

The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 31, Number 1

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About this Publication:

The Jackson County Chronicles is published four times a year and mailed to members of the Jackson County Historical Association.

Editor: Annette Norris Bradford

Associate Editor: David Bradford

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January Program: Back by popular demand: General Grant?? Did I hear that right? Yes, Dr. Curtis Fields last impersonated the Union general at the January 2017 JCHA meeting. During his 2017 visit, he talked about Grant's time in Jackson County, which imposed an unfair limitation on Dr. Fields' vast repertoire of Grant stories. This time, he will broaden his presentation to discuss the general's life and times. The meeting will be held a week early, on **Sunday afternoon, January 20, 2019 from 2pm to 4pm** at the **Scottsboro Depot Museum**.



Bicentennial Exhibit in Stevenson

Starting January 7. The Alabama Humanities Foundation's 19-month traveling bicentennial exhibition on state history, titled "Making Alabama" will be at the Stevenson Library from January 7-18. This is the exhibit's only stop in the county.

Visitors can explore the collection of collages, interactive tablets, and a historical audio medley. Monica Davis, the library's director, said all ages are invited to the event. The free exhibit is open during extended library hours, which are 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The "Making Alabama" tour started in April and will continue through December 2019. Please take advantage of this special exhibit while it is so close by.



Marking the Grave of U.S. Marshal Ed

Moody. Thank you to everyone who attended

the cemetery stroll in October and contributed to the fund to mark the grave of fallen U.S. Marshal Ed Moody. We have located a period-looking stone and have ordered it. It will include the names and dates for both Ed and his wife Ada and be centered over both graves, with foot stones marking the dimensions of the two graves. Thank you for your generosity.

New Writer: Thank you, Barbara Jacobs Heath, for sharing with the *Chronicles* your history of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, which appeared first in the *The Daily Sentinel*.

A Review of the First Ever Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll



Paul Stevenson as James Skelton

The first Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll is now history. It was a monumental undertaking, a year in the making, enabled through the diligent research and planning of Blake Wilhelm and Julia Everett at Northeast Alabama Community College and David and Annette Bradford of the Jackson County Historical Association. It required the considerable talents of 16 costumed actors and a small army of people supporting them.



Sarah and Miles Hodges as Tom Shipp and his mother

In our wildest imagination, we could not have seen the cemetery stroll going so well. After all the meetings and planning and research and logistics and then praying for a cool, dry day, everything came together perfectly. We had initially estimated that 300-400 people might attend, but we counted 675 at the entry points, and suspect there were more than this. We hoped to raise \$300 for a marker for Marshal Moody, but instead over \$900 was donated. So many people came and brought their children. We hope they all left with a better sense of our shared history.



John Neely as Colonel John Snodgrass

Our actors were just wonderful, from six-year-old **Miles Hodges**, who charmed his audience and did his presentation about little Tom Shipp 12 times, to ninety-year-old **Rev. James Thompson**, who had himself flown a jet similar to the one in which pilot Cecil Floyd died.

Les Hutson, who already does so much for his community, gave us a big slice of his time to help us appreciate Dr. Marvin Lynch. **Carter Jones** let us see a picture of his grandfather Congressman Bob Jones that only a family member could share. **Nat Cisco** brought Sheriff Matt Wann to life



Rev. James Thompson as pilot Cecil Floyd



Carter Jones as Congressman Bob Jones

and helped us appreciate the sacrifice this man made to give the Scottsboro Boys the trial that due process required.

Regina Nicholson drove from Atlanta in awful traffic to tell us the story of her great grandmother, Mary Hunter. **Kelly Goodowens**, who serves the county so faithfully and maintains our historic depot, is always ready to help, and very ably recreated Dr. W. H. Payne.

Paul Stevenson led audiences to understand that James Skelton’s killing another person while defending family honor, even when the courts acquitted him, had dire consequences.



Nat Cisco as Sheriff Matt Wann

NACC English professor **Joan Reeves** owned the role of author Babs Deal and spoke of Deal’s work with an authority that would convince you she had actually written it. **Jerry King** held his big audiences spellbound and left them wondering if the Unknown Man really was William Bradford Bishop from the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list. **Ernie Kennamer** channeled his grandfather James Morgan Money who played a major role in the building of the Skyline Road and the Cumberland Farms Colony.

John Neely, whose father was instrumental in saving our historic depot, took time away from his professional acting roles to bring life to Civil War hero Colonel John Snodgrass. NACC actor **Logan Bloyer**, whom many of us recognize in the role of Lurch in last year’s Addams Family musical, embodied the enthusiasm and disillusionment of the World War I soldiers in his incredible recreation of Thomas Cobbs Kyle, only two weeks before the 100th anniversary of Armistice.



Joan Reeves as author Babs Deal

Bill White ably brought his friend Charles Bradford to life, recounting Bradford’s World War II time as a prisoner of war and his leadership of Company B during the Korean War, when ignoring orders saved the lives of so many young Jackson County men.

Actress and teacher **Traci Phillips** captured the accent and cadence of Lucille Benson as she shared the career of the local character actress in her role in *Halloween II*. Our actors were just incredible; most of them did their presentations at least 12 times for appreciative crowds.



Regina Nicholson as educator Mary Hunter



Ernie Kenamer as Judge James Money



Kelly Goodowens as Pharmacist W.H. Payne



Logan Bloyer as WWI Soldier Tom Kyle

We had so much good help staging this event. Our good turnout was due to all the help we got publicizing this event from *The Daily Sentinel*, *The Clarion*, *The North Jackson Progress*, and *The Sand Mountain Reporter*, and the air time given us by WAFF, WKEA, and WWIC radio; WAAY television; and the Scottsboro Electric Power Board.

We appreciate the generous grant we received from the Alabama Bicentennial Commission to keep NACC and JCHA expenses to a minimum. We appreciate the assistance of the City of Scottsboro.

Thanks to the Highlands EMS for keeping an ambulance on site, which we are happy that we did not need. Thanks for Benny Bell and his team for turning Cedar Hill into a manicured garden for the event. Thanks for Eddie Tigie and the rescue squad for opening up the facilities at the armory and allowing our



Bill White as Charles Bradford



Traci Phillips as Actress Lucille Benson in *Halloween II*



Jerry King as the Unknown Man

visitors to park there. Thanks to Beth Presley for cleaning the headstones of people on the tour and helping out the day of the stroll. Thanks to Britt Meeks for capturing all our actors on video. Thanks to Pat Presley, Reid Henshaw, and Alan Everett for parking assistance and for setting up and taking down. Thanks to the NACC Presidential Hosts and volunteers for manning the entry tables and passing out programs—Amy Shankles, Lori White, Reda Patterson, Hannah Cornett, Haley Wilson, and Renee Goss. Thanks to Jennifer Petty, Haley Lawrence Wilhelm, and Tammy Bradford for assisting our visitors and keeping the crowd distributed across all the gravesites. Thanks to the NACC theater department for dressing many of our actors. Thanks to the NACC music department for the wonderful instrumental and vocal ensembles whose talents made the atmosphere of the day more festive. Thanks to Barbara and Ed Carter and Susan Fisher for representing the JCHA at the signup table.

If you missed the cemetery stroll, Britt Meeks compiled a ten-minute video from all the segments he shot. A link to this video is found on the JCHA web site: www.jchaweb.org.

So...maybe next time you eat a red slaw dog at Payne's, you will remember the man who built this business, because of Kelly Goodowens. Or when you drive down Mary Hunter Street, you will remember this extraordinary educator because of her great granddaughter Regina Nicholson's portrayal. I hope people are lining up at the library asking for Babs Deal's books because of Joan Reeves. And on November 11, the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, you felt closer to this distant war and remembered Tom Kyle, brought to life so convincingly by NACC student Logan Bloyer.

Knowing history enriches our lives.



Les Hutson as Dr. Marvin Lynch



Northeast Alabama Community College Vocal Ensemble



Northeast Alabama Community College Dixieland Band

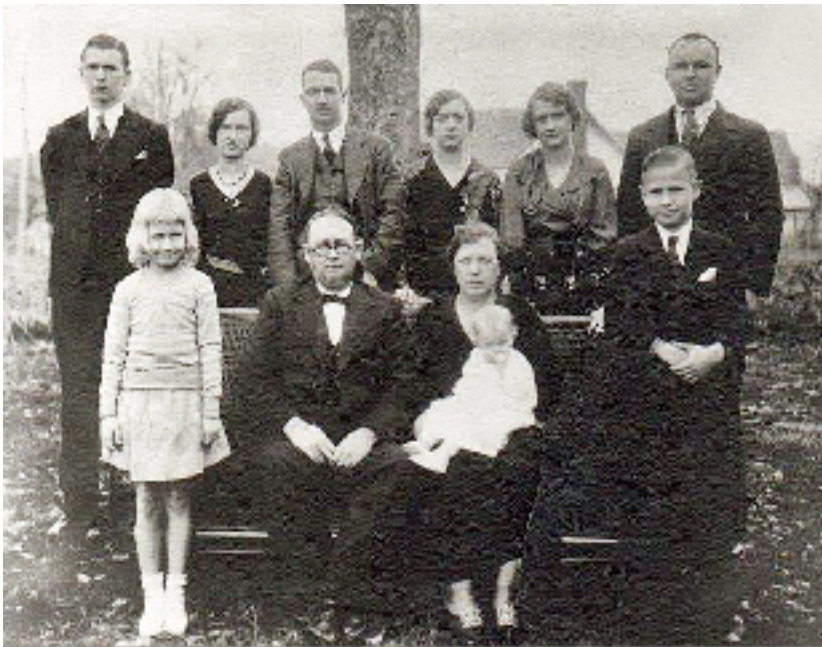
Annette Norris Bradford

Photos by David Bradford, Samantha Moore, Julia Everett, Annette Bradford, and Katrina Potter Patty.

James Morgan Money: A Life in Service to Jackson County

The Money family in Scottsboro has historically been associated with Democratic politics, education, good business sense, and a dedication to public service. The earliest Money recorded in Jackson County was William who was county engineer in 1831. The Money family built a homestead at the head of Hurricane Creek, on property that is still owned by the family.

Much of their public service took the form of teaching, and most people “of a certain age” did not get through Jackson County public schools without a Money as a teacher. Father James taught in the Paint Rock Valley in the early 1900s. Edith (the oldest, born in 1904) was a teacher in Scottsboro for 44 years. Stella (born in 1906) was a teacher at Parks Campground School before marrying Horace Hinshaw and moving to Birmingham. Her son Jim was a teacher as well. Joyce, the youngest Money sibling and still very much with us, taught 33 years in Skyline. Daughters Mary Lou and Joyce had children who were teachers.



JAMES AND MATTIE MONEY FAMILY IN 1931

James Morgan Money, the focus of this article, was born November 22, 1881, the son of Joseph Lunsford Money and Lucy Ann Payne. He grew up in the Paint Rock Valley and was educated in the area’s public schools. He attended college at Winchester College and Normal School and read law. To support himself so that he could attend college, he cut wood.

He returned to the Paint Rock Valley and taught school for a time. One of his pupils was the lovely Miss Mattie Robinson, the daughter of Frederick John Robinson and Mary Drucilla Rousseau. A year after she left his classroom, they were married on July 24, 1903.

James and Mattie settled in Scottsboro, and Edith, the first of their nine children, was born in April

1904. The remaining eight children were born over nearly three decades. Little Joyce Money Kennamer was 28 years younger than her oldest sister Edith. James and Mattie were married for 56 years before Mattie’s death in 1959 and James’ in 1961. Their nine children are: Edith Money (1904-1988), Stella Money Hinshaw (1906-1994), James (1909-1986), Joe John (1911-1984), Mary Lou Money Weaver (1913-2001), Clyde (1916-2006), Lloyd (1920-2001), Martha Evelyn Money Smith (1924-2000), and the surprise baby Joyce Money Kennamer, born in 1931.

The family lived in several locations in Scottsboro on Kyle, Laurel, and then Kyle Street again before settling into an ornate Victorian house on Kyle Street, built by John Will Skelton, as their family home. It burned in 1933, and the family built the current Money home on the same site on Kyle Street.

During his working life in Jackson County, James Money sold insurance and bought and sold land as a real estate developer. But the call to public service was also strong, and when he was only 31, he ran for

Jackson County Tax Collector in 1912 as a Democrat. The large field of candidates included, in addition to Money, W. S. Thomas, H. L. Bulman, Morris E. Brown, D. E. Barclay, J. A. Ridley, M. E. McGriff, and J. J. Arnold. Money was elected and served the county from 1913 to 1917. After his time in office, he returned to his insurance and real estate business until the pull to serve lured him into another election.

Serving as Probate Judge 1928-1937

James ran for and was elected probate judge in 1928, and by strange coincidence, served not the usual term of 6 years but instead 8 plus years. He had intended to turn over the office to the controversial winner of the 1934 election—R. H. McAnelly—but that is not what came to pass.

The Democratic primary race for probate judge in 1933 was a political disgrace that took months to resolve. A good account of this shameful election comes from the diaries of Charles Rice Coffey. (1) The May primary in the spring of 1933 ended in May with Bob Starkey defeating R. H. McAnelly. However, the Hollywood precinct voted heavily for local son Bob Starkey a bit more heavily than permitted by law. In a precinct with 232 registered voters, 604 votes were cast for Starkey. The state election committee came to Jackson County in July to hear evidence in this crooked election, and when all was said and done in September of 1933, McAnelly won the Democratic primary by a slim 15 votes and went on to win the November election.

However, Charles Rice Coffey reported in his diary in February 1935, “I heard confidentially from a very reliable source that it was very very doubtful if McAnelly would ever be able to fulfill the duties of judge—guess it will be up to the governor to appoint us one.” Mr. McAnelly had lost his wife and daughter, his entire family, within a matter of months and simply took leave of his senses for a time. It was March 1937 (according to Rice) before A. D. Kirby was appointed probate judge. This left Mr. Money filling the job of probate judge for the county for an additional two and half years.

The Depression and Cumberland Farms

Judge Money became probate judge on July 1, 1929, a little less than four months before the stock market crash in October 24, 1929 which triggered the Great Depression, though in reality the depression had started in farm communities several years before. (2)

Put in a position of responsibility during such a devastating time in the county’s history, Judge Money and the county commission looked for ways to get the county’s citizens back to work. The Hoover administration established the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) in 1932, and Congress appropriated \$300 million that could be lent to the states in the form of relief.

Jackson County was ready. “In February of 1933 the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County purchased four trucks to use in transporting men to various relief projects, “ *The Progressive Age* reported on February 2, 1933. (3) “It is said a plan is afoot to built a road up Maynard’s Cove to connect with the upper end of Paint Rock Valley and open up that vast area known as Cumberland Mountain which heretofore had no chance of development.”



SKELTON-MONEY HOUSE, BY JOHN WARR

Thus began one of the two Depression-era projects that, for the Money family, defined Judge Money's greatest contribution to local public service. "Judge J. M. Money announced plans for the construction of a road to connect parts of the valley with Cumberland Mountain," the *Progressive Age* wrote on February 16, 1933. The road at Tupelo started construction in March 1933. The work was backbreaking manual labor, but the men lucky enough to find employment on the project were grateful. Many men who showed up for work had no lunches and no shoes. Mr. Hal Cunningham, a local farmer, donated sweet potatoes that were roasted over an open fire for lunch, and Judge Money bought shoes for the shoeless.(4) At a celebration barbecue in November 1933, Money reported that the Cumberland Mountain road had been built for \$12,473.75. (*Progressive Age*, November 2, 1933). The Jackson County Historical Association is currently working with the Skyline community to erect a historical marker recognizing the accomplishment represented by this road.

Completing the road literally paved the way for the second of Judge Money's signature accomplishments: establishing Cumberland Farms, or as it was later known, the Skyline Colony. The property that became Cumberland Farms was owned by J. F. D. Pierce Patent Medicine Company and was left over from a coal mining operation between 1907 and 1920. Judge Money served as chairman of the Jackson County Rehabilitation Commission. In 1934, "a delegation went to Montgomery November 30 and interviewed the Federal Rehabilitation Commission for Alabama with the view of getting one or more of the federal homesteading colonies located on Cumberland Mountain and Sand Mountain Jackson County." (*Jackson County Sentinel* December 6, 1934). This delegation consisted of Judge Money, W. C. Selby, M. G. Graham, A. D. Kirby, John O'Neal, J. L. Staple, J. F. Proctor, J. C. Wall, and Jack Reid. The December 13, 1934 *Progressive Age* reported the success of their mission with the headline "Farm Colony Assured in Jackson County." It was only the fourth RFC project in the nation to be approved. (*Progressive Age*, November 2, 1933)

Because of the work of scholars like Dr. David Campbell (5) and Dr. Wayne Flynt (6), the story of the Skyline Project is familiar to all Jackson Countians. The phased project would eventually include 200 families. Some preference was given to Jackson County over other locations requesting such colonies because the TVA was displacing so many farm families as it built Lake Guntersville. The first of the Cumberland Farm houses was completed in January 1935. Ultimately, this bold social experiment failed. Farmers were unable to pay for their homesteads with the products of their labors, and the homesteads of all but one farmer were sold by the early 1940s.

"Today," Dr. David Campbell explains in his *Encyclopedia of Alabama* entry, "all that remains at the site is the school building, which is now used as a local elementary school, and a few other buildings. The sandstone community school was partially designed by landscape architect William Kessler and is listed on the Alabama Register of Historic Places. Several of the houses, the commissary, and the project manager's office are now privately owned, as are the factory and a warehouse that still exist." (7)

But Joyce Money Kenamer, the last living child of Judge Money, asks you to judge the "failure" of this colony for yourself. "It did take people off relief rolls. It did furnish jobs for desperate souls. They did live in substantial homes and grow sufficient crops for their needs. They did learn new methods of farming and preserving. They were furnished recreational activities. They profited from an excellent school for their childrens' education. They were furnished medical care. All these programs were sponsored by the government." (8)



JAMES MONEY (RIGHT) AT THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS TRIAL IN

It is interesting to note that even with the the electrification brought to the county by TVA, Skyline Farms was not electrified until 1939, and power was brought to the mountain by Alabama Power. In fact, Alabama Power seemed to be in a virtual race with the TVA. They electrified Dutton, Section, Pisgah, Henegar, and Rosalie in May 1936 before TVA projects in-progress could be completed. (*Progressive Age*, May 7, 1936)

Building the Hotel Scottsboro in 1934

When James Money finally left the probate judgeship behind, he began construction of the Hotel Scottsboro in February 1934. The three-story structure was the tallest building in Jackson County and cost \$25,000 to build. (9) Joyce remembers that there were 18 rooms per floor (33 total guest rooms). Public spaces and retail establishments downstairs took up much of the space. Little David Bradford, awed by the size of the hotel, asked his Aunt Lucille Benson on one of her visits from New York if there was a building in New York as tall as the Hotel Scottsboro. It was one of three rail hotels in Scottsboro, the others being the Bailey (built in 1905, closed by 1957) and the Jessica (opened in 1940, partially burned in 1958, torn down in 1972).

In 1934, Money brought John Leroy Kelly and his wife, Melville Larcenia, to Scottsboro to operate the new hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly were natives of Ripley, Mississippi and moved to Scottsboro from Red Bay, Alabama, where they had managed another hotel. Mr. Kelly was a successful hotel man who made friends easily. Mrs. Kelly ran the dining room when the hotel opened. Mrs. Kelly died in April 1936, and the Kellys' daughter, Bessie, came to help her father after her mother's death. When Mr. Kelly died in November 1936, Bessie's husband Lowery Smith came to help his wife run the hotel. The Smiths remained at the Hotel Scottsboro until the year 1956. After that, the hotel had several operators, but according to *The History of Jackson County*, it was never the same. (10)

The Hotel Scottsboro was at its heart a rail hotel meant to provide shelter for the drummers (salesmen) and visitors who arrived in Scottsboro by train. But the hotel was located one block off of Highway 72, which was at that time the only route between Memphis and Chattanooga. It was a good place for travelers to get a comfortable bed and a good meal. In the early years, most rooms were full every night, meeting the needs of the multiple passenger trains a day which passed through Scottsboro every day in the 1930s and 40s.

The hotel and its associated businesses were a centerpiece of activity in Scottsboro. Businesses whose locations can be verified by phone book and by period newspapers indicate that these businesses were part of the Hotel Scottsboro complex:

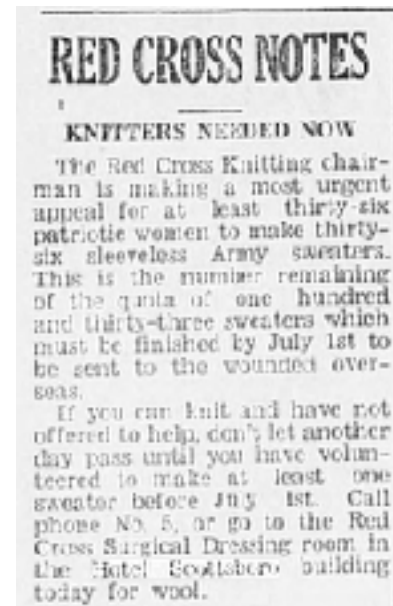
Year	Businesses
1934	Money Motor Company (J. J. Money, Proprietor)
1937	Barnett Auto Supply
1939	D. S. Clemens Fancy Groceries. Where you went to meet with the cotton grader.
1940	Veda's Beauty and Hat Shop
1943	Temp's Tire Shop, Tennessee Valley Institute of Welding
1946	Vogue Beauty Shop
1947	Scottsboro Flower Shop

Year	Businesses
1949	Jones and McBride Fiberglass and Wool Insulation, Microtone Hearing Center, and Jeff's Electric Appliance Store. Temporary quarters for the representatives of Scott Woolen Company
1952	Country Barber Shop (owned by Deb Green and Harry Word, with barbers Yank Zilbert, Howard Jones, and Grady Adams); Jones Dry Goods and Proctor's Grocery
1960	Katie's Coffee Shop, Sharp Studio, and W. H. Cobb
1961	Katie's Coffee Shop (not in the current Liberty Restaurant on Willow Street until 1968), Scottsboro Dental lab, Mary's Beauty Salon
1968	Lee Gamble Dental Lab and Dentist Fred Sanders
1972	No businesses listed.

Joyce Money Kenamer, who was nine when World War II started, remembers the weekly sessions where women gathered during the war to roll, sanitize, and package bandages for use by the Red Cross. These work sessions were held in the large center room on the corner of the hotel. She also remembers that fifth and six graders knitted eight-inch squares every Friday that were joined together to make lap robes for recovering soldiers. The May 25, 1944 *Progressive Age* mentions this program.



HOTEL SCOTTSBORO ABOUT 1940. PHOTO BY JUDGE J. B. TALLY.



Joyce also recalls that her brother Lloyd had an ice cream parlor in the hotel, but gave away so much free ice cream to his friends that his father shut it down. She also remembers that Mr. Money let photographers like Olin Mills set up in a downstairs rooms of his hotel in exchange for the photographer producing a free photo package for the family.

As rail travel gave way to the automobile, the hotel lost out to the motel. Like the other downtown rail hotels, the Hotel Scottsboro lacked adequate parking. Motels and new highways took travelers in other directions.

The businesses surrounding the hotel flourished, but the hotel itself fell into disuse. Joyce's brothers James and Joe wanted to keep the hotel going, and bought it from their father before he died in 1961. The hotel had been closed a couple of years when it burned in 1998 and was torn down in 1999. The empty lot where it sat feels like a wound that does not heal.

Running for Congress in 1936

In 1936, the representative for the eighth congressional district, Archibald Hill Carmichael, announced his retirement. A former speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives from Dale County, Carmichael first filled the unexpired terms of Edward B. Alton, who died in office, and was elected to a full term from 1935 to 1937. (11)

His retirement paved the way for a five-man Democratic field made up of Baynard L. Malone, J. M. Money, Robert T. Simpson Jr., John M. Snodgrass, and John M. Sparkman.

In a column called "Sound in His Views," the *Progressive Age* supported Money in the April 30, 1936 paper, reprinting the story from the *Limestone Democrat* citing Money's experience and fine record as county tax collector and probate judge, his leadership in "securing the Cumberland Farms project for Jackson County," and his support of TVA as reasons why he would make a good congressman.

The county vote was divided between the two Jackson County favorite sons. In the May primary, Money won 1808 of the 4533 votes cast, to Snodgrass' 1664 and Sparkman's 179. (*Progressive Age* May 7, 1936). In Huntsville, Simpson won the race with 11,134 votes, Sparkman came in second with 8,924, Malone third with 5150, Money fourth with 3605, and Snodgrass fifth with 2237.

The May 7, 1936 *Progressive Age* came out immediately in support of Simpson, but admitted "We have two splendid young men in the race for congress. They are new at the game. Mr. Simpson, however, has held the position of Circuit Solicitor of his district for several years and is no novice at the game of politics. Mr. Sparkman, the other candidate has never run for any office before, however, he has taken part in many political battles, but not for himself. We predict a big scrap between these two young men that will attract attention all over the state."

Simpson was favored over Sparkman in the runoff. The *Progressive Age* reported that in the primary, Simpson "had an overwhelming lead in the western end of the state, carrying Lauderdale and Colbert counties by wide margins. He had a majority of 27 votes over Sparkman in Limestone County, and a slight lead over Sparkman in Lawrence County." (*Progressive Age*, May 7, 1936)

With our 20-20 hindsight, we can better appreciate the task that Money set up for himself in this race in running against John Sparkman. A native of Hartselle Morgan County, Sparkman in 1936 was a diamond in the rough. When the primary was over, Sparkman recognized something he liked in his former adversary, and asked James Money to run his campaign against Simpson. The two men remained close friends for the rest of their lives. In fact, Joyce remembers, when the family found James Money dead in his bed at 7 a.m. on August 31, 1961, it was only 9:30 a.m. when a condolence telegram arrived from John Sparkman.

In November, Sparkman won against Union Party candidate Harry J. Frahn with 99.7% of the vote. Sparkman, of course, went on to a distinguished career in the Congress. He was elected to the House in 1938, 1940, 1942, and 1944. He was serving as House majority whip in 1946 when he ran for the Senate to fill the unexpired term of John H. Bankhead. He was elected and served 30 years in the Senate until his retirement January 3, 1979. He died at age 85 in 1989 and is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville.

Building a Rooming House in Childersburg

When World War II started, a number of Jackson Countians moved to Childersburg in Talladega County to work at the Alabama Army Ammunition Plant. Built in 1941, the 13,000-acre plant was operated by DuPont and produced nitrocellulose (NC), trinitrotoluene (TNT), dinitrotoluene (DNT), and a single-base



WORKER HOUSING IN CHILDERSBURG (14)

smokeless powder. At its peak, the plant produced nearly 49 million pounds of munitions per month. It also produced heavy water for the Manhattan Project, and for this reason was designated a Superfund Cleanup Site in 1987 because of contaminated groundwater and soil. The plant stopped operating in August 1945. (12)

Thousands of people flooded into Childersburg to meet the need for war-time laborers, and many of these people were from Jackson County. A search of *The Progressive Age* and *The Jackson County Sentinel* in 1942 and 1943 produced this list of Jackson Countians who worked in Childersburg, and remember, these are just the people recorded in the social pages of the newspaper:

J. B. Walsh	Charles Wood	Sam Prince	Obe Nichols and wife
Grover Stone	Hubert Brooks	Brooks Elder	Marion Brown
Ronald Hicks	Sam Hodges Jr.	Bill Coplin	Grover Sims
Floyd Durham	I.C. Mills	Hilburn Hodges (Babs Deal's father)	Lois Maples
Roy Hansard	Herbert Elledge		
A.C. Curry	Roland Prince	Jim H. McClendon	

Charles David Presley worked at this plant in the summer before he returned to school at Auburn. Victor Schornagel, the superintendent of the local CCC Camp, accepted a position at Childersburg. Mary Elizabeth Snodgrass married Victor Spry on October 16, 1941, and they both were employed in Childersburg. This tidbit about Childersburg was found in the January 29, 1942 *Progressive Age*: "Mrs John C. McCamy returned Monday from a trip to Birmingham where she joined her husband and attended a banquet at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel Saturday night given by the E. I DuPont Co., especially for their machinist workers at the Childersburg project and their wives. Mr. McCamy has been working at Childersburg for some time and Mrs. McCamy will join him there next week to make her home."

The influx of so many workers overwhelmed the town of Childersburg. In 1943, the Office of War Information Bureau of Motion Pictures produced a newsreel about the living situation in Childersburg titled "When Work Is Done" which contrasted how poorly Childersburg was dealing with the new residents versus how well Sylacauga had adapted. It starts with this overview of the problem:

This is the story of what is happening to the American small town in war time. The town is being invaded. The invaders are not enemies but friends. Americans. People from the farms, the mountains, the far-away cities and villages. They pour into the town, wash through its streets and into its houses and churches and meeting places. The town is flooded and overwhelmed. It was meant to be a living space for five to ten thousand people: 20,000. 30,000. 40,000 people roll into it, double up in its houses, camp on its outskirts.

The new people have come here to work, in the shipyards, in the machine shops and small factories. They work hard under the 90-degree sun, in the electric oven heat of the steel bulkheads. The heavy work and the small exacting precise work. Then they come off the shift, a friendly, good-natured army but an army almost without organization. The small, good-natured community is overwhelmed. Every power plant, pumping station, and grocery store pushed to the limit. They stand in line at the post office, sending money home to the cities and hill farms. They line up with their laundry. In three weeks they may get it back. Lunch counters jammed up, people being turned away from the diners. They swim on schedule, the life guard herding them out. Working in shifts and swimming in shifts.

Some new housing has been put up. It is comfortable enough but people have not been able to get together yet. They live in their separate cells. People need other people. They need a get-together. A little fun, a little swapping of talk and good will. They want to feel that they belong. (13)

You have to wonder if Jim Money and C. B. Thomas saw this newsreel. They answered this appeal and helped create a sense of community for many of the Jackson County workers at Childersburg. They

brought a little bit of Jackson County to the tired men and women working frantically under tough conditions to supply ammunition for American weapons and fuel for the Manhattan Project.

The May 1941 *Jackson County Sentinel* reported that Mr. Thomas “who has conducted a cafe in Scottsboro next to the First National Bank, [remember the bank was on the corner of Laurel and Broad at this time] for several years has moved his equipment to Childersburg, Ala., and will conduct a restaurant and rooming house at that place where the great government power plant is now under construction.” The space where Thomas’ Cafe was located was bought out by the Elmore Company, along with the space occupied by Hunt’s Five and Ten, and became Elmore’s as most of us remember it.

James and Mattie Money left their three daughters still living at home (Edith who was teaching, Evelyn, and 10-year-old Joyce) and built a two-story, eighteen-rooms-per-floor rooming house. Day-to-day business was handled by Richard Robinson, Mattie Money’s brother.

When the plant closed after D-Day in August 1945, the Moneys dismantled their Childersburg rooming house and used the lumber and materials to construct five houses behind their home on Money Lane. In the years after the war when everyone needed housing and there was little to be had, many couples lived for a time in one of the Money Lane houses, including Joyce and Alfred Kenamer. A Money Lane house was their first home, and son Steve was born when his parents lived there.

Epilog

After this time out of Jackson County, James and Mattie Money lived out their lives in Jackson County. Mattie died in 1959 and James in 1961. But the projects James Money was involved in, the offices he held, and the housing he provided to citizens and visitors of Jackson County make us pause to reflect on the comfort he provided and the service he rendered to our county.

Annette Norris Bradford

Footnotes

- (1) Diaries of Charles Rice Coffey, Volume 1 (May 22, 1934 through October 15, 1935) and Volume 2 (March 23, 1937 through May 21, 1938). Owned by Annette Bradford.
- (2) Joyce Money Kenamer, “The Rise and Decline of Skyline Farms: Success or Failure,” written in 1978. Copy obtained from the Scottsboro Jackson Heritage Center.
- (3) Two local newspapers are cited: *The Progressive Age* and *The Jackson County Sentinel*. These citations are made inline and include the dates of publication.
- (4) Kenamer, pp. 3-4.
- (5) Dr. David Campbell, “Skyline Farms,” *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1546>.
- (6) Dr. Wayne Flynt, *Poor But Proud: Alabama’s Poor Whites*, (University of Alabama Press, 1989), pp. 306-315.
- (7) Campbell, op cite.
- (8) Kenamer, pp. 31-32.
- (9) W. Jerry Gist, *The Story of Scottsboro, Alabama* (Rich Publishing Company, Inc.: 1968), “p. 160.
- (10) Martha Jane Keeton Gross, “Scottsboro Hotel – Jessica Hotel,” *The History of Jackson County* (Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1998), pp. 21-22.
- (11) Facts about John Sparkman in this section were taken from “John Sparkman” on *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sparkman and from period newspapers indicated inline.
- (12) “Alabama Army Ammunition Plant,” *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama_Army_Ammunition_Plant.
- (13) “When Work Is Done,” Office of War Information Bureau of Motion Pictures, 1942, Newsreel available on YouTube at, <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7Yg4BgSamU>.
- (14) Screen capture from “When Work Is Done,” op. cite.

After the Flood: Two Rivers in North Alabama

David Bradford wrote this essay in 2012 for Like the Dew, <http://likethedew.com>, a web site which defines itself as "All-volunteer. Non-commercial. Original content with a progressive Southern perspective." AB

In the summer of 1973, I ran trot lines on the Tennessee River with my uncle Hal.

In the dawn, we motored out of Roseberry Creek in a flat-bottomed aluminum boat to check hooks we had set with blood balls the night before. When we reached the first of the Clorox bottles that suspended the baited lines, I throttled down the outboard and steered the narrow channel using the nearly silent electric trolling motor.

In the mist, we passed below the rock bluff that had been carved by Roseberry Creek during the previous millennia when its waters flowed freely into the main channel. The bluff was the last visible vestige of a landscape that disappeared decades before when the Tennessee Valley Authority shut the gates of the Guntersville Dam.

As I piloted, my uncle pulled the line, using its heft to judge whether the next hook held a promising catch. He strung the medium-sized catfish, released catfish that were too large (muddy flavor), and threw the alligator gars onto the rocks for the raccoons to eat.

When the line was clear, he sat in the bow of the boat and smoked. From the time he lit the unfiltered cigarette until it burned to a short stub, he never took it from his lips. He squinted against the acrid smoke and cocked his head so that it burned upwind of his nose.

His talk was of the landscape below. Here, he said, was the ferry landing where his parents had crossed the river so they could "court" away from the family's scrutiny. Here were graves that were overlooked during the "removal" in advance of the flood waters. The forgotten coffins bobbed through the mud to float on the surface of the rising waters. Here were the fields he'd plowed with a team of mules. Downstream was an island where a herd of goats had been stranded as the lake filled. Upstream, a bank visible in low water was what remained of an island where my grandfather who—when he flunked out of Auburn—was exiled by his stern father until he proved himself by raising a cotton crop.

My uncle was not a man given to reflection. On land, he was manic. Once retired from his television repair business, he turned his energies to home improvement. Having fixed or destroyed everything that could be construed as failed or failing, he used his energies and a hot glue gun to cover the entire front of his house with seashells.

Here, on the still waters of the river, he was transformed. There was a remembered land beneath him, and in his later years he was compelled to re-envision it.

The flood is a powerful metaphor, and for those who have experienced it, it is a powerful reality. The flood denotes a radical change—a "sea change." It is the bridge from a landscape that cannot be revisited. The finality of the flood—the total transformation of the known and familiar landscape—haunts the human imagination and memory.

In *Deliverance*. James Dickey sets his story at the cusp of Georgia's Cahulawassee River being transformed from a stretch of free-running river into a dammed reservoir. His characters, wanting to experience the river before it is subdued by the dam, are plunged into a depraved wilderness infested with sodomy and violence. Years later, as he recovers from his trauma, the narrator says,

[An] odd thing happened. The river and everything I remembered about it became a passion to me, a personal, private possession, as nothing else in my life ever had. . . . it ran though immortality. I could feel it—I can feel it It pleases me in some curious way that the river does not exist, and that I have it. In me it still is, and will be until I die, green, rocky, deep, fast, slow, and beautiful beyond reality.

The notion of two rivers—one subsumed by the other—is also chronicled by Donald Davidson:

Down the valley of the Tennessee two rivers flow—two rivers blended indistinguishably where for centuries there was only one. One of those, uppermost and immensely obvious, is the new Tennessee, a man-made river Beneath the giant stairs of great lakes, merged with them and all but lost in them, flows another river—the old Tennessee, the river of the Cherokee Indians Now at long last, the old wild river is submerged.

The notion that two rivers coexist in one body of water is a pervasive theme with Southern novelists and a common assumption among the generation—now nearly passed—that watched as the waters covered their homes 75 years ago.

For my uncle, sitting in the bow of a flat-bottomed aluminum fishing boat, the old river was as real as the new. He strode two worlds like Noah, the link between the world before the flood and after.

Since my uncle died, I've learned other stories of the old river, conveyed by books rather than by survivors. I know that Cherokees were mustered downstream at Gunter's Landing for their movement to the West. I know that a few miles upstream, an unreconstructed Cherokee warrior named Dragging Canoe launched attacks against pioneers who were migrating downstream by flatboat. My great-great-great-great grandfather was part of a flotilla attacked by Dragging Canoe. In the haste to lighten the boat in order to clear shallow shoals, one of my grandfather's party inadvertently threw overboard a box that cradled a one-day-old baby. During his raid, Dragging Canoe finally commandeered one of the flatboats. That boat's passengers consisted exclusively of smallpox victims who were in quarantine from their fellow travelers. Some time later when white pioneers sought their revenge on Dragging Canoe's settlement, smallpox had already claimed a significant portion of the renegade Cherokee band. An uncle of mine died in Nickajack Cave as a result of wounds received in the retaliatory raid.

Thirty years after my uncle's death, I share the vision of the modern lake as a shallow grave. It is a technological sleight-of-hand whose surface is disturbed not only by jet skis and bass boats, but also by imagination.

I know that beneath the noisy confusion, the old river broods. On it were borne DeSoto, hopeful settlers, the dispossessed Cherokee, day-old infants, black soil farmed by generations of families, and my grandfather's failed cotton crop. Down deep, the river still runs, as it did for my uncle, unfettered by the dams.

David Benson Bradford



The Old River, from the photo collection of Anna Katherine Musgrove Lynch and Virginia Musgrove, With permission of Caroline Lynch Minor

Looking Back at 1966

During some times in county history, the local newspaper has been the only source of news, local, regional, and national. But clearly by 1966, the premiere county newspaper, *The Sentinel Age*, defined itself as the vehicle for disseminating local news only. It was a year of new things in Jackson County—a new Revere plant, a new high school, the county's first K-9 officer, a new attention-grabbing VW police car, a new dam at Nickajack, women sitting on juries, Medicare, and Lutherans.

Sources of News in 1966

The *Sentinel Age* was “born” in 1962. It represented the merger of Jackson County’s longest running newspaper, *The Progressive Age* (1886-1962), with the newspaper that challenged its positions on local politics in the late 1920s, *The Jackson County Sentinel*. These two papers coexisted for more than 40 years, with the *Age* publishing Thursdays and the *Sentinel* publishing on Tuesdays, first under separate editors (Jim Benson for the *Age* and Parker Campbell for the *Sentinel*) until Benson bowed out in 1938 and Campbell assumed editorship of both newspapers. Campbell died in 1960, and these two papers merged in 1962 to become *The Sentinel Age*, which lasted until May 1970 when *The Sentinel Age* became *The Daily Sentinel*. (1)

In 1962, there were two long-standing AM radio stations, WCRI and WROS, but one of the significant events of 1966 was the birth of Jackson County’s first FM station, WCNA. Dr. Ralph Sheppard, who applied to the SEC for a license to operate an FM radio station was granted this license in August 1966, and the station was assigned the call letter WPJC, but Sheppard immediately applied for the call letters WCNA. The studios were located in the Thomas Building at Five Points, and the antenna was located on Melody Mountain and served a 60-mile radius. The station broadcast from 6am to 11pm. (*Sentinel Age*, August 18, 1966).

In 1965, Sheppard had also challenged Scottsboro’s one-newspaper status with his fledgling *Jackson County Advertiser*, which had begun publication as a tabloid in 1965. There are no bound volumes of this early newspaper, and it is difficult to track its history.

So, in 1966, where did Jackson County turn to for local news? *The Sentinel Age* newspaper, the new *Jackson County Advertiser*, AM stations WROS and WCRI, and the first FM station, WCNA. The editor and publishers that year was Fred J. Buchheit and his wife was the circulation manager, the news editor was Ray West, and Tom George was advertising manager.

The Relentless March of “Progress”

The year 1966 was one that defined any new structure as “progress.” This progress often took the form of loss of treasured old landmarks, decisions that, in retrospect, are regretted more than lauded. I originally pulled the 1966 bound volume off the shelf at the *Sentinel* looking for an article about tearing down the Bocanita. The 1966 paper gives many column inches to extolling the wonders of Lorches’ Jewelry Store, but does not even mention the destruction of the iconic Bocanita



APPROXIMATE THREE HALLS, A SIGN OF PROGRESS—These structures, each at least one hundred years old, mark the future of which the subject is concerned, with numerous buildings in close proximity of a similar lot. The area will be the site of an excellent project at the site which will now become a commercial building lot. (Photo by Fred W. Stone)

theater, torn down to accommodate the new jewelry store. The February 3 paper extols the loss of the line of homes that made up the block of Market Street between Willow and Mary Hunter as “a sign of progress.”

The “Ancient Trees Fall” picture was posted on the JCHA FaceBook page. Imagine that you are standing on the corner by Tokyo Japan looking toward the Maples house. You can see the Hall house, the Printing Mart, the Maples house, the water tank on Melody Mountain, and the old Maples rug mill operation. Discussion on Facebook brought these comments from John and Bill Tally.

The Tally family lived next in this block until 1950. Bill Tally points out that in 1966, these buildings were located on this block starting at the corner shown in the photo (Market and Willow). Bill explains, “The Proctor house was on the corner where the trees are being cut down. Then, going west, the Tally house, then the [Cumberland Presbyterian] church, then Hal Hurt’s house, then Word Lumber Company.” Jack’s Hamburgers was eventually built on this site.” But 1966 was the beginning of the end for this piece of town. John Tally, Bill’s older brother, remembers, “These trees were between the sidewalk and the street beside the lot owned by the Proctors when I was a child living next door in the late 1940s. I think this was Ward Proctor. I used to play cowboys under those trees. Our lot was next door to the Proctors, and I think our NE corner was at the SW corner of Dr. Hall’s lot.”

Sam Hall sent us a “before” picture of those trees, taken about 1939, with his grandmother Martha Hall holding his father, Parker, in front of the Hall house. In the picture, you can see the old Shelton/Parker Campbell house on the corner, and the post office and the Lipscomb Building on the other side of Market Street.



Month by Month

January: The first paper of the year showed Congressman Bob Jones with members of the Jackson County Board of Revenue and Conservation officers, accepting custody of the “recently cleared Paint Rock River channel, a project conducted with Federal funds.” The main reason for the work was flood control. Richard Matthews, whose father is in this photo, explained that the road used to flood frequently until the channel was cleared, but other Paint Rock Valley residents felt that the work was unnecessary and that over time, the channel has returned to its new natural state. The Juilliard Quartet played at Sewanee. The *Sentinel-Age* appointed a new social reporter, Joan Collins, on January 27, and she began writing a column for the front page titled “Round the Town.”



February: Bob Collins announced that he would run for sheriff for the first time, and Dick Beard announced that he would run for State Agriculture Commissioner. Army Captain Howard E. Phillips was killed in Vietnam. He was a helicopter pilot who played football at SHS, the 32-year-old son of H. E. Phillips who had served as county superintendent of education. Quick action by the fire department saved the Grady Evett home at 605 South Street. On February 10, the headline photos showed Mrs. Myron Gardner and Mrs. Wayne Hall as guest speakers at a meeting of the Future Homemakers Association,

teaching the group about ceramics. On February 17, a dramatic four-column photo showed the inferno that had been a new home for sale on Quincy Avenue. Byron Collins from LaGrange, GA, was appointed the new administrator of the Jackson County Hospital. The Business and Professional Women's Club presented a check to Dr. Rudder Knox to go toward scholarships at Northeast State Junior College. Young John D. Snodgrass of Huntsville announced that he would seek the Place 2 seat in the Alabama House of Representatives.



JOHN D. SNOGRASS
Snodgrass Seeks Ala. House Seat



C & H COMPANY OPENS TODAY—The new building, which was in the process of being completed, is shown in this photograph. The new building is a modern structure and is being completed at a cost of \$100,000. The new building is being completed at a cost of \$100,000. The new building is being completed at a cost of \$100,000.

On February 24, a short-lived business opened in a location that most of us associate with Fred's on Peachtree Street. The mercantile chain based in Talladega was called the C&H Company (currently the offices of the Lackey Law Firm). Having lost two TB hospitals to fire, the county announced that the hospital board had ceased pursuit of a new county TB center. In the previous hospitals, funding had been insufficient and patient cost of \$7 per day did not raise the \$100,000 needed to support such a facility.

March: Fire extensively damaged Sebring Truck and Tractor Company on Peachtree Street in Scottsboro, the March 3 paper reported. Bill Williams of Bridgeport announced his candidacy for the state House of Representatives on March 3. A new police car was purchased for Scottsboro, the infamous Volkswagen Beetle that that H. L. Wilkerson drove, famed for being part of the national VW advertising campaign. Former Governor John Patterson campaigned in Hollywood, and Congressman Bob Jones conferred with West German officials about natural resource issues.



