Men like young McKinley Kirby, the son of Francis M. Kirby and Amanda Farmer. Only 20 when he shipped out for France, he died in a government hospital in Oklahoma in 1929, eleven years after the war ended. "McKinley enlisted at the opening of the war and was horribly gassed," *The Progressive Age* said in his obituary. "For eleven years he has been in hospitals in different parts of the country in the fight for his life but finally lost out with the great enemy. He gave his life for his country—a tragic life for it held eleven years of intense suffering and despair. Peace to his soul!" He lies in Cedar Hill under a military headstone.

Contemporaries called World War 1 "The Great War" and "The War to End All Wars." We folks in 2017 call it "The Forgotten War." Many of us who did not listen well in high school history (and I include myself here) learned most of what we know about this war from *Downton Abbey*. As a teacher of literature, I knew the profound effect this war had on the writers of the time, the "lost generation" that included F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, T. S. Eliot, John Steinbeck, and William Faulkner. Many of us have known and talked to men who fought in World War 11: they are our fathers and grandfathers and uncles and friends. But World War 1 is harder for us to visualize because we cannot talk to veterans. The last surviving U. S. veteran of World War 1 was Frank Buckles, an ambulance driver from West Virginia who served on the western front and died in 2011 at age 110. (Wikipedia)

I can remember talking about the war with only one veteran, my mother's boss in Opelika, Fred Bice. He lied about his age and ran away to join the Army in 1917. The enemy disconnected the railroad car in which his unit was being transported from the rest of the train, leaving them pinned down and shelled on all sides by machines guns. Fred, covered by the bodies of his friends, survived but lost a leg. As a child, I was curious about a man with an artificial leg, and I watched him closely when we were together looking for telltale signs of his artificial appendage. That was before the Gulf Wars when improvised explosive devices (IEDs) made men with missing limbs an all-too-common sight. Recovering in an army hospital at 17, Fred had thought his life was over and was near despair until an older veteran who had survived loss of his leg helped this teenager over the emotional hurdle of living his life with only one leg.

At least three Jackson County boys lied about their ages and enlisted—and died. Millard Mashburn worked in a cotton mill in Anniston at 12 in 1910. His mother died in 1910 and all the children went to his grandmother in Kirbytown. He must have lied about his age to enlist, because he died in 1917 at 17. Seventeen-year-old Bob Dial of Bryant died of the flu in New Jersey before he ever saw a battlefield, as did his older brother, nineteen-year-old Frank. They died a day apart in December 1917. Corporal Aubrey Hammon of Larkinsville enlisted in December 1916, only 16 years old, and died from wounds received at Mont Blanc Ridge in France of October 7, 1918, only 18 years old.

The Great War was a jarring reminder of life outside of Jackson County as it swooped down and scooped up the county's best and brightest young men. How did all this conflict get started and, much to the European allies relief, how did the U. S. become involved in this war?

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World War 1 basics (3)

World War I was a global war that started in Europe and lasted from July 14, 1914 until November 11, 1918, that is, four years, three months, and one week. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as result of this war (including the victims of a number of genocides). The casualty rate was made worse by the "new" combat technologies (war in the air, tank warfare, and poison gas) and the tactical stalemate caused by trench warfare. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in the world history. More Americans fell in this war than in a decade of Vietnam and Korea combined. It paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.

Trench warfare in Italy(4)

The combatants were the Allies or Triple Entente, consisting of the Russian Empire, the Third French Republic, Italy, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, fighting against the Central Powers, which at the start of the war were Germany and Austria-Hungary. As the war dragged on, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria entered on the side of the the Central Powers, and Japan and finally the United States joined on the side of the Allies.

World War 1 started on June 28, 1914 when Austrian Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, the heir to the Austria-Hungary throne, was assassinated in Sarajevo by a pro-Serbian nationalist. The Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia a month later on July 28, and Russia joined the war on the side of Serbia on July 30. Like dominoes, the other combatants fell into place. On August 1, Germany and France mobilized as Germany declared war on Russia. On August 2, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and declared war on France. On August 4, Britain declared war on Germany. After several key battles were fought, the Ottoman Empire joined the war on the side of the Central Powers on November 1, 1914.

By early 1915, German submarine warfare had become a real threat. At first the Germans attacked only naval vessels but soon began attacking merchant vessels as well. On February 4, 1915, Germany declared the seas around the British Isles a war zone and, on February 18, began attacking both neutral and Allied ships without warning, essentially quarantining the British Isles. In March, Germany sank a private American vessel, the *William P. Frye*. On May 7, 1915, a German U-boat sank the Cunard ocean liner *RMS Lusitania*, killing 1198 of her 1959 passengers, including 128 Americans, and "Remember the Lusitania" became a battle cry for hawks anxious for America to enter the war.

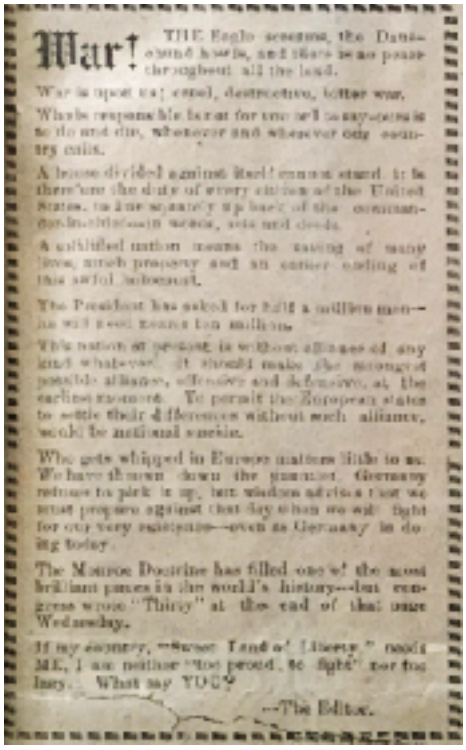
President Wilson was outraged, but the German government apologized and called the attack an unfortunate mistake and pledged to see to the safety of passengers before sinking unarmed vessels. The U.S. did not want to be drawn into this conflict and accepted this explanation.

In early 1917, Germany believed it could defeat Britain before the U. S. could mobilize, and began once again attacking commercial shipping from neutral nations, requiring Wilson to put Navy personnel and arms on commercial ships for protection in war-zone waters. In January 1917, the British had intercepted the Zimmerman Telegram, but delayed passing the information it contained to the U. S. until February 24 because it revealed their ability to break the German code. When this information was turned over to the U. S., it became clear that Germany encouraged Mexico to march against the U. S. But Wilson sat on this information for a month before disclosing it to his cabinet on March 20. In late March, Germany sank four more U. S. merchant ships, and on April 2 President Wilson appeared before Congress and called for

a declaration of war against Germany. Four days later, his request was granted, and the first American troops landed in France on June 26, 1917.

After two years of bloody stalemate along the western front, the entrance of America's well-supplied forces into the conflict marked a major turning point in the war and helped the Allies to victory. The war finally ended on November 11, 1918.

World War 1 in Alabama


War!

THE Eagle screams, the Dauschund howls, and there is no peace throughout all the land.

War is upon us; cruel, destructive, bitter war.

Whole responsible house for one self-supporters is to do and die, wherever and whenever our country calls.

A house divided against itself cannot stand, it is therefore the duty of every citizen of the United States, to line squarely up back of the commander-in-chief—in words, acts and deeds.

A nobilified nation means the saving of many lives, much property and an earlier ending of this awful holocaust.

The President has asked for [illegible] a million men—he will soon want ten million.

This nation at present is without allies of any kind whatever. It should make the strongest possible alliance, offensive and defensive, at the earliest moment. To permit the European states to settle their differences without such alliance, would be national suicide.

Who gets whipped in Europe matters little to us. We have thrown down the gauntlet. Germany refuses to pick it up, but wisdom advises that we must prepare against that day when we will fight for our very existence—even as Germany is doing today.

The Monroe Doctrine has filled one of the most brilliant pages in the world's history—but congress wrote "Thirty" at the end of that page Wednesday.

If my country, "Sweet Land of Liberty," needs ME, I am neither "too proud to fight" nor too lazy. What say YOU?

—The Editor.

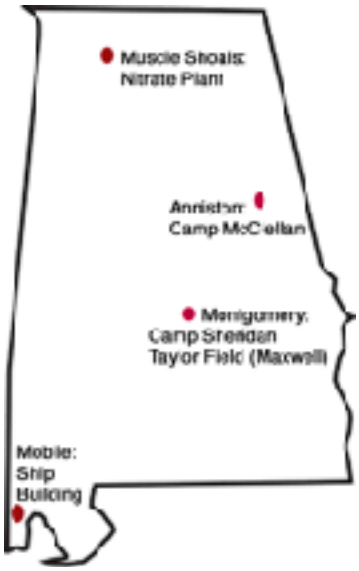
When the U. S. entered the war, Alabama had a group of young men already prepared to fight. The Militia Act of 1903 had codified the circumstances under which the National Guard could be federalized (for example, to police striking workers or in case of natural disaster). It also provided federal funds to the National Guard to pay for equipment and training, including annual summer encampments. In return, the National Guard began to organize its units along the same lines as the regular army, and took steps to meet the same training, education, and readiness requirements as active duty units.

In 1916 and 1917, the 4th Alabama National Guard had already been mobilized and was serving on the Mexican border. Pancho Villa crossed the border and led a hit-and-run raid against small U. S. and Mexican border towns March 9, 1916, and then fled in fear of U. S. retaliation. The U. S. government sent General John J. Pershing to capture Villa, who continued to run and hide in an unsuccessful nine-month incursion into Mexican sovereign territory that ended when the United States entered World War 1 and Pershing was recalled.

In the 1916 *Progressive Age*, before the U. S. entered the war, the papers were full of pictures and stories about the Mexican Revolution. Many contended that we were kept out of the World War by the "Mexican distraction." At the close of the Mexican Revolution, the 4th Alabama National Guard was recalled and became the 167th Infantry Unit, among the first to ship out in World War 1. Their commander was Montgomery-native William Screws, and the unit included, in addition to the men of the old 4th Alabama, men from New York, Iowa, and Ohio. They left for France in November 1917. These trained guardsmen were the first to the front. They fought in more battles and suffered more casualties than the draftees.

Alabama was the site of several World War 1 training facilities:

- **Camp Sheridan** in Montgomery was a regular Army encampment where training consisted of drills, lectures, good sanitation, firing range practice, and 1-9 day marches. Camp Sheridan was where F. Scott Fitzgerald was serving when he met Zelda Sayer at a local party. It had originally been the site of Vanderbilt Park, a racetrack.



- **Taylor Field** (later Maxwell Air Force Base) was located five miles south of Montgomery at the old Wright Brothers flying school. The Women's Motor Corps was based here, charged with the job of ferrying men around.

- **Camp McClellan** (later Fort McClellan) was an artillery and machine gun training facility. It opened in December 1917 and was home to the 29th Infantry Division. When the 29th shipped out in June 1918, they were replaced by the Maryland National Guard, a "colored" division.

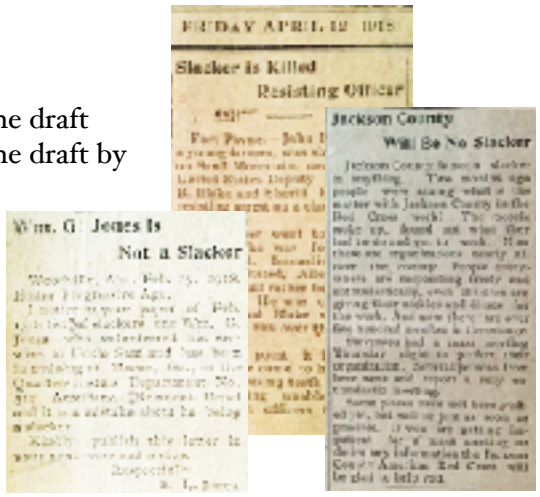
- **Muscle Shoals** was a nitrate plant, a revolutionary industrial process attempting to extract nitrates from super-heated air. The U. S. was importing nitrates from Chile and feared that German submarine activity would disrupt the supply. Jackson County Gold Star soldier Harvey Vandiver worked at this plant for a time before he was called up, according to his sister. "He worked in Plant No. 2. At one time he helped to lay the drainage pipes this work being so hard he worked for a while as water boy where they were creating a steel building but people were continually being killed by things falling so Harvey quit this and went to work at something else about the plant."

- **Mobile** was a ship building site. At the beginning of the war, cotton prices had bottomed out, ruined by a hurricane on July 4, 1916. Mobile had the infrastructure and the deep water shipping capacity to support ship building. No ship was finished at the Mobile site until after Armistice. When the Mobile-built ship was completed, it was immediately scrapped and sold for pennies on the dollar.

Alabama essentially mobilized in preparation for a war that was over in 19 months. Many Jackson County men volunteered. Many more men were called up than were ever asked to serve, and many of the men who were trained did not see overseas service. But many served, and suffered injuries that they carried with them all their lives. Clyde Broadway's uncle James Broadway was shot in the leg. Eli Bryant from Hollywood lost an arm. Many more stories remain to be told, and 60 men from Jackson County lost their lives.

For more information: Essays on military bases, Mobile, and the Muscle Shoals Project in *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie*, edited by Martin T. Olliff. For information about the 167th, see *Send the Alabamians* by Nimrod T. Frazier (University of Alabama Press: 2014).

Registering for the draft


Slacker is Killed
Resisting Officer
Jackson County
Will Be No Slacker
Not a Slacker

As the U. S. entered the war, men of draft age were required to register. The draft was a very unpopular idea and millions across the country opted out of the draft by either failing to participate or claiming that the draft was an infringement on their civil liberties. Nationwide, between two and three million men eligible for the draft simply did not register, and of those who did register, 338,000 failed to show up or else deserted. These men were referred to in the public press as *slackers*, and in some cases, they were hunted down and arrested.

The Progressive Age published lists of slackers on the front page and the

word was used frequently in articles about the war. In this article from April 1918, for example, a young farmer named John David Allen was killed in a scuffle with the U. S. deputy marshal and county sheriff who came to arrest him. It was not a popular war.

Many honorable men objected to being forced into military service. The country had operated on the citizen soldier model, that is, military service makes you a free man and entitles you to political choice. Draftees felt deprived of their independent political choice, and considered the draft involuntary servitude. Opposition to forced service was nothing new; the draft riots during the Civil War were testimony to a history of opposition to forced service. During the initial patriotic lead up to the war, some men volunteered to avoid being perceived as draftees because of the negative associations with being drafted. President Wilson tried to soften this attitude, redefining the nature of duty to country and making draftees less stigmatized.

Precinct Number	Registrars
1	Jno. John Williams Ben L. Hill
2	John Shirley
3	Walter Baggett E. K. Mann
4	George S. McGhee
5	G. H. Caperton W. Jasper Austin
6	A. Wann
7	William T. Walker
8	R. Lee Morris
9	John L. Tate
10	Capt. Frank D. Hunt
11	George W. Ambrester
12	D. Frank Pennell
13	Robert Campbell
14	John L. Staples
15	John D. Evans
16	W. Bradley Thomas
17	W. G. Johnson
18	W. W. Reed
19	H. I. Erwin
20	R. Daley Gist

Precinct Number	Registrars
21	W. Rutledge Larkin Virgil Bourdin
22	George W. Doherty
23	Harry Hill
24	Dr. W. R. Smith
25	Bert Green
26	Harvey P. Hoxie
27	John P. Cunningham
28	W. R. Wheeler
29	William Cargile (Gilmer) Lem A. Hawkins (Higdon)
30	Meredith Cook (Section)
31	Pete Rose
32	M. Garlic (Jamack)
33	Jesse Pullman (New Market)
34	R. Garry Hanon (Princeton)
35	George Hogewood (Kyles)
36	Alfred M. Smith (Aspol)
37	James W. Shelton (Letcher)
38	Henry M. Holcomb (Pisgah)
39	W. H. Brown (Long Island)

Three registrations were taken to generate lists of men who met the required profile from which the county would select the men to serve in the war:

- **June 5, 1917**: Registered men born between June 6, 1886 and June 5, 1896. (ages 31 and 21). From this initial draft 21-30 men were typically taken. In 1917, the U. S. goal was to raise an army of a million in a month. They got 78,000.

- **July 5, 1918**: Registered men who had reached age 21 after June 5, 1917. A supplement to this registration was held August 24, 1918, again to pick up men who had turned 21 after June 5.

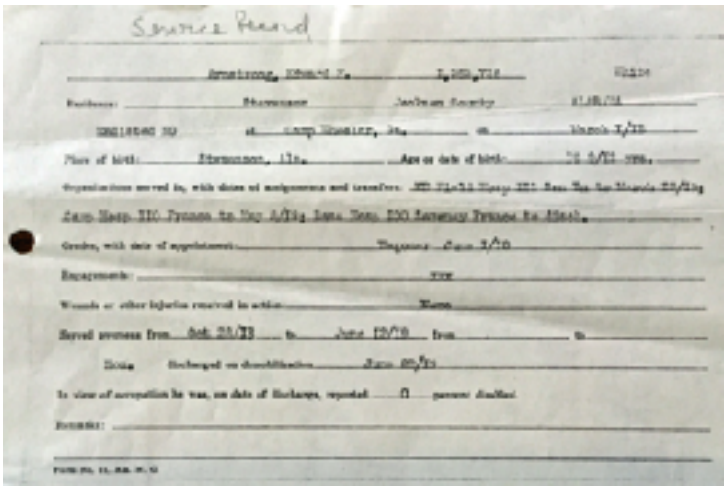
- **September 12, 1918**: Registered men ages 18 through 45, all men born between 1872 and 1900. Since the war ended two months later, most of these men were not called up.

Men who met the age criteria were required to register, regardless of race and physical condition. Physical and social limitations were were identified on the registration form. The only exception to universal registration was for men already in the military. Registrations were held on June 5 at the usual polling places for the 39 precincts in the county. If you look at your ancestor's draft registration form, one of the men from this list on the right would have signed it since these registrars conducted the draft.

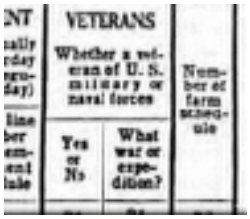
World War 1 registration cards are a godsend for genealogy researchers. They include such information as name, address, occupation, place of birth, physical limitations, and even physical traits such as height, build, hair color, and eye color. The young men who met the age requirement had only one day to register, from 7am to 9pm, and failure to register resulted in imprisonment.

If you have a relative who met the age requirements, a search of Ancestry or the state archives will likely produce a draft registration form. The exception is men who were already in the National Guard or men who volunteered before they met the draft registration criteria. These records are available through Ancestry or Fold3, which are subscription services, but many libraries, including the Scottsboro Library,

and the Scottsboro Jackson Heritage Center provide access to Ancestry. They are free from FamilySearch.org or can be found on microfilm in the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) reading room.



Military service records are paper records and not available online. They can be ordered from the national archive (https://www.archives.gov/veterans/militar-service-records) or you can travel to Montgomery to the Alabama Archives. Folks researching World War 1 in Alabama are fortunate since one-third of the national World War 1 service records were destroyed in a fire, but copies of Alabama's records were kept on microfilm in the ADAH and are safe. If you access this record, it will look very similar to this one that Jen Stewart has for Edward F. Armstrong.



To determine if your ancestor served, check the 1930 census form, which included a column asking whether the respondent was a veteran. If the response is yes, the "what war" question is usually answer "W-W" meaning world war. Remember in 1930, World War 1 was the only world war.

The first Jackson County boys leave for training camp

Thomas Cobbs Kyle

The first group of Jackson County boys shipped out on September 12, 1917, commanded by Jeptha E. Moody and Thomas Cobbs Kyle. Moody was shown on the front page and the caption under his photo read, " 'Captain' of Jackson County's Quota, first Contingent of the National Army." This group of 13 boys also included Albert Wynn, Marvin Filmore Dawson, Ollie Davis, John R. Bradford, Robert Delmar Martin, Claud Henderson Bramlett, Paul Eroma Bobo, Elzie I. Griffin, Andrew Warren Roden, William E. Michaels, and Barton G. Wright.

Jeptha E. Moody

On September 7, 1914, *The Progressive Age* reported:

The above squad, first of the Alabama soldiers to entrain for camp, boarded the train at nine o'clock and departed with a good luck and God speed from a big crowd who gathered at the train to see them off.

Not a soldier failed to respond to the call of the Local Board, and one colored man who had been called through mistake, responded promptly and announced that he was ready to go. "Jep" Moody was made "captain" of the squad and will be in charge until Camp Pike, Little Rock is reached. Thomas Kyle was made assistant.

There are no "slackers" in "High Jackson."

For the most part, the people are opposed to the war, but every man is going to do his full duty without shirking or complaining. In two weeks 40 per cent more will be ordered to camp and October 4 another 40 per cent.

The boys gathered at the court house at noon Tuesday and were given the freedom of the town all the refreshments places were thrown open to them free—and they made to feel that the folks back home do care for them and know that they will give a good account of themselves under any and all circumstances. Other squads joined them at Huntsville, Decatur, and Sheffield.

Of this first group of 13 boys in their early 20s, three of them did not return. Albert Wynn of Bridgeport died four months to the day after he reported, January 12, 1918. Ollie Davis of Hollytree was killed in action in France, September 30, 1918. Thomas Kyle of Scottsboro was killed in action by enemy machine gun fire in France during the 2nd Battle of the Marne, August 10, 1918, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre by France.

Not all men were draft eligible. Of those men whose birthdays fell within the specified dates, 25% of draft-eligible white males were actually drafted; 35% of draft-eligible black males were drafted, so that black men were overrepresented. Of men in the U. S. between 18 and 45, 23.9 million registered, and of this number 2.8 million were inducted. Men deemed eligible were given physical examinations locally to determine if they were healthy enough for service. Some men accepted locally were rejected once they started training at the camps, and the county draft board was required to replace these men to meet the county quota.

Alabama had 12,000 volunteers. Of this group 7,000 were already trained and in active service because they were already part of the National Guard. The remaining 5,000 simply volunteered.

In Alabama, 445,000 men registered, and 64,000 were inducted. If the war had gone on beyond 19 months, many more of the draftees would have be involved in the fight. While the vast number of draftees did not fight, they did train. The Alabama Archives includes a microfilm list of all the men who were inducted and sent to training camps. This list is also available on Ancestry (Alabama > Military > Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty 1917-1918). They were sent to the following training locations:

- Camp Pike, Little Rock, AR
- Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, MS
- Camp Taylor in Louisville, KY
- Camp Custer in Battle Creek, MI
- Camp Sevier in Greenville, SC
- Camp Jackson in Columbia, SC
- Camp Hancock in Augusta, GA
- Camp Wheeler in Macon, GA
- Camp Greene in Charlotte, NC
- Camp Sheridan in Montgomery
- Camp McClellan in Anniston
- Alabama Polytechnic Institute in Auburn
- University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa
- Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA
- Tuskegee College in Tuskegee, Alabama (Colored only)
- Camp Dodge in Johnson, Iowa (Colored only)

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Conditions in the camps seem to have varied substantially, and we cannot find a standard for the amount of time spent in training. Some letters home reported that soldiers who reported early almost had to build their camps when they arrived, but Camp Pike in Little Rock, AR seems to have been ready for business at the beginning of mobilization. In the September 28, 1917 report by A. C. Boggus in *The Progressive Age* of his arrival at Camp Pike:

I have just a few moments and I will write you as I promised regarding the boys and the trip. We had have a right tolerable time so far, well fed and cared for so far, and with the exception of one or two, the boys all seem jolly and cheerful as ever. We arrived here Saturday morning about three o'clock and I'm glad to say the boys were all well behaved, not having any trouble at all. We have fine barracks and fine set of officers, of whom we all try to respect and obey. Everything is going better than we expected and, as I have said, with exception of one or two, we are all well provided and doing fine. Well they are calling us to drill, so must close promising to write more next time. Sincerely, A. C. Boggus, Co. B., 334 Field Artillery

Mancel Michaels returned home from the war with this panoramic photo of Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, MS, where he, his brother-in-law James Michaels, and friend Will Sumner reported in August 1918:

The mood at home

How did citizens feel about the war? Examination of popular music during World War 1 is a useful measure because the music closely mirrored the progression of emotions in the 19 months of the war: from patriotic recruitment to naive optimism to sadness and sorrowful recognition that many leaving would not return.

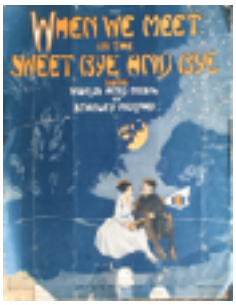
When the war began, music hall tunes dominated popular music. Songs were jaunty and comic, mocking the domineering wife or mother-in-law. Many popular songs included tongue-twisters or other comic elements. Sentimental songs pined for lost loves. Popular, patriotic songs raised the morale of soldiers and civilians alike and covered a variety of themes, such as separation of loved ones, boot camp, war as an adventure, and humorous songs about the military life

Out of this tradition came the music of World War 1, and songs in 1917 were patriotic recruitment songs. "Because there were no radios or televisions that reported the conditions of battlefields, Americans had a romantic view of war. Not only were many of the songs patriotic, but they were also romantic. The songs portrayed solders and brave and noble, while the women were portrayed as fragile and loyal as they waited for their loved ones." (5) This calendar girl from the 1918 Swift Meat calendar was typical of the girl waiting back home.

The songs at the beginning of the war were recruitment songs, showing reluctant mothers sending their sons to fight, such as "America, Here's My Boy" and "It's Time for Every Boy to Be a Soldier." The best known was "Set Aside Your Fears Till the Boys Come Marching Home."

Early war songs also reflected almost an naive optimism that seemed to say, "You Europeans have been struggling but now that the Yanks are in the war and we will make short work of it." My great aunts were pianists, and their old sheet music reflects the this optimism. I particularly like "Long Boy":

> Oh my sweetheart, don't you fear,
> I'll bring you a king for a souvenir.
> I'll bring you a duke and a kaiser too,
> And that's about all one fellow can do.



As the war dragged on on, the naive enthusiasm was replaced with the sad reality that many of those who marched off so bravely would not return, and the songs became sad and sentimental.

Certainly the most recognized music from World War 1 was the George M. Cohan song "Over There," though when I hear this song in my head, Kate Smith is singing it. The popularity of this song for the two years of American war involvement is evidenced by these different sheet music versions. Written in 1917 about World War 1, it was the most popular song of the war, selling over two million copies.

Cohan wrote "Over There" just one day after President Woodrow Wilson entered the war on the side of the Allies and began sending troops to Europe. "The song reflected Americans' expectations that the war would be short." (Wikipedia)

World War 1 posters are a likewise interesting study, and a future *Chronicles* article will discuss war posters. World War 1 gave us one of the most enduring images of American service posters: Uncle Sam. According to the Library of Congress, the poster shown here was "originally published as the cover for the July 6, 1916, issue of *Leslie's Weekly* with the title "What Are You Doing for Preparedness?" This portrait of "Uncle Sam" went on to become--according to its creator, James Montgomery Flagg--"the most famous poster in the world." Over four million copies were printed

between 1917 and 1918, as the United States entered World War I and began sending troops and materials into war zones." (https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm015.html)

It is also the origin of the term "Sammies" that was sometimes used instead of "doughboys" to describe American soldiers, as in this headline from the July 1917 *Progressive Age*. According to the Word Detective, the 1917 recording of George M. Cohan's "Over There" used the term Sammies in place of Yanks in one verse. "Sammies" was indeed popular slang of the day, primarily in Britain, for American soldiers in World War I, drawn from the iconic character of Uncle Sam as a symbol of the U. S. According to an article in *Stars & Stripes* from 1918, however, the "Sammies" themselves were less than thrilled with the name ("A Sammie may be defined as an American soldier as he appears in an English newspaper or a French cinema. It is a name he did not invent, does not like, never uses and will not recognize"). (http://www.word-detective.com/2009/01/sammies/)

Jackson County's Gold Star Boys

Jackson County's World War 1 monument in front of the courthouse recognizes 57 men who lost their lives. The Alabama Archive Gold Star database includes yet another (Charles Hammer) and the Heritage Center and Ralph Mackey have turned up another (Paschal Ashmore). I found another who died ten years after the war from gas (McKinley Kirby), putting the best available total at 60.

Who were they, these young men who died almost before they lived?

Most of the Jackson County men who died were single farmers born about 1895. They came from all over the county: Limrock, Snead, Trenton, Long Island, Garth, Hollytree, Flat Rock, Langston, Swaim, Dutton, Fabius, Allison, Maynard's Cove, and Bass—each gave up one son. Three died from Woodville, Paint Rock, Hollywood, Section, Princeton, and Larkinsville. Four were lost from Bridgeport, Stevenson, and Scottsboro.

Young Herbert Harold Brown from Limrock was the first Jackson County casualty of the war. He died of pneumonia on November 21, 1917 in Camp Wheeler in Macon, GA. As you would expect, the most deadly year of the war was 1918, and the most deadly month was October, when 18 Jackson County men serving in France lost their lives.

