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The Jackson County Chronicles

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Editor: Annette Norris Bradford
Associate Editor: David Bradford
Editor Emeritus: Ann B. Chambless

January Meeting: The Jackson County Historical Association will meet **Sunday January 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Scottsboro Depot**. Our guest speaker, David Ivey, will present the history of shape note music and its connection to Jackson County. Mr. Ivey, originally from Henagar, Alabama, is a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow and is one of the leading scholars on the subject of sacred harp or shape note music.

Ivey was born into one of the most recognized of the Sacred Harp singing families of Sand Mountain, Alabama. He began attending singing schools in Henagar, Alabama, under such notable singing masters as NEA National Heritage Fellow Hugh McGraw and Leonard Lacy, He is the recipient of numerous apprenticeship grants through the Alabama Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. He was one of the youngest of the seven-person committee that revised the 1991 edition of *The Sacred Harp*, today's most popular edition among singers nationwide.

He has founded a camp to promote the art form, Camp Fasola, and worked with famed music producer T. Bone Burnett to make the sacred harp recordings that were included on the soundtrack to the movie *Cold Mountain*.

Yearbooks Project: All fall, I have been scanning Jackson County yearbooks and putting them on the JCHA web site. I scanned them using optical character recognition (OCR) software so that the yearbooks can be searched. You can, in fact, search any part of the JCHA site or the whole site using the google site command. From a google command line, type

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site: http://www.jchaweb.org "searchstring"
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and press Enter. This yields clickable hits inside the JCHA web site. I have done the first 50 years of Jackson County High School and many yearbooks from Woodville, Skyline, Bridgeport, and North Sand Mountain. I am missing most of the 1930s and the late 1940s. If anyone has yearbooks from this time, please write me at jcha@scottsboro.org. I have only three Pisgah yearbooks and none from Section. Please help me create this resource.

Goodbye to an Old Friend

Jimmy Thompson as Cecil Floyd on the 2018 Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll

JCHA member, contributing author, and friend Dr. James Thompson died the week of Thanksgiving at his home near Florence, AL.

Dr. Thompson's most recent and visible role with our organization was in the 2018 Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll when he portrayed aviation pioneer Cecil Floyd. Cecil Floyd was a Scottsboro native who lost his life while flying a military jet fighter prototype, the P-80, during a test flight in 1947. Within a few years of Floyd's death, Dr. Thompson was flying the first production military jet, the F-86, logging 71 combat missions in Korea and receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Dr. Thompson was the central figure in an incident that has entered Scottsboro lore: As a recent Auburn graduate who had returned to live with his parents before mustering into the Air Force in 1950, Thompson heard a small aircraft repeatedly passing over downtown well after midnight during a heavy storm. He called Frank Henshaw, a veteran military pilot who was working late at his business, Scottsboro Funeral Home. The two used the spotlight on the funeral home's ambulance to signal the small plane, and the pilot flashed his lights and tipped his wings, acknowledging their signal. Thompson and Henshaw, with the aid of pharmacist Charles Hodges and telephone switchboard operators Veda Maude Sumner and Bert Woodall contacted local residents, who gathered at a makeshift airstrip off Tupelo Pike, lighting the landing path with the headlights of their cars, guiding the badly disoriented pilot to a safe landing.

Coincidentally, the pilot of the plane, Bob Kieran, had been a fraternity brother of Thompson's at Auburn. Kieran and his passenger went home with Thompson, spending the night with Thompson's parents before continuing on their way to Birmingham the next day. The incident made the national network newscasts.

James Knox Thompson was born October 28, 1928 to John Knox Thompson and Teresa Adams Thompson in Scottsboro. He grew up in a home which still stands at 405 North Market Street. There, he formed lifetime friendships with nearby residents Jake Word, Ralph Powell, and Eddie Ray Hembree.

He graduated from Jackson County High School in 1947. After graduating from Auburn University, he joined the US Air Force and became a fighter pilot in the 4th Fighter Wing in Korea.

Following his service, he entered the ministry, receiving a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta and a Doctorate of the Science of Theology from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. The Westminster Presbyterian Church in Florence, AL was among his prestigious pastorates.

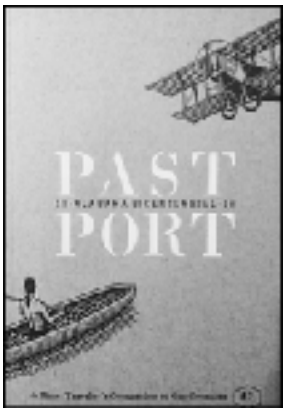
Dr. Thompson felt compelled to share his remarkable knowledge of county history with readers of *The Chronicles*. He published a profile of high school classmate General Fate Melton in our January 2017 edition, a biography of fellow pilot Cecil Floyd in April 2018, and an article about the amiable resolution between two factions of the Presbyterian church who avoided a confrontation over the disposition of a shared church building in the early 1950's in our October 2018 edition.

We frequently called on him to verify our historical sketches. He was able, for instance, to confirm for us that Germany's Graf Zeppelin passed over the courthouse square in the early 1930s. He had witnessed the event from the front yard of his home, one block off the square.

When asked to portray Cecil Floyd in the 2018 Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll, Dr. Thompson, then 89 years old, expressed doubts that his health would allow him to perform for two hours. In the end, he told cemetery stroll organizers, "I've got to do it. This will probably be the last time Cecil will be remembered publicly." At the stroll, he engaged hundreds of listeners with his first-hand knowledge of the early years of jet aviation. Dressed in his flight suit and helmet from his combat missions 68 years before, he posed for dozens of pictures with young admirers.

James Thompson was a gentleman who was willing to give freely of his time and talents to preserve his memories of growing up in Jackson County. We have lost a valued friend and remarkable talent. We are deeply saddened by his passing.

Alabama 200: The End of a Three-Year Party



Following designation as a territory in March, 1817, Alabama became the nation's twenty-second state on December 14, 1819. The state's three-year birthday celebration ended December 14, 2019 with special concerts, a parade, and the dedication of a new park in Montgomery.

During this three-year celebration, the state bicentennial commission has invested in schools and teachers, engaged communities, and encouraged citizens and visitors alike to explore and learn about the state. The Heritage Center ran a passport program similar to the national parks' program where visitors toured the sites called out in passports and had their documents stamped to remember their visits. Heritage Center Directory Jennifer Petty reports that she stamped quite a number of passports.

The county also received several grants from the Bicentennial Commission. In June 2018, the Northeast Alabama Community College and the Jackson County Historical Association received a $2,500 grant to fund their first Cedar Hill Cemetery Stroll, held October 24, 2018. In August 2018, the Alabama/Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor Association received a $5,000 grant.

In August 2018, four schools in Jackson County were recognized as Alabama Bicentennial Schools and received $2,000 grants: Bridgeport Middle School, Woodville High School, and Pisgah High School. Chosen from a competitive pool of nearly 400 proposals, 200 schools were selected, and 56 schools received $500 honorable mention grants, including Hollywood School. And in January 2019, the Stevenson Library was chosen as the county's site for the state traveling exhibit, "Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit." We all benefited from our participation in the bicentennial events. Well done, State of Alabama!

Review of Our Second Cedar Hill Stroll


Nat Cisco

The second Cedar Hill Cemetery, held on October 6, 2019, is now history. Coming at the end of a week that saw three "hottest temperatures for this date" records broken, and with a cold front scheduled to arrive, accompanied by thunderstorms on Sunday night, we were very fortunate to have a partly cloudy day where maximum temps were only in the low 80s.

We appreciate all the citizens and out-of-town visitors who attended the cemetery stroll, and appreciate the generous donations that will enable us to place a historical marker at the front of the cemetery. Even though Virginia May Brown has been gone some 65 years, some of her famous jewelry collection was on display by her grave, courtesy of Mary Ben Heflin, who inherited it. Four of our presenters were family members.


Joan Reeves and Bunny Mountain

An event of this size does not happen without a lot of help. None of this could have gotten off the ground without our actors, and we are overwhelmed that these busy people gave so freely of their time and talent to make this event possible.


Jerry King

Nat Cisco, a veteran of last year's stroll, stood by the headstone bought with last year's donations and told us why we had used your funds to memorialize the unmarked gravesite of Deputy US Marshal Ed Moody. Our go-to "lawman killed in the line of duty," (he was Matt Wann last year), Nat did a great job becoming Marshal Moody.

Bunny Mountain and **Joan Reeves** portrayed our hostesses for the event, Lucy and Jessie Sue Bynum. How nice to see them brought to life by these two women whose long friendship shone through their acting. Joan was a very memorable Babs Deal last year.

In the spite of personal tragedy, **Amy McCamy Patterson** pulled together a great, authentic-looking


Amy McCamy Patterson

Traci Phillips

Mary Texas Hurt Garner and proved that she is not only our preeminent dog whisperer but a ghost whisperer as well. She told us about our youngest state elected official, just ahead of the 2020 celebrations of the centennial of women's suffrage.

Jerry King channelled Bob Gentry in the Judge's overalls and shirt, both of the men consummate story tellers, and reminded those of us who remember the Judge why we miss him so. Jerry was a memorable Unknown Man last year.

Doug, Don, and Sonny Hodges

The Hodges cousins—**Don, Sonny, and Doug Hodges**—recreated their fathers Mess, Charles, and R.L., whose skills in their drug store business and talent for practical jokes left such an impact on Scottsboro.

Traci Phillips does a great job capturing the personalities of our larger-than-life county women. She recreated Virginia May Brown this year and Lucille Benson last year. **Alexander Edge**, a NACC student from their excellent theater program, looked so striking Daniel Martin's son James Polk Martin, and told us his Civil War story.


Alexander Edge

Dr. Gary Speers brought his oratory skills as a minister and his broad knowledge of African-American history in Jackson County, honed through his years as an educator, to bring Wiley Whitfield to life.

Greg Bell, whose voice comes to our kitchens every morning over WWIC, did a great job as University of Alabama football player John O'Linger, who told us about being recruited by young Bear Bryant, along with teammates David "Bull" Webb and Pat Trammell. Greg used the research he did to have O'Linger added to the county Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Young actors **Miles and Carter Hodges** prove that history is not just for those who have already lived it. They brought two sons of Dr. James Monroe Parks to life and told us the story of their grandfather Robert T. Scott and


Dr. Gary Speers

Greg Bell

the Parks family's tragic migration to Texas and return to Scottsboro. Miles, you might recall, was little Tom Shipp last year, with his mother, Sarah.

Kelly Goodowens is such a good man, the long-time caretaker of the depot, always willing to help us out as he did at the 2018 stroll as Dr. W. H. Payne. He did a great job as Gene Airheart, meeting with Gene's daughter to understand how to portray her father.

Jason Johnson, a member of the Mountain Valley Players, gave us his time and talent to bring to life the sad story of McKinley Kirby, gassed in the last three weeks of World War I. For those of us who never met Red Sharp, **Dicky Holder** was a great substitute. He told us the stories that make Red Sharp a local legend with the skill of a experienced story teller. His audiences were spellbound.


Brad Yates

Brad Yates skillfully gave us first-hand knowledge of his grandfather, Cecil Word, a man who left an enduring mark on Scottsboro's homes and business buildings.

Pat Presley put much time and effort into talking to friends and family so he could become a convincing Sgt. Sammy Baker, complete with a nearly life-size photo of the boxer.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the stroll possible.

Thank you first and foremost to the Bynum Foundation for generously funding the cemetery stroll.

Thank you to Dr. David Campbell and Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) for administering our grant and lending us the time and talents of Blake Wilhelm and Julia Everett. Thank you to the NACC Theater Department for costume assistance. Thank you to Kent Jones and Justin Chambless who brought the golf carts from NACC and drove our visitors who needed a little extra help. And these same nice guys helped us clean up when the stroll was over.


Miles and Carter Hodges


Dicky Holder


Jason Johnson

Thank you to our volunteers, who kept things moving smoothly, manning the gates, passing our programs, tending to the needs of the actors, and passing out bottled water to our visitors. Thank you to Jennifer Petty from the Scottsboro Jackson Heritage Center; to Tammy Bradford, Susan Fisher, and Lennie Cisco of the JCHA; to Beth Presley; and to the Scottsboro High School Junior Civitan Club, the NACC presidential hosts, and the NACC library personnel.

Thank you to the City of Scottsboro for allowing us to close Cedar Hill for the stroll and providing garbage service and police support.

Thank you to the Scottsboro Police Department for keeping an officer with us the entire time, making the hazardous traffic along Cedar Hill Drive safe for our considerable pedestrian traffic.


Pat Presley

Thank you, Britt Meeks, our very competent videographer, who did a great job taping our actors and produced the archival images of the stroll, found on our www.jchaweb.org website.

Thank you, Beth Presley, for cleaning the headstones of the people on the stroll this year, as she did last year.


Kelly Goodowens

Thank you to Benny Bell and his crew at Cedar Hill who had manicured the grounds of the cemetery and provided a pleasant setting for the stroll.

Thank you to *The Daily Sentinel*, *The Clarion*, the Scottsboro Electric Power Board, and WWIC radio for publicity.

Thank you to Unclaimed Baggage for allowing our visitors to use your parking facilities.

Thank you to Highlands EMS for being on hand in case of an emergency.

Thank you to the wonderful folks at the Scottsboro and Jackson County Rescue Squad. They opened the armory and provided a place for our actors to meet before and after the stroll. They fed us hot dogs and kept our visitors safe parking cars. They even returned Sunday evening in the darkness to help an actor search for a lost ring. Way above and beyond.

It was a wonderful event. It does indeed take a village to put on such an event, and we need to remember all these wonderful folks who provided such a pleasant afternoon of history at Cedar Hill.

Jackson County and the Goat-Gland Doctor

In the early 1930's, a young Bill Bradford was awakened by his mother at their home in Hollywood to listen with the family to a radio program from XERA, a one-million-watt station broadcasting from Mexico across the border from Del Rio, Texas. On his nightly shows, Dr. J.R. Brinkley, the owner of XERA, would broadcast the progress of his patients who were undergoing "rejuvenation therapy" at his clinic in Del Rio. Brinkley's therapy would evolve over the years, but in its early days, it consisted of implanting goat testicles or ovaries in human patients whose libido and fertility were waning.

Dr. J. R. Brinkley

The patient that drew Bill's family around the radio was his grandfather, who was in his late sixties and had been a widower for a decade. He had married a younger woman in Florida.

When Dr. Brinkley's therapies first came under scrutiny at his original clinic in Milford, Kansas, he was transplanting the testicles and ovaries of goats into the scrotums or abdomens of his human recipients, claiming that he either grafted them onto or embedded them in parallel with the existing organ. Eventually, however, he revealed that he'd simply placed the organs in the bodies of the recipients without supplying any means of nourishing the transplanted tissue. The implanted organs simply rotted away in those patients fortunate enough to make recoveries without peritonitis or sepsis.

Dr. Brinkley's patients were expected to arrive in Milford with $750 in cash (no credit or discounts were allowed) and a donor goat they believed exhibited sexual behaviors they deemed appropriate to achieving their own goals. Later, seeking to be a full-service provider, Dr. Brinkley would raise goats in a nearby feed lot, allowing his patients to peruse the herd and pick their donor.

Dr. Brinkley's first patient was a man who came to him extolling the libido of a goat that he had seen outside the office, saying that he wished for some of the same vigor. The man insisted on the operation, Brinkley said, and Brinkley relented in performing the surgery despite initial misgivings. Shortly after the allegedly reticent Brinkley inserted a goat testicle, the man's wife came to the clinic, insisting on having goat ovaries implanted. Some few months later, the woman gave birth to a child named, perhaps ironically and certainly appropriately, "Billy." The press gave the event wide coverage, and Dr. Brinkley's resulting business was so brisk that patients pitched tents in Milford, Kansas, awaiting the procedure.

The medical establishment took notice and began scrutinizing Brinkley. In an effort to redeem himself in professional circles, Dr. Brinkley foolishly allowed 20 members of the Kansas State Medical Board to observe his procedure in 1930. What he had foreseen as a 10 minute procedure took almost 45 minutes in the presence of his critics. Dr. Brinkley was clearly ill at ease when faced with unexpected complications. At the conclusion of the awkward demonstration, the board convened at a nearby hotel and voted unanimously to revoke Brinkley's license to practice medicine in the state, citing "gross immorality and unprofessional conduct." (1)

Brinkley was undeterred by the actions of the Kansas State Medical Board and the subsequent condemnation by its parent organization, the American Medical Association. Brinkley biographer Clement Wood noted "Dimly, [Brinkley] had begun to realize that he was gifted beyond the run of

doctors" and that he should not be bound by the narrow-minded "jealous sheep ethics" of the medical establishment. (2)

Although it might have been a tenuous argument, Brinkley could also have argued that the AMA had no jurisdiction at all over his activities because he in fact had no medical degree. His only credentials were a mail order medical diploma and an honorary degree from an Italian university (later rescinded).

Rather than desist in the wake of the medical board's censure, Brinkley reasserted his claims more boldly, making even more exorbitant claims about the efficacy of goat glands. In addition to an "astonishing sexual vigor" that "cannot be more than hinted at," Brinkley claimed his treatment could "cure insanity caused by excessive sexuality, reduce wrinkles, enlarge breasts, and cure emphysema and flatulence." He modestly conceded that his surgery was successful in only 95% of cases, and he cautioned that it was less effective with "stupid types."

Brinkley offered his own scientific description of the benefits of goat glands in an application to do business in California when the Kansas licensing issue arose: " Laboratory analysis shows that a goat gland contains 89 and 9/10s percent ionized matter in a colloidal state; ... it throws off emanations like radium; ...it contains three principal rays, alpha, beta and gamma; ... it is capable of producing hormonie [sic], which is thrown into the bloodstream." (3)

Brinkley's claims of the effectiveness of externally administered glandular excretions was given impetus when in 1921 Canadian scientists isolated insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas.

Critiques of Brinkley's practices became more widespread as the Kansas State Medical Board pressed its case. A sixty-year-old patient who had been subjected to prostate surgery by Brinkley was found to have a piece of a rubber boot heel sewed into the incision to staunch bleeding. His first patient, the farmer who'd come to Brinkley envious of a goat's sexual energy, later claimed that Brinkley had in fact paid him hundreds of dollars to submit to the experiment. The 1930 medical board investigation that had resulted in Brinkley losing his license to practice in Kansas documented 42 deaths of otherwise healthy patients in the course of its examination.

Brinkley's behavior was becoming more erratic as his practice and notoriety grew. He once destroyed a neighbor's car with an axe. He was the subject of a protection order by a Milford resident after Brinkley threatened violence. "I made some remarks concerning this fellow, I guess, and they put me under a bond; I don't know whether I was arrested or not, but I had to give a bond [of $1,000] not to shoot him." (4) He is said to have chewed the ear off his clinical assistant.

Dr. Brinkley at work

Incensed by what he considered harassment by medical, legal, and political establishments, Brinkley decided to enter politics. He ran for the governorship of Kansas as a write-in candidate. In an effort to thwart his chances, the man who'd overseen Brinkley's medical board tribunal suggested that the election board adopt the policy that only ballots specifying explicitly "J.R. Brinkley" could be counted as legitimate ballots. Those write-ins in which the "intent of the voter" was clear, but the entry was flawed even by punctuation or misspelling were disallowed. Had all votes clearly intended for Brinkley been admitted, he would have won the governorship. He even carried three counties in nearby Oklahoma.

Brinkley made waves as a surgeon and a politician, but perhaps nowhere was his influence greater than in the development of modern media. He established a radio station in Milford, Kansas with the call letters KFKB ("Kansas First, Kansas Best"). He was, many say, the first to bring advertising to the air waves, a medium that had previously been seen as a tool for enlightenment and not to be sullied by commerce. Among the first products to be touted was Listerine, a product promoted not only to cure bad breath, but as a treatment for venereal disease and as a douche.

Brinkley's station was also among the first to diversity its program offerings with a wide range of entertainment: music, sermons (some delivered by Brinkley himself), language lessons, zodiac readings and Brinkley's own medical advice show, "Medical Question Box," in which Brinkley fielded write-in questions primarily by recommending his own "patent medicines," often suggesting their ongoing ingestion for a period of ten years.

In a 1930 poll, the magazine *Radio Digest* reported KFKB to be the most popular radio station in the US, outpolling its nearest rival four-to-one. But the Federal Radio Commission (an FCC forerunner) began an investigation of the station at the behest of the AMA. "The commission is not satisfied that this station is operated for the public interest," the commission declared. Later in 1930, the station's license was revoked. (5)

Rebuffed in Kansas for both his medical practice and his radio station, Brinkley relocated to Texas, establishing his new clinic in Del Rio and his new radio station, XERA, across the border in Mexico. Through agreements with the Mexican government, which had been slighted by the US and Canada in the division of radio frequencies, the station gradually increased its wattage to one million watts. It could be received in every state in the union and 15 foreign countries. It's said that Russian spies relied on "the X" to learn English.

XERA Radio in Del Rio, TX

Freed from restraints imposed on him in the US, Brinkley hawked his services, patent medicines, and products with abandon. Among his wares were autographed pictures of Jesus and a wind-up John the Baptist doll, which at some point in winding down would lose its head.

Neighbors living close by said that the high wattage of the station made it audible on barbed wire fences and tooth fillings. Green sparks showered off its transmission lines. Although the station was an environmental hazard, it was a cultural boon, preceding Nashville's WSM in its advocacy of "folk music," featuring the Carter family as regularly scheduled entertainment. In the years following Brinkley's ownership and direction, it would be central to the U.S.'s acceptance of "race music" under the tutelage of Bob Smith of Brooklyn, more popularly known as "Wolfman Jack."

Brinkley's ultimate demise came when he foolishly sued the editor of the AMA's journal, Morris Fishbein, for libel for publishing allegations of quackery. At the trial, the AMA's clinical analysts presented the AMA lab's findings that one of Brinkley's top-selling patent medicines, Formula 1020, consisted only of one part indigo dye to 100,000 parts water.

But the most damning testimony was offered by Brinkley himself. After hours on the stand, Brinkley was asked by a defense attorney "You don't claim [as previously stated] you connected up the nerves or any blood vessels?" The fatigued Brinkley responded "Oh Lord, no." (6)

Brinkley lost his libel case, and the AMA shortly won the authority to set medical licensing standards across the US, due in no small part to its commanding conduct during the Brinkley proceedings.

Brinkley's biographer Pope Brock sums up Brinkley's legacy by saying "[Add to deaths tallied by the Kansas Medical Board early in his career], and the ten years' worth of patients still to come, and the blind ravages of [advice offered on] Medical Question Box, and you have slaughter on a scale the worst midnight maniac ever approaches." (7) It would be 1964 before a doctor would be convicted of killing a patient through ineptness.

My great grandfather's ability to pay $750 during the great depression is remarkable, but he was among thousands willing to do so. Brinkley earned over one million dollars a year in the depths of the economic crisis.

There's no indication that my great grandfather suffered ill effects from the procedure. Neither did he produce further offspring with his second wife. There's no mention of increased prowess on his behalf, although my father quipped that he "[became aroused] when we passed a barnyard."

David Benson Bradford

Notes: All references are from Charlatan: American's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam, by Pope Brock (Three Rivers Press, 2008). Page references: 1) p. 4, 2) p. 30, 3) p. 59, 4) p. 51, 5) p. 145, 6) p. 262, 7) p. 264. Photo of XERA radio station is from radiohistorian.org. Photo of Dr. Brinkley alone is from the Kansas Historical Society, kshs.org. All other photos are from the previously cited Brock book.

Remastered 1941 Scottsboro Movie

Much of the discussion on the JCHA Facebook page this quarter has been about the newly remastered copy of Bob Word's movie, "A Hollywood Tour of Scottsboro." Several years ago, Cactus Gay converted the 16mm film of Scottsboro that Robert Word had commissioned to show in his movie theaters. Now that technology has improved, Bob Word has financed a new conversion of this film shot by Lloyd Royal, the prominent Mississippi videographer, This movie was remastered by Knoxville video expert Bradley Reeves and staged by Sam Hall of Chattanooga (the grandson of Dr. Parks Hall) whose interest in family and local history led him to create his https://chattanoogahistory.com/ website. Sam made this all possible and has staged the finished movie on his Vimeo site. The attempted conversion of the Lloyd Royal's Bridgeport film failed due to the degraded condition of the original 16mm film. You can view the new film here. Thank you, Bob. Thank you Bradley. Thank you, Sam.

https://vimeo.com/sph/scottsboro-tour1

https://vimeo.com/sph/scottsboro-tour2

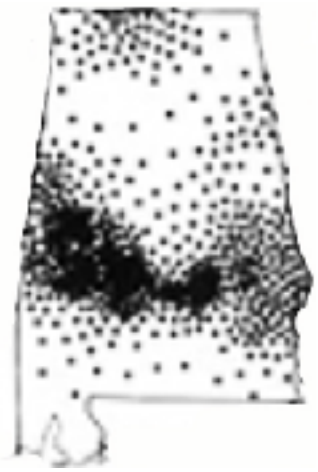
A Brief History of Cotton in Jackson County

Every year for the past decade in Jackson County, fields that were used to grow soybeans or corn or winter wheat have increasingly been dedicated to cotton. Those of us who can still recall crop dusting planes and battles with the boll weevil remember that cotton had all but disappeared from fields in Jackson County for many years. I, for one, am happy to see the crop return. This return can mostly be attributed to modern farming methods, better cotton prices, better hybrid seeds, and broad-spectrum pest control.