NATIONAL FEATURE—SCOTTSDOROUGH'S Volkswagen police car and its crew chief, Officer E. L. Wilkerson, are being featured in an automobile ad scheduled to appear in some national automobile magazines. The car is principally used in traffic control work and patrolling parking meters. The police department has four regular size patrol cars. (Photo by E. A. V. Smith)

The March 10 paper showed massive steel pilings being unloaded for use in construction of the new Revere plant on Goose Pond Island. Betty Frink, who was running for State Treasurer, visited Scottsboro March 17, and trophies were award in the Jackson County Steer Show by Lions Club President Bob Word. The spelling bee champions of Carver High School were announced: Sheila Ragland, Willie Miller, Queen Jackson, Rita Diana Moore, Deborah Jackson, and Mary Dillard. Joan Morris of Scottsboro and Jimmy Lee



Spelling Bee Champions—The winners of the spelling bee contest held at Carver High School were: Sheila Ragland, Willie Miller, Queen Jackson, Rita Diana Moore, Deborah Jackson, and Mary Dillard.

Nichols of Dutton made the Dean's List at Jacksonville State. The old Holly Tree Fishing Camp came up for sale, handled by Pete Selby of Larkinsville. On March 24, city leaders gathered around a many-handled shovel, breaking ground for the new Revere Aluminum Plant. J. C. Jacobs represented the Scottsboro Industrial Development Board. The \$55 million industry was slated to employ 400. The front page noted that the county's VW police car had been featured in *U.S. News and World Report* and *The New Yorker* with the infamous "Don't Laugh" tagline. The Lutheran church was slated to open soon, and ads began running explaining what Lutherans believed and welcoming members. Faye's Beauty Salon at the Hotel Scottsboro offered permanent waves from \$7 to \$15. The county got its first K-9 officer named Sport, an 18-month-old German Shepherd trained by Deputy Sheriff Clifford Tidwell. The

picture shows these men and Sport standing in front of the old jail on Appletree Street.



April: John Patterson campaigned in Scottsboro, running against Lurleen Wallace. Morris Pepper and John T. Reed welcomed Rev. John Ellerman and Rev. William Wedig, ministers of the Lutheran Church of Scottsboro. The church met in the City Hall Auditorium. April 14, a number of voters were found to be voting in the wrong precinct, and county students visited



the new technical school in Hollywood. The April 21 paper announced on the front page that Northeast State Junior College would be officially dedicated on May 1. Dr. E. R. Knox, the college's first president, addressed the Pilot Club. The SHS Library Club elected its 1966-67 officers: Glenda Sebolt, Nancy Hammer, Virginia Green, and Nancy Lynch. On April 28, voters approved the tax extension that paved the way for the new high school, the current middle school where the football stadium is still located. Mayor John T. Reid, the Sultan of Progress, was named Scottsboro's Man of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. A horse show was held at the Veterans' Park Fairgrounds, and Al Karrh joined the staff at First National Bank as Vice President.

May: Governor George Wallace and State Superintendent of Education James B. Allen were in town for the dedication of Northeast State Junior College, speaking to an audience of approximately 1500 people. The primary election saw Sheriff Bob Collins defeating incumbent C. T. Dean. Lurleen Wallace won the governorship in a field that included John Patterson, "Big Jim" Folsom, Carl Elliot, Wallace Flowers, A. W. Todd, Charles Woods, Sherman Powell, and Eunice Gore. Carole Hodges was chosen as a dorm counselor at Auburn, and the Lions Club kicked off the annual broom sale. The May 12 paper announced that the Scottsboro City Council had purchased 150,000 square feet of land adjacent to the high school site from the TVA for future playgrounds. Burglars netted \$200 over the weekend, breaking into the Telephone Company and H&H Pharmacy, which was then located on West Laurel Street.

On May 19, the Newcomers Club met at City Hall and elected officers Mrs. W. H. Robinson Mrs. H. G. Jacobs, Mrs. Erwin Monti, Mrs John Ellerman, Mrs. Carl Collins, and Mrs. Herlin Hulsey. Mary Brewer received the Woman of Achievement award from the Alabama Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. The paper carried stories of three lives lost over the weekend: 16-year-old Ralph Hall of Pisgah drowned while swimming with companions at the Jackson County Park; and 76-year-old Charles Macklin Cross was killed in a hit-and-run accident when two cars met on a narrow stretch of Old Highway 72. Charles David Bradford, son of Mr. and Mrs Hal Bradford, was struck by a Southern Railroad train as he sat on the track two miles west of Stevenson. Brown and Bergman Furniture was burglarized, and Decoration Day at Old Sardis Cemetery was scheduled. Twelve local patrols won awards at Camp Jackson Boy Scout Jamboree. The May 26 paper promoted American Legion Poppy Day, and summer recreation programs were set up at the Rec Com. Clyde W. Butler Jr. received an award as the senior athlete with the highest scholastic standing. Clyde also received a scholarship to the University of Alabama, where he played football.

June: Official election results were tallied and printed. Local teacher Jan Boyd Roberts was granted a leave of absence from Scottsboro High School to pursue her Master's Degree at the University of

Alabama, and Mrs. Nell Hodges retired from teaching at Woodville School after 32 years of service. Ms. Roberts is remembered today for her dedication to collecting obituaries; the database at the Heritage

Center bears her name. The Chrysler Corporation pledged \$2500 to the Tennessee Valley Council of Boy Scouts, half of which went to improve camp facilities at Camp Jackson. Stevenson High School graduated 59 students. Gunterville Dam opened its new 600-foot navigation lock to visitors with access to fishing and picnicking facilities. New K-9 Officer Sport assisted in his first weekend arrest, pursuing youths who started a drunken brawl at the Highway 72 Cafe near Bridgeport. Thirty-three year old C. W. "Dub" Johnson of Hollywood totaled his 1959 Pontiac when he crashed into a bulldozer moving earth near the Roseberry Creek bridge.



In the June 9 paper, the Flying Petticoats, an airplane flying club for women from Huntsville, came to visit local pilots at First Monday and were feted by local women, Mrs. Fred Himburg, Mrs. James Robertson, and Mrs. Carl Collins. Madison Estes unexpectedly resigned as the chairman of the county Republican Party. A straw poll found residents overwhelmingly in favor of building a new courthouse addition for Jackson County. Mud Creek Fishing Camp opened for business in its new building. Wee Wisdom kindergarten held graduation. The June 16 paper announced that 935 students enrolled in summer school. A bulldozer announced the beginning of excavation for the new Scottsboro High School on Broad Street. Mrs. Paul Campbell and Mrs. Fred Beason at Caldwell Elementary demonstrated the newest education technology, a controlled reader machine for teaching remedial reading. On June 23, the new nursing home association with the hospital held its open house, a facility that accommodated 40 residents. A group of boys lined up for a picture before leaving for camp Ney-A-Ti.



The Medicare Act had passed in 1965, and the hospital administrator expressed concern that the Jackson County Hospital had not been approved under the new Medicare law and noted that such participation was voluntary. The youngest Confederate widow in the nation died; she was Grant, Alabama, resident Mollie Rogers Guffey. She had married John F. Guffey in 1919 when he was 79 and she was 23. The Neighborhood Youth Corp was at work improving school buildings in Flat Rock. The last paper of the month on June 30 carried a photo of the new Lions Club officers: Eugene Phillips, Brooks Brown, Bill Sumner, Gene Warr, Ronald Jones, Fred Casteel, John Ramage, Don Mundy, Wayne Copeland (whose title was listed as "tail twister"), Bob Word, Tom Wilkinson, and Ray Morrison.

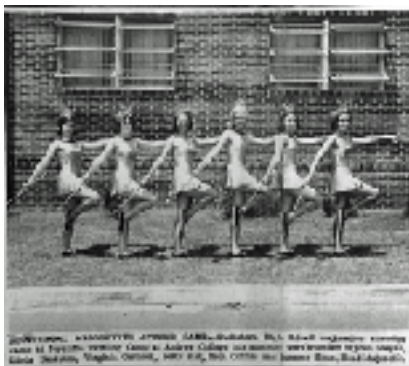
July: The July 7 paper carried more information about the 160 youths enrolled in the Neighborhood Youth Corp, and 310 students were enrolled in the new trade school. On July 14, the hospital received its Medicare certification. Federal funds were withheld from the Scottsboro City School System, Dr. T. T. Nelson announced, until the system signed a statement of compliance with desegregation plans. Roy Dean Lawson drowned in the Tennessee River when he and his two companions jumped out of their burning homemade boat. Disney presented a color film to the visitors' center at Russell Cave, and John O'Linger's grocery store burned, sustaining over \$10,000 in damages.

On July 21, Circuit Judge Jack Livingston announced his resignation effective September 1, three years after he began service on the bench. He had served out the unexpired term of Judge J. M. Snodgrass and was preparing to move from Cherokee County to Jackson County. Congressman Bob Jones, in his capacity as chairman of the Natural Resources and Power congressional subcommittee, voted for measures to encourage water pollution research. The front page of the July 28 paper carried a large picture of the Section Eastern Star officers. The Scottsboro City Council requested that a special federal census be conducted to prove that the city now exceeded 10,000 citizens. A \$9 million bond issue was passed to finance the new high school. Dove hunting season in the state opened September 24. Local youth 19-year-old Lionel Hancock died when the truckload of peaches he was driving over from Georgia overturned in a culvert four miles south of Fyffe.

August: The new officers of the Sportsman Club were on the front page of the August 4 paper, and their barbecue fundraiser sold over 270 plates. The August 11 paper continued to report on the activities of the Jackson County Youth Corp. The Ta-Co-Bet Indian Festival was planned for August 12-14 and would feature some of the most outstanding private exhibits in the southeast part of the country, including the collection belonging to Claude Thornhill of Pisgah. News of Scottsboro's coming FM radio station fronted the August 18 paper. The SHS Quarterback Auxiliary Club showed the seat cushions that they would be selling this year to make watching high school football more comfortable, with a photo of Coach Bill Hawkins receiving the first cushion from Ruth Nichols. The annual Lions Club bingo party on the courthouse square was scheduled for August 25-27. Last year's party had netted \$1,374.66. The August 25 paper showed the architect's drawing of proposed addition of wings to either side of the existing courthouse, designed by Billy Fred Word. Woods Cove held a singing, and Zion Rest cemetery was cleaned. Boy Scout Troop 264 held a pot luck supper at the Presbyterian church. Duck season was slated to be five days longer than last year, and a waterfowl hunt was approved for the Wheeler Refuge. Local druggist Charles Hodges replaced the late Dr. Rayford Hodges on the Advisory Board of State National Bank of Scottsboro.



LOCAL DRUGGIST—Charles Hodges, a local druggist, has been appointed to the Advisory Board of the State National Bank of Scottsboro. He replaces the late Dr. Rayford Hodges, Sr., a member of Jackson County, who is employed by Insular Cement, S.A., Augusta and Joe Lowman, an pharmacist, at Cooper Drug Store and H & F Pharmacy. He is a member of the Rotary Club, Vice Chairman of the Jackson County Hospital Board. The President of the Chamber of Commerce and owner-operator of a local flying school and fish service.



MAJORETTES—The SHS majorettes attending the Joycliffe Twirling Camp at Andrew College. From left to right: Hayden Hodges, Linda Bankston, Virginia Gardner, Betty Sisk, and Suzanne Sloan.

September: The September 1 paper showed the SHS majorettes attending the Joycliffe Twirling Camp at Andrew College: Hayden Hodges, Linda Bankston, Virginia Gardner, Betty Sisk, Beth Collins, and Suzanne Sloan, head. The Mary Lee Carter home in Roseberry was robbed of \$1000 worth of oriental rugs and clothing. Raymond Sharp, whose parents lived on Cumberland Mountain, died in a boating accident in Illinois. General Telephone announced a program of enhancements to their services. The Sand Mountain Boosters Club presented a proposal to the Jackson County Board of Revenue to participate in a tri-county purchase of 800 acres of the Buck's Pocket property. The project would fall under the Land and Water Conservation Act, and the county's \$15,000 part would be reimbursed \$12,000, the total purchase price for all three counties being \$45,000. Boll

weevils and boll worms were a particular problem during this dry fall growing season. The September 8 paper stated that the Labor Day First Monday was a "heaven for candidates," and gubernatorial candidate Jim Martin arrived at the Scottsboro airport to campaign. The football opener was against the team from Hixson, TN. Captain Thomas Turner, whose parents were from Pisgah, completed a tour as a submarine commander, and Morris Pepper spoke at an annual religious education conference in Germany. Jack Livingston, new Jackson County resident, joined the Dawson and McGinty law firm. The runoff election saw Jack Hancock defeat Paul Conley, and incumbent Paul Campbell defeated H. L. Pierce to hold onto

his city council seat. A number of local students received scholarships to the University of Alabama, and the Civitan Chuck Wagon Supper was scheduled for September 22. The Wilson and Pegues families held fall reunions.



The front page of the September 23 paper showed the destruction caused by a car that smashed into the front of Billie Berry's Cinderella Beauty Shop on the square, surprising customers and doing hundreds of dollars in damage. Lorches Jewelry opened in the former site of the Bocanita Theater, the current site of Berry and Dunn. Local merchants helped make up the \$3,000 shortfall in the money required to light the downtown area for Christmas. Dr. Marvin Lynch's car and the Sinclair Service Station were both broken into. The last paper of the month, September 29, carried a headline story that Maples had announced plans for a new tufted textile industry that would begin production in late December or early January. The request to designate the corner of Scott and Martin as a business zone was denied, and the county fair would start October 3.

October: The paper carried no national news; the only reminder of the world outside of the county came in the form of political cartoons, like this one talking about the impact of the Vietnam War on LBJ's popularity. The State Selective Service called up 1,176 Alabama men in the month of October, some as young as 19 and all destined for Army duty. The October 6 front page carried news about exhibits at the fair and Miss Carol Bryant of Fackler leaving to begin training as a Braniff hostess. Elmer Ellison of Sand Mountain would

be exhibiting his paintings at the Plum Nelly art festival. The Board of Revenue passed a \$260,000 budget. On October 13, the Scottsboro City Council passed a budget of \$467,375. First National Bank released an architectural drawing of their new building on Broad Street, and Scottsboro was featured in the *Municipal South* magazine. Jackson County Scouts attended a weekend camp under the leadership of Doug Hodges, Ben Vines, Ben Weaver, and James Turner. The Stevenson band attended the Chattanooga contest. Four people were caught distributing bogus money.



The October 10 paper announced the organization of a Bridgeport Industrial Development Board, and stated that the courthouse addition came to a standstill, pending funding. The SHS band received superior ratings at the Chattanooga festival, and John A. Wooten accepted a position as professor of accounting at Northeast College. Morgan Weeks joined his father Harold in his law firm. The Brown House on Brown Hill was ransacked, with all drawers pulled out and their contents scattered. It was not the first time the empty building had been the victim of vandals. The October 27 paper included details about the Brown vandalism, and ten boys and girls from Scottsboro were held and questioned. Sixteen-year-old Joel Dean Sneed died in a motorcycle accident in Gurley. Linda Chapman was chosen homecoming queen, from a group of three that included Nancy Lynch and Ann Forrester, who was also voted Miss FFA. The U. S. Department of Labor reported that one in every twenty American workers held down two jobs. The Sears store lost three color television sets when the store was set on fire in an act found to be arson.

The Souls local band furnished the music at the homecoming teen dance at the armory and included teens John Fred Armstrong, David Bradford, Van Gable, Bill Webb, and Russell Atchley. Bob Jones summarized the county's TVA accomplishments before Congress. The sale of large tracts of lakeside property was big news. A 66-acre lakeside farm that included a residence, barn, and office came up for sale in Columbus City. The farm was known for raising Tennessee Walking Horses. A 411-acre cattle ranch on Mink Creek included a residence, two barns, and two large hay storage buildings. This farm adjoined 60 acres of pasture and waterfront owned by TVA that was leased by the seller.



SOULS, 1950-1952—The Souls of Scottsboro was musical show last Saturday night in a well-attended up building band of Alabama. First place in 1950 with "The Soul" of Scottsboro, winners of "The Soul" and "The Soul" of 1951. The band is made up of John Fred Armstrong, Van Gable, Bill Webb, and Russell Atchley. The band was in action "The Soul" in a long list.

November: The November 3 paper noted that 30 union heavy equipment operators from Florence working on the Revere plant were on strike, bringing work on the plant to a virtual standstill. The headline story was an optimistic report from Bob Jones about joining the Tennessee River to the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway. The mayor recognized Word Lumber Company as Scottsboro's first industry at a dinner honoring Cecil Word for his civic achievements and participation in helping the city grow. The Garden Club sponsored a fall flower show, and representatives of the Peace Corps tested those interested in participating in the program at the Huntsville main post office. Mrs. Ann Hamilton, Mrs. Linda Whitaker, and Mrs. Ella Mae Smith entered the Mrs. Sand Mountain contest. The B&G Gas Company cosponsored an outstanding young farmer contest with the Scottsboro Jaycees. Five Girl Scouts were promoted to Cadet Rank at the First Baptist Church: Mitzi Collins, Ellen Clark, Jane Moody, Jeni Bacon, and Amy Collins.



SCOTTSBORO PAPER 1950—This is an aerial view of the World Lumber Company, founded by Robert John W. Word. It is the largest of Scottsboro's first industry. The company was made up of a group "learning" Word for his civic achievements and his participation in helping the city to grow.

Their leaders were Inez Butler and Peggy Holland. WCNA was now on the air covering North Alabama with fine music at 98.3 with Fred Blalock, General Manager; Doug Hodges, night manager; Mike Hollis, record librarian; Norton Arnold, assistant engineer; Charles Mills, engineer; Ann Hamilton, secretary-women's news; and Nathan Black, program director.



GIRL SCOUTS PROMOTED—These five Girl Scouts were promoted to Cadet Rank at the First Baptist Church. They are, from left, Mitzi Collins, Ellen Clark, Jane Moody, Jeni Bacon, and Amy Collins.

The November 10 paper reported that Jackson County had gone overwhelmingly (4 to 1) for Democrats, electing Bob Collins, David Cargile, Bob Jones, Denton Kennamer, and Bill Williams. Charles Hodges' Cessna 150 crashed at the northeast end of the Scottsboro airport, and pilot John Gainey was seriously injured. Rainsville began taking steps toward acquiring a radio station. David Seabolt and Benny Jack Arnold died when their car struck a large pile of dirt at the foot of the mountain on Highway 79 and the boys were thrown through the windshield. Nine junior and senior high students attended an all-day meeting at Florence College with librarians Mrs. Charles Heath and Mrs. Morris Pepper. Sybil Knox, a former teacher in Stevenson, now working at Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery, was selected state teacher of the year. On November 12 and 13, volunteers conducted a church census.

The November 17 paper showed a photo taken at the post office on the front page, with Webb Gentles, Mrs. Hugh Kemble, Tommy Bellomy, and Miss Katherine Thomas promoting the Christmas Seal Drive. Expansion of the courthouse was held up while the Civil Defense Department searched for money to

complete the basement. Bob Jones made the keynote speech at the Second Annual North Alabama Regional Planning and Development Conference in Decatur and urged greater regional planning efforts. Net

TVA expenditures for 1966 for programs other than electric power totaled \$21.2 million.



1966-67 BROWNIES...Brownies Group 319 held their January service program at the First Methodist Church. These participants were: MARGIE, KATHLEEN, SHARON, BESSIE, MARIE, LINDA, LORRI, LILLIAN and Mary Ellen Proctor, troop leader, from 319-3200 Oakwood, Tami Beard, Trish Atchard, Miss Kennamer and Phyllis Taylor, 3200-3205 Oakwood, Tami Brandon, Debbie Hancock, Becky Dean, Carol Bergman and Linda Mitchell, 3205-3210 Oakwood, Mrs. Arthur Beard and Mrs. Alfred Kennamer.

The November 24 paper showed photos of Honor C. Hall, who was selected as the Jaycees' outstanding young farmer and Carol Keller, who was named Miss Scottsboro High. Dewey Dowdy was bound over to the grand jury for the murder of his wife in Larkinsville. The new group of Brownies at the Methodist church were introduced in a ceremony for Troop 319, which included Shelia Gann, Susan Hancock, Lisa Hambrick, Mary Ellen Proctor, Mitzi Osborn, Tami Beard, Linda Mitchell, Julie Kennamer, Dianna English, Tami Brandon, Debbie Hancock, Becky Dean, Carol Bergman, and Linda Mitchell. Their leaders were Mrs. Arthur Beard and Mrs. Alfred Kennamer. Boy Scout Troop 258 in Skyline was treated to a parachuting exhibition by Pete Grange of Huntsville.



NEW CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS--MORE IS A YEAR OF THE NEW Christmas lights decorated this year in the Scottsboro Methodist Episcopal Church. THE DECORATIONS WILL BE IN PLACE BY JANUARY TWELVE.

December: In the December 1 paper, First National Bank opened a branch in Section, and John W. Gay was present for the open house. The Charles Cafeteria restaurant on the north side of the square was hit by burglars. Triplet boys Albert, Kelvin, and Raymond were born at the Jackson County Hospital, and people donated \$197 to help the Albert Raymond Knight family deal with this unexpected event. Lee Bishop was appointed police commissioner. The body of 33-year-old Eugene F. Mitchell was returned from Vietnam. A large delegation from Jackson County attended the National Farm Bureau Convention in Las Vegas.

The December 8 front page announced that for the first time, women's names had been added to the jury roles for the December 12 terms because of a recently passed state law. A list of women who had been added across the county was published. It is extraordinary that women in Alabama were just being granted a right that women had enjoyed in Wyoming had since 1870. The case of Strauder v. West Virginia in 1879 supported laws that barred women from jury participation, and in 1902, political cartoonists such as Charles Dana Gibson drew political cartoons ridiculing the idea of women serving on juries. After Alabama's 1966 law was enacted, only two states remained denying women jury service, South Carolina and Mississippi. (2)

The front page photo also showed Sherry Jones, Nancy Hammer, Edna Marsh, and Linda O'Tinger loading a box that the SHS FHA had collected and wrapped for 13-year-old Mary Tally at the state institute for the deaf. Boy Scout Troop 263 collected used clothing and received public thanks from the Moose Lodge. A state-wide contest would select two students from members Health Careers Council for a tour of medical facilities in New Orleans and tickets to the Sugar Bowl. The bloodmobile visited Scottsboro, getting ready for Christmas driving; Reverend Tom Stevenson, the Methodist minister, is shown here donating blood. New Christmas decorations went up. In the December 15 paper, the Jackson County Saddle Club made plans to ride in the Christmas parade. The Jaycees collected more than 20,000 cigarettes to send to the



1966-67...The front page photo also showed Sherry Jones, Nancy Hammer, Edna Marsh, and Linda O'Tinger loading a box that the SHS FHA had collected and wrapped for 13-year-old Mary Tally at the state institute for the deaf. Boy Scout Troop 263 collected used clothing and received public thanks from the Moose Lodge. A state-wide contest would select two students from members Health Careers Council for a tour of medical facilities in New Orleans and tickets to the Sugar Bowl. The bloodmobile visited Scottsboro, getting ready for Christmas driving; Reverend Tom Stevenson, the Methodist minister, is shown here donating blood. New Christmas decorations went up. In the December 15 paper, the Jackson County Saddle Club made plans to ride in the Christmas parade. The Jaycees collected more than 20,000 cigarettes to send to the

Marines serving in Vietnam. In a year-end statement, Bob Jones reported that he was “generally optimistic” about the county’s future in 1967. The *Sentinel-Age* had color wall maps for sale and suggested they were great gifts for students; all proceeds above cost went to “the mentally retarded.” More Brownies were invested: Carol McCutchen, Caroline Lynch, Jennifer Collins, Gill Sheppard, Donna Wilson, Denise Gross, Vickie Vaught, Donna Mayfield, Sara Grider, Sherri Carter, Jennifer Young, Marilyn McAllister, Malinda Word, Bobbie Benson, and Sally Reynolds.

The December 22 paper announced that Northeast Junior College was accepting students for its first enrollment, and the orientation meeting would be held January 3. Barbara Rose Kennamer won a \$50 savings bond in the Voice of Democracy essay contest. Linda Ann Hicks came in second, and Susan Wilkinson came in third. For the first time in Jackson County, the Lutherans planned a service of candles and carols. Veterans of WWII were running out of time to apply for guaranteed loans; the deadline was July 25, 1967. The December 29 paper showed the damage done to Custom Upholstery and Repair Shop at Five Points by a fire resulting from an electrical short. Paul Campbell was honored for his 32 continuous years of service to the Civitans. Nickajack Dam construction was underway and was slated to start up operation in January.



Annette Norris Bradford

Footnotes

- (1) *The History of Jackson County*, (Heritage Publishing Consultants: Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc.), p. 392.
- (2) “Women in United States Juries,” *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_United_States_juries.

North Jackson Progress Stops Publishing

From *The North Jackson Progress*, November 1, 2018

The End of an Era

The *North Jackson Progress* will be publishing its last edition on November 1, 2018. What a remarkable journey it has been! Forty-three years of publication, first weekly and then twice weekly, have been the legacy for this newspaper. This ending is coming sooner and is being conducted with heavy hearts. What a joy it has been for the Glass family to provide this service to the communities of North Jackson.

For Larry Glass, it has been his life's work. Starting work as a journalist for the *Community News* in Stevenson, Larry and his wife Faye, a local-raised girl from the Wannville community, worked long hours covering events and reporting them in the small newspaper. When asked to include advertising contrary to Larry's moral code, the decision was made to branch out on faith in an entrepreneurial venture by starting their own newspaper and become their own boss.

Larry and Faye started the *North Jackson Progress* while growing their young family. At the time of its inception, Lee and Mark were elementary age and Kristal and Shila were toddler/infant age. Within the next two years, Wendin and Iesa were added to the crew.

The newspaper was a family venture. Larry always joked he had so many kids to have plenty of workers. Wednesday nights were reserved for "the paper" and included inserting advertisements and preparing the paper for mailing. Paper routes required late night and early morning dedication. Once the circulation was increased to twice a week, Friday nights or Saturday mornings were also committed to the paper.

During its tenure, all six children covered events, took pictures, wrote articles, ran newspaper routes, addressed papers, built pages, and overall performed any necessary job to get the the paper out on time. This started as soon as the kids could walk and was introduced to the grandchildren as they came along. Visiting friends and cousins were expected to join in the work because Larry and Faye believed "many hands made light work."

For years, Larry and Faye slept with a radar scanner on in the bedroom so they could be aware of any event needing coverage for the newspaper. Often the blare of the scanner would rouse them from sleep to dress, grab a camera, and find a car wreck or house fire or other emergency. Before the accessibility of cameras as prominently as today, state troopers or local police would ask for pictures taken for the paper to be provided for their use. Familiarity between Larry and Faye and the police departments resulted in lasting relationships.



Larry and Faye Glass. Photo from *The North Jackson Progress*.

Jackson County lost a valued news source and some good friends when the North Jackson Progress stopped publication on November 1. We appreciate all their years of dedication to local north Jackson news. They will be missed.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Celebrates 140 Years in Scottsboro

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located on Scott Street in Scottsboro, AL, traces its Jackson County roots back to meetings in private homes during the 1840's and 1850's. Priests from Huntsville's Church of the Nativity traveled to Scottsboro by horseback to conduct services twice a month on Sunday afternoons in homes, store fronts, and in a "union church building" used by several denominations, located at the southwest corner of Laurel and Caldwell Streets in Scottsboro. Services were discontinued during the Civil War years, but resumed after the War's conclusion.

When enough funds were raised, the first church building was built in 1878, on north Broad Street near the railroad track. The church, a Gothic-style frame structure, had heart pine roof trusses which were hand-carved from logs hewn on Col. John

Snodgrass' farm near Hollywood, Alabama. Among the early

Episcopal families in Scottsboro were the Snodgrass, Brown, Boyd, Kyle, Telford, and Payne families, who figured prominently in the early history of Scottsboro and in the origin of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

The first service in the original St. Luke's church was held on September 2, 1878, conducted by Dr. John Bannister, Rector of the Church of the Nativity, Huntsville. St. Luke's was formally admitted into the Diocese of Alabama in that year.

In 1879, Episcopal Bishop Richard Wilmer reported to the Diocesan Convention, "...Preached in the new church building in Scottsboro. It surprised and gratified me to find so much accomplished, and by so few people."

That first wooden structure served the small congregation for well over a century. Clergy from Huntsville's Church of the Nativity, in particular, traveled regularly to Scottsboro to conduct Sunday afternoon services. During the years of World War I and II, theological students from the Episcopal seminary in Sewanee, TN, also ministered to the parish. Local lay leadership carried out the primary responsibilities of keeping the church doors open and providing continuity in the services. St. Luke's has always had strong lay leadership, one of the most important and vital assets of the parish today.

After World War II was ended, the little parish decided to build a new church – the present brick structure at the corner of Scott Street and College Avenue. In May, 1949, the first church building was deconsecrated and the property sold. Old records note that the building brought \$300 and the property was sold to H.G. Jacobs for \$5,000. That same summer, on June 29, 1949, the cornerstone for the current structure was laid by Episcopal Bishop Charles Carpenter at 402 S. Scott Street, on a lot costing \$2,000.

The building committee (Pontiff Skelton, chairman; Frank Boyd, Mrs. Charles (Winifred) Heath, Bill Payne and J. S. Bean) designed the church around the hand-carved heart pine roof trusses from the



Saint Luke's Church on North Broad Street in the 1878

original church. The altar, baptismal font, and chancel rail were taken from the original building and used in the present church. The church bell that calls parishioners to worship also dates back to the original church building.

During the construction process in 1948-49, special attention was given to the design and execution of a beautiful stained glass window to be located behind the altar. Mr. Skelton went to New York and met with the Rambusch Company designers who created the window. The Rambusch designers took a special interest in this little church way down south in Alabama! The Bible in their design is open to the book of St. Luke, symbols of St. Luke were included, and a picture of the original frame church building was incorporated into the window design.

The first worship services were conducted in the present church building on the first Sunday in November, 1949, and five months later, on Easter Day, April 9, 1950, the church was officially consecrated.

The Activity Building and parish hall, adjoining the church and designed to blend with its architecture, was completed in 1992. St. Luke's priest at that time, the Rev. Timothy Murphy, wrote, "It is really rather remarkable that fewer than ten families built our present church building in 1949. And fewer than that built the first one in 1878... What does come across as we scan old newspaper clippings and peruse parish archives, is the strong sense of dedication and determination evident in the backbone of our faithful-few Anglican ancestors."

St. Luke's through the years has been deeply involved in community service in the Scottsboro area. The church has supported projects involving child abuse prevention, Christmas Charities, mothers of newborns (Moses Basket), Meals on Wheels, tornado relief, assistance to foster children through DHR, service to the ARC, and many individual donations and participation in various charitable organizations. At present the church offers a free Food Pantry on the first Saturday morning of each month. We also engage in wider service opportunities through the Episcopal Church's Relief and Development Fund.

St. Luke's looks backward with appreciation at our long history in Scottsboro and Jackson County, and we look forward to continued worship and service in and for this community.

Barbara Jacobs Heath



Altar and Window of the Current Church

The Battle of the Bulge and Two Jackson Countians

Who Fought There

Seventy-four years ago, on December 16, 1944, several Jackson Countians, among them Sergeant Albert Haggard of the 82nd Airborne and Lieutenant Charles Bradford of the 106th, idled along the Belgian front, assured by Allied command that the Germans, who were encamped just over a mile away, would not launch a winter offensive.

On that date, Germany initiated “The Battle of the Bulge,” the largest and bloodiest single battle fought by the United States in World War II and the second deadliest battle in American history.

The attack caught Allied forces completely off guard. The Allied command had been so certain that no action was forthcoming that “the bulge,” a 27-mile incursion extending from the Ardennes Forest into German territory, was manned with an average of only one soldier every 40 feet. The American forces that faced the full force of the attack experienced the highest casualties of any operation during the war.

Military analysts attribute the Germans’ early progress to a combination of Allied overconfidence, Allied focus on long-range strategy rather than immediate logistics, and poor aerial reconnaissance. When the German attack finally came, it exploited the advantage of Allied complacency and heavily overcast weather conditions that grounded the Allies’ superior air forces.

It is said to have been the coldest winter in a century. Sergeant Albert Cleveland Haggard of Bridgeport recounted the first time he finally warmed up with temperatures hovering around 10 degrees and dropping as low as 30 below: “The ground was frozen a foot deep, and was so hard that our entrenching tools bounced off the frigid crust as we vainly attempted to dig in. It was cold, and we huddled in our blankets beneath our ponchos in the bottoms of our slit trenches and tried to sleep. When I woke the next morning, I was surprisingly warm. Sticking my head out from under my poncho, I discovered that I’d been insulated by eight inches of snow.”

All around him, Sergeant Haggard saw a smooth, unbroken blanket of snow that had fallen during the night, obscuring his sleeping fellow soldiers. The placid landscape and silence gave no clue that this was the eve of a battle that, after days of intense conflict, would disrupt Hitler’s final attempt to break the Allied line that intruded into German territory.

“I can’t recall ever having been so miserably cold in my life,” Haggard recalled. “My spine hurt, and I developed severe headaches from my frozen sinus passages that would plague me for the rest of my life. My teeth rattled uncontrollably as I sat on the snow-covered ice and I thought they would shatter from the constant impact. How I longed for the the cabin [in Bridgeport] where the snow blew in through the tin roof. The elements were the worst enemies we fought at the Bulge.”



Sergeant Albert Haggard of Bridgeport in Paris, following action in Anzio and The Bulge. His uniform has been stripped of insignia that would identify him as a member of the elite 82nd Airborne Division.

“Just moving from one place in the Belgian forest to another was a major task. We struggled along in snow almost waist deep, then suddenly stepped into a drift and found ourselves in snow up to our chest. Men trapped in the deep snowdrifts had to be relieved of their heavy packs and weapons before they could be pulled out.”

Haggard acknowledged the dangers of being a pioneer paratrooper in the 82nd, America’s first Airborne division. “Jumping from an airplane was not a perfected art, and there was the very real possibility that we could break a leg, arm, back or neck. Anyone who broke a leg would be kicked out of the airborne, because it was assumed that in future jumps, they would favor the injured leg and would break the other one.”

Haggard himself had been knocked unconscious in a training jump, but he avoided extensive scrutiny by the medical corps for fear of washing out. He continued to train through a “stiff neck.” Back in the States after the war, medical examinations discovered that he’d fractured a vertebra in his neck.

Charles Bradford described the outset of the battle by noting “our infantry occupied the forward slope of a ridge, something like Backbone Ridge, and the Germans occupied a similar ridge about a mile away. During [the first four days of encampment], the division settled in, sending out and receiving the normal numbers of patrols.... Through prisoners we captured, we learned that we were being opposed by units made up of the German national guard. We also noticed that there was an unusual amount of motor activity not normally associated with this kind of unit.”

“The next morning I was with one of the frontline infantry companies preparing to send out a patrol,” Bradford recalled. “The patrol left before daylight so they could cross the open area more easily. They had been gone about an hour when they were attacked by what appeared to be a company in strength. We took about 70 prisoners. Along with the prisoners, we captured orders signed by Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt [the commander of Axis operations in the Ardennes] exhorting the units to do their best, because this was the battle that would win the war for Germany.”

Bradford frantically tried to alert his superiors to his discovery that this was not a minor skirmish, but the beginning of a major operation. He was dismissed as being too inexperienced to correctly interpret the action and intent of the enemy.

On the first day of the battle, December 16, Bradford and his unit were cut off by the massive German assault and thereafter fought in what amounted to a guerrilla operation, maneuvering without food, adequate ammunition, reinforcements, or guidance from Allied command.

Four days later, Bradford surrendered his unit and his prisoners to the Germans. He pulled the pin on a grenade and closed the lid of his footlocker over it, effectively creating a booby trap for the unlucky soul who might try to salvage it. He hid his watch, Auburn ring, and Belgian currency in his underwear and began a harrowing several months during which he would be a POW behind enemy lines. He would waste away to 105 pounds before being liberated by Patton’s 3rd Army. He retained the Auburn ring, the watch and the Belgian currency throughout his captivity.

Sergeant Haggard admitted decades after the war’s end: “When the war was over, I didn’t want to discuss the horrors I had been through with anyone....I wanted to forget all about it, erase it from my memory and get on with my life, but various friends and relatives kept asking me about the war, and those memories haunted me for the rest of my life. As I told them what I had witnessed and experienced, I found my voice cracking, and felt a cold feeling in the pit of my stomach. I began chilling and shaking, and became physically ill and developed an ulcer. And the worst part was that no one believed my tall tales of adventure. They thought that I was making it up.”

Haggard poignantly remembers an incident where one of his fellow soldiers, a man who had distinguished himself in earlier action in Anzio and then in France, cowered in the safe refuge of the cellar of a farmhouse in Belgium, refusing to answer the call to another battle. Haggard cursed him for a coward at

the time, but later mused, “Every man has his breaking point. He reached his in the middle of a battle in a pine forest in a foreign land. Mine came years later, in a different battle. My battlefield was in familiar surroundings in a quiet cove where exploding shells and screams of wounded and dying men could not be heard by laughing children and skeptical relatives.”

The Germans' initial attack involved 410,000 men. Those troops were reinforced in a matter of two weeks, bringing the offensive's total strength to around 450,000 troops. Between 63,222 and 98,000 Germans were killed, missing, wounded in action, or captured in the Battle of the Bulge. The Americans sustained 89,000 casualties out of a peak of 610,000 troops, with some 19,000 killed..

The Battle of the Bulge was Germany's last attempt to mitigate the Allied victories in Europe. The German offensive had been intended to stop Allied use of the Belgian port of Antwerp and to split the Allied lines, allowing the Germans to encircle and destroy four Allied armies and force the Western Allies to negotiate a peace treaty in the Axis powers' favor. Once that was accomplished, the German dictator Adolf Hitler believed he could fully concentrate on the Soviets on the Eastern Front.

But the Allies, against all odds, effectively isolated German troops in the bulge, ushering in what is generally considered to be the death knell of the German dominance in Europe.

David Benson Bradford

Albert Haggard's remarkable wartime experiences are recounted by his son, Allen W. Haggard, in his book *Stray Bullets Have No Eyes*.

Charles Bradford's reminiscences are drawn from Dr. Ron Dykes' book *Fighting the Just War: Military Experiences of Jackson County, Alabama, Residents in World War II*.

2018 JCHA Membership Roster

Carol Abernathy; Athens AL
 Barbara Akin; Scottsboro AL
 Alabama Historical Association; Auburn AL
 Tom Allen; Vestavia Hills AL
 Randy Allen; Tullahoma TN
 Debra Allen; Vestavia Hills AL
 Allen Co. Library; Fort Wayne IN
 Cathy Anand; Hixson TN
 Bill Anderson; Scottsboro AL
 Jim Anderson; Spotsylvania VA
 James Anderson; Scottsboro AL
 Mike Anderson; Huntsville AL
 Jean Arndt; Huntsville AL
 Judy Hubbard Arnold; Scottsboro AL
 Ken Atkins; Meridianville AL
 Carol Ballard; Flat Rock AL
 Martha Barton; Florence AL
 Candy Gullatt; Bathon Elkton MD
 Joanne Beard; Pisgah AL
 Greg Bell; Scottsboro AL
 Mrs. Fred Benson; Scottsboro AL
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 Linda Blackwell; Birmingham AL
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 Cynthia Boddie; Bridgeport AL
 Jim Bowman; Pisgah AL
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 Tammy Bradford; Scottsboro AL
 Annette and David Bradford; Scottsboro AL
 Dr. William S. Bradford; Philadelphia PA
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 Brian Bynum; Scottsboro AL
 Faye Bynum; Scottsboro AL
 Amy Collins Cameron; Scottsboro AL
 Catherine Cameron; Guntersville AL
 David and Carole Campbell; Langston AL
 Deb Campbell; Birmingham AL
 Phil Campbell; Pisgah AL
 Betty Canestrari; Johnson City TN
 Mary K. Carlton; Scottsboro AL
 David Carroll; Chattanooga TN
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 Dr. Jane Thomas Cash; Scottsboro AL
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 Lynn Cisco; Scottsboro AL
 Nat Cisco; Scottsboro AL
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 Mary Ann Cofer; McDonough GA
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 Imogene Johnson Collier; Fayetteville TN
 Elisabeth Collins; Scottsboro AL
 Dell Cook; Scottsboro AL
 Salina Maxine Cook; Chattanooga TN
 Allen B. Cothron; Huntsville AL
 Winfred Cotten; Scottsboro AL
 Mary Presley Cox; Scottsboro AL
 Stephen Crawford; Brownsboro AL
 Dale Crawford; Dutton AL
 David Crawford; Scottsboro AL
 Tony R Curtis; Little Rock AR
 Andrew Dafforn; Scottsboro AL
 Celestine Darnell; Ft. Payne AL
 Cheryl Davis; Norman OK
 Ashton C. Day; Scottsboro AL
 Robert Dean; Scottsboro AL
 State Dept of Archives; Montgomery AL
 Robert DeWitt; Cape Coral FL
 Martha Dobbins; luka MS
 Rickey and Diane Dooley; Scottsboro AL
 Lavonda Dove; Scottsboro AL
 Roger Dukes; Section AL
 O. H. Durham; Langston AL
 Dr. Ron Dykes; Scottsboro AL
 Parker Edmiston; Scottsboro AL
 Ray Edwards; Scottsboro AL
 Mike Elkins; Gurley AL
 Draughon Library; Auburn University AL
 John and Betty Esslinger; Scottsboro AL
 Daryl Eustace; Scottsboro AL
 William B. Evans; Woodville AL
 Dr. Julia Everet;t Scottsboro AL
 Carla N. Feeny; Cordova TN
 Susan & Steve Fisher; Scottsboro AL
 Gordon Foster; Pisgah AL
 Loretta Fowler; Los Alamitos CA
 Donna Fredrick; Scottsboro AL
 Bill and Pat Freeman; Scottsboro AL
 Thomas Gamble; Oklahoma City OK
 Jeri Gibson; Scottsboro AL
 Mrs. Jimmy Gilliam; Scottsboro AL
 Kelly and Delores Goodowens; Scottsboro AL
 Kelly Gorham; Scottsboro AL
 Ada Gossett; Scottsboro AL
 Douglas Graden; Dutton AL

Hon. John H. Graham; Stevenson AL
 Redmon Graham; Stevenson AL
 Rachael Graham; Auburn AL
 Arlene E. Grede; Scottsboro AL
 Arleca Green; New Market AL
 Gene and Donna Greer; Scottsboro AL
 Marcus W. Griffith; Scottsboro AL
 Chris Gunter; Bridgeport AL
 Allen W. Haggard; Chattanooga TN
 Mrs. John Haislip; Scottsboro AL
 Dr. John D. and Carol Hall; Huntsville AL
 John L. Hamilton; Maryville TN
 Gary Hammons; Scottsboro AL
 Peggy Hampton; Flat Rock AL
 Fred Hancock; Scottsboro AL
 Molly Hancock; Scottsboro AL
 W. W. Haralson; Scottsboro AL
 Glen Hastings; Scottsboro AL
 Virginia Hayes; Minco OK
 Dr. Barbara and Charles Heath; Scottsboro AL
 Mary Ben Heflin; Memphis TN
 John B. Hembree; Lexington KY
 Reid Henshaw; Scottsboro AL
 Craig Henshaw; Scottsboro AL
 Mrs. Margaret C.; Henshaw; Scottsboro AL
 Robert V. Henshaw ;Owens Cross Roads AL
 Gene Hess and Pam Ashley; Hess Dutton AL
 Joyce H. Hester; Reform AL
 Dr. Gloria M. Hewlett; Dallas TX
 Howard Hill; Scottsboro AL
 Bob Hodges; Hampton Cove AL
 Mrs. Lynda Hodges; Scottsboro AL
 Lee Ann Hodges; Huntsville AL
 Don Hodges; Irondale AL
 Jason and Kathie Hodges; Grant AL
 Doug and Nancy Hodges; Scottsboro AL
 Dr. Andrew and Sarah Hodges; Scottsboro AL
 Scott and Paige Hodges; Scottsboro AL
 Dr. Sam Holland; Scottsboro AL
 Donna Holloway; Laredo TX
 Brad Howland; Scottsboro AL
 James Huber; Section AL
 Dave Hurst; Athens AL
 Les Hutson; Scottsboro AL
 Brenda Ivey; Scottsboro AL
 Kimberly Martin Johnson; Scottsboro AL
 Teresa Glass Johnson; Scottsboro AL
 Marymac Johnson; Jacksonville FL
 Margaret Johnson; Scottsboro AL
 Carter Jones; Scottsboro AL
 Dr. Ronald E Jones; Scottsboro AL
 Eileen Karp; Tampa FL
 John and Becky Kellenberger; Scottsboro AL
 Mrs. Martha H. Kendrick; Grant AL
 Ernie Kenamer; Hoover AL
 Stephen M. Kenamer; Scottsboro AL
 Joyce Kenamer; Scottsboro AL
 Anita Kern; Scottsboro AL
 Aaron Kilgore; Scottsboro AL
 Charles B. Killough III; Scottsboro AL
 Jerry and Wendy Neff; King Woodville AL
 Mr./Mrs. B. J. Kirby; Scottsboro AL
 Betty Knight; Fackler AL
 Donald Langston; Winchester TN
 Rayford Latham; Scottsboro AL
 Doris Lee; Scottsboro AL
 Co. Legislative Delegation; Scottsboro AL
 Lallie Dawson Leighton; Scottsboro AL
 Sharon LeQuire; Scottsboro AL
 Jack Livingston; Scottsboro AL
 Steve Livingston; Scottsboro AL
 Helen C. Lopez; Grant AL
 Tim Lynch; Scottsboro AL
 John Lynch; Scottsboro AL
 Paul D. Machen; Hollywood AL
 Ralph & Merle J. Porter Mackey; Scottsboro AL
 Pat and Wade Maples; Scottsboro AL
 Sue Marshall; Moses Lake WA
 James D. Matthews; Huntsville AL
 Richard Matthews; Scottsboro AL
 Hilda McCoy; Stevenson AL
 Brenda McCrary; Stevenson AL
 T. C. McFerrin; Plano TX
 Sue McLaughlin; Madison AL
 Larkin McMillan; Fort Worth TX
 Britt Meeks; Langston AL
 Caroline Lynch Minor; Montgomery AL
 Hooshang & Louise Moghani; Scottsboro AL
 Ann Moody; Scottsboro AL
 Joe and Gail Moore; Scottsboro AL
 Garry Morgan; Scottsboro AL
 Robert T. Morris; Emporia VA
 Marland & Elizabeth Mountain; Henagar AL
 NACC Library; Rainsville AL
 John Neely; Bessemer AL
 Regina Nicholson; Marietta GA
 Margaret Ogram Hayden; Lake ID
 Jim Olyniec; Scottsboro AL
 Charlene M. Pace; Scottsboro AL
 Robert Lee Page; Scottsboro AL
 Lewis W. Page Jr.; Birmingham AL
 Janet B. Parks; Bowling Green OH
 Katrina Potter; Patty Tupelo MS
 Gerald R. Paulk; Scottsboro AL
 John Pepper; Scottsboro AL
 Steve and Jennifer Petty; Scottsboro AL
 Traci Phillips; Scottsboro AL
 Regina G. Pipes; Hazel Green AL
 Virginia Lipscomb Pitt; Scottsboro AL
 John Porch; Scottsboro AL
 Patricia G. Porter; Scottsboro AL
 Douglas Potter; Scottsboro AL
 Frances G. Powers; Manchester TN
 Beth Collins Presley; Scottsboro AL
 Lynn Presley; Huntsville AL
 Pat Presley; Scottsboro AL
 Ronald A. Prince; Longview TX
 Woodville Public Library; Woodville AL

Claire E. Quinlivan; Scottsboro AL
 Michael and Sandra Rash; Hollywood AL
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 Dorothy Smith; Scottsboro AL
 John David Snodgrass; Scottsboro AL
 Jane Stedman; Scottsboro AL
 Sarah Stedman; Antioch TN
 Paul and Connie Stevenson; Scottsboro AL
 Stevenson Depot Museum; Stevenson AL
 Stevenson Library; Stevenson AL
 Jennine H. Stewart; Madison GA
 Patrick Stewart; Scottsboro AL
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 Mr. John Tally; Birmingham AL
 Carolyn B. Tamblyn; Auburn AL
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 Don Word; Scottsboro AL
 Elizabeth and Bob Word; Scottsboro AL
 Jake Word; Scottsboro AL
 Mildred Ann Word; Scottsboro AL
 Frances Worley; Scottsboro AL
 Phyllis Wujs; Hazen AR

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The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 31, Number 2

In this issue:

- **News** about the next meeting and your new officers.
- **Scottsboro's Municipal Airport, Word Field Stuff:** Jake Word recounts the early history of Scottsboro airstrips and his creation of the facility that is today known as Word Field.
- **Pink Emiline Edwards Cothron:** Grandsons Joe and Allen Cothron share the story of their hardworking, entrepreneurial grandmother and her role in founding the North Houston Street Church of Christ.
- **Living through 1921 in Jackson County:** One year after prohibition, Jackson County was awash with illegal liquor and union fervor. Lawmen were shot and union busters beaten. A lawless time in Jackson County history.
- **A Thumbnail Sketch of County History Through 1966:** Tired of asking "when did X happen?" David Bradford put together this dates cheat sheet.