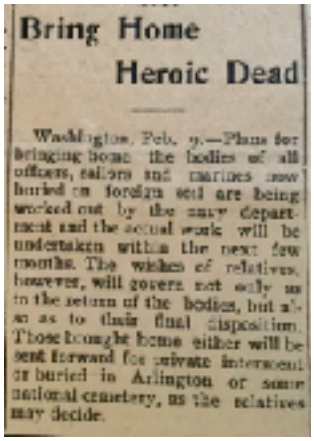
Of the men listed on the monument, 21 of the 57 died in France. Two in England. One drowned in the Atlantic when his transport vessel was torpedoed by a German submarine. Five died in accident, either in the US or overseas. Three died of disease overseas (probably flu). Many died in camps of Spanish flu. Of the eight cases of pneumonia, six of those started as flu, and two as measles. Harvey Vandiver reported to camp with tuberculosis so serious that he was sent to a sanitarium in Waynesville, NC, where he died a week later.

© The Jackson County Historical Association

Claude Bobo operated Dreamland silent theater upstairs in the Claybrook Building, but his little brother Carl died in the war, in March 1919 after Armistice was declared. Though Miss Syd Telford would spend her life playing behind silent movies, teaching music to about half of Scottsboro, and accompanying the Episcopal congregation well into her 80s, her early life included the tragic loss of her brother Thomas Kyle, the victim of German machine gun fire during the 2nd Battle of Marne. Harry Steeley, an Episcopal Republican in a sea of Baptist Democrats, died of Suppurative Pleurisy in the Norfolk Navy Hospital. George Ridley was a telegraph operator in Stevenson. Albert Paris operated a restaurant in Bridgeport. Sherman Miller died of pneumonia at home in Scottsboro while on furlough on his 22th birthday and lies today in Goosepond Cemetery. Moses Watson was a 30-year-old brakeman for Southern Railroad. Some were illiterate and signed their names on their registration forms with an "X."

Of the sixty men who died, thirteen either died from wounds or were missing or killed in action. Twenty-one died from disease: six died in pneumonia, another seven from the flu, three from measles, three of unspecified illness overseas, one from pleurisy, and one from tuberculosis. The average age was 24 1/2. All but three who died were in the Army. The other three were in the Navy.

The JCHA has researched all the names found on the monument at the courthouse, and have found at least a couple that should be added. We used findagrave to create a virtual cemetery so that you can see all in one place and read about all the Jackson County boys who died in World War 1. You will see that some boys have two graves, and some have none. Those with two graves are buried in France but also have *cenotaphs* (empty, commemorative graves) in a Jackson County cemetery. Those with none, we have created unassigned records in findagrave. The virtual cemetery is here:
https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=vcsr&GSvcid=748236


Bring Home Heroic Dead

Washington, Feb. 9.—Plans for bringing home the bodies of all officers, sailors and marines now buried on foreign soil are being worked out by the navy department and the actual work will be undertaken within the next few months. The wishes of relatives, however, will govern not only as to the return of the bodies, but also as to their final disposition. Those brought home either will be sent forward for private interment or buried in Arlington or some national cemetery, as the relatives may decide.

Actually all WWI casualties were originally buried in France. Following the war, a massive effort was undertaken to exhume the bodies for reburial in the U. S. or in special U. S. cemeteries in Europe. Families had three options: leave their loved one's remains in Europe though moved to larger cemeteries, return him for burial in family cemetery, or return for burial in Arlington National Cemetery in the U. S., as this *Progressive Age* wire service story explains.

For More Information: The Alabama Archives online Gold Star Database: http://www.archives.state.al.us/goldstar

Alabama Women in World War 1

There were no WACS (Women's Air Corps) or WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) until World War 2. But women served in World War 1 as nurses.

The only World War 1 nurse with Jackson County connections that we have discovered was Lura Heath Ross who served as a nurse in France during World War 1. Lura was born in Indiana in 1890. In 1910, she was teaching music in Stevenson with her mother Zarutha, the widow of Reverend Charles Heath. Lura's brother Wiley died in 1919 and is buried in Stevenson City Cemetery. Her nephews Charles and William are buried in Cedar Hill, as is their mother, Ann Maples Heath. Lura died in Rosswell, New Mexico in 1989, a few months shy of her 100th birthday. Her epithet from Nobel prize winning Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore, reflects her life of service:"I slept and dreamt that life was all joy, I woke and saw

that life was but service, I served and understood that service was joy." A upcoming issue of the *Chronicles* during this World War 1 commemoration year will talk more about Lura's life.

Haley E. Aaron writing for *Alabama Heritage* wrote about "Alabama Nightingales" who worked both stateside and abroad to care for soldiers. St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham, the oldest training hospital for nurses in the state, opened in 1898 and graduated its first class of nurses in 1903. The first state training program for African-American nurses was founded in 1892 at Tuskegee University. "These women not only served with distinction during the war; but they also applied their organizational skills to establishing professional organizations and improving health care after the war."(6)

Sister Chrysostom Moynaham, the chief nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital, traveled with a group of relatively young nurses to Base Hospital 102, located in Italy, joining a group of nine other Alabama nurses who were training at Mobile and Montgomery hospitals and about 90 nurses from other southern states. They served at a hospital 15 miles from the front.

The front in this war was not just in Europe; more draftees died of the flu than died from war injuries. "The flu pandemic hit Alabama with a vengeance in October 1918. Birmingham alone suffered more than 12,000 cases of the flu and almost 500 deaths. Statewide, more than 145,000 cases of flu were reported, and almost 5,500 Alabamians died by the end of 1918. The flu spread rapidly through Alabama's military bases, where thousands of men were housed in close quarters." (p.23)

Julia Lide, an army nurse from Talladega, had served in the Spanish-American War 1898-1899 before she "survived the bombardment of the Third Division Hospital in the summer of 1918 and served at several base hospitals throughout France until the end of the war. She was awaiting return to the United States when she suffered an attack of appendicitis" and subsequently died, the only Alabama nurse to die overseas during the war. She is buried in Arlington and a building at Ft. McClellan in Anniston is named in her honor. (p.25)

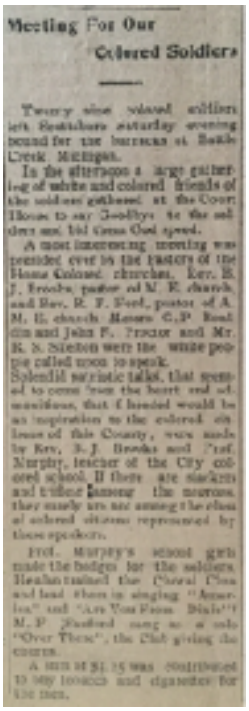
For more information: "How Women Stepped up in WW1," in the *Wall Street Journa*l (http://online.wsj.com/articles/how-women-stepped-up-in-world-war-1-403300506?tesla=y) and "Alabama Nurses in World War 1, " *Alabama Heritage* (Number 123, Winter 2017, pp. 16-25).

"Colored" Soldiers in Jackson County

World War 1 was a multiracial war. Black men were called to serve, and at least five of the county's Gold Star servicemen were "colored": Duke Boyd (23), Robert Porter (24), John Joyner (20), John Jacoway (28), and Lewis Coffey (27). As noted earlier, nationally 25% of draft-eligible white males were actually drafted while 35% of draft-eligible black males were drafted, so that black men were overrepresented.

Sadly, the black men called up to fight in World War 1 usually found Jim Crow alive and well in the military. The wire service story about the South's protest against serving with "negro troops" was found in the September 17, 1918 *Progressive Age*.

More than 350,000 African Americans served in segregated units during World War I, mostly as support troops. Several units saw action alongside French soldiers fighting against the Germans, and 171 African Americans were awarded the French Legion of Honor. In response to protests of discrimination and


Meeting For Our Colored Soldiers

Twenty nine colored soldiers left Smithboro saturday evening bound for the barracks at Battle Creek, Michigan.

In the afternoon a large gathering of white and colored friends of the soldiers gathered at the Court House to say Goodbye to the soldiers and bid them God speed.

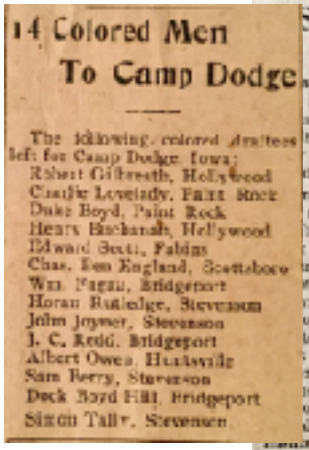
A most interesting meeting was presided over in the interests of the Home Colored churches. Rev. B. J. Brooks, pastor of M. E. church, and Rev. R. F. Ford, pastor of A. M. E. church. Messrs. G. P. Rochelle and John F. Proctor and Mr. R. S. Stetson were the white people called upon to speak.

Splendid patriotic talks, that seemed to come from the heart and of manifest, that if heeded would be an inspiration to the colored citizens of this County, were made by Rev. B. J. Brooks and Prof. Murphy, teacher of the City colored school. If there are slackers and traitors among the negroes, they surely are not among the colored citizens represented by these speakers.

Prof. Murphy's about girls made the badge for the soldiers. Healso rushed the Choral Club and had them in singing "America" and "Are You From Dixie?" M. P. Rochel sang as a solo "Over There", the Club giving the chorus.

A sum of $31.25 was contributed to buy tobacco and cigarettes for the men.

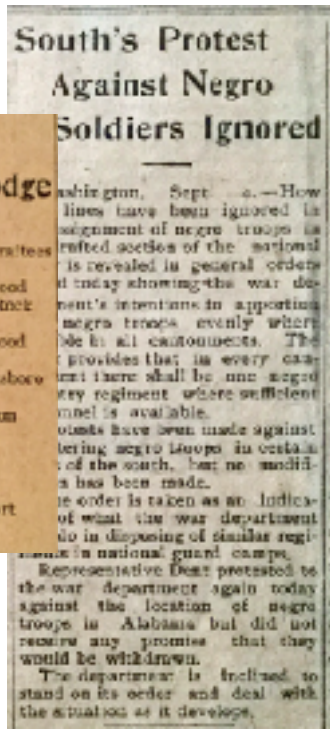
mistreatment from the black community, several hundred African American men received officers' training in Des Moines, Iowa. By October 1917, over 600 African Americans were commissioned as captains and first and second lieutenants.


14 Colored Men To Camp Dodge

The following colored drafters left for Camp Dodge Iowa:
Robert Gilbreath, Hollywood
Charlie Loveady, Paint Rock
Duke Boyd, Paint Rock
Henry Richards, Hollywood
Edward Scott, Fabius
Chas. Tom England, Scottsboro
Wm. Fagan, Bridgeport
Horan Rutledge, Stevenson
John Joyner, Stevenson
J. C. Redd, Bridgeport
Albert Owen, Hustsville
Sam Berry, Stevenson
Dock Boyd Hill, Bridgeport
Simon Tally, Stevenson

In Jackson County, the community was active behind these men. *The Progressive Age* reported a number of meetings like this one where "white and colored friends of the soldiers" gathered.

"Colored" soldiers went primarily to three places: Camp Custer, Camp Dodge, and Tuskegee Institute, though one group shipped out to Camp Pike in Little Rock.


South's Protest Against Negro Soldiers Ignored

shington, Sept 6.—How lines have been ignored in signment of negro troops in rafted section of the national is revealed in general orders today showing the war de- ment's intentions in apportion negro troops evenly where le in all cantonments. The provides that in every can- ment there shall be one negro ery regiment where sufficient mel is available.

plaints have been made against ering negro troops in certain of the south, but no modifi- n has been made.

e order is taken as an indica- of what the war department do in disposing of similar regi- s in national guard camps.

Representative Dent protested to the war department again today against the location of negro troops in Alabama but did not receive any promise that they would be withdrawn.

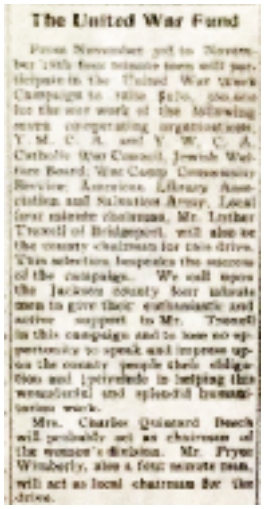
The department is inclined to stand on its order and deal with the situation as it develops.

For more information: Victoria E. Ott, "From the Cotton Field to the Great Waterway: African Americans and the Muscle Shoals Project during World War 1" and David Alsobrook, "A Call to Arms for African Americans during the Age of Jim Crow: Black Alabamians' Response to the Call for War in 1917" in Martin T. Olliff, *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie*.

What could the folks back home do to help?

World War 11 lasted four years, and our families remember that sugar and gasoline and tires and many other common items were rationed. War Bond rallies were big news. The public was intimately involved in and affected by the war effort. But what about World War 1? Other than the obvious, painful removal of young men, what impacts did the home people feel? What could the folks back home do for the men overseas?

First, it is useful to remember that the United Service Organizations (U. S.O.) did not exist in World War 1. According to Wikipedia, "the USO was founded in 1941 by Mary Ingraham in response to a request from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide morale and recreation services to U. S. uniformed military personnel." So who performed the services that we typically associate with this group? The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). An organization providing support as far back as the Civil War, the YMCA had already mobilized to support General Pershing during the Mexican Revolution.


The United War Fund

Before World War 1 even started, the YMCA had "developed mobile canteens and recreational facilities and had broad expertise in service to the armed forces. It was an expertise that would soon blossom into a massive program of morale and welfare services for the military on the home front and particularly overseas." During World War 1, the YMCA had a paid staff of 26,000 and volunteer staff of 35,000. These workers attended to the spiritual and social needs of 4.8 million soldiers, performing 90% of all welfare work done in Europe. The YMCA suffered 286 casualties, including six men and two women working under the YMCA banner killed in action. For more information about the support provided to World War 1 troops by this organization, see http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/ymca.htm.

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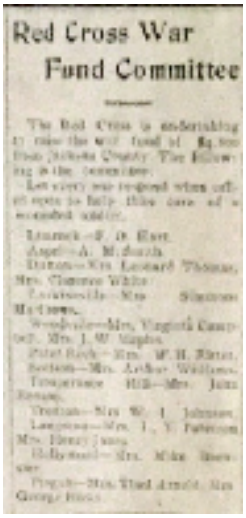
Red Cross War Fund Committee

A second locally supported group was the Four Minute Men. This article from the November 18, 1918 *Progressive Age* reports on the activities on Jackson County's Four Minute Men, defined by Wikipedia as a group of volunteers authorized to give four-minute speeches on topics given to them by the Committee on Public Information or Creel Committee. Speeches were intended to create enthusiasm for the war effort and to enlist public support between April 14, 1917 and June 30, 1919. Topics covered by the Four Minute Men were presented during the four minutes between reel changing in movie theaters across the country. In this article, we find that Luther Troxell of Bridgeport and Pryor Wimberly were the Jackson County Four Minute Men chairman, with Mrs. Charles Quintard as the women's chairperson. In December 1918 when the Four Minute Men were demobilized, the following list of participants in this program was published in *The Progressive Age*: Virgil Bouldin, John K. Thompson, Milo Moody, John F. Proctor, Pryor Wimberly, John Tally, Mark Tucker, D. O. Austin, Jesse Wheeler, B. W. Jones, Cole Savage, Harry DeLaRue, Samuel Williams, Mrs. Margaret Payne, Mrs. Charles Quintard, Mrs. Royd T. Cantrell.

Third, even though Clara Barton is credited with founding the Red Cross, this organization had to mobilize quickly to fulfill the roles required of it by the end of World War 1. The Red Cross web site (www.redcross.org) explains that "at the beginning of the war, the American Red Cross was a small organization still in the process of developing its identity and programs. When the United States declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917, the organization began a period of extraordinary growth. By the time the war ended in November 1918, the Red Cross had become a major national humanitarian organization with strong leadership, a huge membership base, universal recognition, and a broad and distinguished record of service." On May 10, 1918, the *Progressive Age* reported the Red Cross War Fund Committee tasked with raising $4500. These representatives were: F. O. Hart (Limrock); A. M. Smith (Aspel); Mrs. Leonard Thomas and Mrs. Clarence White (Dutton); Mrs. Simmons Matthews (Larkinsville); Mrs. Virginia Campbell and Mrs. J. W. Maples (Woodville); Mrs. W. H. Ritter (Paint Rock); Mrs. Arthur Williams (Section); Mrs. John Benson (Temperance Hill); Mrs. W. I Johnson (Trenton); Mrs. J. Y. Patterson and Mr. Henry Jones (Langston); Mrs. Mike Brewster (Hollywood); and Mrs. Thad Arnold and Mrs. George Hicks (Pisgah). There are many articles in the *Progressive Age* during the 19 months of the war about Red Cross activities in Jackson County.

Solider Fred Nye, on his way to Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, MS, reported in the August 23, 1918 *Progressive Age* that "We arrived at eleven o'clock, lined up and marched through town to the Y. M. C. A and took a swim, came back to the Red Cross Recreation building and they are giving us a concert. The Y. M. C. A. took part of the boys sightseeing. The boys want all the folks at home to know that they can't do enough for the Red Cross, tell the folks back home to give until it hurts for they certainly look after our comfort."

Fourth, what about financial support for the war? In City Hall in Scottsboro, we display photos of World War 11 Bond Rallies. What kind of bond support was there in World War 1? During World War 1, the U. S. government sold Liberty Bonds to raise money for the

WW1 effort. These bonds also encouraged Americans to save rather than spend, controlling inflation during the wartime economy, and enabled the people back home to be invested (literally and emotionally) in the war effort, as this ad in *The Progressive Age* showed. After the war was over, the *Progressive Age* published stories suggesting that bond holders keep their bonds instead of cashing them in immediately.


HELP RAILROADS IN WAR SERVICE

Co-operation of Shippers and Traveling Public Contributes to Efficiency.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC IS CUT

And of course, once the U. S. entered the war, a War News column was found on the front page of every newspaper. There were other reminders as well. Healthy mules were bought from local farmers to support the war effort. Rail travelers knew that train service was generally expected to be harder to book because so much of the country's rail capacity was spoken for by the war effort, transporting soldiers from home to camps and from camps to deployment.


WAR MULES WANTED

We will be at Proctor and Jacobs Store, Scottsboro, Ala., Friday, August 16th, to buy War Mules.

These Mules must be sound, without blemishes; 3 to 8 years old, weigh 850 to 1,250 and be 14 1-2 to 16 1-2 hands high.

If you have any mules of this description, bring them and get a liberal price for them. We pay cash for them.

Graves & Oliver

Collinsville, - Ala.

Another interesting "folks back home" effort was the canning clubs. Fearing that an extended war effort could result in interruptions in the food supply, local women were encouraged to can. "County home demonstration agents had blazed the trail by establishing rural girls' canning clubs," Martin Olliff explained in his essay, "Can All We Can, and Can the Kaiser, Too: The Montgomery Canning Club Cooperative." I remember finding several pages of handwritten lyrics to "The Canning Girls' Song" in my Great Aunt Etta's handwriting and thinking that I would not be able to muster such enthusiasm for canning tomatoes. But canning clubs grew in rural communities to support the war effort. In fact, a front page story in the June 7, 1918 *Progressive Age* said, "Canned Goods Not Wanted by Navy": You are advised Navy Department does not approve Navy League Campaign for donations of canned goods for the Navy. Instruct all agents to stop all activity in that direction," signed by Mary Fenninear, the State Home Demonstration Agent. Everyone did her part.

For more information: Martin T. Olliff, "Can All We Can, and Can the Kaiser, Too: The Montgomery Cooperative Canning Club," in Martin Olliff, editor, *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie*.

After the war

The day that Armistice was declared, the county seemed to heave a sigh of relief and nearly all mention of these young men whose lives had been lost or disrupted disappeared from the *Progressive Age*. The country moved on to extolling the evils of alcohol, setting the stage for the passage of the prohibition amendment, and to covering the "Suffs" campaigning for the vote for women. These reminders appeared in *The Progressive Age* during the first half of 1919:

- On **January 17**, the front of the paper is covered in stories about the passage of prohibition: "United States Goes Dry Forever' and "Alabama Ratifies Amendment." Stories about Spanish flu continue.
- The **January 24** paper notes that American officers and soldiers will get leave to visit Paris before returning to the United States.
- A **January 27** wire story notes that President Wilson is visiting the battle fields of Chateau Thierry and Rheims.
- The **January 31** paper carried a letter written from Earnest Webb's commanding officer Charles W. Vanderwart about Sgt. Webb's life and death.
- The **February 14** paper had a story from Washington titled "Bring Home Heroic Dead." about plans to bring the bodies of the war dead back to the U. S., and Charles Mason wrote about recovering from

A Monument to Our County Heroes

We, as citizens of Jackson county fully impressed that the people of the county desire to erect a suitable monument or other memorial to the memory of the Soldiers of Jackson county in the World War, do hereby call a mass meeting at the Court House in Scottsboro at 10 a. m. Saturday, April 12, 1919, for the purpose of organizing a memorial association. Everybody invited.

Respectfully,

J. Z. Schultz, Mrs. S. Hackworth, B. T. Howland, J. H. McMahon, E. K. Mann, H. J. Jacoway, A. Block, W. H. Bogart, Paul G. Schultz, J. K. Shelmer of Stevenson.

J. Luther Trammell, L. H. Hughes, F. W. Carr, C. L. Wiggins of Bridgeport.

I. E. Sanders, of Fackler.

J. C. Morris, James Hall, Glen Graham, W. C. Selby, Jno. L. Staples, Mrs. Eliza Petty, H. C. Higgins, Grace Harper, A. H. Cotton, J. P. Harris of Larkinsville.

Silas Woodall, W. E. Elkins, Coley Page, R. L. Jones, Wade Page, H. D. Stephens, J. A. Kennamer, E. R. Campbell, of Woodville.

C. M. Rousseau, J. H. Williamson, D. E. Barclay, S. M. Irwin, J. E. Jones, of Paint Rock.

J. T. Hinshaw, Estill Fork.

J. P. Stringer, E. M. Grant, of Section.

J. S. Benton, D. O. Austin, J. F. Procter, D. P. Weatherly, W. C. Maples, J. B. Tally, J. W. Gay, A. N. Holland, Virgil Stephens, J. O. Lipscomb, Jno. Jones, H. G. Jacobs, J. W. Woodall, A. H. Moody, of Scottsboro.

pneumonia and traveling to cities in France and running into other Langston boys. The new German president also made his first speech.

•The **February 28** paper carried news of Wilson's work advocating the League of Nations.

•Ads regularly urged holders of Liberty Bonds to hold on to them or else sell them to responsible banks only.

•Ads in early March announced that two car loads of the very best war horses and mules would be sold at auction at Proctor's Commission Barn on March 11.

•On **March 28**, a notice appeared saying that 18 tanks from the war would be touring the south, to boost the Victory Loan.

•On **April 4**, the front page of *The Progressive Age* featured two items: a call for a monument to "our county heroes" and the notice that Jackson County boys were beginning to land in Charleston, SC, and the names of the men who would return home soon.

•Toward the end of April, 1919, a list of men who died in the war. All of the men on this list are on our county monument, but not all of the men on our monument are on this list.

Recommended reading

It might surprise you to learn that there is no national World War 1 monument. Citizens are raising money for the national World War 1 monument in Washington. The site they hope to develop is a block from the White House and is slated to be called Pershing Park, after the most famous general of the war. There will be a commemorative stamp in 2018 to help raise money for this effort. If you would like to contribute, go to http://www.worldwar1centennial.org.

If you find yourself passing through Kansas City (the home of General Pershing), stop off in the popular World War 1 museum. Learn more about it here: https://www.theworldwar.org. Many of thee museum's programs and lectures can be viewed on YouTube.

Commemoration begins at home. Did you have World War 1 veterans in your family? Many of the young men who died in this war were drafted so young that they did not have time to marry and have children. If you look for World War 1 veterans in your family, look at your grandparents' or great grandparents' brothers. It is too late to talk to a World War 1 vet, but you might get to know these people through their letters. Look through those old boxes. Look at our old newspapers. Many of the men who served overseas published letters about their war experiences. Some of those letters will be reprinted in the *Chronicles* during this commemoration year.

As you travel around our state this next year, visit some of the state's World War 1 memorials. You can find the locations of all of them, including our Jackson County monument in front of the courthouse, here: http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/alabama-wwi-related-places.html

And if you have pictures or stories that you could share in the *Chronicles*, contact us at jcha@sottsboro.org or by writing us at JCHA, P. O. Box 1494, Scottsboro, AL 35768.

Annette Norris Bradford

Footnotes

This article was made possible by the Auburn University World War One Centennial Workshop, June 14-15, 2016 and is based on notes taken during this two-day workshop. To learn the details behind many of the facts quoted here, see *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie: Alabama During World War 1* (University of Alabama Press, 2008), a collection of essays edited by Martin T. Olliff, one of the speakers at Auburn. Northeast Alabama Community College Library has a copy of this book. Brief definitions of unfamiliar World War 1 concepts are from Wikipedia unless otherwise indicated. Attributions fully documented inline are not repeated in footnotes.

(1) I am indebted to several articles in Wikipedia and to *Atlantic* Magazine for these insights about life in 1916. Derek Thompson, "America in 1915: Long Hours, Crowded Houses, Death by Trolley," February 11, 2016 at https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/02/america-in-1915/462360/.
(2) Thompson, op. cit.
(3) I am indebted to the Auburn University workshop and to a number of internet locations indicated inline for help in writing in this overview of World War 1: https://history.state.gove/milestones/1914-1920/wwi.
(4) Francis J. Reynolds, *Colliers' New Photographic History of World War 1* (Colliers: 1919).
(5) Kathleen Smith, *God Bless America: Tin Pan Alley Goes to War* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky), p. 72, as quoted in Wikipedia "Songs of the First World War" article. The Library of Congress has a wonderful collection of World War 1 Sheet Music:
https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-sheet-music/about-this-collection/
(6) *Wall Street Journal* (http://online.wsj.com/articles/how-women-stepped-up-in-world-war-1-403300506?tesla=y) and Haley E. Aaron, "Alabama Nurses in World War 1, " *Alabama Heritage* (Number 123, Winter 2017, pp. 16-25).

Photo Credits: All photos of newspaper articles were copied from *The Progressive Age*. "East side of the Square" is from a collection purchased from eBay several years ago and shared on Facebook. The set includes other views of Scottsboro. The panoramic photo of Camp Shelby and Christmas card are courtesy of Clyde Broadway. Sheet music and Swift calendar photos are from Annette Bradford, except the four versions of "Over There," which is a photo from eBay. The Uncle Sam poster is from https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm015.html). The Nurses poster is from Alabama Nurses in World War 1, " *Alabama Heritage* (Number 123, Winter 2017, pp. 16-25). The Red Cross poster is from the Red Cross web site (www.redcross.org). Photo of Thomas Cobbs Kyle is from the *New York Times* World War 1 Supplement via findagrave. Photo of Jeptha Moody is from his grandson Dr. Charles R. Bradford III. Sample military record is from Jen Stewart.

Card that Mancel Michaels sent his little sister Cora during World War 1. From Clyde Broadway.

Proud of our board members

Those of you who live out of town might not be aware of the recent activities of two of our board members that have landed them on video and in the pages of *The New Yorker* magazine, and demonstrate how lucky we are to have these two men engaged in the governance of the JCHA.

Patrick Stewart is a member of the Scottsboro City Council and an active member of the JCHA. His love of the Civil War is legendary. The Civil War letters associated with Jackson County that he buys from sites like eBay and displays at the Scottsboro Depot Museum, along with hundreds of Civil War minie balls, uniform insignia, belt buckles, and munitions fragments, provide valuable insight into the region's history. He spoke at a JCHA meeting in 2015.

Patrick uses his metal detector to comb sites that he has identified in mid-nineteenth century maps and letters, patiently examining battlefields and camps by walking the grid in inch-by-inch increments. Recently, his metal detection abilities netted him his biggest find and landed him in *American Digger*, *Western and Eastern Treasure,* and *Jackson* magazines and on Relic Round-Up, *American Digger*'s podcast: a button cast to commemorate the inauguration of President George Washington. In his ten years of relic hunting, it is his most important find. The discovery was made on a dig hosted by the South Carolina Dirt Diggers at a site known for Revolutionary War encampments and engagements in Shappells, SC.

Many of you are familiar with Judge John Graham through his work with the Jackson County Drug Court, a program that offers monitored rehabilitation and service activities to drug offenders as an alternative to incarceration. Judge Graham coordinates service projects and leads by example, working with his charges on community projects that provide this sometimes marginalized group of people the satisfaction of doing for others.

John was approached recently by filmmaker Jennifer Crandall to perform a stanza of Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" as part of her documentary project, "Whitman, Alabama." Writing about this documentary, Jia Tolentino titled her piece for *New Yorker*, "Reciting Walt Whitman at a Drug Court in Alabama" and called this part of the film "deeply, wonderfully jarring, like a hallucination." From his position on the bench, Judge Graham questions each recovering drug offender in turn but then starts reciting Verse 37 of Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself." It is magic.

How nice for Alabama to be recognized in such a positive way by the quintessential New York magazine. Read the article here: http://www.newyorker.com/culture/jia-tolentino/reciting-walt-whitman-at-a-drug-court-in-alabama

The JCHA is fortunate to have such fine people providing support and direction for the organization. We are happy to share news of their exceptional accomplishments with folks outside our county.