Modern cotton farming is big business conducted on an industrial scale by a handful of farmers—the Chandlers in Hollywood, the Loyds in Stevenson, and the Deans in Scottsboro.(1) There are fewer family farms. As one elderly farmer from the Paint Rock Valley told me, "there were a hundred farmers when I was a boy, ten when I was 30, and only one now." Now and in the past, cotton acreage is allotted, and cotton farming is subsidized. According to the EWG Farm Subsidy database, Jackson County Farmers received $293,000 in cotton subsidies in the first nine months of 2019.(2) In 2016, cotton production in Jackson County was not even tracked. In 2017, the 4600 acres planted yielded an average of 821 pounds per acre, for a total of 7700 bales.(3)

Gone are the days when farmers with wagons full of loose cotton lined up at crowded local gins that ran all night. Modern cotton growing is an industrial operation, with the close supervision and support of the Alabama Extension Service. Foliage that interferes with the mechanical pickers is killed off with defoliants so the only the precious white cotton bolls remain on the plant. Cotton harvesting is an industrial operation where a small city of machinery arrives and a huge field is harvested in a day. The harvested cotton is packaged into tight, color-coded (by owner), plastic-covered rolls that are picked up by ginners. Farmers growing cotton in Jackson County today must go as far as 100 miles to have their cotton ginned. Many use the large gin at Centre to process their cotton, though Paint Rock Valley farmers use the gin at Gurley. Cotton in Jackson County is usually rolled, though cotton in Georgia and North Carolina is commonly processed into block-shaped cotton modules which can contain 12-15 traditional bales and weigh up to 22,000 pounds.(4)

Ginning season typically begins in mid September and used to be over by November, but can now extend into March for large industrial gins. Modules are covered on top to protect them from the rain, but in a rainy fall, 10-20 percent of a module can rot waiting to be picked up or ginned. Farmers no longer get their seeds for next year's crop from the ginner. New seeds are sophisticated hybrids, so seeds removed from cotton by the gin are processed into oil, cattle food, and other products.



Cotton is picked around the middle of September. After cotton is picked, it is sent to a cotton gin. These gins separate the fluffy white fiber from the seed and compress the fiber into bales that historically weighed about 500 pounds. Modern cottons are by weight is one-third "lint" (the fluffy white part) and two-thirds seed. Fiber is made into cotton cloth. Seeds are processed to oil, meal, and hulls. The oil is used to make soap, make-up, and food products, such as oil and margarine. The meal and husks are used as livestock feed. Cattle will typically eat cotton seed covered with lint, but lint must be removed from the seed before it can be planted. The high-level timeline below provides some context for the cotton discussion that follows.

High-Level Cotton Timeline(5)

1860 Before the Civil War, cotton was much less important to north Alabama and Jackson County than to south Alabama. In the diagram at the left depicting cotton production in 1860, each dot equaled 200 bales.

1884: Jackson County had a population of 25,114, slightly less than half of the current population. Jackson County farmers tilled 123,924 acres of land. Of that acreage, 19,685 was in cotton, producing 6,235 bales.

1900: Cotton production in the Tennessee Valley reached its apex. The amount of cotton grown diminished steadily after this time. Other crops like corn and soybeans replaced cotton.

1970s and early 1980s: Little or no cotton was grown in Jackson County.

Late 1980s and 1990s: Corn and soybean prices were at historic lows, and farmers again turned to cotton. By the end of the 1990s, cotton was being grown again. (6)

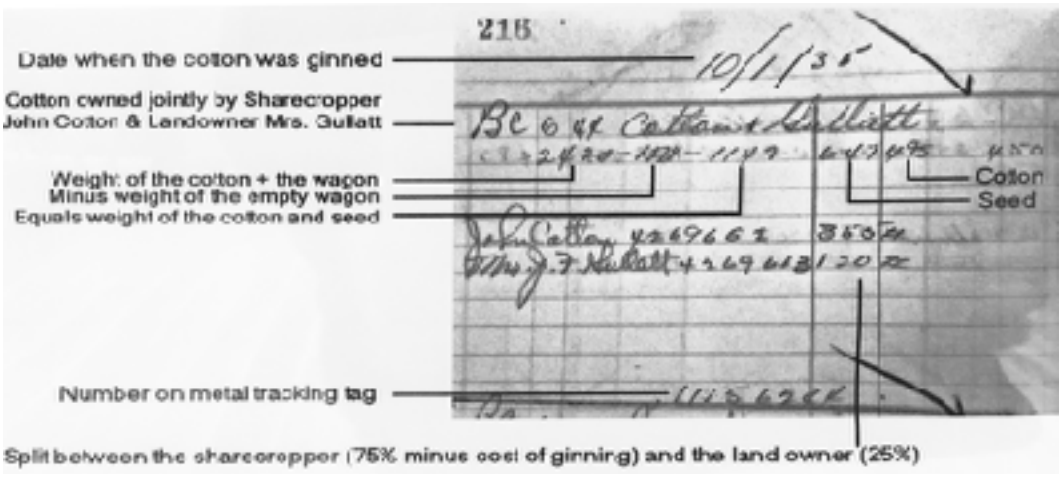
2010: Cotton production in Jackson County was 3400 acres, yielding 6740 bales. That year, there were 26,000 acres in soybeans and 23,000 acres in corn.

2012: Alabama was ranked 4th in the United States in cotton production. Limestone County produced more cotton than any other county in Alabama.

2017 The 4600 acres of cotton planted in Jackson County yielded an average of 821 pounds per acre, for a total of 7700 bales.

Turning cotton into money

Turning cotton seed into money involved a chain of men that began with the farmer and ended with the bank. Cotton farmers were the first link, the hard-working men who coaxed the cotton plants from the often-inhospitable ground. In 1921, the USDA issued a silent film that ran in Scottsboro showing farmers how to mix DDT and molasses and apply it with a mop to cotton plants to kill the boll weevils.(6) Before the creation of Lake Guntersville in 1939, much of the rich bottomland by the river was used to grow cotton, but planting bottomland was a "deal with the devil"—farmers traded the rich alluvial land for the uncertainty of late spring floods. Charles Rice Coffey's 1930s journals tell a story of flooding and drought cycles so severe that in 1937, many farmers planted their cotton crop three times. "It seems that no one can get a stand of cotton and planting seed are scarce....think we will have to plant the entire place over if we can get the seed."(7) Farmers, sometimes working their own land and sometimes sharecropping, prepared and planted their fields, hoed, weeded, fertilized, and fretted--over too much or not enough rain, boll weevils, cotton worms, dry springs, rainy falls, any number of natural calamities that could wipe out their year's crop.



Schools held a recess every September so that farm children could help their fathers pick cotton. When the family took their picked cotton to gins, their wagons were weighed on entry (Gross), and the weight of the empty wagon (called the Tare) was subtracted from the entry weight to find the weight of the cotton (Net). The cotton was processed into seeds and lint and in the past, farmers took their seed home to plant next year. This entry from the New Gin ledger for 1935 (donated to the Scottsboro Depot Museum by P.D. Machen) shows how much cotton and seed a year's planting produced. One of these entries is explained here. After processing, the gin operator tagged the cotton with state-tracked numbers, and cotton receipts were like money and could be used as collateral. Cotton inspectors visited gins and their warehouses regularly and validated cotton bales from creation to sale using this tracking number.

When the bale is created, the farmer decides whether to sell it to the ginner or warehouser (often one and the same) or maintain ownership of the cotton himself, paying the ginner a warehousing fee or taking the cotton to a safe storage barn. Cotton prices were typically lower during ginning time, but if the farmer could afford to wait and sell his cotton later, when supply was less abundant, he typically got more money.

The warehouser held the cotton in a storage facility while a price was negotiated through a cotton broker. When a fair price was agreed upon, the buyer picked up the bales of cotton at the gin (or from the farmer) and took them to a cotton mill where they were spun into thread and woven into fabric. Cotton mill operators typically located their mills, like the Avondale Mill in Stevenson, close to sources of cotton.

In the antebellum South, most cotton planters relied on cotton factors (also known as cotton brokers) to sell their crops for them. This person was usually located at an urban center like Charleston, Mobile, New Orleans, or Savannah. (8) In Jackson County, gin operators and warehousers were usually the cotton brokers. Dr. David Campbell recalls that his Uncle Marvin, who owned the Benson and Campbell gin with partners Silas T. "Dunk" Campbell and John Benson, "spent a lot of time on Cotton Row in Huntsville. He would speculate on cotton futures there, sort of like playing the stock market. He would often buy cotton there, store it, then sell when the price for cotton went up. My father, Bud, at one point was a buyer for him. He was a federally certified cotton grader." Cotton was graded by the physical characteristics of the fibers produced—the length, strength, fineness, maturity, trash content, etc. U.S. cotton has one of nine recognized grades, from low to high: middle fair, strict good middling, good middling, strict middling, middling, strict low middling, low middling, strict good middling, strict good ordinary, and good ordinary. A remnant of cotton grading that has invaded our daily talk is evident when we describe something as "fair to middlin'." (9)

Operating a Gin

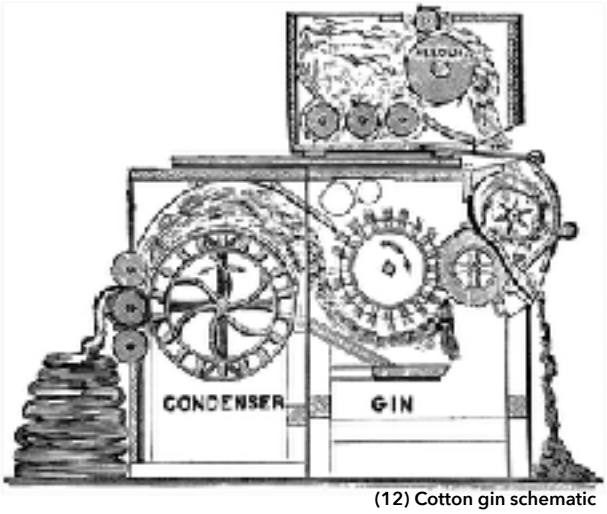
When the Alabama Archives picked their twenty artifacts that encapsulate the history of Alabama, the object for 1850 was the Daniel Pratt cotton gin. Pratt was Alabama's first major industrialist and founder of the city of Prattville. During the 1850s, the company he started, the Pratt Gin Company, manufactured cotton gins for planters all over the world. The ginning of cotton, while not born in Alabama, came into its prime in our state. (10)

Before the advent of modern cotton production, neighborhood gins processed between 2000 and 4000 bales of cotton in a season. Agricultural agent David Derrick, who grew up on Sand Mountain, said when he was a boy, that there were five gins within driving distance of his family's farm. "Every crossroads had its gin," he said. Loose cotton was hard to transport, and much of it was lost to the wind if driven too far. By contrast, modern gins are huge, industrial operations that can process 50,000 bales of cotton in a ginning season. Because of better intermediate packaging in the field, cotton can be carried further to be ginned.

On ginning day, mules and wagons lined up and sat sometimes for hours waiting for a turn at the gin. In Stevenson, local historians remember Jack Caperton walking along the line of wagons waiting to use his gin with crackers, his pocket knife, and a roll of bologna, feeding hungry parents and children during the long wait. With the sale of cotton, the farmer's main source of income, "ginning day" was a special day often bringing the entire family to town. It was at this time most farmers purchased their year's supplies.

Jack Livingston, whose father was the cotton agent for North Alabama, recalls that in the early 1950s, there were nine gins left in Jackson County: one in Hollywood, two in Stevenson, one in Bridgeport, one in Pisgah, one in Rosalie, one in Section, and two in Scottsboro.The chart below, compiled from Ralph Mackey's *Historic Sites, Businesses, Professionals, and Tradesmen in Jackson County* document (available at the Heritage Center), identifies 71 men or groups operating gins between 1841 and the late 1960s. (11)

Town	Gin Operators
Aspel	Smith Farm
Bass	Jacob Tally
Bellefonte	Stephen Carter; Martin (son of Daniel) William L. Shelton
Bridgeport	E.T. Boyd
Browntown	Mr. Winkles Wyatt Mitchell
Crow Creek Valley (from 1841)	Crow Creek John Anderson Daniel Talley John B. Wilkerson
Dutton	Marvin Campbell Marion and Jim Dutton James and Jack McCord McCord and Campbell Rufus Nichols
Dry Cove	J. W. Shelton
Fackler	Bryant William Turner Campbell G.W. Matthews
Goosepond Island	Gin on the island (used as union field hospital during the civil war)
Hollywood	Charles Keith Bradford Raymond Bradford Stephen Carter Gordon Foster Hodges Larkin and Tolliver W.J. Matthews P. P. Tolliver
Langston	Marvin Campbell (Steam powered gin) J. J. Campbell
Larkinsville	Larkinsville Gin Company
Limrock	Willie Flippo
Little Nashville	Cotton floated down river to Paint Rock. Ginning probably the one owned/operated in turn by Allen lvy, Walker and Thompson)
Maynard's Cove	Andrew Lowrey Robert F. Proctor
Mink Creek	Ashmore Gin
Paint Rock Valley	Butler and Rousseau
Pisgah	Loyd Meeks B.O. Young
Scottsboro	I E. Airheart (also grain) Roscoe David Benson Marvin & Turner Campbell J .L Decker Hale Ladd Gladish Robert Howland D.M. and W.E. Snodgrass John Snodgrass N.H. Snodgrass Claude Spivey Lott Thomas S. L. Vaught
Scraper Hill	Small, portable gin
Section	Section Gin and Grain Co. Harry Campbell Marvin Campbell
Stevenson	Allison, Rudder, Wimberly and Co. (also cotton dealers) Jack Caperton L J. Hackworth and Co. W. J. Hackworth C. L. Rudder Stevenson Gin Co.
Tupelo	James Austin
Woodville	Thomas M. Cobb Dr. Francis L. Dillard George R. Hodges and Frank Bishop Earl Kennamer W. J. Kennamer P. H. and J. B. Woodall W .H. Woodall



(12) Cotton gin schematic

Ginning was a noisy and dangerous business. The gins that most of us grew up with removed the seeds from cotton using basically the same principles invented by Eli Whitney in 1793. Discs that look like blades of a circular saw spun and grabbed cotton fiber still tangled with seeds. Each disc passed between metal ribs that were close enough together that seeds didn't pass through, but the fibers did. After cleaning leaves, stems, and seeds from freshly picked cotton, the gin pressed the fiber into 500-pound bales, a size ginners with a hand truck could manage.

In 2003, *Huntsville Times* writer Bruce McLellan profiled David Dollar, who operated the Moore and Newby Gin in rural Limestone County. (13) Dollar considered himself lucky to have all ten fingers. Earplugs protected his hearing because "machines bang, hiss and hum as they clean and bale cotton." The Moore and Newby Gin was essentially a family operation that "used technology 40 or 50 years old and could produce 14 bales an hour. More modern gins, Dollar noted, can produce a bale a minute.

Much of Dollar's job involved intuition and experience. He watched and listened for signs that a belt was loose or a bearing worn, ready to shut down the gin stand before a small problem could create a bigger one. Periodically, he felt the texture and moisture content of the cotton. He could adjust the heat used to dry the fiber or slow the machinery if the cotton felt matted and likely to create clogs. He could also change the settings that determined how thoroughly the fiber was cleaned off the seed without getting damaged.

The Snodgrass/Benson-Campbell Gin

Writer Naomi Seymour and photographer Browny Stephens documented the Benson and Campbell Gin for the *Jackson County Advertiser* just before it was torn down in 1976 (14). In the story, Naomi noted that the removal of the Benson-Campbell gin was the second gin to be destroyed in the city and that only one gin, the Gladish Gin (which is still standing at the corner of Houston and Maple streets) remained.

The gin that ended its life as Benson-Campbell was built by James David Snodgrass in 1887. *The Scottsboro Citizen* wrote on September 15, 1887: “Dave Snodgrass has just completed a new cotton gin in town. He is an expert in turning out a good staple of cotton and Dave will do a lively business.” This business was bought by Benson and Campbell in the late 1920s.

Harry Campbell, who at that time owned the Section Gin and Grain Company, talked with the *Advertiser* about the history of the gin. He estimated that in 1979, five or six gins were still in operation in the county. “The ginning of cotton some 40 years ago differs greatly from today (1979).” According to Campbell, a typical scene at the old Benson-Campbell gin would include numbers of wagons drawn in circles around the gin awaiting their turn through the ginners.

Once the wagon was moved into the “gin stall” the ginning process was started. A huge pipe was lowered into the wagon that sucked the loose cotton up into a drier where the cotton was shredded and cleaned from leaves, burrs, and other trash. The cotton was then sent to the machines called combs, where gangs or gin strands separated the lint from the seed. The lint was then sent to the bale press that packed it into huge bales that were bigger and tied, ready for the farmer to sell or take home.

During the heaviest part of the ginning season, most gins operated day and night. With a good day, Campbell said, an average gin would produce 100 bales of cotton.

Benson and Campbell Gin, built by John Benson, Silas T. "Dunk" Campbell, and Marvin H. Campbell in the 1920s. Torn down in 1976.

David Bradford's Memories of his Grandfather's Gin in the 1950s

David Bradford's grandfather and great grandfather, Raymond and C.K Bradford, owned and operated the New Gin in Hollywood, and his grandparents, Raymond and Kate, lived just down the road from the gin. David remembers the fall ginning seasons in the 1950s in this essay:

Ginning season was a time of considerable excitement for a community. Families whose routines were governed by the sun and the season found themselves away from home for overnight vigils, waiting in line for their time in the unloading bay of the gin.

Bradford, with AU. Garin, and Pearl Jones, New Gin in Hollywood in 1948

Cotton wagons pulled by mules, tractors and pickup trucks lined the shoulders of rural roads. Frequently, farmers hung kerosene lanterns on the sides of their wagons, and gin owners gave farmers large reflectors for their wagons, imprinted with the gin's name. It was an exciting sight for a child to walk out on a road rarely used after dark and see a line of forty or fifty lanterns stretching down the street.

Men, and sometimes their families, milled about through the night. They were expected to keep the line closed tightly. As a result, they had to move their rigs forward a wagon length or two every 10 to 15 minutes. Men who rarely drank whiskey at any other time of the year, except for the occasional funeral visitation, would take advantage of the time away from the constraints of home, and the bootleggers did a booming business. The country stores stayed open late, although I don't recall their staying open all night.

The ginning season would run for weeks, starting in September and ending in October. Typically, it was still warm enough for homes to leave their windows open during that time, and cotton lint flying from the gin would clog window screens and cover the floors and furniture. The noise was constant. There was the hum of the vacuum, the roar of the separator, and the rhythmic clank of the compactor/bailer. When the roar stopped, typically as the result of a failed drive belt, there was panic as the mechanics worked to fix the problem as quickly as possible.

The process was fascinating to us children. It began with a gin hand vacuuming the cotton from the wagons. The employee would wield a tube around eight inches in diameter over the surface of the load, guiding the intake with the help of two rods running parallel on either side of the tube. As children, we weren't allowed near the massive drive trains that ran the gin, but we could stand next to the output of the seed/lint separator, where the combed cotton passed beneath a glass panel under the scrutiny of a gin employee who was there to insure quality control.

Passing though overhead ducts, the cotton would be dumped into a large hopper in fairly large increments and be compressed by a hydraulic press into bales. When the level of the hopper reached a certain height, the side of the hopper would be opened and steel bands would be wrapped around the bale and its covering of burlap. The banding process was treacherous. The bands would be fastened while the cotton was still compressed. As the mechanical press was raised, the band would bear the load of the expanding cotton. The bands would sometimes snap as they stretched with the expanding cotton, resulting in serious injuries to workers or bystanders.

The final chore was trucking, where men of enormous strength (or so it seemed to us at the time), used hand trucks to move the bales from the hopper to the warehouse. The feats of the truckers are legendary, and bets were frequently placed on what a trucker was capable of lifting.

Annette Norris Bradford

Notes:
Thanks to Larry Derrick, USDA office in Cherokee County, for his knowledge of cotton production in Alabama. Thanks to Paul Machen of Hollywood for donating the ledger from The New Gin to the JCHA.Thanks to Jack Livingston for his explanation of cotton tagging and stories his father told. Thanks to Dr. David Campbell for his information about brokering cotton.

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NACC Digital Collection Helps Reunite Two Vietnam Vets

Reprinted from *The Clarion* and *The Jackson County Sentinel*, September 12, 2019

A long-time search of information, including the digital collections of Northeast Alabama Community College, was instrumental in two Vietnam veterans reuniting. This is their story.

When Curtis Davis received a letter from Long Island, New York, he was puzzled. He didn't know anyone from New York and didn't recognize the name of the man who signed the letter, Jim Carlina. That was because when Curtis and Jim first crossed paths in 1968 in a landing zone in Vietnam near the Cambodian border known as "LZDot," Jim had been just one of the many men that Curtis, as a Pathfinder, had assisted. Curtis's job was to be the eyes and ears on the ground for the helicopter pilots so the pilots could focus on maneuvering.

As the pilot of the CH-47 Chinook he was riding in calmly announced they may crash, Jim wondered if he would ever see his family again. Jim credits Curtis, along with the chopper's crew, for getting the helicopter to the ground without serious injury of any soldiers. Curtis had been at LZ Dot for a while then and was familiar with the area.

Jim would later be injured at LZ Dot by an RPG blast and spend weeks in various hospitals; however, in this phase of the Vietnam War, even an injury as serious as Jim's was unlikely to get a soldier sent home. Duty called. Jim was quickly sent back to LZ Dot, where he watched his wired-shut wound drain for the thirteen months he remained there.

The moment that sticks with Jim the most, even today, is not the RPG blast, but the helicopter crash. In fact, he didn't even notice the RPG wound until another soldier mentioned it. By the time the RPG incident occurred, Jim was a soldier hardened by his experiences at LZ Dot, including the helicopter crash.

After the war, Jim returned to New York and settled on Long Island. Curtis returned to Scottsboro and took courses at what is now Northeast Alabama Community College. Curtis worked for years as city planner for his home town of Scottsboro and eventually retired from that job. He still works part time in assisting the town of Hollywood in planning.

Jim's letter to Curtis was the culmination of years of his own curiosity about that chopper crash in Vietnam. By the mid-1990s, with the popularity of the internet, Jim began to wonder if he might be able to contact other veterans who were at LZ Dot the day of the crash. Maybe he would find someone who was on the helicopter or witnessed the crash from the ground. Years removed and miles away, maybe someone could fill in some information he had forgotten, misinterpreted in the stress of the moment or had never known. Over the years, he did locate some of the men on the helicopter with him and exchanged correspondence. He even got a personalized Wounded Veteran license plate that read "LZ Dot" in the hopes of sparking a conversation with someone who knew about the crash. One day, many years after he began searching, Jim went online and searched for LZ Dot and some other words (Jim forgets the exact search he performed now) and arrived at a Google Books page for *They Wouldn't Let Us Win: Jackson County, Alabama Veterans Relive the Vietnam War*, written by Dr. Ronald Dykes and published by the Jackson County Historical Association in 2012. Dr. Dykes' book is a compilation of the memoirs of fifteen Vietnam War veterans from Jackson County, Alabama. Jim's search took him to the chapter in which Curtis Davis detailed his Vietnam War story, and there Jim found the story of the helicopter crash from the man on the ground that helped guide the damaged helicopter safely down.

In addition to the eBook, Jim has since found Dr. Dykes' interviews of Curtis and other Vietnam veterans in the digital collections of Northeast Alabama Community College Learning Resources Center. In 2015,

Dr. Dykes approached head librarian and division director Dr. Julia Everett and archivist Blake Wilhelm to gauge their interest in housing the cassettes on which he recorded the interviews for They Wouldn't Let Us Win and three other books. They were happy to accept the donation and applied for a State and Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) grant to digitize the interviews and make them available on Alabama Mosaic, the repository that houses NACC's digital collections. The grant was funded, and the interviews, along with other digital collections from NACC, are available at www.alabamamosaic.org.

When Jim's letter arrived, Curtis read it and was astonished at the unlikely connection that technology produced. In the letter, Jim thanked him for helping him all those decades ago and included his phone number. The thing that Jim sought most from Curtis, other than the opportunity to express his gratitude for saving his life, was more or less an affirmation of this pivotal event in his life. So much of who Jim is today began with the events surrounding that helicopter crash in the jungles of Vietnam all those years ago. A person builds layers of themselves through life experiences, and Jim couldn't help but wonder if maybe his memory was altered by the distress he felt in the moment the crash happened. Curtis's recounting of the event, as someone deeply involved but apart from the immediate stresses of being inside a crashing helicopter, validated Jim's memory. It was as if Jim now knew the things he had tethered himself to were sturdy.

Curtis was ecstatic about connecting with Jim as well. In the hopes of sharing his story, he put the letter in the pocket of his jacket and kept it on his person whenever he went out to dinner or to the store on the off chance that he might run into Dr. Dykes or another Vietnam War veteran. Eventually Curtis did run into Dr. Dykes, who was happy to have played his part in bringing Jim and Curtis together. In April 2019, Dr. Dykes mentioned the story to Blake Wilhelm, Northeast Alabama Community College Archivist. While Curtis had misplaced Jim's phone number, the Scottsboro Electric Power Board was able to assist Curtis and Blake in locating Jim's number so the two could reconnect, and their story could be told.