About this Publication:

The Jackson County Chronicles is published four times a year and mailed to members of the Jackson County Historical Association.

Editor: Annette Norris Bradford

Associate Editor: David Bradford

Editor Emeritus: Ann B. Chambless

JCHA Officers

President: Lennie Cisco

Vice-President: Blake Wilhelm

Secretary: Tammy Bradford

Treasurer: Elizabeth "Bunny" Mountain

Our **April 28 meeting** will be in **Stevenson at 2:00 at the Michael Scott Learning Center**. This meeting will take us to two locations and treat us to an expanse of history stretching forward from 1829 when Judge and Mrs. James Russell began to build the house we now know as "The Cedars," to one woman's artistry at the turn of the 20th Century and the recent professional restoration of one of her best-loved paintings, to the legendary horseman Sanders Russell and his 1962 win at harness racing's most prestigious competition, the Hambletonian.

An interesting afternoon is planned beginning in downtown Stevenson at the Michael Scott Learning Center where a multi-media presentation by UAB Art Professor Gary Chapman will take us through his painstaking restoration of a *circa* 1890s oil painting by Miss Annie Russell. In addition to Professor Chapman's talk about Annie Russell's art, Emily Russell Campbell, a sixth generation descendant of Judge Russell and current occupant of The Cedars, will share a history of the house, the farm and the legendary Russell Stables. Emily's recent renovations exposed part of the original log cabin at the core of the house, as well as other additions and architectural changes made through the decades.

Following the presentation at the Michael Scott Learning Center, we will move the meeting to The Cedars on the Russell Farm for a tour.



Professor Gary Chapman with the circa 1890 painting by Annie Russell that he restored

The Cedars is a charming home which embraces nearly two centuries of Alabama history, and Russell Stables was known nationally during its heyday for the champion trotters and pacers it contributed to the harness racing world. This is a rare opportunity for our Association to see a real jewel of Jackson County and Alabama history up close. This is definitely not a meeting to be missed!



The Cedars in 2017

The Michael Scott Learning Center is celebrating its twentieth year in downtown Stevenson, providing after-school tutoring, GED classes, pre-K classes, community events, enrichment programs for all ages and a myriad of other activities. The Center is located in two former store buildings on Main Street, and is a memorial to the five Stevensonians who perished in the crash of TWA Flight 800 in 1996.

After the presentation here, we will adjourn to The Cedars on the Russell Farm, just a ten minute drive northwest of Stevenson. Directions will be provided at the meeting.

John Graham

Meet Your New Officers: The new officers for the JCHA were announced at the January meeting. Here is a short biography of each of the good people who will be administering the activities of the JCHA for the next few years.



President Lennie Cisco



Vice-President Blake Wilhelm



Secretary Tammy Bradford



Treasurer Elizabeth "Bunny" Mountain

Our new **President Lennie Cisco** is an alumna of the DAR school at Grant, where her love of history was born. She has been a social worker many years and is now working part time at Heartlite Hospice. She is married to Buford Cisco and is the mother of two sons, Jeremy and Nathaniel, and three grandsons. She is a member of Center Point Baptist Church where she sings in the choir. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, and researching genealogy of family.

Vice-President Blake Wilhelm works as Archivist and Adjunct Instructor of History at Northeast Alabama Community College. He holds a B.A. in History from the University of Alabama and an M.A. in History from Jacksonville State University. He currently serves as the community college representative for the Alabama Association of Historians and as a member of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center board of directors.

Secretary Tammy Bradford was born in Scottsboro, AL, the daughter of Glenn (Pinky) and Mary Jo Arnold Bradford. She lived in Huntsville through the 11th grade and graduated from Scottsboro High School in 1976. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Auburn University in Political Science and History, and an Associate of Science degree in Paralegal Studies from Samford University. She works as a Trust Assistant in the Private Wealth Management department at Regions Bank in Huntsville. A member of the Scottsboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church, she enjoys travel, reading, watching British murder mysteries, and, of course, history.

Originally from South Pittsburg, Tennessee, **Treasurer Bunny Mountain** graduated from South Pittsburg High School, from Middle Tennessee State University (English major, history minor), from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with an MEd in English education, and from the University of Alabama with an EdS and additional courses in school administration. She taught English at Bridgeport High School and was an adjunct teacher of English at Northeast State Community College. She was the first principal at Bridgeport Middle School. She is married to Marland Mountain, who was counselor at North Sand Mountain High School most of his career but ended his career as principal of Bryant Junior High. They have no children but currently have a dog and a cat. The Mountains love to travel, especially river boat cruises in Europe. Bunny spends much of her time volunteering for various organizations. Her love of genealogy and history led her to the JCHA.

New authors this issue: Welcome to Joe and Allen Cothron who wrote about their grandmother Pink Edwards Cothron for this issue of the *Chronicles*.

Bynum Foundation Funds 2019 Cedar Hill Stroll. If you missed the stroll last year, or even if you didn't, the success of the event has led the group that organized last year's stroll to sign up for a second year. The second stroll will be funded by a generous grant from the Bynum Foundation given to Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) and the Jackson County Historical Association (JCHA) who orchestrated and scripted last year's stroll.

Last year's event, funded with a grant from the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, drew over 800 attendees who heard 15 prominent citizens, portrayed by local actors, tell their stories at their gravesides. The event raised almost \$1,000 in donations which were used to purchase a grave marker for fallen Deputy U.S. Marshal Ed Moody, who died by gunfire near the Scottsboro rail passenger depot in 1921.

The stroll organizers—Julia Everett, Blake Wilhelm, Annette Bradford, and David Bradford—have begun organizational meetings to determine this year's characters and the actors who will portray them. The Bynum Foundation is a charitable trust established in 2005 by Miss Jessie Sue Bynum on behalf of the entire Bynum family, but particularly her sister, Lucy Scott Bynum.

The tentative date for the upcoming stroll is October 6.



Cemetery stroll organizers Julia Everett, Annette Bradford, David Bradford, and Blake Wilhelm

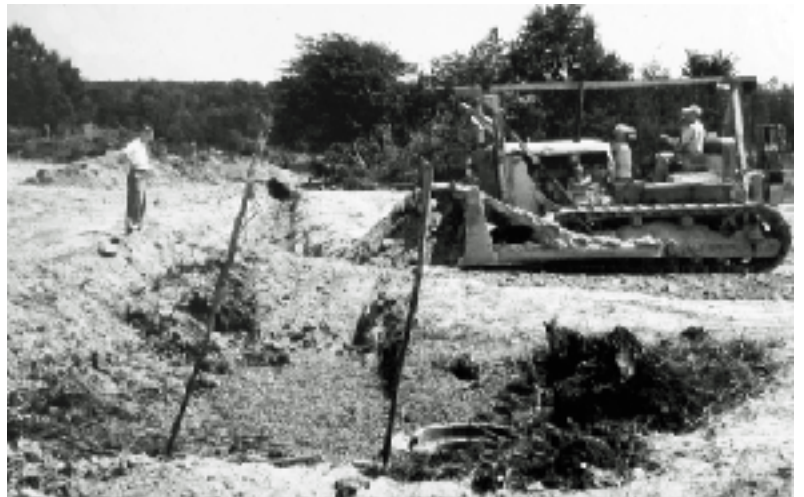
Scottsboro's Municipal Airport, Word Field

Until 1955, local pilots flew their airplanes from various makeshift airfields on the fringes of the Scottsboro city limits. Those airfields were nothing but mowed swaths in open fields. There were no runway lights, no maintenance infrastructure, no refueling facilities, and no pavement.

In 1953, on the day he graduated from Auburn University, Jake Word arranged with his first cousin, Bob Word, to recruit another friend to aid his nighttime landing. The plan was for Bob and his friend to park at each end of a TVA-maintained airstrip on the banks of South Sauty Creek. They were to burn their car headlights at each end of the airstrip to guide Jake in for a landing. Their method of communicating Jake's arrival time was primitive: Bob, who was attending a gathering at a Mink Creek dance hall, was to listen for the sounds of Jake's engine overhead and then drive to the airfield. When fellow party goers learned of Bob's mission, they joined the caravan to the airstrip, pretty much clearing out the dance hall.

Before the TVA strip became the town's sole airstrip, Lawrence Sebring maintained a runway of sorts on Tupelo Pike. Sebring's strip was the site of annual Scottsboro airshows in the 1940's and was the site of a 1950 air rescue that has been given wide attention and woven itself into the lore of Scottsboro (see *The Chronicles*, April 2016).

The Tupelo Pike airstrip was abandoned by 1953, and the TVA strip was used without the agency's authorization for two or three years thereafter. The TVA maintained the field to house planes used for the aerial inspection of shore frontage and to check power lines. After several months of leaving his Piper Tri-Pacer at the TVA strip, Jake received a letter asking him to move his plane and desist from using the strip. Jake assumed that there were liability issues driving the TVA's request. He complied by moving his plane to Jep Moody's farm in Larkinsville.



Construction of Word Field. Hal Word, left, and Fox Broadway on the dozer.

Photo by Jake Word.

Tired of the makeshift arrangements, Jake and his father, Hal Word, bought a bulldozer from Fox Broadway and set to work cutting a new airstrip on old Highway 72 (site of the current Scottsboro Municipal Airport, today known as Word Field).

Jake and Fox Broadway (who had invested in new equipment from the proceeds of the sale of his dozer to Jake) spent months carefully preparing the 3000 foot long strip during the summer and fall of 1954. When they finished the job, it was "perfect," Jake remembers. He shortly planted Bermuda grass (he still has the receipt for the seed and the fertilizer) and built a hangar. The strip was ready for use in mid-1955.

Proctor Matthews, a mechanic at Word Motor Company, built the second hangar. It was a shed cobbled together from salvaged tin and timber. J.J. Williams built the third hangar, and those three buildings constituted the core of Scottsboro's only landing strip for several years.

Although well-built and well-maintained, the airstrip had one notorious impediment in its early days that is believed to have caused at least one accident. A farmer who had agreed to maintain trees at one end of the airstrip failed to keep them trimmed, and their height presented a considerable hazard to incoming flights. The trees are credited with the first of four aviation accidents in the history of the airfield: a student flying a plane belonging to pharmacist Charles Hodges was hampered by the trees, perhaps clipping them, before missing his landing and crashing the plane. The plane suffered considerable damage, but its student pilot sustained only minor injuries.

Jake's interest in aviation began in 1931 when he was 3 years old. A barnstormer landed in a field on Highway 35 across from a harness track owned by Worth Proctor. The plane was a WWI biplane with two cockpits, the front one for a passenger and the rear one for the pilot. Jake's father took him to the field for a 15 minute ride during which Jake was fixated on the pilot, not the landscape below. When his dad lifted him from the cockpit, Jake grabbed the wires and struts that joined the two sets of wings and refused to let go. Only when his father promised a second ride in the near future did he turn loose.

After a stint in Korea with Company B, Jake returned to Auburn in 1952 for his senior year. In the Fall of that year, Jake and his father, Hal, attended an Auburn/Maryland game in Birmingham. They left in the fourth quarter to board a charter that Hal had booked to take them to the Alabama/LSU game in Baton Rouge later in the day. "My Dad said to me, I told you I'd take you for that second ride. Only thing was," Jake reflected, "it was 22 years after I finally let go of those struts."

The charter flight confirmed Jake's desire to fly. Within the week, he booked his first flying lesson there on October 1, 1952. "My dad wanted a plane as bad as I did," he recalls. "I think he sneaked off and took a couple of flying lessons, but my mom didn't want him flying with two children. We ordered that plane (a green Piper Tri-Pacer) my senior year at Auburn, 1953. The day I graduated from Auburn I flew that plane back to Scottsboro." He kept the Tri-Pacer for 17 years.



1953 Piper Tri-Pacer. Photo from *Plane and Pilot Magazine*.

The city acquired Jake Word's field in 1960, driven by the first commercial traffic to regularly use the field: Burlington Industries initiated regular flights to its Scottsboro facility and needed more constant oversight of the facilities and required certain improvements, including a paved runway.

With the city's purchase of the strip, the town of Scottsboro established an airport authority. For 20 years, its membership consisted of Carl Collins, Charles Hodges, and Jake Word.

The Scottsboro Municipal Airport has a good safety record. Local pilots can recall only four accidents there. None resulted in serious injury.

The first, the incident of the student pilot crashing Charles Hodges' plane, resulted in minor injuries. The second was nearly catastrophic. Jake was pulling out of his hangar when he overheard communications that a plane was approaching the airport. Jake moved to a pullout at the end of the runway to await the landing. The plane, a twin-engine Piper Comanche, was attempting to land in a strong crosswind. The pilot of the plane veered off the runway and crashed into the entryway of Jake's hangar.

“When he hit the throttles, one engine failed on him. He took the wall and doors off my hangar. And if we’d been there three minutes earlier, it would have been a two-plane fiery collision. That’s how close it was.”

On board that small plane was Bart Starr, who periodically visited Scottsboro to oversee his investment in the Goose Pond development. Starr and companions warned the reporters and the spectators at the scene (one reporter said he threatened legal action) not to mention his involvement in the crash. It is thought that his visit somehow violated contractual agreements with his team, the Green Bay Packers.

Another near-catastrophic accident occurred when Dennis Parker landed his airplane on top of one piloted by Kenneth Muse in 1968. Parker’s prop sliced through the fuselage of Muse’s plane, a matter of feet behind the cockpit. Neither pilot was injured in the accident.



Bart Starr's airplane at Word Field.

The fourth accident involved Jake Word himself when his landing gears failed to fully deploy on landing. “I flipped the switch to put the gears down. I didn’t check the lights to verify the gears were down. I flipped the switch and for the first time in 18 years, they dropped about six inches and the circuit breaker blew. Not knowing they were still up, I made a normal landing, but it was awfully noisy.” He lifted the plane with jacks, reset the circuit breaker, fully deployed the landing gears, and towed the plane to the hangar.

Jake has owned three planes, two of which were involved in fatal accidents shortly after their sale to new owners.

He had sold his second plane, a Comanche 400, to a young airline pilot out of Charlotte who told Jake his first trip was to be a flight to Aspen for a party with friends. “I sold it on a Thursday. On Friday, eight days later, he flew out of Aspen and didn’t return. They found the plane outside Aspen on Sunday at an altitude of around 12,000 feet. He had clipped a tree with the left wing. His passenger hit his head and lived about an hour, the report said. The pilot was not hurt. He took his buddy’s coat after he died. They found the pilot about a mile from the plane, frozen to death.”

The plane crashed with a full tank of gas. Jake questions why the pilot did not attempt a controlled burn of the 130 gallons of fuel that remained in the tank. He could have both stayed warm and signaled the search planes that were deployed shortly after the pilot failed to return to his fellow party-goers.

Jake last flew in 1991. His third plane had been involved in a minor crash prior to his purchasing it. It had run out of fuel and tipped over on its nose following an emergency landing on Proctor’s harness racing track, across Highway 35 where Jake had taken his first airplane ride. The pilot walked into Word Motor Company and offered to sell the plane “as is.” The price? \$100 plus a ticket to Florida for the owner/pilot.

Jake says he had the plane rebuilt for \$12,000. He only flew it two or three times before selling it to a fabrication firm in Fort Payne. Some years later, he read about the crash of a Tailorcraft BC12D, the same type of airplane that Jake had restored and sold.

Jake drove to the crash site in Albertville to find that the tail numbers matched: it was indeed his former plane. The plane had been rented by a serviceman on leave who had taken his sister up for a scenic flight. While doing a flyover of his parents' farm, he hit a disk harrow and crashed, killing both himself and his sister. "How low do you have to be flying to hit a disc harrow?" Jake mused. With two of three of his airplanes meeting gruesome fates, the message is clear, he believes: "Never buy a plane from me."

Today, Word Field at the Scottsboro Municipal Airport consists of four buildings with a total of 23 hangars. There's also a maintenance hangar for transient temporary/overnight storage. There are 33 airplanes currently housed there and eight "tie-downs" that are stored on the open tarmac. All but one are single-engine aircraft. There is one resident biplane. All are piston aircraft.

The runway has been expanded to 5200 feet in length, but it retains the 80 foot width cut by Jake Word and Fox Broadway in 1955.

David Benson Bradford

Spelunking at the turn of the century: Chaperoned groups of young people about 1900 looked for entertainment, and here are a couple of artifacts that prove exploring the area's caves was one such diversion. The article at the left is from the August 16, 1895 *Bridgeport News*. The group exploring Nickajack Cave was in part affording Mr. C. G. Jones an opportunity to collect specimens for his museum. After this adventure was over, "Mr. Turner and Mr. Russel and two of the young ladies ...adjourned to the residence of Mr. McReynolds to fix their curls, etc." Jerry Triplet posted the photo below on the JCHA FaceBook page. It shows a group of intrepid and inappropriately dressed young people exploring Russell Cave in 1906. Jerry got this picture from Earnestine Beck and reports that the second couple from the left is William Edward Thomas and Mary Cantrell, who were married in 1905. Anyone recognize others?

Nickajack Cave.

The editor had the pleasure of being of a party to visit Nickajack Cave Thursday. With Mrs. E. G. Browning who kindly consented to act as chaperon to the party, went Miss Ida Bean, Miss Katie Cook, Miss Fannie Lee and Miss Mabel Sparks. The gentlemen were Mr. E. K. Turner, Mr. C. G. Jones, Mr. James Russell, of South Pittsburg, Rev. Mr. Gunn and ye editor. On arriving at the cave when due length of time had been spent in examining the mouth of it and clambering up the accessible rocks, the services of a diminutive but competent guide were secured and the party proceeded to explore the hidden recesses and dark chambers of the cave, with flickering lanterns and kaul sections from the ladies.

Mr. Jones secured many valuable specimens for his museum and will probably write up the records of his geological survey in some future issue of the NEWS.

After an hour or more of exploring all came out alive, little the worse for some knocks on the head and a good deal of dirt. Mr. Turner, Mr. Russell and two of the young ladies then adjourned to the residence of Mr. McReynolds to fix their curls, etc.

At about noon the nice dinner which had been provided by Miss Lee was served, and the party did full justice to its charms. After dinner another trip to the cave gave plenty of exercise in rock-climbing, and when those who went in this time returned they were ready to rest a while. During the afternoon the party was joined by Miss Josie McReynolds who added to the pleasure of the day.

At four o'clock all boarded the train with happy faces and immense lute garments, and returned in high spirits to Bridgeport. We venture to say no pleasanter party has visited the cave in twenty years and that our guide will testify to the fact for the rest of his life.



Pink Emiline Edwards Cothron

Pink Emiline Edwards was born in Langston in November 1894, the daughter of Thornton Edwards and Susan Abury. Mrs. Pink was a resident of Scottsboro, AL, where she spent her life as a young adult. She married Will "Coot" Cothron, the son of Will Cothron and Lou Robinson, in 1909 and to this union four children were born: Ella Elizabeth in 1912, Ida Mae in 1908, Jessie Lee in 1913, and Joe Will in 1914. She divorced very early in her marriage and was left alone to provide for her four children. Her greatest aim in life was to make a comfortable living for herself and her children.

Although she only finished the third grade, it was her will that her children get an education, and Pink worked tirelessly to this end. Ida Mae and Jessie Lee died at an early age. Joe finished elementary school and Ella finished high school in South Pittsburg, TN. Pink raised her grandson, Joe Melvin, and funded his education through college. He graduated from Alabama A&M College in Normal, AL with a B.S. in Science within six months after her death. Her two remaining grandchildren were also educated: Allen Ben graduated with a Associates degree from Northeast Alabama Community College and Alice Mae received LPN certification from Universal Training Institute in Perth Amboy, Newark, NJ.

Early in her life, Pink worked at Redstone Arsenal as a supervisor loading ammunition in freight cars for transportation to the troops to support the war effort. This job gave her sufficient funding, in addition with loans from John W. Gay of First National Bank and J. C. Jacobs of Jacobs' Bank. She now had enough funding for her ambition. It was very difficult for a black woman to secure a bank loan in these days. She bought the land on which her home at 212A Elm Street stood from the Wiley Whitfield estate sale in 1930.



Pink's Place at 212A Elm Street. Photo from Joe Cothron.

Pink was the first black woman in Scottsboro to become an entrepreneur. The following ventures are but a few of her pursuits. She built a very large house (see picture) which had eleven large rooms and indoor plumbing. She used it as a boarding house since Blacks could not use the local hotels. The house also served as a neighborhood grocery store and entertainment center known as "Pink's Place." The kitchen was used to prepare food for the veterans who attended Carver High School in the evening studying in the General Education Development (GED) Program taught by Principal Tom Weatherly.



Pink Cothron about 1940. Photo from Joe Cothron.

During the formative years of her accumulations of business ventures, she entered into the raising of livestock (cows, hogs, and goats) for butcher and sale in a contract with Jewell Hall, the owner of The

Locker Plant. In order to support this endeavor, she had to acquire real state to build a barn, smokehouse, and a large utility building. During this acquisition, she also bought three other land holdings; three lots in Stevenson, AL and four houses that she rented out in Scottsboro. On several plots of lands, she grew gardens, raising fruits and vegetables that she canned for the family and gave much of it through the community.

As a citizen and a neighbor, she gave counseling and loaned money to young couples who were trying to get a start in life. Because there were no medical facilities in the area, Mrs. Pink served as a midwife, delivering babies for both black and white families throughout the community. She was a charter member of Deborah Chapter Order of Eastern Star in Scottsboro. She organized and built the North Houston Street Church of Christ. Sister Pink and eight other women were instrumental in establishing the congregation. (See story below.)

With all of the hurdles and roadblocks she faced in her struggle, Mrs. Pink fulfilled her ambition and accomplished the goals she set out for herself. She was a pillar of the community and the matriarch of the Cothron family.

Joe and Allen Cothron

North Houston Street Church of Christ in Scottsboro

The North Houston Street Church of Christ at the corner of Houston and Elm Streets was started as the result of a 1947 tent revival in a vacant lot next to Mack Finley's Café on Houston Street, just down that hill from the present location of the church. The revival was sponsored by the white congregation of the Broad Street Church of Christ with these key individuals involved: Lawyer Harold Foster and his Secretary, Ms. Edna Lovelady; the bankers of First National Bank, Ms. Laney and Jugen Smith; Realtor Robert Derrick; railroad man Quitman Howard and his wife and two daughters; Word Lumber Company's Doc Kelley; Mr. Albert Parks, clothing store owner; and others. The evangelist for this tent revival was John Henry Clay. As a result of the revival, Sisters Pink Cothron, Viola Sanford, Emma Williams, Odell Johnson, Celia Williams, Sarah Alberry, Alberta Jenkins, Lottie McDonald, and Lou Gordon (and perhaps others) were baptized and started the church.



The "Little White Church" on dedication day in 1947. Photo from Joe Cothron.

The members of the new church met in the back of a pool hall owned by Shep Whiteside until Sisters Pink Cothron and Viola Sanford were able to secure a loan from First National Bank using their personal property as collateral to purchase the land and built the church at its present location. The bank would not make the loan until they could secure the signature of a male member. Sister Pink's grandson, Joe M. Cothron, was that male member and he signed the note. The picture of the Little White Church that has remained in the building was taken on the day the congregation celebrated the opening Sunday in 1947.

During the beginning years, there was no permanent minister. Different brothers from the Broad Street Church conducted Bible study on Wednesday night and preached or read the scripture on Sunday. The first song books were donated by the Broad Street Church, and Brother Robert Derrick taught and

conducted choir practice. The Broad Street Church extended invitations to join and administered the communion. Member of the Broad Street Church contributed generously to the operation and upkeep of the church.

The “Little White Church” grew with the addition of these Brothers and Sisters: “Bud” Strong; Robert Gordon; Willie “Jab” Jenkins; Joseph, Emma and Robert Larry Kelley; Lester “Les” Cotton; John Will Dungeon; Willie James Campbell; Alice, Hazel, and Catherine Campbell; Robert and Gertrude Strong; Ollie Mae Hunter; Elmerine Dillard and son “Fire Top” Junior; Jessie, Melinda, and Robert Luke Williams; Dorothy and Harvey Williams; Ruth, Joe W., Alice, and Ben Cothron; Ann Cothron; Ella Cole; Ida Ruth McCamay; Robert, Garthey, and Ella Nickerson; Willie and Billy Ray Tucker; Robbie Tucker Edwards; Marion Rose Tucker Washington and her son; Burnett and Peggy Johnson; Eli, Eli Junior, and Mac Virginia Green; Earnest McDonald; James Floyd “June Bug” Jimmerison; Mary Catherin Fennell; and Ben Sanford, who was the pillar of the church until his death. Brother Sanford was the first member to hold an official position with the City of Scottsboro and was eulogized in the Broad Street Church of Christ.

Over the years, several renowned evangelists held revivals and helped the church grow, men such as: John Henry Clay; C. L. Capleton of Muskogee, Oklahoma; John Harris of Mississippi; L. M. Jones of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Robert Butler of Huntsville; and Marshall Keeble of Nashville Christian Institute. Keeble stayed with Sister Pink when he held a revival in Scottsboro and encouraged her grandson to attend Nashville Christian Institute in Nashville, TN. Ministers who served the church included: Brother David C. Cullins, James A. Marcy, and Albert Parks.

The church has had several additions and renovations. The first addition was a vestibule (front entrance), followed by restrooms and a baptizing pool. The first benches were bought, and later the stained glass windows were installed. Hardwood floors and furniture for the pulpit were installed. The lot on the left side of the church was purchased for expansion. The church later installed a larger baptizing pool behind the pulpit. Later additions included an extended pulpit area, curtains, air conditioning, and even more modern pulpit furniture with carpet. Four benches were donated to the church in memory off our of the charter members. Their names can be seen on plaques on the end of the benches. The church was bricked and the house and lot to the right side were purchased from the Collins family. Brother Sanford did the masonry work on the house, and it was remodeled as a parsonage. The directory and planter in the front of the church were donated by Joe and Ann Cothron in memory of Sister Pink. The church holds Wednesday Bible Study and Sunday services. The current pastor is Brother E. J. Woods



North Houston Church of Christ Today.

In a visit to the church a couple of years ago, I was astonished to see the building and the congregation, an especially “ethnically mixed” one with so many young members and children. Remember, “Children are our future” and the future of the church.” I saw a beautiful building that has sprung up from a room in the back of a pool hall to a “Little White Church” to the big brick building, on a spacious lot, the corner of North Houston and Elm, full of parishioners.

Church History by Joe M. Cothron, 2007

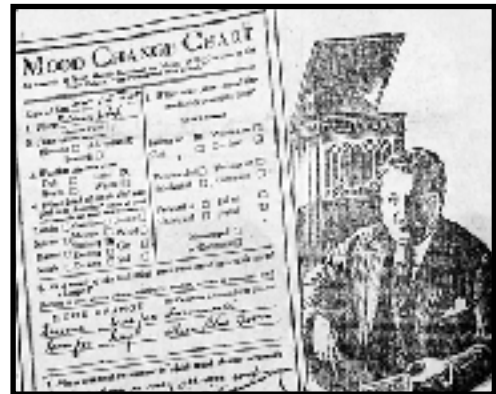
Living Through 1921 in Jackson County

The 1921 *Progressive Age* tells a story of Jackson County in a time of violence and lawlessness. This is not a lead I have written before and it surprises me. A lot of things about 1921 *Progressive Age* took me by surprise.

Prohibition had become the law of the land less than a year before, and the same violence over alcohol that gripped the rest of the country had its impact on Jackson County. In 1921, Mack Thomas had been sheriff for a year and a half. J. D. Snodgrass was the mayor. Thomas Kilby was the governor, nearing the end of his first four-year term. Warren G. Harding had been elected president in 1920 and took office in March 1921. James Benson, who would later be Probate Judge, was the editor of *The Progressive Age*.

In 1921, the *Progressive Age* was a weekly paper, the only paper in town. It had, its masthead reported, “consolidated with the *Scottsboro Citizen* June 26th, 1919.” It was typically a big paper, usually eight pages. The paper was an interesting mix of local news, news from the various parts of the county, major national stories, and a summary of events across the state, along with serialized novels, legal notices, and a generous editorial page where the editor commented on the events of the day.

But you have to remember, there was no internet and no television, and KDKA became the nation’s first radio station in 1920, though by 1922 that number would be over 600. Most county citizens did not have electricity. There were some telephones, and many major businesses included their phone numbers in their ads. If you wanted ice, for example, you could call Woodall Brothers at 168. It was just becoming possible to play phonograph records in your homes, and E. D. Hollis carried The New Edison, “The Phonograph with a Soul,” which was, of course, powered by a hand crank and was touted in ads as a way to alter the mood and calm the soul.



The paper had a lot of church news on the front page. The January 20 front page, for example, contained “Methodist Notes,” “Presbyterian Church,” “Sunday School Specialists Here for Institute,” “Baptist Church Notes,” and “Great Revival Held at Mill Village, Stevenson.” In an era of few photos, the arrival of evangelists always merited a big photo on the front page. There were even some sports stories, like a February 3 story about Jim Thorpe and a report on varsity football played by women. A fashion column for women was a regular feature, complete with syndicated photographs of smartly-dressed models.

“Gossip by Our Correspondents That May or May Not Interest You” included news from Rosalie, Oak Grove, Needmore, Pleasant Hill, Section, Paint Rock, Stevenson, Larkinsville, Hollywood, Section, Pikeville, Estill Fork, and Pisgah. A page of canned news heavy with pictures was provided to the paper by The American Legion News Service. There was an occasional humor column of jokes called “Some Smiles.” There were page-wide cartoon strips called “The Clancey Kids,” by Percy L. Crosby and “Mickie the Printer’s Devil,” by Charles Sughroe.

The pages of the paper were filled with ads for patent medicines: Castoria; Stagmaier Stomach and Liver Pills; Ziron Scientific Iron Tonic; Pe-Ru-Na for coughs and colds; Cardui (the mainstay of calendars for the next 30 years, causing my husband as a child to speculate that he was suffering from “monthly water weight build-up”); Black-Draught for curing the bilious, aimed at correcting a torpid liver; and Dr. Miles’ Heart Treatment.

One thing that would take you by surprise is the abundance of cigarette ads—Chesterfield, Camel, Bull Durham for people who wanted to roll their own, and Lucky Strike, which touted that its tobacco was toasted. Syndicated political cartoons occasionally ran on the front page.

These businesses were operating in 1921:

- J. D. Snodgrass and Son.
- J. H. McClendon, located in the Claybrook building on Market Street, continued to flourish, offering attractive millinery, high-top shoes, overalls, blankets, and brown and bleached domestic.
- W. J. Word was already in the business of providing building materials.
- City Grocery, operated by Henry Jones and C. F. Grigg.
- Woodall Brothers, who moved their ice plant that year to be near the passenger depot.
- H. A. Jacobs sold Staple and Fancy Groceries and operated a meat market and cafe that served meals at all hours. They paid cash for chickens and eggs.
- McCarley and Maples operated a dry good store and sanitary lunch counter.
- Gay and Daniel sold Staple and Fancy Groceries.
- R. H. Jones on the west side of the square who also operated Uncle Henry's Cafe "for a nice lunch, everything sanitary."
- J. J. Lipscomb Seeds were available at the J. R. Davis Store.
- Scottsboro Produce Company, owned by E. H. Caldwell.
- C. L. Bartlett who had opened an Electric Harness Shop in Stevenson.
- George Stogsdill who moved his store on Sand Mountain from Hitch's Landing to Pleasant View Church and dealt in both cash and barter.
- Daniels and Gay grocery store.
- Claude Payne groceries.
- Sam A. Gay men's clothing.
- C. S. Howland clothing store.
- Blakemore Drugs.
- H. A. Campbell and Company.
- E. D. Wood Staple and Fancy Groceries.
- Jacobs Meat Market.
- Woodside Dairy.



Good Roads

The entire town budget was printed in the paper twice a year, and the county was busy building roads—the Caperton Ferry Road, the Bridgeport Pike, Clemons' Gap Road, the Bridgeport and Stevenson Road, the Scottsboro and Larkinsville Road, the Limrock and Aspel Road, the Warren Gap Road, the Narrows Road, Davis Gap Road, McGunn Cap Road, Moore's Gap Road, and the Hollywood-Moody Road. The

February 17 paper reported that a large delegation from the Paint Rock Valley had appeared before the county commission and secured \$6000 to complete the Paint Rock Valley Road to the state line at Francisco. The budget records the debasements and receipts and servicing of loans with local banks. The civic league published their detailed budget as well. The conclusion, as stated on February 10, was that "the county is now in many respects on a sounder basis economically than it has been for many years."

On July 21, Editor J. S. Benson reported on the status of road building: "The recent decision of the State Highway Commission to complete the Woodville-Limrock road will mean much to Jackson County and will be hailed with delight by everyone who has passed over this road or expects to. The upper Paint Rock Valley people are confident they will be able to connect the present pike with the Tennessee State line near Francisco and the Franklin County authors will then carry the road on to Huntsville and then on to the main Dixie Highway. This will mean much to Jackson County and the people of the Valley, who are practically isolated. We learn from the *Bridgeport News* that work has already started on the Pierce Highway up Sand Mountain near Bridgeport, which will be a great convenience to that part of the county."

Road progress was frequently front page news.

Violence and Raids by the Tenants' Union

The year was filled with the conflict between the Tenants' Union and the "Night Riders," a group whose scare tactics surprised representatives of the union, pulling them out of their homes and whipping them in night raids like the KKK. The first raid took place in early February. A story appeared on February 17 with a dateline of Bridgeport, reporting that officials were "quietly investigating the raid of alleged night riders" who warned land owners "not to rent to tenants outside the pale of the tenants' union." President S. M. Rodgers of the Tenants' Union denied these claims of violence committed by his organization and said the purpose of the union was "to keep this land idle until landlords agree to give the tenants a 'fair deal' and allow them to raise their families under more favorable circumstances." The group boasted a membership of 9000 and sought to reduce the rent for farm land and foster a more fair division of crops among tenants and landowners.

On February 24, between 100 and 300 masked night riders pulled Silas Blevins from his home on Caperton Ferry Road and compelled him to join the Tenants' Union or suffer the consequences. They "administered a severe beating with a buggy trace." The paper noted that this was the first instance where a threat against a tenant farmer had been carried out. The president of the Tenants' Union denied any connection with the deed.

On March 3, the "alleged night riders" were arrested and appeared in court. Governor Kilby sent state law enforcement officers to town because it was rumored that friends of the men arrested would try to rescue them from jail. Two other men from Fabius, Robert Wise and Cid Crabtree, were also beaten on the same evening as Blevins. In the March 10 paper, half the front page was devoted to the Night Rider controversy. Twenty-six members of the Tenants' Union were arrested, both black and white. Two officers of the Tenants' Union resigned: secretary Charles A. Wann and vice-president Rev. C. P. Hutchenson, who stated, "As a minister of the gospel, I cannot condone the recent offenses that have occurred in this county....I still say I am a friend of the laboring class and believe in the principles set out in the constitution and bylaws of the order." (Hutchenson was the Cumberland Presbyterian minister in Langston.)

To the people of Jackson County. This is a time for cool heads and clear thinking. The law must take its course. Every man arrested will be given a fair and square trial. The guilty punished, the innocent acquitted. The trouble cannot be settled by hot-heads with guns and ammunition. There has been no blood shed; there must be none. Jackson county is on trial, and every citizen is a juror. Deliberate carefully and WITHOUT PREJUDICE and everything will come out

all right; the majority of the law will be sustained, and the peace, happiness and prosperity of the County restored. There have been many misunderstandings. The landlord needs the tenant, and the tenant needs the landlord. THINK! ACT! WORK!

The March 17 people carried the story "Excitement Subsided" and reported that in the "infected regions... farm work is practically normal again." Thirty-four men were charged in the incident, and charges included assault to murder, attempting to rescue prisoners, carry a concealed pistol, interfering with laborers, night-riding, threats of violence, operating a still, and violating the prohibition law. On March 24, the Bethany Local Chapter of the Tenants' Union included one final position statement in the paper saying the organization regretted the disorder but that tenant farmers could barely feed, clothe, and educate their children on the meager percentage they received from the landlord. The March 31 paper reported that the trial against one of the night riders, Jodie Beavers, was declared a mistrial, though it sounds as if state witnesses were frightened into not testifying, and for reasons such as witnesses being blinded temporarily by the lights and unable to make definitive identifications, Beavers was released.

On April 7, the Tenants' Union reorganized, electing a new slate of officers, and felt the organization had emerged from the March debacle stronger than before. A. E. Higginbotham of Fackler asked that both sides observe the Golden Rule. The night riding cases continued to be tried. Some of the cases had been *not prossed*. The men charged had made bond and were not jailed. On April 28, the trials scheduled for that week were postponed until late July, and Jim Benson noted in his column that those arrested resented the term "night rider." In the June 16 paper, county Tenants' Union president, C. O. Lewis, quietly announced that there would be a meeting July 1 in Wannville, and the report of this meeting was in the July 8 paper.

The July 14 paper announced a special term of county court to deal with the night rider cases, and the headline of the July 21 paper announced the acquittal of 18 night riders. "This will no doubt be the end of an episode that has cast a reflection on our county. Injustices have been done in several instances and it is to be hoped that the unhappy occurrence can be forgotten."

The Crisis with Cotton

The April 14 paper advertised that the U. S. Department of Agriculture distributed a free film about killing boll weevils with calcium arsenate that was shown at 10:30 in the Snodgrass Theater free of charge. On July 7, the Lookout Oil and Refining Company of Chattanooga made this chemical available to local farmers. Benson's editorial page carried an opinion piece titled "Mr. Farmer, It Is Up To You," and asked, "Are you going to sit quietly and let the weevil eat up your cotton, or are you going to fight him intelligently and save as much as you can?" He repeats the current best practice: identifying the affected areas and burning them. Some farmers are putting tubs of sweet crude oil out in fields to trap the insects. But the situation sounds desperate. The July 14 paper reported that boll weevil dope was being tried, made up on calcium arsenate, molasses, and water applied to infected plants.

And the boll weevil is not the only problem. Cotton prices were at a historic low. On April 21, an ad by John Snodgrass admonished farmers, "Don't Plant Cotton—Buy Futures" because "Cotton is selling far below the cost of production. Instead of planting your usual crop, buy futures."

A small article in the July 1 paper stated that the "President Would Investigate Cotton Credits" and went on to explain: "President Harding has requested Secretaries Melton and Hoover to conduct an investigation into credit facilities in the South, available for carrying over the present cotton stocks until they can be marketed in an orderly way. The President seems to have in mind, according to the Secretary of Commerce, a desire to make credits available in order that stocks of cotton from previous years, now stored throughout the South, would not act as a deterrent to the growth of a full crop this year."

What does this mean? The state of cotton farming in Alabama had already suffered huge blows from the boll weevil infestation that began in 1910. The small South American insect had such a devastating impact

on Alabama cotton production that by 1916, cotton production had dropped from 155 pounds per acre to 95 pounds per acre. Farmers in south Alabama turned from cotton to peanuts. As insecticides were developed to control the boll weevil, cotton production improved. Then during World War I, England purchased a large portion of the American cotton crop to keep it out of enemy hands. Ramping up production to meet wartime demand set Alabama on a dangerous path toward overproduction. "In 1919, southern farmers produced around 3 million acres of cotton annually" and cotton product was now averaging between 150 and 200 pounds an acre. Production went up and prices went down.

"In the spring of 1920, cotton was selling for about \$0.42 a pound in New Orleans, and by October the price dropped to \$0.20. As of December, prices had slid to \$0.13 a pound." (Encyclopedia of AL)

"Cotton prices began to peak in the 1920s which triggered farmers to plant more of it. As a result, the overproduction of cotton caused prices to plunge. To produce this vast amount of cotton farmers had to borrow and use loans to pay for machinery. Because of this farmers went into debt." (www.sutori.com) Overproduction of cotton was one of the triggers of the Great Depression. Relief for this situation finally came in the New Deal programs of Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s. The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, supported by Alabama Senator John Hollis Bankhead II, paid cotton farmers to plow under one-third of their crops to reduce production and raise cotton prices. The government instituted more programs to reduce cotton acreage, and by 1956, the Soil Bank program was paying farmers to take land out of production.

So in 1921, cotton was in the middle of an escalating crisis.

The July 21 paper carried a story with the headline "Smallest Cotton Crop Since Year 1900" stating that this year's crop was nearly 5 million bales smaller than the year before. The wet fall made harvest difficult and the new cotton was wet. "Our government estimates that the South loses seventy million dollars a year from weather damage to cotton." But the bottom line, the paper said on December 1, was that "still it continues from year to year, the owner of the cotton is the sole loser."



Month by Month

Here is the year by month.

January: The January 20 paper reported that a lot of damage had been done to Cedar Hill Cemetery by hogs being allowed to run loose, rooting up grass, flowers, and evergreens without supervision. The paper suggests that the hog owners should pay for the damage. Fast train service, Memphis Specials No. 23 and 24, were discontinued due to light passenger traffic. A large-type story from Tax Collector W. R. Larkin informed women that "the Supreme Court of the State has recently handed down an opinion that women desiring to vote must pay a poll tax under existing law" and that delinquent payments had to be settled. The first anniversary of prohibition was celebrated with speeches and prayers in the courtroom.

The amount of violence in evidence on the January 20 front page is staggering. The sheriff is offering a reward for the arrest and delivery of Albert Cagle in the Flat Rock community for the murder of Thelmo Carter. A national guard company in Tuscaloosa lynched William Baird and its members were jailed in Jefferson County. Deputy Sheriff Will Gant shot John Smart. The January 27 paper announced that Charlie McAlpin was shot by Matt Elliott in Rosalie, the Haigwood Store had been robbed, a prohibition officer had been killed and two more wounded in Florence.

W. J. Webb was selling Fordson Tractors, and cars were generally enough available that Van B. McCracken had opened an automobile repair business.