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The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 29, Number 3

In this issue:

About this publication:

The Jackson County Chronicles is published quarterly by The Jackson County Historical Association (JCHA) .
Editor: Annette Norris Bradford
Associate Editor: David Bradford
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President: Susan Fisher
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Secretary: Barbara Carter
Treasurer: Jen Stewart
Directors: John Graham, Patrick Stewart, Annette Bradford, Reid Henshaw. For more information, visit: jchaweb.org

In this issue, we continue to recognize Jackson County men and women who served in World War 1 (WW1). Several descendants of World War 1 veterans penned tributes to their family members for this issue. We welcome first time contributors to this issue: Robert DeWitt, Raymond Shirley, Carolyn Barclay Tamblyn, Marland Mountain, David Carroll, and Janet Parks.

This quarter's JCHA meeting will feature a WW1 presentation and the chance to visit the state traveling exhibit and local Jackson County Exhibit. Our speaker will be Auburn University professor Dr. Bert Hitchcock who will talk about William March and *Company K* on **Sunday, July 30, 2:00 p.m.** at the **Scottsboro Depot**. His talk is titled "Hearing a Different Drummer: William March's Novel *Company K.*" Dr. Hitchcock describes his talk thus: "Alabamian William Edward Campbell (1893-1954), who wrote under the pen name William March and who was a decorated Marine combat veteran, produced America's most powerful World War I novel. Courageously different in his outlook and conclusions and strikingly innovative in technique, March has never received the full recognition he deserves. In revelation of the horrors and atrocities of war and its dire consequences on individuals, *Company K* is in the company of the best war fiction in world literature." You can read about William March at this Encyclopedia of Alabama article: http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3411. Auburn University has lent the county five copies of this book. You can borrow one from the Heritage Center.

World War 1 exhibit, set up in Oneonta

The depot will be open extra hours, thanks to our volunteers, from 10:00 to 4:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday the weeks of July 24 and July 31 and by appointment to enable everyone to see these special exhibits.

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World War 1 Part 2

We continue to chronicle the brave men and women from Jackson County who fought in World War 1.

What was going on in Jackson County 100 years ago?

One hundred years earlier than this date, Jackson County, like the rest of the country, was mobilizing for war, preparing to do its part. The **April 6** *Progressive Age* announced the start of America's involvement with the war, and page 2 stated that "under the provisions of the selective draft bill at least 2,000,000 young men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five will be subjected to a rigid physical examination to determine their fitness to serve." The **May 4** paper provided an example of the form letter that censorship and secrecy required sailors to use when writing their families to prevent accidental disclosure of sensitive information. By **May 25**, the county was getting ready for the June 5 registration of men who met the age profile, and instructions to the country registrars were printed in the paper. The **June 1** paper carried the front page story: "You Must Register: Every man in the county between the ages of 21 and 31 must register at his voting place next Tuesday June 5th. Failure to do so will subject you to heavy fine and imprisonment." Another story titled "Madison Boys Refuse to Register" stated that about a third of the men of conscriptive age had made up their minds that they were not needed and planned not to register. The **June 8** paper carried a story "How Young America Responded to Call" and noted that no disturbance of any kind was reported in our county. The **June 15** paper began a multi-week series detailing a precinct-by-precinct listing of "The Honor Roll, the young men from whom the select army will be picked." These listings went on through **July 29**. By **August 2**, the first group was called to begin their physical examinations, and the paper advertised "War Mules Wanted." The county was mobilizing.

Below are profiles of World War 1 soldiers and a nurse, most written by their descendants. The first, written about Harvey Vandiver by his younger sister, is part of the Alabama Archives Gold Star database (www.archives.state.al.us/goldstar/info.html). This database contains the information collected by Marie Bankhead in letters she wrote to the Gold Star families. This information was intended for a book about the men from Alabama lost in World War 1. Though many families, the Vandivers included, wrote back to Ms. Bankhead asking for publishing information, the book was never published, and the stored information has been recently made available. Sadly, more than one letter begins "Please return this photo; it is the only one I have of my son." Photos from the family unless otherwise indicated.

From the Alabama Archives Gold Star Database

Harvey Vandiver

by his sister Lara Vandiver

Harvey Ray Vandiver was born August the 14th, 1898. His parents, Mr. Sam Vandiver and Mrs. Dora Vandiver, at the time of Harvey's birth lived in a cove or little valley surrounded on all sides except one by mountains in the north-eastern part of Alabama. This place is about twenty-five miles from a railroad town. The county is very rough and mountainous, the little river valley winding in and out and following the mountain. When Harvey was one year old his parents moved to Mr. Vandiver's mother's home out on a little mountain about five miles from where Harvey was born. They lived here until Harvey was 7 years old, then they moved back to the little valley where Harvey was born. Here they lived for three years on Mrs. Vandiver's northern farm.

Then they moved five miles away to a farm on Paint Rock River. Here Harvey and his sister Lara went to their first school. The school house was within a stone's throw of the house where Harvey lived. The school house was a two-room house with a door on each end of the house. The windows were all broken out. The seats were the homemade double deck kind. The teacher, Mr. Rayford Hodges, then a young man of eighteen years old, now a medical doctor taught his first school. He was very kind to his pupils and seemed to take special interest in Harvey's progress which was very rapid. The school term lasted only three months (the school started in July and ended in September) but at the end of the term Harvey was ready for the second grade. His parents then moved back to his grandmother Greene's farm.

Harvey was now ten years old. Harvey helped to make the crop every year and then went to school after the crops were laid by. He went to the Larkin School, a two-room house two and a half miles from his home where he went to school from two to three months ever year until he was eighteen. His progress in his studies was wonderful. At the age of eighteen he finished the 8th grade. It was his one desire to get a good education. He started out to make his own way and earn money enough to pay his way through high school. He worked away from home a few weeks at a time until he was twenty. He was devoted to his home and his parents and therefore he stayed away as little as possible. In March 1918 he hired out to Mr. Warnie Prince to help him make a crop. He worked there until the first of July. But he never forgot home. He would come as often as he could and if he would come no other way he would walk. Now the crop being finished he went home. He spent one week there and then went to Muscle Shoals to work in the nitrate plant. He worked in Plant No. 2. At one time he helped to lay the drainage pipes, this work being so hard that he worked for a while as water boy where they were creating a steel building, but people were continually being killed by things falling, so Harvey quit this and went to work at something else about the plant.

Harvey registered August the 21st (am not sure about the date but it was the last registration before the war ended). He got his call in September, I believe it was the 16th. He came home just four days before he had to leave for camps. He went away in fine spirits. He hated to leave home and friends but he was glad to answer his country's call.

He and his second cousin Grantlon Greene went to the University of Alabama to the soldier training school. Harvey studied to do as his commanders wished and won the respect and love of all he came in contact with. When the flu was in the camp or training school Harvey went on a hike and got sick. He had not fully recovered from the flu then took tuberculosis and stayed in the hospital at Tuscaloosa Alabama until December the 14th. He was sent to Wainsville N.C. and died December the 21,1918.

Harvey was a boy who loved Christianity. He joined the Baptist Church when he was nineteen years old. He was a kind true-hearted boy who stood for the right. He never spoke harmful of people and could not bear to hear other people slandered. If any one had any hard feelings against him when he died no one knew it. He was always willing to go more than half way on his part to get along with people. He was loved by all his friends who knew him and made friends wherever he went. He was buried at the Butler Cemetery near Swaim, Alabama.

John Jackson Heatherington

by grandson Robert DeWitt

John Jackson Heatherington was born in Hollytree, Alabama on August 14, 1889. His parents were Andrew Jackson Heatherington and Eliza Hall. He had one brother, Millard, who was one year younger. Eliza became a widow when John was

only two; her husband Andrew died in 1891 at age 19 of an influenza that affected many area residents. Eliza never remarried and lived with John's family until she died at age 93 in 1965.

John's paternal grandparents were John Heatherington and Tabitha Ardis Williamson. This John Herrington purchased property in Hollytree in 1857 and moved to Alabama from South Carolina. John's maternal grandparents were Edward "Ned" Hall and Sarah Emaline Sloan. Ned was a Civil War veteran, a solider in the 50th Alabama Infantry, wounded at Stone's River.

John registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 and was drafted on July 7, 1918. He trained at Camp Shelby in Mississippi. He was just shy of his 29th birthday when he shipped out for Europe on October 14, 1918. According to daughter Ruth, John did not mention fighting in any battles, since Armistice was November 11, 1918. He spent his time in the occupation of Germany. He returned home on July 27, 1919. He married Mattie Webb later that year, on December 24, 1919. John and Mattie had three children: Iva, Ruth, and Jimmy. He lived his entire life in Hollytree where he and Mattie were married for 62 years. He died in 1982 at age 92 and is buried in Trenton Cemetery.

Gus Cloud

by nephew Raymond Shirley

Gus Cloud was the only son in the Joe and Ellen Cloud family of seven children. He was living a quiet, peaceful, pastoral life on September 7, 1916 when he celebrated his twentieth birthday. He lived with his parents and unmarried sisters on a farm in Jeffries Cove, one of the many coves in Jackson County, AL.

Far away, across the Atlantic Ocean, bloody trench warfare was raging in Europe. The war had little meaning in the life of Gus but that was about to change. His country was being drawn into the conflict in Europe. The several states National Guard units were being encouraged to recruit additional men. Gus did not anticipate going to war when he enlisted in the Alabama National Guard on April 10, 1917. He may have thought that he would be assigned guard duty near his home. Perhaps he would be standing guard over the Southern Railway bridge spanning the Tennessee River at Long Island.

Gus was sent first to Birmingham, AL and by May, 1917 he was in basic training near Montgomery, AL He was assigned duty as a Private in Company G, 2nd Alabama Infantry. On July 1, 1917 Gus was transferred to duty as a Private in Company H, 2nd Alabama Infantry, Alabama National Guard.

It was a surprise and shock to Gus when he was discharged from the Alabama National Guard on August 5, 1917 and immediately drafted into the United States Army. He was assigned duty as a 1st Class Private in Company E, Alabama 167th Infantry. Unknown to Gus, President Wilson had decided to include the National Guards of the states in an expanding U. S. Army. A fast rising young officer was on duty in the War Department. He was asked by Secretary of War Newton Baker to make a suggestion regarding how to best include the various National Guard units in the Army. The young officer's name was Douglas MacArthur.

Major MacArthur suggested forming a division with the units from the various states, "spreading like a rainbow across the country." Thus was born the Forty Second or Rainbow Division. The newly formed division included units from Ohio, Iowa, New York and the Alabama 167th Infantry.

Gus Cloud was stationed in Camp Mills, Hampstead, Long Island, New York by September 1, 1917. His unit sailed from New York in December, 1917 on its way to England and Europe. He was transported on

an 18,000 ton captured German ship renamed the USS President Grant. During the voyage the ship's toilets broke down and there was much seasickness and an outbreak of measles. Doughboys paid the sailors fifty cents for a canteen of water.

Gus was in Liverpool, England by December 13, 1917. He wrote home saying that he didn't much like the place. The English winter was bitter cold and frostbite, scarlet fever, mumps, and malaria added to the men's misery. The soldiers were being taught how to assemble, disassemble and fire the Chauchat and Hotchkiss machine guns.

Gus was "somewhere in France" by February 1, 1918. The Rainbow Division was given exposure to trench warfare in small units. Half of a French or British unit would be pulled back from the trenches and replaced by members of the 42nd Division so that each American had an Allied veteran as a teacher and coach. The trenches were wet, stinking ditches eroded by rain and disfigured by German bombardment.

The men were ankle deep in mud, habitually wet and infested with body lice. The 42nd's front line training was done near Luneville, France. After this initial trench exposure, the division received a month's training as a unit and pronounced ready for combat. General Pershing committed the 42nd to battle in the front lines near Lorraine, France on May 10, 1918. By midsummer, the men of the Rainbow Division had seen as much action as any outfit in the American Expeditionary Forces and they had earned a reputation for daring and bravery.

In early July, the Allied commanders realized that the Germans were preparing for a great new offensive with the objective of capturing Rheims, France. Three American Divisions were selected to share in the defense against this attack which would later be called "the battle of the Marne." The three divisions were the 3rd, the 28th and the 42nd. The Rainbow Division was placed in the most critical line of defense and expected to take the brunt of the German attack. The German offensive began on the morning of July 15th. They broke through the 42nd Division's line. Two companies of the Alabama 167th Infantry counterattacked and recovered their positions in the line of defense. Three battalions of other Rainbow regiments came to their assistance. The battle raged for three days and when it ended, the 42nd Division had played a major part in stopping the German offensive.

On July 25th, the 42nd Division took over the whole front of I Corp positioned east of Chateau-Thierry. They faced severe fighting and machine gun fire rolled and echoed across the fields. After a time, the 42nd occupied the La Croix Rouge farm but at a cost of hundreds dead and wounded. A succession of similar battles continued day after day until on August 3rd the Rainbow Division was relieved and sent to the rear for rest.Gus wrote to his mother after these battles and said, "I have been giving the Germans hell and you know I would like to tell you all about it but I cannot but I will when I come home . . ." This would be the last letter Gus would write to his family.

On September 11th, the 42nd Division was placed back in the line at St. Mihiel where they received the all too familiar orders, "The 42nd will attack in the center and deliver the main blow." At 5:00 A.M. on September 12th the 42nd Division was advancing against the German line. The assault was on. By nightfall, the 42nd had reached its objective. The Division captured its last objective of St. Benoit on September 17th and it was relieved and sent to the rear for rest. What was to be the final great Allied attack of WWI began on September 28, 1918. It was called the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The battle raged from September 26th until November 1st and was the most intense fighting of the war. The 42nd Division was positioned between the Meuse River on the right and the Argonne forest on the left. Once again the Rainbow Division was placed at the point of greatest offensive against the German Kriemhilde line. Assault after assault was made by the 42nd against the Kriemhilde line until the Rainbow Division finally broke through on November 1st.

Gus Cloud was killed in action on October 16, 1918 while advancing with his platoon at Coate-de-Chatillon, France.

Edward Fulmer Armstrong

by granddaughter Jen Hennenger Stewart

Edward Fulmer Armstrong was born May 9, 1898 in Stevenson, AL to James London Armstrong III and Amanda Dixon Armstrong. At the time the United States entered the World War, he was a student at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (later Auburn University). In late February 1918, he wrote a letter home to his parents telling them he was enlisted and did so before they could try to dissuade him. Apparently, he enlisted in the National Guard at Camp Wheeler, GA, on March 1, 1918. According to his Service Record, he was 19 9/12 years old. He served overseas from October 28, 1918 until June 12, 1919. He was assigned to Medical Field Hospital 122 until March 23, 1919 and then to Camp Hospital 110 France to May 8, 1919, and Base Hospital 100 in Savenay, France until discharge. He was listed as a Wagoner. He always told us that he drove an ambulance and transported the wounded from one hospital to another. After the war, he returned to Stevenson and became involved in the lumber business.

Anna Pearl Barclay

by niece Carolyn Barclay Tamblyn

Pearl Barclay was born February 7, 1897 in Woodville Alabama, the daughter of David Edward Barclay and Lilly Virginia Chandler. She died April 13 at her home in Lynchburg, VA. She was one of three children of this couple to serve during World War 1, the others being her brothers Charles Franklin Barclay and George Edward Barclay.

Alabama Day with wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital, May 5, 1921. Pictured are President and Mrs. Harding and Alabama's senators and representatives. Pearl is the white uniform in the back.

Pearl graduated from Jackson County High School in 1915 and attended Florence Normal School in 1916. She became a Red Cross nurse and was stationed first at Camp Wheeler, GA before being transferred to Camp Lee, VA. She was one of 549 nurses who remained past the end of the war to be trained in the US Government nurses training program.

She entered the Army School of Nurses at Walter Reed Hospital in 1919. She studied pediatrics at St. Luke's in New York and gynecology and obstetrics at Columbia Hospital in Washington, DC. She graduated in the program's first class of students on June 16, 1921, and was certified as an RN by the State Board of Examiners of Nurses for Georgia in November, 1922.

By 1925, Pearl had returned to Alabama and was a nurse in the Bradley Clinic and Merrimack Hospital and Clinic in Huntsville. Pearl also received a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University in New York in 1938, and was recipient of several Rockefeller Foundation touring Fellowships in Canada and the U.S. Her work in public health included some years with the Jefferson County Public Health Department in Birmingham, before moving to Montgomery to become the state's first Director of Public Health Nursing.

After retirement, she made her home in Lynchburg, VA. She died there on April 13, 1984 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Woodville among six generations of the Barclay family.

Photo from Hollywood City Hall

Charley Cook

by *Sentinel* writer Stevie Patrick

Photo from *The Daily Sentinel*, May 28, 1995

Charles Newton "Charley" Cook was Jackson County's last surviving World War 1 veteran. *Daily Sentinel* writer Stevie Patrick wrote this story about Charley on May 28, 1995, where Charley was about to walk in the Memorial Day Parade in Scottsboro. "On December 17, 1917, Cook enlisted in the U. S. Navy and was assigned to a gun crew on the USS Huntington. Cook served on that ship three months and then transferred to a gun crew on an oil tanker where he was rated a number one sailor After the armistice in 1918, Cook was stationed at a naval base in New York...Then Cook went on the USS Utah where he traveled the icy waters where the Titanic had sunk six years earlier." When he returned from the service, Charlie married Ina Bryant. The couple had two sons: JCHA members David and Jimmie Cook. Charlie lived to be 107 and died December 20, 2003.

Lee Mountain

by his grandson Marland Mountain

Lee Mountain was born in Cherokee County, AL on October 7, 1892 to John Monroe Mountain and Theodosia Snead. When he was 12 years old, the family moved to the Chavies community near Rainsville. Lee was living there when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in September, 1917. Lee served in France and Germany in a machine gun company, using French-made machine guns because the U. S. had not prepared to enter the war. He told his family the story that while he was walking on guard duty in France a few miles from the front line, he was given a stick to carry because a sufficient number of rifles was not available.

After his discharge from the army in August 1919, Lee returned to his family, who had moved to the Central community near Pisgah in Jackson County. While in Germany, he had the idea to begin a mail order business selling used correspondence courses and books. He moved to Chattanooga to establish this business, but realized that since his business was mail order, he could run it just as well from Central, so he moved back home. He married when he was 38 years old and in 1947 moved his family to Henegar in DeKalb County. He continued his book business in Central until he retired at age 70. He died in March 1992 at age 99 1/2.

Goings on around the square: Lot 12

If you live out of town, you might not be aware that the square is currently undergoing its first facelift since the mid-1970s. City Engineer Josh Little described the work for Will Whaley of *The Daily Sentinel*: "The contractor is going to start on the north end of Market Street and work south...The contractor hopes to complete each side of the square in three weeks....It will consist of removing the existing pea gravel sidewalk and brick pavers....It will replace those pavers with stamped colored concrete with new brick pavers at the end of block section....It is a $1.4 million project with $1 million in grant money from the Appalachian Regional Commission, who donated $200,000 and the Alabama Department of Transportation, who donated $800,000." At the end of this 240-calendar day schedule, landscaping, park benches, and trash receptacles will be added by another contract. (April 15, 2017, p. 1, 3)

Another locus of activity has been Lot 12, the last lot on the end of Laurel Street at the Broad Street end, home to Payne's Drugs on the south end and the newly rediscovered "Snodgrass Building 1915" on the north end. Janet Parks and Bob and Elizabeth Word have provided some fascinating historical fodder for a reexamination of Lot 12.

Janet Parks provided the analysis below. Her book on the Parks family was reviewed last year in the *Chronicles;* she is now researching the Snodgrass family and hopes to have a book out about this family later this year. Elizabeth Payne Word owns the Payne's Drug Store building, and her husband Bob was present when the floor was replaced in March and took these photos included here.

Rediscovery of the Snodgrass Building

The building at 101 South Broad Street has been the subject of an interesting contemporary investigation. For many years, metal siding had covered the nameplate on this building, and it had been assumed that long-time owner, Cecil Word, had built it sometime in the 1940s.

When the building was renovated in November 2016, however, the metal siding was removed, and the original façade was revealed. To everyone's great surprise, it was clear that someone named "Snodgrass" had built the building in 1914. The question remained "*Which of the numerous Snodgrasses was the original owner, and when did Cecil Word take ownership?*"

Photo from Scottsboro City Hall

Fortunately, documents found in the belongings of Ed Snodgrass' nephew, David N. Parks Sr., solved the mystery by revealing that Ed had owned this building until his death in 1951. His heirs owned it until the mid-1950s, when Word, who owned property across the street, filed a complaint against them because the building had fallen into disrepair. Following

negotiations with the heirs, most of whom had been gone from Scottsboro for many years and were unaware of the condition of the building, Word ultimately purchased the Snodgrass Building. He rented it to a number of businesses until the late 1990s, when it became a vacant storefront (Annette Bradford, *personal communication*, April 24, 2017).

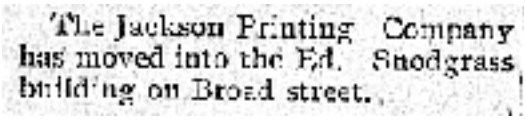
Photographs, newspapers articles, and other historical accounts show that across the years, the Snodgrass Building housed professional offices as well as retail stores such as McCarley & Maples Sanitary Restaurant, Palace Meat Market, and, in an interesting bit of irony for our family, Parks' Home of Fine Clothing for All the Family.


Attention! In new Snodgrass building, on corner, North of Paynes Drug store you will find my new office awaiting you from 3rd to 30th of May. If you desire my work please visit me early. Always glad to have you. Your friend, Geo. L. Austin, Dentist.

Progressive Age, April 22, 1915, p. 1


EARNEST PARKS
Attorney-at-Law
Will practice in all State and Federal Courts of Alabama.
OFFICE IN SNODGRASS BUILDING, room 2, Scottsboro, Alabama.

Progressive Age, Aug. 12, 1915, p.5


The Jackson Printing Company has moved into the Ed. Snodgrass building on Broad street.

Progressive Age, Jan. 3, 1919, p. 8


PARKS'
Home of Fine Clothing for All the Family

1960 *City Directory*

AB: We had wondered when the set of two windows on the Broad Street side disappeared, and it appears to have been in 1936 when the building was remodeled to accommodate a service station. According to the *Birmingham News* on July 14, 1936, the renovation of this building was described as "another remodeling project in which a store front is being converted into a modern filling station for E. C. Snodgrass, owner."

Beneath the floor at Payne's

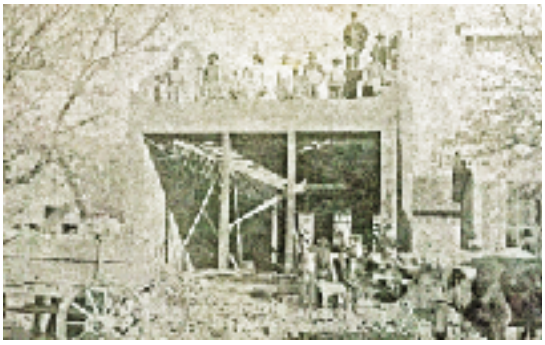
The 127-year-old floor of Payne's was finally showing its age, and building owner Elizabeth Payne Word had it replaced in March of this year. Tearing up the old floor exposed beams and soil hidden for over a century. One of the most interesting discoveries was a well located near the left front part of the building. Discussions with historian Ann Chambless about this well led to these speculations: "According

Photo by Bob Word, March 2017

to old newspaper accounts, there were wells on three corners of the square. The oldest homes had wells on their back porches. I suppose Dr. Payne needed a well in his business, especially in creating the remedies he packaged and sold in bottles. Both of the wells on the north side of the square were sulfur wells. With Dr. Payne's well located so close to the public well on the northwest corner of the square, I would bet that Payne's well was sulfur too."

Photo by Bob Word, March 2017

Payne's Drug Store is one of the oldest buildings on the square. Built in 1890-91 by contractor Jim Shelly (according to the October 2, 1890 *Scottsboro Citizen*), the store is shown during its construction in the photo from *Profiles in Alabama Pharmacy.* Dr. W. H. Payne moved into his new store in February 1891 (according to the February 12, 1891 *Scottsboro Citizen*), from its original location near the freight depot near the corner of Houston and Mary Hunter. This photo of the interior of Payne's appeared in the 1910 business supplement to The Progressive Age:



Payne's Drug store under construction, 1890. From *Profiles in Alabama Pharmacy.*

Why, we might ask, was the well in front instead of in the back where pharmacists typically had their labs for formulating remedies, and Dr. W. H. Payne had a number of such remedies. Gregory Higby noted in his analysis of 19th century pharmacy that "pharmacists put their compounding areas near the front of their shops to benefit from the natural light from windows and to demonstrate their professional abilities." (1) So....the well was probably dug to provide water for Dr. Payne's pharmacological use. And since he needed light as well as water, he formulated remedies in the front of the store, where the well was found.

Interior of Payne's Drug Store, from October 1910 *Progressive Age* business supplement.

Annette Norris Bradford

Notes:

(1) Alabama Pharmaceutical Association, *Profiles in Alabama Pharmacy*, 1974.
(2) Gregory B. Higby, "Chemistry and the 19th century American pharmacist," *Bulletin of Historical Pharmacy, V28N1 (2003), pp. 9-17.*

The tornado of 1932

This past March 21 was the 85th anniversary of the killer tornado that swept through Jackson County in 1932. The thriving town of Paint Rock was virtually wiped away. Across the state, 268 lost their lives; 32 of the dead were from Jackson County. Some families lost multiple members. Birdie Bradford and three of her daughters perished. John Williams and his wife and son perished, with no one left to mark their graves. Noah Manning lost two sons and a daughter, Jim, Henson, and Minnie. Eight of the victims were children; six of them were African-American. The greatest number of the dead were from Stevenson and Tupelo.

The year 1932 was memorable for many reasons. The Scottsboro Boys had been pulled from the train in Paint Rock on March 21, 1931 and as the front page of the paper below shows, this case was working its way through the court as it would for another four decades. Matt Wann lost his life in May 1932 for the role he played in protecting the defendants. Prohibition in place since 1919 was wearing itself and the country down, and would end on December 5, 1933. The Lindberg baby was kidnapped March 1, 1932, and found dead on May 12 of that year. The Great Depression was in full swing and would emphasize the need for the Skyline Farms project in 1934.

If you could walk through the square in 1932, you would see that the Word block that would later house stores from Elmores in the north to the Reid Sundries space in the south had just been completed but was probably not yet populated. In town, Dr. B. K. Kelly could fit you with glasses, though visiting optometrists still set up temporary offices in the Bailey Hotel. After years of faithful service to the community, Dr. Hugh Boyd died that August.

Ed Wood's Volunteer Food Store occupied the first floor of the Claybrook Building. Folks still needed ice to keep the beef and pork they bought at Caldwell's Meat Market and Palace Meat Market fresh; Sol Presley was already selling meat in the the Boyd Building, which would later become the Locker Plant. Claude Payne Grocery and Lipscomb Grocery met your food needs, and there was the Dixie Cafe if you wanted a lunch out on Sunday for 35 cents. Benson and Padgett would sell you a new Ford V8 Deluxe Roadster for $500. Dorsey Austell and A. H. Wann would cut your hair at the East Side Barber Shop for two bits, though a shave would be an additional 15 cents. Vann's 5 cent to 1 cent store offered the broad range of goods—candies, toys, tea kettles, and galvanized coal hods— under one roof.

Cricket Powell admonished you not to throw away broken electric appliances because he repaired them at Word Motor Company building. William J. Wales had just bought A. L. Hipp's jewelry business. The Keeble family operated a service station and a shoe shop. Presley's Drugs brought in Mrs. Pearl Taylor to consult with local women on beauty products. The Red Hot Store was red hot.

March is typically a month in the deep south that spawns dangerous weather. The tornado that killed 32 in Scottsboro was part of what is termed the 1932 Deep South tornado outbreak that struck the Southern U. S on March 21 and 22. It was made up of at least 36 tornados, including 27 killer tornadoes and several long-lived tornado families. Across the south, more than 330 people died. The storms affected an area from Mississippi to Illinois and moved as far east as South Carolina; Alabama was the hardest hit, with 286 of the 330 fatalities occurring in our state. (1) When the tornado passed through Jackson County, it was in modern parlance an F4 tornado. It was the kind of storm that people's grandmothers talked about for the next fifty years every time "it come up a bad cloud."

© The Jackson County Historical Association

The Alabama Pioneers website found and linked to actual video footage of the aftermath of this landmark storm: http://alabamapioneers.com/1932-film-of-the-alabama-aftermath-of-the-massive-tornado-outbreak-that-killed-possibly-300-people-in-alabama-on-march-21-1932/

It is perhaps most eloquent to let the *Jackson County Sentinel* speak for itself. The paper was put out in such haste that the front page reads March 15, though later pages have the date correct. The story traces the storm's path through the county. For readability, the entire front-page story, including the list of the people who died in the county, is reproduced below.

JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL

32 DIE IN JACKSON

TORNADO BRINGS GREATEST DISASTER IN HISTORY

Enormous Death and Property Toll In Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee

NEGRO CASES AFFIRMED

Photos Show Destruction At Paint Rock By Deadly Wind

Last Monday night, March 21, between 7:00 and 9:00 o'clock a tornado swept through Jackson County carrying with it death and destruction totally the greatest catastrophe in the history of the county. Up to Thursday morning the known death list in Jackson County has reached 32 men women and children with hundreds injured and more than a million dollars property damage.

The same storm swept through Alabama, causing more than 300 deaths in this state and then his Tennessee and Georgia for heavy losses in life and property.

List of Jackson County Dead:
1. Clark Matthews, Kyle Spring.
2. Six-year-old son of Andrew Little, Carns.
3. Mrs Vick Dunn, Carns.
4. John Williams, Tupelo.
5. Mrs. John Williams.
6. Infant of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Tupelo.
7. Mrs Willie Parker, Tupelo.
8. 20-year-old son of Noah Manning.
9.15-year-old daughter of Noah Manning, Tupelo.
10. 9-year-old son of Noah Manning, Tupelo.
11. Willie Austin, Boxes Cove.
12. Mrs. Willie Austin, Boxes Cove.
13. Mrs Alex Bradford, Washington Cove.
14. 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bradford of Washington Cove.
15. 1-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bradford of Washington Cove.
16. Infant of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith, Washington Cove.
17. Mr. James Shumake, Stevenson.

18. Mrs John Moore, Stevenson.
19. Robert Reeves, Stevenson.
20. Mrs. Robert Reeves, Stevenson.
21. Child of Mrs. Thelma Turner, Stevenson.
22. 11-year-old child of Brink Troxell, Stevenson.
23.George Ball, Stevenson.
24. Mrs. Frank Robertson (negro) Stevenson.
25. Bill Carter (negro), Stevenson.
26. Unidentified negro, Stevenson.
27. Unidentified negro, Stevenson.
28. Unidentified negro, Stevenson.
29. Fred Russell Jones, Paint Rock.
30. Richard M. Erwin, Paint Rock.
31. Joe Smith, Paint Rock.
32. Patsy Moore (negro) Paint Rock.

Seriously Injured (Jackson County) 125
Minor Injuries (Jackson County).....375
Estimated property damage.....$1,250.000.00

In is impossible to compile a list of the injured in this county in time to get in this issue of The Sentinel The hospitals in Scottsboro, Huntsville, and Chattanooga have been crowed with injured from this county and it is feared the Jackson County death list will reach a much higher figure because of the serious injuries of so many people, especially of the terrible injuries to so many children and the complications that usually are an aftermath of wounds and exposure.

The storm was one of the most vicious on record in this section and virtually cut a path across Jackson County its entire breadth of more than fifth miles. The course of the storm was almost a straight West to East line. It first rolled down Keel's mountain and wiped the town of Paint Rock virtually out of existence with the exception of a few dwellings. The tornado next hit Shipman's Cove, thence to Boxes Cove, to Maynard's Cove, to Tupelo, to Carns to Washington Cove, south of Stevenson half a mile sweeping Pender's Hill to the Rudder settlement, to Widow's Bar, jumping Sand Mountain and striking again in the State of Georgia. A map check-up reveals the course was almost straight line and the width of the main force appears to have been almost uniform at all places in the county it struck. The path of the storm was about 250 to 300 yards wide and carried a force greater than any wind on record here, doing thousands of freaks and twisting all before it into kindling and splinters.

It is estimated that more than 200 dwelling houses were wrecked in this county alone, many of the occupied homes being blown entirely away, yet the occupants escaped with their lives. A torrential downpour came with the storm. In fact it was "a waterspout" for water rose to heights heretofore not known in this county a few minutes after the wind had passed.

Immediately after the tornado passed rescue parties began work in all parts of the county and toiled continuously throughout the night and Tuesday. Every doctor in the county was on the job constantly trying to relieve the suffering of the unfortunates. Hodges Hospital in Scottsboro was thrown wide open to the storm sufferers and volunteer extra nurses called in to assist. McAnelly's funeral home was a gruesome place with eleven bodies being taken care of Monday night and Tuesday, while the ambulances form McAnelly's and Stevenson did not stop running until the last emergency call had been attended to. Even last night the ambulances were still bringing mangled men, women and children to the hospital here. Just as soon as the reports of the storm came to Scottsboro, Dr. Rayford Hodges, owned of Hodges Hospital, made arrangements to take patients to the hospital's utmost capacity and the doors were open to every storm victim and he and other doctors went out and gave the most loyal service ever seen in this county. Too much praise cannot be said for the doctors of this county—they did each man several men's work during the hours when their services were invaluable.

The storm news had hardly reached Scottsboro until Probate Judge J. M. Money began the organization of relief agencies to aid the storm-swept areas, reported the need for aid to Governor Miller and the Governor ordered the National Guard to bring tents and cots for the homeless and destitute people.

The Red Cross swung into action along with the Health Unit and Child Welfare Department and as we go to press Thursday we believe Jackson County has the best working relief program under way to be found in the state for the greatness of the task.

The erratic weather patterns that global warming has introduced has made super storms like this one all too commonplace. How does the 1932 tornado compare to recent deadly tornados that our county and state have experienced?

Alabama's most deadly storms since 1950 occurred in 1956, 1974, 1977, 1994, and 2011. (2) Many of us remember the tragic tornadoes of April 25-28, 2011 that tore through our region, after killing 44 people at and around the University of Alabama. Termed the 2011 Super Outbreak, it was the largest, costliest, and one of the deadliest tornado outbreaks ever recorded. In total, 348 people died as result of this outbreak. Alabama alone had 238 tornado-related deaths. April 27, the day of this deadly outbreak, is the most active tornado day in history with a record 218 tornadoes touching down that day from midnight to midnight. Four of these storms were rated EF5, the highest ranking possible on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

An EF4 tornado with winds up to 180 mph touched down in Fackler at 5:05 pm on April 27, 2016. It tracked to Stevenson where 24 metal high-tension truss towers were twisted and flattened. It continued its northwest path to Bridgeport where it crossed the Tennessee River and crossed Nickajack Lake, by this time reduced to an EF2 storm. Miraculously, only one person in Jackson County died. About 6:19 on that same evening, a violent multiple-vortex wedge tornado, rated EF5, touched down in Geraldine. tracking northwestward generally parallel to and east of Highway 75 through Fyffe, Rainsville and Sylvania into Georgia, killing 25 people. (3)

When the sky turns ominously dark and the sirens blare, many of us still think about the 1932 tornado, which remains Jackson County's deadliest storm.

Annette Norris Bradford

Notes:

(1) Wikipedia, "1932 Deep South Tornado outbreak," based on Thomas Grazulis (1993) *Significant Tornadoes 1680-1991: A Chronology of Events* (Johnsbury, Vermont Environmental Filems, ISBM 9778 1-879362 and Thomas Grazulis (2001) **The Tornado: Nature's Ultimate Windstorm** (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press).

(2) al.com, "Alabama's 10 deadliest tornadoes: Outbreaks in 2011, 1974 dominate list." heap://www.al.com/news/huntsville/index.ssf/2014/11/alabamas_10_deadliest_tornadoe.html

(3) Wikipedia, "2001 Super Outbreak," http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Super_Outbreak.

Lucille Benson, Jackson County's movie star

Lucille Benson, with over 30 film credits and appearances in more than 20 television series to her credit, is perhaps Jackson County's most recognizable face and voice.

Lucille was born Virginia Morris near Stevenson, Alabama on July 16, 1914, to Alberta Kirby Morris and Tom Morris. In her first year, she was adopted and renamed by her aunt and uncle, Elma Lee Kirby Benson and John B. Benson, after her mother died of tuberculosis at age 23.

Elma, Lucille, and Mary Lee Benson

She grew up in Scottsboro, attending Jackson County Schools, where she was president and valedictorian of the class of 1931. The Senior Prophecy in *The Reminder* (which Lucille edited) predicted Lucille would be a professional golfer, but she'd set her sights on Broadway even then. "By the time I was in the sixth grade play," she told a reporter in the mid-seventies, "I was telling everyone that I was going to New York to be on the stage. In those school plays I always got the comedy roles which meant my mother had to make strange costumes. She told me once, 'Lucille, I wish you'd get a part where I could dress you up real pretty'." (1)

Lucille attended Huntington College in Montgomery, graduated from Howard (now Samford) College in 1936, and then studied drama at Northwestern in Evanston, IL. She spent holidays in Scottsboro with her first cousin and adoptive sister, Mary Lee Benson Hall, where she cared for the Halls' three children.

She taught briefly in the late 1930's, but around 1940, Lucille and former Scottsboro classmate Jane Hodges (later Thomas) left for New York City for what was to be a summer spent investigating acting possibilities. At the end of that summer, Jane Hodges returned to Scottsboro, as the two had originally intended, but Lucille stayed in New York for another 28 years, slowly establishing herself as an actress both on Broadway and with straw hat companies touring New England and the East Coast.

By 1942, Lucille was acting on Broadway in a play titled *The Doughgirls*. Her first appearance as a major cast member and her first citation in a Playbill would come in January, 1945, when she appears in the role of Anna in the play *Good Night Ladies* by Cyrus Wood. *Good Night Ladies* ran for 78 performances at the Royale Theater, closing on March 24 of that year. Later in 1945, she played in a musical, *The Day before Spring*, that had a run of 267 performances.

By the mid-1940's, Lucille had become estranged from her Scottsboro family. In 1949, John and Elma Benson, her adoptive parents, travelled to New York to visit Lucille, who was not responding to their correspondence. They did not find Lucille at the address to which they had been sending unanswered letters, and their efforts to locate her elsewhere in the city also proved fruitless. They returned to Scottsboro with no word of Lucille's residence or situation.

© The Jackson County Historical Association


Lucille and Ayn Ruyman in Private Parts

In the early 1950s, she remained active on the stage, performing with traveling companies and acting in numerous uncredited appearances on early television such as The Armstrong Circle Theater. She reestablished sporadic contact with her family during that period, writing to alert them to her upcoming televised roles and visiting Scottsboro once in the mid-1950's. She reestablished regular contact with her Scottsboro relatives in 1966 when her mother, Elma Benson, and other family members were invited to see her on stage in Miami with Lucille Ball, acting in *Mame* at the Fountainebleau Hotel.

In the late 1950s, Lucille gained attention for her role in a traveling production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*, a cast she joined at Tennessee Williams' personal request. She was later cast in the 1960 film adaptation of the play, renamed *The Fugitive Kind*, with Marlon Brando, Joanne Woodward, and a former roommate of Lucille's, Maureen Stapleton. She would not act in another movie for 10 years, professing a preference for the live stage.

In 1968, Lucille stored her furniture in the basement of Maureen Stapleton's house and moved West for an 18-month engagement that alternated between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. In 1969, while appearing in Las Vegas in the play *Little Me* with Donald O'Connor, Lucille was invited to a Hollywood audition that resulted in her first Hollywood film role: *Little Fauss and Big Halsey* with Robert Redford and Michael J. Pollard. She accepted the role, and rather than returning to Manhattan at the end of her 18-month commitment as she'd originally planned, she moved to a small apartment on Sycamore Avenue, two blocks from Sunset Avenue and the heart of Hollywood's entertainment district where she lived for the remainder of her professional life.


Lucille and a young Steven Spielberg

Lucille learned to drive late in life and received her driver's license at age 54. She was notoriously inept behind the wheel, but was an accomplished motorcyclist who braved freeways and night riding to make her engagements while in Dallas and on the West Coast. On the set of *Little Fauss and Big Halsey*, which focuses on two motorcycle racers, Lucille amazed the cast with her dirt track skills.

A year after her Hollywood movie debut, Lucille made contact with a young director just beginning his filmmaking career: Steven Spielberg paired her with Dennis Weaver in his movie *Duel*. She would later act in his movie *1941*, and would maintain an active friendship with him throughout her career.

The early 1970s saw Lucille land roles in several first-run movies: *WUSA* with Paul Newman, *Slaughterhouse Five*, *Tom Sawyer, Mame*, *The Blue Knight*, and culminating in what is probably her most-viewed role, Rita Babtree in *Silver Streak* with Gene Wilder and Richard Prior.


Lucille and cast of Bosom Buddies, 1980

But it was on the television sitcom *Bosom Buddies*, premiering in 1980, that Lucille gained her greatest exposure. She appeared as Lily Sinclair, the proprietor of a women's hotel where a cross-dressing Tom Hanks lived in disguise.

On her yearly Christmas visit to Scottsboro in 1980, Lucille told her family she was working with a young actor, Tom Hanks, who would be the greatest talent to emerge from Hollywood since Marlon Brando, whom she'd come to admire during her East Coast filming of *The Fugitive Kind*. The family was skeptical of Lucille's confidence in the little-known actor, but her prediction proved prophetic. In 2013, Tom Hanks acknowledged his fondness for Lucille during a reunion of the Bosom Buddies cast on the Nickolodean network.

Lucille's other television roles included *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Ropers*, *Eight is Enough*, *Petrocelli*, and *Alice*. A review of her fan mail preserved by the family indicates that her best received performances were those on *Petrocelli*, but by her own accounts she was happiest on the set of the Andy Griffith show. She noted Andy's congeniality and the camaraderie on the set as factors that made those engagements so memorable.


Lucille as Mother Burnside in *Mame*.

On the set of Mame, Lucille gained a nickname that she good-naturedly enduring during her Hollywood tenure, Birdseed Benson. The nickname derived from the birdseed ballast used to fill prosthetic breasts that put her in character for the ponderous Mother Burnside.

Lucille never married, but was sporadically involved with Harry Townes, a Huntsville native who appeared in 29 films and nearly 200 television episodes, including *The Twilight Zone*, *Bonanza*, and *The Fugitive*. In 1974, Harry was ordained as an Episcopal priest, ministering at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Hollywood until he returned to Huntsville in 1989. He died there in 2001.

Lucille fell ill in the early 1980's and returned to Scottsboro to spend what was hoped would be her convalescence at the the home of her adoptive sister, Mary Lee Benson Hall. But after a swift decline, she died on February 17, 1984 of liver cancer.


Lucille with Gene Wilder in *Silver Streak*.

Most of Lucille's most memorable film roles were similar to her role in the movie that took her to Hollywood, *Little Fauss and Big Halsey*. She typically plays a crusty, independent, eccentric loner, usually operating on the fringes of society. In other roles, such as Billy Pilgrim's mother in *Slaughterhouse Five*, Widder Douglas in *Tom Sawyer*, or Mother Burnside in *Mame*, she shows greater range, prompting us to wish she had been able to act in a wider variety of movie roles. Her television roles are more diverse than her film roles, but are rarely broadcast now.

In the last few years of her life, Lucille became a more active social presence in Scottsboro. On social media, she's frequently remembered for her appearances at church and charitable occasions where she is remembered as being exuberant, irrepressible, and delighted to be the center of adulation. Lucille's cremated remains are buried in Scottsboro's Cedar Hill Cemetery with the Benson and Hall families.

David Benson Bradford

Memories of election season in Jackson County

When I was a kid, I looked forward to the local campaigns almost as much as Christmas.

Growing up in Carroll's General Merchandise in Bryant, we didn't see many celebrities.

Occasionally, a Chattanooga radio personality like Earl Freudenberg would stop in to ask directions to a gospel singing, but most of our traffic consisted of regular customers. So when someone wearing a suit and tie would come in, passing out cards, that was a big deal.

My fascination with politics may have started with a former governor and a comic book. In 1966, a man named John Patterson walked in one day, all dressed up. I was in fourth grade, and I did not know he had been governor prior to George Wallace's election in 1962. Mr. Patterson, it turns out, had led quite a life, and his 1966 gubernatorial campaign staff printed a comic book about it. There he was, in our country store, shaking hands and handing out comic books.

Most of the story centered around Patterson's efforts to rid the town of Phenix City of organized crime, after the 1954 murder of his father, attorney Albert Patterson. The elder Patterson had been the leading candidate for State Attorney General at the time of his death, and John was nominated in his place. John Patterson won that election, and in 1958, was elected Alabama's governor, the youngest ever to serve.

It was quite a story, well told in that illustrated book, and I liked Patterson in the 1966 governor's race, which featured ten candidates. Lurleen Wallace, running mainly because her husband was not allowed to serve consecutive terms, ended up winning. Although my guy didn't win, I was hooked for life.

My parents were amused by my friendships with the local politicians. We kept a bulletin board with the various cards they brought in, and I was always disappointed if a candidate visited during the school day, when I wasn't in the store. One of the first politicians I met was Sheriff C.T. Dean, who would pass out "Junior Sheriff" badges to kids like me. I bet I still have mine somewhere, just in case I have to be like Gomer Pyle, and make a citizen's arrest.

Some of the candidates were outgoing and friendly, others were shy. I would try to pry information out of them, about themselves and their competitors. I remember asking one man why he was a better choice for a top county post than his opponent, who I liked. He said, "Lord have mercy, that guy can barely read and write, we don't want him spending the county's money!" (By the way, "that guy" did win the election, and somehow the county survived.)

From the 1970 Jackson County Sentinel

In Bryant, we were proud of hosting the final political rally each election season. Our little community in the northeastern corner of the county reserved the Saturday night before the election, and we always filled the gym. Even statewide candidates would make the long trip to Bryant, because the audience was far more than just politicians and their families. It was our big annual social event, and the Ruritan Club made some extra cash selling snacks and drinks.

I enjoyed studying the different types of speeches. Some of the candidates were polished speakers, while others either had stage fright or just

couldn't string together a few coherent sentences.More than once, I suspected a candidate had consumed a little alcohol prior to the event, maybe to work up enough courage to face the big Bryant crowd.

Sheriff Bob Collins. Photo courtesy of Connie Collins Stevenson.

One of my favorite memories is from the 1970 campaign, when Sheriff W. R. (Bob) Collins was seeking a second term. Collins was the personification of the term “low-key." Unlike the cigar-chomping southern sheriffs seen in that era's TV shows, Collins was soft-spoken and gentlemanly. At that year's rally, Collins' opponent was fired up as he took the stage, criticizing the sheriff, who sat behind him, solemn and expressionless. Collins' challenger told the crowd how he would clean up crime, weed out the bootleggers and drug dealers, increase patrols, and much more. This went on for a while, until the bell rang and his 3-minute time limit had expired.

Then it was Sheriff Collins' turn to speak. I remember thinking, "Man, how will he respond to all those attacks? I'll bet he's going to have a lot to say after the way than man talked about him!"

I couldn't have been more wrong. Sheriff Collins got up and said, "Folks, you know me, and I hope you'll go to the polls on Tuesday and re-elect me for another term." That was it. He sat down. I was amazed. He didn't even say his name! Of course, he won by a landslide, and won a few more terms after that. Who says you need a long campaign speech?

David Carroll

Bryant-native David Carroll is a news anchor with WRCB-TV in Chattanooga. To see more of his work, check out his book about growing up in the South in general and Bryant in particular, Volunteer Bama Dog, or his web site ChattanoogaRadioTV.com. This essay previously appeared on this web site.

When I was transcribing my grandparents’ love letters from 1907-1910, I treated these fragile mementoes with great gentleness. Nonetheless, one envelope from Roscoe to Vera, which had remained sealed for more than 100 years because my grandmother opened her letters at the end with scissors, unsealed in my hands to reveal this hidden note: “Bet you a kiss you never see this.” A chill ran down my spine. My grandfather died in 1936 when my mother was 9, but I felt somehow that he had touched me and I had collected on his promise. While David was compiling the article in this issue about his great aunt Lucille Benson, we explored a trunk of her possessions that my mother-in-law, her executor, had kept. There were many envelopes of publicity shots. At the bottom of one standard stack was this funny picture of Lucille, her hot costume for *Tom Sawyer* hiked up to her knees, cooling off between takes. Stashed like a surprise at the bottom of the pile, this photo is an undiscovered treasure. I bet she never saw it. So, Lucille, bet you a kiss you never saw this. (ANB)

The murder of R.C. Ross by the Skelton Brothers

Few incidents in Jackson County excited as much notoriety yet have received less attention from contemporary chroniclers than the 1894 murder of Robert C. Ross by four members of the James T. Skelton family.

Three Skelton brothers—Robert Scott "Bob" Skelton, Walter Andrew "Tot" Skelton, and James M. "Jim" Skelton—and a cousin, John Skelton, ambushed Robert C. Ross, a prominent Scottsboro banker, at the Stevenson railroad depot on Sunday, February 4, 1894, firing at him and his companions multiple times before delivering a final shot to the head as Ross lay wounded on the platform. Their motive was to seek revenge on Ross whom they believed had seduced their sister, 22-year-old Annie Skelton, rendering her a "ruined" woman.

Robert C. Ross was around 40 years old, the father of five children (the fifth born days before his murder) and was the second highest ranking officer of The Jackson County Bank on Laurel Street in Scottsboro. A native of Wisconsin who moved to Alabama in 1875, Ross was the child of considerable wealth and privilege.


W. A. Gurney, President. R. C. Ross, Cashier
JACKSON COUNTY
BANK
Transacts a general banking business. Loans money on personal securities.
Sells Exchage at Current Rates
Interest allowed on Time Deposits.
Bank open 9 to 12 a. m. 1:30 to 4 p. m.

The Scottsboro Citizen, January 1894

His relationship with Annie Skelton was discovered by Annie's sister, Dovie Skelton Kirby, who had married a wealthy businessman in Little Rock, Arkansas, and whom Annie was visiting when Dovie's husband inadvertently opened a letter addressed to Annie at the Little Rock address. He handed the letter, unread, to his wife, who read the letter and, alarmed by the declarations of love from a married man, searched Annie's belongings, uncovering several more correspondences from Ross. Dovie bundled the letters and sent them to her Skelton family in Scottsboro, where she instigated actions that would result in Ross's death and legal repercussions that extended beyond the immediate family.

Annie Skelton's beauty, social standing, and cultural accomplishments were the stuff of local lore. She was the youngest of eight children born to James T. Skelton and Charlotte Covington Scott, the daughter of Scottsboro founder, Robert T. Scott. In a recap of the story, published by *The New York Herald* just in advance of a scheduled September 1894 trial (later granted a continuance) of the Skelton brothers, the paper declared " . . . in all the county the Skelton family was at once the wealthiest and most aristocratic. All the luxury in the way of dress and environments that money could buy was Annie Skelton's. From her infancy she had never wanted for any material thing that goes to make life happy."(1)

Scottsboro could not long contain Annie. At age 18, she accepted a position as a music teacher in Day's Gap, a settlement near Birmingham. It was there that she met and developed a passionate attachment for a man named J. C. Musgrove, who would eventually face scrutiny when Annie would write to her brothers in defense of Robert Ross, "But what is your object in swearing you will kill Mr. Ross, when you know that he is not the one that wronged me? If you want to kill the man that ruined me, then kill J. C. Musgrove."

The time in Day's Gap ended unhappily for Annie. She returned to Scottsboro morose and withdrawn according to contemporary accounts. It seems her despondence was prompted by Musgrove's preference for and eventual marriage to another woman.

© The Jackson County Historical Association

After she returned to her family home from Day's Gap, Annie's acquaintance with Robert Ross matured. Aware of Annie's attachment to Ross and troubled at the closeness of Annie to a married man, the family plotted to send Annie to Little Rock to visit her sister Dovenia "Dovie" Skelton Kirby. The same day that Annie boarded the train for Memphis, Ross boarded the train for Chattanooga. Annie did not arrive in Little Rock for more than a week. Her appearance in Little Rock was concurrent with Ross's reappearance in Scottsboro. In later correspondence, Ross would allude to their six days together. The defense in the Skelton trial would contend that the couple spent the time at the World's Fair in Chicago.

In the wake of the assumed meeting, Ross wrote to Annie: "Now, I have always tried to be honorable, and would not want to do a mean or dishonorable thing, but my wife is so wrapped up in her household cares, her kinsfolk and her children that I am little more than a boarder in my own house. She is a good woman and has always been a good wife, but I don't think she would miss me much if she had a comfortable home and an income that would keep her." He further states: "My scheme is to leave my home and what I have here and the interest on my money will make [the family] easy. You know my home is pleasant and I don't think they will grieve for me. Then I would take my sweetheart and my land money and go to South Dakota, get a divorce and marry the girl I love. Then we could locate somewhere—I don't like the South as well as I do the West to do business in."

In another letter, Ross expresses annoyance that he's been asked about her whereabouts by a mutual friend who tells Ross that Annie had "promised him something more than kisses" on their next meeting. "I believe be was lying," said,"[I] don't believe you ever allowed him to kiss you. It made me feel badly to think I was not in a position to resent his lies."

Immediately upon Dovie Kirby's sending Ross's letters to Scottsboro, the family laid plans to bring Annie home for closer supervision. Annie was informed that her mother was ill and that she was expected to return to Scottsboro at once.

Somehow, Annie divined the true intent of the summons and rather than returning home, telegraphed Ross to meet her in Memphis. Ross apparently did so, and Annie warned him there that her family knew of the relationship and their plans to elope.

Ross did not return to Scottsboro after their meeting in Memphis, nor did Annie. She went to Cincinnati where she wrote her oldest brother, Robert: "I trust you are all satisfied now that you have disgraced me. It always seemed to me that this was what you wanted to do. But what is your object in swearing you will kill Mr. Ross, when you know that he is not the one that wronged me? Mr. Ross went with me at my own invitation, and if you kill him you will have to suffer for it. If you are bloodthirsty and must kill somebody, then kill Bud Musgrove and I will send you the letters to justify you in so doing. But I would advise you to let matters rest. I realize that I can never come home again, but am going to live so that I can see my mother again in this life and ask her forgiveness. Do nothing rash, for it will only bring me before the public where, I trust, none of you want to see me. Bud Musgrove is the one who has made my life what it is but his life could never make me what I once was."

One account of the murder says that the letter exonerating Ross and implicating Musgrove was found on the body of Robert Ross who was supposed to have mailed it from Scottsboro so that Annie could not be traced to Cincinnati via the postmark. In that case, the family never saw the letter, but later trial proceedings indicated that the brothers were in fact aware of Annie's assignment of guilt to Musgrove.

Ross, made aware in Memphis that his life was in danger, remained absent from Scottsboro, causing concern on behalf of his family and business associates. He finally returned when he was alerted that his wife, who was about to deliver their fifth child, was in distress. He returned home on January 30, 1984, and his fifth child, a daughter, Arburta, was born the following day. During the four days that he remained at home, he never left the house.

© The Jackson County Historical Association

The Skeltons had been scrutinizing Ross's movements and business dealings. They were aware that he had returned home, and they monitored his comings and goings. They also noted that he had begun divesting himself of some of his extensive holdings in the town. They had in hand Ross's written proposal to Annie to meet her in Memphis in February, an arrangement that probably made the Skeltons particularly apprehensive when Ross left his home very early on February 4 to catch the train in Stevenson rather than in Scottsboro, where he would certainly have been noticed.

Shortly after Ross left home, the three Skelton brothers and their cousin John began their pursuit. They flanked Ross and arrived at the Stevenson depot before Ross, who was accompanied by a carriage driver identified as Mr. Hammond, a serving man named John Calloway, and his brother-in-law Frank D. Bloodworth. All were armed. The Skeltons left their horses in a field beside the depot and approached on foot, arriving at the depot before Ross.

In Scottsboro, townspeople heard of the pursuit and gathered at the Scottsboro rail depot to hear the news of the impending conflict. Among the gathered crowd was Ed Ross, brother of Robert Ross. Ed Ross tried to warn his brother by sending a telegraph that warned "Four men are following you, all are heavily armed; look out."

Also monitoring developments from the Scottsboro depot was Judge John Benton Tally who was married to the Skeltons' sister Sydney May. He was somehow made aware of Ed Ross's telegram and subsequently sent a telegram of his own to William Huddleston, the mayor of Stevenson and Stevenson's telegrapher: "Don't let party warned get away. Say nothing."

The telegrams arrived nearly simultaneously, and as Huddleston walked next door to the Union Hotel to sort out the situation and then returned to his office in the second floor of the depot, he saw Ross approach. There was little time for him to react. On Ross's arrival at the depot, the Skeltons attacked.

Ross was hit by gunfire early in the ambush, apparently shot in the leg. He stood briefly and drew a gun, but could not locate his assailants who remained hidden from view. Shortly thereafter, John Skelton approached Ross from an outbuilding and shot him from behind in the head. (2) Jim Skelton shot Ross in the head a second time as he lay prostrate on the platform. Robert Skelton delivered a final shot to the head as Ross lay dying or perhaps already dead. His brother-in-law, Bloodworth, was wounded. Ross's other two companions, Calloway and Hammond, fled the gunfire and were unharmed.

Meanwhile, in Scottsboro, Judge Tally received a telegram from the Skeltons: "Ross is dead. None of us hurt."

After the killing, the brothers surrendered to Stevenson authorities where they were returned to Scottsboro to be charged with first degree murder. Early in March, they received a preliminary hearing where all but the cousin John were granted release on bail. John Skelton, the one conspirator who was not granted bail, escaped the Jackson County jail on April 25 by overpowering the sheriff's son, wrestling his pistol from him, and eluding his pursuers by being supplied with a horse outside town. Two of the Skelton brothers, Tot and Jim, were arrested for aiding in his escape.