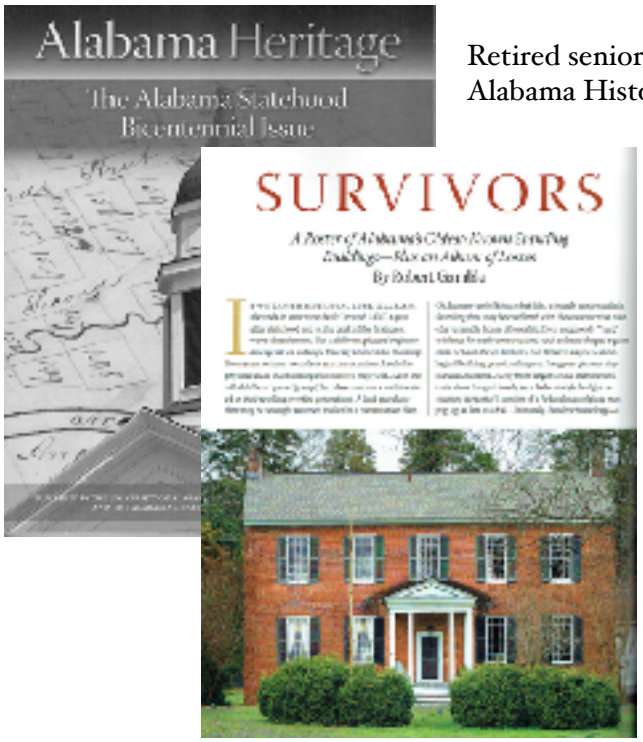
Wilhelm stated, "Beyond the incredible story of two veterans reuniting, Jim and Curtis' story also speaks to the power and importance of digital history as well as the importance of funding the arts and humanities."

For more information about the Northeast Alabama Community College Archives and Special Collections, go to https://www.nacc.edu/library/archives

Curtis Davis reading the Sentinel, July 1968

Jim Carlina, Center with Sunglasses

County's Oldest Surviving Structures



Retired senior architectural historian Robert Gamble worked with the Alabama Historical Commission from 1983 to 2014. He returned to "active duty" for this special bicentennial edition of *Alabama Heritage* to document the state's oldest surviving structures. Dr. Gamble had been given a list of the county's oldest structures by Wendell Page in the 1970s when he last worked on Jackson County. He contacted the JCHA to check up on the status of the structures that had been previously identified and to collect information for the *Alabama Heritage* article. Photographer Robin McDonald spent a day in Jackson County photographing these structures, and the results were published in the November 2019 issue.

When you pass by structures every day that historians recognize and treasure, it is often a surprise that they are valued so highly by others. For this special issue, Dr. Gamble set as his criteria structures built before 1830. His introduction to these structures follows, reproduced with permission of *Alabama Heritage* magazine and photographer Robin McDonald.

If we can believe local lore, Alabama abounds in structures build "around 1820," a year after statehood and at the peak of the first great wave of settlement. But a different picture begins to emerge as we untangle hearsay and wishful thinking from scant written records or start to examine closely the physical clues that buildings themselves may yield, As in the old childhood game "gossip," facts become innocently twisted in their retelling over the generations. A land-purchase date may be wrongly assumed to also be a construction date.

Or, human vanity being what it is, a church congregation's founding date may be conflated with the construction date of a venerable house of worship. Even supposedly "hard" evidence for early construction. such as hand-forged square nails or hand-hewn timbers, can deceive as pre-technological building practices lingered long past pioneer days in rural Alabama. Away from larger towns architectural taste also changed slowly, so a Federal style fanlight or country carpenter's version of a Federal mantelpiece may pop up as-late as 1850. Ultimately, dendrochronology—a scientific method for determining the age of a structure through wood analysis-may be the sole means of getting at a reasonably reliable construction date. And as of yet, old-building sleuths in Alabama have rarely turned to this expensive and esoteric technique,

Given all these factors, plus the absence in key parts of the state of a thorough architectural survey undertaken by qualified and experienced architectural historians, we cannot know for sure how many structures actually survive today from Alabama's earliest statehood years or the long years before. Of the preexisting Native American culture, scarcely an above-ground trace remains unless we count the few surviving domiciliary mounds—earthen platforms for long-vanished dwellings and ceremonial structures—that have intrigued archaeologists for generations.

Beginning in the early 1830s, construction accelerated throughout the state as the last remaining Indian lands were officially opened for settlement while frontier conditions everywhere gave way to a gradually stabilizing society demanding more ambitious architecture.

The following county-by-county roster identifies structures which available evidence suggests may date from the first decade or so of statehood, or even earlier Where a question exists, the building usually receives the benefit of the doubt. Inevitably, some worthy survivors have been overlooked, And as ever in the shifting landscape of historical detective work, new information will eventually debunk some claims while confirming others, (That said, it is always a pleasant surprise when a building proves older than previously thought, since the opposite is more often the case.)

While instructive in their own right as testaments to Alabama history, reconstructions such as Mobile's Fort Conde, Huntsville's Alabama Constitution Village, the French colonial Fort Toulouse near Wetumpka, and Fort Mitchell near Phenix City are not included. Rather, this tally focuses only on what is thought to be original construction.

With the surprising exception of Mobile and the far southwestern part of the state, most of Alabama's oldest buildings survive today just where we might expect: in the areas most densely settled and most affluent at the time of statehood and the decade that followed. Namely, these were the Tennessee Valley—especially Huntsville and surrounding Madison County (Alabama's most populous county in 1820) and the fertile cotton country westward through Athens, Decatur, and Courtland to Florence and Tuscumbia at the foot of the Muscle Shoals; the Montgomery area (though the city itself has lost its earliest buildings) and the rapidly developing plantation region along the Alabama River toward Lowndesboro, Selma, Camden, and Claiborne; and finally, the alluvial Black Warrior-Tombigbee basin region below the nascent trading center of Tuscaloosa, anointed the state capital in 1826. Northeastward from Tuscaloosa, in the long upland valleys between Appalachian ridges, a handful of remaining dwellings represent the yeoman culture that had taken root by the 1820s.

At the opposite end of the state, the log Pelham house moved to Abbeville and restored by the YellaWood Corporation recalls the sparse 1820s settlement along the lower Chattahoochee. But of the important late eighteenth-century enclaves of settlement on the Tombigbee and Tensaw Rivers above Mobile, including the territorial seat o fSt. Stephens, no standing structures remain. More startling yet, time has evidently erased all architectural vestiges of the Mobile Bay area’s venerable colonial past, while in Mobile itself, virtually every structure attesting to the flourishing seaport of the 1820s has now disappeared.

Following the county-by-county roundup of “Survivors" is an “Album of Losses," It identifies some of the early buildings destroyed in the five decades since Alabama celebrated its sesquicentennial in 1969.

The survivors identified here represent an irreplaceable aspect ofAlabama’s material culture—in some instances appreciated and respectfully maintained but in too many others, facing an uncertain future as victims of ignorance, owner indifference, and complacency. To be sure, attrition of historic structures is inevitable. But it can equally be said that more progressive and educated communities everywhere typically work to integrate them into their everyday surroundings as meaningful signposts of their history and culture.

Rightly understood, structures that have made it from the beginning of Alabama's statehood to the twenty-first century sharpen our perception of the past. Alabama’s oldest buildings offer us a fragile,

un-retouched snapshot of the state's birthing years: a unique period when an ancient native culture yielded to another relentlessly transplanting itself—architecturally, as in every other way—from the Atlantic states to the Gulf South. Perhaps this tally of survivors will encourage a more focused and vigorous effort to pass them on to generations yet to come.

From *Alabama Heritage*, No. 134 (Fall 2019), pp.94-96, 103-104. Used by Permission. *Alabama Heritage* is the quarterly publication of the Alabama Historical Association, published by the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the Department of Archives and History.

Dr. Gamble goes on to catalog the surviving 134 pre-1830 structures, and to mourn the loss of 30 others. Five of the survivor structures are located in Jackson County, and at least one of them is critical. The structures below are deemed safe and protected. Two of them are in protected museum location. Two of them are in the still "in the family," owned by people with a family connection to the property. The final property is in danger of being lost and should be moved to a safe location.

The 1820 **Garland Cabin was m**oved from Riley's Cove behind Tater Knob to the Buddy and Joan Harbin property and used by Joan as a studio. When Sage Town was organized at the Heritage Center and cabins were moved from around the county, she donated her cabin to the Heritage Center.

The Riley family moved to Tennessee from South Carolina about 1812 and then on to Alabama by 1820. The cabin was probably built by Joseph Garland who married Margaret Riley. Their daughter Charlotte (who married Jason H. Dicus) was born in Jackson County, Alabama, in 1821. Their son William Garland was born in Jackson County, Alabama, in 1822.

The cabin is cedar and has square-cut, hand-hewn logs. The cove where it came from had many log buildings, houses, and smoke houses. The area also had many large rocks and fresh water, making it a good building site and place to live. There was no road to this house, so it remained in good condition away from easy vandalism.

JACKSON COUNTY
GARLAND CABIN (1820s)
Scottsboro Jackson Heritage Center, Scottsboro
Moved from Riley's Cove six miles north. Tradition says this one-room hewn-log cabin was built by Joseph Garland, who married into the eponymous Riley family. The Rileys came to Jackson County from upcountry Carolina, via Tennessee, before 1820.
OPEN TO PUBLIC

JACKSON COUNTY
BENNETT'S COVE CABIN (c.1820–1830)
Community Park, Stevenson
Moved from Bennett's Cove, ten miles west, in 1975. Good example of early statehood period single-pen log cabin, though reconstructed stone chimney over-refined.
OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

The 1820 **Bennett's Cove Cabin** has a similar history. One of the activities of the 1975 bicentennial celebration in Stevenson was "moving a cabin of 1820 vintage to Stevenson Community Park." According to Eliza Woodall, the restored cabin in Stevenson Community Park that is used by the Stevenson Boy Scouts was moved to this location in 1975 from Bennett's Cove.

The cabin was donated by Walker Jordan and moved from its original site on his farm in Bennett's Cove in Bass. Jimmy Summers, Kelcy Norman, and Bogart Arnold moved and restored the building. Bogart reported that all the original materials in the cabin were sound except for the rafters, which were replaced. The walls are red cedar logs. There are three doors, each with a different old latch: a string or thong-operated latch, a metal latch, and a wooden drop latch. The chimney was rebuilt, using the original hand-chiseled limestone blocks. New oak shingles were used to roof the cabin. This was all financed

through the generosity of Kathryn Armstrong who bore the costs of the cabin's move and restoration. It is now located in Stevenson Community Park.

The 1825-30 **Proctor Log Dogtrot** cabin is known as the old Proctor homeplace. It was occupied by Tommy and Linda Proctor as recently as 1972. The cabin is located in a field beside Linda Proctor's house on County Road 28 in Maynard's Cove in Scottsboro.

JACKSON COUNTY
PROCTOR LOG DOGTROT
(c.1825–1830)
Maynard's Cove
Built by Jeremiah Proctor (1777–1839), who came from Albemarle County, Virginia, by way of Kentucky and Tennessee. Still owned by descendants.

JACKSON COUNTY
DORAN HOUSE (c.1830)
Doran's Cove
Two-story log house which stood here until replaced in 1903 was believed to predate statehood. Still surviving kitchen ell, erected c. 1830 from native limestone, recalls similar structure built by first owner, Maj. James Doran (1764–1840), near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Doran married daughter of Cherokee chieftain John Woods.
AR

The cabin was built by Jeremiah Alexander Proctor. Information about this cabin comes from *The History of Jackson County*. Jeremiah Proctor (1777-1839) was born in Albemarle County, Virginia. He married Jane Davis in 1806 in Garrard County, Kentucky. Jane was the daughter of William Davis, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, serving under General Lafayette. He enlisted in 1776 and served several tours of duty. When he applied for a pension, he was living in Maynard's Cove in Jackson County. He lived to the ripe old age of 95. He has a tombstone in the Proctor Cemetery and also a marker at Cedar Hill put there by the D.A.R.

Jeremiah had migrated from Virginia to Kentucky and on to Lincoln County, Tennessee. he served six months during the War of 1812, from September 15, 1814 to March 15, 1815. In 1818 the Jeremiah Proctor family, along with the William Holland and Thomas Gold families left Lincoln County Tennessee. Descending the Cumberland Plateau, they squatted on territorial lands that were later purchased at Bellefonte or Huntsville in the 1830s. They settled in the head of Maynard's Cove and built the homes, using logs from the forest and limestone from the mountain for chimneys. Some of their land is still owned by descendants of these families.

The cabin has remained in the Proctor family. Linda's husband Tommy Proctor, is the son of Emet Hugh Proctor (1914-1998) and Mary Pearl Dean. Emet is the son of Wiley Newton Proctor (1872-1956) and Mary E. Crawford (1884-1962) Wiley is the son of Zebulon Montgomery Proctor (1872-1956) and Mary Jane Bynum (1844-1881). Zebulon is the son of Micah Alexander Proctor (1808-1881) and Margaret Minerva Davis (1816-1880). Micah Alexander is one of the eight children of Jeremiah Proctor (1777-1839) and Jane Virginia "Jennie" Davis (1786-1865).

Much has been written about the **Doran House**, and much of the information in common circulation is incorrect. Doran's Cove is north of Stevenson, State Highway 98 about half a mile past Russell Cave. This house is widely considered to be the oldest house in Jackson County and is located in this cove. It was built in the early 1808 by Major James Doran.

The original rock house had no windows, and the door was fastened to the wall with wooden pegs and homemade hinges. Major Doran lived among the Indians for many years. (*JCC*, April 1976) This house is still standing and is in good repair. The front portion of the Doran House is clapboard, the result of an early 1903 renovation. The clapboard addition replaced the original log structure. These logs were recycled by adding to or building a barn which is still standing. Mr. F. A. "Buddy" Newton has studied the house closely as he repaired , maintained, and spent time in the old house. It is his firm opinion that the

original log section was built first and that the stone section was added later by a skilled stone mason. James Doran also built a cellar, which is not unusual; however, the cellar entrance is unique for this area.

The mother of Alabama Historical Association member Carla Finney lives in this house. Carla reported in April 2018 that a recent storm had caused a tree to fall on the spring house (a structure on the site even older than the 1820 house itself) but had not destroyed the spring house, but had fallen is such a way that removal was difficult and still being negotiated.

The **Log Dogtrot at Sauta Cave** is possibly the even older than the Doran House. The two-story dogtrot cabin is near Blowing Cave. It is the only one of the five structures in Jackson County that Dr. Gamble clarified as "endangered."

This cabin was part of the 1976 listing by Wendell Page. Around 1978, Harry Hoover, a developer from Birmingham, bought the property and was dynamiting in the lower of these two caves to create a trout farm in the cave, disturbing the endangered brown bats that lived in this cave system and destroying formations that had taken thousands of years to accumulate. Due to the efforts of Ann Chambless, Clyde Broadway, and David Bradford, the caves were declared a critical habitat for the endangered bat, and the blasting was stopped. The property was purchased by TVA, the current owner. The road to the property is closed except to property owners who must access their land by passing through the park-service property.

Today, the land is designated as the Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge, a 264-acre National Wildlife Refuge located near the Sauty Creek embayment on Guntersville Lake. More than 5,000 hikers per year visit the refuge, but the cabin is off the main trail. Until 2001, it was occupied by a Jackson County Forrester Steve Williams. Since it has become empty, the property has deteriorated quickly. The front porch has collapsed. A later addition on the back also needs to be removed. But the two stone chimneys and dogtrot structure remain intact. The chestnut logs that make up this cabin are so big that my two hands fully expanded cannot span the width of a single log.

There are many rich tales about this cabin's past—as the home of the early county tax collector and thus a site frequented by men with metal detectors. but also as a place one could find moonshine, prostitutes, and and cockfighting. Union soldiers quartered there after they took over the nitre-mining operation in Salt Peter Cave. The administrators of this property at the Wheeler Wildlife.

And...the good news is, the people at Wheeler are willing to give this cabin to the JCHA is we can find a place to move it and the funds for the move. The Heritage Center did not want another building added to Sage Town, but Caldwell Park is a possibility. We are just starting the process and need someone to evaluate the soundness of the cabin so we know if moving it is feasible. Does anyone in the JCHA have experience moving cabins and have any interest in preserving this incredible structure? The effort to save this endangered structure is just picking up steam and we need your help and advise.

Annette Norris Bradford

Active Members of the JCHA

The first quarter of every year, we publish a list of our members. An asterisk (*) following a name indicates membership has expired: Please renew for 2020. Send dues ($20 per year or $15 for members over 65) to PO Box 1494, Scottsboro, AL 35768. Thank you for your continuing support.

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The Jackson County Chronicles

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In this issue:

Editor: Annette Norris Bradford
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The Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the Jackson County Historical Association. Visit our website, www.jchaweb.org.

April Meeting Cancelled: In keeping with social distancing guidelines, the Jackson County Historical Association will not meet this quarter. This meeting was to have been in Flat Rock and featured the dedication of a new historical marker. The historical marker for the old Flat Rock High School has been delivered to the school and is locked up in storage, but has not yet been installed. That planned meeting will take place in July instead. Until then, be aware of the new resource below from the Alabama Archives.

Alabama History@Home

With schools, offices, museums, and archives closed and social distancing recommended, our staff is working diligently to provide parents, educators, researchers, and the general public with resources to explore Alabama's history at home.

We recently launched Alabama History@Home, a new website that provides links to a wide variety of online resources from more than twenty historical and cultural institutions across the state. New content is added to the site almost daily. We hope this resource will make staying home and doing your part to protect your community a little easier.

JCHA Website Wins State Award: The JCHA Website www.jchaweb.org is the winner of this year's Alabama Historical Association Digital History Award in the Small Project Category. Rebecca Minder, chairperson of the 2020 AHA Digital History Award Committee, contacted the Jackson County Historical Association in February to give us the good news. We were to have received this award at the April meeting, which has been postponed until 2021. The website includes: all 44 years of the *Jackson County Chronicles*, scanned with optical character recognition and therefore searchable; the 2018 and 2019 cemetery stroll videos; the "Walk Around the Square" clickable history application; the Scottsboro Depot Museum website; and the constantly growing collection of county high school yearbooks.

Scottsboro on the Coca-Cola Trail

Editor's Note: *Last year, writer Larry Jorgensen contacted the JCHA looking for help with the Scottsboro history of Coca-Cola. His first book The Coca-Cola Trail: People and Places in the History of Coca-Cola profiled a number of towns and their connection to Coca-Cola. Scottsboro, by virtue of its family connection to Coca-Cola and its proximity to Chattanooga, the home of Coca-Cola bottling, will be in his upcoming second book. He interviewed a number of our residents for the story below, and concentrated on Payne's Drug Store and Payne's Soda Shop. The text of his article is below and he graciously let the Chronicles reprint it.*

It is said to be the oldest business in Alabama, and also it was one of the first in the state to sell Coca-Cola. In addition, the interesting history of the old business includes a direct family connection to the very first days of Coca-Cola bottling.

Now known as Payne's Soda Fountain and Sandwich Shop, the business began in 1869 as W. H. Payne Drug Company of Scottsboro, Alabama. It actually began operating one year before the town of Scottsboro officially incorporated.

Druggist William Henry Payne opened the store after returning from the civil war. At first his business was located near the railroad, on the northwest side of the community square, where most of the early town had been built. Payne was a compounding pharmacist and created remedies such as syrup of wild cherry and Eureka itch and tetter ointment. He also sold cold sparkling soda water, believed to have medicinal powers, for 5-cents per glass.

Five years later the Jackson County courthouse was built and Payne moved his drug store to a two story brick building he had constructed on the courthouse square where the business remained for over one and one-half centuries.

Payne died in 1899, and his son James Robinson Payne operated the business until his death in the 1940s. The historic building has remained under the ownership of James Payne's daughter, Elizabeth Payne Word. But the business has been operated through the years by non-Payne family owners.

Payne Drug Company around 1950

The building's connection to the very first days of Coca-Cola bottling is because of Elizabeth's family history. Her great uncle was George Hunter of Chattanooga. Hunter had become the owner of the Coca-Cola "parent" bottling enterprise, originally created and developed by his uncle Ben Thomas and his partner Joseph Whitehead. These men obtained exclusive U. S. rights for bottling Coca-Cola. The rapid growth of Coca-Cola began when they, acting as "parent" bottlers, started selling territory to other bottlers.

As Thomas aged, and having no children, he selected Hunter to take over the management and ultimately inherit his

growing Coca-Cola business. Hunter became a strong supporter of the individual bottlers, and is recognized for his successful legal battle with Coca-Cola to save the bottlers' lifetime contracts.

Meanwhile growth continued at the drugstore. A 20-foot long soda fountain was added in 1939, and quickly became a popular attraction, with new soda jerks being hired to serve the growing number of customers. The first step for food service also began, as Payne's started selling hot dogs topped with a now famous red slaw, said to have been created from a secret old family recipe.

Curbside service was provided at Payne's in the 1940s and '50s with Coca-Cola and ice cream delivered by the soda jerks to parked customers outside.

The pharmacy portion of the business was closed in 1991, but the popular soda fountain and sandwich shop has continued through the years. The business ownership and management changed again in 2013, when mother and daughter Lisa Garrett and Jessica Walton took over.

Previously Garrett had created a '50s type dining area in her home in Bridgeport, Tennessee and also operated a luncheonette in Sewanee, Tennessee, and she was looking for a new opportunity when Payne's became available. Memorabilia items from her home, including a jukebox and advertising signs were used to create the new atmosphere at Payne's. Also added were red vinyl chairs, a checkerboard floor and chrome bar stools. The red slaw hot dog still tops the menu, but a variety of other sandwiches have been added, including a Dagwood and a Reuben. There also is a selection of salads and daily menu specials.

The old 20-foot soda fountain sustained a mechanical problem, and temporarily was being used only to serve ice cream, while a search was underway to locate a fountain repairman. A special logo sign was created in 2019 to honor Payne's 150 years of making memories in Scottsboro.

Jessica said, "everyone has a story about Payne's, but if they don't we'll help them make one." Jessica and Lisa said they are proud to be running a business with such a long and important history in Alabama.

Coca-Cola was first bottled in Scottsboro in 1912 and the franchise went through several ownership changes before being acquired in 2014 by the nation's third largest bottler, Coca-Cola United of Birmingham.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Works in Scottsboro, from the 1938 *Progressive Age*

Business partners Charley Beard and A.B. Brandon started the bottling business, but in 1918 Beard bought out his partner and continued to bottle and sell Coca-Cola for eight years.

The next owner, Walter Daniel, built a brick two story building for his Coca-Cola plant. When Daniel died in 1938, his widow and the plant manager Tom Sisk continued the business for another five years before selling to Joseph L. Bean of Chattanooga.

Hamlin Caldwell, who became known as "Mr. Coca-Cola in Scottsboro" became plant manager in 1955, and remained in that position for nearly thirty-five years. He oversaw a 1957 addition which doubled the plant's floor space, and 23 years later he was there when a new 40,000 sq. ft. facility was opened to serve

northeast Alabama and part of Georgia. That new building construction followed the merger of the Fort Payne Coca-Cola business with Scottsboro.

The business at that time was owned by Johnston Coca-Cola Bottling of Chattanooga, and the actual bottling had been moved to a company plant in Cleveland, Tennessee, while the Scottsboro facility provided area distribution. Johnston bottling merged with Coca-Cola corporate in 1991.

In 2020 Coca-Cola United continued the Scottsboro tradition with their facility on John T. Reid Parkway.

Larry Jorgensen

Some additional information: Those of you who have walked along Market Street in Chattanooga might have seen this sign. Although Atlanta is the home of Coca-Cola, Chattanooga is the home of Coca-Cola bottling. Likewise, Scottsboro's connection to the W. H. Payne family has been extensively documented and appreciated, but the county's connection to the Hunter family that was so important to Coca-Cola bottling is less familiar.

Elizabeth Payne Word and her brother George Hunter Payne are the children of James Robinson Payne and Emily Matthews, the great grandchildren of William Henry Payne, the founder of Payne's Drugs. Their Matthews connection is equally interesting. Emily was the daughter of Simmons Matthews and Bess Hunter. Bess is the sister of George Thomas Hunter, the man whose bequest enabled the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga.


Faxon-Thomas House before becoming a museum.

According to the Chattanooga Memory Project, the building that houses the museum was the "former private residence of Ross Faxon built 1906; purchased by Mrs. Benjamin F. Thomas in the 1920s and then owned by her nephew George Thomas Hunter. The house became museum in 1951." (https://stories.chattanoogamemory.com/stories/467) This home as it looked before it became the museum is shown here.

Larry Jorgensen described how the childless Thomas family made their nephew and business associate George Thomas Hunter their heir. According to huntermuseum.org, "George Thomas Hunter arrived in Chattanooga in 1904 and worked as a clerk in his Uncle Benjamin Thomas' business, the Coca-Cola Thomas Bottling Company. Mr. Hunter inherited the company from his uncle and began a tradition of philanthropy which continues to have a positive impact on Chattanooga to this day. One of his finest achievements was the creation of the Benwood Foundation, a charitable trust still in operation. Hunter was unmarried and following his death in 1951, the Chattanooga Art Association approached the Benwood Foundation to ask that the Faxon-Hunter mansion be donated to their organization in order to found an art museum."

Elizabeth Payne Word's husband, Bob Word, recalls the Matthews family story about the beginnings of Coca-Cola bottling. According to this story, until the Thomas family came up with the idea of putting Coca-Cola in bottles, it was sold only as a fountain drink. The Benjamin Thomas family returned from a trip to Cuba where they saw soft drinks being sold in bottles, and went to Atlanta to talk to Coca-Cola about selling the soft drink in bottles. The Atlanta company expressed no interest in the bottling

business, but gave Thomas permission to be the exclusive bottlers of Coca-Cola and assessed him one dollar for this privilege.