February: Weddings were front-page news. In the February 3 paper, Fred Morris married Ruby Martin, and Annie Templeton married George Blackburn from Johnson City. The paper listed the marriage licenses issued on the front page. J. A. Proctor announced that all who needed mules should come and buy them because after the 12th of the month, he would ship his stock to Atlanta. S. R. Keller was buying furs: skunk (\$.15 to \$1.40), O'Possum [sic] (10 to 50 cents), coon (25 cents to \$2.00), musk rat (5 to 50 cents), grey fox (25 cents to \$1.50) and mink (50 cents to \$3.50). Hard to believe people were still trapping and selling pelts in Jackson County in 1921. The February 10 paper announced the F. D. Webb and Claude Payne had formed a partnership and opened a retail grocery that would "occupy the Webb Wholesale Grocery stand next to the picture show."

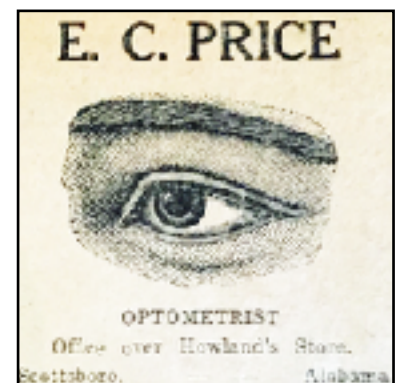
A small article analyzed the changes in the state's population. The "negro population in Alabama" lost males. The ratio of males to females in 1910 was 100.5 to 100, but in 1920 was 99.8 to 100. The distribution of population in the state was as follows: White 1,447,032; Negro 900,652; Indian 405; Chinese 59; Japanese 18; and Filipino and Hindu 2. The foreign born population in the state actually decreased from 18,956 in 1910 to 17,662 in 1920.

In the February 17 paper, Sheriff Thomas was dismayed to find that prisoners had sawed bars from the jail. "The Sheriff became suspicious on account of the extra amount of noise." Warren Spivey married Edith Boyd, and Lon Higdon killed Frank Bates. Forty houses were blown down by a tornado that struck Oconee, GA in which "more than forty persons were injured, human beings and cattle were catapulted through the air."

February 24 brought a story that many of us recalled on the JCHA Facebook site during the recent landscape updates on the square: the planting of trees around the square to memorialize World War I soldiers who died in the war. When Dutch Elm disease took out these memorial trees one by one during the 1960s, David Bradford remembers the sadness with which the county commission would report "We had to cut Carl Bobo down." The Civic League of Scottsboro had received a check for \$50.00 as the prize for being the cleanest town in the state. That same week, Van McCracken married Ola Thomas, and Robert Keeble married Bettie Graham, "a woman of splendid Christian character," and the civil docket for the spring circuit court term took up a full page of single-spaced case names.

March: Jurors were drawn and their names were published on March 3, and the first fines were levied, mostly for public drunkenness and selling liquor as more stories about stills discovered and destroyed made the front page. J. A. Abramson opened his optometrist office at the Howland Building, and E. C. Price soon practiced with him.

On March 10, Warren G. Harding was sworn in as President, but news of arrests and realignments with the Nightriders and Tenants' Union dominated the front page. The March 17 report on the resolution of the nightriders reported that operating and still and violation of the prohibition law were among the charges made. In spite of this resolution, the March 17 papers reported attempted murder of a Flat Rock man, and three stories about operating and capturing stills, though the majority of the front page was about the coming court docket. A patent medicine for tired, haggard, nervous, and irritable women suggested that a medicine based on ingestion of phosphates "would increase strength and endurance from 100 to 300 percent." Phosphates, I believe, are the primary





ingredients in detergents. Another headline on an ad stated, “Colored People Delighted with New Discovery to Bleach the Skin.”

The March 24 paper carried news of a murder, an ambush, an end to the state miners’ strike, and the resignation of Tax Adjuster J. B. Hackworth. A half-page of lot numbers described land in Bridgeport for sale. In the March 31 paper, the grand jury returned its final report, and lawyers held a memorial service for the two members of the local bar lost in the last year, W. H. Norwood and J. H. Gregory. The paper expressed optimism about the upcoming county fair. Sallie Jordan Tally, the wife of Rev. Cam Tally who was preaching to the Cherokees in Muscogee, OK, died after a long illness and was buried in OK, though her husband returned to Jackson County and lies in the Tally Cemetery. John Burrows, the naturalist, died the same week, and George Flynn married Mary Chattin. A mistrial was declared in the Night Rider case against Jodi Beavers and he was released. In his column, James Benson stated “unless the crime wave is stopped our civilization will go down” but in the same breath regrets that 25 men needed at home were sentenced this term of court and sent to the penitentiary to serve time. A man who could not pay his debts had his “two spotted muley cows, two black Jersey cows, and one pale red, white faced heifer” sold at public auction.

April: The JCHS junior class play “The Old Oaken Bucket” was in production the first week in April. In the aftermath of the court term, the paper reviewed the situation at the county jail, noting that at one point, there were 40 men incarcerated there, but after the current court completed, 14 men had been sent to the state penitentiary for distilling, 2 for murder, and 4 for grand larceny. Another 14 were sent to work in the county coal mines with sentences of hard labor, among those, 6 were for retailing liquor, 2 for larceny, and 1 for adultery. Governor Kilby refused to accept Judge Hackworth’s resignation as tax assessor.

After the hiatus in early April, lawlessness returned in the April 14 paper. Deputy Sheriff J. O. Chastain was shot in the back and survived. He was working in his field when he was felled by a rain of bullets from a high-powered rifle fired some 250 feet away. The perpetrator was arrested. The handsome new school house at Union Grove burned. It was determined that J. T. Turner in Pisgah had the best farm in Jackson County this week.

In the April 21 paper, tax payers of Jackson County were invited to meet April 23 at the court house to discuss high taxes. On the same front page, Governor Kilby called the current anti-tax movement “the tax dodgers’ league” and Editor Benson agreed with him. A great number of county residents took the state teachers’ exam that week, and 75 lives were lost across the South, 10 in Birmingham alone, from a deadly wave of storms. Mrs. Holloway, whose husband had been sent to the penitentiary recently, had a house full of children to feed and two of her mares had run off. She asked for help locating and returning them to work.

In the April 28 paper, Optometrist J. A. Abrams warned that “ocular service is not a merchandising business,” that the public who needed glasses should have them fitted by a trained professional. Debate about the tax payers’ league continued, and the state stocked Sauta and Roseberry creeks with fish from the government fishery at Tupelo, MS. Nineteen-year-old Peck Duncan drowned with cramps while swimming from a rowboat in the Tennessee River. JCHS organized an alumni group.

May: The conflict between the governor and the tax payers' league continued. Game Warden A. B. Brandon reminded citizens that dynamiting fish was a violation of the law that would be punished, as was hunting squirrels before September 1. Berry growers organized, and pig and poultry clubs were formed across the county. A line drawing on the front page declared that Chinese were starving because of famine and selling their children to survive. Mrs. Jesse Proctor died, and the timing of her funeral caused the Clean Up Parade and Program to be postponed.

Ads touting the coming Redpath Chautauqua festival began to appear with acts such as a staging of the opera *The Mikado*, the play "Nothing But the Truth," the Great Lakes String Quartet, the Skyllkov Orchestra, the Fine Arts Quartet, and "notable lectures on timely topics," all for \$3.00 and spread over five days. On May 12, the list of strawberry growers was published, stating that in all they were planting 112 acres of berries. A vocational program was put in place for disabled soldiers. Newton Able, the town's first veterinarian, died and was buried in Larkinsville. Reports on stills and illegal liquor abounded. Government support for river navigation was threatened by lack of use, and ideas were being floated to increase river traffic lest the river corridor from Decatur to Chattanooga be unattended and unsupported. A half-page program detailed nearly a week of activities surrounding JCHS graduation, including a play put on by third graders.

The May 19 paper was all about graduation. The JCHS faculty included J. O. Dickinson, principal; Miss Wynnes Tate, English; Miss Jewell Riggs, history; Miss Kate Arnold, mathematics and Latin; Miss Mabel Brunson, seventh grade; Miss Beatrice Hughes, music; and Miss Imogene Kissac, domestic science. She must have been very good at her discipline since on the same front page there is news of her marriage to James E. Foreman. There were only 11 students in the graduating class: Nancy Caldwell, Emmett Maples, Norman Gross, Ina Kirby, Sue Mae Freeman (later Powell, hat-maker extraordinaire), Nina Lee Wallace, Jack Boyd, Bailey Roberts, Fred Wallace, William Larkin, and Walter Bouldin.

Blakemore Drugs encouraged you to "take your Kodak fishing" as if any fisherman wanted true documentation of the size of his catch. In the May 26 paper, Governor Kilby refused to call a special session of the legislature to please the Tax Payers' League. McClendon and Campbell in Hollywood was forced to declare bankruptcy. Those of you who have enjoyed one of Shorty and Carolyn Machen's luscious burgers have visited the old McClendon's store.

Church news dominated the paper, including the fact that Judge John B. Tally (grandfather of Bill Tally) was chosen moderator of the general assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Greenfield, MO, an honor bestowed on only one other Jackson County native, John David Hall. A small item noted that work had begun on Widow's Barr. Initial construction was for a lock only, with hopes that a dam would follow. Who could have foreseen Widow's Creek and now Google on that same site? Photos inside the paper showed scenes from the coming Chautauqua festival.

June: The headlines in the June 2 paper were all about Chautauqua, which would open June 7. A group of 15 local farmers were exploring the possibility of opening a cooperative creamery. Langston Masons opened a new hall, and the Tennessee River Institute at Bridgeport closed its spring term. The headline "Holy Rollers Attract Enormous Crowd" went on to explain: "The Holiness Church held an all-day meeting at Shook's Mill last Sunday and it was well attended by the whole countryside....Quite a large number was baptized and much excitement was aroused over the snake exhibition. A large snake was caught by some boys and given to the preacher and some of the members handled it without fear. It is said by witnesses that one of the members let the snake, a large 'cotton mouth,' bite him and seemed to have no ill effects from the experience."

Sam A. Gay, a prominent 45-year-old business man whose ads for men's clothing were all

The KAHN Label Means Clothes-Comfort

At the KAHN Label, we are proud to offer the finest quality clothing for men and women. Our clothes are made from the finest materials and are designed for comfort and durability. We have a wide variety of styles to suit every taste and occasion. Our prices are reasonable and our service is excellent. We invite you to visit our store and see for yourself the quality and value of our clothing.

Come in and let us take your measure for these fine clothes. Our prices are surprisingly low for such exceptionally high-grade garments.

SAM A. GAY

over the paper, died suddenly in his store, probably from a stroke. Sam's only sister died the following week, June 19. In the same paper, an ad reported that the businessman E. D. Hollis was retiring from business and had sold his undertaking and furniture business to W. J. Word. It is this business in the Bynum Building that figures so prominently in everyone's favorite WPA-era photograph of Scottsboro.

Beginning on June 3, Scottsboro was under quarantine because of smallpox. All public meetings were closed, including churches, picture shows, and pool rooms, and the much-anticipated Chautauqua festival had to be cancelled. The paper stated that the epidemic was exaggerated, and Dr. Nye believed it would be under control before the weekend. The June 16 paper reported that no new cases of smallpox had been reported in 10 days, and the quarantine was lifted. The Snodgrass Theater used the closure to install a new phono player, "a full orchestra combined into one instrument and one operator" that theater managers R. E. and B. E. Jones felt would add to the pleasure of theatergoers. A new screen and new curtains were also added.

Smallpox was not Scottsboro's only quarantine. The Mexican Bean Beetle had infested Alabama produce in areas south of Jackson County. The infestation followed the river starting in Cullman County, through Arab to Guntersville. The quarantine line passed through Jackson County. No produce could pass over the line without being inspected and passed by a U. S. government inspector. More stills were destroyed, and Ann Adkins married Bennett Buford.

The June 23 paper headline declared, "Officers Make Some Big Hauls" and "Officers Catch 60 Gallons of Joy Juice" with another article stating that two stills and ten operators had been captured. One article sounded as if Rev. Tom Smith was going into competition with Jesus, titled "Jackson County Preacher Denies His Death." Closer reading revealed that Smith was declaring that a body pulled from the river had been incorrectly identified as his. Virgil Bouldin returned from Montgomery with the news that completing the 7.5-mile Woodville-Limrock Pike would require \$50,000, of which \$12,000 would have to be local money. Confederate veterans were to be honored at the upcoming fair.

In the June 30 paper, Judge W. W. Brandon of Tuscaloosa announced that he would be a candidate for governor and would run on the hot-button issue of too much taxation. Former Scottsboro girl Annie McCutchen married William C. Cavens in Oklahoma. McCarley and Maples ran their canning specials, half-gallon Mason jars for \$1.60 a dozen and 25 pounds of sugar for \$2.25.

July: In the July 1 paper, the bodies of the county's WWI dead continued to arrive. Alonzo Johns arrived home after dying of pneumonia in France in 1919. After "two hours of stormy debate," the U. S. House stopped "the sale of beer to the sick." Even though prohibition had made alcohol illegal, it could be prescribed for medicinal purposes, though this law seems to indicate that no health benefit could be attached to the sale of beer. Work in Bridgeport was progressing on a sweet potato curing company. A large line drawing of Liberty and an inspirational poem seemed to be all the July 4 commemoration in evidence.

The July 7 paper reported that Rosalie and Flat Rock held picnics. But two accidents marred the holiday weekend. A group of young people in the Paint Rock Valley started for Estill's Creek in a wagon to attend a fish fry, but the team pulling the wagon spooked and most of the young people were thrown from the wagon and many were injured. Nine-year-old Cecil Swaim was crushed by a wagon wheel. And in Boaz, two men who were formerly business partners got into an argument. Jim Webb shot and killed Emery Benefield and shot and injured his wife before turning the gun on himself. The July 7 paper reported that 20 men had been jailed since July 1, most for violations of the prohibition law. R. E. and B. E. Jones were in New York to buy equipment to "install a factory for the manufacture of gent's supporters in Scottsboro."

The July 7 paper also carried a profile of Hapsburg Liebe whose serialized novel *The Clan Call* was being carried by the *Progressive Age*. Liebe was a veteran of the Spanish American war from Johnson City, TN. He began writing about 1910 and was a prolific pulp fiction writer, the author of one fiction novel and 321

short stories. Seven silent black and white movies were made from his stories. The novel is about a mountaineer clan in Eastern Tennessee, and is considered culturally significant enough that it is still in print and can be ordered from Amazon. (www.bcyesteryear.com)



The back page carried a large ad for a steamboat excursion trip from Roman's Landing to Widow's Bar, Lock, and Dam and return on the excursion barge *Maggie J. Hall*. Here was the schedule.

- 6:00 am Leave Roman's Landing
- 6:15 am McCamey's
- 7:00 am Larkin's
- 8:00 am Section's Ferry
- 9:00 am Garland's Ferry
- 9:30 am Hitches
- 10:00 am Sublett's
- 10:15 am Bobo's Incline
- 11:00 am Caperton's Ferry
- 12:00 noon Widow's Bar Lock and Dam

The return trip made all the same stops and arrived at 7:00 pm.

The July 14 paper noted that more stills and operators were captured, and that the bean beetle had arrived in town where the boll weevil was already causing havoc. A Good Roads Picnic would be held at Princeton on July 23. A special session of county court was scheduled to deal only with the night rider arrests. The president of the Tennessee River Institute school resigned after only two years. The full county budget was published in this paper, a full two-page spread.

The headline of the July 21 paper announced the acquittal of 18 night riders. A large picture of Dr. John Royal Harris dominated the front page. He was to speak at the Methodist and Baptist churches on behalf of the National Reform Association. A page-wide photo of the bandstands at the old fairground at the bottom of the paper attested to the excitement already building for the mid-September fair. A short article explained that a group of Jackson County boys had accompanied County Agent McArthur to take a short course at Auburn. They were Cecil Word and J. A. Williams, Jr. of Scottsboro; Frank Turner of Pisgah; and Clifford and Lucian Hill of Paint Rock.

This week's paper announced that bids were to be issued to build the Woodville-Limrock road. J. Arthur Williams purchased Sam Gay's business after Gay's untimely death the previous month. A Trade Day celebration was announced for the 26th that included a "thrilling aeroplane exhibition" in which a daring aviator would drop discount tickets from the sky as he flew over the crowd, paid for by local businesses. The Reeves Brothers were to fly over town doing trick flying. Lucky residents who caught a ticket might win such prizes as a box of Whitman's Chocolates from W. H. Payne, a pound of Maxwell House Coffee from J. C. Hunt, a 30 x 3 inner tube from Dixie Auto, or a pair of silk hose from J. H. McClendon. Dodge Cars could be bought from I. Schiffman and Company in Huntsville. Ella Marie Gardener received her Master of Arts Degree from Emory University.

The last paper of the month, July 28, carried the three-line headline "Deputy Marshal Ed Moody Murdered by Joe Stone, A Negro; Ambush Shot from Darkened House Kills Brave Officer Instantly. Negro Escapes Into Night." Deputy Marshal Ed Moody had walked across a corn field about 11 pm on July 25 to quieten a loud party a short distance from the passenger depot in Scottsboro, Marshal Moody called to the home owner and witnesses reported that he called out "I'm not going to hurt you" or words to that effect. Joe Stone, a 56-year-old black man inside, fired two rounds from a shotgun, and Moody fell dead

onto the porch. Stone escaped and was pursued by a posse with bloodhounds. Moody had taken this job only four months earlier. Editor Benson said of him, "he was kind and affectionate and had a heart as tender as a child. No one ever went to Ed for a favor, but that he received it, even to his own hurt."

Otherwise, the paper reported on a mad fox in the Paint Rock Valley and the enthusiastic reception for last week's aeroplane exhibition.

August: The headline on August 4 stated the the killer of Ed Moody, Joe Stone, was eluding capture, and the paper ran a rare photo of Stone. A story titled "Woodville's Perfect Day" talked about the crowd of 2000 assembled for the all-day singing and excellent dinner on the ground. The fair was encouraging displays of women's industry and handiwork. The August 11 paper reported that Joe Stone had been captured near Shelbyville, TN. Henry Ford predicted that the power produced by the under-development Muscle Shoals plant would be sufficient to support a city of 100,000. In the bigger world, Enrico Caruso, the world's greatest tenor, passed away in Naples, Italy. He had recently undergone operations to recover from pleurisy but died of a diaphragmatic abscess.

The August 18 paper announced the letting of a contract for the Woodville-Limrock pike. Miss Annie Winn died in Bowie, TX, but was returned to Center Point cemetery, and young businessman Grover Glover of Bridgeport died in Chattanooga on the operating table. Ads run by principal J. O. Dickinson reported that Jackson County High School would open August 29. McClendon's in the Howland building offered ladies' pure silk hose for \$.45, while new fall gingham ran from 12 to 19 cents a yard and a new pair of full-eight 220 denim overalls could be had for \$1.45. Payne Mitchell, the agent for Hudson Cars, reported that his dealership handled both the Hudson Super-Six and the Essex.

The August 25 paper reported that John York was found unconscious a short distance east of the Scottsboro passenger depot, having fractured his skull while attempting to jump from a fast-moving freight train. Mrs. W. W. Gilbreath, who had been born near Langston, died in Wainwright, OK, and Ben Harper was laid to rest at Boxes Cove Cemetery. High school was opening the next week with these college-trained teachers: Miss Wynnes Tate teaching English, Miss Kate Anthony teaching mathematics and Latin, Miss Nellie Miller teaching home economics, Miss Beatrice Hughes teaching voice, violin, and piano; and Miss Rebecca Sewell teaching seventh grade. The second day of the upcoming fair was designated "Confederate Day" and veterans who wore their grey were admitted free.



**JACKSON COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Opens August 29th

With prospects of the largest enrollment in the history of the school.
A faculty of competent and efficient teachers has been secured.
This is Jackson County's school and deserves your support.
Send us your boys and girls. Board in private homes at reasonable rates.
For further information address
J. O. DICKINSON, Principal.



Photo from Findagrave.

September: A page-wide panoramic picture of the the fair bandstands covered the September 1 paper as excitement over the annual event continued to build. The body of Ernest Webb who had died in WWI arrived from Hokoken, NJ. Lt. Merrill, who had thrilled fair goers last year, died in Warsaw, IN when he was instructing 16-year-old Jack Rodeheaver on the basics of flight. The plane lurched sideways and threw Merrill out of the plane and he fell 2000 feet to his death, Young Rodeheaver, half-brother of Chattanooga trombone-playing evangelist and song writer Homer Rodeheaver, lacked the skills to land the plane and crashed.

Another page-wide fair graphic greeted readers on September 8, and the front page carried a long analysis of the cotton outlook. Coffey and Bynum offered Mogul Wagons for sale, and Woodside Dairy was selling "clean, Jersey milk." Their ad stated that "milk drinkers were superior in athletic contests to the non-milk drinkers." The George Downey home in Langston burned. The September 15 paper published the entire upcoming criminal court

docket, with distilling and violating the prohibition law accounting for a number of cases, along with bastardy, assault, attempted murder, burglary, forgery, public drunkenness, and “road defaulter.” Joe Stone was indicted for first degree murder in the killing of Ed Moody. Jurors were drawn and published for the upcoming court term, and the fair was drawing big crowds daily. Orient Flour, milled in Chattanooga, won 11 of 14 prizes at the county fair.

The September 22 paper reported the progress on the settlement of court cases. Mrs. C. W. Brown of Bridgeport was injured in a buggy accident that broke her femur above the right knee and several ribs. Well-respected county agent W. L. McArthur resigned and took a position in Marion County. Joe Stone was arraigned. All counties in Alabama were instructed to select a queen who would be presented to President and Mrs. Warren G. Harding in Birmingham in October. County residents could get a coupon from the Progressive Age to cast their vote for the queen, who would be “entertained royally, without cost, during her stay in Birmingham.” Word Undertaking announced that “we handle coffins and caskets at lowest prices.” and offer an “automobile hearse” connection. The editorial page said that the city needed more water, that firefighters working to control recent fires in Scottsboro had been handicapped by “the great scarcity of water.”

The September 29 paper carried a picture of affable-looking Deputy Ed Kirby who had been killed by Effie Talley, a “Negro distiller.” Deputy J. N. Owen was wounded in the same attack. Deputy Kirby had been well liked and left a wife and eight children. The county established a fund to help the family. The jury remained out for a long time in the Joe Stone murder trial, and the paper speculated that a mistrial was in the works.

October: The headline of the October 8 paper announced that the jury deliberated 48 hours and found Joe Stone guilty and sentenced him to death by hanging. The death sentence was automatically appealed, and Stone was returned to Huntsville after the trial. A long list of donors in the death of Deputy Kirby took up a quarter of the front page, and excitement was building over “Who will be the Queen?”

The October 15 paper featured a page of President Harding in the lead-up to his visit. The county courted good roads and the story “Road Men Entertained by Local Boosters” stated that “Dr. Johnson, president of the Lee Memorial Highway Association, and a party on an inspection trip reached Scottsboro Wednesday afternoon about four o’clock and were given a luncheon at the Bailey Hotel.” The Honorable Virgil Bouldin of Scottsboro spoke, as did W. W. Sanders of Stevenson.

The October 20 paper announced that the Good Roads Bill had passed the House in Montgomery. And the suspense was at last over—Miss Mary Cotton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Cotton, was elected queen, winning 484 votes. Runners up were Miss Lizzie B. Austin with 248, and Miss Rena Mae Gold with 207. Other contestants were Miss Eleanor Witcher, Miss Lucy Wimberly, and Miss Mattie Cargile. The horrible murder of a little girl, Verne Peterson, the adopted daughter of Mrs. Mary Peterson, occurred at the Seventh Day Adventist Colony on Sand Mountain. And J. A. Coburn’s minstrel show would be featured one night only, October 27, at Dreamland Theater. Tickets cost 75 cents and \$1.00 and could be purchased at R.E. and B.E. Jones Store.

President Harding visited Birmingham on October 21, and our queen was there to greet him. The October 28 paper was dominated by this story, news of some break-ins, and an account of the delightful book club Halloween Party at the home of Mrs. Grady Jacobs.

November: State government then was no more efficient than it is now, and the November 3 paper announced that Governor Kilby call an extra session of the legislature to nail down the content of amendments that would be voted on in January 1922. It was a violent week. Twenty-year-old Erskin Gant was shot in a hunting accident. and Bettie Pegues was laid to rest in the Hurt Cemetery, 86 years old and bearer of a once-prominent name almost gone from the county. Cam Russel of Rash was drowned while duck hunting in Helton Pond. The old boat he was using to retrieve ducks that he had shot sank in the deep part of the lake. Ben Hawkins disappeared after his mother’s death in Fabius, and two weeks later

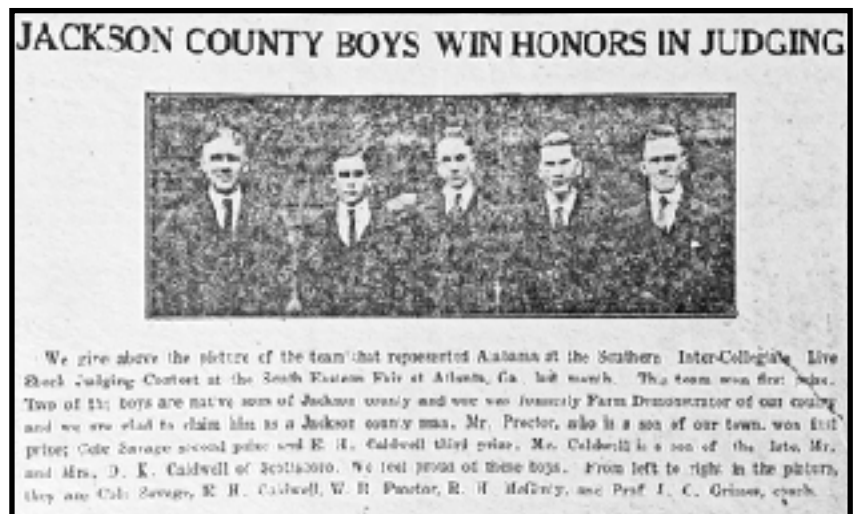


his whereabouts had not been discovered. Editor Benson questioned whether it was still appropriate to refer to Jackson County as the “land of hogs and hominy” because the county had “plenty of hominy, but few hogs.” With prohibition still new, it seems the corn crop was being diverted elsewhere.

The November 10 paper was the second one of the year to print an full financial statement, this one for the county board of education, and the trial for Effie Tally who shot Deputy Kirby was scheduled for Friday. A town still smarting from its WWI losses held a service at the Baptist church to commemorate Memorial Day. Captain James Staley, who operated the boarding house, celebrated his 89th birthday. A tractor demonstration was to be held in Stevenson on November 12 where C. E. Timberlake and Sons and Fordson would demonstrate their new tractors on the George Smith farm. John Smart, who had shot deputy sheriff Will

Gant at Pisgah a year ago, was captured near Florence. Tailored suits could be fitted for you at J. H. Hurt’s office by Lennie E. Herrin for \$25.00 and up. The Camp Fire Girls went to the White House.

The November 17 paper reported verdicts from the current circuit court term: Effie Tally received a life sentence for killing Deputy Kirby. A group of Jackson County boys won honors in the Southern Inter-Collegiate Life Stock Judging contest in Atlanta. They are pictured here, left to right, Cole Savage, E. H. Caldwell, W. B. Proctor, R. H. McGinty, and Professor J. C. Grimes, coach. An orphan boy living with Pleas Roberts named Poke Pitts was bitten by a rattlesnake while fox hunting and his condition was serious.



The November 24 paper announced the birth of a new form of commerce in Jackson County—The Roly Ready, a

complete grocery store on wheels operated out of Chattanooga. Mr. A. H. Gay set up the trial of this rolling store, which apparently met with success. Many of us remember the Gibson Rolling Store. Reverend Charley Starkey was bitten by a dog assumed to be mad in Hollywood. The dog’s head was sent to Montgomery for analysis, and Brother Starkey was waiting to hear if he would have to undergo treatment. Earl McGuffey’s store in Fackler had been entered and robbed. An ad proclaimed that 666 Tonic would cure malaria, and Word Furniture advertised its sleek new Hoosier cabinet for the kitchen, just in time for Christmas.

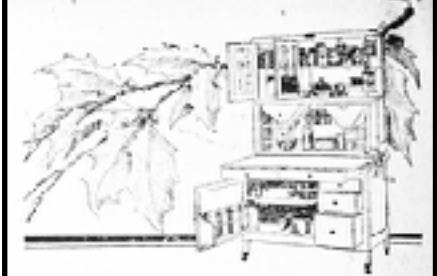
December: The weather was apparently wet in the fall, and an article on the front of the paper December 1 cautioned farmers about letting their clean cotton be exposed to the elements and ended with, “The weather damage will be several times your storage bill, you can depend on that.”

The December 8 paper announced that Scottsboro was to have a Civitan Club, that groups from Huntsville and Chattanooga had arrived to assist and that these men would be the charter members: J. W. Woodall, R. L. Airheart, W. M. Blakemore, A. H. Moody, O. D. Kennamer, J. K. Thompson, J. O. Dickinson, J. H. Wheeler, W. J. Webb, and John Snodgrass. Three young men who were in town acting as

agents for magazines “skipped out of town leaving a good size hotel bill at the Bailey Hotel,” but Mrs. Bailey’s son H. T. had apprehended them in Huntsville.

The December 15 paper carried an elaborate Merry Christmas headline, and an article titled “The Immensity of the Nitrate Plant” talked about the economic impact of the plant, the construction of which was started to support the war effort in 1918. It was stymied in 1921 but industrialist Henry Ford was trying to jump start the effort, touting the 19,263 construction jobs the plant had already brought to the area. By converting it to a power plant, Ford said, when finished it would produce 60% as much power as Niagara Falls. Like Bellefonte, it was a hole into which government money was poured. The closing of the article noted that the government had to complete the plant before Mr. Ford would take it over, that “the plant has cost to date about 95 million dollars and will require an amount estimated from 28 to 40 million to complete.” The terms of the treaty to end WWI were still being worked out, and Editor Benson noted that the world was nearly at peace this holiday season.

The December 22 paper was filled with Christmas cheer and a front-page list of JCHS students on the honor roll. Rice Coffey’s daughter Annie died in Chattanooga during an operation, and Ike Hackworth, Judge J. B. Hackworth’s brother in Anderson, TN, died from appendicitis. J. B. Williams in Decatur needed a million cross ties and was paying 50 cents for red or white oak ties “well manufactured from live lumber” and hued on all sides. In a year-end summary, E. H. Caldwell, the manager of Scottsboro Produce Company, said that he had paid \$105,000 this year for “furs, hides, chickens, eggs, etc.” but that the greater portion had been paid for chickens and eggs.



HOOSIER
The One Best Gift

Check up on your fingers all the things you would possibly give women for Christmas, and see if there is anything but a Hoosier that will do all these things for you—

**SAVE HOURS OF WORK EACH DAY
SAVE PAINS OF GRINDING
GIVE MORE TIME FOR REST AND
RECREATION
AND IN ADDITION, MAKE HER PRECIOUS
OF HER KITCHEN**

The Hoosier is the one gift that adds to the joys of life every day in the year. It is the one gift your wife will most appreciate.

And, think of it: it takes only \$1.00 to put a Hoosier in your home for Christmas. Pay the rest on our easy club plan.

WORD FURNITURE CO.

Annette Norris Bradford

A Thumbnail Sketch of County History Through 1966

9000 BC: Humans settle at Russell Cave near Bridgeport. Archaeologists from The National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution begin extensive excavations at the site in 1957.

500 BC: Inhabitants of Russell Cave exhibit evidence of a “Woodland culture,” marked by the production of pottery and the burial of the dead with their valued earthly possessions.

1000 AD: The Mississippian period marks the probable abandonment of Russell Cave as a habitat. Indians of the Mississippian period favored villages consisting of wooden huts.

1540: Hernando DeSoto descends the Tennessee waterway, probably encamping on Long Island near Bridgeport. The early Spaniards called the Tennessee River *Rio del Espiritu Santo* (*River of the Holy Spirit*). Its current name is derived from the the Cherokee village *Tanasi*. A large boulder placed by the DAR on Battery Hill in Bridgeport marks a presumed crossing by DeSoto’s men.

1721: A coalition of Cherokees and Chickasaws drives the Shawnees from the area.

1777: A “renegade” Cherokee leader named Dragging Canoe splits from the larger Cherokee alliance over their decision to sell ancestral lands to the Europeans. He and his people would establish the “five lower towns,” including Crow Town near Stevenson. Until his death in 1792, Dragging Canoe would wage unceasing warfare against white settlers who were attempting to use the Tennessee River as a conduit to the south and west.

1780: Dragging Canoe attacks a flotilla of settlers led by John Donelson just upstream from Nickajack Dam. Dragging Canoe’s warriors managed to capture only one flatboat. Its passengers consisted exclusively of settlers who had been quarantined for smallpox. Some years later, when retaliatory raids were carried out, smallpox had ravaged the Cherokee settlers, an early form of biological warfare. In the rush to lighten the boats to let them drift over the shoals, a dresser drawer cradling a day-old baby was inadvertently thrown overboard.

1783: A group of North Carolina pioneers petitions Georgia (which claimed what would become Jackson County) for the right to settle the land north of the Tennessee River.

1785: A land office is established in the *Great Bend* somewhere near Bridgeport to sell land for which they believed the Cherokees had been adequately and legally compensated. They establish a county named *Houston* to be represented by Valentine Sevier, Jr., whom the Georgia legislature would refuse to seat. The project was abandoned in a matter of weeks as a result of Cherokee and Chickasaw hostility.

1789: The Tennessee Land Company is formed, purchasing 3.5 million acres from the state of Georgia. Their attempts to colonize North Alabama failed, abetted by the Spanish administration in Mobile inciting Creek Indians to thwart the land company’s plans.

1792: Dragging Canoe dies near Chattanooga, reportedly from exhaustion after an all-night celebration.

1794: Dragging Canoe’s former coalition, known as the *Chickamaugas*, sign a peace treaty and begin a migration that will result in the abandonment of the lower towns.

1817: The Alabama Territory is created from the Mississippi Territory. White settlers who foresee the likelihood of the area becoming a state strike deals with local Indians, hoping to preempt having to pay government-set prices when the land is offered via land offices. The action was illegal, but successful in many instances when previous claimants were “grandfathered in.”

1819: Cherokee lands in Jackson County are ceded to the Federal government. Alabama becomes a state and Jackson is recognized as a county in December. European settlement resumes with little native

opposition. Sauta, known for the production of niter for gunpowder, will be linked by a road to Huntsville that year and will serve as the county seat for two years.

1820: Contrary to popular legend, Sequoyah does NOT introduce his alphabet on this (or any other year) at the mouth of Sauta (Saltpeter) Cave. A historical marker proclaiming that fact stood for many years on Highway 72 before the information was disputed and the marker was removed.

—The first mail route to Jackson County was established, running from Huntsville to the county seat, Sauta.

—The 1820 census of Jackson County shows the population as consisting of 8129 whites, 83 “free colored,” and 539 slaves.

1821: A poorly defined Jackson County is given set boundaries by administrators in nearby Decatur County, which was dissolved after being divided between Madison and Jackson Counties. The county seat of Decatur was in Old Woodville, about three-quarters of a mile outside the current town. A new county seat (Bellefonte) was designated for Jackson County, supplanting Sauta. Bellefonte was incorporated in 1821, situated on land previously owned by Cherokee James Riley.

—The stone marking the grave of Rebecca Frazier in Frazier Cemetery on Goose Pond Island makes it the oldest marked grave in the county. The Frazier cemetery graves were moved to Cedar Hill Cemetery in 1966 to accommodate Revere.

1825: Post offices in Jackson County are Bellefonte, Doyal’s Mill, Woodville, and Smith’s Store.

1828: A small steamboat, *The Atlas*, navigates the length of the Tennessee to claim a \$640 prize in Knoxville, sailing from Cincinnati in two-and-a-half months, but the uniqueness of the feat only reinforced the impracticality of the river serving as a dependable conduit for commercial service.

1834: The land for the Union Cemetery in Woodville is deeded to the town by Moses and Catherine Maples. The first burial there was Sallie Maples, the young daughter of Woodville resident Joe Maples.

1836: Having ceded their last claim to land in North Alabama on May 23, local Cherokees are mustered at Garland’s Ferry, staged for “The Trail of Tears.” Jackson County annexes the remainder of their ancestral land south and east of the Tennessee River.

1852: A post office is established in Jonesville, on the Tennessee River near the Tennessee State line. When a railroad bridge is completed there in 1854, the name of the town changes to Bridgeport.

1854: A post office is established at Scott’s Mill on May 10. James Monroe Parks, son-in-law of Robert T. Scott, is appointed the first postmaster. In the census of 1860, the town would be designated Scottsboro. In 1868, the name Scottsboro is formalized when the town is incorporated.

1855: Jackson County native Alexander Gilliland is buried standing up in Coffeetown, MS where he was overseeing the construction of a new courthouse. He toppled from a scaffold on which he was standing to put the final touch—a weathervane—on the steeple. He landed in a wheelbarrow below. He was buried standing up because “He made his living standing up.” Stevenson has its own standing burial: Nancy Jones who died in 1889. She was so weary of travel that she requested the standing burial.

1856: A depot is constructed at Bellefonte Station (later Hollywood). It will burn in 1887. The second depot burned in 1891 when thieves set the depot on fire while trying to drill through the floor to drain whiskey barrels being stored above. Contrary to popular legend, the people of Bellefonte did not oppose the railroad in favor of river commerce. Instead, the route of the railroad was determined by geography: the shortest route between Jackson County’s largest town, Larkinsville, and the point at which it would join the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, Stevenson. A second determinant of the route was intense lobbying by Robert T. Scott and other residents who invested heavily in the new line.

1857: The Memphis and Charleston (M&C) Railroad is completed. The line ran from Memphis to Stevenson, where it joined with the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad to give access to Charleston

ports. A year earlier, 300 passengers had been taken on an inaugural ride on the recently completed stretch from Huntsville to Stevenson. The 60 mile trip took 4 hours.

1860: Jackson County voters, authorized by the state legislature to move the seat of county government from Bellefonte, choose Stevenson for the site of the new courthouse. Larkinsville, a town with a greater population than Stevenson, continued to lobby for the placement of the courthouse. The matter would remain unsettled for the next nine years while the civil war diverted energy and funding.

1861: The Scottsboro Depot is constructed. It was the first brick building in Scottsboro, and it is one of three extant antebellum rail depots in Alabama.

1862: On April 12, Northern troops first enter Jackson County when General O.M. Mitchel rides in the cab of an M&C locomotive from Huntsville to Stevenson. Mitchel contemptuously noted that “[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.” That year, Mitchell would also occupy Bridgeport. His occupation would initiate several skirmishes during the war as the Confederates sought to regain the ship-building facilities and rail/river transportation hubs.

—Confederate General Danville Leadbetter’s forces are attacked by General O.M. Mitchel at Bridgeport’s Battery Hill. In the ensuing conflict, Union forces suffered three dead and eight injured. Confederate losses amounted to 31 dead and 42 injured. Three hundred and fifty Confederate troops were taken prisoner. Leadbetter burned the rail bridge in his retreat after his attempts to blow it up failed. Two subsequent bridges on the site would be burned by Confederates during the war.

—It is probable that the scheme that resulted in the incident known as The Great Locomotive Chase is planned and set in motion by O.M. Mitchel while encamped near Bridgeport.

1865: Confederate General W.H. Lyon attacks the Scottsboro M&C depot which was defended by “colored” troops. The Union troops repelled the Confederate assault. The depot building was damaged by one artillery strike to the east wall and numerous rifle rounds both to the exterior and the interior. Some contemporary accounts describe the colored troops’ deportment as “cowardly,” although their ability to prevent the burning of the depot proves otherwise.

1868: Scottsboro is incorporated on December 29. Alexander Snodgrass is appointed as its first mayor. The city limits are set at a radius of one-half mile around the depot.

—A court decree designates Scottsboro as the county seat. despite an 1860 referendum favoring Stevenson. The new courthouse would be completed in 1870.

—W.H. Payne’s Drug Store opened on what is now Mary Hunter Avenue. It relocated to its current site on the square in 1891.

—Col. Alexander Snodgrass founds *The Alabama Industrial Herald*, Scottsboro’s first post-war newspaper.

1870: Vandalism to the school and physical assaults on its faculty forces the closing of Stevenson’s Averyville School. The institution was built near the end of the Civil War with funds from Charles Avery, an abolitionist who was a strong proponent of education for the disenfranchised former slaves. The school’s most notable student, William Hooper Councill, will found Alabama A&M University.

1872: The current Stevenson Depot is built. Telegraph service across the depots debuts the same year.

1875: Charlotte Scott Skelton donates the land for what will eventually be named Cedar Hill Cemetery. There are stones in the cemetery that predate 1875, but they are for graves relocated from Bellefonte and Goose Pond’s Frazier Cemetery or are cenotaphs (memorial stones without accompanying burials).

1877: The Memphis and Charleston Railroad fails financially and its assets are transferred to the East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railway.

1878: The *Scottsboro Citizen* reports that 20 of 24 brick buildings in Bellefonte have been destroyed since 1860. Around the same time, Hamlin Caldwell bought the Bellefonte town square at auction for \$275. By 1870, Bellefonte was home to only 72 inhabitants.

1879: Fire destroys the courthouse. It is rebuilt in the same year, although the soundness of the replacement building is called into question since so much of the of the new structure had been built over the ruins of the old.

—The publication *Table of Landings* lists 21 steamboat landings in Jackson County.

1881: A fire destroys most of the town of Scottsboro, which was then laid out along the M&C rail lines along what is now Mary Hunter Avenue and Maples Avenue. The fire hastened the development of the business district around the courthouse square, which as recently as 1875 had been home to only two commercial buildings.

1884: Jackson County executes three men convicted of arson on August 1. They were hanged behind a 16-foot fenced enclosure built adjoining the county jail on Appletree Street in Scottsboro. The men were charged and convicted of burning the Henry Porter home near Bryant after the family refused their extortion demands.

1886: The entire 272-mile length of the former M&C rail line is converted from a five-foot span to standard four-foot, nine-inch span between rails in a single day.

—Temperatures in Jackson County dip to eight below zero. A storm that same year brings a 20-inch snowfall.

1887: The name “Hollywood” first appears in M&C records to refer to the station once known as Bellefonte, then Bellefonte Station, and then Samples.

1888: Hugh B. Garland is shot to death by Sheriff W.H. Dicus. As Garland was leaving a saloon on the north side of the square, an argument ensued, and both men drew guns. The fatal shot struck Garland in the heart. Dicus was hit in the leg, arm, and torso by bullets shot by Garland and his brother, E.W. Garland, who emerged from the saloon, took the pistol from his dying brother’s hand, and fired the remaining two bullets at Dicus, whose pistol had been emptied during the altercation.

—Scottsboro’s first building dedicated to education, The Scott Academy, burns five years after its construction on North Railroad Street (now North Houston Street). The institute had been founded in 1878 as the Scott Male and Female Academy. The curriculum consisted of mathematics, discipline, elocution, and English grammar.

1889: The Bridgeport Land and Improvement Company, an organization capitalized at \$2.5 million, plans a revitalized Bridgeport, setting off wildcat speculation in the area. The bubble would burst just four years later when the company entered receivership. The Queen Anne architecture initiated by Frank Kirkpatrick, a director of the Bridgeport Company, dominated Battery Hill and Hudson Avenue.

—A “handsome brick building” at the corner of Scott and College Streets is completed and will house the Scottsboro College and Normal School for Boys and Girls beginning on January 21, 1889. A chapel built behind the building in 1890 would serve as a civic center and sporadic seat of city government until 1957. It was lit by kerosene and served by “enclosed pit toilets.”

1891: The Scottsboro passenger depot is completed, but will not open until the following year, to the irritation of the townspeople and newspaper editors.

—The M&C Railroad enters receivership. It’s likely that the final blow was the government’s declaration in 1887 that the bridge at Florence was an obstruction to navigation and that the M&C was responsible for funding its replacement. The following year, 1892, a train would fall through the bridge.

1894: Prominent Scottsboro banker, R.C. Ross, is murdered in an ambush at the Stevenson rail depot by three Skelton brothers and a cousin in retaliation for what they believed to be the seduction of their sister, Annie. Annie’s sister, Dovie, had intercepted letters from the married Ross to Annie and alerted the Skeltons to the affair. Ross had returned to Scottsboro to attend the birth of his fifth child.

1898: The original M&C Railroad is sold to the sole bidder, Southern Railway. The M&C would operate thereafter as “the Memphis Division.”

1900: The first viable telephone service debuts in Scottsboro. Later that year, a 2,400 foot long cable is laid across the Tennessee River enabling long distance access to major metropolitan areas.

—*The Scottsboro Citizen* newspaper proposes “Why not have a day set apart each month in Scottsboro as a horse swappers’ day?” Although the trade day probably preceded the proposal, it will be 1904 before there is evidence that what would come to be known as “First Monday” was drawing significant crowds.

1908: Jackson County High School opens in the refurbished buildings that had housed The Scottsboro College and Normal School at the corner of College and Scott Streets. It would field its first football team in 1913. “Central School,” on the corner of Broad and Charlotte Streets opens the same year and assimilates students from several rural one-room schoolhouses: Randall’s Chapel, Campground, Bethany (Shakerag), Beech Grove, Wood’s Cove, and Centerpoint.

1910: The steamboat *John A. Patten* is burned to the waterline in Bridgeport. The boat had previously won a much-touted race with the *Parker*. The *Patten* won the race when the boiler on the *Parker* exploded, knocking its captain into the river.

—Dee Meek begins a 47-year career as stationmaster at the Hollywood depot. As telegrapher, it was his duty to deliver telegrams announcing the casualties of two world wars and the Korean conflict. He would die in an automobile accident in 1957.