Meanwhile, Annie Skelton remained in Cincinnati at the Gibson House Hotel. Reports say that she learned of Ross's murder when she read about it in a newspaper delivered daily from the front desk. She suffered an emotional collapse and was hospitalized in Cincinnati.

Upon her return to Scottsboro, she was examined by Dr. W. J. Rorex who declared that she was "suffering with nervous prostration." Dr. Rorex offered the opinion that "It would be exceedingly dangerous for her to be consulted about the case or have her deposition taken." Dr. Rorex's opinion served the defense well; they had previously considered excluding Annie's testimony by instituting "a plea of insanity for the purpose of incapacitating the girl as a witness."

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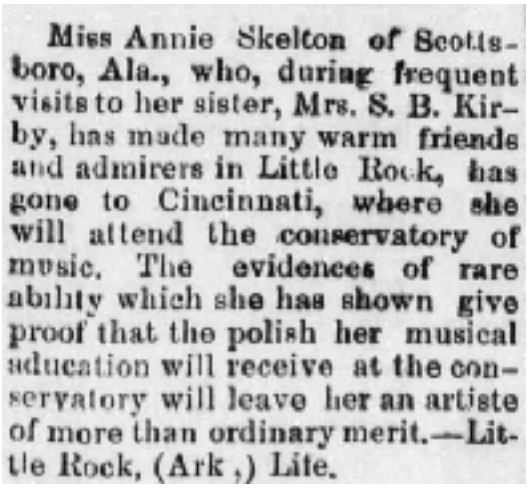
Three weeks after the murder, Ida Ross, Robert Ross's widow, sent a letter to various newspapers condemning Annie Skelton as a seductress. She stated: "When Annie Skelton began to exert her base influence over him it was like the entrance of the serpent into the Garden of Eden. There is nothing so sacred as a happy home, and she knew that mine was happy, and that it was a crime to try to steal my husband's heart. Our daughter had been her music pupil and my house and our little children were in her sight every day. At her age-22 years-and with her experience, seduction would have been impossible had her lover been free to marry her, and in this case she well knew there was nothing but disgrace for her, ruin for him and bitter grief for me. She was not an innocent girl, but a designing woman, well versed in the ways of the world."



Miss Annie Skelton of Scottsboro, Ala., who, during frequent visits to her sister, Mrs. S. B. Kirby, has made many warm friends and admirers in Little Rock, has gone to Cincinnati, where she will attend the conservatory of music. The evidences of rare ability which she has shown give proof that the polish her musical education will receive at the conservatory will leave her an artiste of more than ordinary merit.—Little Rock, (Ark.,) Life.

The Scottsboro Citizen, November 8, 1888

The Skelton brothers' trials were scheduled for March 1894, but were delayed until September of that year when the defense argued that Annie was too ill to testify and that that negative publicity had prejudiced the local citizenry to the point that an impartial jury could not be struck. In September, the trial was delayed until the following March because of the illness of Robert Skelton. Although the prosecution called Robert Skelton's illness a ruse, Dr. W. J. Rorex once again attested to the legitimacy of a family member's illness, this time Robert's, that resulted in a continuance. In March, the Skelton were granted yet another continuance until the August term of court because of the death of their sister, Dovie Kirby, the woman who had exposed her sister Annie's affair to the family.

Finally, on September 18, 1895, the three Skelton brothers were tried and found not guilty of the crime. The murder of Robert C. Ross was deemed a justifiable homicide. (3)

One person remained doggedly devoted to Annie throughout her tribulations. John D. Freeman had ardently and formally courted Annie since she was 17 years old. He had visited her in Little Rock. He stated that he believed Annie's infamy was the result of Robert Ross's fiendish designs. In July following the murder, Freeman arrived in Scottsboro and remained with Annie for several days before the two of them left Scottsboro to be married on June 29, 1894 in Malvern Arkansas. They lived for a short time in Hot Springs, AR before settling in Wagoner, OK. Both were well educated. Freeman's obituary lists him as having graduated in both medicine and law. They taught in Wagoner during their residence there. Annie was also the society editor for the newspaper, *Wagoner Sayings*.

Upon the death of John Freeman in 1901 of smallpox, Annie married William C. Edwards. Annie died on March 7, 1907 at the age of 35, two days after the death of an infant daughter, probably the second child she'd lost in childbirth. Annie is buried in Wagoner in the Indian Territories, now Oklahoma.

Ida Ross left Scottsboro shortly after her husband's murder. She was not destitute financially. She divested herself of her husband's interest in the Jackson County Bank (later the Tennessee Valley Bank) and her husband's real estate holdings. Days before his death, Robert Ross had purchased a $5,000 life insurance policy. Initially, she was awarded a $10,000 settlement from the Western Union company for their failure to deliver the warning to her husband in Stevenson, a judgement that was ultimately appealed and reversed.

Ida Ross moved to Eufaula, presumably her hometown, since that is where she and Robert Ross were married. She died May 19, 1913. The

infant daughter born to her and Robert Ross during the period he was targeted by the Skeltons, Arburta, lived only six months.

Dovie and Annie Skelton as portrayed in recent reenactment of the discovery of Annie's letters from Robert Ross.. The reenactment was part of Little Rock Arkansas' "Tales from the Crypt" series.

Judge John Benton Tally, the judge of the ninth judicial circuit, was impeached for his role in the crime, charged with collusion with the Skelton brothers. Before the Alabama Supreme Court in August 1894, the judges hearing his case ruled that ". . . we do not find that Judge Tally had any knowledge of the intention of the Skeltons to kill Ross before or at the time of their departure . . . and we find him not guilty of the charge of willful neglect of official duty presented on that count.' Nevertheless, the panel stated in its final judgement "And we are impelled to find that John B. Tally aided and abetted the murder of Robert C. Ross . . . and adjudge that he is guilty as charged to that judgment deposing him from office will be entered on the records of this court." Alhough removed from office as Circuit Judge, Judge Tally was never convicted of any crime in connection with the incident and was active in civic and church affairs until his death in 1929. He was elected to the Alabama Senate in 1919 and was also elected as Moderator (the chief executive officer) of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination in 1921. (4)

The Skelton brothers continued to be active in civic affairs until their deaths in 1915 (James), 1916 (Walter), and 1932 (Robert), operating Skelton Hardware at the corner of Laurel and Broad Streets among other family businesses.

David Benson Bradford

The Skelton family at the center of this story is not in the direct ancestral line of recently deceased Mark Scott Skelton. The confusion is fueled by the two Skelton families sharing not only Christian names in addition to their surname, but also by both being direct descendants of Scottsboro founder Robert T. Scott through marriage to his daughters: James T. Skelton, father of the family discussed here, married Charlotte Covington Scott, who was Robert Scott's daughter. The Mark Scott Skelton family is related to the Scott family through marriage to Charlotte Covington Scott's sister, Lucy H. Scott.

Compiling the facts for this article would have been difficult without the archives compiled by Tony Curtis of Little Rock, Arkansas. Tony's grandmother rented an apartment in the home occupied by Samuel B. Kirby and his wife, Dovie Skelton Kirby, in Little Rock. Tony was disturbed by the home's deterioration, purchased it, and embarked on a meticulous restoration. In his research, he discovered the story of Robert C. Ross's murder and the importance of his restored home in the story's narrative. Tony has written compelling profiles of the participants in the crime, and was instrumental in an enactment of the interaction between Dovie Skelton Kirby and Annie Skelton upon Dovie's discovery of the letters from Robert Ross that was presented earlier this year as a historical reenactment in Little Rock's "Tales from the Crypt" series. Tony visited Scottsboro earlier this year and toured the sites associated with the story as the guest of John and Bill Tally, great grandsons of the John B. Tally referenced here. He has commissioned oil paintings of many family members and is gathering information for a book, the proceeds of which will support his upkeep of the Kirby House. Review Tony's archives on the Facebook page "Samuel B. Kirby House."

1) Ross's letters were reprinted in several publications. Those excerpted here are drawn from *The New York Herald*, September 23, 1894, page 3, columns 1-5. The Herald article is the most comprehensive single source for details of the murder.
(2) The fatal shot to the back of Ross's head is variously assigned to Robert and then to John. It seems likely that John was assigned more blame as the case progressed since his escape from prison had left him unavailable for trial and testimony.
(3) The final judgement in the trial of the Skelton received surprisingly little coverage. The most extensive coverage appears in the September 19, 1895 edition of *The Progressive Age*.
(4) The entire transcript of the Alabama Supreme Court's judgement is printed in *The Southern Reporter*, v 15, pp. 722-741.

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News

New Historical Marker Installed in Stevenson to Commemorate Averyville

On June 9, the Jackson County Historical Association, Stevenson Mayor Ricky Steele, a group of Alabama A. & M. alumni led by their president Ms. Clarene Teague-Johnson, and proud citizens on Stevenson dedicated the Averyville Historic Marker, located on Old Mt. Carmel Road in Stevenson.

This marker is the result of an inquiry by Eddie Davis, an alumnus of Alabama A&M University, who has written a biography of William Hooper Councill, founder of A&M. Mr. Davis contacted the Jackson County Historical Association asking for information on Averyville, near Stevenson. From the sources found by Ann Chambless, Jackson County's premier historian, and information and sources shared by Mr. Davis, an unknown piece of Stevenson history has been brought to light.

In the post Civil War South, attaining an education was both a symbolic step away from slavery and a practical goal for the formerly enslaved population who realized they needed the ability to understand legal documents and labor contracts. In March 1865, the Federal government established the Freedman's Bureau. In Alabama, twelve Bureau districts were established to provide health care, food, and buildings for schools for one year for both blacks and whites. Voluntary organizations stepped in to fill the gaps of the Freedman's Bureau. A few wealthy Northern individuals and American missionary associations began funding the schools and sent teachers, more than half of them white female teachers, to the battle scarred South. Methodists and Quakers took the lead in these efforts.

Before the Civil War, Charles Avery, a wealthy white abolitionist from Pittsburgh, PA, was active in educating African Americans and helping escaped slaves. When Avery died in 1858, he left $300,000.00 to support African American education. Possibly with funds from the Avery endowment, twenty acres of land in Stevenson were purchased by Pennsylvania Quaker missionaries. It soon became the home of approximately 70 people of all ages. It is thought that the school established in this compound led to the name Averyville in honor of Charles Avery. In 2017, Avery Street is a reminder of the first endeavor to educate Black students in this area.

Henrietta Starkweather was an early teacher at the Averyville School. In a letter to the Quaker Missionary Society, she said her initial guide through Averyville was William Councill who told her he had "learned his letters" in 1864. He stated he was the best scholar of the school and she thought he was worthy of a scholarship in the Ashman Institute. This letter indicates Starkweather gave Councill a solid recommendation that most likely resulted in his being able to begin teaching in Huntsville at an early age. Councill went on to found the Colored Normal School in 1875 in Huntsville. This school later became Alabama A&M University. Before he

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died in 1909, Dr. Councill became one of the two most important and influential Black men in Alabama, the other being Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University.

The Averyville compound and school came under repeated threats by the Ku Klux Klan in the early 1870s and this resulted in the closing of the Averyville school and the teachers returning to their native states.

The Stevenson City Council completely funded this effort, purchasing the marker, acquiring property as close as possible to the historical Averyville site, and providing a small park to house the marker. The JCHA thanks the City of Stevenson, the City Council, and Mayor Ricky Steele for their efforts to get this marker placed.

Judi Weaver Retires

Those of you have who done research at the Scottsboro Jackson Heritage Center any time in the last 20 years are familiar with the smiling face and research help provided by Director Judi Weaver.

Judi moved to Jackson County from Durham, NC in 1986 when her husband went to work at Andover Togs, Inc. She became director of the center in 1997, serving both the intellectual and social needs of the county, conducting tours, setting up for weddings and receptions, guiding school groups, holding special events, helping with the Master Gardeners' Sale each spring, and working with the Garden Club to decorate the center and hold the annual Christmas open house. I have personally witnessed Judi pulling weeds to ensure that the center puts its best foot forward on a bride's special day.

A reception was held in her honor on June 4 at, where else, the Heritage Center. Judi is active in other groups, such as the Beautification Council, in the county and will remain in Jackson County.

"I have been here in Jackson County for over 30 years, and this is home," Judi told Will Whaley at *The Daily Sentinel*. "I have loved every morning that I have come to work. It has been a true joy.

We congratulate Jennifer Petty who replaced Judi, effective June. Jennifer is a Jackson County native who has worked as a research assistant at the Heritage Center for two years and brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the job. She also brings new hours. The Heritage Center is now open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thank you Jackson Printing

The JCHA wishes to thank Jackson Printing Company for its generous donation of printed mailing envelopes for the Chronicles. Owners Wally and Tina Duffey have been long-time supporters of the JCHA, offering us quality printing at deeply discounted prices. Jackson Printing is a commercial printer that designs and publishes business forms, brochures, fliers, and church bulletins. They are located at 2410 East Willow in Scottsboro.

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The Jackson County Chronicles

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In this issue:

About this publication:

The Jackson County Chronicles is published quarterly by The Jackson County Historical Association (JCHA) .

Editor: Annette Norris Bradford
Associate Editor: David Bradford
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October Meeting: The next Jackson County Historical Association meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 29 at the Scottsboro Depot Museum. It will feature Civil War expert Gary Johnson who will speak about "Webbed Feet on the Western Waters: The Union Army on the Tennessee River." Gary writes, "A little known fact for many Civil War buffs is that the Navy played a significant role on the Western waters (the Mississippi River and all its tributaries, including the Upper Tennessee River.) Union Navy warships were built at Bridgeport, AL and projected Union power from Decatur to Chattanooga." The presenter will share how river naval warfare was different from ocean warfare and how the river navy was critical to the Union army's success in the western theater of the war. Gary Q. Johnson is a former naval officer who is an amateur historian of the Civil War Navy. He and his wife live in Cincinnati but have a family connections in Scottsboro.

Podcast: The first of a series of podcasts focusing on Jackson/DeKalb County history is now available online. Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) Archivist Blake Wilhelm narrates the story of Clarence Bloomfield Moore, the son of a wealthy Philadelphia family who used his inherited fortune to explore Southern archaeological sites in the late 19th century. Using a steamboat of his own design, *The Gopher*, Moore explored and documented native American sites, including the banks of the Tennessee River in Jackson County. Wilhelm's podcast on Moore is the first of what is anticipated to be a monthly production of NACC's archives. In subsequent offerings, he plans to feature DeKalb County's Granny Dollar and Scottsboro's music pioneer Nolan Strong. To hear Wilhelm's "CB Moore and *The Gopher* in Jackson County" follow the link from jchaweb.org.

Please renew your membership in the JCHA: The membership roster on page 37 lists the status of each JCHA member. Those listed as "Paid 2017" or "Please Renew" are urged to resubscribe for 2018 or to convert to a life membership.

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World War I: Living with War and Celebrating Its End

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Canadian WWI physician John McCrae wrote this poem in May 1915, and died in 1918. A supplement to *The Chattanooga Sunday Times* surfaced recently and added photos of a few more of our county boys who lost their lives in the war. When I think about the tragic loss of so many young men, so unprepared for what their country sent them to face, I am haunted by the eyes of James Clarence Adkins of Flat Rock, by the blend of bravery, uncertainty, and fatalism. He died of pneumonia in Spartanburg, SC before he ever crossed to Europe.

As we bring to an end this year of remembering World War I, we relive the year before Armistice by examining the front pages of the *The Progressive Age* and looking at the activities that led the county to the end of hostilities, Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. And we look back at the Armistice celebration in Scottsboro from the *Progressive Age* and in Stevenson through the memories of Charles Rice Coffey.

From The Progressive Age:

1917

- August 17 published the list of people who were not for any reason exempt from the draft. the subset of men chosen from all those who registered for the draft on June 5 who would actually begin reporting for duty.
- August 24 published a patriotic "support our boys" story that began with a letter from "Little Gray Mother" asking what mothers could do for their sons called away to war.
- August 31 said that the Navy needed more recruits, and that a German spy had attempted to poison a number of Americans.

- September 7, the first group of Jackson County soldiers shipped out, and Southerners complained to Washington that "color lines have been ignored in the assignment of negro troops," and that protests were filed about quartering negro troops in some parts of the south.
- September 14, an expert on the Kaiser said that he had to be defeated this fall (1917).
- September 21, the U. S. had over a million volunteers and the *PA* published a long list of Jackson County men who had reported for service at Camp Pike in Little Rock, AR.
- September 28, a Mr. Boggus who had accompanied the young Jackson County recruits to Arkansas reported that the "everything is better than expected" at Camp Pike and the "boys at camp are all well and satisfied."
- The war vanished for a time in early October, the front page devoted to news of the coming county fair
- October 12 called those who had listed some disability or exemption on their June 5 draft papers to come for physical re-examination.
- October 19 included a war diary in which Jackson County native H. Atkins Smith had written an account of a day at Camp Pike.
- October 26 contained a list of the county "colored selectmen" called up for service, and Joseph C. King reported on activities at Camp Pike.
- November 2 "Sunny Jim" Padgett wrote about "getting ready to march on Berlin."
- November 16 reflected President Wilson's fear that food supplies would run low, and the paper reported that the local food campaign was a great success and published a long list of contributors.
- November 24, Harold H. Brown became the first Jackson County boy to die. He died at Camp Wheeler of pneumonia. In that same paper, Norwood Thomas wrote about life in the Jefferson Barracks in Missouri. German troops were being moved to the Russian front, and the German Hindenburg Line was broken by British troops.
- November 30, J. D. Padgett encouraged citizens to contribute to the Y. M.C.A. (remember there was no U.S.O and the Y.M.C.A. filled this role in WWI), and a list of Jackson County contributors appeared on the front page. Another group of Jackson County boys was called to report to camp.
- December 7, Private J.H. Lipscomb reported on life at Camp Wheeler in Macon, GA, and folks at home worried that Russia might become a German ally.

The paper seemed to take a holiday on war news for the Christmas season and the war moved off the front page. War news took a back seat until March, when these stories began to run.

1918

- March 8, Sheriff Austin had received a letter from Bill Odum who was serving in France saying "the journey across the waters was made without mishap" and Odum "likes the country and general situation fine."
- March 22, the front page was covered with news about the coming carnival.
- March 29 ,"the boys over there want a lighter, because matches give away a marine's position in the trenches." Allious Petty of Larkinsville volunteered for the coast artillery.
- April 5 said that the "Germans are beaten in every sector" but is more concerned about drunken night brawls and reports that William Jennings Bryan is coming to speak in support of prohibition.
- April 12 details the activities of the Women's Liberty Loan Committees and reports that a slacker (a drafted solider who failed to report) was killed when marshals came to arrest him.
- April 19, the War Department announces that enlisted men will be granted furloughs during seeding and harvesting periods. Along with national War News, the Navy urgently needs many thousands of men in the Navy Reserve and encourages young men to apply.

- April 25 urges residents to take out Liberty Loans and asks, "Will Scottsboro go over the top—she will if you do your full patriotic duty" because the county needs to "subscribe her full share and more of the Third Liberty Loan."
- May 3, reports on soldiers moved between camp. Twenty-eight "colored soldiers" are called to Camp Custer in Michigan, and 19 white draftees are sent to Camp Jackson in Columbia, SC. Huntsville establishes a symbolic German whipping post, and there is news of the whirlwind drive for Liberty Bonds and a call to answer Germany in kind. "A large gathering of white and colored friends" sent the first group of "colored recruits" to Michigan, with patriotic talks delivered by ministers and a young girls' chorus who had made badges for the soldiers and sang "Are You From Dixie" and "Over There."
- May 10, Liberty Bond editorializing and the formation of a county Red Cross Committee, along with election news.
- May 18, filled with election news, and a Red Cross statement from the President prompts editor Mark Tucker to agree that one quarter of all new subscription proceeds would go to the Red Cross.
- May 31, a call for women in town to free up their maids and, "Send Nurse Girls to the Farm." Jackson County raised two and a half times its quota for the Red Cross, with contributions from groups all over the county, including the Masons, the City Beautiful Club, colored people's auxiliaries, and municipalities all over the county.
- June 7, U.S. reserve troops are making real headway against German positions, and the national goal of $100,000,000 for the Red Cross was oversubscribed by $70,000,000. In Jackson County, nearly half the citizens contributed. James F. Carson of Dutton died in France. The fear of a food shortage had spurred home canners across the country into action, so much so that the Navy could accept no more canned goods.
- June 14, a call for the Four Minute Men to organize (they presented war news in the four minutes required to change the reels of a movie), War Bond promotions, and plans for a "glorious, patriotic 4th of July." Mattie Beeson was the Four Minute Man chairman.
- June 21, national war news and "The Slacker" is at the Snodgrass Theater, "The Most Amazing Screen Attraction in 7 Big Acts, Vital—Patriotic—Supreme."
- June 28, 58 more young men to report to Camp Pike in Little Rock and election news.
- July 5, Logan Crawford, a former inmate of the orphan's home in Evergreen, wrote a letter about the battles he fought in France, and the Senate has hearings on war profiteering.
- July 12, skilled volunteers were needed by the Army Engineering Corps. The Army needed skills such as auto repairmen, boatmen, cabinet makers, cooks, draftsmen, electricians, photographers, machinists, and plumbers.
- July 26, Four Minute Men (and Women) reports. War News is very upbeat—"Allied push narrows pocket's mouth. French hammering Fere-en-Tardenois. Enemy's losses reach awful total. Trap jaws newly shut." And local farmer Robert L. Posey of Gray's Chapel was seriously wounded.
- August 9, election finger pointing and accusations of fraud push the war aside.
- August 15, the entire front page is the JCHS bulletin about the coming school year.
- August 23, positive news dominates the War News column. An Austin soldier writes home about the good ministries of the Red Cross, and Fred Nye writes about the treatment of county recruits by the Red Cross at Camp Shelby. Jim Lewis of Paint Rock died August 19 in France.
- August 30, the names of 44 new recruits were published, and they were asked to register, having reached draft age. People were encouraged to buy War Savings Stamps. A serialized book about the Kaiser starts publication. And to stretch the food supply, wheat flour by law had to contain 20% barley or corn.
- September 6, Editor Mark Tucker is local captain of an organization that will provide military instruction to recruits before they leave for camp, and "a minister will instruct the boys how to take care of themselves morally and religiously." Six men left for Camp Greene in Charlotte, NC and "14 Colored Men" left for Camp Dodge in Iowa, among them Duke Boyd who would die on October 6 and John Joyner, who would die on October 8. Enrollment began for the U.S. Boys Working Reserve for

young men age 16-17 to meet a grave shortage in rural labor. Robert Posey, reported as injured on July 26, wrote home telling family how he was injured and that he is improving.

- September 14, another group of draftees left for Camp Pike. The front page carried a political cartoon of the Kaiser's head with baseballs and "four shots for a dollar." And at the Snodgrass Theater, you could see "The Kaiser: The Beast of Berlin."
- September 21, 11 more colored men shipped out for Camp McClellan, the only mention of the war on this front page.
- October 4, 1918, a quarter of the front page announced that "Lest We Forget," a short allegorical film about the sinking of the Lusitania starring Rita Joyilet, would be showing at the Snodgrass Theater, calling the film "the world's greatest drama for all true Americans."
- October 18, two war letters from Claude Matthews and Kelly Morgan sound more like travelogues than war pieces.
- October 25, John Will Gay reported that Jackson County is over the top on its 4th Liberty Loan, and anticipating that the war would continue, the paper provided instructions for shipping Christmas parcels to soldiers serving overseas.
- November 1, an article titled "La Belle France" talked about the love and hospitality that the French people had shown our soldiers, written by J. W. Willis who was serving in France. C. E. Matthews wrote about the graciousness of their English hosts. There was a feeling that hostilities were about to be resolved.
- November 8, report on the local war work campaign, with reports on the United War Fund and the Red Cross, which was gearing up for Christmas mailings. The list of committees is a whose who of the county. Charlie Miller writes his wife from "somewhere in France." A call for new registrants brings "the biggest movement of registrants from civil life to soldier life."

And then, it was over.

The Progressive Age provided a factual account of the celebration in Scottsboro, which is transcribed below. But for eloquence and emotion, I am partial to Charles Rice Coffey's memory of this celebration in Stevenson. We have Redmon Graham to thank for recognizing and preserving Rice Coffey's diaries, which he found in the Annie Maude Talley's estate sale. The 1934-1938 diaries of Charles Rice Coffey, grandson of John Reid Coffey, give us such insight into the 1930s that I will write later at some length about the diaries, but for now, I am content to look at what this veteran of the Spanish-American War, one of the "boys of 1898," had to say about the end of The Great War.

How Scottsboro Celebrated the Victory

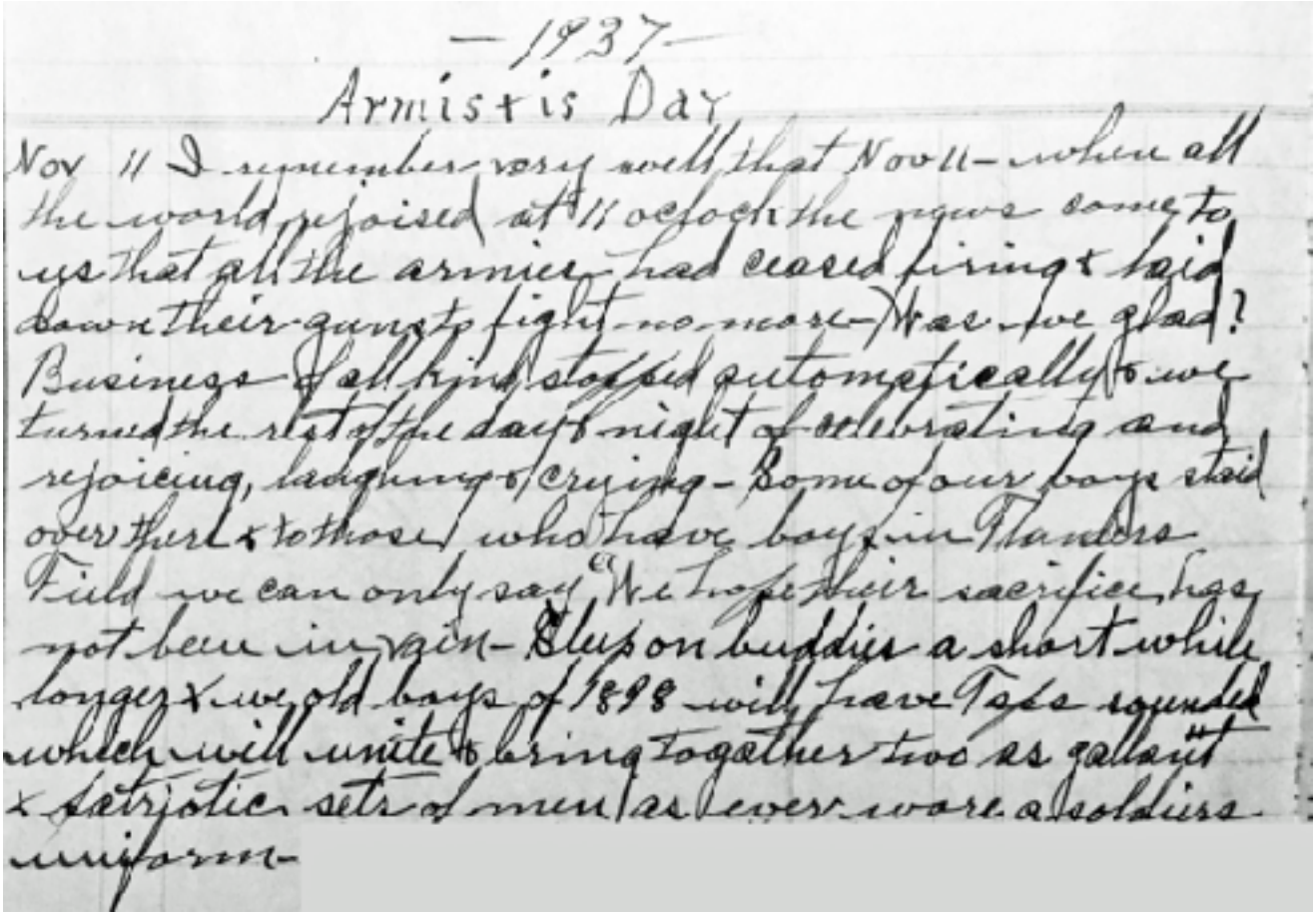
Monday morning at six o'clock Victory Bells rang out the glad tiding of the German surrender. Late sleepers rolled out of bed and a big noise started that lasted till late into the night. Everybody wore a smile because the dreadful cloud of war was lifted and sweet peace had downed on a weary world.

The High school and Grammar school had their own celebrations and then sent word to the Sheriff that they would march to the Court House for a big community mass meeting at four o'clock in the afternoon. Col. Austin called the meeting from the courthouse windows. He brought out the public just like a fire alarm does. The court room was soon packed with people and alive with waving French and U. S. flags. The welkin [sic] rang to the strains of the Star Spangled Banner, with Mrs. Presley presiding at the organ. A soul stirring prayer was offered by Rev. B. T. Cantrell, that the Almighty make us fit for the Victory and willing instruments of His righteous will. Reverend Cary Gamble, of the Episcopal church, was asked to make an impromptu address and preside over the meeting. Interspersed with the spirited singing of the war songs were also four minute speeches by Mrs. Beech and Mr. Proctor, on the current war drive which is now on.