Wikipedia tells much the same story. One prior attempt had been made to bottle the soft drink. The first bottling of Coca-Cola occurred in 1894 in Vicksburg, MS by Joseph A. Biedenharn at the Biedenharn Candy Company in bottles very different from the famous 1915 design. "A few years later," Wikipedia explains, "two entrepreneurs from Chattanooga, Tennessee, namely Benjamin F. Thomas and Joseph B. Whitehead, proposed the idea of bottling and were so persuasive that [Coca-Cola sole proprietor Asa] Candler signed a contract giving them control of the procedure for only one dollar. Candler never collected his dollar, but in 1899, Chattanooga became the site of the first Coca-Cola bottling company. Candler remained very content just selling his company's syrup. The loosely termed contract proved to be problematic for The Coca-Cola Company for decades to come. Legal matters were not helped by the decision of the bottlers to subcontract to other companies, effectively becoming parent bottlers. This contract specified that bottles would be sold at 5¢ each and had no fixed duration, leading to the fixed price of Coca-Cola from 1886 to 1959." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coca-Cola)

1912 Ad from the Progressive Age.

Bob Word tells two fascinating stories about the relationship between Payne's Drug Store and the Coca-Cola Company. The first occurred in 1950 and involved Emily Matthews Payne, the niece of George Thomas Hunter, who felt she had a right to demand a clean, sharp Coca-Cola advertising sign on the side of Payne's Drugs. She sent her request to plant manager Hamlin Caldwell, who forwarded it to the parent company, only to have the company state that the existing sign was satisfactory and no repainting was required. So she contacted representatives from Pepsi, who were more than happy to paint a bright new sign over the existing Coca-Cola sign on the side of Payne's. It was not long before Coca-Cola decided to paint a new sign over the Pepsi sign.

A second story involves the incredible number of Coca-Cola Syrup jugs generated by Word Theaters and Payne's Drug Store. Lisa Garrett still has a number of these jugs, each with a residue of Coca-Cola syrup in the bottom. Bob recalls that these jugs were a big favorites among local bootleggers, who would arrive in cars with the back seat and trunk partition removed and carry away as many of these jugs as possible for $.25 each. You can still buy one of these jugs from Lisa.

Another interesting side tale from the early days of Coca-Cola will be familiar to Auburn grads who cross daily in front of the old Ross Chemistry building. In June 27, 1907, the *Progressive Age* reported that State Chemist B. B. Ross and his associates at Alabama Polytechnic Institute had examined samples of "coca-cola taken from syrup purchased on the open market" so that "every Alabamian who cares to drink coca-cola will have the satisfaction of knowing what he is drinking." They found that "the only stimulating ingredient in coca-cola is caffeine," in the amount of 1.25 to 1.29 grams per ounce of syrup.

One of the best descriptions of the evolution of Coca-Cola in Jackson County was found in the 1960 *Jackson County Sentinel* and is reproduced below.

Coke Bottled in Scottsboro Since 1912: The earliest record of a Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Scottsboro was 1912-1914. This plant was situated in a tin building where the present Coca-Cola Bottling Plant is located at 233 W. Laurel St. [Ed. Note. The Scottsboro Bottling Works was referred to in a 1916

Scottsboro Citizen ad as "Scottsboro's Biggest Manufactory."] The first plant was owned by Mr. Charley Beard and Mr. A. B. Brandon. Mr. Beard bought out Mr. Brandon and operated the plant until 1918. Mr. Walker Daniel bought the company from Mr. Beard and was the first to obtain a franchise to bottle Coca-Cola in Scottsboro and surrounding territory.

In 1926 Mr. Daniel built a new brick building and moved the business into permanent quarters. Mr. Daniel continued to operate the business until his untimely death in 1938. From 1938 to 1943 the plant continued under the ownership of Mrs. Daniel, with Tom Sisk as the manager. In 1943 Mrs. Daniels sold her interest in the plant to Mr. Joseph L. Bean of Chattanooga, Tenn. Mr. J. S. Bean was named managed and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1955. Mr. Hamlin Caldwell Jr. was named manager in 1955 and has continued in that capacity until the present time. [1960] An addition was made to the plant in 1957 which doubled the floor space. The pallet loading system was also introduced at that time. The pre-mix system of handling Coca-Cola was installed in 1959. At the present time the Scottsboro Coca-Cola Bottling Company operates five route trucks, one cooler repair truck, and one advertising truck. Sixteen people are employed by this industry in Scottsboro."

This 1978 photo of the Scottsboro Bottling Company was taken during the survey and analysis that Judy Proctor and Ann Chambless conducted while putting the square on the Register of Historic Places.

The photo below from the 1960s was taken by Leroy Gist. Most of the people in the photo are identified below.

1978 Photo by Judy Proctor

1960s photo by Leroy Gist.

Scottsboro Coca Cola Bottling Plant ca. 1960. *Left to Right: Sam Evans, Johnny Downs, Lawrence Hastings, Grady Sharp, Raymond Bass, Lonnie Hancock, Raymond Moore, Lonnie Crawford, Lowell Kirby, Al Wilkerson, Latham McCutchen, Jimmy Lusk, Houston Chapman, Elize Jeffery, Mabel Wright, and Hamlin Caldwell, Manager.*

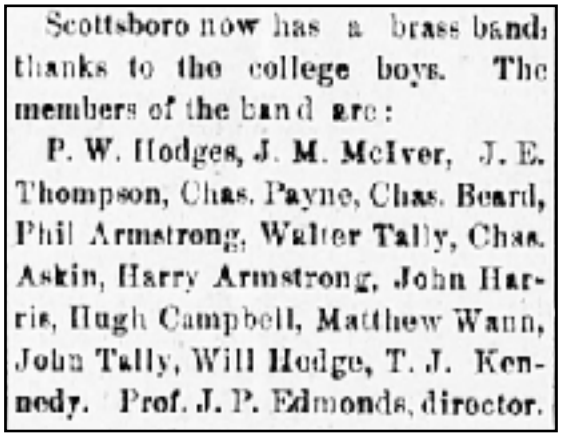
Condon Campbell, John T. Hays, and the Hosiery Mill Band

Locally produced band music has been part of Jackson County history almost from the founding of the county. A search of all Scottsboro newspapers reveals that between 1879 and 1904, there were almost 100 references to brass bands. Every Alabama town either had one or wanted one. The bands played for politicians and presidents. They accompanied candidates on whistle stop tours. They were the centerpieces of barbecues and ice cream parties. In 1879, Scottsboro was suffering from brass band envy. Gadsden had one; so did Troy. The "we need a band" drum beat continued all year and by the end of 1879, Scottsboro had its own crack brass band, the Scottsboro Cornet Band.

This new band was professional enough to furnish the music at the Huntsville Fair in October 1879. "Our boys got the position over several rival bands and they deserve to be congratulated for their success," *The Scottsboro Citizen* stated in the October 3, 1879 paper. The band was still together in 1881 when it played for a Masonic procession to install the officers for the county's lodges. The membership of the original band is not known, but it was still organized in February 1882 when the *Citizen* reported that O. N. Gregg, Charley Kyle, and Valandingham Horton joined the group, which had recently ordered new instruments. In May 1882, E. H. Caldwell joined.

The September 1881 *Citizen* reported that there were 15,000 brass bands in the US that year. But there was a long-standing love-hate relationship between journalists and these young, poorly trained musicians trying to fill a community need. A syndicated columnist for the *New York Commercial Advertiser* wrote in August 1882 that "the leader of a brand-new brass band in Iowa has waltzed off with the instruments and uniforms. The residents of the town will not only refuse to prosecute him, but will extend to him the freedom of the city and make him mayor if he returns." The August 25, 1887 *Montgomery Advertiser* reported Dr. Johnson's quote, "Music is the least disagreeable of all noises." But the cheeky columnist went on to say, "The learned doctor did not know everything. He never lived next door to a cornet amateur, a young brass band, or a piano-banging young lady." Such syndicated humor columns about amateur musicians abound in the 1880s and 90s.

Scottsboro brass bands seem to have existed on and off until September 1887, when the *Citizen* reported, "The brass band seems to have 'blowed' out.' " No more talk about bands until August 1890 when the *Citizen* reported, "The Scottsboro Cornet Band has been organized with the following members: Dr. W. H. Payne, leader; Tom Kennedy, Lat Moody, Warwick Payne, W. T. Brooks, W. J. Porter, Ewing Thompson, Bass Farrior, and Will Hodge. A handsome new set of instruments has been purchased, and Prof. Edmunds, of Sparta, Tenn., a fine instructor, has been employed to teach the class. A few years ago Scottsboro had the crack cornet band of North Alabama, and we expect to see the present band eclipse the old one." They indeed progressed quickly and a mere three months later, the band "gave an open air concert and oyster supper" at Thanksgiving. After some false starts, the December 5, 1895 *Progressive Age* had the good news to report that the brass band was reorganized "thanks to the college boys" and went on to list the boys in the band. For information about those early musicians, see "The Boys in the Early Brass Bands" on page 17.


Scottsboro now has a brass band, thanks to the college boys. The members of the band are:

P. W. Hodges, J. M. McIver, J. E. Thompson, Chas. Payne, Chas. Beard, Phil Armstrong, Walter Tally, Chas. Askin, Harry Armstrong, John Harris, Hugh Campbell, Matthew Wann, John Tally, Will Hodge, T. J. Kennedy. Prof. J. P. Edmonds, director.

Ft. Payne hired J. P. Edmunds to teach their eager players in September 1893. The Ft. Payne band was still together in June

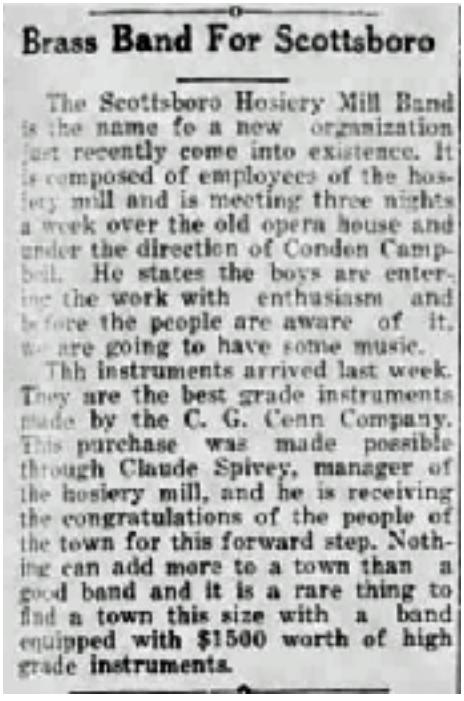
1894 when it played for an ice cream supper. In 1896, Stevenson reported its own brass band where its "handsome young men...discoursed splendid music to a crowd that gathered to hear Governor Oates."

So there was music in Jackson County before the Hosiery Mill Band, but there were no school band programs or even band clubs. Vocal music instruction and glee clubs appeared much earlier—in Scottsboro schools as early as 1893. Ella Hembree can be documented teaching music appreciation in 1928 and beyond. According to the Jackson County High School (JCHS) yearbooks, the school Glee Club was organized in 1935. There were local piano teachers who taught students to read music and play piano. But playing a band instrument appears to have been an individual pursuit.

The JCHS high school band program came later. Though the *Progressive Age* was rash enough to announce that Professor John L. Hay, the director of the Hosiery Mill Band, would be the JCHS band director in the 1931-32 session, there is no evidence that this band program ever got off the ground. According to the 1949 JCHS yearbook, the first band was organized in the summer of 1939, and the first director was a Mr. Miller. J. B. Foley came to Scottsboro in September 1939 and organized a band consisting of 22 members. In 1941, Mr. Foley was called into the Army. There were several directors who made an attempt to continue the band in his absence, but it was finally discontinued. In June 1946, Mr. Foley returned and reorganized the JCHS band.

So when Claude Spivey and Condon Campbell put their heads together and decided to organize a Hosiery Mill Band in 1926, there was no pool of local high school musicians to draw from. Director Campbell did not just direct the band; he taught many of the musicians to play their instruments. "There was a tradition of a drum and bugle corps in Scottsboro," Director Campbell's daughter Lucy said, "I am sure that Daddy taught the ones who could not play."

The first mention of the Hosiery Mill Band is in the October 21, 1926 *Progressive Age,* three years after the founding of the hosiery mill itself. The band is composed of "employees of the hosiery mill and meeting three nights a week in the old opera house and is under the direction of Condon Campbell. He states the boys are entering the work with enthusiasm and before the people are aware of it, we are going to have some music." This first article goes on to explain that Spivey paid $1500 to order "the best grade instruments made by C. G. Conn Company." Jim Benson in the *Progressive Age* was enthusiastic about the prospects for the band. "Nothing can add more to a town than a good band," he said, and Claude Spivey "is receiving congratulations of the people of this town for this forward step."



Brass Band For Scottsboro

The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band is the name to a new organization just recently come into existence. It is composed of employees of the hosiery mill and is meeting three nights a week over the old opera house and under the direction of Condon Campbell. He states the boys are entering the work with enthusiasm and before the people are aware of it, we are going to have some music.

Thh instruments arrived last week. They are the best grade instruments made by the C. G. Conn Company. This purchase was made possible through Claude Spivey, manager of the hosiery mill, and he is receiving the congratulations of the people of the town for this forward step. Nothing can add more to a town than a good band and it is a rare thing to find a town this size with a band equipped with $1500 worth of high grade instruments.

The band did not make beautiful music immediately. "If you hear a lot of weird wailing and think maybe the wild annimules is out," Benson quipped in the *Progressive Age* on October 28, "just remember that all bands in infancy must make some noises and it won't be but just a few weeks until you near some real home-made tunes. Making a band is hard, hard work, so give all the encouragement you can to the boys in these hours of trial and do not shoot any of them as they pursue the chromatic scales on our boulevards."

The band performed under Campbell's direction for the Hosiery Mill Christmas banquet on December 29, 1927 in the large Rug Factory room. "The band received their new uniforms that afternoon and made

their first appearance in them. They are very beautiful and add much to the appearance of the band. Several splendid selections were given by the band."

Campbell organized and directed the band for its first two years. After that, Professor John L. Hay came from Huntsville to direct the band.

Condon Campbell

Martin Condon Campbell was born in Scottsboro May 31, 1899, the son of Parker Campbell and Della Ward. Parker Campbell, a salesman for Martin Condon Snuff and Coffee of New Jersey, named his son for its founder. Condon was the brother of *Jackson County Sentine*l editor Parker Campbell and the father of two singing children, Lucy Campbell Henry and Jimmy Campbell. He grew up on Kyle Street next to the Presbyterian church.

Condon learned music from his older sister Lucy, who had studied piano and played for silent movies at the Snodgrass Theater. Lucy Campbell Wright was married to Tom Wright and pregnant, walking home "along the lane" (Martin Street) when she tripped and fell and died in childbirth in 1916.

In 1915 young Condon Campbell played with the drum and bugle corps shown below on the steps of the courthouse. That band included three of Parker Campbell Sr.'s sons: Parker, Paul, and Condon. Condon is sitting next to the bass drum on the steps in the front row, upset because his brothers had chastised him for arriving late for the photo. Parker Campbell is the horn player in the back on the left, and Paul Campbell is standing to his left in front of the column.

Photo from Lucy Campbell Henry

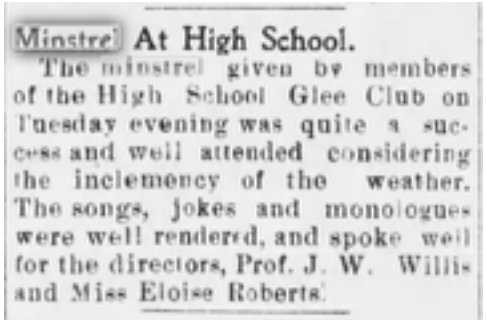
In 1916, when Condon was 16, he left town with a traveling minstrel show, Brown Roger's Minstrels, and toured with them for two years until the start of World War I. Such minstrel bands appeared regularly at the Snodgrass Theater and in tent shows in Scottsboro. Condon is the fourth from the right on the back row of the photo that follows, holding his cornet.

Photo from Lucy Campbell Henry

Photo from Lucy Campbell Henry

Politicians who have appeared in "blackface" has gotten so much negative publicity lately that it is difficult to understand this form of musical theater so far outside of its historical context. Minstrel shows were a distinctly American form of entertainment developed in the early 19th century. Each show consisted of comic skits, variety acts, dancing, and music performances that depicted people specifically of African descent. The shows were performed by white people in make-up or blackface for the purpose of playing the role of black people There were also some African-American performers and all-black minstrel groups. These groups morphed into vaudeville.

Minstrel groups appeared regularly in Jackson County, both professional groups that appeared in such places as the Snodgrass Theater and the county fair, and amateur made up of high school students sometimes performed. The 1916 and 1917 JCHS Glee Clubs both put on minstrel shows, as did groups of students at ivy league universities. This performance was written up in the April 3, 1916 *Progressive Age*. The Jubilee Minstrels performed at the county fair that same year.



Minstrel At High School.

The minstrel given by members of the High School Glee Club on Tuesday evening was quite a success and well attended considering the inclemency of the weather. The songs, jokes and monologues were well rendered, and spoke well for the directors, Prof. J. W. Willis and Miss Eloise Roberts.

Young Campbell was lucky to have been part of such a group of such skilled performers who helped him develop his music skills.

Campbell was 19 years old and working as a soda clerk in Nashville when he registered for the World War 1 draft in September 1918, a young man of medium build and medium height with blue eyes and brown hair. By 1920, he was living in Scottsboro on Kyle Street with his mother, younger brother, and Campbell grandmother. He was still on Kyle Street with his mother in 1930, working as a traveling salesman. He

married Bessie Bell in 1935, and they had four children: Lucy Campbell Henry who lives in Charlotte; Jimmy Campbell who lives in Scottsboro; Don Campbell who lives in Nashville; and William Campbell who died in 1999.

Campbell clearly missed playing his cornet after he returned home. Daughter Lucy recalls that people in town remember hearing him sit on the front porch and play "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Often, when traveling shows were at the local theaters, performers stopped by the Campbell home on Kyle Street to visit. One of those performers was Tex Ritter. Years later, when Campbell's son Jimmy was performing in St. Louis, he met Tex Ritter again, who remembered him as the shy boy who hid behind the door when Tex visited with his father.

The 1926 Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band was assembled in part from musicians remaining from this previous town band, and there are contradicting accounts of whether all the men in the band were employees of Claude Spivey's hosiery mill. Since most of the operators were women and the band members were all men, it is hard to believe all 22 men were hosiery mill employees.

The hosiery mill band was a community band sponsored by the Claude Spivey, the mill owner. The director's uniform that daughter Lucy still owns has the words "Hosiery Mill Band" on it. The early band played concerts in the "band box" in front of the Courthouse. Here are two period pictures of that band box.

1930s photo by Thomas Shipp

From the 1939 Bob Word Movie

After his tenure with the Hosiery Mill Band ended, Campbell started a drum and bugle corps that evolved into the first Jackson County High School band. Band was part of the curriculum for the first time in 1940, initially under the leadership of J. B. Foley. Mr. Foley remained as director until 1951 when the band had a series of different directors: Eugene Blake in 1951 and 1952; George Baker 1953-57; Orris Lee 1958-61; and Jack Cox 1963-1969, to round out the early years.

In 1942, Condon Campbell was working in the refrigeration area of Redstone Arsenal when the plant suffered an explosion that killed one person immediately and trapped three inside the plant. One of them was Condon Campbell. The plant contained chemical weapons, among them mustard gas, the terrible killer of World War 1 soldiers. Condon survived by lying face down over a grate and breathing through the grate until the room was cleared and he could be rescued. However, he never recovered his health. Dr. Edward Trammell treated him for emphysema and a heart condition. He died in 1968. His wife Bessie lived to be 94 and is buried alongside her husband—indeed with all the Campbell family for generations—in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Scottsboro.

The Joseph J. Bradley Jr. Million Dollar Band

It is not known why Claude Spivey found a new director for the Hosiery Mill Band. It is likely that Spivey got the idea for the Scottsboro band from John L. Hay, who also directed a textile mill band in Huntsville. Starting a band and a basketball team seemed to fit with Spivey's model of the role a company could play in the life of a community. And while he used a local director to get his band off the ground, he hired a proven director, Professor John L. Hay, to move them forward.

Hay had been a city clerk and was managing an ice cream factory when he founded the Huntsville band. He had been only peripherally involved with the arts, bringing musical theater directors and productions to Huntsville before he was tapped to lead the Million Dollar Band.

From www.huntsvillehistorycollection.org

The Joseph J. Bradley, Jr. Band was organized in 1925 and made up of workers from the Merrimack textile mill. Hay was its director. The usual name of this band was the Joe Bradley Band but they were known in the area as "The Million Dollar Band," so named by J. Emory Pierce, the editor of T*he Huntsville Daily Times.* The Huntsville band "was the idea of a group of musicians in the [Merrimack] Village and organized in the summer of 1925. Upon hearing about the band, the Merrimack Manufacturing Co. took an active interest and purchased the instruments which were expensive and hard to come by in those days. As such, the band was officially named after Joseph J. Bradley, Jr.," who by that time had succeeded his father as the mill agent.

The reason for the relationship between Bradley and Hay is apparent. Joe Bradley' Jr.'s father was the manager of the Merrimack Mill in Huntsville. Joe Bradley Jr. married John L. Hay's daughter Bessie in 1917. The Bradleys were even better connected than the Hays (though both families were reported in the social columns) and Bessie continued to be known as "Bessie Hay Bradley" until her death, though the couple divorced in 1940. She was an election officer in many 1940s elections; her historic pictures appeared frequently in *The Huntsville Times.*

Merrimack Village included not just the mill but houses for mill workers, a hospital, schools, and a company store. Like Pepperell in Opelika and Avondale in Anniston, Merrimack Village is on the Registry of Historic Places, a remnant of an age of industrial paternalism. Avondale built some mill houses in Stevenson. Spivey sponsored the band and a basketball team. It is possible that Spivey envisioned the kind of mill village that was developed at Merrimack for his fledgling Scottsboro textile mill.

The Joe Bradley Band was a working entity a year before the Hosiery Mill Band came into existence, and three years before Hay became its director. The Bradley Band's first concert was in the auditorium of the

Joe Bradley School in the fall of 1925. On June 13, 1927, the *Huntsville Times* reported that the band performed "an excellent sacred concert at the Chautauqua tent" and that "Prof. John L. Hay, leader of the band, received scores of compliments as regarding the excellent program rendered."

The band performed frequently over the next few years. They played a number of years at the Madison County Fair and the Lincoln County Fair and were called to play at several local dedication ceremonies – including the dedication ceremonies for the Decatur Bridge, Whitesburg Bridge, and "the Scottsboro Bridge" (which I assume was the B. B. Comer). The band didn't just play locally. They travelled with many organizations to engagements in Montgomery, Mobile, and Dothan and played over radio station WSM in Nashville. The group disbanded after nine years in 1934.

Jackson County embraced Professor Hay enthusiastically when he came to direct the Hosiery Mill Band in 1926. In fact, Jackson County High School planned on having Professor Hay direct a school band for their 1931-1932 session. The last sentence of a September 3, 1931 *Progressive Age* article about start of school states simply, "Prof. John L. Hay will direct the school band." There is no record in the previous yearbook of there being a school band and no evidence that he succeeded in setting up a band program. Since no band program is evident in the yearbooks, this was wishful thinking on Benson's part. It is also difficult to believe that Hay could have juggled the demands of his two existing bands with public school teaching.

Professor John L. Hay

John L. Hay 1928. Photo by Gist.

John L. Hay was the son of Jack Hay, a machinist from Scotland, and his wife Marticia Mann Aday, whom he met and married in Alabama. As early as 1870, the family was living in a working class neighborhood in Huntsville with three small children: John age 5, Robert age 3, and Thomas 9 months. The family had at least two more children: Annie, born in 1872 and Katie born in 1878. The Hay family moved to Macomb City, LA and it was an ill-fated move. Jack died of Yellow Fever in November 1878, and his wife died a few months later of the same disease. "They left five helpless children," the Huntsville Independent reported on November 21, 1878, "who will be brought here and cared for by Miss Kitty Mann," who was their half aunt. In the 1880 census, they are living with their aunt who is working as a dressmaker. The aunt died in 1887.

Hay Home on Green Street from Huntsville Public Library

By this time, John, the oldest, was 22 years old. On June 27, 1889 he married Annie Monroe Struve in Huntsville. In 1900, he and Annie have two children, Bessie age 8 and Carrol age 3 and John is working as a printer. They had lost two additional children. John's three siblings—Robert age 30, Annie age 26, and Katie age 22—are living with them. The address of the house where the family lived their entire lives is 221 Green Street near the Twickenham section of Huntsville. The Huntsville Public Library had this photo of the Hay house in their collection.

By 1910, the Hay household has grown to 17 people: the four Hays; John's father-in-law and their extended family, along with two servants. John is working as a city clerk. The family is at the same address in 1920, but only the nuclear family remains and John is a 53-year-old postal agent. By 1930, his children are no longer at

home. He and Annie are living still in their Green Street home, and John lists his occupation as "band director, cotton mill." In the 1940 census John is 75 years old and Annie is 74, living in the same house and two of the couple's widowed sisters are living with them.

When the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band was just getting off the ground, Hay's Huntsville band often performed with them. A list of performances that can be documented is found below, along with some of the programs.

Performances by the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band

Here are the performances given by the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band by that can be documented in the local newspapers, the *Progressive Age* (PA) and the *Jackson County Sentinel* (JCC).


March—The Joy Riders ..... King
Overture—The Gypsy Festival ..... Hayes
Serenade—Evening Shadows ..... King
The Stein Song ..... Preston
Overture—Royal Emblem ..... King
Intermezzo—Wyoming Days ..... King
Popular—Should I ..... Brown
Medley—Best Loved Southern Melodies ..... Hayes
March—Apollo ..... King

PA, 12/29/27: Performance, the first in their new uniforms, at the hosiery mill Christmas banquet, the only documented performance of the band under Campbell.