1911: A fire lays waste to almost all of Stevenson’s business district. Only five downtown businesses survived the blaze, while over 20 were destroyed.

1912: The courthouse is condemned, and the proposed renovation sparks a new round of contention to determine which community should be designated the county seat. Legal actions by Stevenson and Bridgeport to replace Scottsboro were set aside in court. Construction on the new building begins in 1913.

1914: Three masked men board a train near Stevenson and blow open the safe. They disconnect the locomotive and tender cars from the passenger cars and, leaving the train crew behind, open the throttle wide. The runaway train comes to a halt only when its steam is exhausted, a few miles west of Scottsboro. Somewhere along the line, the three escape with their \$100 haul.

1914-1915: Clarence Bloomfield Moore, the son of a wealthy Philadelphia family, explores the banks of the Tennessee River from his boat, *The Gopher*, unearthing Native American artifacts that now reside in the Museum of the American Indian.

—Lucille Benson, Jackson County’s most recognizable voice, is born in Stevenson in 1914. She is discovered in the home with her 23-year-old deceased mother by her aunt Elma Kirby Benson. Mrs. Benson will take the months-old Lucille, originally named Virginia Kirby, to her home in Scottsboro where she will be raised to adulthood. Lucille appeared in over 30 films and 20 television series.

1916: Electrical power comes to Scottsboro on January 21.

1917: The Bridgeport Depot is completed.

1918: In the height of the Spanish Flu epidemic, county deaths in the fourth quarter of the year are triple what they had been in each of the previous quarters. Henry McAnelly, a Scottsboro mortician, buried 13 members of the same family.

—Sixty Jackson Countians die in WWI.

1921: Parts of the county are quarantined for two weeks because of a smallpox outbreak. All public meetings are cancelled. Similar quarantines occurred in 1901 and 1902.

—Deputy Marshal Ed Moody is killed when he tries to quell a noisy gathering near the Scottsboro passenger depot. His killer, Joe Stone, was finally sentenced to life in prison after initially being sentenced to hang.

—Violence pervades the county as the result of conflict between The Tenants’ Union and the opposing “Night Riders.” The Tenants’ Union’s stated purpose was to “keep this land idle until landlords agree to give the tenants a ‘fair deal’ and allow them to raise their families under more favorable circumstances.” In

Stevenson, shots were exchanged between protesters and and townspeople on Kentucky Avenue. The only casualty reported was Stevenson citizen Bayne Mitchell who, mistakenly believing he'd felled a protester, "became sick and lost his dinner."

1924: The House of Happiness is established in Sauta Bottom, dispensing "Soap, Soup, and Salvation" to disadvantaged county youth.

1924: Novelist Bill Heath is born in Lake Village, Arkansas, but relocated to Scottsboro after the death of his mother when he was two months old. He would grow up in the Maples house on Maple Avenue with an uncle, three aunts, and his grandmother. Heath published 8 novels and 28 short stories and scripted 3 television shows.

1925: Hodges Hospital opens on Laurel Street in Scottsboro, founded by Dr. Rayford Hodges and Dr. George Earl Nye. The hospital replaced an earlier clinic located upstairs in the Brown Building,

1927: Charles Lindbergh puts on an aerial display in *The Spirit of St. Louis* for Scottsboro citizens.

1929: The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill band is organized. It will be active until 1933, playing for family reunions, civic events, and dedications. The band was organized under the auspices of Claude Spivey, owner of the mill. The director was Dr. John Hays.

—Ethel "Babs" Hodges Deal is born in Scottsboro. She would publish 12 novels, several of which were set in a town similar to Scottsboro in which contemporary readers could identify townspeople and locales.

—The Young Women's Book Club establishes the first public library in Scottsboro. It is temporarily quartered in Judge J.M. Money's courtroom. Membership fees were \$1.00. In 1932, the library was moved to the second floor of the old city hall building, at the corner of Broad and Peachtree Streets. Under the direction of the Fortnightly Book Club (the successor to the Young Women's Book Club), the library remained in the city hall location until 1964.

1930: Claude "Curly" Putman is born near Princeton. He wrote over 800 songs, including "Green, Green Grass of Home."

—Popular Tupelo resident Harry Cunningham is murdered by a stranger, Myrtle Berry Graham, in the Drug Sundries Company on Market Street on the square. The 17-year-old Graham was the first woman tried for first degree murder in Jackson County. She was serving a life term when she was released after 12 years to die at home of a chronic illness.

1930: The B.B. Comer Bridge is completed. The 50 cent toll per car and \$1.50 for a large truck was seen as exorbitant by many residents, and most ferries continued in operation. Bridge tolls were discontinued in 1936.

1931: Nine black youths are pulled from a train in Paint Rock and accused of raping two white women, setting off years of litigation and conflict known as the "Scottsboro Boys" case.

1932: Thirty two Jackson Countians lose their lives in a tornado that destroys the town of Paint Rock. Over 300 were injured. Statewide, 268 died.

—Jackson County Sheriff Matt Wann is murdered by a shotgun blast in Scottsboro. Speculation persists that he died as a result of his determination to protect the Scottsboro Boys from a lynch mob while they were held in the county jail on Appletree Street in a scenario reminiscent of Atticus Finch's stand in *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

—The Bocanita Theater opens on the square. Theater manager Claude Bobo's vision of recreating Atlanta's Fox theater on a smaller scale proved too ambitious, and his financial backer, Aunt Tex Snodgrass, foreclosed. The theater was opened before completion and operated for a time with dirt floors. To achieve a "talkie," the projectionist would play a phonograph record, attempting to synchronize it with the film. Bobo's earlier theater, The Dreamland, was located on the second floor of the Claybrook building at the corner of Laurel and Market Streets.

—Thirty schools in Jackson County are forced to close on November 25 after only one month into the

session when the state runs a deficit of \$115,000 in its funding. Scottsboro schools remained open, supported by city contributions.

—Scottsboro is recognized as a “city” when its population rises above 2,000.

—*The Jackson County Sentinel* newspaper is established by Parker Campbell who had split with his former publisher, Jim Benson, over politics. In 1938, Benson’s newspaper, *The Progressive Age*, will merge with *The Jackson County Sentinel* under Campbell’s editorship. Campbell will retire in 1958.

1933: The Third Reich’s “Graf Zeppelin” passes over Jackson County on its way to the “Century of Progress” in Chicago.

—The Tennessee Valley Authority is created by the Roosevelt administration. TVA’s land acquisitions for the Guntersville Lake impoundment reshapes the region geographically and socially. The reservoir fills quickly following the closing of the dam’s locks in January 1939.

—Physician Marvin H. Lynch, the assistant medical examiner who evaluated the two Scottsboro Boys accusers after their alleged rapes, meets with Judge James Edward Horton in the men’s room in the Morgan County courthouse during retrials of the boys in Decatur. He tells Horton that the two women showed no signs of assault and even laughed when he had questioned him about their alleged rapes. Following the meeting, Judge Horton will set aside the jury’s guilty verdict and order a new trial for the accused. One of the two accusers, Ruby Bates, will recant her allegations, but much of her deposition will be disallowed in a subsequent trial. All the nine defendants had been released or had escaped from prison by 1946. The last surviving defendant, Clarence Norris, was pardoned in 1976 by Governor George Wallace.

1934: Nolan Strong, lead singer for doo wop group *The Diablos* is born on January 22 on North Houston Street in Scottsboro. The Diablos’ first popular recording was *The Wind*. The song is listed in the top ten of the *100 Greatest Detroit Songs Ever* by The Detroit Metro Times. Strong died in Detroit in 1977.

— The Skyline Farms, a cooperative farming community originally called *Cumberland Farms*, is established under FDR’s Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The experiment would last 10 years before the farm plots were sold to private investors.

1936: Twenty Black convicts on a work detail burn to death in the back of a truck deployed from Camp Scottsboro on Highway 72. The truck skidded on icy roads and spilled gasoline from a drum placed near the prisoners’ lockup in the bed of the truck. The gasoline and was ignited by a makeshift stove, which had been lit to keep the caged prisons warm in near-zero temperatures.

1941: The first diesel locomotive, *The Tennessean* passes through Jackson County. By 1951, diesels were handling 92% of freight service and 84% of passenger service in Southern’s Memphis Division. Southern had purchased its last steam locomotive in 1928, and its aging inventory hastened the move to diesel. Passenger service through Jackson County would end on March 30, 1968. In 1972-73, Southern Railway would be one of four major lines to refuse to participate in Amtrak’s resumption of passenger service.

1943: A military aviation trainee, Edward Putar of Bethlehem, PA, crashes into a field owned by Leonard Barbee near Randall’s Chapel after he ran out of fuel searching for a suitable landing site. Barbee carried the injured pilot to Hodges Hospital where he died four hours later of his injuries.

1945: One hundred and thirty Jackson Countians will have lost their lives during WWII. Twenty four were from Scottsboro.

1947: Robert Emmett “Bob” Jones Jr. wins a special election to fill the vacated Congressional seat of John Sparkman who been elected to the Senate. The following year, he wins the seat in the regular election, the first of 14 terms he would serve before retiring in 1977.

1948: Jet aviation pioneer Cecil Floyd dies in a accident in Utah when his prototype fighter, an F-80, stalled on a landing approach in Utah. Cecil was remembered as a mild-mannered and timid man in contrast to his brother, Jesse “Hoo Daddy” Floyd, about whom local legends abound. Both were highly

decorated WWII veterans. It was reported in his obituary that Cecil was the first glider pilot to land during the Normandy invasion. Jesse was shot in the leg during his parachute descent into France.

1949: The first TV signal is received in Scottsboro when Clyde Williamson, a radio repairman, and “Cricket” Powell engineered a receiver capable of capturing a signal from Atlanta.

1950: Scottsboro’s National Guard Company B is deployed to Korea. 164 Jackson Countians returned home in 1952 without suffering any combat casualties.

—Scottsboro citizens, gathered after midnight by Frank Henshaw and James Thompson, organize a caravan to an airstrip on Tupelo Pike to light a path for a pilot lost in a storm. The pilot, Robert Kieran, was eager for his parents not to learn of the incident, but they heard the news on Lowell Thomas’s nationally syndicated radio show the next day while sitting in a bar in Manhattan.

—The FCC licenses two radio stations for Scottsboro: WCRI in June and WROS in November. WROS would go online in 1952 as “The Wild Rose of Scottsboro,” named for its manager, “Rose” Kirby.

1952: The Jackson County Hospital opens on Woods Cove Road in Scottsboro.

—The TVA’s Widows Creek coal-fired generation facility goes online. More units were added in 1954, 1961, and 1965. Its primary chimney, built in 1977, is the second tallest structure in Alabama at 1001 feet. The facility shut down in 2015. That same year, Google announced it would invest \$600 million in a data center to be run entirely on renewable energy on land adjacent to the plant.

1953: The 1913 courthouse undergoes major renovation and expansion to its current size and appearance.

1954: Mary Texas Hurt Garner is elected the youngest Secretary of State in the county at the age of 25. She would subsequently be elected State Auditor and State Treasurer.

1955: Jake Word and Jim “Fox” Broadway complete the airstrip that will eventually be known as “Word Field,” Scottsboro’s municipal airport.

1957: John D. “Cast” King of Pisgah records eight tracks for Sam Phillips at Sun Records in Memphis. None of the tracks was released until a Sun Records retrospective was issued almost 40 years later.

1958: Pat Trammell graduates from Scottsboro High School (known before 1958 as Jackson County High School) and is recruited by the University of Alabama’s rookie head coach, Paul “Bear” Bryant. Bryant’s outlandish claim in 1958 that Alabama would win a national championship in four years was realized in 1961 when quarterback Trammell led the team to a perfect season. Other SHS players recruited from the 1958 class by Bryant were David “Bull” Webb and John O’linger.

1960: Four children are killed and eight injured when a school bus is struck by a freight train near the Fackler depot. The driver of the bus said that he attempted to stop the bus at the crossing, but his brakes failed. The rear end of the severed bus was pushed a mile down the tracks before coming to a rest.

1961: Russell Cave is declared a national monument by President John F. Kennedy.

1962: Dial phone service comes to Scottsboro.

1966: The last Confederate widow in the nation dies. She was Mollie Rogers Guffey, a resident of Gunter’s Mountain. She had married John F. Guffey in 1919 when he was 79 and she was 23.

—Northeast Alabama Junior College admits its first students.

David Benson Bradford

The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 31, Number 3

In this issue:

- **The Browns of Brownwood:** The story of one of Scottsboro's wealthiest and most eccentric families
- **Mickey O'Brien:** DeWayne Patterson recounts the accomplishments of Scottsboro's legendary basketball coach.
- **The 1869 Picnic Murders:** J.R. Kenamer, Jackson County's preeminent historian, offers a surreal account of a Woodville gathering gone awry in a narrative he failed to include in his *History of Jackson County*.
- **The Maples Company:** The history of Jackson County's largest employer.
- **W.S. Lively:** The noted photo innovator set up shop for a time in Scottsboro.
- **W.J. Word:** The patriarch and business leader who, along with his children, helped define a town.

About this Publication:

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Our **July 28 meeting** will be in **Stevenson at 2:00** at the historic **Stevenson Depot Hotel**, located next to the Stevenson Depot Museum in downtown Stevenson. Dr. John F. Kvach will speak. His topic will be "Old South, New South, De Bow's South," talking about how Vernon King Stevenson's vision and the history of Stevenson, Alabama, fit into the larger history of the 19th century South.



Dr. Kvach is a nationally recognized Southern historian, with degrees from the University of Tennessee and West Virginia University. He was for ten years a history faculty member at the University of Alabama Huntsville, leaving recently to join the staff of Liberty Learning Foundation in Huntsville, as Vice President. Liberty Learning Foundation is a non-profit organization facilitating active, immersive civics and character programs in K-12 classrooms and orchestrating local events that empower schools, parents, local leaders, and businesses to take ownership in the future of community and country.

He has written three books and numerous articles. He is a lively, funny, and engaging speaker, and much sought after as a presenter throughout the country. Dr. Kvach says, "Come find out about where we stood as the nation around us changed!"

The Stevenson Hotel and Depot were built in 1872 and both are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The museum will be open for tours, and members and guests can see the recent renovation and repair work done to the hotel building after an incident left a large hole in the building.

New Author: The *Chronicles* is happy to include the feature article on Coach Mickey O'Brien that DeWayne Patterson wrote for *The Daily Sentinel*.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll: The second Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll will be held on Sunday, October 6 at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Scottsboro, where we will introduce you to a new group of citizens who shaped our county's history. This date is earlier than last year and accommodates Auburn and Alabama football schedules. The stroll is our October meeting. The next *Chronicles* will arrive in your mailbox a few weeks early and will include sketches about each of the people included in our cemetery stroll.

The Browns of Brownwood

Jesse Edward Brown was a respected figure in early Scottsboro whose name continued to be associated with wealth and prestige in local lore well into the late 20th century, primarily through his family's bequest to the Scottsboro Board of Education for the land to build Brownwood School.

What was popularly termed the Brownwood mansion, built by Jesse's son Lawrence, stood for decades on a ridge overlooking the school. Brownwood housed eccentric family members, the grandest private library in Scottsboro, dedicated servants' quarters (for a chauffeur, groundskeeper, household help, and cook), and well-manicured flower gardens, terraces, and water features.



Jesse Edward Brown, from his 1905 obituary in *The Progressive Age*

Jesse Edward Brown was the first of his family born in Jackson County. He was born May 1, 1845 to parents Jeremiah and Mary Ann Williams Brown, who had moved from North Carolina to an area called Caney (pronounced *Canny*) Grove near Aspel.

He and a brother joined the Confederate army with the First Arkansas Infantry when Jesse was 16 years old. The two saw action at Shiloh where Jesse's brother was killed. His superior officers subsequently scrutinized Jesse's enlistment. As a result of his being too young and unaffiliated with any Arkansas family (apparently the armies were strictly regional at the time), he was released from service.

Immediately after his release, he enlisted in Company C of the Fourth Alabama Cavalry. With that outfit, he participated in the battle of Farmington and was wounded and captured at the second battle of Fort Donelson, following which he spent two months in prison camps in Louisville and Baltimore.

After his term as a prisoner of war, he saw action at Murfreesboro and Chickamauga. In July 1864, he was wounded at Noonday Creek in the battle of Kennesaw Mountain. He lost a leg as a result of his wounds. By the end of the war, he had been promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Following the war, Jesse studied law (one biographical source states he attended Georgetown College in Kentucky and then studied law at Cumberland, but his obituary mentions only Lebanon (TN) Law School). He was admitted to the bar in Huntsville in 1869. He served in the Alabama state legislature for one year beginning in 1872 and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1896. In 1875, he was active in drafting a

new constitution for the state of Alabama.

He married Virginia "Jenny" Elizabeth Wood of Winchester, TN in November 1873, and they made their home on Laurel Street in a grand structure which would be modified around 1920 to constitute the Jessica Apartments. In 1940, the property would be extended down Andrews Street to become the Jessica Hotel that fronted Willow Street. The Jessica remained a popular "meat and three" restaurant until it closed in the early 1970's.



Virginia Wood Brown, from a 1932 Christmas card



Jesse Edward and Virginia Wood Brown House on Laurel Street

Episcopal funeral services for Jesse Brown were conducted on the front lawn of his Laurel Street home and at Cedar Hill Cemetery on August 16, 1905. His home church of St. Luke's was too small to accommodate the large assemblage.



Three unknown women pass under the Jessica sign and awning

Jesse and Jenny had five children: Zaida Brown (1874-1967) who married Atticus Dickson Kirby; Lawrence Edward Brown (1875-1952) who married Augusta Tate Snodgrass quite late in life; Virginia May (sometimes spelled *Mae*) Brown (1891-1964) who never married; Clifford M. Brown who died of cholera in infancy; and Jessy Lee Brown (1880-1955) who married Fred Arn, the son of Gus Arn, an early Scottsboro merchant who is believed to be the subject of the earliest extant photo taken in Scottsboro. The only children of any of those unions were born to Jessy Arn, whose grandson Lawrence Clark spent two weeks each summer at the Brown home and was the source for some of the information cited here.

The four surviving Brown children varied considerably in temperament and their regard for Scottsboro's social norms. Lawrence Brown's great-nephew remembers Lawrence as a "wastrel" who spent his time traveling the country with his chauffeur racing his horses at various tracks. Lawrence was driven around the Southeast from track to track by a chauffeur and groom called "Red." Red was so named because he was color blind, and in a time where the placement of traffic lights had not yet been standardized, Red was unable to distinguish red from green.

Despite Lawrence's devotion to racing, however, he established himself locally as a prominent lawyer (he was a graduate of The University of Virginia), the editor of Scottsboro's *The Progressive Age* (a newspaper purchased by his father), and businessman. It was Lawrence who designed and built the Jessica Hotel. He also served for a time as assistant attorney general for the state. His most publicized act in that role was to attempt to shut down 26 brothels that had grown up around Montgomery military bases.

Lawrence was also responsible for the construction of Brownwood home (the name derives from the elision of his parents' names, Jesse Brown and Virginia Wood) on a rise adjacent to the Scott cemetery on Highway 35. Rather than working from an architect's rendering, Lawrence reportedly drew the footprint of the house and the arrangement of its downstairs rooms using a walking cane in the bare soil. By all accounts, the distribution of space in the house was impractical. In fact, nephew Lawrence Clark calls it a *screwball house*.

Numerous sources have described the construction of the house as "shoddy." However, a 1972 advertisement by Word Lumber Company noted that the asbestos roof on the house had never been



Brownwood Mansion, from the Jackson County Sentinel, June 18, 1972

replaced in the 50 years the house had stood, our best confirmation that the house was built around 1922. An addition to the house at a later date was joined to the main house by means of a breezeway. Most likely, the annex was intended to accommodate family members, perhaps the Kirbys when they relocated from Huntsville, but was rented out as the family grew smaller. Joyce Kennamer remembers the annex being occupied at one time by a worker employed in constructing Guntersville dam.

Probate records on his death in 1952 show that Lawrence had around 75 claims from creditors. Most were accounts associated with the maintenance of his horses: bills from vets, farriers, breeders, livery stables, feed stores. But the largest of the debts were to family members. His wife claimed a debt of \$10,000 owed her. His estate, executed by Atticus Kirby and Joe Dawson, saw that debt settled with the transfer of 16 horses, 4 colts, 5 head of cattle, a tractor, and 91 acres of land which adjoined a farm already owned by the wife, Augusta Tate Snodgrass Brown. The conjoined farms now constitute the property known as Fox Ridge Farms on the Old Larkinsville Road. Legal documents show that one of the horses given to Lawrence's wife bore her name, *Augusta Brown*.

Lawrence died on May 13, 1952 at a Chattanooga hospital after a heart attack. After his death, the Brownwood home remained occupied by his sister Zaida, her husband A.D. Kirby, and an unmarried sister, Virginia May.

Zaida Brown Kirby is remembered by all as a small, diffident woman and devoted member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Her husband, Atticus Dickson Kirby of Huntsville, was a elected probate judge of Jackson County in 1937. They moved to Huntsville after their Scottsboro wedding, but returned to live in Brownwood until his death in 1960 and hers in 1967.

A reliable biography of Virginia May Brown is difficult to reconstruct. We know for certain that Virginia May's professional life from 1924 to around 1941 consisted of service to the American consulate at various European postings. Previous to her first posting, she attended St. Cecilia's in Nashville to finish her secondary schooling. At age 21, she attended a "special literary course" in NYC. She also attended



Virginia May Brown, 1924 Passport Photo

Florence State Teachers' College and after her graduation taught for a time in Dadeville. She then moved to Washington D. C. where a social note in a local paper indicates she served on the administrative staff of Rhode Island Senator LeBaron Bradford Colt. The Scottsboro papers mention trips back and forth between DC and Scottsboro by both Virginia May and her mother, Jenny.

In 1924, she applied for a passport specifying that her reason for traveling abroad was to assume a position with the American consulate in Dublin. The status of her passport is marked "special" with "no fee required," confirming she was going abroad on government business. She sailed to Dublin on December 13, 1924 on the *President Roosevelt*.

By 1930, she was listed as being in the American Consular Service in Budapest. Passenger ship manifests list her as sailing from Italy on March 17, 1930 as a first class passenger on the *Saturnia*. Her mother's 1932 obituary lists Virginia as associated with the Stuttgart consulate, sailing from Hamburg to New York as a first class passenger on the *Washington* on April 5, 1934 in what the newspapers would say was her

first trip home in three years. The 1934, *Jackson County Sentinel* states she is still associated with the Stuttgart consulate. In 1937, she sails to Ireland on The *Manhattan*, again on a special (presumably state department-issued) passport.

Her activities in the late 1930's are difficult to establish. She is listed in the Brown household in 1940, but that does not disprove she was still with the Stuttgart consulate in that year. At least one other woman

known to have fled the consulate in advance of the Third Reich, Dorothy Gosline, was also listed as living at home with her parents in 1940 when in fact she was a consular employee in Stuttgart.

Consular employees fleeing the Nazis from Stuttgart are known to have taken two routes in their return to the states: from Petsamo, Finland on board the ship *American Legion* and from Lisbon, Portugal where consular staff drove by car and then were transported home by US Navy vessels. Virginia May's name does not occur on passenger manifests of the *American Legion*, and passenger records for the Navy sailings are not available. Certainly, either exit would have been challenging since Jewish refugees from Europe were also vying for passage to escape Hitler's repression.

Consular records for Virginia May are sketchy. The official record obtained from the consular service consists of hand written notes on a single index card. They list her education, listing brief stints at Columbia University (probably a botched transcription of Columbia Institute, a boarding school she attended beginning at age 13) and one year at George Washington Law School. The consular records also state she had served as clerk to Senator Colt since 1918. The record lists her as resigning from the state department in 1937, but she continued to travel on a special passport to Ireland and Germany after that date.

The lack of official records might be accounted for by the fact that some consular clerkships at the time were not official government positions, but positions given to socially prominent young women as honorary roles. The women were expected to pay their own expenses while in the host country.

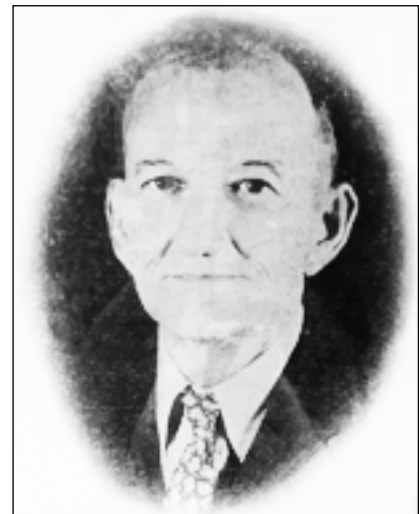
Newspaper reports place Virginia May in Stuttgart at a time when she would have witnessed Nazi atrocities such as *kristallnacht*, where German mobs destroyed the homes and businesses of Jews. Lawrence Clark confirms that Virginia witnessed a march of Nazi soldiers and that her companion, her nephew Fred Arn Jr., removed his hat and cheered for the soldiers. Clark is unaware of whether Virginia May was sympathetic with the new regime. Fred Arn Jr. a Yale graduate and career diplomat, would shortly be committed to an institution in Milledgeville GA, deemed "utterly insane." "Our family had a bad tendency to be nuts," Lawrence Clark quipped.

Whether or not Virginia May was part of the frenzied exodus after the closure of the consulate and whether or not she retained a favorable view of the new Germany, as Lawrence Clark suspects, now seems impossible to establish.

It's certain she was back in Scottsboro by 1943 when she is serving as chairman of voter registration in Jackson County, a post she resigned the following year.

Virginia May is remembered by several of her younger acquaintances. She's remembered as a large woman who smoked constantly and used a cigarette holder, considered an unusual and notable affectation at the time. She wore large amounts of costume jewelry. Stella Benson recalls that wearing excessive jewelry caused adults to taunt Emily Word when she was a child, calling her "little Virginia May." She preferred the color yellow, and always dressed in vivid colors. "Flamboyant" is the term some have used to describe her appearance.

She, like every member of the Brown household, never learned to drive, preferring to walk or use the taxi services of Nathan Sanders who ran a local taxi service. She refused to ride with the family's chauffeur, who had served her brother-in-law Atticus Dickson Kirby, and who remained with the household until Virginia May's death in 1964. Bonnie Harbin Weeks recalls her husband, Morgan, once giving Virginia May a ride home in a snow storm, but Virginia balked at the idea of his walking her the final hundred yards or so up the driveway to Brownwood.



Atticus Dickson Kirby, Probate Judge 1937-38

She was a passionate and volatile bridge player, often lashing out at partners and opponents who she thought played poorly. Her grand-nephew remembers her being patient as she taught him to play gin rummy, and she took demonstrable pride in teaching him to shuffle cards.

She's often remembered as practicing European "airs" in a staid Scottsboro society. She once invited her circle of friends to an *al fresco* tea. "We had to look it up to figure out it meant *outside*," said one of the attendees. Some recall that her accent was affected. She gave frequent wedding showers for local women, including Jean Dawson and Mary Presley, neither of whom can recall much contact with her after the events.

She and her family retained what's described as one of the largest personal libraries in Scottsboro. The library had been expressly designed as a library by Lawrence Brown and featured an entire wall of glass panes overlooking the scrupulously maintained grounds to the rear of the house. She was particularly devoted to mysteries, and initiated correspondence with several crime authors. She had an ongoing correspondence with Rex Stout, author of the Nero Wolff mysteries. Ann Chambless remembers visiting the house as a girl and being sternly warned by Virginia May not to touch certain sections of "off limit" books.

On Virginia May's death in 1964, the household staff, a family that had been shown considerable favor by Atticus Kirby until his death in 1960, was told to relocate from Brownwood. Atticus had built the family a six-room house on the grounds of the estate, and he assured the family he would see they were cared after his death if they saw him through end of life.

In 1964 when they were directed to leave Brownwood, they moved into a home on Maple Avenue bought for them by Atticus Kirby. Fifty-five years later, a daughter of the family still cannot understand the timing of the request to relocate. Virginia had not been congenial to the family, and their devotion was exclusively to the Kirbys, but Zaida Kirby, the last remaining member of the household, was in need of care. The family does not know who provided for Zaida in her final years in the house. Her obituary notes that she died in a nursing facility.

Another peculiarity revolves around the disposition of Virginia May's remains. Family members and household staff state definitively that she was cremated and her remains scattered in her gardens on the Brownwood grounds, but her brief and perfunctory three-paragraph obituary states that her burial services were conducted at Cedar Hill Cemetery. Benny Bell, supervisor of Cedar Hill Cemetery, confirms that there is a burial at the site of her headstone and notes that cremations were extremely rare at the time of Virginia May's death in 1964.

The disparity was finally resolved by Lawrence Clark who says his brother Charles personally arranged the burial service and spread the cremated remains in the Brownwood gardens. The service was secular. Unlike her sister Zaida and her parents, all of whom were ardent Episcopalians, Virginia May was not a churchgoer.

The Brownwood home remained unoccupied for several years following the death of its last occupant, Zaida Kirby. Newspaper accounts of the time twice mention vandalism to the abandoned structure. One young boy who entered the house without authorization after it was abandoned remembers portraits remaining on the wall and a sizable dining table still set with china and crystal.

The house was razed around 1972. There is no record or knowledge of what became of the family portraits, the furnishings, or the library, although one source states that most of Virginia May's jewelry was willed to Martha Hunt Robertson Huie.

David Bradford

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Remembering a Coaching Legend: Mickey O'Brien

Freshman Fred Thomas entered Jackson County High School in the fall of 1944, just as the coach had hoped. Thomas lived on Sand Mountain in Dutton, but there was no high school in Section. Kids either went to Pisgah or Jackson County High. Basketball coach Wallace Guy O'Brien, better known as Mickey, was not about to let the talented Thomas get away. "He didn't want me to go to Pisgah," remembers Thomas, whose brother, Blaine Thomas, played on Jackson County High School's 1938 state championship team.

Thomas never got to play for O'Brien, though. Three months before the freshman enrolled in high school, O'Brien, one of the most successful high school basketball coaches in state history, died unexpectedly in June 1944.

It's been almost 75 years since O'Brien died, at the age of 39, only months after winning his fifth state basketball championship. Those who played for him in his 14-year coaching career are now gone, too. There are only a few left who remember the legendary coach.

But through history, legend, word-of-mouth, and old newspaper accounts, O'Brien was a man ahead of his time when it came to basketball. He was also a man who was loved dearly, by his players and all who came in contact with him.

O'Brien was born in 1905 in Dadeville, AL. He graduated from Tallapoosa County High School, in Dadeville, in 1922 and from Auburn University in 1926. After graduation, O'Brien was hired as a teacher and coach in Geraldine. He coached the basketball team for six years, carrying three teams to the state tournament. O'Brien's teams won back-to-back state championships in 1931-1932. At Geraldine, he finished with a record of 156-15.

In 1932, O'Brien came to Jackson County High School and added two more state championships in 1934 and 1938. O'Brien left Scottsboro in 1940 and coached two years at Gadsden High School, compiling a record of 49-6. He returned to Jackson County in 1943, winning his fifth state title in 1944. "He was just an excellent coach," said Thomas. "He took great interest and care in his players."

O'Brien has been credited with designing the zone defense, perfecting the fast break, installing the four corners offense and developing the ball-handling, play-making point guard. "He was way ahead of his time," said Fort Payne basketball coach Glen Hicks, a member of the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. O'Brien married a Sand Mountain girl, Iris McGriff of Dutton, and he never got far away from the mountain and its basketball players. Hicks said he grew up hearing stories about O'Brien from his own legendary coach Paul Cooley. "Coach O'Brien was a great recruiter in those days when there weren't many high schools," said Hicks. "He always got good players off Sand Mountain that came to play for him." O'Brien was much more than just a basketball coach. He was known as "the number one citizen of this community."



Coach Wallace Guy "Mickey" O'Brien. H. H. Betts

Anne Marie Smith wrote, following his death, in the July 6, 1944 edition of *The Progressive Age*, “Jackson County has lost one of its most loved citizens, a man who was known for leadership and admired by all who knew him. He set a good example for his students and Boy Scouts to follow.”

Smith also wrote, “I don’t have to tell you all the things he did because he was leader in so many things—never too tired to say no or too busy or otherwise occupied to say something to a friend, student, or acquaintance. Not many coaches take the time to write their “boys” in service.”

It is said that O’Brien, on several occasions, gave away half of his paycheck so kids could eat. His legend grew in 1937 when a boarding house in which several teachers resided burned. O’Brien rushed through the burning building and guided several of his colleagues to safety. In the process, he suffered severe burns. Shortly after, he was named the city’s fire chief. “Everybody loved him,” said Vesta Lou Skelton, who was a 1938 graduate of Jackson County High School. “He was just a good guy.”

It was shortly after the state championship win in 1944 when O’Brien became sick. He died on June 30, 1944 of complications following an appendectomy. “Coach O’Brien had to leave us just in the prime of his life and success and happiness,” wrote Parker Campbell, editor of *The Jackson County Sentinel* on July 3, 1944.

O’Brien, in 14 seasons, finished with a record of 427-47 and five state championships. For 15 years following his death, the O’Brien Trophy was presented to the most valuable player of the state tournament. Scottsboro’s first recreational center was named in his honor, along with a gymnasium.

In April 1991, O’Brien was inducted into the Alabama State High School Sports Hall of Fame. A year later, he was inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame. He has since been inducted into inaugural Hall of Fame classes in DeKalb and Jackson counties.

In his “Points and View” column, published in *The Auburn Alumnews*, Jerry Roden Jr. wrote that O’Brien was committed to all his students and to academic as well as athletic achievement. “He felt a deep obligation to his community and labored unceasingly to fulfill it: at the time of his death, he was a scoutmaster, a Sunday School teacher and the elected chief of the Scottsboro Fire Department,” wrote Roden.

It is said that at his last state title win in 1944 in Tuscaloosa, officials called for O’Brien to step out on the floor and receive an ovation and honors. He sent word to the officials, “Give the boys all the credit—they did it—not me.”

And as Campbell wrote in 1944, “That was the sort of man he was.”



L to R, Stanley Jones, Coach O’Brien, and Claude Baker
Jones in front of Hodges Drugs

DeWayne Paterson

The 1869 Masonic Picnic Murders

J. R. Kennamer recalls an incident from an 1869 gathering in Woodville, published in *The Progressive Age*, May 7, 1925.

We often read of the many thrilling wild west encounters, but the now peaceful old town of Woodville, Alabama, had an occurrence fifty-six years ago which has never been excelled for excitement by any Western tale.

At that time there lived on the side of the mountain two miles northeast of Woodville, Jim Whitecotton who had five grown sons. This place is now known as the Ike Wills place. In almost every village liquor was sold in the same way as groceries. Drinking was quite common and fighting not infrequent. The Whitecottons were addicted to drinking and were a terror to anyone who might incur their displeasure. No braver men ever lived in this or any other country.

Now there lived in Madison County, near Butler's Mill, old man Pleas Woodall, and some other Woodalls lived near Woodville and in Kennamer Cove. The Woodalls have been favorably known here for a hundred years. They are cool, calm, fearless—quick to resent an insult and can always be counted on to defend themselves at all hazards when attacked. Once, Jim Whitecotton, Sr. got into a fight with Pleas Woodall in Woodville. After knocking Woodall down, he threw a keg of nails on him, using the old man quite roughly, which aroused all the latent fighting instincts of the whole Woodall clan.

During the great Civil War, with man, reason was dethroned, passions ran high, animosities were bitter, but at this time these characteristics began to give way to the better and more holy feelings and the common brotherhood of man who were manifesting themselves in the organization of a Masonic lodge. Many citizens of Woodville and adjacent communities who had joined this organization decided to have a great picnic and barbecue.

Just midway between Woodville and Paint Rock the beautiful Paint Rock River, as it meanders southward from the Tennessee state line and bathes the very feet of the Cumberland Plateau,

passes by a large and very pretty spring which is surrounded by an open bottom of native oak with a luxuriant growth of grass all around. This spring was chosen as the place for the barbecue. It is today a popular resort for all outings, being owned by Mr. R. P. Kennamore of Paint Rock who has generously preserved its original beauty.

June 24, 1869, the day appointed, found a large crowd present from Jackson, Madison, and Marshall counties. In one respect, this gathering resembled a pioneer religious meeting among hostile Indians, in that many guns and pistols were in evidence. It is said that Jim Whitecotton, Jr., on the morning of the barbecue, oiled, rubbed, and tested his pistol, and told his wife that he would kill Dave Woodall that day or "eat his supper in hell." He came from his home in Gurley on a handcar with Arch Boman, and on the way to the barbecue shot his pistol and reloaded it to see that it was all right.

As dinner was now almost ready, Jim walked within the ropes and helped himself to whatever he wanted to eat. No one made any protest. Rollings Whitaker was in charge of the dinner, with J. B. Parkhill and others as assistants. James Nelson had a lemonade stand though there was plenty of good water nearby. As the Masons were preparing to march, a great fight began as suddenly as a mine explosion.

No tongue can tell or pen describe as Hy(ram) Whitecotton and David Woodall, Jim Whitecotton, Jr. and Pleas Woodall, father of Dave, fought like mountain lions suddenly aroused from their lair. By some inscrutable providence, the Whitecottons' pistols failed to fire and Hy and Dave used their pistols as clubs, which soon caused blood to flow freely when suddenly shots rang out.

Hy Whitecotton fell mortally wounded and died in a few moments. While this was going on, Jim Whitecotton and Pleas Woodall were in a life and death struggle. Pleas Woodall got his shoulder

dislocated. Hy saw his brother had been killed and himself mortally wounded, turned to get away and tried to on Dr. L(afayette) Derrick's mule which was hitched nearby but was unable to do so, being shot many times by members of the crowd. It is claimed Henry Dillard, Thomp Houston, George Hulett, Frank Cotton, and possibly others did the shooting.

When the fight began the large crowd scattered like a covey of quail when flushed by some keen-scented and over-anxious setter. Men, women, and children ran in every direction, screaming, hiding behind stumps, trees, and under the river bank and many ran right into the river, never stopping until they reached home. Among whom were some lads, Tom Dean, Daniel L. Dudley, Dan Butler, and John and Marshall Bowers. There was an Indian there who waded the river and ran off.

After the fight, "Judge" William (Bill) Isom in a stentorian voice called out, "Let everyone come and eat supper," as though nothing had happened.

In response to this, the crowd began to come out from hiding places like half-grown turkeys when unexpectedly scattered by a hunter are called by the mother bird. Dr. L. Derrick soon set the shoulder of Pleas Woodall, and the large crowd ate their dinner as though nothing had occurred, while Jim and Hy Whitecotton lay dead on the ground nearby. Their sister ate a hearty dinner. Am I dreaming? Ask fifty old people now who saw it, one of whom is J. B. Parkhill who waited on her at the table.

The dead men were finally put on a handcar and brought to Woodville and put into a boxcar which was on the side track; here they remained all night without anyone to watch. They were hauled the next day in an ox wagon belonging to the widow of Dr. Solomon Stephens three miles east of Woodville to the head of Thomas Cove and were buried there in an unmarked grave.

Old Baptist Cemetery Recognized

The JCHA received notification on May 1 that the Old Baptist Cemetery in Hollywood has been added to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Registry. This is a prestigious listing and means that the Alabama Historical Commission considers this cemetery particularly worthy of preservation and recognition. Chauncey H. Robinson of Chicago contacted the JCHA for assistance and did the paperwork to have this cemetery added to the registry.

There are 833 cemeteries statewide that are included on this registry. Old Baptist is the sixth cemetery in Jackson County to receive this honor.



The Maples Company: Scottsboro's Family Industry

In 1932 when twelve employees showed up at the old skating rink on Willow Street to learn to operate a tufting machine designed and patented by John Wade Maples, they were women who had always worked on farms, who had “never had a paycheck in their own name,” as Ada Shelton Webb put it. Ada started work at Maples in 1946, daughter June Bishop Lands wrote in a 2005 column in *The Daily Sentinel* about her mother's experience of working in “the rug mill.”

The women who formed the first work force at Maples came from town, from Sand Mountain, from Paint Rock Valley—from all over the county. They learned to operate high-speed, noisy, multi-needle machines. In the beginning, the company created chenille bedspreads, but quickly moved on as the popularity of chenille waned, using their patented tufting process to create bathroom rug sets.

The Maples Company moved from Broad Street to the long, white wood-framed building on the hillside near the railroad track, next door to the historic Maples home. What began as a “rug mill” evolved into a community. Ladies whose paths might never have crossed formed lasting friendships because of their work together at Maples. Many times over the years Mrs. Wann would introduce her daughter to someone saying, “We worked together at Maples.” Then they reminisced and brought each other up to date on other friends.

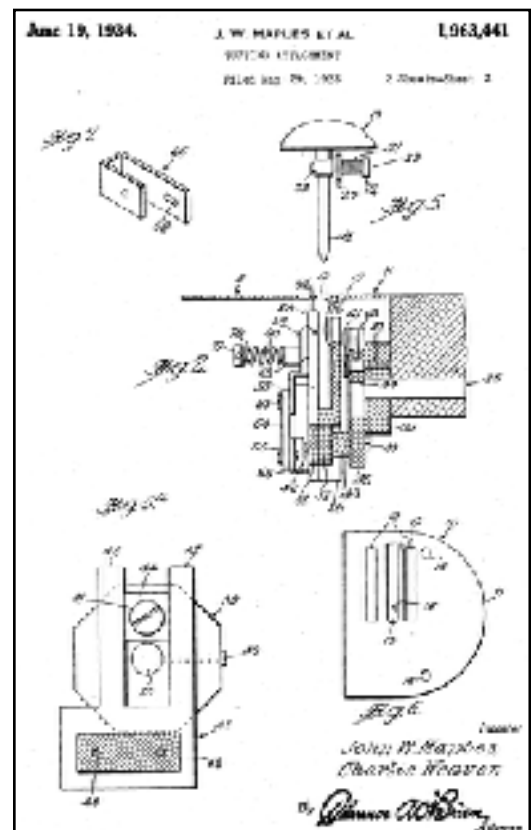
A friendly, comfortable atmosphere does not simply happen with a company. It is created from the top. Then it is nurtured daily by management and employees alike, both then and now. As Mrs. Wann's daughter June said, “Seems some folks just know how to get it right.” (1) And the Maples family got it right. Both times.

The Maples Company

The tufting attachment that John Wade Maples invented was indeed patented. On May 29, 1933 John Wade Maples and Charlie Weaver filed Patent No. US1963441A. The patent was approved and published on June 19, 1934. The description of the patent states: “Our invention relates generally to tufting machines, and particularly to a tufting attachment for a sewing machine, and an important object of our invention is to provide an attachment of this class at low cost which may be installed on a sewing machine so as to be operable thereby.”(2)

This technology became the foundation of the Maples Company. The company began production in 1932 in a frame building on South Broad Street with twelve employees, using the machine that John W. Maples patented. The company began as a family partnership owned by John W. Maples, James C. Maples, Miss Will Maples, Robert “Jack” Maples, and Sophronia Maples (the mother of the other four). The company manufactured tufted bedspreads until about 1955 when the finished product was changed to bath sets and scatter rugs. (3)

By 1960 the company had grown to 212 employees and occupied 70,000 square feet of floor space in two buildings and three warehouses. It caught the attention of textile giant J. P. Stephens, who bought the company in 1963.



Engineering drawing for Patent US1963441A

But that was not the end of the story.⁽⁴⁾ John Maples engineered the sale of the company with the express intent of starting again from scratch. He acquired “table top” production machinery and once again began supplying one of the the biggest of his earlier customers, J.C. Penney Co. In March of 1966, John Wade Maples Jr. returned from Auburn University and joined his father in the reformed company. In 1968, the new Maples company employed 189 persons and had an annual income of approximately \$400,000. Wade’s father died in 1971, leaving Wade and his wife Pat Hartselle Maples to steer the new Maples Industries. Maples is the second largest manufacturer of tufted scatter rugs in the country.

Today, the Maples’ son John has assumed the key role of operations for the entire manufacturing facility. John began as a teenager on the production floor and mastered every tool and process in the entire production chain. Still, the elder Maples aren’t considering retirement. “We just aren’t the retiring kind,” they agree.

The current Maples Rugs tries to buy their materials from domestic producers. Their designs are local, created either by Pat Maples herself or subject to her personal approval. The company buys the filaments needed to twist into threads that are used by their machines. Operators punch these threads into a base material called a scrim. The local producers of the tough canvas scrims have gone out of business, and the company has to buy this part of their process from Saudi Arabia. All rugs are woven of white yarn, a mixture of nylon, polypropylene, and polyester. Patterns are printed onto the white rugs. Then a latex backing is applied to keep the rugs from slipping underfoot and to protect the hardware floors and tile surfaces beneath the rug, a process that is outsourced. Finally surge stitching is performed around the edges to prevent raveling and give the runs a finished look. The entire process takes seven days.

In 2018, the Maples Company made 24 million rugs, of which 70% were accent rugs and 30% were bath rugs. Ten years ago, these numbers were reversed. Maples employs 1800 people across 9 departments. Their four plants encompass more than a million square feet. All of these employees, except ten on their sales team, are located in Scottsboro.

Ten years ago, the biggest buyer of Maples rugs was Sears. But last year, Sears went bankrupt. Now Maples sells to eight customers, but primarily to Walmart; Bed, Bath, and Beyond; Target; and Amazon. Amazon is a good customer, but dealing with their business model is not without challenges. Unlike other companies who order and stock rugs, Amazon offers a big range of products but sometimes sells only a few from a given manufacturer.