Seven United War Work agencies are asking the public for funds in order that they may continue to furnish our men in army and navy the millions of dollars worth of home comforts and home influences, such as no other armies in the field ever enjoyed in the world before. This is done in part thru the splendid sacrificing labors of the workers of the Seven War agencies and the generous contributions of the people back home. What can we not give for those who have offered all to us"

Prof. Harry DeLaRue was called upon to speak, and he discussed some of the great issues involved in this great day of Victory for the Allies.

And here are the words of Charles Rice Coffey.



— 1937 —

Armistis Day

Nov 11 I remember very well that Nov 11 — when all the world rejoiced at 11 o'clock the news came to us that all the armies had ceased firing & laid down their guns to fight no more — Were we glad? Business of all kind stopped automatically & we turned the rest of the day & night to celebrating and rejoicing, laughing & crying — Some of our boys staid over there & to those who have boys in Flanders Field we can only say "We hope their sacrifices has not been in vain — Bless our buddies a short while longer & we old boys of 1898 will have Taps sounded which will unite & bring together two as gallant & patriotic sets of men as ever wore a soldiers uniform —

The Life and Times of Hodges Hospital

When you stand today on the sidewalk that led up the steps to Hodges Hospital, you have to close your eyes to visualize the Scottsboro that patients saw when the hospital opened in 1925, to taste the dust that cars stirred up on the unpaved Willow Street, to hear the dry leaves rustle along the narrow, tree-lined street filled with homes, and to see the bits of cotton floating through the air from the gins on all sides in town. It was November 1925.

Standing at the entrance, you looked out on the empty field that in 1938 would be the home of the First Methodist Church. On your left, Lawyer O. P. Wimberly's 1913 bungalow home stood as it does today, with his small block law office built in 1936 fronting Willow directly behind it. On the right, beyond the block apartment building where the nurses were housed, the Jessica Hotel was open for business on the corner of Andrews and Laurel, and behind the hospital on Willow Street, the Parker Campbell family lived in the Victorian house built by W. J. Robinson. Behind this house, the Bailey Hotel waited for weary travelers to detrain.

Hodges Hospital in 1973. Photo by Judy Proctor.

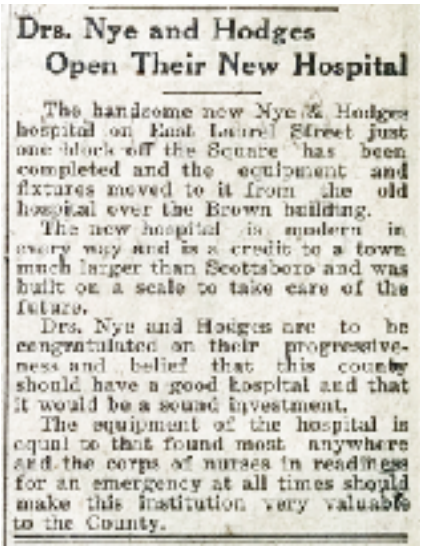
In Scottsboro in 1928, little Mary Presley would toddle proudly down Laurel Street to her father's drug store on the courthouse square for a cone of her favorite ice cream, receiving a scolding instead of lemon sherbet, and was told that if she was clever enough to find the drug store, she was clever enough to get home by herself. Laurel was quiet and safe enough for a four-year-old to navigate alone in 1928. You can see that this quiet tree-lined street of homes still existed in 1937 when Don Hodges and his friend M. J. Keeton had their picture taken standing in the middle of the street.

1937 Photo from Don Hodges. Used by permission.

In November 1925, one might think that the opening of a facility that would have such an impact on so many lives for the next almost 40 years would merit a sizable headline story with photos, but instead, a four-paragraph story was tucked inconspicuously beneath the fold on the front page of the November 26, 1925 *Progressive Age,* announcing that the new Nye-Hodges Hospital was "modern in every way and is a credit to a town much larger than Scottsboro," built to "take care of the future." It seems a humble assessment of an institution that would figure prominently in nearly every obituary, police story, shooting account, and emergency in Jackson County for the next 30 years and eliminate the need to rush the sick and wounded to Birmingham, Huntsville, or Chattanooga. Residents had excellent care available at 307 East Laurel or by phoning 74.

This modern new hospital replaced an earlier clinic which had opened in 1924 and was housed in temporary quarters in the upstairs of the Brown Building on the corner of East Laurel and Market Streets. "The clinic consisted of five bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, operating and X-ray rooms.

They hired some girls who wanted to be nurses and a head nurse who trained the girls three days a week." (1)



Drs. Nye and Hodges
Open Their New Hospital

The handsome new Nye & Hodges hospital on East Laurel Street just one block off the Square has been completed and the equipment and fixtures moved to it from the old hospital over the Brown building.

The new hospital is modern in every way and is a credit to a town much larger than Scottsboro and was built on a scale to take care of the future.

Drs. Nye and Hodges are to be congratulated on their progressiveness and belief that this county should have a good hospital and that it would be a sound investment.

The equipment of the hospital is equal to that found most anywhere and the corps of nurses in readiness for an emergency at all times should make this institution very valuable to the County.

The Progressive Age, November 26,

Who were the men who brought this revolution to Jackson County, who offered hospital care to citizens and a place to be born other than at home?

Dr. George Earl Nye

One of the pair of doctors who founded Nye-Hodges Hospital was Dr. George Earl Nye. According to his foster son George Ricker's account (2), George Nye was born in Dayton, Ohio on June 27, 1874. He graduated from Grant University and attended Chattanooga Medical School in 1906. He practiced medicine for more than 50 years.

In 1895, he married Lena Rivers Todd. In the 1900 census, Lena and George are found in Dayton, Rhea County, TN with their two sons: Fred, born in 1896, and Richard Harold, born in 1899, both of whom served in World War I.

Dr. Nye practiced first in Hollywood, arriving in the bustling new town by train and traveling to visit his patients first by horse and buggy and later by automobile, purchasing one of the first cars in the county. He lived in Hollywood, Sylvania, and Section before moving to Scottsboro.

He served his country in two wars. In 1898, he enlisted in the Spanish-American War and was commissioned as a lieutenant and assigned to Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders. His service ended when he developed typhoid fever.

Dr. George Nye. Portrait in the Hospital Lobby.

At the start of World War I, he left his practice in Jackson County and served with his younger comrade and later business partner, Dr. Rayford Hodges, in the United States Army Medical Corps, both of them part of the 58th Infantry Regiment. During fierce fighting in France, Dr. Nye was gassed at the Meuse Argonne Offensive and also suffered the loss of the calf of one leg. He was told he would never walk again, but returned to Scottsboro and hired a strong, young black man to help him in his rehabilitation efforts. Over time, he was able to get the use of his leg back and resumed his medical practice.

In 1924, with Dr. Rayford Hodges, he founded the Nye-Hodges Hospital, the first hospital in Jackson County. Dr. Nye sold his interest in the hospital in 1926 and practiced medicine for a short time in Yerington, Nevada, where he also worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He returned to his practice in Scottsboro in the 1930s and continued to practice until the late 1950s.

Dr. Nye and his wife Lena Todd divorced some time before 1930. Lena moved to Chattanooga and lived with their son Harold and his wife Mildred until her death in 1946. Dr. Nye married Bernice Beard, a nurse from the hospital, and their foster son, Dr. George E. Ricker, served in the Navy in World War II

and was a Baptist minister in Talladega. Dr. Nye died January 31, 1961 and is buried in Cedar Hill. He was a charter member of the Jackson County American Legion Post, a member of Randall's Chapel United Methodist Church, and a strong supporter of children and youth throughout his life.

Dr. John Rayford Hodges

Dr. John Rayford Hodges (3) was born November 1, 1889 in Woodville, Alabama, the oldest of four children of Monroe Alfonso Hodges and Adelaide Chastain. He grew up in Kennamer's Cove in Marshall County and graduated from Jackson County High School in 1907. He attended State Teachers' College in Jacksonville, AL, graduating in 1911. He excelled at baseball, playing catcher, and was invited to try out with several professional teams. He taught school for a time during the summer of 1908 in the Paint Rock Valley. Writing about her brother, Harvey, one of young Rayford's pupils, Lara Vandiver said of young Rayford, "The teacher, Mr. Rayford Hodges, then a young man of eighteen years old, now a medical doctor, taught his [Harvey's] first school. He was very kind to his pupils," she recalled and noted the Mr. Hodges "seemed to take special interest in" her brother's progress." (4)

Medical School Graduation, 1915
(Hodges Family)

Rayford Hodges entered medical school in 1913, having taught himself Latin to fulfill the admission requirement for a foreign language. He graduated from the two-year medical program at the Medical College of Alabama in Mobile in 1915 when he was 26. He began practicing medicine in Woodville where his mother Addie had previously provided the community's medical services, riding on horseback to treat patients. When he registered for the draft in June 1917, he was single and living in Woodville.

Dr. Hodges, WWI Uniform
(Hodges Family)

He volunteered for service in World War I and entered the war on August 1, 1917, less than two months after the first draftees from Jackson County were called into service. He was a battalion surgeon in the U. S. Army Medical Corps, serving in the 58th Infantry Regiment. During his service, he was in many fierce and bloody battles, including the Aisne-Marne Offensive (July 18 to August 6, 1918), the St. Michael Offensive (September 12 to October 16, 1918), and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (September 26 to October 19, 1918), and also served in the Toulon Defensive Sector (September 5-11, 1918). He received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

A citation signed by John J. Pershing, noted that at Les Res Farm, Chery Chartreuve, France on August 12, 1918, Dr. Hodges "established a first aid station in rear of Third Battalion, 58th Infantry, which was in the front line, and although enemy fire caused many casualties in the vicinity, Captain (then Lieutenant) Hodges proceeded into the shell swept area and administered first aid to soldiers wounded, thereby saving the lives of many who would otherwise have died. These acts, performed under intense enemy fire, were voluntary in the part of Captain Hodges and were evidence of his extraordinary bravery and devotion to duty."

After Armistice in November 1918, he was part of the army of occupation in

Germany. He was honorably discharged from Camp Gordon, GA on September 13th, 1919 with the rank of Captain.

George Derrick with the Hodges family. Used with permission of Sarah Grider Musick.

When he returned from the war, he moved to Scottsboro in 1920. On October 23, 1920, he married Virginia "Jennie" McGahey, the daughter of Dr. J. J. McGahey, in Marshall County, and they had three children: John Rayford Jr., born in 1922; Durwood Sr., born in 1925; and Lila Jean, born in 1928.

In 1923, he partnered with Dr. Nye to start Jackson County's first hospital, which, as noted earlier, was located in the second story of the Brown Building on the northeast corner of the square. Hodges and Nye built the Nye-Hodges Hospital on East Laurel Street and opened it November 1925.

Grandson Dr. Durwood Hodges Jr. recalls that in the early days of the hospital, his grandparents had a bedroom in the back right corner of the first floor so that Dr. Hodges could be available any time he was needed. As the family grew, a home was built fronting Willow Street joined to the hospital for the growing Hodges family. This family residence was represented in the replica of this building that Pat Arnold created in 1997, (5) which is still available at the Heritage Center.

Dr. Durwood Hodges Jr. also remembers that his grandfather built the apartment building next door to the hospital, which is still standing, to house the hospital staff. In November 1926, Dr. Nye sold his interest in the hospital to Dr. Hodges, who ran the hospital by himself until his son, Dr. Durwood Hodges Sr., graduated from medical school in 1955 and became the second attending physician at the Hodges Hospital. At this time, the office suites were remodeled and equipment was updated.


Jenny Hodges at the side door of the residence attached to the hospital (Hodges Family)

Dr. Durwood Hodges Sr. graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1955 and after his internship at St. Vincent's in Birmingham in 1956, he set up his medicine and surgery practice with his father. His studies were interrupted by two and half years of military service in World War II where he served engineering and aviation battalions as a medic in North Africa and Italy.

In a 1956 interview, *The Jackson County Sentinel* said of Dr. Rayford Hodges, "His two sons, Rayford Jr. and Durwood, grew up in the atmosphere of doctoring and hospital work and both planned medical careers when very young." While in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, Rayford Hodges Jr. had his career wiped away in battle, suffering 36 shrapnel wounds to his arms and hands. These injuries would not allow him to continue his dream of becoming a surgeon. "So the younger son Durwood took up the footsteps of his doctor father and now he comes back home to be associated with him in the practice of medicine." (6)

"I grew up there," Dr. Durwood Sr. was quoted as saying in the 2006 interview, "I lived there. I ate there. It had a big impact on my life." (7)

When the building stopped operating as a hospital in 1958, the upper floor was closed and the lower floor was used for the private practice offices of Doctors Rayford and Durwood Hodges. After Dr. Rayford Hodges died in 1966, Dr. Durwood Hodges Sr. continued his practice in the clinic until 1972 when he moved to the office that Doctors Durwood Hodges Jr. and Andrew Hodges now occupy at 307 Parks Avenue. The building was condemned by the city in 1974. It was a sad ending for a building that had served so faithfully. The city briefly considered renovating the hospital to use as the county museum, but an architectural evaluation indicated that too much work and money would be required, so the Proctor House (today's Heritage Center) was chosen instead. The building was razed in 1987.

The hospital saw the county through some extraordinary times. The killer tornado that swept through the county on March 21, 1932, killed 32 people and injured literally hundreds of others. *The Jackson County Sentinel* reported on March 24 that "Immediately after the tornado passed rescue parties began work in all parts of the county and toiled continuously through the night and Tuesday. Every doctor in the county was on the job constantly trying to relieve the suffering of the unfortunates. Hodges Hospital in Scottsboro was thrown wide open to storm sufferers and volunteer extra nurses called in to assist....Dr. Rayford Hodges, owner of Hodges Hospital, made arrangements to take patients to the hospital's utmost capacity and the doors were open to every storm victim and he and other doctors went out and gave the most loyal service ever seen in this county."(8)

During this crisis, a Nurse Campbell in the hospital was quoted as saying "There were people in the halls and sometimes six of a family in one room...built for one patient....The food situation grew so serious that friends spread the word of need and there was such a 'pounding' as used to be given Methodist preachers. Persons and families all over Scottsboro and the County" brought in "hens, hogs, beef, eggs, canned fruit - everything available." (9) Another account says that between 70 and 100 patients were admitted to the hospital, which was designed to support 30 patients.(10)

For his service, Dr. Hodges, whom the *Chattanooga Times* called a "Storm Hero," was awarded the First National Bank Loving Cup for 1932, "which goes each year to the Scottsboro citizen having performed the most outstanding service from an altruistic perspective during the twelve months." (11)

In 1935, during the construction of the Guntersville Dam, Hodges Hospital again rose to meet the challenge. Carlus Page related to Ann Chambless the story of an inadequate medical service office that the TVA set up in Scottsboro in the building formerly occupied by Spivey Hosiery Mills on Mary Hunter Street to provide medical services to TVA employees injured while cleaning reservoir lands. Injuries requiring hospitalization were referred to Hodges Hospital until it literally overran. (*Chronicles*, April 1981)

Dr. Hodges and Frank "Hoot" Hodges at the hospital. Used by permission of Sarah Grider Musick.

"The hospital had no charity ward," Rayford Jr. told Eliza Hackworth of *The Daily Sentinel* in 1974, "because all the patients were taken in and given the same full treatment given to the most prosperous ones. After looking over his accounts, I don't see how he did it. But the records show no one was turned away." (12)

Dr. Hodges was not just a good man; he was, by all accounts, a very good physician. A contemporary claimed that Dr. Hodges could "look at a patient and tell what was wrong with them, while it would take other doctors several days and many hospital tests." (13)

Dr. Rayford Hodges closed the hospital in 1958 after his second heart attack, because the county had been served by the new Jackson County Hospital since August 1955. Physicians continued to have offices in the old Hodges Hospital Building until 1972, and Dr. Hodges continued to practice after his namesake hospital closed, practicing medicine in Jackson County for more than 50 years.

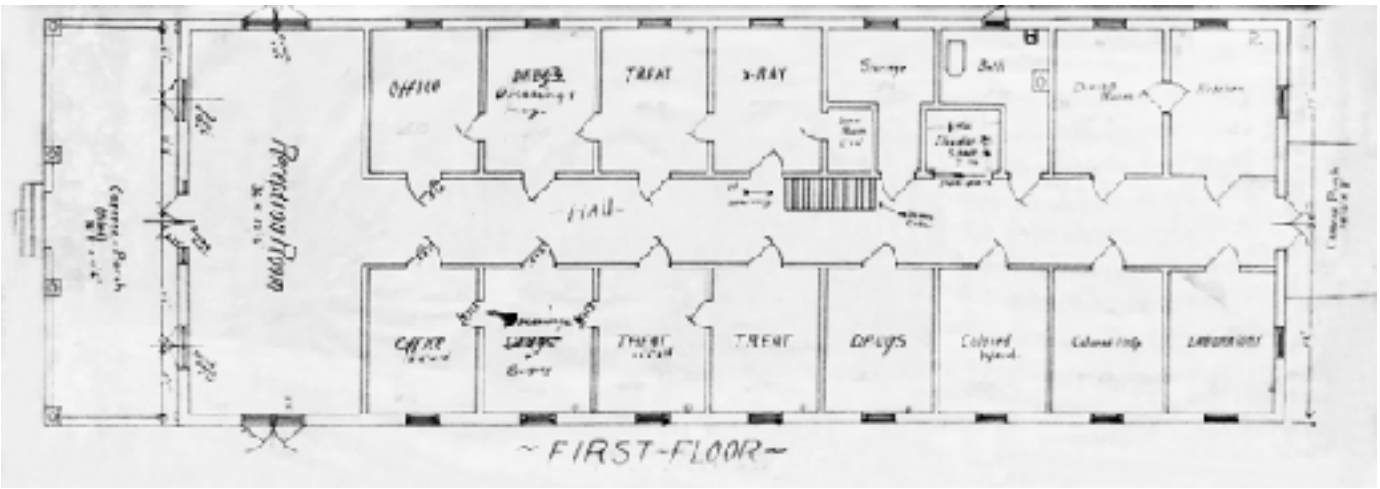
Dr. Hodges died May 4, 1966 in Scottsboro of a heart attack while fishing in the City Park and is buried in Pine Haven Cemetery with his wife Jennie. *The Jackson County Sentinel* called Dr. Hodges one of Scottsboro's most loved citizens who had "served the people of Scottsboro and Jackson County as no other man has." (14) Dr. Hodges loved his community.

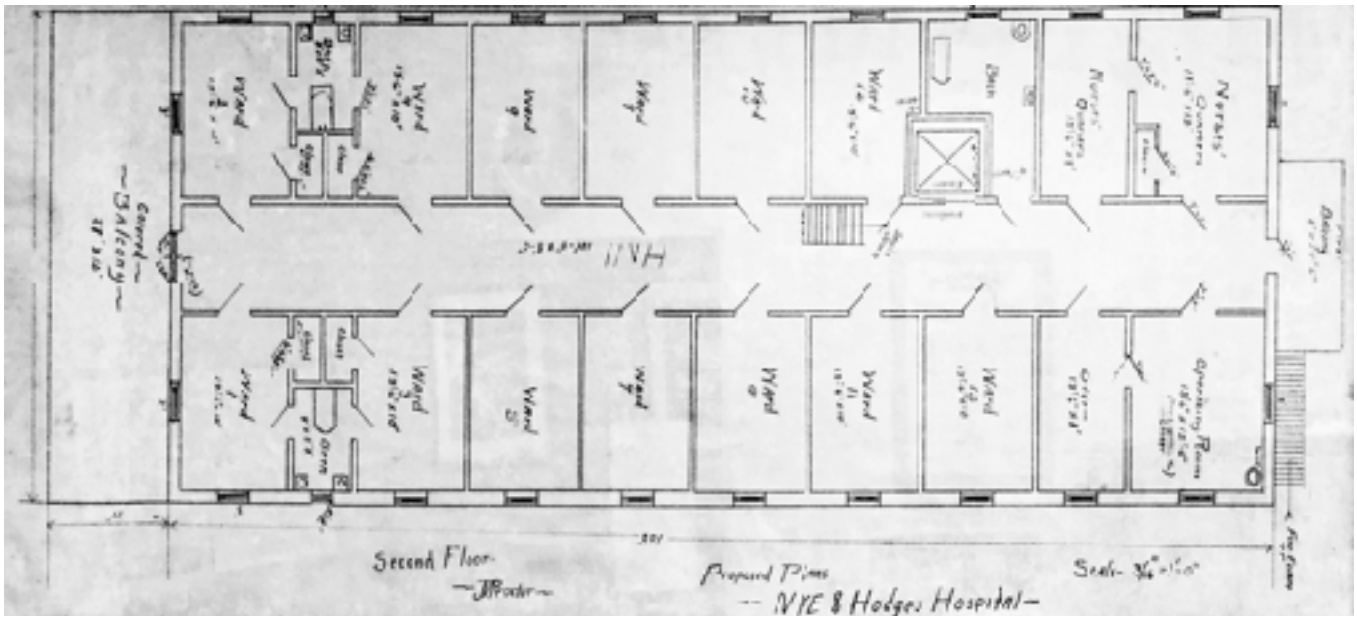
The Hodges Hospital Building

In 1924, Doctors Hodges and Nye drew up plans for their modern hospital. They bought land, created a plan, and hired a contractor. The plans were drawn up by James Madison Proctor, an amateur architect and farmer, whose signature appears at the bottom on the hospital plan. The hospital had two floors and was referred to as a 20-bed facility. Jennie McGahey Hodges, the doctor's wife and a reportedly excellent cook, served the hospital as dietician. Though Dr. Rayford built the hospital, all doctors in town had admitting privileges and saw their patients when they were admitted, even doctors from Huntsville.

Caroline Lynch Minor, whose father, Dr. Marvin Lynch, provided care to patients at Hodges Hospital, remembers visiting the family at their home connected to the hospital. "Dr. and Mrs. Rayford Hodges lived on the first floor. You would enter their home from Willow Street. My mother and I often walked down to visit Mrs. Hodges. Their home was usually the first stop for trick-or-treating at Halloween. One year Mrs. Hodges gave me a silver piano charm for my charm bracelet, as my treat. You'd never have known that you were in the middle of a hospital when you were in their home." (15)

Dr. Durwood Hodges Jr. has the original plans of Hodges Hospital, which are shown below.





"The equipment of the hospital was equal to that found most anywhere and the corps of nurses in readiness for an emergency at all times should make this institution very valuable to the County," *The Progressive Age* said in 1925, a marvelous example of understatement. These hospital plans do not show the downstairs front sun porch or reflect the fact that the Hodges family lived downstairs in the back part of the first floor.

Hodges Hospital had the town's first elevator. Bobby Hodges remembers, "As a child I found the hospital a fascinating place. There were strange odors there I associated with medicines and procedures I never wanted to know anything about, but there was also the town's only elevator. It was a manually-operated elevator that would allow patients and supplies to be lifted to the second floor and down again." David Presley recalls that he and Durwood Jr., enterprising youngsters, tried to charge hospital visitors a nickel to ride the elevator before the adults caught them. This story is not far removed from the tale of their fathers, Charles Presley and Durwood Sr., who donned their cowboy hats and guns and staged an unsuccessful robbery of the Methodist Church Sunday offering to finance their escape to Texas. (See Steve Kennamer's "Scottsboro Cowboys" story in the April, 1989 *Chronicles*.)

Ken Bonner, writing for *The Daily Sentinel* in 2006, confirms that the hospital had the town's first elevator: "In its time, Hodges Hospital was completely modern with the latest in medical equipment. It boasted the first X-ray machine in Jackson County, a complete surgical suite and separate area for obstetrics. An elevator, again a first for the county, was used to transport patients from the first floor to the second....The first floor housed offices, treatment rooms, full-service pharmacy and a dining area that served the staff, families, and patients who were well enough to come downstairs. The second level was dedicated to patient care including 20 rooms, 10 of which were designated as private." (16)

Like most professionals practicing through the Depression years, the doctors at Hodges Hospital bartered with patients for their services. Clyde Broadway recalls that an eight-day clock that sat in the lobby once belonged to the Gayle family, accepted by Dr. Hodges as payment for medical services.

© The Jackson County Historical Association

Lisa Parton remembers that a "sit in and close the door" phone booth was downstairs. Definitely a place where sad news was delivered, the hospital was wise and compassionate to provide privacy for such conversations.

Everyone remembers something different about the hospital.

A number of folks in the JCHA Facebook Group mentioned the smell of ether and the era when tonsils and adenoids were jerked out like baby teeth. No one expressed this memory as eloquently as Evelyn Jane Potter Burns. "I remember the smell of ether when my parents, Benton and Irene Potter took me there to get my tonsils out," she wrote. "I was about 6 and was so scared. The only room that was the available was the labor room, so they got to it early. Dr Rayford did the surgery and he was the one who picked me up and carried me back to the room—such love! Of course, I was discharged the same day to vacate that room. I'm now 78 years old, but remember it like yesterday."

Mike Elkins remembers the terror of being put to sleep with ether. I do too. "When I was 4 or 5," Mike writes, Dr. Hodges "took out my adenoids and tonsils in the same hospital. Believe it or not, I still remember being put to sleep. They used ether and I felt like I was smothering before I went to sleep."

Regina Grider Pipes went to Hodges Hospital to get her blood test when she got married.

Girls remember going to Hodges Hospital to have their ears pierced (once this ceased to be a custom practiced only by gypsies and women of questionable moral character). Unlike girls today whose ears are pierced at the mall, Mary Ann Cofer and Joanne Warr had their ears pierced at Hodges Hospital.

Jane Holcomb remembers the roughness of setting broken bones. "When I was eight years old, Mom took me there when I broke my arm," Jane recalls, "Dr.Hodges set it—like to pulled me off the table." Peggy Brown Locklear remembers, "I was hospitalized when I was about 4 (1948) with whooping cough and again as outpatient in 1952 for stitches from accident."

Lisa Parton remembers that Dr Durwood was their family doctor who delivered her and her brothers and took care of "all our colds and boo boo's growing up. I still remember his nurse and the layout of the office. Boy did those shots hurt."

Debbie Roden Zinser is one of several contributors who remembers being allowed to carry their removed parts home with them in a jar of alcohol. "My sister took her appendix home from there in a bottle of alcohol," Debbie wrote. "It was still in the kitchen cabinet when I left home."

The cost of emergency room visits was not so astronomical back then, and folks ran by the hospital for less than life-threatening emergencies. David Tiffin remembers "my grandmother Fanny Tiffin taking me there the first time I was stung by a wasp. I guess she was worried I might have an allergic reaction. Had to have been in the late sixties."

Barry Nichols remembers when everything was not throw-away, as it is today. "Got many shots there over time to cure the common cold as well as stitches for cuts. They sterilized the hypodermic needles and syringes back then rather than using disposable ones." But the pain of these medical treatments was mitigated with kindness and candy. " Dr. Durwood always had a jar of lollipops on his desk, which eased the trauma of the shot," Barry recalls.

Folks trusted the doctors they grew up with. Sandra Shelton Burney remembers that "My dad was in the Navy and we were living in Connecticut in 1949. I needed to have my tonsils removed so rather than have the surgery in Connecticut, my parents brought me 'home' to Jackson County so Dr. Rayford could do the honors at Hodges Hospital. I think they trusted him above all others."

"My mother told of being hospitalized there with pneumonia," Sandra continued. "Her mother, Rosa Lee Bulman Chambless, stayed with her at the hospital. She left to go home when Mother was improving. Dr. Rayford came into her room that morning and said, according to family lore, 'Well, I just saw Rosie leaving so you must be doing better.' My Mama Rosie was the original Dr. Mom."

We hold onto our memories in different ways. John Warr salvaged wood from the hospital when it was torn down and uses it to frame special projects. "Over the years since I did the drawing of the hospital, I have heard enough stories to fill a book," John Warr writes. "I remember some of them but I will get the people to tell you themselves..... the best one is two friends of mine that are married, same birthday and their birth certificates are one number apart.... when they were born they probably spent their first hours on earth beside each other there in the Hodges Hospital, only to grow up and get married!" We all have stories.

Nurses Should Be Single

Dr. Durwood also recalls that his grandfather required all of his nurses to be single. One nurse, Jo Sanders, had a steady, close boyfriend for years, and everyone in town wondered why they had not married. It turns out that they had been secretly married for more than 10 years, a fact not revealed until after Dr. Hodges' death.

Bobby Hodges in his "Walk Around the Square," wrote: "My mother worked in the hospital as a practical nurse when my dad met her, and she had to leave when they got married, because Doctor Rayford held to the theory that his nurses could not serve two masters—a husband and his patients. One of the nursing fixtures there was Jorene Sanders, whom Doc called just Sanders. She was married to my cousin, 'Hoot' Hodges, but that was a secret that, for years, I was not supposed to ask about." Regina Pipes Grider remembered the same story: "Remember Sanders that worked there, she and Hoot Hodges were married secretly for years so she could continue working at the hospital. They did not tell anyone until after Dr. Rayford died."

L to R, Kathleen Campbell, Ruthie Hodges, and Faye Elkin
(Hodges Family)

Addie Hodges and Jo Sanders
(Sarah Musick)

Anna Gant at Hodges Hospital in 1957
(Hodges Family)

Dr. Durwood Hodges Jr. remembered these nurses who served at the hospital.