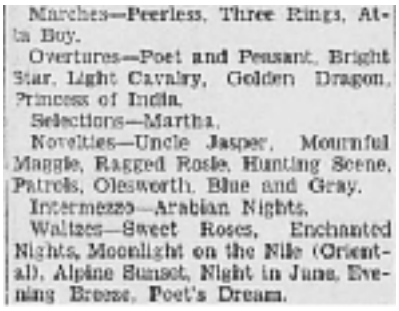
PA, 3/21/29: Benefit concert for flood sufferers at the city school auditorium with the Joe Bradley Band of Huntsville. Baritone soloist Ed Baxter accompanied the band. Here is the program.

PA 3/24/29: Concert and banquet was held at the high school auditorium to recognize the "the band boys and their kin and friends." The banquet was served by the Business and Professional Women. "The evening opened with several selections by the band," followed by the banquet. "Short talks were made by Messrs. Hay, J. S. Benson, W. T. Holdridge, C. E. Spivey, and H. L. Clayton." Professor Hay was considered the host of the event.

JCC 6/12/29: Merrimack Manufacturing Co.'s Million Dollar Band of Huntsville (28 players) augmented by the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band on the courthouse lawn.

PA 4/3/30: County Field Day at Hunt Field where the playing of "The Church in the Wildwood...brought forth so much applause that an encore was necessary."

JCC 7/3/1930 Concert in Larkinsville at June 21 ice cream supper. "The band boys donated their time and services and we greatly enjoyed their splendid music and their kindness in making this occasion possible."


Marches—Peerless, Three Rings, Atta Boy.
Overtures—Poet and Peasant, Bright Star, Light Cavalry, Golden Dragon, Princess of India.
Selections—Martha.
Novelties—Uncle Jasper, Mournful Maggie, Ragged Rosie, Hunting Scene, Patrols, Olesworth, Blue and Gray.
Intermezzo—Arabian Nights.
Waltzes—Sweet Roses, Enchanted Nights, Moonlight on the Nile (Oriental), Alpine Sunset, Night in June, Evening Breeze, Poet's Dream.

PA 9/18/1930 Played for tent revival by Evangelist Hazelwood. The band accepted an invitation to share the big tent, which was "filled to overflowing, and hundreds of cars parked in hearing distance." Here is the program.

PA 12/18/30: Charity concert at the city school auditorium doing a program of Christmas music with violin numbers by Miss Charlotte Tally. Proceeds of 10 cents a ticket go to the community chest.

PA 6/4/31 Dedication of the Scottsboro Garden Club's playground, located on Mrs. M. A. Brewster's lot, across the street from the Spivey home.

8/27/31: Free concert at various Sand Mountain locations. Pisgah at 1:30; Dutton at 3:30 and Section at 4:14.

JCC 7/28/32: Members played for the Kennamer Family Reunion, along with the Dawson Brothers String Band.

One of Hay's biggest fans was *Progressive Age* editor Jim Benson. In the *Progressive Age*, April 28, 1932, Jim Benson advocated for the creation of a high school band in Scottsboro. "Scottsboro people were given a great treat last Friday night when Prof. John L. Hay and his high school band came up from Huntsville and gave us a program....The remarkable record made by this band is certainly one that any community should be proud of. It reflects credit upon the children and their director. Mr. Hay is well known here and greatly admired by a host of people and always receives a hearty welcome. Any school that has him for a director of music is to be congratulated and right here, let us say, we are lined up in favor of a school band for Scottsboro schools. No one thing will add more to the school spirit and the morale of the school than a band. Let's get busy for one next year."

The Depression hit the Spivey and Jacobs enterprises hard. As Gist explained, "Over expansion and the Depression resulted in the mill going bankrupt in December, 1932. The mills were closed only four months. In April 1933 Spivey announced the sale of the hosiery mills to the Tennessee Valley Manufacturing Company and soon afterwards about 200 employees were back at work." But the Hosiery Mill Band died, and with it Spivey's visions of a paternal mill environment that provided enrichment and entertainment for the town.

But the band was a beacon of light in the dark years around the Depression. It brought merriment to the gatherings where it performed, and its participants remembered it fondly.

Annette Norris Bradford

The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band

The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band was established in 1926 by Claude E. Spivey. For its first two years, it was under the direction of Condon Campbell. In 1928, John L. Hays became the director. This photo was on the front of the newspaper on August 29, 1929. It was taken in front of the Spivey House, now known as Fernwood, on Scott Street. When this photo was taken, the instrumentation of this 23-piece band was as follows: 6 Clarinets, 1 each Soprano, Alto, and Tenor Saxophones, 5 Cornets, 2 Altos, 3 Trombones, 2 Baritones, and 2 Bass (Tuba). These were the members identified in the newspaper.

Front Row: J. C. Jacobs Jr., James Daniels, John A. Watt, Alvin Kennamer, Bill James, William Jones, Exum Sumner, Elton Kennamer, Harvey Henshaw, Kenneth Butler
Middle Row: Claude E. Spivey, Edward Kennamer, Lester Dill, David Hunt, Quintard Beech, Russell Caves, Roy Carpenter, William McCutchen, Houston Godfrey, James B. McCutchen, Band Leader John L. Hay.
Back Row: Hubert Swaim, Harvey Osborne, Wiley Butler, David Ambrester, William White, Ernest Brandon, John McCutchen, Carl Brannum

Here is the membership list by instrument.

Soprano Sax: J. C. Jacobs, Jr.
Alto Sax: James Daniels
Tenor Sax: John A. Watt
Clarinets: Edward Kennamer, Lester Dill, David Hunt, Quintard Beech, Russell Caves, Clifford Woodall (not in picture)
Cornets: Roy Carpenter, William McCutchen, Houston Godfrey, James B. McCutchen, Ernest Brandon, James B. McCutchen
Altos: Elton Kennamer, Harvey Henshaw
Baritones: Harvey Osborne, John T. Reid (not in picture)
Trombone: Wiley Butler, David Ambrester, William White
Bass: Hubert Swaim, Carl Brannum

Notes
Information about the Merrimack Million Dollar Band and the photo are from the Merrimack Mill Village Newsletter – April, 2010 Did You Know? articles provided by Jim Marek.

The Boys in the Early Brass Bands

When your child was small and playing with a group of children, did you ever look at one and imagine him saying "I'd like to thank the Nobel Committee...." and another and imagine yourself being interviewed by CNN and asked, "when did your first realize Little Bobby was a psychopath?" I did. The problem is, you die before you can see how all these story lines play out. But not in this story. I tracked the lives of the boys in the two brass band stories and learned some fascinating things.


Dr. W.H. Payne


Warwick Payne

Who were these young men who made up the first two brass bands? Leader of the 1890 band was none other than 44-year-old **Dr. W. H. Payne** (1846-1899) , the famed physician and druggist whose name is still spoken with reverence in his business place on Laurel Street, and his sons: 15-year-old son **Warwick Payne** (1875-1905) from the first band who died of a heart condition in Atlanta, a congenital affliction that has shortened the lives of many Payne men, shortly after his marriage; and **Charles Payne** (1880-1954) from the second band who was a businessman in Atlanta married to Lucy Tomlinson. Who knew that Dr. Payne was also a musician?


John Phillips Edmonds, Scottsboro Depot Museum.

The leader of the second band is the real surprise. Maybe two years ago, a man walked into the Scottsboro Depot and brought us a bugle and his photo of **John Phillips Edmonds** (1851-1930). According to the visitor, young Edmonds, who was 10-year-old was a bugler for the Confederacy. But he was captured by the Union army and was a bugler for the Union until the end of the war. At the end of the war, he settled in Scottsboro and became a marble cutter and engraver for the Scottsboro Marble Company. When Dr. Payne was director in 1890, Edmonds taught a class to get the new musicians started. He was director of the band in 1895. Our visitor said that Edmonds had directed the Hosiery Mill Band. That is possible since the band was organized in 1926, but his time as director is not documented.

T. J. Kennedy and Will Hodge seem to have played in both bands. **Thomas Jefferson Kennedy** (1867-1951) was the 23-year-old son of John Kennedy and Elizabeth Hodge. In 1900 he was the pressman for a newspaper (probably the *Citizen*). **Will Hodge** (1875-1971) is his cousin; he and his mother live with Thomas and his mother in 1880 while both boys are away at school. In 1900 Tom is married to Josie Wright and they have several children; his mother, his aunt, and Will still lives with them. Will is a lumber inspector for Card Lumber Company. Will died in 1971 and is buried in Rayville, LA; his mother is buried in Cedar Hill. Tom died in 1951 too, and is buried in Chattanooga.


Matt Wann from The History of Jackson County

Matt Wann (1876-1932) is our own Atticus Finch. He was sheriff of Jackson County when the Scottsboro Boys were pulled from the train in Paint Rock in 1931. He held back a crowd intent on lynching the nine young, innocent men in his jail, and was murdered a year later by those who did not admire his actions, lured away from his office in Scottsboro and ambushed. He is buried in Cedar Hill; Nat Cisco portrayed Matt Wann in the 2018 Cedar Hill cemetery stroll.

Two of the boys in the second band were sons of Mary Lee Henderson and

James Armstrong, the editor of the *Scottsboro Citizen.* Both boys were raised with the ink of the *Citizen* flowing through their veins and both pursued printing after they left Scottsboro. At age 20, **Harry Armstrong** (1885-1953) went to Washington to work in the Government Printing Office while studying law at Georgetown and became an attorney for the IRS. His obituary noted that "In his younger days Harry was also a gifted musician and composer of songs. He and his brother, Phil Armstrong, wrote several popular songs. He kept his love for the piano through his life and played often." **Phil Armstrong** (1881-1934) was a writer and poet. Like his brother, he worked for a time in the Government Printing Office in Washington before going to the *Montgomery Advertiser* and writing a column called "Driftwood." He moved to Jacksonville, Florida and had a column called "Florida Sunshine" that he wrote for the *Jacksonville Times Union.* He died young. His obituary recalled that he stood on a cracker box and set type at the *Citizen* by hand as a child, singing and whistling while he worked.

Hugh Campbell (1877-1947) was the son of John Earth Campbell and Eliza Jane Proctor of Fackler. He was a dry goods merchant in Scottsboro and the father of five children. He and his wife are buried in Cedar Hill. **Charles Brown Beard** (1875-1957) was from the Center Point community, the son of Green Beard and Nancy Beason. He lived his life in Scottsboro and was a farmer, a grocery store operator, and manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. The photo on his findagrave site was found behind a mantle when someone renovated his house.

A sad number of these boys met with early death. **John Harris** (1877-1914), the son of John Richard Harris and Maria Walker Hinkle, met an untimely end. He and a friend were driving an automobile on the Old Larkinsville Road when they met Furman Harper and three friends in a buggy. The mule spooked and caused the buggy to overturn. Harris stopped to provide assistance, but Harper pulled out a gun and shot Harris in the neck, severing his windpipe and causing his death. A large Harris marker in Cedar Hill marks the graves of John and his parents.

Young **Charley Askin** (1880-1902) was the son of Annie Johnson and Charles Askin. He had served with distinction during the Spanish-American war, a commander picked from a Georgia regiment to actually serve in Cuba; most men who enlisted never made further than the swamps of south Florida. He was closely tied to other men in the group. His father died when he was very young, and step-father was John Rufus Freeman, a stonecutter at Scottsboro Marble Company (for whom band leader Edmonds worked), a company owned by J. R.'s brother C. S. Freeman. Charley was a newspaper man as well, a composer in the offices of both the *Progressive Age* and the *Citizen*. He seems to have died from a perforated gastric ulcer.

Professor **J. M. McIver** (1862-1898) died only three years after the band was organized. He had been a teacher at the Scottsboro College and Normal School when the band was organized but had moved on to teach at the South Alabama Baptist Institute in Thomasville, Clark County, AL when he died of pneumonia in 1898.

Charley Kyle (1866-1918) was the son of sheriff and probate judge Nelson Kyle and his wife Mary Jane Robinson, the man for whom Kyle Street is named. He was living in Birmingham in 1918 when his brother Walter went to Birmingham to collect his body, where he had died of tuberculosis. He was buried in Cedar Hill in August 1918, but his body was reinterred in Helena, Arkansas the next year, where he had lived previously and had a child buried.

Europe Hamlin Caldwell Jr., Heritage Center

Europe Hamlin Caldwell was a 42-year-old merchant in Bellefonte, the grandson of Alexander Caldwell, Scottsboro's first mayor, and the first cousin of King Caldwell for whom Caldwell School and Caldwell Park are named. He lived in a big house on Willow Street and married Cordelia Allison. They are buried in Cedar Hill.

The Tally brothers came from a family with deep Jackson County roots. Jacob Tally and Mary Mourning Roberts, the boys' great grandparents, built the Tally plantation house in Bass that was recently struck by lightning. **John Benton Tally III** (1881-1929), the younger of the two boys in the back of this photograph taken about 1895, broke with family tradition and became a pharmacist instead of a lawyer. His pharmacy on the square in the early 1900s was in what is today the Hackworth Building, the location associated with the Presley and Hodges drug stores. He was postmaster in Scottsboro for eight years. He was a pharmacist in Pensacola when he died unexpectedly in 1929. He was the father of Judge Tally, whom many of us remember, and the grandfather of Bill and John Tally. This music tradition was carried on by his son who served for decades as choirmaster of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and by his grandson Attorney Bill Tally who is a clarinetist in the community band. The older brother **Walter Hunt Tally** (1878-1939), the older of the two boys in the back, was for many years a traveling salesman before settling down as assistant postmaster in Scottsboro, a job he held for 20 years. He married Laura Edith Walton and was the father of four children.

J. B. III and Sidney Skelton Tally Family

It is likely that the person cited in the paper as "Lat Moody" was actually "Lit Moody." **William L. "Lit" Moody** (1861-1939) was the brother of Judge Albert H. Moody who lived in the Moody Brick, and on a farm at the SE corner of the square often seen in old pictures. He was a leading merchant in Scottsboro, and owned the land where the second Methodist church (corner of Laurel and Scott) and Word Chevrolet are located today. Lit's wife Hattie Alley Moody died in 1907, and Lit moved to Columbus, NM for his son Clifford's health. Clifford died in 1916 and is buried with his mother in Cedar Hill. Lit married Emma Louis Shelly, who lived in Scottsboro after his death. They are buried in Cedar Hill.

Probably the best known of these young musicians outside Jackson County was **Patrick Wayland Hodges (1872-1934)**, who made his mark in Alabama education. Born in Woodville in 1872, he was the son of George and Louisa Jones Hodges. He completed college at Winchester Normal College, and did graduate work at the University of Chicago. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1901 as a representative from Jackson County on the committee on education. In 1906, he was elected president of the Alabama Education Association. He had been a member of the professional staff of the state department of education for 15 years at the time of his death. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery with his wife and son, who died in the crash of an army plane in 1941. Virgil Bouldin, Jackson County's only Alabama Supreme Court Justice, wrote an appreciation of Hodges when he died.

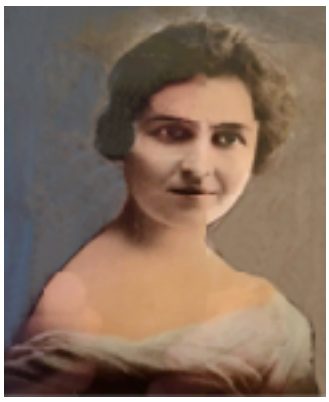
The remaining band members cannot be identified with any degree of certainty. Who was Bass Farrior? Only one Farrier family passed through Jackson County. In January 1881, the *Citizen* reported that Capt. H. J. Chaney had sold his farm and residence on Sand Mountain to Mr. Farrier from Marion County, TN, and his son H. B. (perhaps Bass Farrior) moved to Trenton, GA and died in 1910. The January 1895 Citizen reported that a Bass Farrior sold his home and moved to Texas in 1895. No idea if either of these men played an instrument

W. J. Porter might be the Will Porter (1875-1939) who married Savannah Lewis and lived his entire life in Fackler, the farmer son of a farmer. His age is right but there is no Scottsboro town connection as the other boys share, and I cannot confirm J. is his middle initial. Not even a hint about O. N. Gregg, W. T. Brooks, or Valandingham Horton. Ewing Thompson in the first band and J. E. Thompson in the second cannot be identified.

If anyone can identify these remaining band members, write me at jcha@scottsboro.org.

Claude Spivey and Veda Pearl Jacobs

In a 1981 newspaper article, Cecil Word called him "one of the most dynamic men ever to come to Scottsboro," and he praised him for bringing gainful employment to citizens of the county through the Great Depression. The town had to invent an honor worthy of him, The Loving Cup, to honor the man of the year in 1932. He was an innovator in farming, teaching Paint Rock farmers to raise strawberries and peaches on the farms his father bought in 1913. He was an innovator in manufacturing, establishing the county's first successful textile mill. And in a dark time when the county needed joy, he organized and bankrolled the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band, a group of 22 musicians who worked in the mill and practiced evenings in the bandstand in front of the courthouse. He also financed the Hosiery Mill basketball team that played local high schools and in 1930, held the championship title, defeating the younger high school teams. But in the end, he found himself in desperate financial straits—and he broke the law and betrayed a friend, and paid dearly for his desperate actions. Who was this man and what is his legacy?



Claude Evans Spivey was born October 17, 1894 in Dayton, TN, the oldest of four children of George W. Spivey and Carrie E. Story. He died in January 1978.

He was already a farmer in Jackson County when he registered for the draft in World War I in June 1917, where he was described as a tall man of medium build with brown eyes and black hair who suffered from rheumatism.

On December 14, 1917, he married Veda Pearl Jacobs, the daughter of John Clinton Jacobs and Nancy Elizabeth Coffey. Veda was born September 21, 1896, the fourth of eight children and the daughter of the bank president. The couple married on a snowy day in the old Jacobs house on Willow Street on a Tuesday afternoon at 5:30. The house sat where the Scottsboro Utilities office is today, across from the Gay House (Chamber of Commerce).

John Clinton Jacobs House, Willow Street. City Hall.

The wedding was described in elaborate detail in the social column of the *Progressive Age*. "The bride was a picture of rare loveliness in White Duchess satin, carrying a shower bouquet of white roses and valley lilies." The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Mitchell L. Harris (her sister Docia's husband, who, ironically, would buy the Spivey home on Scott Street after Veda's death). Fletcher Jacobs (who would later marry Claude's friend from Dayton, TN —Dayton Benham) was her sister's maiden of honor and little Elizabeth Jacobs, the niece of the bride, [sister of John Clinton Jacobs II] carried the ring on a white cushion. It was a lovely affair uniting the handsome, successful young farmer from Larkinsville with the daughter of the man who established Jacobs Bank, John Clinton Jacobs, along with his brothers Henry Grady and Rice Abner. After a long honeymoon in Florida, the couple made their home in Scottsboro. Where is not clear since they are not found in the 1920 census, probably on the Spivey farm property in Larkinsville.

The Spiveys had three children:

- Carolyn, born Jan 18, 1919 and died October 22, 2009. She married William Bethel Wilson.
- An Unnamed Infant Daughter, born June 8, 1923 and died June 14, 1923
- Lunita Jacobs Spivey, born January 1, 1925 and died November 15, 1999. She married Edward P. Ellison in Los Angeles, California on November 19, 1945.


Carolyn and Lunita about 1933

This attractive and influential couple had a huge impact on Jackson County—on both farming practices and industry. Veda was a charter member of the Tidence Lane DAR chapter and served as its vice regent. They built the stately house on Scott Street that is today known as Fernwood, famous in the past for its olympic-size pool that was enjoyed by many Scottsboro families on the hot summer afternoons and its expansive yard with stables in the back.

But things fell apart. The Depression forced Claude to sell his signature accomplishment, Scottsboro Hosiery Mill. With more bills to pay than money to pay them with, he hatched a scheme to collect "blank check" cotton certificates from farmers using his gin, and to use these to represent his cotton warehouse as containing much more cotton than it actually contained. He burned his own warehouse and tried to collect insurance on cotton valued at $150,000. And when he was caught, he ignobly tried to pin the deed on his ginner, George McCutchen.

Twenty-three years after their fairy-tale wedding, Veda committed suicide on March 4, 1940. Her husband served 5 years of a 30-year sentence in the Chattanooga Federal Penitentiary. Their lovely home was sold to a Jacobs sister. Their parentless minor daughter, Lunita, was raised by another of Veda's sister in Peru. Lunita's daughter Dianne recently reappeared at the door of Fernwood in Scottsboro, anxious to put the story of her family together. Most of the photos in this piece belong to her, and this is the family story.

The Spivey Family of Dayton, TN

Claude Spivey's family was from Dayton in Rhea County, TN, but they were closely tied to Jackson County. Claude's father George had a farm in Jackson County, which he bought in 1913, and his sister Nancy Lee Spivey Stanfield, lived in Langston. The *Progressive Age* reported on September 25, 1913, "J. W. Ashmore sold through Wm. Bates, the Kieth and Blakemore plantations to G. W. Spivey of Dayton, Tenn., for $85,000 cash the first of the week." This expanse of farming land came to be known as Cedar Brook Farm.

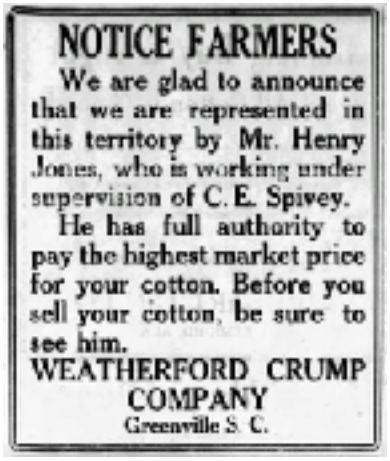
George and his wife Carrie Story remained in Dayton, but the ownership of this big farm kept the Spivey boys in and out of Scottsboro. Sons Claude and Warren married Jackson County girls, Veda Jacobs and Edith Boyd, the daughter of Dr. Edward Boyd and Rosa East of Larkinsville. Son Clyde married Kathryn Darwin of TN but the family lived in Jackson County. Clyde owned, with brothers Ernest and Jesse Morris, the New Ice Company. This business on the Caldwell Mill lot burned in 1925, and he relocated in the old Carter Ice House in the back of Scottsboro Hardware, an interest he sold in October 1925. Clyde died in Hodges Hospital of a ruptured appendix in 1934. Their sister Sallie Spivey Robinson and brother Holliday Spivey remained in Dayton.

Both Veda Jacobs Spivey and Edith Boyd Spivey were from socially prominent families, and their movements were tracked closely by the local newspapers. Veda and her sister-in-law Edith played and hosted bridge games frequently and traveled out of town to visit family, all of which was recorded in the social column of the newspapers,.

After 1913, the Spivey boys were frequently in Scottsboro. *The Scottsboro Citizen* noted on July 29, 1915, "Geo Spivey and sons of Dayton, Tenn. was here several days this week on his farm." Veda and Claude had

met by July 6, 1916 when the *Progressive Age* reported, "Claud Spivey of Dayton, Tenn., was in the city the past week, as a guest of Rice Jacobs," Veda's uncle. The December 1 *Progressive Age* reported that he had returned to Dayton for Thanksgiving. He was sick and nursed back to heath in Dayton, the April 6, 1917 paper reported. The illness must have been serious since he spent some time the end of the month in Hot Springs convalescing. (April 27, 1917, *Progressive Age*)

The Spivey farm continued to be a site for demonstrating farming innovations. As late as February 1932, the *Progressive Age* reported, a demonstration of "blasting a 100-foot ditch with one blasting cap" was held on the Spivey farm.


NOTICE FARMERS

We are glad to announce that we are represented in this territory by Mr. Henry Jones, who is working under supervision of C. E. Spivey.

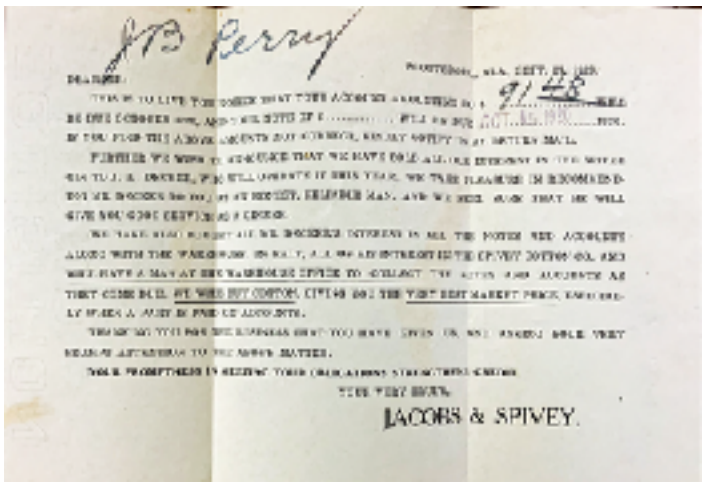
He has full authority to pay the highest market price for your cotton. Before you sell your cotton, be sure to see him.

WEATHERFORD CRUMP COMPANY
Greenville S. C.

1919: Spivey Gin and Spivey Cotton Company

The first business to come out of the Spivey family farm was apparently a feed-and-seed milling business similar to the one that Gene Airheart operated for many years in Scottsboro.

The Citizen reported on February 18, 1919 that "You should place your order with C. E. Spivey for good fertilizer at once, as slow railroad transportation may make it hard to get later." Claude's brother Warren and his friend Dayton Benham of Dayton, TN visited the Spivey home, the March 4, 1919 *Citizen* reported.


JACOBS & SPIVEY.

From Paul Machen.

This October 1920 letter to a cotton farmer owning the gin money shows that the group Spivey and Jacobs had owned a gin and a cotton warehouse and had sold the gin to J. L. Decks and were setting up Spivey Cotton Company, which was a cotton warehouse.

Though purchase of a gin operation near the depot is not called out in local papers, this notation makes it clear that in 1923 Spivey operated a gin near the depot. The March 22, 1923 *Progressive Age* reported that "E. W. Arendale has moved his saw mill to the lot near the freight depot where Spivey's Gin formerly stood."