Wade, John, Mark and Pat Maples in 1975

Maples participates in markets in New York twice a year, in March and September. Two of their sales team live in New York. Buyers come to the market, and Maples and other suppliers show their designs for the coming year. They negotiate colors and prices with their customers. Pat Maples leads a team of four designers; their competitor, Mohawk, needs 18 designers to provide the same services. As part of this process, they make and send out samples, often in multiple iterations until the customer is satisfied. It is a tough and expensive process. Maples spends \$45 million annually with just their yarn vendors. The focus of all this effort is to produce a better rug at a lower cost.

One of the biggest challenges is maintaining a skilled workforce, and Maples has proved a very stable and nurturing employer. Their 1800 employees are competitively compensated. Their work environment is safe. Blue Cross says that they provide the most generous benefits package in the state. They have an employee health center that provides acute and preventive care. Diabetics, for example, receive care and counseling and free supplies. The Maples family is committed to their employees and to Scottsboro.

Yet retaining good employees is a constant challenge. Maples advertises widely and offers signing bonuses to qualified job candidates. Their payroll is \$50 million annually, and their workers come from within a 40-mile radius of Scottsboro. They annually spend \$120,000 on pre-employment screening, though they are about to move this function in-house. They are good employers and also good creditors, paying their vendors within 30 days.

The Maples House

The Maples family members are good employers but also good stewards of history. Wade and Pat Maples live in the early Victorian home on Maple Avenue bought by Dr. William Caswell Maples 114 years ago to house his wife Sophronia Starkey Maples and their children. The house was built by master carpenter William Whitworth to serve the needs of his own family. The Whitworths moved from Lincoln County, Tennessee to Scottsboro after the Civil War. Whitworth bought eight 1/8 acre city lots from property originally owned by Scottsboro founder Robert T. Scott. The house was built around 1871. In November 1874, Whitworth bought 18 more lots adjoining his property to the east, the land that became the site of the Maples mill operation.

Whitworth built the Maples house and at least two other county landmarks, both of which are now gone: the little white Presbyterian church on Willow Street (which is now located in a new building on Kyle) and the first courthouse on the square, the building featured in the mural that John Warr is creating on the side of the CASA (Sentell) building. *The Scottsboro Citizen* reported on March 28, 1879 that "Judge Kyle and Mr. William Whitworth went to Chattanooga last week, and made arrangements to get all the necessary lumber for the court-house."

The Whitworths had two children: a daughter Ella (1855-1898) who married Dr. Rorex and a son Albert (1958-1935) who became a lawyer in Mississippi. When Mrs. Whitworth died in 1883, Mr. Whitworth seemed at loose ends. He travelled extensively in the West. The Citizen reported that William sold the big family home to J. H. Stratton, who converted it into a hotel and boarding house (Scottsboro Citizen February 15, 1883). It appears that the Citizen was wrong, and he rented the house instead and actually sold it in 1889.

Ann Chambless' analysis of deeds found that on October 21, 1889, Whitworth sold his home to W. F. Kirk, an attorney, for \$3500.⁽⁵⁾ The Kirks sold 5/8 of their interest in this house and property to Mrs. Maggie J. Parks, Lelia Kirk's mother, who converted it into a boarding house and hotel known as Parks House. Mrs. Parks added the bay window and a good deal of gingerbread trim to the house. Her hotel business thrived, and she paid off her mortgage on the property in 1901. She sold it in 1905 and went to live with her daughter.

Dr. W. C. Maples bought this property from Mrs. Parks on September 28, 1905. He had moved his big family from Bellefonte to Scottsboro in 1890 and rented the old Snodgrass/Morgan home at the end of Peachtree Street. The Maples removed much of the gingerbread trim that Mrs. Parks had added, returning the house to the simplicity of its original architectural style. The home has been in the Maples family for 114 years.

Wade and Pat Maples in 1975 driving forces behind both Maples Industry and the preservation of the Maples home. They renovated the home in late 1975 and moved into it with their children, John and Mark. They are quick to offer their lovely restored home as the site of home tours or fundraising teas. Just

as the Maples family who founded the original Maples Industries, they are a backbone of employment in the county and a steward of the historic home where they live.

Workflow in the Old Maples Company

When June Lands sorted through her mother Ada's most prized positions after her death, she found that her mother had written a poem in the form of a Christmas letter—"to the company, Will, John, Jim, and Jack, The Maples Company. In it, she describes the work flow in the old Maples Company. This process of creating and shipping samples for customer approval is still very much in evidence, although samples are no longer shipped out on the 4:30 train.

Mr. Carls just called long distance to say
 He wants new samples—we start today.
 We get out our pencils and begin to draw.
 We'll design something better than Mr. Carls ever saw.
 John stands by—his criticism is keen
 He, too, has ideas—See what I mean?
 Miss Will takes over and shoos him out
 The designing department is hers without a doubt.
 We work very hard each day till late.
 These samples must be out by a certain date.
 The machines must be in order and running fine
 Each operators tries not to miss a line.
 The weights are checked, we have colors in mind.
 Where's the stop watch? Each operator must be timed.
 The records are accurate—we hope—we hope.
 If I've made a mistake I'll feel like a dope.
 The samples are finished on Friday each time.
 We couldn't finish earlier, I'll bet you a dime.
 Miss Will takes the phone—calls 170J.
 Send Bud up with the truck without delay.
 Have the cleaners to wait and please take the pain.
 To see the samples are shipped on the 4:30 train.



The Maples Company in 1939

The Family Behind the Old Company

When Dr. William Caswell Maples and his family moved into the Whitworth-Parks-Maples home, the family included seven children who left their marks not just on the Maples Company, but also touched the people of Scottsboro—even the world.⁽⁶⁾ Physician William Caswell Maples was born November 31, 1859 in Bellefonte. He married Sophronia Starkey (born December 13, 1867) and they had these seven children:



Dr. William Caswell Maples

Miss Will Maples (1889-1970) graduated from Randolph Macon Women's College, a mathematics major. She taught mathematics in schools in Arkansas for several years before taking courses at Tulane and becoming a laboratory technician. She was employed in the offices of Drs. Haymore and Hampton in Chattanooga for many years. She returned to Scottsboro in 1924 and became a partner in the Maples Company, where she was a designer. But in Scottsboro she is best known as Jackson County's first Girl Scout leader. She founded this group September 1, 1934 and continued her involvement with scouts for the next 20 years. She was instrumental in planning and building Camp Trico. When the right-of-way for power lines was cut up the side of Sand Mountain, she took her scouts and hiked up and down in a day. She built the Girl Scout cabin (that is now located in Caldwell Park) on Backbone Ridge. It was used for meetings, cookouts, and overnight campouts. She travelled widely and once visited a scout group behind the Iron Curtain. She was a Regent of the DAR and served on the board of the DAR School in Grant. She was a beloved figure in the community, and the Maples Girl Scout Cabin is named for her. She died in 1970 at age 80. The brochure about the cabin is part of her findagrave record.

Ann Maples Heath (1890-1924) married Charles Merrill Heath of Stevenson. Charles was a lumberman associated with and related to the Armstrong and Mitchell families of Stevenson. He left Stevenson to run lumber mills in Arkansas, Louisiana, and El Paso, TX. Charles and Ann were the parents of three sons: Charles Maples Heath who lived in Scottsboro and married Winifred Folse; Wiley Caswell Heath who married Rena Clay Carpenter and lived and died in El Paso, a lumberman like his father; and William Ledbetter "Bill" Heath who married Mary Ann Stahler. Bill's mother died soon after his birth, and he was raised in Scottsboro by his grandmother Sophronia Maples. Bill was the author of 8 novels (one of which became a major motion picture), 28 short stories, and 3 TV shows. He received widespread critical acclaim and several literary awards. (His nephew Charles Heath wrote about Bill in the April 2018 *Chronicles*.) Ann Maples Heath died in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana in 1924, only 34 years old, two months after the birth of her third son. She is buried in Cedar Hill.

Robert Caswell "Jack" Maples (1892-1975) lived in Scottsboro. He graduated from Auburn University and was a veteran of World War I, serving with the 5th Division in France until 1918. He was employed by Payne Drugs, served as Mayor *pro tem*, City Court Judge, and Fire Chief. In 1937, he married Katherine Smith of Hot Springs, VA. While carrying out his other duties, he was also a partner in the Maples Company. The *Sentinel-Age* called him "a gifted storyteller" and "a man of unique personality, astringent opinions, and selfless generosity" who "endeared himself to three generations of Jackson Countians." He died in 1975 at age 83.

Admiral Houston Ledbetter Maples (1896-1989) grew up in Scottsboro and attended the Naval Academy as part of the class of 1917. He has the distinction of having served in both World War I and World War II. His tours of duty at sea took him on Atlantic patrol to the Canal Zone; to the Philippines, patrolling Chinese waters; serving as Aide to the Governor of Samoa and also the Naval Commander, Philadelphia to command the *Esso Albany*; commander of the *Sabine* during World War II and service in Tokyo, Samoa, Wake Island, and Guadalcanal; included the Canal Zone; diplomatic missions to Russia, using his years of expertise advising leaders on Russia. He retired in 1948 after 30 years of service. He lived his last thirty years in Scottsboro. He died in 1980 at age 83 and is buried at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Charles Heath Jr. wrote about his great-uncle in the April 2017 *Chronicles*.

John Wade Maples Sr. (1900-1971) was the driving force behind the founding of Maples Industries. His patent, filed in 1933 and approved in 1934, became the technology for created tufted rugs upon which the company was founded. He was part of the founding of the Maples Company twice—the original company in 1932 which sold to J. P. Stevens in 1963 and the reborn Maples Company with his son, Wade, in 1966. He was chairman of the city Commerce and Education Committee, a director of First Federal Savings and Loan, and a deacon at the First Baptist Church. He married Laura Walsh, and they had one son, John

Wade Maples Jr. who, with his wife Pat Hartselle Maples and son John Maples, now owns and operates Maples Industries. He died in 1971 at age 70.

Emmett Starkey Maples

(1903-1929) was an honor student at Jackson County High School and Auburn University. He was a promising young electrical engineer working at a substation for Dixie Construction in Anniston when he was burned and thrown to the ground and died as result of these injuries, only 26 years old.

James Carrington “Jim” Maples

(1905-1961) was a partner in the Maples Company. He married Rose Houk of Paint Rock in 1936. He fought in World War II. He died in 1961, only 56 years old.



The Maples Children (L to R): Emmett, Will, John, Houston, Ann, mother Sophoria, Jim, and Jack, with grandchildren Wiley and Charles

Annette Norris Bradford

Footnotes

(1) June Bishop Lands, “Yesterday—at the rug mill,” *The Daily Sentinel*, May 11, 2005, p. 4.

(2) <https://patents.google.com/patent/US1963441A/en>

(3) Details about the first Maples Company are from Jerry W. Gist, *The History of Scottsboro, Alabama* (Rich Printing Company: 1968), p. 107.

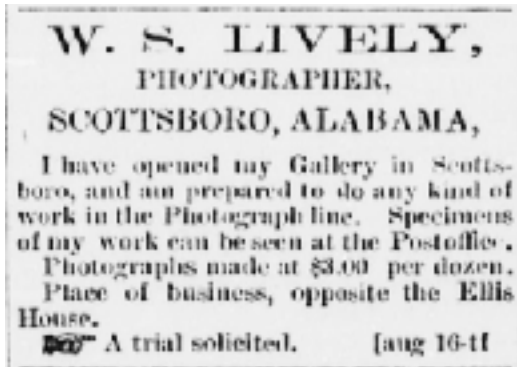
(4) Details about the operation of the current Maples Company come from Chief Financial Officer Vito Russo’s March 2019 presentation to the Rotary Club of Scottsboro.

(5) Ann B. Chambless, “The Maples House” brochure, 1975.

(6) Information about the Maples family was taken from obituaries, period newspapers cited inline, ancestry.com, “The Maples Girl Scout Cabin” brochure, and from conversations with family members.

Photographer W. S. Lively in Jackson County

I have long been fascinated by the work of traveling photographers. When I first began doing family genealogy work in 2001, I puzzled over how my great-great-grandparents, John William and Rachel Cotton Fulmer, in rural Coosa County, could have traveled to some big city before 1890 to have their portrait made. Did they ride by horse and buggy all the way to Birmingham or Montgomery? Did they take a train? But when I studied the photo closely, I noticed an important detail: creases in the backdrop. They travelled no further than their clothesline. The portrait had been taken by a traveling photographer.

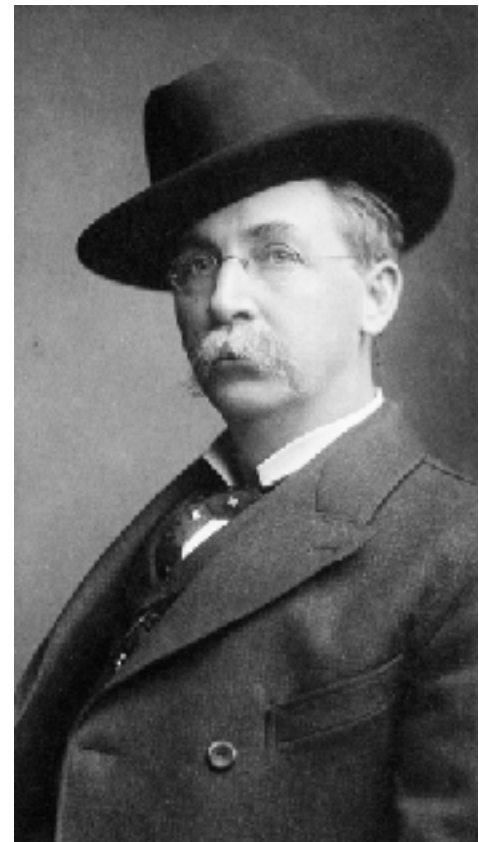


Jackson County in 1878 was a wild and woolly place. Scottsboro had been incorporated just 10 years earlier. The county seat had been moved from Bellefonte, and the new courthouse in the middle of what would become the square had been completed in 1870. In 1879, it would burn and be rebuilt on the same spot. Frame business buildings had sprung up along the north side of the square, and the two-story red brick Brown Building, the first brick business house on the square, had been completed in 1878. James Armstrong began publishing *The Scottsboro Citizen* in September 1877. On October 12, 1878, the fledgling paper carried this ad from 28-year-old hobbyist photographer Will Lively.

Will Lively came to Scottsboro from McMinnville, TN, a town that in many ways, then and now, is like Scottsboro. It was a rail town, a stop on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, which, along with the nitre mining in local caves, made the town strategically important and caused it to be occupied by Union troops during the Civil War. When he arrived in Scottsboro in 1878, Lively set up a display of his work in the post office, which at that time was along the tracks. And he began taking photos. Tintypes at first, but later, more sophisticated photos. Much more sophisticated.

Lively lived to be 88 years old, married twice, and fathered his last child at 67. He went on to take glorious, ground-breaking photographs, to build a camera so big that it rolled along a track in the ceiling and needed two men inside it to operate, to print a larger-than-life-size photograph that was displayed at the World's Fair in 1904 and in the Smithsonian today, to establish the Southern School of Photography and educate a generation of male and female photographers, and to have his work respected by George Eastman, father of Kodak, and his death in 1945 reported in *Time* magazine.

Who was this young man? What brought him to Scottsboro regularly between 1878 and 1900? Not to give anything away, it involves a girl.



Will Lively as a Young Man. Photo from the Family.

W. S. Lively's Childhood

William Spenser Lively was born in McMinnville, TN on November 11, 1855, the son of Joseph Pamphlin Lively and Nancy Mitchell. This couple had four children, all boys: Will born in 1855, Edmond born in 1857 (gone by the 1870 census), Salmon (Nancy's father's name) born in 1860, and Joseph born in 1862. Nancy was only 32 when she died in 1863. Will Lively grew up in a white frame on East Main Street in McMinnville just west of the railroad. Father Joseph owned an undertaking and furniture business located halfway between the Lively house and the courthouse square. If you remember the historic Alfred Eisenstadt photo of the square in Scottsboro, Rupert Word operated the same combination business in the old Bynum building, as did R. H. McAnelly in the 1920s and 30s and W. J. Robinson at the turn of the century before him. Without the technical expertise required by embalming, coffins were furniture and sold as such, and furniture sellers were frequently in the undertaking business.

A widower with four little boys needs a wife, and some time before 1865, Joseph Lively married Mary Jane Hamilton. In the 1870 census, son Edmond is gone and the family includes three more children from this marriage: Sarah age 4, Jane age 2, and Ben, age 1. By 1880, the household had added Sudie, born in 1871, and Mary's mother Annie. The two oldest sons from the first marriage were already out on their own. Will's father Joseph, whom, his obituary reported, had been in poor health for a long time and bedridden for months before his death, died August 12, 1883,

At the time of his father's death, Will's photography career was just cranking up. Will had grown up intrigued by photography. One of Lively's earliest memories was of visiting a photographic studio and darkroom with his grandmother. As a teenager he set up a tent studio in the front yard of the Lively home in McMinnville and made tintypes of passersby every Saturday morning. This portable darkroom might have influenced his decision to be a traveling photographer.

By the age of 20, Lively had cobbled together enough equipment and honed his skills to the point he could call himself a photographer, and he started out on the road taking pictures. According to his obituary in *The Southern Standard*, Will made his first photography trip to Jefferson, TN, later going to Milton and LaVergne "where he met with unusual success." But his father was a sick man, and young Lively could not devote himself full-time to photography. He worked in his father's furniture and undertaking business in McMinnville, "but continued to devote the greater part of his time to photography. He took time off from his business connections in his early life to travel over Tennessee and part of Alabama making photographs, where his fame as a photographer continued to spread."

One of those places he visited in Alabama during this early sweep, sharpening his photography skills, was Scottsboro. From the newspaper, we know that Lively was in Scottsboro taking photos between 1878 and 1882, but he continued to be a regular visitor in Jackson County until around 1900. On December 10, 1878, Lively married eighteen-year-old Lela Jones in Jackson County. She would have had to ride the train from her home in Paint Rock to meet Lively. My guess is, she showed up one day at his traveling studio to have her picture taken.

The Levi Bryant Jones Family of Paint Rock

Levi Bryant Jones, Lela's father, was born about 1836. In the 1850 census, he is living with his parents, Brittan Jones and Mary Editha Hardcastle, and his siblings in District 21 of Jackson County. He entered the Civil War on the Confederate side as a private in Young's Company of the Alabama Nitre and Mining Corps and left as a second lieutenant. Kennamer reports in his *History of Jackson County* that Jones was for a time part of a scouting party for Frank Cotton's company and narrowly escaped capture when they were surprised by a large Union force; the six captured spent the rest of the war as prisoners in Ohio. Kennamer also cites Jones as someone who "was active in preaching in the county," for the Church of Christ in Paint Rock.

Jones had three wives in ten years, and each gave him daughters.

- Bryant married first Nancy Anne Gwathney (1836-1864), the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Gwathney and Arminda Tipton. The family came from Surry County, VA, but had come south before Nancy was born in 1836. She was born in Maysville in Madison County, AL, though the family moved on for a time and several of her siblings were born in Mississippi. The family had settled back in Paint Rock by 1853. She married Bryant Jones about 1858, and daughter Lela was born October 9, 1860. They had a second daughter in 1864 named Lily, who is found only in the 1870 census, so she probably died some time after 1870; she is not mentioned in 1912 in her step-mother's will. Nancy died in 1864, perhaps in childbirth.
- Bryant married second Nancy's sister Eliza Jane Gwathney (1847-1869). Eliza was born in Paint Rock. She married Bryant on September 12, 1864 and looked after her sister's young daughters. Eliza gave Bryant a third daughter, Nancy Anne, called Annie Pearl, on April 1, 1867. Eliza died in 1869, leaving Bryant with three little girls.
- Bryant married third Mary Ann Lewis, on March 7, 1869 in Jackson County. They had a daughter Hettie Lee Jones, born November 22, 1870. Mary was nine years Bryant's junior and might well have had additional children, but none are in evidence in the 1880 census or called out in Mary's will in 1912.

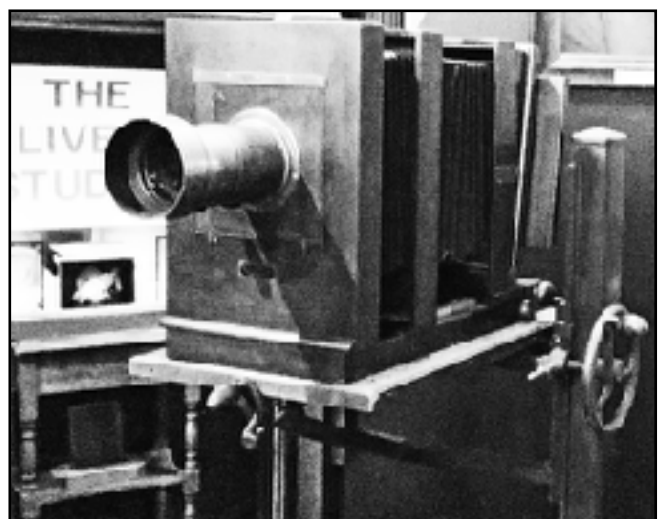
Will Lively in Scottsboro

Lively was active in the Scottsboro community during his early photography visits. On March 14, 1879, the *Scottsboro Citizen* reported on a meeting of the Reading Club where officers were elected and "Mrs. Lizzie Armstrong and W. S. Lively discoursed some sweet music." Despite his name being linked to Lizzie Armstrong, Lively met and married Lela Jones in November 1878, and his days of meeting eligible young ladies ended. He took his bride back to McMinnville because his father was ill and the family needed him to help run the family business, though it is clear that he continued to spend lot of time in Scottsboro. The December 8, 1881 *Scottsboro Citizen* reported that "W. S. Lively and his wife, nee Miss Lela Jones, are in the city."

Lively came to Scottsboro in 1882 for an extended visit just before his father died. During this time he became associated with W. H. Payne, when Payne's Drugs was located along the railroad track and the corner of Railroad Street (now Mary Hunter Avenue) and North Houston Street. The *Scottsboro Citizen* reported on January 21, 1882 that "W. S. Lively has connected his gallery with the upper story of Payne's drug store by a telephone that works very successfully."

Lively went on to set up a full studio. The *Citizen* carried a business card (an advertisement) on February 23, 1882 which said "I am making my arrangements to make some pictures in Scottsboro soon. I have ordered a complete outfit with scenic background and will be prepared to furnish my old patrons the best quality of photograph." In April 1882, The *Citizen* reported that "W. S. Lively is doing some splendid panel work. He has some fine specimens of children's pictures on exhibition at W. H. and R. P. Payne's." An April 22, 1882 note in the *Citizen* indicated that all his backdrops had arrived and he was ready for business: "W. S. Lively has arrived with his new gallery and is now ready to put up some good work."

Something important had happened between Lively's 1878 visit to Scottsboro and his 1882 visit: he had stopped taking tintypes and mastered a new photography



One of Lively's view cameras in the Warren County Museum.

technique that involved more sophisticated equipment and some serious chemistry. He had acquired or built a view camera, treated glass plates with silver halide, enclosed them in a light-proof casing, exposed them for a brief time in his view camera, and then replaced the light-proof casing. He then processed the image captured on the glass plate and contact printed them by placing the light-safe glass plate directly onto photo paper for a contact print. His mastery of this process was so complete that the Smithsonian includes one of his 1904 photographs created for the World's Fair.

Lively did all of this long before photographers could call up Eastman Kodak and have supplies delivered. Away from his base studio, Lively could certainly use the help of a man who supplied and understood how to use chemicals. In 1880, this person was likely a druggist, which would explain his relationship with W. H. Payne and why he located his studio over Payne's drug store.

And it is likely that to repay Payne for his help and friendship, for letting him use his upstairs and his phone number, Lively took photos of the Payne family. Most of the Payne family photos were lost in a storm, but the two photos in this article were sent to the family in Virginia who raised young W. H. Payne when his mother died just after his birth. I have not been able to discover locally any standard cabinet card (later Victorian) photos with "Lively Studios" at the bottom, but it is likely that the process was so new for Lively that he had not yet printed custom mounting boards. But Lively received help from W. H. Payne, and it is likely that Lively repaid him by shooting family pictures. Just as Joyce Kenamer reported that Olin Mills took their family photos each year for free because Mr. Money let the photographers set up their temporary studio at the Hotel Scottsboro, so Lively showed his friendship with Payne by taking photographs of his home, family, and business.

This new process that Lively debuted in 1882 was a real improvement for photography customers. Sitting for a tintype was no easy process. The exposure times were 15-30 seconds during which the subject had to sit motionless. A common complaint of tintypes is that no one ever smiled. Can you imagine holding the same smile for 30 seconds? Photographers who took tintypes often had wire frames behind their subjects to hold their heads virtually immobile during the exposure. Knowing this, you can see why it was so difficult to photograph babies or small children. But, of course, everyone wants pictures of their children. So it is easy to see why this new technique was so important for Lively's business. The *Scottsboro Citizen* reported on May 15, 1882 "W. S. Lively has recently learned the new automatic process of taking pictures and he now takes them

instantaneously. He can take an infant's picture with ease and accuracy." And the new technique met with approval from his Scottsboro patrons. The *Citizen* wrote on June 11, 1882: "That W. S. Lively is a first-class photographer."

And as you look at this 1882 photo of the W. H. Payne family in front of their house at the southeast corner of Houston and Peachtree, you will have to agree. The quality of this photo is extraordinary. It shows Margaret Brown Payne and children Warwick Henry (on the horse), John William (in the lap of an unidentified black woman), and Charles in the lap of his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Brown.

A second photograph attributed to

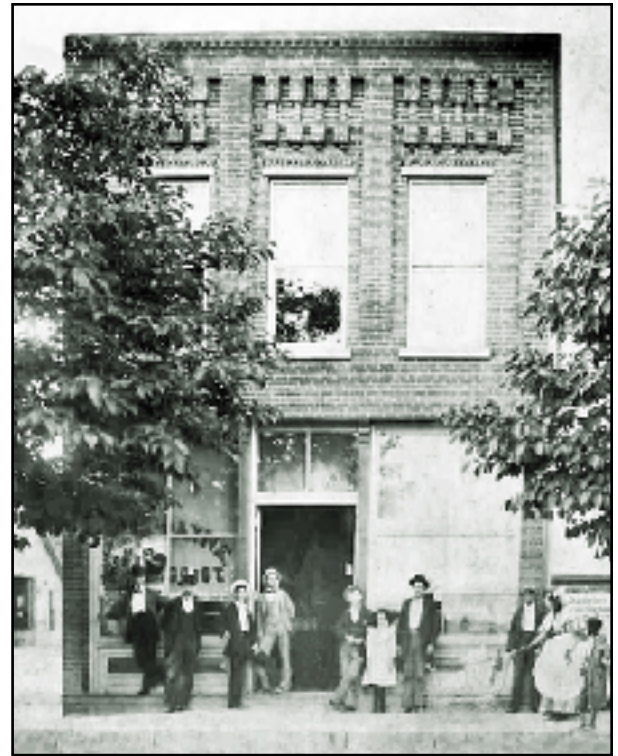


The W. H. Payne family in front of the home on Houston Street in 1882. W. S. Lively probable photographer.

Lively is this one of W. H. Payne's Drug Store. Because of storm damage, this is the only known photo of W. H. Payne, and (according to writing on the back of the photo from Virginia family), he is standing on the sidewalk on the right side of the open door. Like the photograph of the Payne family, this photos shows extraordinary clarity and resolution. If your Jackson County family owns quality photos taken in Scottsboro between 1880 and 1890, they are likely W. S. Lively's photographs.

The Jones and Lively Families After Scottsboro

Bryant Jones, Lela Lively's father, died February 1, 1892. The February 5 *Progressive Age*, his son-in-law's newspaper, ran a full obituary and also had this notation about Bryant's death: "Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Lively, of McMinnville, Tenn., Mr. and Mrs W. C. Bearer [sic, Walter C. Beaver], of Macon, GA., and Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Boyle were with Mr. and Mrs. Jones during their afflictions and remained till after the death of Mr. Jones. At time of his death, he had a wife, three daughters, and six grandchildren. He died at his home in the Paint Rock Valley."



Payne's Drug Store Between 1893 and 1899.

After her husband's death, Lela's step-mother Mary sold the family home in Paint Rock and moved with Lela to McMinnville. By 1896, she had remarried widower William Preston Faulkner whose three grown children were already married. Faulkner's brother Clay was a textile entrepreneur who built Falcon Rest Mansion in 1896, called by PBS "Tennessee's Biltmore." She travelled back for visits in Alabama with Lela and her family. Mary died in 1912 and is buried with her second husband in McMinnville.

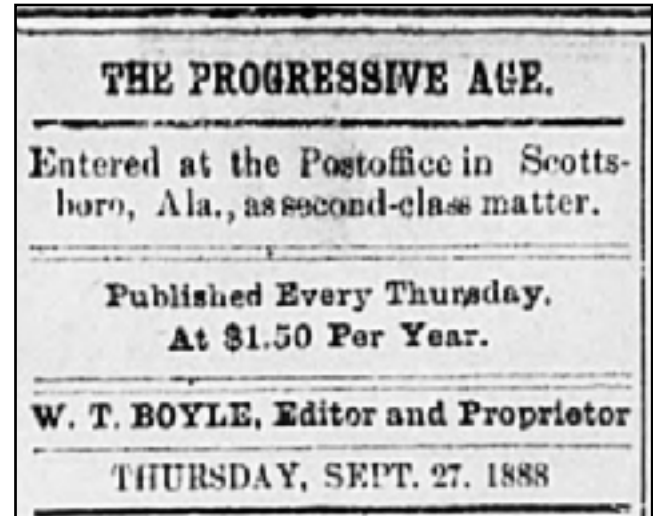
Will and Lela were back and forth often as her father's health grew worse. On October 28, 1889, *The Progressive Age* reported: "Mrs W. S. Lively, after a short visit to her parents at this place, left Thursday for McMinnville, Tenn." Again on November 14, 1889, *The Progressive Age* reported: "Mrs. W. S. Lively and family, of McMinnville, Tennessee, spent two or three days among old friends, and acquaintances in Scottsboro this week." Again on November 28, Lela visited her parents: "Mrs. W. S. Lively, after a short visit to her parents at this place, left last Thursday for McMinnville, Tennessee."

And old friends from Scottsboro visited the Lively family in McMinnville. *The Progressive Age* reported on June 5, 1890: "Friend P. W. Keith visited Mr. W. S. Lively of McMinnville, Tenn. last week and for gratification of Mr. Lively's many friends in Scottsboro and Jackson County, Mr. Keith requested us to state that he is doing a most prosperous business in the manufacture and sale of furniture and the undertakers business, and that he has not outgrown the geniality that characterized Bill Lively in days gone by."

The Lively family continued to visit Jackson County until about 1900. *The Progressive Age* reported on February 5, 1892: "Mr. W. S. Lively, a long time ago citizen of Scottsboro, was in town yesterday shaking hands with numerous old friends. Son Lee was in town in October 1893, *The Age* reported, "visiting relatives and friends in town. On July 18, 1895, *The Scottsboro Citizen* reported, Lively came to town with his daughter: "Mr. W. S. Lively, wife and daughter, Miss Nannie, of McMinnville, Tenn., are the guests of Mrs. Lively's sister, Mrs. W. T. Boyle. Mr. and Mrs Lively were married in Scottsboro in 1878, and they have many friends here who are giving them a hearty welcome." The paper felt it was necessary to explain who the Livelys were. Once more in October 1899, *The Citizen* reported the Lively family visited town

with Lela's step-mother: "Mr and Mrs W. S. Lively and Mrs W. P. Faulkner; of McMinnville, Tenn. were visiting relatives in town the first of the week."

Lela's sister Annie Pearl married Walter T. Boyle who was, between 1886 and 1895, the editor of *The Progressive Age*. *The Progressive Age* had been born in the spring of 1873 when Thomas D. Osborne combined his small paper *The Stevenson New Era* with another small paper published in Scottsboro by Charles M. Gardner, *The Star*. This paper flourished for a few years as *The New Era* before passing to the hands of B. F. Shook. In 1886, Shook sold it to W. T. Boyle and it began publication under the name *The Progressive Age*. It was Walter Boyle who originated the name *The Progressive Age*, which endured as a journalistic entity in Jackson County until 1962. In 1900, Boyle sold the paper to Jesse Edward Brown and his son Lawrence.



About the same time that Boyle started *The Progressive Age*, he and his bride "moved to the C.S. Freeman house in the eastern part of town." (*Scottsboro Citizen*, March 18, 1886) It is likely that he was by that time a partner in the Freeman business, but that partnership was not confirmed until the 1900 *Progressive Age* economic supplement, which recognized Scottsboro Marble Works, started by Freeman, Boyle, and Company, established in 1897.

Walter Thomas Boyle was a very public figure in Jackson County until after the turn of the century. In 1891 he was a member of the building committee for the Methodist church, and on 1894, on the board of the library. In 1894, he, along with fellow editor James Armstrong, was a director of the National Building and Loan Association of Montgomery along with William Bridges, Alexander Snodgrass, J. F. Gautney, A. H. Coffey, and Jesse Edward Brown. He was part of the group of cotton buyers who influenced the price of the area's major crop.

The 1900 Scottsboro census listed Boyle as a tombstone agent and that seems to have been his profession after he sold the paper. But ink was in his veins, and Boyle could not stay away from the newspaper business. He sold his Scottsboro home and businesses and moved his family to Tennessee about 1901. *The Scottsboro Citizen* reported on September 21, 1905: "The *Citizen* is in receipt of the initial number of the *Wartrace (Tenn.) News*, published by W. T. Boyle, formerly of Scottsboro. The *News* presents a neat appearance and starts off with a good advertising patronage." On May 19, 1906, *The Tennessean* (Nashville) reported that Murfreesboro was to have another newspaper: "A new paper is to be published here under the name of the *Rutherford Herald* by W. T. Boyle, a veteran newspaperman of well known ability."

Some time before 1916 (when articles are first found in *The Tennessean* about Boyle's children), the family moved to Nashville. W. T. and Annie had eight children born between 1886 and 1907. He was a newspaper man his entire life. W. T. and Annie were living in Nashville in 1932 when W. T. died. Annie Pearl lived another 13 years. She died of shingles and bilateral pulmonary TB in the Davidson County Tuberculosis Hospital in 1945. Both are buried in Spring Hill Cemetery in Nashville.

Lela's younger sister Hetty married a railroad dispatcher named Walter C. Beaver and lived in the many locations where his job took him. She was in Macon when her father died. She died in the San Joaquin Valley in California in 1905.

The Southern School of Photography

Without close family in Scottsboro, Will Lively no longer lingered in Jackson County. He took over management of the Lively furniture store in McMinnville, TN and opened a photographic studio on the top floor of the furniture store.

In 1900, he founded the regional photographic association, known as the Kentucky-Tennessee Association. He honed his photography skills and wanted to do something to put his new photography school "on the map." He built the room-size view camera that required two men inside the camera to operate, and created a 30 x 50 inch glass plate used to print a larger-than-lifsize photo that was displayed at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 and later kept in the Smithsonian. That same year, he opened the Southern School of Photography in McMinnville, one of only two photography schools in the United States. He wrote early technical information about portrait photography. His school trained a generation of male and female photographers before it burned in 1928, taking with it Lively's oversize view camera and many of his precious glass negatives. Lively was a genius in the photographic world and well respected by all in the industry.

Paint Rock native Lela Jones Lively was a vital part of the photography school. There are many pictures of Will and her as they grew older, including this one of the couple sharing a meal with their students. Late in life, she developed tuberculosis. The Nashville *Tennessean* on July 26, 1914, reported that the family traveled to San Angelo, Texas to visit her in a sanitarium. She died in 1920, only 59 years old.

Following the death of his wife, Lively married Ethel Cook, and in 1922, Ethel gave birth to Lively's fourth child, W. S. "Billy" Lively, Jr. Billy Lively was a pharmacist in McMinnville who died in 2016; he loaned the local museum photographs taken by his father and cameras and personal effects to display in the museum. Included in these photographs is one of the three remaining life-size photographs of Dr. Meadows, taken for the 1904 World's fair with the oversize view camera lost in the the 1928 fire.

W.S. Lively died October 26, 1944, at age 88. A measure of his national prominence, his death was reported in the November 6, 1944, issue of *Time* magazine. He was proclaimed by the photographic world as the Dean of American Photographers. He was a genuine photographic artist who produced pictures at the beginning of the twentieth century, which are unsurpassed today as examples of the art of portraiture.

Annette Norris Bradford



Sources for this article: Period newspapers, indicated inline; information and photos available in the "W. S. Lively and the Southern School of Photography" Facebook page, maintained by Bob Gathany and in the Warren County, TN museum.

The W. J. Word Family and the History of Scottsboro

The impact that W. J. Word and his children have had on Jackson County is profound and pervasive. W. J. Word cut and groomed the lumber used in many houses in the county. His son Cecil used that lumber to construct hundreds of houses and most of the West side of the square. His son Rupert operated the furniture store immortalized in Albert Eisenstadt's 1930s photo of the square, and later built and operated Word Funeral Home. His sons Hal and Claude opened early automobile dealerships. His son Robert operated movie theaters in across northeast Alabama. Word Lumber was honored in the 1956 *Sentinel-Age* as Scottsboro's first industry. Word Lumber was a potent force in Jackson County for 122 years, finally closing in 2015.



L to R, Cecil, Hal, Claude, Harry, and Robert Word. Front: Ruby Word Branum and Rupert Word.

The story below appeared in the July 1942 *The Alabama Lumberman* in its July issue under the heading of "History of Alabama Sawmills." It gives a good write-up of the W. J. Word Lumber Company, of Scottsboro, better than any we could write from scratch today. It was reprinted in the October 16, 1952 *Progressive Age*.

When fire destroyed the plant of the W. J. Word Lumber Company at Scottsboro in 1942, the townspeople were not wanting in solicitude.

"Did you have any insurance, Cap'n?" one asked the late W. J. Word? "Nope," he replied. "Well then, how're you gonna build back?" "Didn't have insurance the first time I built."

Men were at work clearing the site for re-setting the mill before the ashes were cold and the W. J. Word Lumber Company was built back in record time, bigger and better than before the fire.

Mr. Word, who was commonly addressed as "Cap'n," died last fall at the age of 84 but he had lived to see the development of a plant dedicated to the manufacture of high grade lumber from the dense pines clothing the mountains of Northeast Alabama, supplemented in recent years by an oak flooring plant utilizing white and red oak of Appalachian quality.

Rupert Word, the oldest of seven children, who now heads the Word Furniture Company at Scottsboro, says that when his father was 21 in 1888, he received a blind pony and was set free to make his own way. Mr. Word remained on his parents farm in the Preston community of Marshall County, helping out there and working extra land for himself.

It was two years later—in 1890—that Mr. Word got his first taste of the lumber business. He had obtained a yoke of oxen and a wagon. With this equipment he hauled lumber from Gunter's Mountain to a landing on the Tennessee River. He bought his first saw mill when he was 25 and set it down at Swearengin on Gunter's Mountain. That was in 1892. Two years later he moved his mill to Berry's Cove at Limrock and sawed there for two years.



W. J. Word. Portrait by H. H. Betts.

All of the time Mr. Word had called his father's farm home but in 1896 he married Miss Ella Gentle. In the same year he obtained a tract of timber at Sauta on the Sauty Creek bottoms and established a home of his own. The usual two years were required to cut out this tract and in 1898 he moved on to another tract on the Hurt place in Hollywood, a Jackson County community north of Scottsboro.

Mr. Word bought a 640-acres tract of land and timber at Limrock in 1901. As he cut the timber he developed the land into a farm and built his first home there. That established a pattern of his operations of the next two decades—buying timberland, cutting the timber, developing farms. He acquired land in Lawrence County near Moulton in 1903 and four years later a tract of hickory at Paint Rock in association with the Ontario Handle and Timber Company, of Toronto.

In 1909 he purchased a tract on Gunter's Mountain at what was known as Bassin Cove.

By 1911 the schooling of their children had become a pressing matter and Mr. and Mrs. Word moved to Scottsboro to be near classrooms. In the same year, Mr. Word went in with R. E. Jones and purchased Sixteenth Section land in Sauty bottoms and began developing as far as the timber was cut. Just as World War I broke out in Europe he bought the Jordan land two miles from Scottsboro and turned it into a farm. He sold this property in 1919 and bought out the Jones interest in the school land. This was developed into a farm but was taken over by TVA and is now under water.

Meanwhile—in 1915—Mr. Word bought into a Scottsboro enterprise known as the E. D. Hollis Company. He conducted an undertaking business and dealt in furniture and building materials. He pulled out in 1917 and conducted a retail lumber and building material business. For this he built a small brick building with a sheet iron shed on the corner of Broad and Willow Streets. It was called the W. J. Word Lumber Company. Then, in 1921, he and his son Rupert took over the Hollis firm. He turned this over to Rupert in 1925. From then on he devoted his full attention to the lumber business until a stroke forced his retirement in 1945.



Word Lumber in 1949

In the retail establishment Mr. Word handled pine but all of his sawmilling activities had been devoted to hardwoods—hickory, poplar, and oak. Cecil Word, who now heads the lumber business, came into the firm in 1926. He grew up in the retail yard which was equipped with a small planer used for dressing the rough pine lumber to serve the local market.

When the 1932 cyclone ripped through Jackson County it resulted in a lumber demand for rebuilding that the small Word yard was unable to meet. Nevertheless the company felt responsible to the community and hired trucks to supplement its own. With what rolling stock it could muster it brought in lumber, working day and night shifts.

It was the 1932 disaster, perhaps more than anything else, that opened the eyes of Jackson County people to the fine quality of the pine on their mountainsides. Cecil Word recalls that many whose houses had

been flattened, said to him, “get us some South Alabama lumber, don’t make us use this second growth sap pine around here.”

“We got some lumber from South Alabama, we had to,” he said,” but the best lumber we produced in the emergency came from the sides of the mountains right here at home.”

Lee Bishop, who says he doesn’t have a title but manages the mill, came with the company in 1936. At that time the plant adjoined the retail store in the heart of town and consisted of a planer and a dry kiln, both small. Lumber was bought from portable mills and dried and dressed for the local market. The total payroll consisted of seventeen men.

In 1937 the company bought four acres at the present mill site just out of the business section on the Huntsville highway, and installed a plant consisting of a saw mill, a planer, and a dry kiln. The plan was to service the retail yard, upon which development of the Tennessee Valley was imposing a heavier demand. Within two years the plant was producing enough pine lumber to build a surplus at the yard in town. Two old line retail firms in Huntsville—Dilworth Lumber Company and Geron Lumber Company—were taken on as Word’s first customers. That put the W. J. Word Lumber Company in the wholesale business.

The company had multiplied its retail customers considerably by the time of the 1942 fire and the rebuilding was hurried to keep the trade supplied. Since then the plant site has been enlarged by land purchases. At that time Cecil and Harry Word were associated with their father in the lumber business. Hal Word, an older brother who had already established an automobile business, left it temporarily to help with the rebuilding.

In 1945 his physical condition forced Mr. Word to retire from active participation in the business and soon after the war Cecil Word purchased control. The latter also owns a controlling interest in the Word Lumber Company at Fort Payne and an interest in a similar operation in Guntersville. Harry Word managed the retail yard in town. Lee Bishop is in charge at the mill. The Fort Payne operation is managed by Martin and Clayton Word, all cousins of Cecil.

Since the fire the manufacturing end of the Word enterprise has been steadily expanded. It buys the output of fifteen smaller mills and operates its own mill on the yard. It has increased its drying equipment until it now includes four double-track Moore dry kilns. Under the planer shed are a Woods 412 planer, a McDonough 54-inch resaw, and a Smithway six-inch moulder. The oak flooring plant, completed within the last few years, has a capacity of 15,000 feet in an eight-hour day. It is Woods-equipped throughout and is one of the smoothest running in the industry. Both pine and hardwoods are cut on the plant’s Corley mill. Lumber purchased rough green comes in from a fifty-mile radius.

The retail department has been expanded with the manufacturing division. The original brick building has been enlarged to display a large line of building materials and a cabinet shop is operated in an adjoining building. Here window and door assemblies are manufactured for retail sales. These are water proofed with a special dip.

Mr. and Mrs. Word were blessed with seven children: Rupert who runs the furniture business; Ruby (Mrs Erskine Branum) of Scottsboro; Hal, who has the Chevrolet-Oldsmobile agency in Scottsboro; Claude, who has a similar agency in Manchester, Tennessee; Cecil, Harry, in the lumber business; and Robert who operates a chain of motion picture theaters in Northeast Alabama.

To summarize the family, William Jacob “WJ” or “Jake” Word was born October 19, 1867 and died December 7, 1951 in Scottsboro. He was the fourth of nine children of Wesley Bradford Word and Mary Ella Gross. He married Ella Jane Gentle from Larkinsville (1870-1986) and they had eight children:

- William Rupert Word (1897-1986)** was the oldest of the eight Word children. When his father set up W. J. Word Lumber Company in 1892, Rupert was his partner. In 1915, Jake and Rupert bought stock in the E. D. Hollis company which dealt in furniture (and undertaking) and building materials. The 1910-1911 *Young and Company Directory of Alabama* includes a listing for “E. D. Hollis & Co, furniture and undertakers,” which was located in a frame building at 109 East Laurel on the square, built by R. H. Bynum in 1914. In 1921, Jake and his son Rupert purchased the E. D. Hollis business outright, and Jake operated it under this name until 1925. (The Snodgrass Theater, previously in the building, had ceased operation in 1920.) In 1927, Rupert renovated the old theater building (leveling the floor, for example) and moved his business into this location, where it was located when the iconic Albert Eisenstadt photo (detail shown here) was taken in the 1930s. The furniture and undertaking businesses split in 1939 when undertaking became the domain of trained professionals instead of a function of furniture sellers.