- Bernice Beard
- Faye Eakin
- Mattie Gann
- Rose Gann
- Anna Gant
- Dorothea Fanning Grider
- Zelma Hodges
- Jo Sanders Hodges
- Lois Lemons Lusk

Sarah Grider Musick, whose mother was a nurse at Hodges Hospital, remembers the wide range of tasks that her mother performed. "My mother, Dorothea Fanning Grider, began working at Hodges Hospital as an RN April 1, 1948. She and Jorene Sanders were roommates in the apartments next door. She worked there until July 1952 when she and Daddy married. You could not be married and work at the hospital. I have just finished reading her diary of when she worked there. She worked all hours, assisting with surgery and deliveries (sometimes when the doctor wasn't there) going on house calls, and performing the general duty of caring for the patients in the hospital." After her marriage, Sarah remember, her mother went to work for Dr. Bankston.

Bobby Hastings remember that his mother, Sarah V. (called Vee) Stover began her 32-year nursing career at Hodges Hospital. Bobby remembers being told "that some rooms had screen doors....I also have a John Warr print that was framed with wood from the clinic when it was torn down. The print was a gift to me from Mother. I also have one of the bricks from the building. So the building has memories that I hold close to my heart." David Bradford remembers that his mother, Bettye Hall Bradford, also talked about the screen doors on rooms (remember the hospital was built in 1925 before the days of air conditioning). Bettye and her family lived in the apartment building next door some summers when she was a child.

Regina Pipes Grider remembers that one nurse "left her children with her Mom because she was a nurse and couldn't be married. She wasn't but had two children and was divorced. Even the nurses at the Shrine Hospital years ago couldn't be married but they lived there. Some things are better with change. Well I'm sure the nurses were furnished apartments in the building next door as part of their salary."

Pat Thompson's mother, Eva Tidwell, walked from North Houston Street to clean the office.

Giving birth at Hodges Hospital

Almost everyone in the county born between 1925 and 1955 who was not born at home was born in Hodges Hospital. In the JCHA Facebook group, Connie Stevenson, Bruce Sloan, Stanley Woodall, Bobby Hastings, and Clyde Broadway all reported that they were born at Hodges Hospital, as was Dr. Durwood Hodges Jr., who was delivered at Hodges Hospital by his grandfather. Stanley was delivered by Dr. Lynch. According to newspaper reports, Dr. Rayford Hodges delivered over 3600 babies during his 51 years of practice.

Deborah Johnson Burgess reported her mother's 1951 experience in her blog.
http://dodotburgess.blogspot.com/2010/03/born-in-hodges-hospital-scottsboro.html

My mother....described a nice facility designed to accommodate the people of the area. The staff was small scale, but adequate and the building was clean and sound. She as a first-time mother was glad to have such a nice facility available for her. I have "compared notes" with some of my friends born in the same time frame and was surprised to find out that a considerable number of births took place at home....She described in detail a small chest-type cabinet with two drawers that stood in the corner. The bottom drawer was for your personal items. The top drawer was used as a baby bed....I was told that a nice fluffy blanket padded the drawer making it safe for me and close to her bedside for added protection. I, of course, asked just how safe was that for a new baby, but evidently it was strong and sturdy

because I am still here. Her room was on the second floor....I don't remember her story containing anything about the food, but I do remember that the hospital bill for my delivery was $55.00. (16)

Several people have told the "dresser drawer" story about early bassinets. Sharon McCamy Sellers remembers that "they used dresser drawers for cribs" when she was born in 1951, and Barry Nichols claims to have used it just a few days before Sharon.

Rosalie Scharf thinks that she might have been the first C-Section baby in Scottsboro. "I was born there in 1952, Rosalie write, "delivered by Dr. Caldwell from Huntsville who came up to deliver me by C section, possibly could have been first C section performed there. Would be interesting to know."

Nita Wright had to travel a long way to be born at Hodges Hospital. "I do know that Mamma and Daddy were living in Michigan and she came back to Langston and stayed with my grandparents so I would be born in the South." Nita was maybe the first Alabama "anchor baby." When she was six weeks old, "Daddy came down and drove us back to Michigan."

Caring for the Black Community

If you look at the layout of Hodges Hospital, you see a Colored Ward on the first floor, and a room next door for the Colored Help. One of the fixtures on that ward was a black orderly, the Reverend George Rumph, who assisted Dr. Hodges and learned the doctoring trade by apprenticeship. Dr. Durwood Hodges Jr. explained: "There was only one black orderly who worked for my grandfather: George Rumph. "My grandfather got him out of the local convict camp where he had been incarcerated. Do you recall the black prisoner character in the movie *The Green Mile*," [6'5" Michael Clarke Duncan]? Well George Rumph was just that big."

Portrait of Dr. John Rayford Hodges from the lobby of Highlands Hospital in Scottsboro.

[David Bradford and Margaret Johnson wrote about George Rumph in the article that follows.]

End of an Era

Today all that remains to remind us of Hodges Hospital's 40 years of service to Jackson County citizens is a sidewalk leading nowhere in a world that looks very different from the one in which it was built. That, and more than a generation of healthy babies born in a safe setting, people who did not die from appendicitis or whooping cough or other acute ailments that killed their parents' generation, and men and women who recovered from injuries that would have cost them their lives without acute care--because of the vision of George Nye and Rayford Hodges.

Annette Norris Bradford

Footnotes

(1) Mary Allen Wallingsford, "Hodges Hospital," in *The History of Jackson County, Alabama* (Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1998), p. 57.

(2) George Ricker, "Dr. George Earl Nye," in *The History of Jackson County, Alabama* (Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1998). p. 253.

(3) Several biographies of Dr. Rayford Hodges can be found. "Dr. Rayford Hodges, M.D." in *The History of Jackson County, Alabama* (Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1998), pp. 193-194. Also John Robert Kennamer, Sr., "Dr. John Rayford Hodges," in *The Story*

of Woodville and Community Album (East Alabama Publishing Co., Inc., 1950), pp. 61-62. Other information was provided by Dr. Hodges' grandson, Dr. Durwood Hodges, Jr.

(4) Lara Vandiver's biography of her brother is found in the Alabama Archives Gold Star Database, http://www.archives.alabama.gov/goldstar/info.html.

(5) Donna Haislip, "Replicas preserve local history," *The Daily Sentinel*, Sunday, March 9, 1997.

(6) "Dr. Durwood Hodges Opens Offices Here," *Jackson County Sentinel*, August 21, 1956, p. 1.

(7) Dr. Durwood Hodges Sr. as quoted in Ken Bonner, "Recognition of need in Jackson County," *The Daily Sentinel*, Tuesday, January 10, 2006.

(8) "More than 300 Killed in Alabama in Tornado Monday Afternoon and Night; Thousands Injured," *Jackson County Sentinel*, March 24, 1932.

(9) Eliza Hackworth, Hodges Hospital, Old Scottsboro Landmark Scheduled for Demolition," *The Daily Sentinel*, January 20, 1974.

(10) Ken Bonner, "Recognition of need in Jackson County," *The Daily Sentinel*,Tuesday, January 10, 2006.

(11) "Dr. Rayford Hodges, Storm Hero, Outstanding Scottsboro Citizen," *Chattanooga Times*, January 21, 1933.

(12) Hackworth, op. cit.

(13) "Dr. Rayford Hodges Dies While Fishing Wednesday," *Jackson County Sentinel*, May 5, 1966.

(14) A query for memories of Hodges Hospital was placed on the Jackson County Historical Association Facebook page. We are grateful for the people who responded, whose memories are reproduced in this article.

(15) Bonner, op. cit.

(16) Deborah L. Burgess, "My Life, One Day at a Time," (blog), http://dodotburgess.blogspot.com/2010/03/born-in-hodges-hospital-scottsboro.html.

Doctor Rayford Hodges' "Right Hand Man": Reverend George Rumph

Query anyone about Hodges Hospital and he or she will inevitably mention George Rumph, known as "Reverend Rumph" by the town's white population and "Mr. Preacher" to the town's African-American population, all of whom, 26 years after his death, still hold him in highest regard for his charity and leadership in the community.

In his reminiscences of 1954 Scottsboro (see Chronicles, V28, No. 3), Bobby Hodges described George Rumph as Dr. Rayford Hodges' "right hand man."

Officially designated as the custodian of Hodges Hospital, Reverend Rumph served as Dr. Rayford Hodges' liaison in the black community, accompanying him on house calls and often sitting up during overnight vigils with expectant mothers.

George Rumph at Hodges Hospital (Hodges Family)

George Rumph was born June 19, 1909 in Eufaula, AL. In May 1941, George ran afoul of the law and was sentenced to thirty years in prison. He was to serve his time at the convict camp in Scottsboro, located at what is today the site of Maples Industries Plant #1 on old Highway 72. Speculation about the nature of George Rumph's crime run from the benign to the sensational.

At the convict camp, Rumph served informally as a medic, treating injuries and disease in the prison population. Mrs. Margaret Johnson, who is listed in Rumph's funeral program as his "adopted daughter" for her lifelong closeness and care of the Rumph family, said of the meeting between Rumph and Dr. Rayford Hodges: "Evidently, Dr.

Hodges was called out to the facility for inmates when accidents or illness occurred. During Hodges' visits, inmates began telling him about a guy named George Rumph who had helped them with some minor injuries. This caught the doctor's attention, so he set out to meet George Rumph."

The connection was a fortunate one for both men. Dr. Rayford gained a loyal employee, and George Rumph served only four years of his thirty year sentence, apparently released into Dr. Rayford's custody.

Shortly after beginning work at Hodges' Hospital, George met Lena Mae Peters, whom he married in 1946, a year after his release. He and Lena had one child, Harriet Sue Rumph, who died at 25 months. The daughter had been named for Reverend Rumph's mother.

While accompanying Dr. Rayford Hodges on his rounds, George added to his medical knowledge and became an advisor to his neighbors on the north side of town for treating "stomach aches and other ailments," remembers Margaret Johnson. No one remembers paying him for his services.

After Hodges Hospital closed in the late 1950's, Reverend Rumph served with Dr. Rayford at the Jackson County Hospital . He set Attorney Bill Tally's broken wrist under Dr. Rayford's guidance. Bill Tally, slightly clouded by ether at the time of the treatment, remembers Reverend Rumph as being the largest man he'd ever seen.

In addition to his medical duties, Rumph was also a minister with congregations at Kirbytown, Langston, and Attalla. He was once given a cross blessed by Pope Paul VI that Doctor Durwood Sr. acquired in an audience with the Pope. Reverend Rumph told Dr. Durwood he didn't know much about the Pope or being Catholic, but he must be a pretty good preacher to be Pope, and he graciously accepted the gift.

He was also known in Scottsboro for his skills as a barbecue pit master, selling pork and poultry from a small smokehouse behind his house at 326 East Maple Avenue. His customers often jokingly imitated his way of drawling "You want it hot or you want it mild?" Everyone remembers that the mild was hot and the hot was blistering.

He was fond of a dog, Brownie, with which he was frequently photographed. When he sold barbecue, he'd have the dog chained in the front yard. The dog was friendly to arriving customers, but Reverend Rumph warned them to steer clear of the dog on the way out. The dog was hooked on the scent of the barbecue and became aggressive when customers tried to carry it away.

Wade Maples says that Dr. Rayford told him that he and a few close friends had regularly eaten at the convict camp in previous years, where the barbecue had been excellent. It's possible that Reverend Rumph's cooking played as large a role in his release as his apparent gift as a healer.

George Rumph was a physically striking man, but a congenial one. Dr. Durwood Hodges, Jr, grandson of Dr. Rayford Hodges, recalls seeking out Reverend Rumph in Rumph's "office" at the back of the hospital kitchen to share a sandwich during their lunch breaks.

George Rumph, late 1940's (Margaret Johnson)

Reverend George Rumph died September 29, 1991, aged 82, at the Jackson County Hospital, likely from complications of diabetes. He is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery, along with his wife, Lena, and his daughter, Harriet.

Margaret Johnson and David Bradford

Thanks to Dr. Durwood Hodges, Jr., Jerry King, Alexia Ellison, Clyde Broadway, Wade Maples, and Bill Tally for their recollections of Reverend Rumph. Special thanks to Mrs. Margaret Johnson, a remarkable repository of personal knowledge about the African-American community in Jackson County and who compassionately tended to the Rumphs in their later years.

The Railroad that Shaped Jackson County: The Memphis and Charleston

Aside from the Civil War, no single factor contributed more significantly to the political, social, and economic landscape of nineteenth century Jackson County than the construction and operation of the Memphis and Charleston (M&C) Railroad. In fact, since the course of the Civil War in Jackson County was determined exclusively by the M&C, perhaps it can be said that no factor was more significant to the area than the M&C's presence.

The Memphis and Charleston was constructed to overcome an impediment that ought to have made it redundant: The Tennessee River. The construction of a train line that ran parallel to the Tennessee route was prompted by the river having thwarted every attempt at establishing regular freight transport over its main channel from Paducah to Knoxville. Passage on the Tennessee was disrupted in two spots: downstream from Jackson County at Muscle Shoals and a few miles upstream where several navigational hazards—popularly named the suck, the skillet, and the boiling pot--made passage difficult under the best of conditions and impossible much of the year. The Tennessee was essentially three different rivers, subdivided by impediments to unfettered commercial traffic.

In 1828, a small steamboat, *The Atlas*, navigated the length of the river to claim a $640 prize in Knoxville, but the uniqueness of the feat only reinforced the impracticality of the river serving as a dependable conduit for commercial service.

The river's most notable historian, Donald Davidson, noted, "...of all the great rivers east of the Mississippi, [the Tennessee] has been least friendly to civilization. It mocked the schemes of improvers. It wore out the patience of legislators. Tawny and unsubdued, an Indian among rivers, the old Tennessee threw back man's improvements in his face and went its own way, which was not the way of the white man."(1)

The seed of the M&C was planted in January, 1830 when the Alabama Legislature chartered the Tuscumbia Railway Company, envisioned as a two-mile horse-drawn rail bed running between the town of Tuscumbia and the Tennessee River. On its completion of the Tuscumbia route in June, 1832, Huntsville's *Southern Advocate* newspaper noted, "At an early hour a large concourse had assembled to witness the operation of the first railroad in Alabama. A procession was formed at eleven o'clock a.m. of the cars drawn by one horse, crowded with the beauty and the fashion of the county and accompanied with a band of music. It was truly novel and interesting to witness the rapid and graceful flight of the 'majestic cars' in a country where but yesterday the paths of the Indians were the only traces of human footsteps."(2)

Even before the opening of the Tuscumbia Railway, the legislature approved a more ambitious plan for circumnavigating the shoals by rail. The Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur was chartered, calling for a 43 mile rail bed, bypassing the shoals.

The Huntsville Memphis and Charleston rail yards in 1864.

The span from Tuscumbia to Courtland opened in July 1834 and in December of that year, the line's first steam engine, *The Fulton*, made the run

between the two towns, towing the entire rolling stock of the fledgling company: 15 freight cars and 3 passenger cars. *The Fulton* had been manufactured in Liverpool England and purchased for $4,915. The engineer was a flamboyant Englishman named Jack Lawson, who had won a much-publicized race in Manchester England in a locomotive called "Rocket."

"Captain Jack" pushed the Fulton to speeds of 40 mph.(3) The North Alabamian newspaper reported "*The Fulton* was Capt. Jack's pet. He could make her whiz over the cedar stringer with frightful velocity, regardless of 'snake heads' [broken rails] or any other obstruction, and under his management, she generally behaved very well, but with almost any other runner she had an ugly fashion of jumping the track and taking to the woods."(4) The full 43-mile length of the Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur line opened on December 15, 1834.(5)

The Huntsville M&C passenger depot in 1870.

A more ambitious project, to link Memphis with Stevenson where existing lines would enable access to the ports of the Atlantic, was chartered by all of the affected states—Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama—by 1850. Although the line would end in Stevenson where it would intersect with the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad to continue its way to the east, the new line would be called the Memphis & Charleston Railroad.

Jackson Countians were early and eager participants in the stock offering. Most heavily invested was David Larkin, founder of Larkinsville, who purchased 448 shares of the stock at $25 a share. The second largest investor in the county was Hamlin Caldwell, who purchased 118 shares. Robert T. Scott, founder of Scottsboro, purchased 24 shares.

The completion of the final segment of the railroad is variously reported as March 25, March 27 and April 1, 1857. The date announced at the July 1 meeting of M&C stockholders' meeting was April 1 and is probably the most authoritative.(6) When the last rail was laid, the line stretched 272 miles. The event was celebrated by the driving of a silver spike in Iuka, MS and the transport of a barrel of water from the Mississippi River to Charleston where it was poured into the Atlantic Ocean and a barrel from Charleston to Memphis where the contents were poured into the Mississippi River.

In Stevenson, the confluence of the M&C with the Nashville and Chattanooga is still visible today, the two road beds running on either side of the Stevenson depot before joining at a point just east of the depot.

The first M&C train ran through Jackson County in March of 1856, passing through the village of Scott's Mill (later Scottsboro). Three hundred passengers enjoyed the complimentary ride from Huntsville to Stevenson on the new route, making the 60 mile trip in four hours. The entourage was preceded by a separate locomotive, sent ahead to make certain there were no impediments in the track.

The M&C had a good safety record. The line suffered its first passenger fatality in 1861 when a rail broke, curved up through the floor of a passenger car, and struck a passenger. With one death in 356,646 passenger boardings, the M&C was twice as safe as the typical American railroad. From 1852 until 1861, the line lost only one locomotive--*The Cherokee*--due to a boiler explosion.

An engineer's report issued on March 10, 1856 noted that wooden depots had been built at Bellefonte (later Hollywood) and Stevenson. The report also records that a brick depot had been built in Larkinsville, the first such structure in Jackson County.

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In a July 1, 1857 report to stockholders, the M&C notes "Fountain water stations have been obtained at Stevenson and Scott's Mill," the first known mention of the settlement that would be known as Scottsboro.

The railroad enjoyed only a few years of unfettered (and profitable) operation before being lost to the Union in the wake of the Battle of Shiloh. "When the Army of the Mississippi walked unmolested from the field of Shiloh, it lost the trunk railroad line of the Confederacy [the M&C]. Tactically the battle had been a draw, but strategically it remained a Southern defeat of the first order. Never thereafter would a Confederate locomotive run through from Chattanooga to Memphis."(7)

The first Northern incursion into Jackson County occurred on April 12, 1862 along the M&C lines. The previous day, Union General O.M. Mitchel had descended on Huntsville with remarkable stealth and without casualties on either side. He was abetted, many historians claim, by Union sympathizers employed by the M&C. Southern General Braxton Bragg had said of the M&C a month before Mitchel commandeered it: "Our whole railroad system is utterly deranged and confused. Wood and water stations are abandoned; employees there and elsewhere, for want of pay, refuse to work; engineers and conductors are either worn down, or, being Northern men, abandon their positions, or manage to retard and obstruct our operations."(8)

In Huntsville, Mitchel captured 18 locomotives and 100 freight cars, as well as numerous baggage and passenger cars. However, one locomotive, faced down by Union soldiers who were masquerading as civilians, steamed through gunfire out of Huntsville toward Chattanooga. In Larkinsville, the train crew of the escaped Confederate locomotive met a detachment of nearly 2000 Confederate soldiers who were marching to Corinth, MS to aid in repelling the siege of the town following the Battle of Shiloh. Hearing the train crew's report, the detachment proceeded to Corinth but altered their intended route to bypass Huntsville. The train then continued its journey to Chattanooga, where it arrived at noon, alerting communities and encampments along the route.(9)

The Confederate locomotive escaping his trap likely forced General Mitchel to proceed more quickly with his siege of the M&C than he might have liked. The morning after, he boarded the cab of an M&C locomotive and commandeered it northeast through Jackson County to Widow's Creek. His bravado has been described variously by contemporary accounts as supremely courageous and outlandishly arrogant.

Mitchel arrived in Stevenson without drawing so much as sniper fire. In a letter to his commanding officer, General Buell, Mitchel said that in Stevenson, "2000 of the enemy fled as usual at our approach without firing a gun, leaving behind 5 locomotives and a large amount of rolling stock." (10)

During the war, short stretches of the M&C were reopened for brief periods before being destroyed by one side or the other. By the conclusion of the war, the line was decimated, but it was rebuilt with remarkable speed. By November 6, 1865, the entire 272 miles of rail had been repaired with the exception of the 1700-foot bridge in Decatur, which reopened on July 7, 1866 .(11)

A Civil War era M&C locomotive on the Florence, AL bridge.

Like the region it spanned, the M&C faltered financially in the years following the war. With the decline in passenger and freight revenue (the latter affected by the slumping market for cotton),

the M&C finally leased its assets to a creditor. Later, in 1877, the line was leased to the East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railway (ETV&G). Under the ETV&G, the road was adequately maintained, but no real investments were made in infrastructure, with one remarkable exception: in a single day on May 31, 1886, the entire 272-mile line was converted to standard gauge (4' 9" between the rails) from its original span of 5 feet, which was the spacing established during the construction of the Tuscumbia Railroad fifty years earlier.

An annual pass for the Memphis and Charleston issued in 1881

Perhaps the pivotal issue threatening the continued existence of the M&C came when the US government declared the Florence bridge to be an obstruction to navigation on the Tennessee River and ordered the bridge rebuilt at the M&C's expense. The bridge collapsed under the weight of rolling stock twice, in October 1891 and May 1892. In the May, 1892 incident, an entire freight train dropped 100 feet without the loss of life.(12)

The M&C was sold at auction on February 1898. The sole bidder was Southern Railway. The line operated thereafter as "the Memphis division."

The only remnant of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad designation is in Mississippi, where state law forbids the name to be changed.

David Bradford

An 1858 M&C itinerary from Memphis to NYC:
7:15 pm: leave Memphis
12 noon: leave Stevenson
3:10 pm: leave Chattanooga
6:30 pm: leave Dalton
1:00 am: leave Knoxville
9:30 am: leave Bristol
9:30 pm: leave Lynchburg
7:00 am: leave Richmond
7:00 am: leave Washington
1:00 am: arrive NYC
Total time 70 hours, 45 minutes

By 1910, the Southern Railway's NYC to Memphis time had been reduced to 36 hours. In 1948, with all diesel power, the time had been reduced to 31 hours.

M&C Depots in Jackson County:

Paint Rock (originally Camden)**:** A freight depot and ticket office were constructed in 1856. The depot survived the war, but was destroyed by a tornado in 1870. The M&C built a replacement later in 1870, only to have that structure destroyed by an 1888 storm.

Woodville: The depot was built in 1856 and destroyed in the war. The depot was rebuilt in 1869.

Stephen's Gap (possibly Becky's Switch in Civil War records)**:** Plans for an M&C depot at this site, about two miles from Lim Rock, were never executed. An 1872 M&C inventory lists a water tank there.

Lim Rock: M&C reports are vague about the depot. Perhaps the structure was just a "cotton platform." Whatever structure was there is listed in an 1895 report as being in "good condition."

Larkinsville: A brick depot built in 1856 was destroyed in the war. A wooden structure was built in 1866 and a 50,000 gallon water tank was constructed there in 1890.

Scottsboro (originally Scott's Mill): The brick depot was built in 1861. In 1866, It underwent repairs for damage done during a skirmish in which an artillery shell struck the east side of the

structure. A separate passenger depot was constructed in 1891.

Hollywood (originally Bellefonte Station and Samples): An 1856 depot was destroyed in the war. An 1887 report notes that a new depot had been constructed there, but almost certainly an interim structure existed from 1856 to 1887. The 1887 structure was destroyed by fire in 1891 and replaced the following year. Hollywood station agent Dee Meek relates the 1891 destruction of the depot by saying: "...alcohol was shipped into Hollywood by Railway Express. Until the 'spirits' could be claimed by the customer, they were stored in the depot. Someone . . . tried to drain the whiskey from the barrels by boring holes through the warehouse floor. Something went wrong. The whiskey went everywhere but where intended. Someone struck a match to find the problem and correct it. A good deal of good drinking whiskey went up in a flash. Hollywood needed a new depot minutes later."

Fackler (originally Facklers, possibly called "Timberlake's" in an 1861 M&C report): M&C reports list Facklers for the first time in 1887, referring to it as a freight stop. However, a letter from a Union soldier written in 1863 makes reference to the settlement as a waypoint on the M&C. In the April 2014 Chronicles, Ann Chambless speculated that the Fackler facility was a water and wood stop, chosen for its location midway between Hollywood and Stevenson. The permanent depot there would have been built after M&C's ownership had been transferred to Southern Railroad.

Stevenson (originally Crow Creek): A wooden depot was built in Stevenson in 1856 and survived the war. In 1872, the current brick structure was built, constructed jointly with the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad.

Two branch lines with junctions on the M&C were also active in the 1800's: the Belmont Mine branch, between Lim Rock and Larkinsville and the Morrison's Mill branch, between Scottsboro and Hollywood.

David Bradford

Notes

1) Donald Davidson, The Tennessee, V1, p. 6.
2) The Southern Advocate, June 23, 1832
3) Paul Harncourt, Biography of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, Outskirts Press Incorporated, p. 16
4) The North Alabamian, April 4, 1872
5) Wayne Cline, Alabama Railroads, The University of Alabama Press, 1997. p 13
6) Harncourt 87
7) Robert C. Black III, UNC Press, p. 143
8) Harncourt, p. 115
9) Harncourt p. 126
10) Harncourt p. 126
11) Harncourt, p. 209
12) Jack Daniel, Southern Railway: from Stevenson to Memphis , Grandmother Earth Creations, p. 65

The list of M&C Depots in Jackson County and the 1858 M&C itinerary is based on information from Jack Daniel's book, Southern Railway: from Stevenson to Memphis
Photos are reproduced from Alabama Railroads by Wayne Cline, The University of Alabama Press, 1997.

Woodville Depot, from Kennamer's *Story of Woodville*.

Larkinsville Depot in 1922

Jackson County's Union Nemesis: O.M. Mitchel

Jackson Countians have not expended much ink praising the character and accomplishments of Union invaders. Even the letters of General Sherman to Daniel Martin of Bellefonte, which reveal a compassionate and generous side to the man considered by most Southerners to be pure evil, have been dismissed by many who cannot accept their sincerity and humanity.

One hundred and fifty years later, perhaps some reassessment is in order. A case in point is Union General Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel, the first Union officer known to have entered Jackson County after hostilities began in 1861. On April 12, 1862, Mitchel rode in the cab of a Memphis and Charleston (M&C) locomotive from Huntsville, where he had captured the extensive rail yards the previous day, to Stevenson. In Stevenson, he captured still more locomotives and train cars before proceeding to Widow's Creek, where he burned a small bridge.

Mitchel's foray through Jackson County was potentially perilous. A Confederate locomotive had escaped his occupation of the Huntsville the day before and had steamed to Chattanooga, warning communities and encampments along the way of Mitchel's imminent arrival. In Larkinsville, the crew of the renegade locomotive warned a contingent of 2000 Confederate solders of Mitchel's presence in Huntsville and his presumed course northward.

Despite being aware of Mitchel's probable encroachment, Jackson Countians did not fire a single shot at Mitchel during his passage or during his seizure of M&C inventory in Stevenson. Mitchel expressed contempt for the lack of resistance locally, saying "[I accomplished the expedition] to Stevenson in person, from which place 2000 of the enemy fled as usual at our approach without firing a gun."(1)

The great chronicler of the Civil War, Shelby Foote, said of Mitchel's acumen: "[Mitchel] had been signaling frantically for a month that he could see the end of the war from where he stood in Northeast Alabama. If he were reinforced, he said, he could march straight into Chattanooga, then turn south and take Atlanta. From there, he added, the way lay open to Richmond's back door, through a region that was 'completely unprotected and very much alarmed'."(2)

General Ormsby M. Mitchel

Burning a railroad bridge at Widow's Creek, the northernmost point of his foray, was part of Mitchel's complex strategy for an assault on Chattanooga. In burning the relatively insignificant bridge, Mitchel hoped to bluff the Confederates into believing he intended to push no further. He believed that by doing so, he might prevent the Confederates from destroying bridges across the Tennessee River, leaving them passable

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for what he assumed would be an immediate advance through Bridgeport.

Mitchel's pause at Widow's Creek had a tactical component as well. Mitchel was awaiting what he assumed would be the successful conclusion of "Andrews' Raid." Andrews' Raid was an event in which 21 union soldiers and spies chosen from Mitchel's brigade stole a locomotive named *The General* in Big Shanty GA, in an episode that has been popularized as "The Great Locomotive Chase." Captain James J. Andrews and his men intended to use the stolen locomotive to destroy the tracks and bridges behind them, thereby blocking Confederate troop movements from Atlanta. At Chattanooga, Andrews' Raiders were to turn south, leaving the tracks and bridges to the north unmolested, and rendezvous with General Mitchel near Stevenson.