From information in the newspapers, it seems likely that this feed and seed business was ongoing and evolved into buying and brokering cotton as well. In the September 1927 *Progressive Age,* this notice about a person representing Claude Spivey in cotton negotiations looks as if he is pulling back from the business to address his other concerns. That same year, Spivey won a judgment against Tom Griffin in circuit court which resulted in Cotton Bale No. 773 and the seed associated with the bale be turned over to Spivey. This late photo of Spivey was likely taken in the gin office of the recently dismantled Gladish Gin Warehouse. The Spivey warehouse that would burn in 1938 seems to have been on the other side of the tracks


Claude Spivey in the gin office on Houston Street

since there was a fear that the 100 TVA vehicles would burn and these vehicles were stored in old Hosiery Mill building across the tracks.

1922: Jacobs and Spivey Farms

The second Spivey business was strawberry and later peach farming. On May 30, 1922, the *Progressive Age* reported that Claude was operating a strawberry farm and said, "Mr. Spivey has about 50 or 60 acres in one field that is in strawberries and the plants are doing fine. He has set this entire field in Elberta peaches also. Mr. Spivey is an experienced grower of strawberries, having lived in Tennessee in a strawberry center. He has very generously given the people of this section of the county the advantage of his knowledge of the culture of berries and has materially helped in starting off this week in Jackson County. It is estimated that about 100 acres will be planted in and around Scottsboro and more than this many around Stevenson."

So Claude Spivey's relationship with the Jacobs family and Jackson County began with strawberries and his management of the huge farm that his father purchased in 1913. This farm was located (according to a 1952 article when it changed hands) "three miles west of Scottsboro on the Old Larkinsville Road." A community leader in this effort, and as an experienced fruit grower, Spivey brought in experts and hand-held anxious farmers through their first experience with the new crop.

On December 7, 1922, a strawberry expert from Dayton, TN named E. N. Keith examined the county strawberry crop and predicted that local farmers would "get a good price for their berries the coming spring." Strawberry growers met at the courthouse, the March 8, 1923 *Progressive Age* reported, and appointed Claude Spivey, R. A. Coffey, and R. L. Airheart to arrange for marketing their crop. The strawberry crop was watched with great interest. The May 24, 1923, the *Progressive Age* reported that strawberry growers were not discouraged by persistent rains and families were harvesting their berries. The largest fields were owned by Coffey and Bynum and Jacobs and Spivey. Youngsters were catching rides from Hollywood to work in the Spivey strawberry fields, the May 24 *Progressive Age* reported.

In 1925, the farms branched into growing peaches. The July 23, 1925 *Progressive Age* reported, "Doubtless the first carload of peaches ever shipped from Jackson County was loaded here last Monday. The peaches were grown in the orchards of Jacobs and Spivey and Airhearts. They were of exceptional quality for the year and a good prices was realized for them. The orchards are young and this is the first year bearing." The article went on to applaud the men who accomplished this feat. "These men are not only proving that the soil of Jackson County will raise almost anything and that we have been neglecting for a long time splendid opportunities in the county."

1922: Wholesale Grocery Business

But the milling business and the strawberry farm were not his only business concerns. At the same time, he and the Jacobs family were involved in the wholesale grocery business.

The November 30, 1922 *Progressive Age* announced that Claude Spivey and H. G. Jacobs had begun construction of a new brick building near the freight depot that would house their new business Scottsboro Wholesale Company, providing wholesale access to both groceries and dry goods. This business continued to grow and the January 1, 1925 PA reported that Jacobs and Spivey had bought out their competitor, the Jackson County Grocery Company. But instead of their inventory into the Scottsboro Wholesale building, the opposite occurred. "The stock of the Scottsboro Wholesale Company will be moved into the Jackson County Grocery Building north of the railroad and the buildings vacated will be used for an expansion of the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill. This will give the mill some much needed room for the installation of new machinery.

Scottsboro Wholesale Company in the 1940s.

This new factory gave the mill the capacity to create two new products: boxes and rugs. The November 25, 1926 *Progressive Age* reported that "the Bungalow Rug Factory started operation here last week and a large number of rugs is now available for market. C. E. Spivey announces that he has orders for all he can manufacture," adding that the expansion of the hosiery mill will "furnish work for more people." It also provided for reuse of waste material from the hosiery manufacturing process.

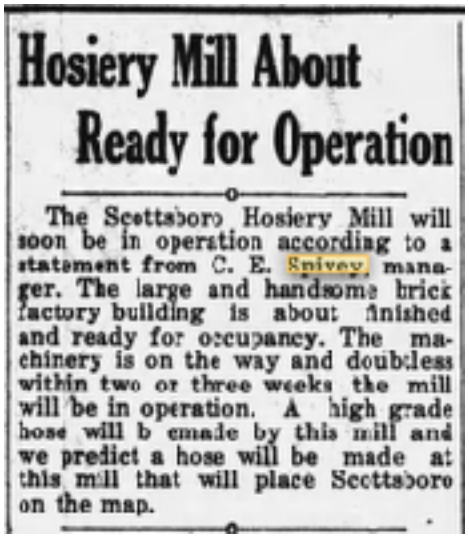
The March 28, 1928 *Progressive Age* covered the recent sale of stock in the Bungalow Rug Company: "The manner in which Scottsboro and Jackson County people took up the stock offered by the Bungalow Rug Factory demonstrates that they have faith in the future of Scottsboro and in the promoters, Messrs. Claude Spivey and Rankin Airheart. After all the stock was sold, calls for more came in. "

1923: Scottsboro Hosiery Mill

But this was not the signature industry that Claude was associated with. The *Progressive Age* was beating the drum "we need textile jobs in Jackson County," and every time any town opened a textile mill, Jim Benson was on top of the story, reminding local entrepreneurs of the advantages of mill jobs.

According to Jerry Gist's *The Story of Scottsboro, Alabama*, the citizens of Scottsboro had tried for the greater part of 20 years to establish a cotton mill in Scottsboro. As early as October 1900, a group of local businessmen headed by Dr. J. P. Rorex and S. S. Broadus met at the Merchant's bank for the purpose of establishing a cotton mill in Scottsboro, to be named the Broadus Mills of Scottsboro. The group purchased 200 acres just outside the corporate limits of Scottsboro, about a mile from the courthouse. The project was estimated to cost $50,000, and but $5000 was raised. The effort died.

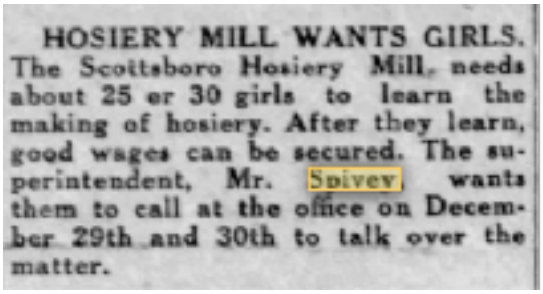
In September 1923, the Scottsboro Hosiery Mills, under the direction of Claude Spivey, began production with 30 employees. J. C., H. G. and R. A. Jacobs acquired stock in Spivey Mills, and the new influx of capital financed an expansion of the floor space of the mill and the establishment of a box and rug factory, which, at peak production, employed 350 employees. Over expansion and the Depression resulted in the mill going bankrupt in December, 1932. The mills were closed only four months. In April 1933 Spivey announced the sale of the hosiery mills to the Tennessee Valley Manufacturing Company and soon afterwards about 200 employees were back at work.


Hosiery Mill About Ready for Operation

The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill will soon be in operation according to a statement from C. E. Spivey, manager. The large and handsome brick factory building is about finished and ready for occupancy. The machinery is on the way and doubtless within two or three weeks the mill will be in operation. A high grade hose will b emade by this mill and we predict a hose will be made at this mill that will place Scottsboro on the map.

In August 1923, Misses Fletcher and Lunita Jacobs were visiting with Warren Spivey family in Dayton.

The August 23, 1923 *Progressive Age* reported that "The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill will soon be in operation according to a statement from C. E. Spivey, manager. The large and handsome brick factory building is about finished and ready for occupancy. The machinery is on the way and doubtless within two or three weeks the mill will begin operation. A high grade hose will be made by this mill and we predict a host will be made at this mill that will place Scottsboro on the map."


HOSIERY MILL WANTS GIRLS.
The Scottsboro Hosiery Mill needs about 25 or 30 girls to learn the making of hosiery. After they learn, good wages can be secured. The superintendent, Mr. Spivey wants them to call at the office on December 29th and 30th to talk over the matter.

It is interesting to note that all the workers in the mill were women. And, I am sure, all the foremen were men. The January 1, 1925 *Progressive Age* carried this ad shown here.

Spivey built his mill in a era of industrial paternalism, particularly in the textile industry. Cotton mills, like the Avondale mill village in Pell City or the Merrimack Mill in Huntsville (whose band often combined with the Scottsboro band for concerts) or the Pepperell Mill Village in Opelika, both of which are on the National Registry of Historic Places. Some mill owners built houses and schools and churches and company stores. Avondale built some mill houses for its Stevenson cotton mill workers.

Spivey and Jacobs did not build houses for their workers, but they brought the some of the same paternalistic attitude to their business. They created sports teams. They had company picnics and parties. And Spivey started the Hosiery Mill Band.

The July 8 1926 *Progressive Age* held a hosiery mill employee annual picnic where "Mr. and Mrs Claude Spivey, Mr. and Mrs Lester Dills, H. G. Jacobs, and Mr. Godford chaperoned the hosiery mill employees on a picnic Friday evening at Garland's Ferry. The early part of the evening was spent boat riding and bathing. Supper was spread and everyone enjoyed it. After supper, Mr. Spivey entertained the crowd with a watermelon feast. The whole crowd reports a most delightful time." Remember the "Hosiery Mill Wants Girls" ad and you see why the employers on site were referred to as "chaperones."

Spivey was a civic leader and a friend to many. Along with John Benson, W. R. Bogart, and W. J. Daniels, he was a director of the county fair in 1926. He was on the board of directors for the Scottsboro Civitan Club (PA, Dec 16, 1926) He attended businessmen events and "a convention of textile operators in New York" (PA Apr 7, 1927) His business-building New York trip was a success, and the April 21 PA reported, "Mr. Bigelow of New York, manager buyer for the Grant Chain Stores and Mr Connor of the Cannon Mills were guests of Claude Spivey" in a effort to place "Scottsboro-made products in all parts of the country." He continued to attend trade shows and drum up business (April 1929 in Philadelphia).

Spivey and Condon Campbell organized the Hosiery Mill Band in 1926 (see this issue for an article about the band). This band performed the first public time for the Hosiery Mill Christmas banquet on December 29, 1927 in the large Rug Factory room. "The band received their new uniforms that afternoon and made their first appearance in them. They are very beautiful and add much to the appearance of the band. Several splendid selections were given by the band and J. S. Benson opened with a talk to the crowd, congratulating them on the fine appearance of the band and the spirit of loyalty and union existing between employer and employees." W. R. Butler presented Spivey with a gold watch "presented by the employees as a token of the esteem in which he was held" and Judge Bogart complimented Spivey "for the part he is playing in the building of Scottsboro."

The November 10,1927 *Progressive Age* reported on the progress of the new rug-making operation. "Went over to the Rug factory last week and found a full force at work. Mr. Spivey stated that these Bungalow rugs were finding a ready market. He is shipping them all over the country and he is preparing to put on a night shift to take care of the demands."

Spivey sold this property to E. C. Snodgrass in a deal reported in the August 4, 1938 *Progressive Age*. "A deal that involved more cash than any of the past few years was closed this week when E. C. Snodgrass purchased from C. E. Spivey all the old Hosiery Mill property near the depot. The property was formerly occupied by the hosiery mill and warehouse and takes in a whole block. The building are now occupied by the Tennessee Valley Authority and houses all its offices. This is very valuable property. But the *Progressive Age* in 1940 carried an ad, "Help Wanted, 25 experienced loopers for work in hosiery mill. Good scale. See me at once! C. E. Spivey."

1928: Offering Stock in the Rug Business

On March 26, 1928 at the offices of the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill, "a large and enthusiastic meeting of the stockholders of the Scottsboro Manufacturing Company was held," with Jim Benson presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to offer stock for sale to raise money for the expansion of the bungalow rug business. "The first work will be the production of bungalow rugs, a by-product of the hosiery mills. Mr. Spivey has been manufacturing these rugs on a small scale and the demand for them exceeds the ability to produce with the present small equipment. The company expects to later manufacture bed spreads, mattresses and various other articles" covered by the charter of the company. The company incorporated with J. C. Jacobs, president; Claude Spivey, vice-president; H. G. Jacobs, treasurer; Rankin Airheart, secretary and manager; and J. W. Payne, J. Arthur Williams, John B. Clopton, and W. R. Bogart on the board of directors.

The stock sale hoped to raise $25,000 but raised $50,000 instead.

Jim Benson wrote in the March 29 1928 *Progressive Age*,"The manner in which Scottsboro and Jackson County people took up the stock offered by the Bungalow Rug Factory demonstrated that they have faith in the future of Scottsboro and in its promoters, Messrs. Claude Spivey and Rankin Airheart." His short cheerleading piece ends with "let's start something else."

Stevenson Will Have Big Hosiery Mill

At an enthusiastic meeting of the Commerical Club and the business men of Stevenson last night, the Stevenson Hosiery Mill was put over. It will be an organization with a capital stock of $50,000 and the purpose of the organization is to manufacture men's and ladies' silk rayon hosiery with a production of one thousand dozen a day.

The stock was subscribed and work will start immediately on the buildings and they expect to have them completed by the first of November. At that time the machinery will be ready for installation.

The following officers were chosen C. E. Spivey, president; G. H. Caperton, vice-president; E. K. Mann, secretary and treasurer; Directors, W. R. Bogart, E. K. Mann, C. E. Spivey, H. G. Jacobs, G. H. Caperton, G. L. Austin, George Allison.

1928: Stevenson and Paint Rock Hosiery Mills

The August 23, 1928 *Progressive Age* carried the news that Stevenson would have its own hosiery mill. The Stevenson mill was announced at a meeting of the Commercial Club and was well underway. "It will be an organization with a capital stock of $50,000" to produce "men's and ladies' silk rayon hosiery with a production of one thousand dozen a day." The officers were, of course, Claude Spivey as president and Henry Grady Jacobs on the board of directors, but the other officers were Stevenson business leaders: G. H. Caperton, E. K. Mann, G. L. Austin, and George Allison. "The stock was subscribed and work will start immediately on the buildings," the article explained, with the mill expected to be operational by November 1. The Paint Rock hosiery mill was destroyed in the 1932 tornado.

NEW OIL COMPANY DOES BIG BUSINESS

The Crystal Oil Company, a new gas station just opened by C. E. Spivey and H. G. Jacobs near the Airheart Gin Company, had a big trade for their opening day last Monday. The price of gas was cut to 29 cents per gallon and with each purchase of 5 gallons a pair of socks was given and with a purchase of 10 gallons, a bangalow rug. The place was crowded all day and something like 2800 gallons of gas sold.

1928: Crystal Gas and Oil

In 1928, Spivey was prepared to sell stock to raise $25,000 to expand his Bungalow rug mill, but when buyers demanded more stock than he had prepared to sell, he continued to sell and raised $50,000 instead. He seemed to be scrambling to invest that money and in the immediate aftermath of the stock sale, he bought Crystal Gas and Crystal Oil on August 2, 1928 with his brother-in-law Henry Grady Jacobs, an existing business located "on the Lee Highway next Airheart Gin, Scottsboro." Remember at this time the Lee Highway was the road between Chattanooga and Huntsville, along what is today Laurel Street. Willow was a dirt cowpath at that time.

And why not? It seemed as if everything Claude Spivey touched turned to gold. They reopened on August 6, 1928 and ran a large-print add in the newspapers. They attracted attention to their new enterprise with

crazy giveaways from their other enterprises: a pair of sock with five gallons, a Bungalow rug with 10 gallons. On August 10-11, it was "a quart of good oil" with five gallons of gas.

The paper reported success with the new enterprise. They reduced the prevailing local price of gasoline 23 cents a gallon and "had a big trade their opening day. "The place was crowded all day and something like 2800 gallons of gas was sold." (*Progressive Age*)

1929: Interest in the Underwear Factory

With our 20-20 hindsight, we today know that the stock market crash would take place in October 1929, though in reality, the Depression in farm communities was underway already. But the Spivey and Jacobs team continued to build build build. The jobs that these men created offered lucrative alternatives to farming, and the city fathers embraced them. The February 28, 1929 *Progressive Age* announced that a new Spivey business was"making its bow to Scottsboro": a plant that would make "men's athletic underwear."

This plant was owned by "several Scottsboro people" and the man who would eventually become Claude Spivey's brother-in-law, Dayton Benham, "will take an active interest in it and probably will be the manager of it." One of the early investors was Claude Spivey since he provided the quote for the newspaper. "Mr. Claude Spivey is interested in the business and states that already large number of orders have been received and this industry will start off with bright prospects. It will employ 100 people at the start."

1929: Buying an Expensive Silk Factory in Rhode Island

As an outside observer, it is difficult to verify, but it might well be that buying the $300,000 plant for making silk hosiery in Providence, Rhode Island and dismantling it and moving it to Scottsboro only five months before the stock market crash was Spivey's fatal mistake. "Labor conditions caused the big Rhode Island Mill to be put on the market" and Spivey did not disclose his intent to move it south as he bought it. It was a sin of overreach.

In big headlines, the May 3, 1929 *Progressive Age* announced "Scottsboro Gets One of the Great All-Silk Mills in Entire Country." "New factory buildings have been started to house the coming machinery and it will be only a short time until the machinery is installed here and pure silk hosiery manufacture begins." Spivey was becoming a local folk hero for the jobs he was bringing to struggling Scottsboro. "Mr. Spivey, who has already done more, probably, for Scottsboro growth than any one citizen is being congratulated on bringing this splendid new enterprise to Scottsboro and the South."

It is difficult to be so admired and held up as the savior of the town in the midst of the Depression and not falter.

A Lifestyle That Says Success

Seven years after their marriage, the Spiveys were ready to live the lifestyle that matched their income. They built the large two-story house on Scott Street known today as the event-venue Fernwood. The home featured an elegant approach with a circular driveway. The backyard featured an Olympic-size swimming pool beloved by Scottsboro residents and the site of many cool escapes from the afternoon

heat. A syndicated Alabama news column that summarized Scottsboro progress noted that "the handsome new home of Claude Spivey on South Andrews Street is nearing completion. (*The Southern Democrat*, Oneonta, November 6, 1924)

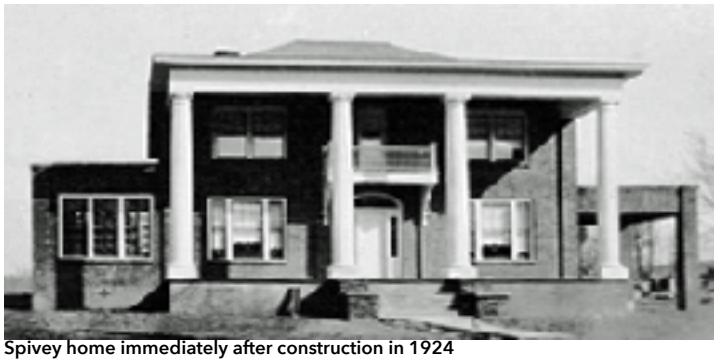

Spivey about 1922

Claude and his family motored to Dayton TN to visit relatives, the May 4, 1922 *Progressive Age* reported. Note that it is very early to be motoring anywhere, much less north in to the mountains. Sister Nell visited Claude and Clyde who are both living in Jackson County, the June 8, 1922 *Progressive Age* reported. He drove his wife's father to Bridgeport, the June 29, 1922 paper reported. I am betting this is the vehicle involved.

This car is a Ford, built by Lincoln, and Lincoln was built by Russell in Canada. W. J. Webb had the first Ford dealership in Jackson County. Benson and Padgett bought it from him in 1923. This car would have been purchased from John Benson in 1925-6. The 1926 *Progressive Age* says "Claude Spivey took Wade Woodall and John Clopton for a little spin in his new Lincoln to Stevenson and back the other afternoon. These two gentlemen now claim the State's 'breath holding record.' " People who remember the family recall that they drove two Packards, but later cars would not have made the impact of the first, clearly one of the first cars in Scottsboro capable of interstate travel.

Veda continued to be prominent in Scottsboro social life. For every one mention of Claude or his brother Clyde (whose farming and dairy businesses in Larkinsville were doing very well), there were five about Veda and her activities—her travel, her bridge club, her role in the DAR. For much of this time, she was the vice regent of the Tidence Lane chapter, and many of the meetings were held at her home. The June 21, 1928 DAR meeting, for example, was held at the Spivey home. "Red, white and blue flowers were used in the living room, sun parlor, and dining room. After business session, Carolyn Spivey, dressed in red, Mary Elizabeth Snodgrass in white, and Emma Lou Larkin in blue, each carrying an American flag, gave a little play and at the close wound a pole with red, white and blue streamers." Poems were read and a salad course was served with a small silk flag on each plate as a party favor. There are 620 hits on "Spivey" in the Scottsboro papers in the Scottsboro papers between 1923 and 1942. None of them are about Clyde's trial or Veda's death.

In 1924, they built the most visible remnant of their wealth and influence in Scottsboro—the four-columned house on what is today Scott Street. A summary article about recent building in Scottsboro talked about the completion of the Proctor Building, the back of the Lynch Building that housed The *Progressive Age*, the J. H. Wheeler house on Willow, the O. D Kennamer bungalow, a number of rental houses of Kyle and Charlotte built by R. A. Coffey, an apartment for the Pontiff Skelton house on South Market, and "the handsome new home of Claude Spivey," which the article note, "is nearing completion."


Spivey home immediately after construction in 1924

The impressive nature of his home was used to woo potential customers of his products. For example, the April 21, 1927 *Progressive Age* noted that "Mr. Bigelow of New York, manager buyer for the Grant Chain Stores, and Mr. Conner of the Cannon Mills were guests of Claude Spivey the first of the week," men who were "instrumental in placing Scottsboro made products in all parts of the country."

The Spivey and Jacobs partnership was riding so high that by the end of 1928, Spivey was listed at the bottom of the Jacobs Bank Public Report, along side H.G., R.A., and E.P. Jacobs.

After Veda's death and Spivey's incarceration, Veda's sister Annie Docia Jacobs Harris and her husband bought the Spivey house. Rev. Mitchell Harris was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Guntersville and left the post because of ill health, according to the August 22, 1940 *Progressive Age*. The Harrises moved to the house with their family. The house continued to be owned by the Harris and Peet families until it was sold to Clyde Butler.


Spivey home before the Harris family planted trees

1929: The First Spivey Fire

There is no way of knowing if the July 5,1929 fire was set to generate insurance revenue needed to cover losses. The origin was undetermined. The July 11,1929 *Progressive Age* announced in a small article on page 6, "Large warehouse burns." and went on to explain, "The large frame warehouse of C. E. Spivey next to the Underwear factory was burned to the ground last Friday morning and a large amount of hay consumed. It took heroic fighting to save the gin, underwear factory, gas station which was in close proximity to the fire."

The 1930s: Newspapers Are Quiet

After 1930, papers normally buzzing with news of the Spivey and Jacobs enterprises were suddenly quiet. Farmers and merchants alike struggled. The town searched for a way to recognize the man who had brought so many jobs and so much innovation to the county, and they spent a year with civic clubs and churches submitting names, selecting a man to be awarded the First National Bank Loving Cup. The award was presented on January 24, 1932 to the person who has "rendered the most service in the past 12 months. The article explained, "As manager of the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill, Mr. Spivey has rendered a much-added service to the town of Scottsboro at this particular time. Jobs for a great number of people have been provided and the payrolls resulting therefrom have in turn been a decided help to the business interests of the town. In view of this, and because of his interest and help in starting and maintaining the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band, his membership in civic organization, and work in movements for the general welfare of the town, the committee thought he was worthy of the recognition."

In March of 1932, Spivey was in New York, and his family vacationed in Florala. *The Cullman Democrat* reported on June 30, 1932 that "Claude Spivey, manager of the Scottsboro Hosiery Mills and winner of the local loving cup in 1931, is confined to Newell's Sanatorium in Chattanooga with injuries received in an automobile accident. Accident occurred on Main and Carter in Chattanooga. Spivey was driving Alvin Kennamer, one of his assistants, when he was hit by a truck driven by a negro. Kennamer escaped injury; the negro is also in the hospital. Spivey had a broken rib, abrasions, and bruises. He was unconscious for two hours."

The family all but disappeared from the papers in 1933, and in 1934 through 1936 only three items in the paper mentioned the Spivey family, social news chronicling Veda's DAR activities. Some time during this period, Claude quietly pled guilty to 27 counts of counterfeiting and forging bills of lading for hosiery shipments, a crime committed in 1934. He was granted probation for this first offense, but U. S. District Attorney Jim C. Smith used this prior conviction as a reason to deny Spivey's motion for dismissal of the 1939 charges declaring that Spivey "violated a Federal probation granted five years ago....within a year of probation." (*Dothan Age*, July 16, 1939) No information has been found about this charge, but it explains the heavy sentence for the 1939 case.

The 1937 paper offered some hope that the county was emerging from the Depression. The August 1937 *Progressive Age* reprinted an item from the *South Pittsburg Hustler,* which said that "South Pittsburg is welding its way back to its former rating as an industrial city is reflected in the rapid progress made at the United States Stove company plant where new men are being placed to work, the possibility of reopening of the large hosiery mill and the assurance that work will be at an early date on a large gin. The largest addition to the city's string of plants will be launched by Claude Spivey of Scottsboro, Ala. and W. M. Allison of Stevenson." Allison would be tried in 1939 as a co-conspirator in the January 1938 cotton warehouse fire, but acquitted as an unwitting accomplice in exchange for his testimony. "The location chosen for the gin is the old pencil mill lot east of Railroad Avenue." There was much optimism about opening up the rich farming land of Marion County to cotton farming with the availability of this new gin.