Word Furniture Co. in 1930s



Rupert built at 810 Broad Street, the present location of Rudder Funeral Home (who renovated the old building in 1984). He operated this business with M. K. Roper until Word sold his interest in the business to Roper, but retained ownership of the building. Rupert was involved with both businesses until 1948 when he and Mrs. Roper sold the funeral home business to Rupert’s brother Cecil, Cecil’s son-in-law Bill Yates, and R. H. McAnelly, “An important business transaction took place in Scottsboro last weekend, “ the April 20 1948 *Jackson County Sentinel* reported “when the Word-Roper Funeral Home business changed ownership. The new owners are R. H. McAnelly, widely known Scottsboro undertaker and furniture merchant, Cecil Word, Scottsboro lumber dealer, and William Yates, young licensed embalmer who has been in the business for several years.” The ad at the left appeared in the *Sentinel* on May 4, 1948.

Rupert extended his building on the square through to the next block to provide additional room for his furniture business in 1945; the back of the Word Furniture building on Willow Street still includes a plate which says “W. R. Word, 1945.” He continued to operate the furniture business on the square until 1980. When he retired in 1980 at age 83, he was the oldest merchant operating in the same retail location on the square. Shortly after the furniture store closed, Bill White purchased the building and performed a radical facelift on the building as it appears today.

Rupert served in the U. S. Navy from 1918-1919 and remained in the Naval Reserve until 1922. He married Grace Harrell in 1920, and they were the parents of one daughter, Billie Madge Word McCamy. Rupert was a steward and trustee at the First United Methodist Church. He was a charter member of the Scottsboro Civitan Club and the Masonic F&AM No. 359. He served Jackson County as coroner for six years. He died in in 1986 at the age of 89.



- Mary Thelma Word (1898-1899)** who died as an infant.
- Ruby May Word Branum (1900-1988)** was the third of the Word children. She worked for the railroad as an employee of Western Union in Chattanooga. She married Erskine Aday Branum, the third of three children of Robert W. and May Ryan Branum of Larkinsville. Erskine was an electrician who worked for the railroad. Erksine married his first wife, Elizabeth Guthrie, in 1924 in Birmingham. They divorced in Michigan in 1936. Ruby was working for the railroad in

Chattanooga in 1930, but censused with her parents in Scottsboro. She married Erskine some time after 1930 and moved with him to Michigan. They divorced before 1940 (Erskine is a divorced lodger electrician living in Detroit, Michigan in 1940), and Ruby returned to Scottsboro to tend her father, who was in frail health, after her mother died in 1940. Erskine died in 1960 and is buried in Detroit. Ruby remained in Scottsboro the rest of her life and died in 1988 at age 87. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the Twentieth Century Book Club.

- **Hal Bradford Word (1903-1993)**. was the fourth of the eight Word children. He married Margie Stella Devers, a teacher from Stevenson, in 1927, and they had two children; William Jake Word, born in 1928, and Mildred Ann Word, born in 1931. After Stella's death in 1935, he married Paralee Moody in 1937. They divorced in 1959, and Hal married Frances Brewer. They were married for 17 years before her death, after which he married optometrist Dr. Sarah Atchley. They remained married until Hal's death in 1993.



Word Motor Company in the 1940s, from Walt Hammer's book.

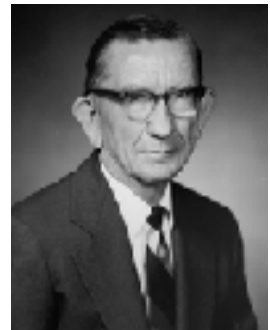
Hal built the first building for their Chevrolet-Oldsmobile dealership at 213 S. Market Street on the east side of the square in 1923. The building, known today as Word Arcade, housed Word Motor Company until the 1950s when Word Motor Company began transferring its related business concerns to the location at 205 S. Andrews Street. By 1960, the entire business was located there.

Hal and his son Jake owned and operated Word Motor Company until 2006, when it was sold to Harbin Automotive. Hal was Chairman of the Building Committee at the First Baptist Church, and dedicated a year and a half of his time to building the new church. Plans were in place for a new church

when the old one burned, so construction started the day after the fire. Hal bought the church organ and dedicated it to the memory of his first wife, Stella Devers. Hal and Jake were also instrumental in building the Scottsboro Airport (See *Chronicles*, March 2019). Hal died in 1993 at age 90. His wife Sarah lived until 2008.

- **Claude Presley Word (1904-1991)** was the fifth of the Word children. He married Francis Louise Loyd, who was called Fannie, in 1926, the daughter of Orville Loyd and Orpha Elizabeth Ridley of Stevenson. After his marriage, he and a partner operated a clothing store in Scottsboro and also worked for Word Lumber. He opened a Chevrolet automobile dealership in Manchester, TN in the early 1940s where he lived for most of his working life. He was also engaged in other real estate enterprises. The couple had no children. Claude sold his business in 1968 and lived out his retirement years in Scottsboro, although he retained lake property and friends in Manchester and visited there frequently. He died in 1991 at age 86. Fannie lived another four years.
- **Cecil Bradden Word (1906-1982)** was the sixth of the eight Word children. He married Cecil Box in 1928, and they had a son Harry Leroy (1935-1936) who died young and three daughters: Betty Jane Word Yates Whatley (1929-1998); Peggy Word Holland McClendon (1933-2018); and Stella Word Benson. Cecil was an affectionate and supportive grandfather to his eleven grandchildren.

Cecil Word was a prominent Scottsboro business and humanitarian. He was president of W. J. Word Lumber Company of Scottsboro for more than 50 years and partner in the other Word building supply firms in Rainsville, Fort Payne, and Manchester, TN. He served on the State Board of Education from 1959-1971. He was also on the board of the Crippled Children's Clinic in Birmingham. Mayor John T. Reid held a dinner in 1966 honoring Cecil Word for his civic achievements and his key



Hal Word. Photo by Leroy Gist.

position in enabling growth in Scottsboro, calling Word Lumber Scottsboro’s first industry.

Word was also a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors, and had a number of friends who were prominent sport figures. He was a lifelong friend of Bear Bryant’s. Bryant said of Cecil Word at his death, “He was a class gentleman in every way. He was a personal friend of mine and he was a friend of the University.”

Dr. Charles M. Pendley, then president of Northeast Junior College said that Cecil Word “was instrumental in getting the college established here plus all the work he did for the college when he was on the State Board of Education. The college community feels it has lost a dear and personal friend. He worked very effectively in a quiet way.” In January 1982, just eight months before Cecil’s death, Northeast acknowledged the debt that it owed Word by designating one of their key campus buildings as the Cecil B. Word Learning Resources Center, a dedication ceremony attended by Governor George Wallace.

The first home in Scottsboro that Word Lumber contracted for and built was the R. H. McAnelly house on College Avenue. They built the first home in the United States under the Federal Housing Act passed by Congress in 1949, based on legislation sponsored by 8th District Representative Bob Jones. The home belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Jones and was built on Sand Mountain near Macedonia.

Many homes and business buildings in Scottsboro were constructed by Word Lumber during his tenure as chairman: the Word block, which makes up nearly half of the West side of the square; Westchester Apartments; the Holiday Inn and Holiday Plaza; the medical complexes on Parks Avenue; the Ballet Fabrics building; the Julian Hodges Clinic; the Dixie Bowl; the First A&P Building on the south side of Willow Street; and the Cornelius Company.

Word Lumber built the Norman Grede house; the Johnny Gay house; the John Snodgrass house; the Mullins home and boathouse; and the Dr. Carl Collins house. Word built a number of homes in the Cecil Word Subdivision on Broad Street; the C. B. Word Subdivision that ran from the Word home on the corner of Charlotte and South and encompassed most of the area from Cedar Hill Cemetery and up to West Street; the W. J. Word subdivision encompassing Charlotte, West Street, and Thomas Street as far as South Street. If you live in a home built in Scottsboro between 1950 and 1980, chances are good that Cecil Word built it.

Cecil died in 1982, a young man by Word standards, only 76. His wife, Mrs. Cecil, lived almost a year after her husband’s death. Retired Congressman Bob Jones remembered Cecil for his “zeal for improving the lives of his fellow man and his kindness and constant devotion to matters of value.... This uncomplicated and good man leaving brings sadness to us all.”



Cecil Word as a Young Man



Portrait of Cecil Word from the Cecil B. Word Learning Resources Center.



Harry Word at his desk at Word Lumber

•**Harry Foster Word (1909-1978)** was the seventh of the Word children. In 1932, he married Mildred Sentell, the daughter of Augustus and Emma Sentell. That marriage ended in divorce. In 1962, he married Naomi Berry. No children were born to either of these marriages. Harry lived in Scottsboro all of his life. He is best remembered for the role he played in the day-to-day operation of the Word Lumber business. He spent many years serving customers at the World Lumber Company store on Broad Street. He had a way with people, always displaying a

willingness to serve his customers and help his salesmen. He was in poor health near the end of his life, but spent some time each week in the store. He died the youngest of all the children; in 1978 he died at age 69. His wife Naomi lived another seven years and died in 1985.

- **Robert Donald Word (1911-1998)** was the eighth and youngest of the Word children. He married Virginia Kennamer in 1931. They had one child, Robert D. Word Jr. (Bob) who lives in Scottsboro. As a young man, he worked part-time with his father in the lumber business. Robert Word is responsible for some of the most loved and iconic businesses in the county—our movie theaters and the Word Popcorn business to support their patrons. He operated the Aerodome open-air theater in 1935, located in a field at the intersection of Houston and Appletree streets. He opened the Scottsboro Ritz theater on the west side of the square in 1936 in a building constructed by his brother Cecil and the Word Lumber Company, part of what is known as the “Word block,” comprised of a series of buildings that began with Elmore’s at the north end and ended with Reid Sundries. He also built and operated the Bridgeport Ritz and the Arab Ritz in the 1940s. Within the next few years, he built a small theater, the Sylvania, in Sylvania and bought the Fox Theater in Jasper, TN. For a time, he operated the Keth Theater in Woodville. He operated all these small theaters until the drive-in theater became popular in the late 1940s and 1950s. Robert Word built the Tawasentha Drive-In in Scottsboro in 1949 and a drive-in in Rainsville, which included a 90-seat second floor inside theater over the snack bar. He bought drive-ins in Arab, Bridgeport, and Henagar. In a few years the small theaters were gone, and the drive-in real estate was worth more than the theaters.



Scottsboro Ritz in 1949

In 1957, his son Robert, Jr. (Bob) returned home from two years in the army and joined his father’s business ventures. Together they started two businesses related to the theaters. They started Word Popcorn Company, contracting with local farmers to grow popcorn from seed and processing it at a plant in Hollywood, AL. They sold popcorn over the southeast in a six-state area. The Golden Flake Company in Birmingham was one of their largest customers. Robert Word spent most of his time with the popcorn company until he retired in 1978 and sold the company. It was sold locally and operated locally for a few years. They then sold to a large company in the midwest who expanded it greatly and operated out of much larger facilities, still in Hollywood. The company operates nationally as Great Western Food Products.

While getting the popcorn company started, the Words recognized the need for an industrial vending company to supply all types of food items and drinks to the local industries, which were growing at a tremendous rate in Jackson and surrounding counties. They organized Word Theaters and Vending in 1958. There was so much industrial growth in the sixties that finding labor was a problem. So, in 1975, Robert and his son Bob sold the vending business to Coca Cola Company in Chattanooga.

Robert Word brought Scottsboro and surrounding towns all the magic of 1940s and 1950s cinema, all the movies and stage shows. He was also the charter president of the Scottsboro Lions Club in 1938 and held many offices in both the local club and state organization. He received the International President’s Award and was appointed an Ambassador of Goodwill by the Lions Club International. He served on the Board of Directors for Jacobs Bank for 37 years. He was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro and held many church offices throughout his life. He was active in civic affairs, holding leadership positions in the United Way, the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, war bonds sales, community charities, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Industrial Development Committee. He died in 1998 at age 87. He outlived his wife Virginia, who died in 1993.



Robert Word

The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 31, Number 4

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• Happy Anniversary Lake

Guntersville: 80 years ago, the floodgates of Guntersville Dam closed, forever changing the physical and economic landscape of our valley.

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Please Renew your membership

for 2020! Keep the Chronicles coming. Send dues (\$20 for those under 65, \$15 for those over) to PO Box 1494, Scottsboro, AL, 35768.

CEDAR HILL Cemetery Stroll



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

2:00-4:00 P.M.

CEDAR HILL CEMETERY, SCOTTSBORO

History comes alive as some of Jackson County's most interesting citizens from the past share their stories.

Sponsored by
 THE BYNUM FOUNDATION
 THE JACKSONCO. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Our October Meeting: The 2018 October meeting will consist of a special cooperative effort by Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC), the City of Scottsboro, the Bynum Foundation, and the Jackson County Historical Association, who will jointly sponsor the second **Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll** on **October 6** from **2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**.

The stroll will feature narrations from 19 prominent Jackson Countians at 15 gravesites in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Scripts introducing the characters are published in this issue, but the actors portraying our featured citizens will bring unique information and perspectives to their narrations, either as a result of their own research or as the result of having been personally acquainted with or related to the character they are portraying. As a result, many of the presentations will be impromptu with personal insights not included in the published scripts.

Bottled water, fans, emergency aid, and some limited seating at each gravesite will be provided. Pick up a program and watch for flags that lead you to gravesites where actors are waiting to share their lives.

Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll Scripts

Northeast Alabama Community College and the Jackson County Historical Association will present the second Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll on October 6, 2019. The following scripts will serve as introductions to our 19 important residents of Cedar Hill and serve as talking points for the actors. But our actors will be bringing their own unique characters, research, and sometimes their own memories of the characters to their monologs.

Gene Airheart

1922-2011

Portrayed by Kelly Goodowens

I am Gene Airheart. I was born in Tennessee but moved to Scottsboro, near where Goosepond Colony is today, when I was only nine months old. I had been at the University of Alabama a year and a half in 1944 when I was drafted. I entered



the army as a private and went to Fort McClellan in Anniston to begin my training. After training, and staying around a couple of months to train others, I was sent to Newport News, Virginia, and then on to France, just after D-Day. From the headquarters near the coast, I was sent to the front lines as a .30 cal machine gunner replacement for the Texas-based 36th Division, Company D.

If I told you I wasn't frightened, I would not be telling you the truth. You just handled it as well as you could. I wrote some letters I didn't mail. I felt like I would never get back. You needed to be frightened, but not too much. There is nothing as uncertain and dangerous as a soldier who is scared to death. There were good days when we made lots of progress and slow days as we moved forward. If we stopped for any period of time, we would dig a trench.

The Germans were ruthless soldiers who had been brainwashed into the idea that dying for the Fuhrer was the German way of life. If you saw an SS soldier you had no choice but to kill him. We trekked across France, at one point with almost no resistance, only to find that the Germans had surrounded us. We were there for almost a week and came to be known as the "Lost Battalion."

Our salvation came with the 442nd Japanese-American Regimental Unit, led by Marty Higgins. These soldiers were Japanese-Americans taken out of internment camps in Arkansas and trained, and they turned out to be the greatest soldiers the world has ever known. These men, who were herded into camps because of the question of their loyalty at the outset of war, lost 800 of their own to save 200 of us trapped on that knoll.

Later, on November 28, 1944, I was wounded while we were bedding down at an abandoned farmhouse in France. I was being shot at as I ran

through a foot of snow and ice. Eventually they hit me in my right arm and left leg and I rolled off an embankment. Some time later Lieutenant Yancey found me and covered me with his field jacket and placed a marker with me so I could be found when it was safe to transport me out. In a more peaceful time, I had seen him play football at Mississippi State when I was a student at Alabama.

I believe that the cold, cold weather may have helped save my life as it constricted my blood vessels and kept me from bleeding out. I had a broken arm from a bullet passing through it and compound fractures of my leg with bones sticking out. The told me I would be having surgery to amputate my leg, but during the procedure the doctor decided to take a chance on saving it, putting 12 screws in, but told me the leg would not be much use to me and I would have a limp. They shipped me back to Charleston and then on to Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, where I had more surgeries on my leg. I rose from private to corporal and was awarded a Purple Heart, four or five combat ribbons, and the army rifleman badge.

I was the first boy who came back to Scottsboro wounded and they spoiled me. My wife said that was what was wrong with me (haha). I went back to the University of Alabama and finished my degree. I married Joy Page and we had one daughter, Page. I went into agricultural business with my father and operated it for many years after his death. The 442nd Japanese-American Regiment that saved my life awarded me a lifetime membership, and I met many of them at the opening of the WWII Memorial in Washington. You have no idea of the special feeling that you get when you meet the people who saved your life.

"Sgt. Sammy" Baker

1902-1984

Portrayed by Pat Presley

I like to scrap. I've always like to scrap. I'd fight even when it wasn't called for. In fact, it was

whipping my sister's boyfriend that wrote my ticket out of the cotton mills. She marched me down to the enlistment office, signed papers lying about my age, and just like that I was out of the Alabama mills on the road to an army base in Hawaii.



My name's Peniel Roy Baker. Whoever heard of a name like that? Peniel's the name of a place in the Bible, they say. No wonder I was relieved when people started calling me "Sergeant Sammy." I got that name in Hawaii where I immediately put on gloves and tried to make good on my early promise as a fighter. My trainer at the base told me I was no account. He said I didn't have a strong left. That just motivated me. I started training nonstop. I finally got that left down pat.

Finally, I started to show some promise, and the army transferred me to Long Island, where they ran a boxing program. I won my first six bouts, five of them by knockouts. By the time I left the army, I'd fought 24 bouts, losing only two and fighting one to a draw.

My first title shot came in 1927 at Madison Square Garden where I lost to welterweight champion Pete Latzo. I think I'd have beaten him if I hadn't been worn out. It was my third bout in two

weeks. That sort of foolishness wouldn't be allowed in boxing today.

My second shot at the title came in 1928 when I fought two bouts against Young Corbett, first at Madison Square Garden and then at Ebbet's Field in Brooklyn. I lost the first one on points. In the second one, Corbett hit me after the bell. They had to revive me and I could barely rally for the next round. There was a near riot, with the police having to control the crowd.

Winning that fight guaranteed me a shot at the welterweight championship, according to the New York State Boxing Commission. But the defending champion, Joe Dundee, had a manager who refused to schedule the bout. Dundee was finally stripped of his title for refusing to book contenders like me who had a shot of beating Dundee. In the end, my time ran out.

I kept on fighting long after my title possibilities had ended. I kept it up until 1937, but by then I'd ruined my won-loss record. I lost 16 of my last 21 bouts. I just didn't know when to fold them.

I did OK in the long run, though. I married. I had a son. I made money. In 1928, I drove into Scottsboro in a Stutz Bearcat. I opened the trunk to show my family \$30,000 in cash that I'd won in California.

I made good friends. Jack Dempsey and I were close until the end. Even after I moved back to Scottsboro, Jack would invite me up to his restaurant in Manhattan and he made me the toast of the town. There's a great picture of me, Jack, and Legs Diamond. We lived some fast times.

I was big stuff when I returned to Scottsboro. I couldn't get out of a barber shop without people asking me questions. Boys would come up to me in the street and shadow box with me. I always obliged them. I might have been a fighter at heart, but people here remember me for my gentle disposition.

I died in 1984 of Legionnaires' disease while in the VA hospital. I was never bitter about how things turned out.

I'm Sergeant Sammy. Remember me as a winner, not a contender.

Virginia May Brown

1891-1964

Portrayed by Traci Phillips

I never intended to come back to this damn town. But everything I knew and loved collapsed around me when the Nazi party came to power and I had to leave Europe.



My name is Virginia May Brown. I was born here in Scottsboro on Laurel Street. We lived in one of the biggest and showiest houses in Scottsboro, and my father was worshipped as a hero. He was Col. Jesse Edward Brown. He ended life as a lawyer, but he began life as a soldier. He saw action in the Civil War all the way from Shiloh at age 16, where he lost his brother, to Kennesaw Mountain, where he lost his leg.

As soon as I could, I left town for boarding school. I was 12 years old. After attending two prestigious boarding schools, I finished at Florence State Teachers' College and attended a literary studies seminar in New York City. Well, it wasn't my idea of a great life when I returned from New York to teach in Dadeville, AL. I was

known for my profane language, and I wish I could freely speak my mind about that place. And this one, too, come to think of it.

I put it behind me in 1918 when I became an administrative assistant to Senator LeBaron Bradford Colt of Rhode Island. I maintained pretty close family ties here in Scottsboro during that time, though. The newspapers, one of which my brother edited, frequently mentioned trips by my mother and me back and forth to DC.

In 1924, I got my big break. I was appointed to a clerkship at the American Consulate in Dublin, Ireland. I sailed to Dublin as a first class passenger on the ocean liner *The President Roosevelt* on a diplomatic passport. I was 33 years old, and the life I was intended to live finally got started in earnest.

By 1930, I got an appointment to the American Consulate in Budapest. In 1932, the year my mother died, I moved to Stuttgart. I couldn't return to Scottsboro until two years later. My father had died in 1905, but I still had a brother and two sisters living in town, and by that time, my brother had built a house known as Brownwood. Like the Laurel Street house, it was recognized as one of the stateliest houses in Scottsboro. My brother drew the house plans in the dirt and the layout was peculiar. My nephew called it a "screwball" house.

In the late 1930's, the Nazis became very active in Stuttgart. I was there the night the government let the mobs destroy Jewish businesses and put yellow stars on the surviving establishments. My brother and I watched a parade of goose-stepping Nazis. He removed his hat and cheered them. We didn't realize the extent of the threat at the time. When the Stuttgart embassy closed down, there was utter confusion getting back to the US. Nobody who has researched my last days in Germany can establish for certain that I was among the last Americans out of Stuttgart, but that's the popular rumor.

I was back in town by 1942 when I was appointed chairman of voter registration in Jackson County. I resigned a year later and settled into a routine that lasted until my death in 1962. I lived in Brownwood with my brother Lawrence, my sister Zaida and Zaida's husband. My life focused on

playing bridge. I was an aggressive player and sometimes lost my temper and yelled at partners and opponents alike.

I was known for being a flamboyant dresser. I favored oodles of yellow costume jewelry and wore brightly colored blouses. I wore pants, drank whiskey, chain smoked, and used profane language. I probably wouldn't have fit in if I hadn't been so pushy that no one could ignore me.

People thought I practiced European airs. I used a cigarette holder and wore pants way before other women in town. Some say I affected a foreign accent. My family had a full time chauffeur, but I preferred to walk everywhere. I once asked ladies for an "al fresco" tea. They had to look up "al fresco."

My ashes were scattered at Brownwood. Being cremated was another instance of my European airs, I guess. Sometimes, there's a cigarette butt stubbed out on my headstone in Cedar Hill, so I guess I left some sort of lasting impression. Some people get flowers, but I get cigarette butts. I don't mind.

I'm Virginia May Brown, and this town has never seen anybody like me.

Lucy Bynum

1917-1983

Jessie Sue Bynum

1918-2005

Portrayed by Joan Reeves and Bunny Mountain

Jessie Sue: I am Jessie Sue Bynum and this is my sister, Lucy. We want to welcome you here today. Our welcoming you is entirely appropriate since the Foundation we set up sponsored today's cemetery stroll. If I had my silver tea service, I would serve you tea and cookies. But since we do not, we will content ourselves with telling you our story.

Lucy: We are the granddaughters of Robert Thomas Scott, the founder of Scottsboro. Our great-grandfather emigrated to the U.S. from Scotland and settled in North Carolina.

In 1817, my grandfather moved to Alabama from North Carolina looking for new opportunities. In 1834 he moved from Madison County to Jackson County, where he bought a large farm near Bellefonte, which was then the county seat. He owned several businesses and edited the local newspaper for a time. He even served in the Alabama Legislature for almost 20 years.

He later built a home called “White Cottage,” on the land known today as “Backbone Ridge.”



Unfortunately, during the Civil War, the federal troops burned “White Cottage.” He was the area salt agent for the Confederacy and died when Union soldier forced him to pull a wagon. He is buried near the location of White Cottage on Highway 35. Our Foundation also pays to landscape, light, and maintain this cemetery.

Jessie Sue: Our father, Hugh Otis Bynum Sr., was a businessman, and our mother, Lora Allen Bynum, was a teacher. Our father first made his living as a mule trader. When farmers no longer plowed with mules, he started Bynum Tractor Company. The building where auctions are sometimes held on Willow Street was his tractor dealership, and before that, his mule barn. Our family owned land all around Scottsboro—pastures and business lots in town. Our Bynum grandparents, Robert and Bathsheba, owned the property behind the Presbyterian church, which

we subdivided to create the Bynum subdivision. Their home on Bynum Street sat about where the Church of God is located now, and they are buried along with some Union soldiers in the little cemetery in the middle of Bynum Street. Union soldiers also camped in Bynum’s Pasture, just over the railroad track on Cedar Hill Drive.

Lucy: You may also know us as the younger sisters of Hugh Otis Bynum, Jr. He certainly got his fair share of headlines over the years, particularly in the 1970s. He lived in the old family home next to the Episcopal church and turned it into a place so scary looking that children crossed the street rather than walk in front of it. In the mid 1950s, we moved with our parents to a house that we built up on Backbone Ridge. After our parents died, we built a house on Buchanan Street near Caldwell School.

Jessie Sue: Our father did not like for us to date local men. He thought that they would be after our money. But we were well educated. We both graduated from Huntingdon College and went on to get graduate degrees and teach. Lucy earned a master’s degree from the University of Texas and a PhD in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I earned a master’s degree in history from the University of Chicago and taught at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and also at Queen’s College in Charlotte, North Carolina. Later in her life, Lucy taught at the University of Alabama at Huntsville and Northeast Alabama Community College. We loved to garden, and we were active in the American Association of University Women and the Methodist Church.

Lucy: We both loved the arts and loved to travel, and spent a fair amount of our free time in New York City seeing the Broadway plays and enjoying the city. We traveled to Europe often. When we were in town, we hosted visiting writers like Kathryn Tucker Windham and Harper Lee in our home.

I died in 1983 at age 66 from a melanoma that I neglected too long before having it treated. I was only 66.

Jessie Sue: I lived another 22 years in the house on Buchanan Street. I continued to travel, but

missed my sister, my lifelong companion and friend. I died in 2005 at age 87.

Our father provided well for us and left us rich in memories and property. We never married, and we wanted our love of the arts and our commitment to community service to live on after us. Before I died, I set up the Bynum Foundation to fund programs for the public, such as the one you are attending today. So, we welcome you as the hostesses of this event, and hope you enjoy learning about our community leaders.

Mary Texas Hurt Garner

1928-1997

Portrayed by Amy McCamy Patterson

You might not know that right here in Jackson County, we had the youngest woman ever to serve as Secretary of State in the entire country. As you can see from my first campaign poster, I was just a girl of 26 the first time I was elected to state office in Alabama.

I was born Mary Texas Hurt in Scottsboro, Alabama on October 3, 1928, the daughter of Frank Paul Hurt and Allie Snodgrass. My father sold insurance and my mother was the daughter of the owner of the Bocanita theater, Aunt Tex Snodgrass. I grew up around the movie theater. In fact, when I was just 12, the manager of the theater was called away to fight in World War II and I took over as manager of the Bocanita. Theater magazines recognized me as the youngest theater manager in the country.

I grew up on Laurel Street, first in a house that sat where "He Sells She Sells" is today, and then across the street in the house that many of you remember as the Hurt-Snodgrass House, a pretty white house known for the Victorian gingerbread trim on the front porch. Just a few houses down, Babs Deal was my age and grew up in the old Coffey house on the corner of Laurel and Kyle, and we became lifelong best friends.

I graduated from Jackson County High School in 1944 and went off to Vassar College in New York.

I graduated from George Washington University in Washington DC in 1949 with a degree in political science. I taught for a time while I worked on my law degree at George Washington and graduated in 1952. I came back to Scottsboro to study for my bar exam and worked for the Scott, Dawson, and Hurt Law Firm on the square. When I passed the bar later that year, I went to work for the state attorney general in Montgomery, where I did research, prepared cases, and went into court representing the State of Alabama.



I decided to run for secretary of state in the 1954 election. I travelled all over the state. I won the election with 64% of the vote and became the youngest secretary of state in the country. While I was campaigning, I met this good-looking man named Bill Garner from Ozark who was working for my opponent. After his candidate lost, we began keeping company, and we married in 1956.

In 1958, it was time to run for office again. I could not succeed myself as secretary of state, so I ran for state auditor and won with a 10-to-1 margin. In August 1959, my husband and I welcomed our daughter Mary into the world. We lived in Montgomery but kept an apartment over the Bocanita Theater in Scottsboro near my parents'

house on Laurel Street. It was located on the square where Berry and Dunn is today.

In 1962, I ran for state treasurer. With my good record and experience, I won easily, carrying every county in the state. Near the end of my term as treasurer, we added a son William to our family. Both of my parents had died in 1965, so I retired from politics at the end of my term in 1967 and moved back to Scottsboro. We built a house in Bellefonte where we raised our children and managed our family farms. I lost my husband in 1979. I lived on in Scottsboro and later in Greensboro, NC near my son. I died in 1997 just before my 70th birthday.

And here I am, lying with my parents and grandmother and my Uncle Hess here in Cedar Hill. Thank you for visiting with me today.

Judge R. I. "Bob" Gentry

1923-2006

Portrayed by Jerry King

Education is the key to it all. When I was a boy growing up on Long Island across the river from Bridgeport, there were times when I thought I'd be stuck there. We were poor, my daddy died young, my brother was disabled, I had full responsibility for the family farm. I couldn't even spell veterinarian, but I knew from the get go I wanted to be one. When I finished high school in Bridgeport, my mother said, "I know you're going. Go on and go."

I'm Bob Gentry. I got up and went. I got to Alabama Polytechnic Institute without any notion of how I'd pay my way. The first day, a vocational counselor asked a bunch of us if we needed to work to put our way through. I was the first one up there. I'd cut some hair, so I told him I was a barber. They put me in the school's barbershop. The problem was, I'd never used electric clippers. The first boy in that chair left with a mohawk. It was pitiful. And you can't just fix it on the spot. I finally got the hang of it and cut hair for five years while getting through vet school. I also served

three meals a day in the dining hall and sold veterinary supplies on the weekends.



Getting an education had always been a struggle. We had to cross the river on the ferry to get to school. In bad weather when the ferry wasn't running, I didn't miss school. I'd walk over the railroad bridge. I could sense when a train was coming and knew when to cross the span, but I had to hoof it a few times and even had to hang on under the ties a couple of times as the train passed overhead.

Setting up a veterinary practice in Scottsboro was not easy. People said I was too young in 1947. "We need to see you with your momma and your daddy before we let you doctor on our cows," they'd say. There was danger to it, too. I had to get to know the bootleggers in these coves so I wouldn't get shot at. And people were poor. I sometimes got paid in produce. When one regular contributor suddenly stopped bringing me vegetables, I asked him why he'd quit. It turns out he was still delivering, but he was delivering to a house I'd moved out of months before. Those folks in my old house were eating good.

In 1958, somebody said I ought to run for probate judge. I told them I hadn't studied that. I was only happy when I was chucked into a herd of cattle. Then one day I heard somebody who had

already signed up to run saying I'd be crucified if I threw my hat in the ring. I said to myself, I've never been crucified, so maybe I'll give it a go.

I won against six other candidates without a runoff. In fact, I won six straight times. In addition to probate judge, I was appointed juvenile judge. Let me tell you now that there was never a child sent to a correctional facility who came back a better person, so I made up a lot of local options that wouldn't fly today. For instance, I sometimes let kids get by with a switching from their parents. The rules were that the parents had to bring their own switch, they had to do the switching themselves, and it had to be done in my presence.

I looked out that first floor courthouse office for 36 years. I saw all manner of misbehavior right there on the square. There was drunkenness, prostitution, and domestic abuse. I wouldn't tolerate it for a minute. I'd send somebody out for them and sentence them to several days in county jail right then and there.

One time when I sentenced a woman to 30 days in the county jail for prostitution, she hit the floor like she was having a seizure. This woman that worked with me said we should call an ambulance. I just hollered at the woman on the floor, "That'll be 30 more days in jail for disrupting my court." She jumped right up. My probation officer told everybody that I had cured epilepsy.

I was handy. I kept the courthouse clock running for decades. I restored furniture and cars. I opened an antiques store on the square. My daughter still runs it today out on Highway 35.

Folks say I was a genius at fixing things, but I had some slip ups. One time I saw a dead groundhog on the side of the road on Sand Mountain. I threw him in the back of the truck and took him home. I was going to skin him and tan his hide to use for a banjo head. It turned out to be the worst mess you ever saw. It busted open in the sun. I had to go with a store-bought head.

Like I told a woman in my last interview when she asked me to sum myself up: A lot of people are guilty of saying "Look how important I am." Those kind, I just push them aside and go on.

I'm Dr. Bob Gentry. I'm a veterinarian and a natural healer.

The Hodges Brothers:

Mess: 1910-1945

Charles: 1914-1983

R. L.: 1917-1984

Portrayed by their sons: Don (Mess), Sonny (Charles), and Doug (R. L.)

RL: The face of the Jackson County square and the drug store business in Scottsboro was forever changed by the three sons of Robert Leslie Hodges, Sr. Our father Robert was a farmer in Woodville and Limrock. He married Flora Ethel McCarrell in 1909. Their first son, Laudra Clifton (known as "Mess"), was born a year later in September 1910. Their second son, Charles, was born in August 1914. I am the youngest and I was named Robert Leslie but always went by R.L. I was born in November 1917. Our mother Flora died just a week later.

Charles: Left alone to farm with the little boys, the youngest a week old, our father remarried quickly. He married Callie Yarborough who added two children to our family: her son James born in 1919, by her first husband James A. Thomas; and Ralph, our half brother born in 1924. By 1930, Mess was boarding with the Pendergrass family in town so he could attend Jackson County High School. We two younger boys were in elementary school in Limrock. Mess really helped raise us, and wanted to make a place for the three of us. I think that is why he bought the drugstore.

Mess: With a name "Laudra Clifton," it is no wonder that I went by a nickname, and that name was "Mess," short for "Messenger." While I attended high school in Scottsboro, I was a messenger boy for Western Union. My earliest association with the drug store business in Scottsboro came from serving as a delivery boy for James Presley at his drug store in the 1930s.



When Mr. Mess was ready to retire, I bought his drug store business in 1937. It was a good business. There had always been a drug store in that spot. I enjoyed managing a popular hometown business. I married pretty Elizabeth Thomas that same year and settled down to raise our two sons: Tommy born in 1937 and Don in 1944.

RL: But the life that Mess had planned for himself was cut short by a motorcycle accident in late July 1945. The motorcycle malfunctioned up on the square. He went home from the accident, but his injury was more dangerous than he thought. He awoke the next morning with a terrible headache and his wife drove him to Newell Hospital in Chattanooga, where he died August 6. Mess's son Don was only 16 months old when his father died. In Mess's obituary, the paper talked about the amazing success of our new Hodges Drug Store business with its slogan "Where Service Meets You at the Door."

Charles: When Mess bought the drug store, I was already married to Frances Bell and living in Tampa where I was a drug salesman for the Massingill Drug Company. Just before his accident, Mess had called me and said he needed my help, that the family needed a pharmacist, so I moved my family back—my wife Frances and my children, Mary Charles, Sonny, and Carole—to Scottsboro and worked in the store while I commuted to Howard College to get my pharmacy degree. I had just finished my schooling

and was out fishing at South Sauty on a cool day in December of 1941. The radio played through my open car door. Suddenly the radio announcer interrupted programming to say that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I enlisted in the Navy the next day. Losing Mess was a terrible blow. I cried most of the long train ride from New York to Scottsboro.

RL: I had been part of the family business ever since Mess bought the drug store. I married Zelma Nichols in 1937. Mess and I looked after the store for a time after Charles went to the war, but I too enlisted in the Navy in October 1942 and served with distinction in some very intense areas of fighting. We were both devastated by Mess's sudden death and came back when the war was over to manage the store. Mess had always looked after us younger boys and we floundered for a while without him. In 1946, Charles and I bought the drug store business from my sister-in-law Elizabeth. Charles became the pharmacist and senior partner and our business was known informally as the Hodges Brothers Drug Store.

Mess: In 1945, Hodges was not just a busy drug store but also a thriving sundry business with curbside service and the passenger station and ticket office for the Trailways Bus. When soldiers waited on the bus in the drugstore, I always let them have their smokes and toiletries for free. 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."

Charles: The stories associated with Hodges Drugs are too many to recount, but most centered around some prank that RL played on me or an unsuspecting customer, such as the time he dipped a big scoop of lard into a bowl for Paul Conley instead of his weekly indulgence of pineapple sherbet. 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 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.

R. L. 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 open 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.

Mess: Charles died in 1983 and R.L. in 1984. Without the energy of the Hodges boys, the

business closed in the late 1990s. We three brothers were born in Woodville and lived most of our lives in Jackson County. We tried to keep our customers healthy and happy. Our partnership had a positive influence on the county, and people smile when they remember our drug stores.

Pvt. McKinley Kirby

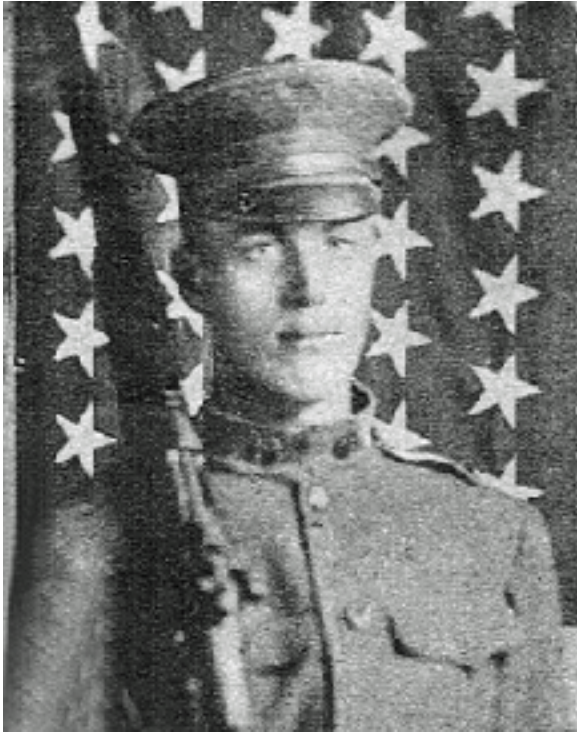
1897-1929

Portrayed by Jason Johnson

My name is McKinley Kirby. I was born in Larkinsville on the 28th of January 1897, one of four children of Francis Milton and Amanda J. Farmer Kirby. My father was a grocer and restaurant worker in Jackson County, a son of Dr. Jack Kirby. In 1910 we were living on Railroad Avenue in Scottsboro. We lived in several locations in the area, following my father's work. We were living in Section when my little brother Chester died in 1914. My father was always looking for work, and we moved to Chattanooga in February 1919. My mother was in and out of the hospital with fatigue and dementia. She died in July 1919 of pellagra, a dietary deficiency caused by too much cornbread and not enough protein, a poor man's diet.

When World War I broke out, I was single and twenty years old, a mechanic living in South Pittsburg, Tennessee and a Private 2nd class in the National Guard. I decided to enlist in the Army and help the war effort. I carried with me the idealism of the time, sure the war would be over soon and I would return home, that having the Americans in the war would quickly turn the tide in a seemingly endless, stagnated conflict.

I reported for duty in South Pittsburg on July 17, 1918 and after a brief time in training camp, I was assigned to Battery B of the Volunteer 139th Field Artillery, 38th Division.



I shipped out on October 8 on the *Cedric*. We arrived in France on October 18 and walked right into the Meuse-Argonne Offensive that had started September 26 and raged on until Armistice was declared November 11. It was the deadliest battle in history, resulting in 350,000 casualties, 26,000 of them Americans. The Spanish Flu was rampant and killed a number of men, but my injury came from chlorine gas, causing irreparable damage to my lungs. Many of the men around me died. I stayed in France until July 1919 when I was shipped back to North Carolina and honorably discharged with what the Army called “pulmonary tuberculosis, chronic and moderately advanced,” which they estimated to be a 40% disability.

I tried to regain my health and resume my life but my reduced lung capacity plagued me. I checked into a military hospital in November 1926 in Milwaukee. I was discharged five months later, but was back in the military hospitals within two months, in May 1927. I was in military hospitals on and off the rest of

my life, in New Mexico, Kansas, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

In Missouri in April 1927, I married a woman named Della Fay Davis with a young son named James, who looked after me with tenderness and compassion. I knew the end of my life was near, and that my military pension would help Della and James live after I was gone. In spite of her love and care, I died at the Veterans Bureau Hospital in Muskogee, Oklahoma on November 4, 1929, only 32 years old, a late casualty of The Great War. My family brought me back home to Cedar Hill to lie with my mother and my brother Chester.

Pvt. James K.P. Martin

1844-1863

Portrayed by Alexander Edge

I am James Knox Polk Martin, my friends call me “Polky”. I was born in the thriving Jackson County river town of Bellefonte in November 1844 to Daniel McNair and Eliza Davis Martin. My father operated a tailoring business, stage lines, and several plantations in the area and was one of the largest landowners in Jackson County. When the Civil War came, my father funded several local Confederate units. As a young man, not even eighteen, I decided it was my duty to fight and in May 1862 I went to Chattanooga and joined Morton’s Battery.

I went on to serve in Forrest’s Cavalry during its raids in western Tennessee. It was here that I took a minie ball to the kneecap during the Battle of Parker’s Crossroads in Henderson County, Tennessee on the last day of 1862. I lay on the battlefield only 150 yards away from a Confederate hospital but was callously neglected by our own southern doctors. An African-American woman took pity on me and helped me to her cabin where she took care of me the best she could, given the wartime circumstances, for four days. After those four days, Union troops

found me and dragged me out of the cabin and into the snow outside, with my caretaker begging them not to. I heard that the son of my caretaker told the Union troops about my location for money. The Union soldiers stripped me down and buried me up to my neck in the dirt and snow. I lay there for four hours until my caretaker was able to safely get me back inside but the damage was done. I contracted pneumonia and from the cold and died a short time later.



When my body was returned home, my family saw fit to give a lasting commemoration to my mistreatment during the war by both sides of the fight. Though my body still lies at the old cemetery at Bellefonte, when Scottsboro became the bustling center of Jackson County and Bellefonte became a ghost town, my family put my marker here to make sure that future generations knew my story.

Ed Moody

1866-1921

Portrayed by Nat Cisco

Nobody could have been more surprised than I was on July 25, 1921, when I traipsed through the corn field behind my house to ask Joe Stone and his friends to hold down the noise when most of the good folks of Scottsboro were trying to sleep.

Knocking on his door was the last thing I remember. A shotgun blast came through the door and struck me in the chest, and I died instantly.

I am Deputy U.S. Marshal Ed Moody. I was a lifelong resident of Jackson County, and I had held this job only four months when I was killed. Jobs were hard to come by in 1921. I thought it was a stroke of good luck when John Hackworth resigned so he could return to railroad work in Mississippi and I was appointed to replace him. "Mr. Moody has already entered the new job," the paper wrote, "and we congratulate our neighbor and fellow townsman on securing this appointment and feel sure he will make good."

I had mostly been a merchant and dry goods salesman most of my life. My father Orran had served in the Civil War, and had been a hospital nurse in a prison camp for most of it. He was appointed postmaster of Langston, AL in 1869. But he picked a fight with his cousin Thomas at his dry goods store in Langston, and pulled a gun on him. Thomas was a better shot, and my father died in 1872 and was buried on our farm. My mother was left with five little children, all under the age of 11. She remarried quickly, to Benjamin Franklin Shook.

Mr. Shook left Langston with his big family and operated a hotel in Scottsboro. I don't remember much about my real father, but Mr. Shook was kind to us, and I grew up working in his hotel. He and mother had three other children: half sisters Fannie and Sallie (who are buried here beside me with the man they both married, Willie Hammons) and half brother Barton, who died of typhoid.

I married a Langston girl, Ava Loveless, in 1889, and we had two children: a son Orran named after my father in 1890 and a girl Bessie in 1893, and we lived in Kirbytown. Ada died of consumption—TB—in 1893. I could not have gotten by if Ada's sisters had not helped me with the babies. In 1897, I married the woman who lies here beside me, Ada Caroline Webb, also a Langston girl. We had five children, none of whom stayed on in Jackson County.

In 1892, I needed a good job to support my growing family so I went into the dry goods

business with my brother, Robert Moody, who lived at Hillian's Store. Having learned the merchant business with my brother, I moved on to Stevenson in 1900, opened a grocery business, and moved my family from Langston. By 1917, I had moved to Scottsboro and was a dry goods salesman.



And then I took the job as deputy U.S. marshal, and four months later, my story came to an end. Ava died five months after I did, and our family's Jackson County history mostly ended. Most of our children moved on to Texas. Some of you probably know my family who stayed in Jackson County. After Mother died, Mr. Shook married Docia Crawford who became the mother of Willie Shook Armstrong, the mother of District Attorney Tommy Armstrong who died in 2017. And my uncle Milo Moody was a state representative who was responsible for many of the roads you drive on today. And he was the only lawyer in town who stood up and defended the Scottsboro Boys at their Jackson County trial in 1932. My sister Orran Allison Moody married physician Jefferson Bennett Moody from Ft.

Payne, the son of Circuit Lodge William J. Haralson.

After Joe Stone shot me, he fled. The seven other black men who had been at the party were arrested but released since it was clear that Stone had been the shooter. A posse of 100 heavily armed men used bloodhounds to track Stone, who was thought to be hiding in Jackson County. He was captured the night of July 25 in Shelbyville, TN.