Andrews was thwarted by the maniacally energetic and determined conductor of *The General,* W. A. Fuller. Fuller dogged the raiders so closely, sometimes pursuing on foot, that they were unable to inflict serious damage to the bridges and road beds they traversed. The raiders finally abandoned *The General* near the Georgia-Tennessee line. Two raiders, Mark Wood and Alf Wilson, made their way to Stevenson, where they expected to make contact with Mitchel. But Mitchel, assuming the raiders had failed, had returned to Huntsville.(3)

Mitchel certainly participated in the planning of the capture of *The General*. Perhaps he was even the chief architect of the foray. During the early days of this North Alabama siege, Mitchel had operated with complete autonomy. Only after his return to Huntsville did he initiate daily contact with his superiors, who seemed determined to thwart at every turn his ambitious (and probably viable) plans for an early assault on Chattanooga.

A West Point graduate and classmate of Robert E. Lee, Mitchel had established a reputation as a scholar and scientist in advance of the war. As professor of astronomy at Cincinnati College, Mitchel had journeyed to Germany to purchase a telescope for his envisioned Cincinnati Observatory. When it was delivered and installed, it was the second largest refracting telescope in the world and is still in use today. Mitchel trained at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, UK in preparation for its delivery.

In 1846, he published the first magazine devoted to astronomy in the US, the S*idereal Messenger*. He was later instrumental in writing and publishing *The Orbs of Heaven* and *Popular Astronomy*. He is known as the father of American astronomy.

In the 1980's the Mars Global Surveyor studied a region of the Martian south pole where traces of ice remain well after the surrounding terrain has thawed, presumably because of their high elevation. The region is referred to as the Mountains of Mitchel, named after its discoverer.

In the Fall following his North Alabama maneuvers, Mitchel assumed a new position on Hilton Head Island, SC where he was responsible for providing for some 10,000 former slaves who had been abandoned by their owners in advance of invading troops. He issued a writ freeing the slaves. He set land aside to create a town, assigning plots of land to the freed men, giving each a quarter-acre plot to farm. The former slaves were empowered to vote. He mandated compulsory education for children aged 6 to 15.

Ormsby Mitchel died in Beaufort, SC of yellow fever on October 30, 1862 at the age of 52. He was buried in the Episcopal cemetery in Beaufort, but later exhumed and reinterred in a family plot in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

David Bradford

In its obituary *of* November 12, 1862, *The Huntsville Daily Confederate reported* the death of "his detestable lowness, Maj. Gen. O.M. Mitchel. No man ever had more winning ways to excite people's hatred than he. We have no space to do justice to his vices - virtues he showed none, in his dealings with the people of North Alabama."

1) Paul Harncourt, *Biography of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad*, Outskirts Press Incorporated, 115
2) Shelby Foote, *The Civiil War*, V3, p221
3) A succinct and engaging description of the Great Locomotive Chase and Mitchel's involvement in the plot can be found in Eliza Woodall's *The Stevenson Story*.

A History of the House of Happiness

The April 2017 JCHA meeting was held on the site of the House of Happiness, and our speaker was Joan Clemons. For those who could not attend, Joan has graciously shared the information that she prepared for that meeting. AB

In April 1923, the Alabama Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church's Board of Missions chose Augusta Benning Martin to investigate the area around Scottsboro, a small town that served as the county seat for Jackson County, and determine if a mission was needed. Born in Seale, Alabama, in July 1877, Martin studied under Julia Tutwiler at the Alabama Normal College for Girls at Livingston. Following her graduation in 1897,

Chimney from the House of Happiness

she began a twenty-year teaching career that concluded in Montgomery. Martin then served as a deputy state prison inspector and received the first Child Labor Inspector appointment in 1919.

With her background as an educator, her experience in social work, and her devotion to the Episcopal Church, Augusta Martin was well qualified to serve as a missionary to the impoverished mountaineers who lived in the northeast Alabama foothills. She arrived in Scottsboro in July 1923, and gradually became involved in activities that allowed her to meet and talk to people throughout the county. Martin soon had an opportunity to investigate the more remote areas of the county when she agreed to teach school for four weeks in Long Hollow following a report that few children in that community went to school.

During Martin's probe into the suitability of Jackson County as a mission location, she investigated several homes and situations that she referred to as "welfare cases." Lack of equipment, funds, means of transportation, and a permanent mission headquarters made it difficult for the Episcopal missionary to make any significant headway providing aid for these cases.

In the fall of 1923, Martin was asked to assist with the training of Mrs. Dalton Whitford, a candidate for Deaconess. This assignment made the need for a permanent mission location even more evident, and the missionary responded by renting a house on east Laurel Street in Scottsboro. The house was furnished with Martin's own furniture. To offset expenses, three rooms on the second floor were rented to boarders.

Soon after Martin settled in her new location she was called on to help a crippled six-year-old girl who was staying with cousins while her father worked in a logging camp. Rosa was brought to the mission in Scottsboro where she bore the honor of accidentally naming the institution. While sitting in a tub of warm sudsy water, receiving her first bath, she exclaimed, "I am sho' happy." Believing strongly in the importance happiness played in the life of a child, Martin and Whitford agreed the mission should be called the House of Happiness.

Throughout 1924, the House of Happiness continued to administer the three "S"s (Soap, Soup and Salvation) to young children and families throughout Jackson County. Donations of clothing and other items flowed into the mission from various organizations within the Episcopal Church, particularly the Woman's Auxiliary, and from outside groups.

In the fall of 1924, the Episcopal Church bought 160 acres of land in the area of Sauta Bottom, known locally as Hell's Half-Acre, about ten miles southwest of Scottsboro so that a mission could be built among the mountaineers with whom Martin was working. The land was originally deeded to a John H. Birdsong in 1860, and was supposedly the site of the first county seat of Jackson County. The property contained both mountain timberland and valley farmland, and held three buildings: a three-room tenant house, a barn and a shack used as a corn crib and cowshed.

When the deed to the Birdsong property was acquired in March 1925, arrangements were made for the mission to relocate. The three-room frame house at the new location had been rented for a year to its current tenants prior to the purchase of the land by the Episcopal Church, and Martin had no desire to evict its occupants. The only other building on the property that could be used as temporary living quarters was the twelve by twenty-five foot shack that had served as a cowshed and corn crib. Throughout the month of April, the House of Happiness family cleaned and mended the building to make it habitable.

The new House of Happiness was drastically different from the roomy comfort of the house in Scottsboro. A fashion wardrobe and curtains divided the shack into a twelve by twelve foot sitting room and a twelve by thirteen foot bedroom. The walls of the house contained cracks that provided year-round ventilation. The roof was no better for when it rained Martin would sleep under her blue silk umbrella. In a report to the Diocesan Council in January 1926, she told her audience, "You have built air castles and never lived in them. We did not build this one but we live in it."

Most meals were served outdoors during the summer while the shed at the back of the shack served as the "wet weather dining room," kitchen, and dressing room. The property had a spring that provided easily accessible water, and a "limestone blowing-cave" that was used for refrigerating dairy foods and meat during the summer.

Winter was especially rough on the occupants of the shack. It was often necessary to wear many layers of clothing, and to sleep in one's clothes also. The hardships that were endured by the House of Happiness family during their first year in Sauta Bottom actually worked to the mission's advantage. The community found it much easier to accept their new neighbors when everyone was experiencing the same difficulties. Martin recognized this attitude when she wrote that "the people do not think us 'proud' as they term it. They appreciate the fact that we are willing to endure the same hardships that they endure." The mission, therefore, managed to obtain the acceptance and approval of most of the community.

Martin soon found that there were still prejudices and rumors to overcome, and that many residents did not welcome her. Rumors circulated in the community that the mission workers were Catholic, that Martin received $1,000 for every child that stayed at the House of Happiness, and that the mission had unlimited financial support. Through service in the community, Martin slowly overcame many of the prejudices she encountered. The rumors had a decided effect, however, on Martin's plans for the construction of the new House of Happiness. Her original plans called for the living quarters to be combined with a community center. When word reached her of the various rumors circulating the community, the missionary realized the contrast was too great for a community where many families lived in one-room shacks. She called an immediate halt to her plan, and construction of a "typical two room log cabin" began instead.

Martin was certain that if the mission was to become an active part of the community it was essential that the community members participate in the construction of the new facility. At her urging the neighborhood men worked in groups, cutting and riving the timber on the church property for use in the construction of the house. The finished product was a two-room, story-and-a-half log cabin that included a "dog-run" or open hallway through the middle. Native sandstone was used to build the chimney which had a hewn log for a mantel.

Soon after she settled into the corn crib shack that housed the temporary House of Happiness, Martin had contracted for the McCutchen school, the public school that served the district to which she had moved. It was a one-room, one-teacher school with little or no equipment that met in a shack about a mile from the mission. Martin gave her salary from the school board to her assistant, Nettie Barnwell, making it possible for the school to have two teachers. Barnwell, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, arrived in October 1925 to help with the mission work. The first school term conducted by Martin and Barnwell had an enrollment of eighty-one students. Classes for grades one through eight began on November 2. Barnwell instructed grades four and up while Martin worked with the younger children.

In November 1926 Martin requested that the Jackson County Board of Education relocate the school to a building on the church property. The board approved the request, and the district school was moved to the three-room frame tenant house located on the House of Happiness property. Attendance doubled after the school was moved to the House of Happiness, and by 1929 the county was paying the salary of two teachers instead of one.

The new school provided a location for religious and social activities. "Play night" was held on Friday nights and featured music, games and, sometimes, square dancing for all ages. Respective clubs for men, women, boys, and girls were formed to provide instruction on various topics and for socialization. Naturally, religious programs and instruction were prominent activities since spreading the Gospel was one of the primary reasons Martin had founded the mountain mission. On Sunday mornings, Martin would transport the mission family and as many other children as possible to Sunday school at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Scottsboro. In the afternoon, Sunday school was conducted in the Community House/Happy Hollow School. The Young People's Service League, the youth organization of the Episcopal Church, met on Sunday evenings and was followed by a song service.

Even though the Episcopal mission was the source of food, clothing, and sometimes shelter for many families, Martin did not encourage or provide free handouts. A system of exchange was endorsed whereby those in need traded wood, vegetables, or labor for the items they needed. The men would often help with the building and/or farming while the woman and children assisted with the housekeeping and cooking. Most of the families preferred to trade foodstuff, wood, or labor for the things they needed because it removed the stigma of receiving charity. Exceptions were made for emergency cases, widows, and orphans who were not obligated to do anything for the assistance of the House of Happiness. The mission continued to provide a temporary haven for children who were orphaned, sick, abused, or neglected. By 1929 approximately 130 children had been cared for at the Episcopal mission.

The depression stretched the already tight budget of the House of Happiness to the limit. Through it all Martin never lost her faith, determination, and ingenuity, nor her sense of humor. In a 1932 convocation report she explained that she had contracted for the usual summer school session to supplement the House of Happiness income. Unfortunately, the missionary continued, "as the state salaries have not been paid, we have not found the supplement very profitable." By planting large crops of vegetables, curtailing activities, managing a strict budget and maintaining tremendous faith, Martin succeeded in guiding the mission through the initial years of the depression.

Nettie Barnwell assisted Martin with the mission and the Happy Hollow school until the depression made it impossible for the county to pay her salary in 1933. By that time the constant demands and the never ceasing responsibilities began to take their toll on Martin's health. Although a volunteer assistant replaced Barnwell for a short period of time, Martin continued to work day and night to relieve the misery she saw around her. When the public school closed after one month due to lack of county funds, Martin and a local resident conducted a Church school so that the local children could continue to receive some type of education. The mountain school mistress wrote in a report covering October 1932 to October 1933, "Because of teaching school, I was unable to do the visiting and social service work during the day, so [I] had to go at night." The inevitable happened; in the spring of 1933, Martin collapsed.
Barnwell was summoned immediately to care for her friend, and to keep the mission running. Eventually Martin was forced to leave the mission and return to her family home in Seale. On September 11, 1935, Martin wrote her letter of resignation from Scottsboro where she was visiting her friends.

The Church Army

The resignation of Augusta Martin as director of the House of Happiness left a void that was not easily filled. During Martin's two-year absence, Nettie Barnwell had kept the mission going with the aid of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hall. The Halls were responsible for the farm and the housekeeping, leaving Barnwell with more time to devote to social service and educational tasks. In the spring of 1935, Captain Charles L. Conder of the Church Army joined the mission personnel. He succeeded Martin as the director of the House of Happiness when she tendered her official resignation.

The Church Army was a logical choice to continue the work begun by Martin in 1923. Founded in Great Britain in 1882 by the Reverend Wilson Carlile, this evangelical organization of the Church of England was conceived to take the church to the masses in the street. With its emphasis on military-style uniforms, musical processions, and open air services, the Church Army incorporated an approach similar to that of the Salvation Army whose history and growth coincided with that of Carlile's army of male and female evangelists.

By the 1920s the British Church Army was answering the call for evangelists abroad as well as in the United Kingdom. An invitation from the United States came in 1924 resulting in a Church Army crusade through New England during the summer of 1925. The crusaders received a warm reception throughout their brief tour and were asked to return the following year. When the crusaders returned in May 1926 for a second tour of the Northeast and Canada, the idea of establishing a Church Army in America was firmly in the minds of the British evangelists and the Episcopal clergy. For the remainder of the year, plans for the U. S. Church Army were discussed and executed between the British Church Army officers and the Episcopal clergy in the United States. These plans were realized on December 12, 1927, when the Church Army of the United States was established. When the U.S. Church Army was officially recognized by the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1931, the organization had many well-established ministries operating in conjunction with the church and had expanded into Oregon, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and various other locations.

Captain Charles Leslie Conder arrived in the United States in the spring of 1928 to assist with the development of programs for the newly-formed US Church Army. After working in Oregon in the late 1920s, Conder later engaged in missionary work in Texas before his assignment to the Alabama mission. After the departure of Nettie Barnwell at the end of 1935, Conder's staff consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hall and Mae Bowie. The Halls maintained the farm with Mrs. Hall also in charge of the social service activities. Bowie was the principal and half of the faculty of the Happy Hollow school. In the spring of 1936, the mission acquired a new staff member when Conder married Mary Alves of Guntersville, Alabama. Mary Conder took over the social

service programs in the fall when the Halls were transferred to the Church Home, an Episcopal orphanage near Mobile.

During Conder's stay at the House of Happiness, the mission continued to be the center of community life with school programs, Sunday school, Bible school, a men's club, youth clubs, a functioning library, and "play nights" among the many activities from which one could choose. The term "play night" was used in place of square dance so that it would not appear that dancing was being condoned or encouraged by the Episcopal Church. The mission's running expenses were cut considerably due to the work done by community members for "credit tickets" exchangeable for clothing and other necessities. Under Conder's direction pastoral visits, cottage meetings, and preaching visits became more frequent as the seasons and weather permitted. This activity alone represents one of the major shifts that occurred at the mission following the departure of Augusta Martin. By 1938 Conder was conducting services at Guntersville, Scottsboro, Bridgeport, and Skyline, in addition to his work at the House of Happiness.

Joan Clemons at the April 2017 JCHA meeting on the House of Happiness site

The work at Skyline is particularly noteworthy. During 1934 Civil Works Administration (CWA) workers built a road up Cumberland Mountain in preparation for the establishment of a new project by the Alabama Rural Rehabilitation Administration. Cumberland Farms was conceived to provide a forty-acre farm, complete with mule, farm tools, and a house for sharecroppers and farm laborers. By January 1936, a school, twenty-five houses, and a government store had been completed. In the spring of 1937, the Episcopal Church received forty acres of land at Skyline Farms on which to establish a church. By 1945, however, evangelistic activity on behalf of the Episcopal Church had decreased and was soon discontinued.

The House of Happiness also served as the Church Army Southern Training Base, where Church Army workers would be trained for missionary work in rural areas of the South, particularly Alabama and Tennessee. While the Church Army financed the training program, i.e., salaries and boarding costs, the Diocesan Mission Fund and the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese continued to fund the programs and activities of the mission.

A most welcome change occurred in 1940 with the installation of indoor plumbing in the House of Happiness. Installing indoor plumbing in the house proved difficult because the building was not only constructed on a mountain side, but on a bed of rock as well. By the spring of 1940 these problems had been overcome and the happy inhabitants were enjoying the benefits of running water and improved sanitation. Electricity, however, was still unavailable.

In the fall of 1940, a few weeks after he became a U.S. citizen, Conder wrote to Bishop Carpenter expressing his desire to accept a position in Los Angeles, California. In February 1941, Captain Tom Moss arrived from New Ulm, Minnesota, with his wife and four-year-old son to take charge of the House of Happiness. Moss was the first of five Church Army Captains to serve as director of the mission between 1941 and 1946. Moss was also British but, like Conder, he had become a citizen of the United States. The House of Happiness school

was closed while Moss was in charge. A year after his arrival he transferred to another position, and Eric Kast moved from his post at Skyline Farms to become director of the House of Happiness.

Kast was a conscientious objector, and his wife, Inez, supported many of his views. In correspondence to Bishop Carpenter dated October 4, 1942, Kast commented that the attendance at services had dropped drastically but attributed the decline to the termination of bus service. One positive occurrence while Kast was in charge, however, was the installation of electricity in the summer of 1943.
In January 1944 the Kasts accepted a position at the Church Home in Mobile. The duties at the House of Happiness were turned over in February to Captain and Mrs. John Thomas who had been in charge of the mission work at Skyline Farms. Thomas primarily kept the mission running until a Church Army officer was obtained for the position. Unlike his predecessor, Thomas constantly announced events at the House of Happiness in the local newspapers. During his brief sojourn at the mission he conducted preaching missions, services, Bible schools, girls and boys clubs, play nights, fund raisers, and clothing sales.

Captain Milton Austin arrived to run the mission in October 1944, and Captain Thomas left to serve in the Navy. In his report to the Woman's Auxiliary, Austin reported increased attendance at Sunday school and services. He also revealed that square dances were again being held on Friday nights with as many as 150 people in attendance. During the summer he reinstated services at Skyline.

Tragedy struck the mission in late August 1945, however, when a fight occurred between an eighteen-year-old local youth and two musicians, a father and his eighteen-year-old son, who were playing at a Friday night square dance at the mission. The younger musician shot and killed the Sauta Bottom native in the yard of the House of Happiness. The two men, both of whom were injured in the scuffle, were arrested for the murder but pleaded self-defense. Attendance at services and other activities declined sharply following the murder, and parties were discontinued. Austin left the mission in March 1946, leaving the House of Happiness unattended for the first time since it had been opened. Thurman Ritchie was appointed custodian of the property until someone could be procured to run the mission.

In May 1946 the sixth and last Church Army officer arrived at the House of Happiness to assume the directorship of the mission. A native of Brooklyn, New York, with a degree in chemistry, Thomas G. Wheat received his commission as a Church Army Captain one month before he accepted the position in Alabama. Wheat and his wife, Doris, inherited a physical property that was rat-infested from the weeks of vacancy and in ill-repair from years of neglect. The failure of the Diocese to invest the necessary funds into the physical improvement of the House of Happiness property was an indication of the Episcopal Church's reluctance to commit too much to a missionary endeavor that was clearly having problems. Upon his arrival in 1946, however, Wheat was energetic and optimistic about the future of the House of Happiness.

His first action was to restore church services, Sunday school, and Bible studies. By 1947 clubs for boys and girls had been established and within another year Wheat was conducting services in other communities, such as Grassy Mountain (near Guntersville), Larkinsville, Aspel, Dutton, and Langston. Most of these services were in the form of "cottage meetings' whereby a simple service was held in a private home and attended by a few families or individuals in the area.

The announcements Wheat placed in the local newspapers reveal significantly the shift in the perspective of the House of Happiness from its 1923 origins. The mission was referred to repeatedly in Wheat's articles as the "House of Happiness Episcopal Church." Indeed, by the time Wheat arrived at the House of Happiness, the missionary aspect of the institution had all but disappeared in comparison to the activities that had been so prominent in the 1920s and 1930s.

More than any other CA leader who was stationed at the mission, Wheat displayed insight and honesty regarding the true state of affairs, both spiritual and physical, that existed there. By 1949 he was convinced that the mission's policy and goals as he understood them were unattainable and suggested that it was time for the diocese to reexamine its commitment to the House of Happiness mission.

In January 1951 the Church Army captain repeated his earlier observations regarding the successes and failures of the mountain mission program in his report to the Woman's Auxiliary. Wheat noted the split in the community caused by the lack of a school. Since 1940 the children of Sauta Bottom had been bused to schools in Larkinsville, Woodville, and Scottsboro. This breakup of the community into different county school districts had a marked effect on the sense of community that had surrounded the House of Happiness in the 1920s and 1930s. The absence of stores and a post office created another void that weakened the sense of community.

In the fall of 1951 the Executive Council authorized the sale of the House of Happiness farm to Thurman Ritchie. Thomas Wheat left the Sauta Bottom mission in June 1952 to accept a position at Valle Crucis, North Carolina. Reverend Allen T. Sykes, a recently ordained minister straight out of seminary, was placed in charge of the House of Happiness, St. Luke's Church in Scottsboro, and the Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville, with the latter serving as his home base. Although members of the Scottsboro and Guntersville congregations were encouraged to support the mission program, it was soon evident that the diocese was more interested in building up the two urban congregations. Eighteen months after Wheat moved to North Carolina, all of the House of Happiness property was disposed of, and the mission was dismantled completely.

When the diocese decided, in the fall of 1952, to sell the remaining property, with the exception of the acre on which the church/community building was located, Thurmond Ritchie immediately expressed interest in buying the land. The transaction transferring the deed to Ritchie was completed in the summer. Ritchie then sold all of his Sauta Bottom property to Beatrice Smith Abercrombie who, in September 1953, negotiated to buy the remaining acre of property. Abercrombie, a former student of Augusta Martin, was a teacher in Birmingham when she purchased the House of Happiness property in 1953. She never lived on the property but, instead, rented out the mission house. The wooden structure burned in 1955 leaving only the two stone chimneys to mark its physical existence.

During the first fifteen years of its existence, the House of Happiness filled a void in Jackson County by providing social services and educational opportunities to a small, isolated community. It failed miserably, however, in its attempt to establish a congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this rural setting. But the mission's greatest legacy was its positive impact on the lives of uncounted individuals.

Joan S. Clemens

Primary Sources:

Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama Archives, Birmingham, Alabama: Charles C. J. Carpenter Papers; Lilian Prout Long Papers; and Augusta Benning Martin Papers. [Now housed at the Birmingham Public Library]
Church Army Archives. London. Blackheath.

Condensed from a Master's Thesis published by the Graduate School at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, 1990.

The JCHA thanks the Spencer Smith family for hosting the April 2017 meeting on the House of Happiness site. The posters and historical materials shown at the April meeting will be on display at the Heritage Center during the month of October.

A New Map Resource for Jackson County

The residents of Jackson County have an exciting new resource to use for their family research and to answer questions about roads and cemeteries and land forms and place names and boundaries and how all of these have evolved over time—the new Jackson County Historical Maps Collection enabled by County Cartographer Greg Tyler of the Jackson County Revenue Commissioner's office.

Greg the chief mapper for the Mapping and Appraisal Department of the Jackson County Revenue Commissioner"s Office on the first floor of the courthouse. A quarter of his office in the courthouse is occupied by the huge rotary scanner that can accept documents as wide as 36 inches. He compresses these huge graphics files into PDFs and makes them available on the county web site. "Our office in Mapping and Appraisal has always collected maps that would help us to create a better tax map," Greg explains, and "helping the taxpayers of Jackson County with property questions is part of our job."

"Any map containing property information is of great benefit to local surveyors and lawyers in tracking transferring ownership and locating boundary lines. The previous two mappers in this office, Ken Young and Bill Knight, had accumulated hundreds of maps over the last 40 years," Greg explained. And during the two and half years Greg has worked with this office, he has scoured the county for useful maps, looking in museums and talking with individual map lovers to assemble the impressive set of maps that make of the Jackson County Map Collection.

The Revenue Commissioners' Office is under the leadership of Revenue Commissioner Jeff Arnold. The Mapping and Appraisal Office is run by Travis Tubbs and employs eight people. Greg is the chief mapper for Jackson County, assisted by fellow mapper Lisa Matthews. The office shares the information it has collected through a web site: www.jacksoncountyrevenue.com. To see the map collection from www.jacksoncountyrevenue.com, click on **Links** in the Menu Bar and then select **Historical Maps**.

The web site was implemented under Ron Crawford, but it has been maintained and improved by Jeff Arnold. "None of the map collection would be possible without Jeff," Greg explains. "He has worked diligently and consistently to make the tax paying process easier for the public." The web site is not just about maps; it also allows Jackson County citizens to renew their tags and pay property taxes online. "The site also lets citizens view the county tax maps and provides information about the tag process. It is a great asset for the general public." In this way, the county gets extra use out of equipment needed by the Revenue Office, and the citizens of Jackson County get a wonderful new historical resource.

Perhaps half of these maps in this collection are part of the legacy left to Jackson County by historian Ann Chambless. When Ann followed her son Heath to a new life in South Korea earlier this year, she left behind many poster tubes of maps that she had acquired over her 41 years as county historian and editor of the Jackson County Chronicles.

Annette and David Bradford, who have edited The Jackson County Chronicles in the two years since Ann Chambless gave up the job, were uncomfortable being the only caretakers of such a valuable and unique collection. They contacted Blake Wilhelm, archive librarian at Northeast Alabama Community College, to see if the college had access to a large professional scanner that would be needed to effectively scan Ann's extensive map collection. About the time Blake and the Bradfords were searching out a grant to help them digitize Ann's maps, Greg Tyler called the Heritage Center as part of his map quest, and Director Jennifer Petty, who knew about the

ongoing effort to digitize Ann's maps, connected Greg with Annette and David.

The resulting collection is a county map resource unparalleled in the state. "By the time you pair this Jackson County-specific collection with the University of Alabama Collection (http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/)," Annette explained, "there should be no piece of location information for any time in the county's existence that you cannot reconstruct. And once our collection is complete, the University of Alabama site has agreed to host the Jackson County maps on their server, making our history available not just to local people but to anyone anywhere who needs information about the history of our county."

Greg is the son of Ronnie and Abby Tyler of Skyline. Greg and his wife Heather live in Skyline with their three children: Atticus, Maddie and Olivia. He is a life-long Jackson County resident. "I have always been interested in history," Greg says. "I guess that maps are just a natural extension of that interest, and my job puts me in contact with historians and lots of people generally interested in the history of the county."

"I started mapping about ten years ago for a local power distribution mapping company, NEAL Technologies, and my job was to map power systems for municipal and co-op electric companies all over the country. I started working for the county two and a half years ago. My job is to maintain a GIS map of 41,000 plus parcels for the county and help the public with mapping-related questions."

"When I started this job, we took all the paper maps that Bill and Ken had accumulated and scanned them in so that we would have a digital copy and for ease of access. We noticed that a lot of these maps were in bad shape and began to scan all the historical maps and land-related documents we could get. We were instantly overwhelmed of how many were out there and how many people wanted access to them. So Jeff came up with the idea of posting them on the Revenue page."

"This summer, we hired Emily Matthews for two weeks to scan in around 7000 documents. We have received maps from all over the county and state from public institutions and private citizens. The web site gives the people, cities, and schools of Jackson County a look at the history of our

Greg Tyler and Jeff Arnold scanning a map

county through maps. The page isn't just historically important. It also includes valuable TVA and location maps and is constantly growing. Anyone with maps to add should bring them to the mapping office on the first floor of the courthouse between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday."

Who could have guessed that our new county map resource would have two such diverse parents: Ann Chambless, our respected county historian and one of the founders of the Jackson County Historical Association who has carefully researched the history of our county and written literally tens of thousands of words in the *Jackson County Chronicles* (available for free online at www.jchaweb.org); and Greg Tyler, a young mapper who turned his passion for history and maps into an easy-to-access resource for Jackson County citizens and indeed anyone with internet access.

Ann, Greg, and Jeff are local history heros and deserve the thanks for Jackson County citizens for the resource they have created for us.

Annette Norris Bradford

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Alabama Historical Commission (Non-Profit)
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Allen, Tom (LIFE)
Allen County Library (Paid 2017)
Anand, Cathy (LIFE)
Anderson, Bill (LIFE)
Anderson, James (Paid 2017)
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Anderson, Phillip (Paid 2017)
Alabama Department of Archives (Paid 2017)
Armstrong, Tommy (Family) (Paid 2017)
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Arnold, Judy Hubbard (Paid 2017)
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Bathon, Candy (LIFE)
Bell, Greg (Paid 2017)
Benson, Stella (Paid 2017)
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Johnson, Teresa Glass (LIFE)
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Petty, Jennifer (Paid 2017)
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Porch, John D. (LIFE)
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Presley, Lynn (LIFE)
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Quinlivan, Claire E. (Paid 2017)
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Rash, Sandra (Please renew) *
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Robinson, John (Please renew)*
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Rush, Susan (Paid 2017)
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Skelton, Scott (Bynum Foundation)
Skelton, Vesta (Paid 2017)

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Smith, Ellie (LIFE)
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Wujs, Phyllis (Paid 2017)

A note to those marked ***Please renew****: We don't want to drop loyal members because they overlooked 2017's renewal. You continued to receive the Chronicles in 2017, but we need you back on the active list if we are going to stay in touch in 2018.

Annual Dues: $20.00
Senior Citizens (65 or older): $15.00
Life Membership: $150.00

Mail your check for 2018 membership to:
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