Fall 1937: Hatching the Cotton Fraud Scheme

The events that led up to the second Spivey fire in 1938 actually started in the fall of 1937 with preparation for the ginning season. In the fall of 1937, Spivey purchased cotton regardless of grade and obtained growers' signatures on blank producers' notes sent *through the mail* for the farmers' signatures. This is what made the crime a Federal offense. When the signed blank notes were received, Spivey filled in the notes for a quality of cotton larger than was actually bought. Some notes were completed in pencil, which the government would not accept, and Spivey traced and forged their signatures onto another form. The indictments charged the these notes were taken to banks in Scottsboro and credits were paid to Spivey in accounts, the banks in turn presenting the notes to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

A local banker, who had done business with Spivey before, guessed at what was about to happen, and according to family stories, told ginner George Lee McCutchen to make sure he was covered in case Spivey was arrested. Under cover of darkness and with guards posted, George McCutchen and the gin secretary copied the actual Spivey books in the McCutchen kitchen, while Rankin and Gene Airheart stood watch. These books showed true and correct ginning information; the banker suspected correctly that Spivey would present the court with falsified accounting records that supported his claims. When the warehouse burned in January 1938, Spivey made claims against his insurance company for the incorrectly reported quantity of cotton using his falsified books.

Evidence was gathered, U. S. Deputy Marshal Shelby Phillips asserted, showing that the defendants had "purchased cotton from producers for nine cents a pound," regardless of grade, and had obtained the grower's signature on a blank producer's note, which later was filled in for a quantity of cotton larger than was actually bought. Roy J. McCormack of South Pittsburg and Spivey were owners of a gin at Scottsboro, the marshal said, at which George McCutchen was ginner, Walter M. Allison (mayor of Stevenson) was a grader, and George T. Foster was a bookkeeper.

1938: The Second Spivey Fire

The second Spivey fire was a real event, the biggest fire in Scottsboro history. Papers all over the state—but not in Scottsboro—carried the news of the second Spivey fire on January 10, 1938. The fire occurred in the early morning of the very day that state inspectors were to check the plant after threatening to revoke the firm's license, the district attorney's office reported. This account is from the *Dadeville Record*:

$156,000 Worth Cotton Burned at Scottsboro: Between 3,000 and 4,000 bales of cotton valued at approximately 156,000 were destroyed here early today when a fast-spreading fire struck the warehouse of the Claude Spivey cotton concern. Officials of the fire department here said the fire was discovered at 3 a. m. and was not brought under control until 7 a. m. this morning. A large garage house many car, the

property of the TVA, was endangered by the first and firemen were able too keep the flames away from the garage only after heroic effort. Officials of the TVA said there were 100 cars in the garage. Fire officials said the cotton was expected to continue burning another week. J. C. Allison, official of the cotton concerns, said all but 12 bales of the cotton were insured."

The *Decatur Daily* estimated that 4,000 bales of cotton were lost. (Jan 10, 1938) It was the biggest fire in Scottsboro history. The best summary of the case against Spivey is found in the May 30, 1938 *Montgomery Advertiser:*

"Cotton Loan Fraud Case Hearing Set—1,200 Alabama Growers Are Affected in Case Developed by G-Men." Huntsville May 29 "A case involving allegedly unlawful use of Federal cotton loan notes worth approximately $140,000 and affecting some 1,200 cotton growers in northeast Alabama has been set for preliminary hearing June 28, U. S. Deputy Marshal Shelby Phillips said today. Phillips said five men charged with 'devising a scheme to defraud the government' through use of cotton loan notes had made bond after arraignment before U. S. Commissioner Robert W. Miller. The marshal said the men—Walter M. Allison, mayor of Stevenson, Ala., Claude E. Spivey, Gordon T. Foster and George L. McCutchen, all of Scottsboro, Ala. and Roy J. McCormack of South Pittsburg, Tenn.—were arrested on warrants sworn by John A Roche, special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Warrants for the arrests, held by Phillips, declared between Oct. 1, 1937 and January 1938 the defendants "did conspire so and actually did devise a scheme for the purpose of defrauding the United States government and in furtherance of each scheme unlawfully did make use of cotton producer loan note arrangements and also in furtherance of such scheme did make use of the United States mail."

The marshal said the case developed after a fire destroyed Spivey's cotton warehouse at Scottsboro Jan. 18, in which several thousand bales of cotton were reported burned. Phillips said Federal investigators checked buckles and ties from the bales in the ruins of the warehouse and found them more than 400 bales short of the amount of cotton reported in the warehouse An insurance policy for $145,000 was taken out on the warehouse a few days before the fire, the marshal said."

Gordon T. Foster of Scottsboro and Walter M. Allison, former mayor of Stevenson, were also charged and pleaded *nolo contendere* and agree to testify for the government against Spivey.

In summer 1938, the government brought a 28-count indictment against Spivey and his unwitting co-conspirators that included these crimes: 7 counts of violation of Section 338, the use of the mails to defraud; 18 counts of making of false and fictitious statements in violation of Section 80 of Federal law; 1 count of conspiracy to defraud the Government by obtaining payment or allowance of false or fraudulent claims.The government had planned to call approximately 130 witnesses and the defense could call an equal number. The trial was set for November but had to be continued because of the number of witnesses.

The day before Spivey's trial started, his Warehouse Company filed suit against six insurance companies seeking payment of $161,147 allegedly due as insurance held on cotton stored in the Scottsboro Warehouse when it burned." (*Decatur Daily* January 12, 1939) The insurance companies knew about the pending case against Spivey and were understandably dragging their feet in paying off Spivey's claim.

The case came before Federal Court in Huntsville on January 9, 1939 with U. S. District Attorney Jim C. Smith as prosecutor and T. A. Murphree as judge. Spivey pleaded not guilty and was represented by Roderick Beddow, (whose son would later represent Hugh Otis Bynum). The case took two weeks to try. Farmers T. I Smith of Jasper, TN, "declared that he signed a blank producer's note after receiving a check for $30.00 from the South Pittsburg Gin Company." The note bearing Smith's name was filled out for $210.28. Similar testimony came from other farmers. (*Decatur Daily*, January 12, 1939)

On January 21, 1939 , the *Troy Messenger* reported that "Claude Spivey, Scottsboro cotton warehouseman, was sentenced to 30 years in the penitentiary today by Federal Judge Murphree following his conviction on charges of using the mails to defraud and falsification of cotton loan papers. Spivey's counsel said he

would appeal the case. He was convicted on 26 counts in the indictment, which followed a fire that destroyed his Scottsboro warehouse January 10, 1938. Spivey immediately moved to have the case thrown out."

The *Jackson County Sentinel* reported on January 23, 1939 that Spivey had filed a $25,000 appeal bond asking that his conviction be overturned and that he be granted a new trial. This motion was denied, and Spivey appealed his guilty verdict. Smith reminded the court that Spivey had pled guilty to charges of counterfeiting and forging of bills of lading for hosiery shipments in 1934 and that Spivey had violated his year's probation almost immediately. This is why he received such a long sentence, of which he served only five years.

On September 19, 1939, the *Anniston Star* reported that the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Montgomery would hear Spivey's case on October 16, 1939. The hearing was actually held January 15, 1940. The appeal was filled with technical arguments that Spivey's attorneys Roderick Beddow and G. Ernest Jones of Birmingham cited as grounds that the verdict should be overturned. The government prosecutors refuted all the claims, and and that "proof is wholly wanting here. The judgment is affirmed." (Case 109 F.2d 181 (1940) SPIVEY v. UNITED STATES. No. 9038 Circuit Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit). Spivey was to serve his 30-year Federal prison sentence unless the U. S. Supreme Court intervened. On March 16, the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld the convictions from the district court.

1939 Veda Spivey Opens a Flower Shop


ANNOUNCEMENT . . . .

VEDA'S FLOWER SHOP

Mrs. Veda Spivey, Owner and Manager

(Formerly Emmett's Florist)

FUNERAL DESIGNS, CUT FLOWERS, PLANTS

NOVELTIES, GIFTS

—Personal Greeting Cards For All Occasions—

Day Phone 314 — Night Phone 161

Across street from Post Office Scottsboro, Ala

For a time just after the warehouse fire, Veda and her daughter Carolyn operated a flower shop in the location behind the Brown Building, She apparently bought the business from a Mr. Emmett. The ads for Veda's Flower Shop first appeared in the paper on October 26, 1939, less than five months before her death. Claude's case was working its way through the courts.

On March 5, 1940 Veda succeeded at her third attempt to take her own life. No account of the suicide appeared in the local newspapers, but it was reported in other state newspapers. A memorial service was held by the DAR to recognize Veda's service. The only public acknowledgements of her passing was a notice on the front page of the March 7, 1940 *Progressive Age* in which her 21-year-old daughter Carolyn stated, "It is my intention to continue the operation and management of Veda's Flower shop in the Brown Building. I will greatly appreciate your patronage and friendship." The flower shop continued to operate in Scottsboro until 1946, though statements about the shop at that date came from a Miss Mary Larkin.

Returning to Scottsboro after Prison

When the sad tale of Claude and Veda has been told in the years since, it always ended with, "And Claude permanently estranged from his daughters and never returned to Scottsboro and died obscurely somewhere in Tennessee." This is not the case.

Claude seems to have maintained a good relationship with his daughters over the years. Spivey came to Scottsboro in 1945 when he was released from prison, remarried, and started the East Tennessee Hosiery Mill on Market Street in Chattanooga. The family met for reunions.

On April 19, 1945 *Progressive Age* article carried the headline, "Claude Spivey a Welcomed Visitor" and said: "Claude E. Spivey, former textile mill operators, planter, and cotton merchants of Scottsboro, was here visiting his daughter, Mrs. W. B. Wilson, Mr. Wilson, and grandson, Billy. Mr. Spivey is receiving a warm greeting from many friends throughout Scottsboro where he established our first textile industry as well as other businesses. At one time, he employed more than 1000 local people in his mills and industries here and these former workers appear strong in their praise of Mr. Spivey for his fairness, his friendship in all times of stress and need and for his ever-readiness to be of service to them. He says one of the things he most cherishes is a loving cup given him in Scottsboro one tie for being selected for outstanding citizenship and community assistance." The article goes on to state that at that time, Spivey was living with his mother in Dayton, TN.

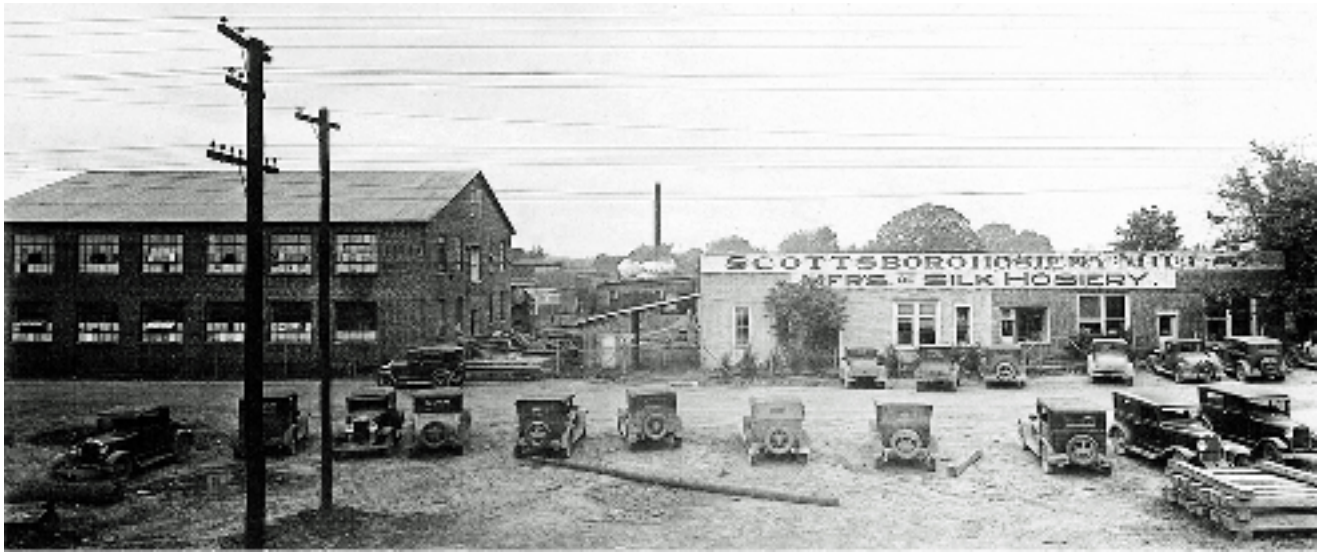
Spivey and his second wife Grace lived in Chattanooga. He died January 27, 1978, His death might have prompted the reexamination of his life that Carman Wann wrote in 1980 for *The Daily Sentinel.* As we look back at this dynamic man and his career in Scottsboro, it is fair to ask, was Spivey just another bad guy out to make a fast buck or, was he, as Cecil Word called him "one of the most dynamic man ever to come to Scottsboro?" As Forrest Gump said, maybe some of both.

Annette Norris Bradford

Spivey with his daughter Lunita Ellson and granddaughter Diane in Chattanooga in the 1958


Spivey with his second wife, Grace


Spivey at his home in Scottsboro



Scottsboro Hosiery Mill late 1920s, Photo from Page Airheart.

Scottsboro's Culinary Legacies

Some towns are known for a signature dish. Corinth, MS is known for the slug burger. It was called the slug burger because it consisted mostly of meat substitutes that during the depression could bring the price down to a nickel (or a "slug" as it sometimes called). Auburn is renowned for lemonade from Toomer's Corner. Nashville features hot chicken. Louisville, KY popularized the hot brown sandwich. Chattanooga has the Moon Pie. Decatur, courtesy of Bob Gibson, is known for its unfairly maligned white barbecue sauce.

And Scottsboro? By popular agreement, we have two offerings closely associated with the town: the Frito pie and the red slaw dog.

The Red Slaw Dog

This investigation of our two local specialties began with a small group of people who recalled red slaw dogs in the 1950s and who still enjoy the delicacy at Payne's Soda Fountain today. Our 60 and 70 year-olds became interested in re-engineering a reason facsimile of the dish they remembered being served at three local sources: Reid's Sundries (220 S Broad Street, two doors down from the Ritz Theater) where the local version of the delicacy probably originated, Lay's 5&10 (on the square on East Laurel Street), and at Payne's Drug Store (on the corner of Laurel and Broad for well over 100 years) where the red slaw dog has been a staple for decades. Red slaw was also on the menu at H&H Pharmacy (first on South Houston Street and then on Parks Avenue) where it was used on barbecue sourced from Freck's Chicken House and served on sandwiches.

There is general agreement that the first red slaw dog was served at Reid's Sundries, where the owner's wife, Elizabeth, was the keeper of the recipe. Reid's Sundries had first been located in the Proctor Building at 205A Market Street, home to Pine Brothers Coffee today, and was originally owned and operated by Jim Holland. Jim Holland sold the business, then called Drug Sundries, to Scottsboro native and long-term mayor John T. Reid just before WWII. Shortly after buying the business, Reid placed a sign on the front door reading "Gone to Hitler's Funeral" and shuttered the business until his return from the service when he moved to Broad Street. It's not known whether the red slaw dog was on the menu of Holland's business at the time of the transfer.

From its believed origin at Reid's Sundries, the red slaw dog spread to Lay's and to Payne's, although no one is certain which of those two businesses was the second to adopt the dish after Reid's.

There's also no general agreement as to how closely the three recipes resembled one another in taste or how the flavor might have changed over the years. Some respondents say that Paynes' red slaw dogs taste exactly as they did in the 1950's. Others claim there are differences. Stanley Woodall, whose father was the pharmacist at Payne's for years and who was in the store throughout his childhood, says that the recipe has definitely evolved. The version he remembers was thicker and more mustardy. Current management

at Payne's concedes that the recipe was once lost in a transition of ownership, but the recipe used today was quickly and accurately recreated by employees in the panic that followed.

An online appeal yielded four recipes, at least one of which was used to make the slaw in bulk at Lay's (and calling for 10 heads of cabbage as the base) and one from Reid's. Each of the four recipes specified exactly the same four base ingredients; however, only the one from Lay's mentions the measure of each of the ingredients. One recipe directed that the ingredients should be added until "the color is right." One submitter swore us to secrecy.

At least one contributor specified that the brand of ketchup was critical, saying that Heinz ketchup was the preferred base. As we attempted to recreate the original, we tried both Heinz and Hunt's, and Heinz was the clear winner. We thought that Hunt's had a slight smokiness that detracted from the desired tanginess and vinegary taste of the final product.

We tested our slaw on lightly toasted buns with Nathan's all-beef hot dogs. Here's our best recreation:

1/4 head of cabbage (about 8 oz), chopped
7 tablespoons Heinz ketchup (or more to taste and color)
2 tablespoons yellow mustard
1 tsp cider vinegar
1/4 tsp salt
4 "glubs" Tabasco sauce

Here is the Lay's recipe published in the Heirlooms Cookbook from Highland Medical Center:

10 medium heads of cabbage
4 Gallons of ketchup
1 quart of mustard
2 handfuls of salt
1/2 bottle of Tabasco

We wonder if there wasn't a transcription error at some point, since the four gallons of ketchup sounds excessive to us. Given that there are 16 tablespoons per cup, our recipe uses about 1/4 the amount of ketchup of the published Lay's recipe. We are also adding proportionately more mustard than the Lay's recipe calls for.

We found that when our slaw was first mixed, it was too crunchy and tasted too strongly of cabbage. It takes an overnight rest to make the texture and taste come together for the perfect slaw.

There is no evidence that the red slaw dog originated in Scottsboro, but it's the dish that our returning expatriates think of when they come home. And there's really no substitute for Payne's version, especially given the 1950s ambience of the soda fountain that serves it.

The Frito Pie

In its early days, Dairy Queen stores were not bound by a set menu or by a supply chain dictated by the franchiser. The independent stores were free to introduce their own versions of traditional offerings and to devise unique dishes.

In the early sixties, Scottsboro's Dairy Queen, located at Five Points (518 E Willow St.), was owned by a Fort Payne resident named Wallace Ingram, and managed by Ola Mae Wood. When Ola's husband, Eddy, returned from the service, the couple acquired the Dairy Queen from Ingram and set about refining the store's specialties: footlong chili dogs, steak sandwiches, parfaits, and what was generally accounted as the best chocolate milkshake in town.

But nothing equals the Dairy Queen's Frito pie in the public's fond memories of the place.

Vivienne Atkins was the first to prepare one and offer it for manager Wallace Ingram's approval. She recalls that he immediately promoted it to the menu and priced the dish at 35 cents. Savanah Isbell Welch, who began working for the Woods in 1962, dispels the claim we'd hoped to make that the Frito pie originated in Scottsboro, though. She says the pie predated their first serving it. Wikipedia states that a Frito/chili combination was first included in a cookbook in 1949 and that it was served at the Casa de Fritos, a restaurant in Disneyland, in 1955.

The Dairy Queen's Frito pie consisted of a small bag of Fritos, split open along the side, smothered with Eddy Woods' chili, and topped with shredded cheese and onions. The bag was wrapped in a napkin with a plastic parfait spoon stuck in the top. In later years, Frito pies were served in a styrofoam cup and then in a cardboard tray of the sort used to serve French fries.

Shortly after the Dairy Queen introduced the dish, the Dairy Twist (at 720 S Broad), owned by Bud Whitaker, began serving Frito pies. The Dairy Twist still has devotees who claim that the Twist's version was the equal of the Dairy Queen's.

A few years after the Woods bought the Dairy Queen, they left the Dairy Queen franchise. They repainted the sign atop the building to remove the curlicue on top of the soft serve ice cream, thereby altering the trademarked familiar franchise logo. The name was changed to the Five Points Dairy Bar, but the name change didn't catch on; people persisted in calling it the Dairy Queen, and frequently still do fifty years later.

The Five Points Dairy Bar burned about three years ago. As far as we know, no commercial restaurant serves the Frito pie in Scottsboro today. Sonic Drive-In served a version until fairly recently, but today serves only a chili/Frito "wrap."

A recent Facebook discussion confirms that many of us still make the delicacy at home. A dollop of sour cream and chopped fresh tomatoes are now frequent additions to the traditional ingredients.

David Benson Bradford

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The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 32, Number 3

In this issue:

The WPA Chronicles: This issue and next issue will feature the New Deal programs that pulled America out of the Great Depression and look at their impact on Jackson County.

July Meeting: The Jackson County Historical Association will meet **Sunday July 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.** at two sites in the eastern part of the county to dedicate two new historical markers. We will start at **Ebenezer Church in Bryant, located at 134 County Road 301** the road across from Bryant Junior High School. Ed Carter will talk about the history of this church and the Gordon family. After about 30 minutes at this site, we will drive to Flat Rock Elementary School located at **788 County Road 326** in Flat Rock. Ed Carter will talk briefly about the former high school at this location from 1911-1929 and will have a display of photographs of the original school campus. Refreshments will be served at this second location. We ask that you wear a mask and practice social distancing for this meeting, that is, maintaining at least six feet between you and people who are not members of your household.

For those of you who cannot join us for the dedications of these two markers, here are the texts of those markers.

Ebenezer Church: Ebenezer Baptist Church is the oldest church on the end of Sand Mountain. Its origins date back to an 1850s log church and school called Gordon Chapel. Renamed Ebenezer, the church became a member of the Tennessee River Baptist Association circa 1875. Pioneer preachers of the church included the Reverends Z. H. Gordon, Thomas L. Quarles, J. C. Lambert and Thomas J. "Tom" Smith.

In 1909, the log church was replaced with a white, wood-framed building located on three acres of land donated by James Monroe and Millie Winters. In use a half-century, the second structure burned on January 18, 1959. The congregation worshipped at the American Legion Hall until July 1960, when the church's third sanctuary was completed. During the previous century, the church was affiliated at different times with the Lookout Valley (Georgia) Baptist Association and the Sand Mountain Baptist Association.

Erected by Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Jackson County Historical Association and Bryant Ruritan Club. Alabama Historical Association 2019

The Gordon Family (Reverse Side): The Rev. Zachariah H. Gordon (1794-1886) was a pioneer land owner, businessman, and settler of the area that became Bryant, Alabama. In the mid-1850s Gordon moved his family from Walker County, Georgia, to an Alabama farm near the northern end of what is now Jackson County Road 89. The family started a church and school called Gordon Chapel soon thereafter. Living near the borders of three states, son John B. Gordon (1832-1904) wrote in his 1903 autobiography that before the Civil War began, his family resided in Alabama, mined coal in Georgia, and received their mail at a post office in Tennessee. During the Civil War, John B. Gordon served with the "Raccoon Roughs," rising to the rank of major general. After the war, he was twice elected to the U. S. Senate (1873 and 1891) and was Governor of Georgia from 1886-1890. In 1863, Rev. Gordon sold his Cole City Hollow mining interests to the Castle Rock Coal Company and relocated to southwest Georgia. He died in 1886 and is buried in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus, Ga. The first post office in Bryant, Alabama, opened in 1891, near Moore's Gap.

Erected during the bicentennial of Jackson County and the State of Alabama. Alabama Historical Association 2019.

Flat Rock High School 1911-1929: In 1905, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, authorized Dr. Frank Gardner and his wife, Annie, to begin Flat Rock School. In 1911, Flat Rock High School formally opened. It was the only high school on Sand Mountain north of Albertville. The North Alabama Methodist Conference approved Dr. Gardner as the school superintendent and Robert H. Hartford to be the first principal. The school's first graduation was held in 1912. In 1914, construction began on a two-story administrative building made of stone quarried from the property of Andrew Hogue. Completed at a cost of $12,000, the new building featured four recitation halls, a library, an office, and a large auditorium with opera-style seating. The auditorium hosted church services and school programs beginning in 1917.

Erected by the Jackson County Historical Association, the Flat Rock Community Club, and local citizens during the bicentennial of Jackson County and the State of Alabama. Alabama Historical Association 2019.

Flat Rock High School 1911-1929 (Reverse Side): Flat Rock High School offered a classical curriculum which included instruction in foreign languages, as well as a diverse agricultural course of study. At its height, the 292-acre school campus included two dormitories, a library, vocational building, grist mill, and a sawmill. A church historian called the school "one of Methodism's best." Other principals of the school were N. Homer Price (1913), Isaac Carlton (1915), Leon G. Alverson (1918-1921, 1926-1927), George W. Floyd (1921-1925), and William Marvin McDonald (1925-1926). The last superintendent was Dr. Samuel L. Dobbs (1928-1929). In the mid-1920s, the boys' dormitory burned. A few years later, in 1929, the girls' dormitory burned as well. After these setbacks, and diminished funding with the onset of the Great Depression, the school's board of trustees reluctantly closed the school in 1929 and sold it to the State of Alabama. The Jackson County Board of Education later reopened it as a junior high school serving nine grades.

Erected during the bicentennial of Jackson County and the State of Alabama. Alabama Historical Association 2019.

The WPA Chronicles: When Franklin Roosevelt took office in 1932, he set to work immediately providing relief to a Depression-weary county. During his four terms as president, he created a vast array of agencies addressing unemployment with infrastructure projects that came to be known as the *alphabet agencies* because they were all referred to by their acronyms. The constitutionality of some of these agencies was challenged in court, and two agencies, the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the National Recovery Administration, were declared unconstitutional. Before FDR introduced what would become his most enduring legacy, Social Security, he needed better control of the high court. He tried to get the worrisome older judges to retire, to no avail. After he was elected by a landslide to his second term, he introduced the idea of expanding the court by naming another justice for each sitting justice over age 62. The justices relented and declared no more of FDR's recovery programs unconstitutional in a move that became known as "A Stitch in Time Saves Nine." The first article, "The Roosevelt Alphabet Agencies," is a summary of these agencies in the order in which they were created.