My killing sparked immediate outrage. Armed guards had to be posted around the jail to prevent violence. Stone was tried in Scottsboro in September 1921 and sentenced to hang on November 4. After the trial, he was held in Huntsville for his protection. Stone was granted a new trial because of irregular questions asked of character witnesses. After this trial in March 1923, he was sentenced to 25 years.

I am standing here today in front of this shiny new marker because a lot of good folks like you who attended the cemetery stroll last year donated money so my grave could be marked. And I appreciate it. No one who died fulfilling their duty should lie in an unmarked spot. I was a Jackson County boy who died fulfilling my duty. I am Deputy US Marshal Ed Moody.

John O'Linger 1938-2012

Portrayed by Greg Bell

When the University of Alabama's first-year coach, Bear Bryant, came to town to recruit from Scottsboro High School's class of 1958, he told, Pat Trammell, David Webb, and me that if we signed on, he would carry us to a national championship by the time we were seniors.

A lot of folks got a kick out of that a claim. They thought it was pure arrogance. Bear Bryant was a new coach from nowhere Arkansas. He was just coming into the SEC

big leagues himself and here he was recruiting a bunch of local boys, telling us we were going to do great things.



It didn't look promising when we started. Alabama had endured four straight losing seasons when we got there. Things had fallen apart in the mid-50's under Coach J.B. "Ears" Whitworth, and they had hired Bryant with great hopes of returning the Tide to its Rose Bowl prominence.

I'm John O'linger, and I'm proud to have been a part of the group that Coach Bryant believed could make it all happen. We worked hard for it, but I was always a hard worker. I was one of 12 children. We farmed, paying the rent with a portion of our crops. We milked cows and set the cans by the road for the dairy to pick up. We cut hay. When I wasn't

in school, I drove a truck for Mr. Cecil Word at the lumber company.

I knew hard work, but not like what Bear Bryant demanded. He nearly killed me. I was small. I only weighed 180 pounds. The only edge I had was that I would never quit. I told my brother that I gave up in my heart many times, but then I'd come back to town and talk to Coach John Meadows, who by that time had replaced my own high school coach, Jack Cornelison. Coach Meadows would build me back up and send me back to Tuscaloosa ready to try again.

A lot of folks walked away from that team. They just couldn't cut it any more. But for those of us who stayed, the Bear made good on his prediction. Pat and I were there to the end. We went 11-0 in 1961, and we won that national championship we dreamed of.

I had played center and defensive line in high school, and I was selected second team all-state my senior year. I played center and line backer for the Crimson Tide on the 1961 championship team.

In one poll, the 1961 Alabama Team was voted as "the Best All-Time football team" to ever play in the Southeastern Conference, and in another we were voted the third best college football team of all time.

Pat Trammell, who is buried here in town in Pine Haven Cemetery, was the brains driving that team. Some of the other greats, like Joe Namath, who played on the team behind Pat in 1961, said that Pat was the smartest player ever to take the field. For my own part, I always said he wasn't all that gifted physically, but mentally, he had the best mind in football. He was good in school, too. He was Phi Beta Kappa and a shoo-in for medical school. Coach Bryant said Pat was too smart to play pro football.

For lots of people, winning the championship is the high point in their lives. My winning streak continued way after the 1961 season. I

married the former Margie Duncan of Tuscaloosa on August 3, 1962 and we had two daughters, Cindy and Kim.

After I graduated from Alabama, I parlayed the great lessons from Coach Bryant and being a national championship player into a successful high school coaching career in the state. I coached at Minor High School in 1965 and 1966 and in Gadsden and Anniston from 1967 to 1970.

After coaching for several years, I worked as a sales agent with Roadway Express and retired with that company. I loved to fish, play golf and watch and talk about Alabama football. Late in life, diabetes would take both my legs and my eyesight. I spent the last of my days in assisted living, where I played checkers everyday with Maureen Gay. I guess we were an unusual friendship, but she was like a grandmother to me.

I fought diabetes just like I fought for that national championship.

I'm John O'Linger. Roll Tide.

John and William Parks

Sons of James Monroe Parks

Both died in 1870 in Texas

Portrayed by Carter and Miles Hodges

John: We are John Thomas Parks.

William: And William D. Parks

John: We are standing here at the grave of our father, Dr. James Monroe Parks, though we were buried in Leon County, Texas, along with our sister Mary. We all three died in August 1870 within two weeks, not long after we moved to Texas. We all had bilious fever. People don't have this today. We had malaria first and did not get over it. We were all jaundiced when we died, and our skin had turned yellow. The most famous

person with bilious fever was President Abraham Lincoln's son Willie.

I am the oldest son. Will and I have different mothers. My mother was Cenia Justice. I was born in 1849 and my mother died a few days after I was born. I lived with my grandmother Ruth Brown Parks in Scottsboro until she died in 1855, and then with my Uncle John Gordon Parks, until 1870 when I went with my father and his new wife and children to live in Texas.



William: My mother was Mary Jane Scott, and my grandfather was Robert Scott, the founder of Scottsboro. He was a state representative and owned the land where town of Scottsboro would be built, and he planned out the new town. He convinced people to move the county seat from Bellefonte to Scottsboro, and he convinced the railroad to pass through the new town. During the Civil War, he was a government agent who regulated salt. Salt was very important and very expensive. It cured meat and tanned leather, and it was regulated by the government.

My grandfather was killed by Union officers because he would not tell them where the county's salt supply was located. Union officers forced him to pull a wagon and he died from the effort. He is buried out on Highway 35 in the

Scott Cemetery. His gravesite is a park lit up at night. I have a brother Charles buried in this cemetery. I was one of eight children. Some of them are buried here in Cedar Hill with our father.

John: So many sad things happened to my family in Texas. Father meant to settle there, but the family returned to Alabama in 1872.

When he was young, our father fought in the Indian Wars. He was also appointed the first post master of Scottsboro 1856, only it was Scotts Mill when he was appointed. In 1860, he was working for the Interior Department in Washington. But then the Civil War started in 1861, and my family believed in the Southern cause, so we came back to Alabama.

William: After the war, our father was a farmer and a doctor. He did not go to medical school, but learned as the apprentice of another doctor. The Jackson County Medical Board tested him in 1884 and said that he was a doctor.

John: He practiced medicine in Scottsboro until 1892. When he died in 1900, he was Scottsboro's oldest living citizen. My mother Mary Jane died in 1912 and is buried here with Father.

William: We wish we were here with the rest of the family instead of in Texas.

John: But we are happy you stopped by today to hear about our family.

Oakley "Red" Sharp

1918-1988

Portrayed by Dicky Holder

Principal Ray Collins called me out to the high school to size a job for him. When I got there, there were three schoolteachers working on pads and calculators, using math to figure out how many cubic yards of chert would be needed to fill up the marsh to build Trammell Field. I got out of my truck, leaned over and sighted between my legs for a few seconds. When I popped up, I told Ray how many yards of fill he was going to need.

Ray asked me, "Red, what on earth are you doing?" I told him that was how the old folks got the level of the land. You can't stand and get the level. You've got to lean over and look between your legs. I came within a truckload or two of having it exactly right. Those three math teachers were way off.



My name's Red Sharp. My given name was Oakley, but nobody called me that but my wife. I was never good at school math, but I could do numbers in my head. When I left school, I couldn't read or write either. I was just sitting in this one-room school in Tupelo one day when I looked around and said to myself, "I am the oldest person in this whole school." Right then, I got up and walked out. I left my books on the desk. I went into the woods with a team of mules and started logging. I was 12 years old.

In 1952, I started Red Sharp Sand and Gravel with two used dump trucks and a bulldozer. I made a go of it pretty quick. I learned to size up jobs and size up people. I was a good negotiator, but I was known for my method of coming to terms with a customer when we were still apart on the price. I'd pitch pennies with them. I win, we take my price. You win, you take yours. Nobody beat me pitching pennies. I could lean them on the wall I was so good.

Folks remember me for my business sense, but they're more likely to remember me for two other things: my zebras and my race cars.

I got this notion I wanted a zebra, and I drove out to Texas to get him. Everybody said I was crazy. You can't train a zebra. They were pretty much right. Old Zebe was a handful. You'd think you had him broke enough he'd pull a wagon, then he'd take loose and charge into a barbed wire fence and cut himself all up. He was crazy. You couldn't tame all the wildness out of him, but I did finally get him to work in a team with a calm horse I had. We were hits in the local parades.

I even went to Africa to buy zebras. Some government man told me I was wasting my time, that nobody could tame a zebra. I showed him a picture of old Zebe in a team. He said that was a horse I'd painted to look like a zebra. We like to have got in a fight, he made me so mad. In the end, I was impressed with what a beautiful sight those animals were in the wild. I decided they were better off there than in Jackson County, and I came home empty handed.

I had a way with animals. One time, I was supposed to transport an elephant to El Paso. He broke loose overnight and I had to corral a loose and very mad elephant. I finally got his leg chain wrapped around a utility pole and got him back in the trailer.

I was a good horseman, too. I was hired to round up livestock to clear Bellefonte Island and roped some of the meanest animals you ever saw. People laughed at me for having a seat belt on my saddle.

I also had a thing for stock cars. My number 39 car was in over 50 NASCAR races. I drove a car myself when I was young, but got in a terrible accident. I got burned all over my upper body. My whole life, I wore long sleeved white shirts and wore work gloves to protect the blistered skin.

I died in 1988. In my funeral procession, my good friend judge Bob Gentry drove a wagon he'd built himself that was drawn by two of my mules.

People say I was one of the most honest and respected businessmen in the county. I built one of the biggest and most profitable operations around.

I'm Red Sharp. I did OK for a 12-year-old dropout.

Wiley Whitfield

1849-1930

Portrayed by Gary Speers

It was more than unusual for a half black man to be treated as an equal by the business community of Scottsboro in 1880, so soon after the end of slavery, when even a drop of black blood made you a Negro. But I was a businessman in good standing with land to develop and businesses to run in early Scottsboro. My name is Wiley Whitfield and I want to tell you my story.

I was born into slavery in Giles County, TN in 1849, the son of a slave woman and her white owner John Whitfield. When I was a child, my father provided well for us. We lived in a cabin behind his house. My father and my grandparents all lived in Giles County. My father's first wife was Martha Ann Snipes. She died before I was born, but she and my father had two sons: George born in 1841 and William born in 1843. After Martha's death, about 1848, my father moved briefly to Limestone County, Alabama. where he met a widow woman named Sarah Childs Stinnett. They married in Limestone County in 1840, when I was a year old. He moved her and her nine-year-old daughter back to Giles County where they were living during the 1850 census.

On his trip to Alabama, my father bought land under the Homestead Act in 1848 at the Huntsville land office, and when he returned, we packed up and moved to Jackson County out near Bellefonte. By 1860, Father had moved the family into the fledgling town of Scottsboro where he operated a hotel. My mother and I continued to live out in Bellefonte.

Late in 1864 when I was still a slave, my father married me by his right of matrimony as our owner to another of his slaves, a black woman much older than me named Rachel. I had two stepchildren I never knew named Buele and Donna who were probably sold off before Rachel

and I were put together as husband and wife. Rachel had come to father's Tennessee plantation from Kentucky. Her hair was grey and she was nearly past childbearing age when we married, but together we had one son named John Walden, in May of 1870. I was just 21 years old. Rachel did not live long after John was born.

My father was instrumental in the founding of Scottsboro. He, along with Robert Scott and Thomas Wood, donated much of the land that would become downtown Scottsboro. In the 1870 census, I had moved into the main house with the family. The census taker did not know what to make of it when my father included me in the four members of his household, along with his wife Sarah and their son Pearce. He wrote M for mulatto by my name first and put me out of order at the end of the list like I was a household servant. He marked that M out and put a W for White over it when he was corrected and told I was my father's son. Most men who fathered children with their slaves were not so open about their slave children and most did not make them a part of their household.

In the 1870 census my father was listed as a business owner of a steam-powered lumber mill. It cost him \$3500 to build, and it employed 5 and produced high-quality lumber. I grew up helping with the mill. I looked after my son and was a carpenter and a brickmason. In January 1873, I married Tilitha Snodgrass, whom I had met out in Bellefonte where she had lived as a slave with her mother Sarah.

The white and black Whitfield families lived in Alabama until early 1873. But like many pioneer families, my father had itchy feet and longed to see what could be found on the other side of the Mississippi. We all moved to Arkansas, just after I married Tilitha. My father bought 200 acres in Arkansas, but kept much of his Alabama property in case he wanted to return. But my father loved Arkansas. I was not happy there, and Tilitha missed her family, so we moved back to Scottsboro. Before we left, we bought my father's Jackson County property from him. When I arrived in Scottsboro, I was already an established businessman.



Father did not live long after his move. He died in 1881. His second wife Sarah died in 1889. My half-brother Pearce had married Unity Beard in 1879 and they lived on the old family homeplace in Arkansas. They lost four of their six children. They are buried in the same Arkansas cemetery as my father and Sarah.

Tilitha and I made our home in Scottsboro. Tilitha was sensitive about being unable to bear children, and my son from my marriage to Rachel was a sore point between us. John was only 3 when we married. I saw to his education but when he was only 10, he boarded with the Benjamin Bynum family. When he was older, I sent him to Huntsville Normal School (later known as Alabama A&M). He graduated, and went to Little Rock, Arkansas to teach at Philander Smith College where he met and married another teacher, Roberta Eva Winstead. My son John and his wife lived with Roberta's family and had six children: George Wiley born in 1902; Rachel born in 1904; John Waldon born in 1905; William Henry born in 1906; Robert Ellis born in 1909; and Sterling Nathaniel born in 1911. John died in May 1910 of appendicitis. Roberta lived until 1940 and raised me a fine bunch of grandchildren.

Tilitha and I lived in my father's house in Scottsboro next to the old Skelton place north of the tracks. Tilitha kept a big vegetable garden. J. D. Snodgrass at the *Alabama Herald* thanked her

in the 1875 paper for “a lot of very fine vegetables, ...the best we have seen this season.” Tilitha and I were faithful Methodists. In 1878, we deeded land on Willow Street to the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, and the congregation built the church that is today the Scottsboro Boys Museum. I operated a steam saw mill business with J. W. Barnett as my partner in the 1870s, a partnership which we dissolved in 1881.

In 1896 I also operated a grist mill, which Reverend W. E. Brown, one of the best millwrights in the state, built for me at a cost of \$200. In 1896 *The Scottsboro Citizen* newspaper wrote about my two mills, calling me an “enterprising colored citizen.” I invited them to test my grist mill and the paper reported that I could grind 1 1/4 bushels of corn in a minute and found my meal to be of superior quality. I had a lot of customers. I kept my father’s steam-powered saw mill, and John R. King, a one-legged Confederate soldier, was the fireman at the mill.

I provided much of the lumber for the Goosepond Cumberland Presbyterian Church, built in 1883, from my sawmill at Double Bridges. The church owed me money as they got ready for their first service in the new church. When the congregation arrived for the service, I stood on the front steps and blocked entry to the building until my lumber was paid for in full. The church remembers that Nicholas E. Broadway sent his teenage son, Charles Hunter Broadway, home to get family gold pieces to pay me the \$200 they owed me.

I lived and worked in a community made up of the leading white citizens of Scottsboro, in a home my father built and lived in. In 1888 I was designated as an election inspector for the town of Scottsboro, an honor which reflected my good standing in the community. I served as executor for other black citizens and probated their wills. The worst anyone ever wrote about me was that in 1897 I allowed a chicken-eating hog to run at large, and I was fined \$5 in city court.

By 1901 the white folks began to move out of the fine homes they had built north of the tracks, and I bought some of them as rental properties. One was built by a builder named Captain Jasper Jones who was one of the first folks buried here in

Cedar Hill. The house was called one of the best built in the county. Jones had built it for his bride but was murdered before they could move in. I had rented it to my sometime business partner John Staples, and it burned to the ground with no insurance to cover my loss.

In my later years, I was a builder and subdivision developer. I developed two subdivisions. The plat for Wiley Whitfield No. 1 subdivision was filed March 20, 1917. It was bounded on the north by Orange Street, on the south by Elm Street, on the east by Railroad Street and on the west by Mountain Street and consisted of 20 building lots, most with 50 road foot frontage and 100 feet deep.

I developed the Wiley Whitfield Addition No 2. subdivision in June 1929. It was bounded on the north by West Laurel Street, on the south by West Appletree, on the west by Cemetery Drive (Cedar Hill Drive), and on the East by Vann Street It consisted of 12 lots 20 feet across fronting Laurel Street, odd lots 20 feet across, numbering 13-41 fronting Cedar Hill Drive, even lots 14-42 fronting Vann Street. People selling a home on Cedar Hill Drive today find they are living in my subdivision. But I did not live long enough to develop the property.

Tilitha died in February 1929. I buried her here in Cedar Hill beside her mother. It was very lonely without her. On April 20, 1930, I collapsed in front of the courthouse. No hospital in Scottsboro would take me in, so my friends drove me to a Birmingham hospital where I died two days later. My friend John Samford telegraphed my son’s family in Arkansas on April 21 because Alabama law required that someone from my family had to appear before the court within 30 days to be recognized as administrator of an estate. My grandson met that deadline with little time to spare.

My death set off a flurry of furious activity. Everyone wanted a piece of my estate. As far as people in Scottsboro remembered, I had died without heirs. Several rich white folks in town scrambled to buy up all my debts to make themselves eligible to administer my estate. But my grandson William was made executor. Lawyer Wimberly represented the other five siblings. He

deposed a number of local citizens and my half brother Pearce about whether or not Rachel and I had been married and whether I acknowledged my son William as my lawful heir. In the end, the rich white folks got the money due for my debts instead of control of my estate. My property was auctioned off, and my grandchildren received the proceeds.

The April 24 *Progressive Age* reported that I “had accumulated considerable property in this section and was regarded as one of the most substantial member of my race in this county.” They said that I was “highly regarded among the white people for his honesty and integrity and had rendered valuable assistance to the colored folks in the community,” citing my active interest in the Methodist church that I had donated the land to build.

I led a good life, and I lie here with my second wife Tilitha and her mother, proud of the role that my father John and I played in the development of Scottsboro.

Cecil Bradden Word

1906-1982

Portrayed by Brad Yates

Growing up in a house full of boys, you learned how to find your way pretty quickly. There was a lot of mischief and horse play, but we were a blessed family. Blessed to be a part of this community that supported my brothers and me in making a living and raising our families. I am Cecil Word. I bet some of you here today live in houses that our company built. If you live in a house built in Scottsboro between 1950 and 1980, chances are pretty good that we built it or provided the lumber for it.

My father was Jake Word, who was born in the Preston community of Marshall County. His daddy sent him out on his own in 1888 with nothing but a blind mule. Two years later, he had a yoke of oxen and a wagon that he used to haul timber off Gunter’s Mountain to a landing on the Tennessee River and in 1892 he built his first

sawmill from which Word Lumber Company evolved. In 1907 Papa started the business known as W. J. Word Lumber Company on the corner of Willow and Broad Streets. It grew from a handful of men cutting timber into an operation that cut and cured lumber and built businesses and homes. We sold lumber and building supplies in locations in Scottsboro, Rainsville, Ft. Payne and Guntersville, Alabama and Manchester, Tennessee.

Papa married Ella Jane Gentle from Limrock in 1896 and they had eight children. We lived in Limrock until we kids got bigger. By 1911 they felt like we needed to move to Scottsboro where the school went through the twelfth grade. We moved in the house on the corner of Charlotte Avenue and South Street, where we had a garden, an orchard, and a pasture for the two horses that were used at the saw mill.

I married Cecil Alice Box from Oneonta, AL in 1928. People called her Mrs. Cecil and we had four children: a little boy, Harry Leroy, who died as an infant, and three daughters, Betty Word Yates Whatley, Peggy Word Holland McClendon, and Stella Word Benson.



My brother Harry and I worked with our father in the lumber business. My brother Rupert started a furniture business on the square in 1927 and later an undertaking business on Broad Street. My brother Hal built a Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealership on the square in 1924, and my brother Claude had an automobile dealership in Manchester, Tennessee. My youngest brother Robert operated a number of movie theaters in north Alabama and southern Tennessee, as well as a popcorn and vending business. Our sister Ruby worked in Chattanooga for a number of years and then came home to take care of Papa after his stroke.

I was president of W.J. Word Lumber Company of Scottsboro for more than 50 years and a partner in the other Word building supply businesses in Ft. Payne, Guntersville, and Rainsville. The first home we built in Scottsboro was the R.H. McAnelly house on College Avenue, now the home of my great niece Andrea Word Albritten. We built the first home in the United States built under the Federal Housing Act passed by Congress in 1949. There are many homes and business buildings in Scottsboro that were built with material from Word Lumber Company: Westchester Apartments, the Ballet Fabrics building, and the Holiday Inn and Holiday Plaza to name a few. We appreciated the loyalty of our customers and tried to give them quality service.

We gave a lot of people jobs through the years and many stayed with us 20, 30, 40 years and at times, several members of the same family were working for us.

I supported causes I believed in with my time and money. I was on the board of the Crippled Children's Clinic in Birmingham and the first board of directors for the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. I was a big supporter of Alabama Football and a longtime friend of Bear Bryant. I was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

Education was always important to me and when John Patterson was elected Governor of Alabama, he asked me to serve on the State Board of Education. When George Wallace was elected Governor, he asked me to stay on the board and I served from 1959 to 1971. Wallace built junior colleges around the state and we were fortunate to

have one built in 1966 on the line between Jackson and DeKalb counties. In 1982 Northeast Alabama Junior College recognized my dedication to education by naming the library the Cecil B. Word Learning Resources Center. Former Governor Wallace came to the ceremony.

I lived a good life. When I died in 1982 at the age of 76, Mrs. Cecil and I had 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild. At my funeral, Retired Congressman Bob Jones called me "an uncomplicated and good man" and that is truly the way I tried to live my life.

I am Cecil Word. Thank you for spending time with me and my family today.

Scripts: Cemetery stroll scripts by David Bradford, Annette Bradford, Blake Wilhelm, and Julia Everett.

Photos: Photo of Gene Airheart is from Dr. Ronald Dykes' book *Fighting the Just War*. Photo of Peniel Baker is from <https://boxrec.com/en/proboxer/12328>. Photo of Virginia Brown is from her passport by way of Ancestry. Photo of Jessie Bynum is from the *Montgomery Advertiser*. Photo of Lucy Bynum is from *The Jackson County Sentinel*. Photo of Mary Texas Hurt Garner is from the Alabama Archives. Photo of R. I. Gentry is from the family. Photos of Mess, Charles, and R.L. Hodges are from the family. No photo could be found of McKinley Kirby. The photo included is of Pvt. Eugene Sharp of Chattanooga, from the *The Chattanooga Sunday Times Memorial Supplement*, May 25, 1919. Photo of Ed Moody is from *The Progressive Age*, July 28, 1921, Photo of John O'Linger is from the *Sentinel-Age*. No photo is available of the Parks sons. This photo of Victorian brothers is from victorian-era.org. Photo of Red Sharp is from Facebook. Photo of Wiley Whitfield is from Ancestry. Photo of Cecil Word is from the family.

The 1960 Fackler School Bus Accident

On January 18, 1960, Charlie Beavers began his school bus route as usual before 7 a.m. Beavers, 50, had been making the run for three years. His daily route consisted of coming toward Fackler on County Road 45 from the west, crossing the tracks on County Road 169 to collect children in Stogsdill Cove, and then doubling back across the tracks as he made his way on to Fackler School. At Fackler School, he would discharge some students, collect others, and then reverse his path back to Stevenson to drop off the last of his students.

The morning of January 18 was unusually cold. The 12 students Beavers had already boarded on the bus were huddled near the front, trying to warm themselves by the bus's heater. The windows were completely fogged over.

The crossing at the intersection of 45 and 169 into Stogsdill Cove is dangerous even under favorable circumstances. The railroad track parallels County Road 45 at a distance of about 50 feet. An east-bound vehicle turning right has little distance to assess train traffic approaching from the rear. As Beavers approached the tracks, he looked out the right side of the bus and saw a Southern Freight train approaching him traveling at least 55 miles an hour.

Beavers told investigators that he applied the brakes, but they failed. His story is borne out by the fact that Beavers' students recall that he never failed to bring his bus to a halt at rail crossings and open the doors to verify a clear track. He obviously did not perform that procedure on the day of the accident.

The freight train hit the school bus dead center, cutting it in two. A witness standing in his yard at the intersection describes a horrific scene. He likened the collision to an explosion. Children were ejected from the wreck up into the air, not to the side. They flew "like chaff in a whirlwind," he said.

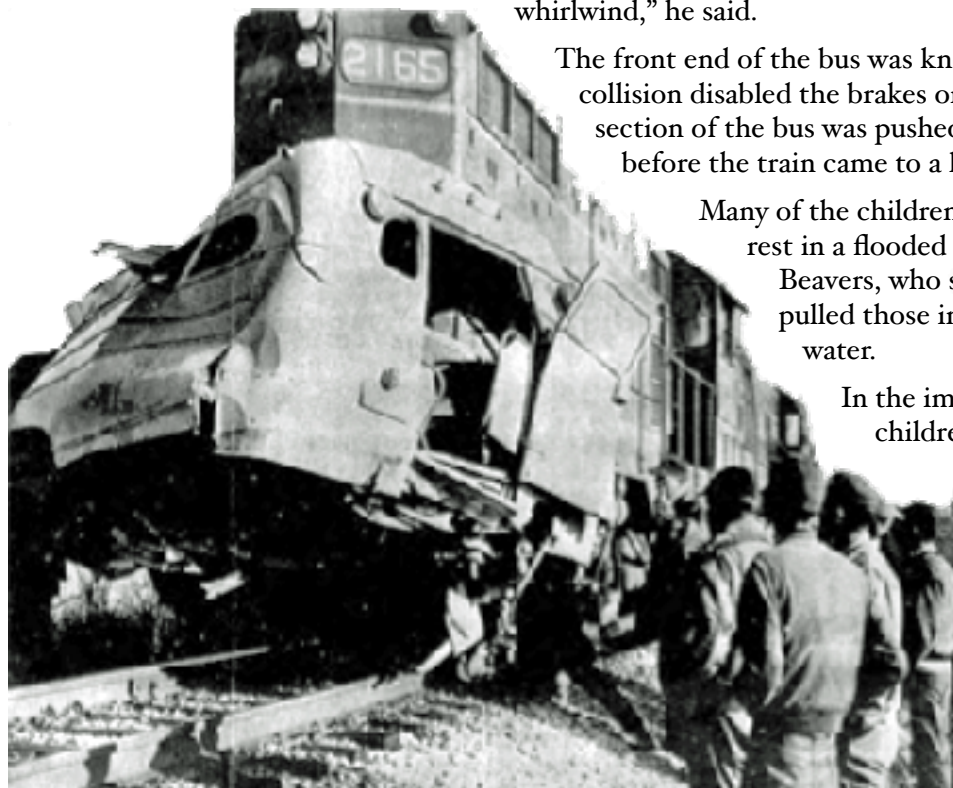
The front end of the bus was knocked to the side of the tracks, but the collision disabled the brakes on the train, and the unoccupied rear section of the bus was pushed nearly a mile toward downtown Fackler before the train came to a halt.

Many of the children who were ejected from the bus came to rest in a flooded ditch along the trackside. Charlie Beavers, who suffered serious back injuries in the crash, pulled those in danger of drowning from the standing water.

In the immediate aftermath of the crash, four children were dead. Eight were considered critically injured and taken to local hospitals. Two were later transferred to Erlanger in Chattanooga.

Of the 12 children on the bus, six were from the Corbitt family, two from the McCrary family, and four from the Beavers family.

The deceased included two of Charlie Beavers' nephews—brothers Leonard



Beavers, 12, and Foster Beavers, 16. The other two killed on the scene were sisters, Frances Corbitt, 10, and Mary Grace Corbitt, 8. A third Beavers sibling, Sheila, would die a week later after being removed from life support at Erlanger Hospital.

Marc McCrary, a survivor of the crash, was sitting next to his friend Leonard Beavers when the train struck. Leonard, who was seated at a window seat on the side of the impact, was dead at the scene, but Marc survived.

Accident investigations showed that Marc had been thrown 108 feet from the point of impact. He landed between the rails, causing speculation that he had been thrown over the train and had landed on the track after it had passed. The scenario seems plausible since the Southern Freight train was short, consisting only of two locomotives, two box cars, and a caboose.

Marc's head rested on a rail. His skull was fractured along a six inch line extending back from his forehead. A splinter from a railroad tie punctured him under the chin and extended about an inch and a half into his oral cavity. He was taken to Jackson County Hospital where he remained for seven days.

Marc's brother, Wayne, was first taken to North Jackson Hospital and then transferred to Erlanger where he would remain for 72 days. He sustained multiple injuries, but the most dramatic were to his right leg. He was told he would never walk again.

After Marc's release from Jackson County Hospital, he and his family lived with family located near Erlanger to be near Wayne during his recovery. Marc's most vivid memory was of leeches being applied to his brother's leg to control the corruption.

Marc and Wayne's parents had heard the train that would strike their sons' bus as it passed their house. At the time, Marc's father had commented to his mother that the train was traveling unusually fast. At the inquest, the reports of the train traveling at 55 mph were reasserted, but there were other claims that did not sit well with the families.

In a second discrepancy, the engineer, C.F. Edwards, 46, of Sheffield, AL, reported seeing children move from the rear of the bus to the front in advance of the impact. Observers consider that unlikely given that the windows were fogged over and there was so little time between sighting and impact. The engineer also said that the school bus had approached the tracks very slowly and he believed there was ample time for the driver to stop.

Marc and Wayne's parents were told of the accident by a relative who drove to their home to relay the initial report of the accident: the messenger told the McCrarys that all the children on the bus had been killed. By the time the McCrarys reached the scene of the accident, their sons had been already been transported to hospitals and their quest to understand their medical status, or if they even survived, was complicated by the confusion and poor communications in the wake of the accident.

Marc recalls nothing of the accident. Neither did his brother, Wayne, who died in 2015, but who made a nearly complete recovery despite being told he would never again walk. Wayne played high school football and passed his military physical, serving in Viet Nam.

The two brothers never discussed the incident. When Marc recently encountered another survivor of the crash decades later at a local restaurant, neither of them mentioned the accident. Marc considers it a "blessing" that he recalls nothing of the event.

Francis Phillips Crownover recalls the accident by relating: "My cousins and I and several neighbor kids were waiting on that bus at Russell Stables. It never came. A while later, another bus came to pick up the kids on the rest of the route. I don't know why, but we were driven by the crash sight showing debris from the wreck, including lunch boxes, school books, and other items. It was a horrific sight I will never forget. Then returning to school to see the empty desks of those on the bus. I never forget this each time I cross a railroad. Never cross in front of an oncoming train!"

Bus driver Charlie Beavers was cleared of any negligence or wrong doing in the accident. He testified that the brakes on the nine-year-old school bus had failed previously. Jackson County School Superintendent E.G. Thomas, Sr. stated that the school bus had undergone maintenance at the county's facilities 10 days before and showed no sign of problems.

School continued as usual the day of the accident and every day thereafter. In the days before crisis counseling became common, no special professional attention was given to the children. Marc and his brother Wayne missed the rest of the school year and repeated their grades the following year. The adult survivors, now in their 60's and 70's, still deal with disabilities and visible scars resulting from their injuries, but deny anything resembling post traumatic stress syndrome.

There is affection and compassion for the driver, Charlie Beavers, who turned his bus route over to his son after the accident. He died in 1984 and is buried in Price Cemetery on Mud Creek, alongside the Corbitts and the Beavers who died in the accident.

Although there is no marker or memorial at the site of the crash, those who were affected by it, either as victims or as friends of victims, have mentioned small rituals and tributes that they practice as they pass the spot where a small community was so deeply altered 60 years ago.

Photo credit: *The Jackson County Sentinel*, Tuesday, June 19, 1960, page 1 and below, Annette Bradford.



Thanks to Marc McCrary, a survivor of the crash, for his information and insights. Thanks also to contributors to the JCHA Facebook page for their recollections of the tragedy.

David Benson Bradford

The Price Cemetery graves of the Beavers and Corbitt children who died in the accident. Distant stone: Leonard and Foster Beavers. Middle stone: Francis Sue and Mary Grace Corbitt. Near stone: Shelia Kay Beavers.

Happy 80th Birthday, Lake Guntersville

There should at least have been a cake.

We are so consumed by the state bicentennial that this local event passed us by. The only commemoration of this momentous birthday was the presence of signs in many Scottsboro yards, offering an \$80 discount on your monthly power bill if your name was drawn at random and your yard displayed one of the signs shown here. But it is not just Scottsboro Electric Power Board's birthday. SEPB was born in 1939 to manage the power created by the turning on the turbines at Guntersville Dam, the culmination of five years of effort by great numbers of people. Happy Birthday, Lake Guntersville.



An event as momentous as flooding the valley, moving hundreds of graves and reducing countless structures to piles of well-swept ash, burying towns and historical sites for flood control should at least be acknowledged on this, its 80th birthday. This is just a reminder that very few people living today remember the Tennessee Valley as it existed “before the flood.”

One can arguably date the birth of Lake Guntersville with the election of FDR on March 4, 1933. Weary of the Depression which started officially in October 1929 (but had been going on in farm communities for some years before), voters blamed Republican Herbert Hoover for their misery, and elected Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt for the first of his four terms. Roosevelt tackled the problem aggressively.



March 4, 1933 FDR became the 32nd president and was elected to the first of four terms. Congress to pass the 23rd Amendment in 1947 limiting a president to two terms. It was ratified by the state in 1951.

April 5, 1933 The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established by executive order. CCC was a voluntary public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 in the United States for unemployed, unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 28. Many young men in Jackson County worked on projects associated with the lake, including reforestation (ever noticed the pine trees around the lake are planted in straight lines?).

May 6, 1935 Works Progress Administration (WPA) was established to provide relief for the unemployed by providing jobs and income for millions of Americans. At its height in late 1938, more than 3.3 million Americans worked for the WPA. Workers from the WPA were used to move graves and excavate soon-to-be-covered Native American burial sites ahead of the valley being flooded.

May 11, 1935: The Rural Electrification Act passed. Enacted on May 20, 1936, it provided federal loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve isolated rural area of the United States.

May 18, 1933 TVA created by congressional charter.

December 4, 1935 Construction began on Guntersville Dam.

July 27, 1937 City of Scottsboro voted 301 to 42 to pursue a consumer-owned public power system that would use wholesale current provided by the TVA. Infrastructure was put in place and transmission power lines were run from Guntersville.

January 17, 1939 The flood gates in Guntersville were closed.

August 8, 1939 The first hydro-electric generator on the Guntersville dam went online.

October 12, 1939 1005 homes and businesses served by SEPB began receiving TVA current. Skyline began receiving power from Alabama Power Company that same year.

March 11, 1940 The first office of North Alabama Electric Coop opened in Stevenson.

The construction of Guntersville Dam and its reservoir required the purchase of 110,145 acres of land, of which 24,426 acres were forested and had to be cleared. 1,182 families, 14 cemeteries, and over 90 miles of roads had to be relocated. A large dike was built to protect the city of Guntersville from reservoir backwaters, and substantial dredging was necessary to extend the navigable 9-foot channel up to Hale's Bar Dam (this dam has since been dismantled and replaced by Nickajack Dam, shortening Guntersville Lake). Widow's Bar Dam, a small dam and lock approximately 58 miles upstream from Guntersville Dam, was partially dismantled and submerged under the lake waters. (1)

If you have never visited the dam, you should. It is an impressive structure. It stands 94 feet high and stretches 3,979 feet across the Tennessee River. Guntersville Dam is a hydroelectric facility with four generating units that can produce 123 megawatts of power at full capacity. The reservoir has almost 890 miles of shoreline and 67,900 acres of water surface. The reservoir has a flood-storage capacity of 162,100 acre-feet. In order to maintain the depth required for navigation, the water level in the reservoir is maintained at a minimum winter elevation of 593 feet. The typical summer operating range is between 594 and 595 feet. The larger of Guntersville's two locks was built in 1965 to handle the growing river traffic. (2)

It is wonderful to hear Rufus Terral wax poetic about "a succession of Florida-like vistas of Guntersville lake, its water today whipped by a cold wind into wavelets." We have all lost that sense of wonder. These are the views that today 80 years later many of us take for granted. The *Chronicles* reproduces the entire week-old description that Terrel wrote for the *Chattanooga Times* in hopes that on the lake's birthday, we might recapture some of the magic that the 1939 residents of the Tennessee Valley felt as they saw Lake Guntersville reshape the landscape for the first time.

Mighty Tennessee Spreads Over the Valley

By Rufus Terral in *The Chattanooga Times*.

GUNTERSVILLE, Ala., Jan. 24—The waters of Guntersville lake climbing up the Tennessee river since the closing of Guntersville dam a week ago, licked tonight at the foot of the Hales bar dam, more than eighty miles upstream, bringing nine-foot navigation to Chattanooga a few hours after the opening of the Guntersville lock today.

Hales bar dam of the Tennessee Electric Power company completes the navigation lift to Chattanooga.

With today's developments came the propaganda that the Gulf Refining company soon will announce plans to the Tennessee river navigation to take gasoline to Chattanooga, and that at least one excursion steamer, the *Gordon C. Greene*, of Cincinnati, will begin next summer to make Chattanooga the upstream terminus of the excursions which it began running last summer as far as Guntersville.

Gulf, pioneer in freight navigation of the river since the Tennessee Valley Authority's development, is understood to be planning a barge or pipe gasoline to Chattanooga in the near future. The company has four terminals on the Tennessee, of which the farthest upstream is here. The Campbell Oil company, distributors of Shell products, and the Standard Oil company already announced plans to build terminals at Chattanooga and barge gasoline there.

The likelihood that an excursion steamer will begin service to Chattanooga was disclosed today when Verne Gongwer, project engineer at TVA's Guntersville dam, said the owners of *Gordon C. Greene* had planned last fall to bring to the steamer to Chattanooga through the then only partly completed lock was here, but had deferred its first trip to Chattanooga because the beam clearance of the lock then was but little more than the width of the boat, forty-four feet. The completed lock is substantially wider, sixty feet.

The first boat to pass through Guntersville lock after the opening of the lock to navigation this morning was the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis railway's steamer *Guntersville*, of Nashville, with a barge cargo of ten railroad cars, of which nine contained lumber and one merchandise.

Mr. Gongwer said he had first planned not to take away the concrete-conveyor bridge across the lock until later, but decided this morning to remove it at once. The presence of the conveyor bridge would have required steamers to back into the lock in order to push their tows completely inside for their smokestacks—located forward the front—are slightly higher than the bridge level. Removal of the bridge permitted steamers to come front into the lock before detaching to tow.

The steamer *Guntersville* pushed its tow into the lock, cut lose and backed out, as the length of the lock—360 feet—required the tow and the steamer to go through separately. The seventy-ton lock gates closed within sixty seconds. The water level inside the lock was lowered thirty-six feet to meet the level of the Wheeler pool on the downstream side of Guntersville dam. The first tow, propelled through the lock by a "mechanical mule," part of the equipment of the dam, emerged onto Wheeler lake thirty-five minutes after it had entered the lock. This lockage time was nine minutes longer than the lock master plans to be customary, but the twenty-six-minute scheduled lockage time was exceeded to test the amount of boil in the lock water.

The filling of Guntersville reservoir, which the TVA said last week, on closing the dam, would be completed within a month, was completed today to the minimum pool elevation of 591 feet above sea-level, the project engineer said. The maximum elevation of the reservoir will be 595 feet above sea level. To accommodate the pool at maximum elevation TVA has acquired a reservoir area covering approximately 103,000 acres. The pool will be drawn down to 590 feet in advance of floods to accommodate flood storage.

Since the dam was closed last Tuesday, the river behind the dam has been going up at the rate of two feet a day, Mr. Gongwer said. Two creeks bounding the town of Guntersville, Big Spring creek to the east and Brown's creek to the west, which a week ago were tiny streams scarcely more than eight feet at their widest points, now are more than a mile wide at their widest points alongside the town. The Tennessee river between the new mouths of Blue Spring and Brown's creeks is a sweeping expanse of silver water against a background of unusual beauty, softly rolling hills adolescent-bearded with trees in the far distant perspective, the faintly blue-touched silver of the water melting into the darker blue of the hills and the median blue of the sky.

The first glimpse of Guntersville lake on the highway from Chattanooga is at Roseberry creek, some one and one-half miles from Scottsboro and approximately twenty-three miles from Guntersville. From there to the dam about eleven miles beyond Guntersville and ten miles downstream from the town whose name it bears, the scene is a succession of Florida-like vistas of Guntersville lake, its water today whipped by a cold wind into wavelets.

At the town, TVA has raised the height of the river bridge seventeen feet, built a two and one-half-mile rolled earth dike along Big Spring creek, replaced the town's spring water supply—now covered by the lake—with a modern filter and water treatment plant, constructed a pumping station for sanitary and storm sewage, and built a 400-foot-long dock of concrete with iron mooring bits imbedded in the top and a fender of white oak on the face.

The dike protects an industrial and residential section of the town against augmented Big Spring creek, whose surface now is visible about halfway to the roof of the houses nearest it. The pumping station has the capacity of 50,000 gallons a minute. Behind it is a catch basin which will receive all the rainwater that does not flow out of the town by gravity. Sanitary sewage from the one-third of the town that is too high for operation of the gravity sewage system will go into a concrete room under the pumping station to be pumped into the river several thousand feet downstream from the town.

Near the dock are mooring cribs constructed by TVA for the car ferry of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis railway. The car ferry is operated by the railroad's steamers *Guntersville* and *Huntsville*. It was resumed yesterday with the opening of the Guntersville lock to navigation after being suspended since Dec. 15 for the completion of the lock.

In addition to the dock here, TVA has created one small and two large "safe harbors" between here and Scottsboro for the anchorage of steamers.

Newspapermen were conducted on an inspection of the dam and other TVA developments here yesterday by Mr. Gongwer, George K. Leonard, construction engineer, B. S. Phillbrick, construction superintendent, John C. Burns, Superintendent of construction and maintenance division, and Ellis H. Morgan, resident.

It is interesting to note that the backwater areas of Sauty Creek and Mink Creek were backfilled later than the area around Roseberry Creek, since Terrel notes that Roseberry is the first flooded creek he viewed in his trip north. The "boil" that Terrel talked about is very much in evidence in the movie that Dr. Hall took in the snow of Scottsboro in 1939 just after the lake began filling. The Halls drove up and down the road from Bridgeport to Guntersville. Watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/sph/1939>.

The July 18, 1939 *Jackson County Sentinel* makes it clear that the TVA envisioned a port for Scottsboro that would handle the loading and unloading of river freight. That "port" is visible today as the small artificial slough on the Scottsboro-Guntersville side of the bridge. The story that accompanied the photo below went on to explain that this was the the first cargo docks for Port Scottsboro. It shows a 100-foot-barge unloading 107,000 bricks manufactured by Alabama Brick and Tile in Decatur (formerly the Neher Brick and Tile Company of Hollywood) that were to be used "in building the mammoth new car showroom" that the Word Motor Company in Scottsboro was building "on the Moody property." The barge held the equivalent of nine train carloads of brick, and "Mr. Word" (probably Mr. Jake Word) stated that he had realized substantial savings by using water transportation.

"The docks at Port Scottsboro are large enough to accommodate half a dozen big boats with barges of the



largest river type,” the story went on to explain. “It is believed that within a year or two the docks will be active with all sorts of shipping of heavy merchandise where rush is not the first factor, water freight being slow. But the first shipment of nine carloads of brick at one handling on one barges gives an idea of the possibilities being opened by the nine foot channel now available the year around in the Tennessee river from here to the greatest centers of the North and Middle West.”

No further evidence of the development of the Port of Scottsboro can be found. There is a photo of a group of malaria-treatment boat contained in this port area but otherwise it remained largely undeveloped.

Eight months after the flood gates closed, on Sunday, August 6 a crowd of 25,000 gathered for the dedication of the lake. Dignitaries present included Lieutenant Governor Albert A. Carmichael representing the state, Senator Lister Hill and Congressmen Joe Starnes of Alabama and J. Buell Snyder of Pennsylvania, with Guntersville Mayor E. H. Couch of Guntersville acting as master of ceremonies. Joe Starnes called Like Guntersville “one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the South.” The occasion was celebrated with motor boat races. Spectators crowded the new Guntersville dike to watch the competition.

River traffic has diminished over the years with the loss of industries such as Revere, which built a complex unloading facility in Jackson County and moved bauxite up a conveyor belt to the smelting facilities to be transformed into aluminum pigs. The river is a greater recreational asset than industrial highway these days.

The graves moved and the cemeteries relocated. The Native American artifacts dug from mounds that were soon to be covered by the river. The homesteads lost and the families relocated. The jobs brought to desperately poor farmers who cleared land for the impending waters. The folk narratives and family histories captured by WPA transcribers, and the treasured windows into the past captured by WPA photographers. The enduring parks and public works projects left behind by the nine years of CCC projects, such as the Cheaha Mountain observatory and the lovely rock approaches on the Alabama side of Mentone. The long-term impact of TVA and the projects it brought to our area. All of these should be remembered on this anniversary, but are fodder for another time.

Today, we remember and celebrate the birth of Lake Guntersville, and remember the sense of wonder that Rufus Terrel and our ancestors felt as they watched the mighty Tennessee rise.

Annette Norris Bradford

Notes: Photo of FDR after election from the March 9, 1933 *Progressive Age*. Photo of the Port of Scottsboro is from the July 18, 1939 *Jackson County Sentinel*. Notes 1 and 2 showing statistics about the size and coverage of Lake Guntersville are from Wikipedia. I took the photo below.