The most tangible and enduring piece of Roosevelt-era legislation in our county is the Tennessee Valley Authority. The JCHA had a member in 1981 (Carlus Page) who worked for the TVA during the creation of Lake Guntersville. The 1981 article about this experience is reproduced and updated so that we have a clear understanding of "Jackson County Before TVA." With this foundation, David Bradford has written about the founding of the TVA, the social engineering vision that launched this cultural and engineering experiment in his article, "A Laboratory for the Nation: TVA."

A great deal of preparation was required to strip the landscape of buildings, vegetation, and graves to ready it for the coming deluge of Lake Guntersville. I summarized the work of TVA archaeologists during the 20 months of archaeological excavation of sites about to be lost beneath the lake in "TVA Archaeology Before the Flood."

The other large-scale New Deal project in Jackson County was Cumberland Farms, aka the Skyline Colony. We are fortunate to have as JCHA members the two people in the country who know the most about this project: Joyce Kennamer, whose father James Money submitted the paperwork that secured the funding for the project; and Dr. David Campbell, who wrote his American Studies dissertation at the University of Texas about this project and has authored numerous articles since that time about Skyline Farms, including his *Encyclopedia of Alabama* article, found here: http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1546. David's article about the Skyline Farms, which was originally appeared in 2000 in *Tributaries: Journal of American Folklore,* is reproduced here with the editor's permission, and discusses the time when "The Skyline Band Plays for President and Mrs. Roosevelt."

Interest in the Skyline Colony brought an extraordinary number of good WPA photographers to Jackson County who applied their extraordinary camera skills to documenting the colony and the town of Scottsboro in 1936 and 1937. "WPA Photographers in Jackson County" looks at Ben Shahn, Carl Mydans, and Arthur Rothstein.

The October *Chronicles* will finish this WPA emphasis with the Skyline building plans, the Rural Electrification Act, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Civil Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, the WPA Writers' Project, and the Federal Arts Project.

The Roosevelt Alphabet Agencies

When Franklin Roosevelt took office in March 1932, he set out to put Americans to work as an effort to pull the country out of the Great Depression. He created a host of agencies, sanctioned by Congress, that were known by initials, and were loosely called “the alphabet agencies.” By 1936, spending in these agencies amounted to 9% of the U.S. economy. Here is a reminder of what these agencies were, in the order in which they were created. (1)

May 1933-December 1935, Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) operated a direct-relief effort that provided jobs for more than 20 million people and granted $3.1 billion to local work projects.

May 1933-present, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) became the first large federal regional planning agency. **TVA** built dams, produced and sold hydroelectric power and fertilizer, developed recreational lands and communities, and reforested this region.

May 1933-1937, Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) began the federal balancing of supply and demand for farm crops by offering farmers funds to not produce corn, cotton, milk, peanuts, rice, tobacco, and wheat. *

June 1933, National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) authorized the President to regulate industry and permit cartels and monopolies. The act also guaranteed labor the right to organize and bargain collectively.

June 1933-1943, Public Works Administration (PWA) spent $4 billion on federal, state, and local construction projects, funding educational buildings, courthouses, public art, sewage-disposal plants, waterworks and public health facilities, and streets and roads.

June 1933, National Recovery Administration (NRA) allowed industries to create "codes of fair competition," which were intended to reduce "destructive competition" and to help workers by setting minimum wages and maximum weekly hours.*

June 1933-present, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) guaranteed the safety of bank deposits up to a certain amount.

June 1933-1936, Home Owners'Loan Corporation (HOLC) permanently changed the prevailing mortgage system, refinancing more than a million homes to prevent foreclosure.

1933-present, Farm Credit Administration (FCA), established in 1916, was authorized to establish a centralized source of farm credit.

September 1933-present, Soil Erosion Service (SES), now the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, was established to assist farmers.

October 1933-1939, and to present, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) aided farmers and producers through loans, purchases, and other operations. In 1939, the CCC was transferred to the United States Department of Agriculture.

October 1933-March, 1934, Civil Works Administration (CWA), a five-month program, employed 4 million people in the construction of roads, schools, playgrounds, airports, and sewers. The program spent over a billion dollars nationally.

October 1933-March 1934, Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) commissioned more than 15,000 works of art for public buildings. A Treasury Department program continued the work through 1943.

1933-present, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a make-work program for unemployed architects to develop measured drawings of pre-1860 architecture and thereby develop a national architectural archive that remains to this day.

1934, 1938-present, Bureau of Air Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Authority-Federal Aviation Authority (CAA-FAA) expanded the federal role in air travel, monitoring safety, overseeing pilot and aircraft certifications, and regulating fares and routes.

June 1934-present, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) became the successor to the Federal Radio Commission, regulating non-federal broadcasting and interstate and international telecommunications that originate in the United States.

1934-present, National Housing Act of 1934 created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation to improve housing standards and conditions and provide home financing by insuring mortgage loans. The FHA is today part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1934-present, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was charged with protecting the interest of the public and investors in connection with the public issuance and sale of corporate securities.

October 1934-June 1943, U.S. Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts encompassed variously named programs that commissioned works of art for post offices and courthouses across the nation and for public buildings in Washington, D.C.

1934, July 1935-present, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the successor organization to the National Labor Board of 1933, conducted elections for labor union representatives and investigated and remedied unfair labor practices.

April 1935-1943, Works Progress Association-Administration (WPA), name changed to Works Project Administration in 1939, employed more than 8.5 million persons in communities across the nation to work on 19 types of potentially fundable activities, including improving streets, roads, and schools and building highways, bridges, airports, water systems, and parks.

April 1935-present, Resettlement Administration (RA), later Farm Security Administration (FSA), now Farmers Home Administration, attempted to improve the lifestyle of sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and the rural poor by resettling them on large government-owned farms that used modern techniques and expert supervisors.

May 1935-1942, Federal Art Project (F AP) was an "art for every man" program and sub-unit of the WPA that hired artists from the relief rolls to produce and exhibit more than 400,000 works of art, provide art education for children, and staff 100 community art centers.

June 1935-1943, National Youth Administration (NYA), a part of the WPA, provided vocational educational programs for adult learners and worked to keep other students in school. Aubrey Williams from Alabama headed the program.

* Overturned by the Supreme Court.

Notes:

(1) This list was copied from the Birmingham Historical Association's *Digging Out of the Great Depression: Federal Programs in and around Birmingham*. (2010). This excellent publication focuses on Depression-Era programs in the Birmingham area and is available online from Amazon.

Jackson County Before TVA

In 1981, the JCHA was fortunate enough to have a member and community historian who had worked for TVA during the creation of Lake Guntersville: Carlus Page. He and Ann Chambless wrote an article about TVA impact in the April 1981 Chronicles. Because we can no longer have a first person account of this time period, the 1981 articles are summarized here, with some contemporary additions.

The advent of the railroads, the Civil War, and the Tennessee Valley Authority have produced the greatest impact of all the history-making processes in Jackson County, Alabama. So great is the change wrought by the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 that future historians most likely will reverse the order given above. Eighty-one years after the building of Lake Guntersville, the history of our county can be logically divided in terms of "before TVA" and "after TVA."

In 1929, the year of the nominal start of the Great Depression, Jackson County had a population of 26,900 and the per capita income was $186.00. One of the best ways to understand the silent desperation of Jackson County farm families is to look at the U.S., Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953 recently added to Ancestry (.https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4903/). This collection includes case histories and surveys of those who were in the path of the projects. Whether your family owned or sharecropped a farm, if they were moved to accommodate TVA, the profile of their lives before the move is available in this database. Records include such data as proximity of schools, church, and trade areas, number of years in their home, number of rooms in their home, whether the house heated or painted, outbuildings, condition of home, water source, indoor or outdoor plumbing, value of furniture, debt, members of the household, husband's employment, how family land is used (crops, wooded, other), livestock, farm machinery, net cash income for the previous year, total cash income, food sources produced or managed, and attitude toward the move and TVA. Sometimes a note at the end assessed whether this family would be a good candidate for the Skyline Colony. The overwhelming feeling you get from reading these records is how little these rural farmers had and how hard they worked.

Before TVA, Jackson County was basically dependent on its agricultural base. By 1900, Jackson County was known throughout the state as "The Land of Hogs and Hominy." Agricultural statistics taken from the 1930 and 1940 Federal censuses show farming and farm-related products were still the main source of income in Jackson County. The very limited number of industries in Bridgeport, Stevenson, and Scottsboro all felt the effects of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Many of those who had found employment in the small industries were forced back to the farms.

However, building activity in Scottsboro actually accelerated in the 1930s. The money brought to this area by the building of the B. B. Comer Bridge and the coming of TVA in 1933 alleviated much of the financial pain of the Depression. Instead of coming to an abrupt halt, considering the national business barometer, real estate and economic development actually made strides in downtown Scottsboro. Had it not been for World War II, the industrial revolution, which evaded Jackson County for at least 125 years, would have made it to this area a decade sooner. After TVA, a revolution occurred in the Tennessee Valley. Nothing, including the War Between the States, ever changed the lives of the masses to the degree of TVA's dams and flood control program. The Civil War drained the county of most of its resources. TVA gave the county new life .

When the TVA was building its first series of dams, each construction site had a hospital, a commissary, recreation center (tennis courts and area for showing movies, two-bedroom cottages for families, and dormitories for male employees. Most had a cafeteria and a school. Hebron School in Marshall County, Alabama, was originally established to educate the children of the men who built Guntersville Dam.

When construction began in 1935 at the Guntersville site, a medical service office was set up in the building formerly occupied by the Spivey Hosiery Mill in Scottsboro, Alabama, on present day Mary Hunter Avenue. Dr. Samuel Freas of South Pittsburg, Tennessee, and a Dr. Cox were the medical officers in charge. The staff included two or more medical aides and two or more compensation claim clerks. Carlus Page was one of the first compensation claim clerks assigned to this area.

The medical service office provided medical services to the employees who were injured while clearing the reservoir lands. Injuries requiring hospitalization were referred to Hodges Hospital until it literally "overran." At that point the patients were transported thirty miles to a fully staffed, 50-bed hospital built by TVA at the Guntersville Dam project. There were two medical doctors on duty at the TVA site hospital at all times. Patients were transported to the hospital in a TVA ambulance which was nothing more than a panel pickup truck. The TVA-built hospital burned before the Guntersville Dam was completed.

The medical station in Scottsboro also provided the immunizations required for TVA employment: typhoid and smallpox shots. At that tine, the typhoid immunization required a series of three shots. It was not at all uncommon for men to suffer reactions from these shots, and many actually lost time from work because of the immunizations. Working in the swampy river bottoms brought on numerous complications including fever and infection, and penicillin was yet to be discovered. Therefore, many men lost as much as a week and some up to two weeks from their jobs. Accidents also caused a high rate of lost time. Carlus estimated that the Scottsboro office handled an average of 30 lost-time injuries per month; they processed many ”no lost time" medical claims. He remembers hernias reported by numerous employees which required immediate operations. Carlus pointed out all trees were felled by axe wielding employees and the men were expected to use a log hook to manually maneuver the logs. Today, this same type work is accomplished by machines. The men hired to "burn brush" for the Guntersville Reservoir had little firsthand experience. Also, each man knew he had to produce as expected, since some other man was waiting in Homer Woosley's grocery store across the street from the TVA office at all times, ready to accept any unfilled job.

Row 1 L to R: Shorty McHann, Claude Mitchel, Billy Jack Keller, Alfred Reed, Albert Hart, Tom Stubblefield, Larry Rorex, Oscar Black, ___Bain (subforeman), Harvey Beard, George Wilhelm, David K. Bynum.Row 2: Joe Downs, Avery Coulson, Frank Thomas, Midas Roberts, Tommy Shelton, Delbert Light, _____, Robert Wilhelm, Sid McDonald, ___Isbell, Harris Dobbins, Wallace Randolph, William Smart, _____, Webster Ketton .Row 3: Oscar Frazier, Grady Porter, Archie Hastings, George Kirkland, Fred Lusk, ,_____, Aaron Tidwell, Herchel Floyd, Robert Womack.Row 4: Bill Moneymaker (manager), William Davis (subforeman), Ernest James, Calvin Cornelison, Delbert Stubblefield, Millard Rollings, Edd Barclay, Emmett Stone, Arthur Noe (subforeman), Robert Shelton, Daniel Tucker.

There were two teams of workers from Jackson County. The photo above shows TVA Unit 1. This unit started on September 8, 1936, two days after Labor Day, working at North Sauta Bridge on Sauta Creek. Bob Holley and W. D. Moneymaker cut the first tree.

Several men were killed at the dam site and in clearing land for the Guntersville Reservoir. TVA's safety program was in its infancy, and both the supervisory personnel and the engineers had much to learn before the safety program became an effective one. Injuries and fatalities were covered under the Federal Employees Workmen's Compensation Act. The claims clerks were required to furnish extensive documentation on any type injury for the Review Board in Washington, D. C. Carlus vividly recalled preparing affidavits from injured employees, witnesses to the accident, and the deceased's family, as well as obtaining statements from attending physicians.

When a really serious or lingering injury occurred, the employee was taken to the United States Marine Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. (This was a non-military hospital for civilians.) On many occasions, Carlus Page accompanied the patient as custodian in charge of all arrangements. This included getting the patient on the "fast train," *The Tennessean*, to Memphis, getting a cab from the depot to the hospital, making all the arrangements at the hospital, and seeing the patient returned home safely.

Carlus pointed out the early dam building engineering expertise did not come from Auburn or the University of Alabama, but from Alabama Power Company experience. Mr. Bob Holley was the Guntersville Reservoir project chief engineer. He came to this area from Clanton, Alabama, where he had worked for Alabama Power Company. Many of the lead supervisors for this project had previously worked with Mr. Holley in South Alabama.

Under Alabama law, if as much as an acre was impounded, the debris was to be cleared. Clearing of the land for the reservoir was also begun in 1935. Most of the trees and undergrowth had been cleared by the winter of 1937. However, new growth by the spring of 1938 made it necessary to "rebrush" the entire area. By the spring of 1939, this same type growth had reappeared, and the reservoir lands had to be "rebrushed" and the debris swept up again.

In January 1939, the locks were closed, the reservoir was filled, and the water was backed up. Then the water was dropped in an effort to help remove the debris. TVA was forced to back it up and drop it down and back it up and drop it down. This effort was called "surcharging." This is the reason for the time lapse between the closing of the locks in January, 1939, and the initial generation of power in August of the same year. Carlus pointed out the debris had to be retrieved from the main stream as the debris could not be allowed through the locks and into the turbines. In fact, a member of the JCHA Facebook page talked about the extreme care taken to burn everything. Fires burned the big trees and brush, and when these big fires burned themselves out, the men swept the fire and burned the remaining pieces. It was thought that even a small piece of wood might damage a lock or turbine.

Carlus advised that the mosquitoes that transmitted malaria in this area did not breed in tin cans and stagnant pools. They bred in clean water and still do. This is why the trees had to be cut so the minimum water level would cover the stumps. If the stumps had been left to break the water, they would have provided the perfect breeding spot for the malaria transmitting mosquito, the *Anopheles Quadrimaculatus*. Today, many people think the height of the stumps was so limited to accommodate boating. Carlus said that water recreation was a secondary effort for TVA. He emphasized that malaria control, not boating, was the prime consideration in determining the small amount of stump left on the reservoir land. Forty years ago, 35 out of 100 persons in some areas of the Tennessee Valley had malaria. Since 1948, no proven case of malaria contracted in the Valley has been found. The TVA chemists assigned to the malaria control program literally worked themselves out of that job title as they succeeded in eradicating malaria in this area.

Carlus Page, Ann Chambless, and Annette Bradford

A Laboratory for the Nation: The TVA

> *One of the chief peculiarities of the old Tennessee is that, of all the great rivers east of the Mississippi, it has been the least friendly to civilization. Until the advent of the Tennessee Valley authority it defied every human attempt at conquest. It could be used, but only at great hazard and on terms forbidding to commerce and industry. So it remained a wild river, cherishing its wildness while civilization rushed across it or away from it. it mocked the schemes of improvers. It wore out the patience of legislators. Tawny and unsubdued, an Indian among rivers, the old Tennessee threw back man's improvements in his face and went its own way, which was not the way of the white man. (Donald Davidson in The Tennessee Volume II, The New River: Civil War to TVA)*

We know the TVA as an engineering marvel that has brought tremendous benefits to this region. But Franklin Roosevelt's vision of the TVA was not primarily to create the unprecedented technological, environmental, and economic entity we know today.

Roosevelt's primary goal was to accomplish what he termed "social engineering," an attempt to restore the people of this valley to social and spiritual health from what he and the country at large perceived as cultural deprivation that had been visited on us by economic hardship, isolation, defeatism, and ignorance.

He and the board of the TVA wanted to create a social model that would render the region immune to the industrial and agribusiness failures that had resulted in the Great Depression. He and the TVA Board of Directors wanted to engineer a return to an idyllic, agrarian past. As such, they wanted us to serve as "a laboratory for the nation."

His vision was radical. The economic, social, and environmental landscape of the Tennessee River Valley in the early 1930s was appalling.

The stock market crash of October 1929 that is widely credited as the critical event triggering the Great Depression was not a particularly significant event in the Tennessee Valley because we were already in the midst of our crash. We were beset on all sides by economic reversals.

In agriculture, we had been committed almost exclusively to cotton, dating back to the invention of the cotton gin in the early nineteenth century, and we had been victim to a wildly fluctuating market since the Civil War. The only steady trend was a lower average price per pound from 1873 to 1897 when prices dropped from 15.1 cents per pound to 5.8 cents. Given that the dollar had appreciated some 300 percent from 1865 to 1895 meant that cotton prices had held steady or had declined in real terms. Farms that were heavily mortgaged in 1870 dollars left land owners owing much more than they had borrowed on land that was worn out and badly eroded.

In the early 1920s, the South's economic base diversified somewhat as textile mills, which attracted Northern industrialists with low wages, workers' hostility to labor unions, and "cheap and contented 99 percent pure, Anglo-Saxon labor" moved into the region.

But things were unsettled in the mills, as well: European mills were again producing in the wake of the war, and Japan entered the textile market as a serious competitor. From 1920 to 1925, mill worker wages in the South fell by half.

Thus, by 1930, the South had experienced severe depressions in both its economies, if in fact the industrial and agricultural economies of the South in the 1920s could be seen as independent entities.

Statistically, the Tennessee Valley was a prime target for economic development. Half the region's families were "on relief" (an undeterminable number were eligible but refused to apply), and per capita income

was forty-five percent of the national average. Over sixty percent of the population was involved in farming small plots, in a region plagued with erosion to an extent unequalled in the United States. Fully one-third of the population living within one mile of the Tennessee River suffered from malaria.

But in the popular conception of the more prosperous parts of the nation, the statistics only buttressed a perception that the press reveled in: that the economic malaise of the region was accompanied by a profound and disturbing social depravity that festered in the backwoods of the South.

The historian Donald Davidson notes that the the most crucial event bring popular derision down on our region was the case of the Scottsboro Boys. Those trials, held in Scottsboro and Decatur, along with the Scopes' "Monkey Trial" held in Dayton, TN, "brought down on the unsuspecting valley, in a peculiarly intense and derisive form, the organized wrath of the outside world."(1)

Samuel Liebowitz, the attorney representing the Scottsboro Boys in the Decatur proceedings, engaged his New York audience by referring to locals as "boll weevil bigots ..., creatures whose mouths are slits...whose eyes pop out at you like frogs, whose chins drip tobacco juice, bewhiskered and filthy."(2)

H.L. Mencken, the influential contemporary journalist, himself Southern, described his native land as the South as "Bunghole of the United States, a cesspool of Baptists, a miasma of Methodism, snake-charming, phony real estate operators, and syphilitic evangelists."(3)

By the 1930's, the myth of the *Savage South* that had been nurtured by the abolitionists in works such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in the run-up to the Civil War had been revived, enhanced, and figured prominently in the public's perception of our region. The *Savage South* remains a popular and marketable Hollywood motif today.

In the midst of the despair came a hopeful development that greatly excited public optimism. On Saturday, March 4, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated as President of the United States. Earlier that day, every bank in America had closed its doors. One-quarter of the American workforce was without jobs. National income was one-half what it had been only four years before.

Within one week of his inauguration, Roosevelt pushed the enactment of the Emergency Banking Act and then turned his attention to the repeal of the prohibition law. Within three months of that first legislation, Roosevelt had ushered through Congress fifteen major pieces of legislation that were to serve as the basis of his "New Deal" reforms, the creation of the TVA among them.

Why was the TVA important enough to Roosevelt that he would make it one of his first priorities?

There were practical reasons: Believing that American nitrate supplies from Chile (used for fertilizer and munitions) could be endangered by German sea power, President Woodrow Wilson had earlier introduced the National Defense Act of 1916, designating Muscle Shoals as the site of a nitrate production facility and directing the construction of a dam to supply the massive energy needed for nitrate production. The fate of that facility had remained in limbo for over a decade preceding Roosevelt's tenure, and yet the need for nitrates was still critical given the depletion of farm lands and the resurgent political turmoil in Europe.

The TVA also promised to tame the river's seasonal floods in order to protect crops and homes. Another goal was to enable commercial navigation—especially problematic at Muscle Shoals and in a network of hazards downstream from Moccasin Bend—thereby promoting trade and economic growth.

But the primary impetus for the Tennessee Valley Authority was not economic. It was humanitarian. It was an ambitious strategy that FDR and early TVA advocates called "social engineering."

Only one month after he took office, Roosevelt drafted a message to Congress in which he suggested that Congress ... "create a Tennessee Valley Authority--a corporation clothed with the power of government but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise. It should be charged with the broadest duty of planning for the proper use, conservation, and development of the natural resources of

the Tennessee River drainage basin and its adjoining territory for the general and social and economic welfare of the Nation. This authority should also be clothed with the necessary power to carry these plans into effect".(4)

Roosevelt characterized the South as the "nation's economic problem number one," and his assessments of the region embodied unambiguous references to the sorry state of the Southern spirit and ethic.

The resculpting of 40,000 square miles of the Tennessee Valley was a task sufficient to challenge the most imaginative of planners, architects, and engineers: never had such a massive waterway project been planned or built. The multiple-purpose concept --designing and constructing dams that provided concurrently for navigation, power production, and flood control--had never been tested on the TVA scale, and the practicality of the plan was in doubt.

But to Roosevelt and his choice for chairman of the TVA—A.E. Morgan—the physical reconstruction of the valley was either a secondary concern or means to a greater end. For Morgan and Roosevelt, it was the potential for social planning and for the betterment of the quality of life in the valley that excited greatest interest and energies, accounted for by his inclusion of the phrase *social welfare* in his directive to Congress creating the TVA.

Arthur M. Schlesinger says of Roosevelt's commitment to the TVA:

> Perhaps no law passed during the Hundred Days expressed more passionately a central presidential concern [than the TVA]. It arose ... from his continued search for a better design for national living. Utopia still presented itself to him in the cherished image of Hyde Park. America, he felt, was over committed to urban living. In the twenties he had discussed the possibility of keeping people on the land by combining farming with part-time local industry. The depression and the presidency provided new opportunity to move toward a "balanced civilization." (5)

Donald Davidson described Roosevelt's appointee A.E. Morgan as "a leader of a kind rarely produced in an industrialized civilization--an expert and a specialist who had overleaped the bounds of his science and had come to think and act in terms of the general interest."(6) Schlesinger calls Morgan, "part technician, part prophet...possessed by an earnest passion to remake man and remake society."(7)

Morgan envisioned the TVA as "not primarily a dam building job, a fertilizer job or power transmission job" but instead suggested that "improvement of that total well being, in physical, social, and economic condition is the total aim." As Morgan envisioned the situation: "The wreckage of rugged individualism has been handed to us with a request that we try to do something about it." (8)

He will reiterate this dominant purpose in a subsequent article in *Survey Graphic* magazine in which he recalls in an initial policy meeting with FDR: "When I first went to see President Roosevelt, he talked about an hour about its possibilities, and there was scarcely a mention of power or fertilizer. He talked chiefly about a designed and planned economic order. That was first on his mind."(9)

Alarmed that the Tennessee Valley could never be the "site of a permanent civilization" if the current "hit or miss individualism" were allowed continued full sway, Morgan advocates the region's becoming a "laboratory for the nation," a phrase often repeated in subsequent TVA-related descriptions.

Morgan proclaimed the area "the last great bulwark of individuality in America," but he suggests that this pattern of isolation and independence has made the region a prime target for the "exploitation of mass production that is in search of cheap labor." Such exploitation, Morgan declared, tends "to destroy [the individualist's] type of civilization."(10)

As an alternative to this sort of laissez-faire exploitation, Morgan asks, "Is it not possible that a very desirable way of life may become characteristic of the region? Would not it be possible for the Southern highlander to preserve his present versatility and distinctiveness in personal and social life, and to develop small industries which, like those of France, are based on intelligence, individual taste and skill?"(11)

Morgan asserts that with enlightened planning, the valley resident "can be the individualist in American industrial life. With artistic and scientific guidance, he can make the goods America needs to take the curse off its mass production civilization."(12)

The Tennessee Valley Authority, he asserts, is a means "for displacing haphazard, unplanned and unintegrated social and industrial development by introducing increasing elements of order, design and forethought."(13)

The culprit is again a mass production ethic, and the agrarian milieu is the setting for a recreated human spirit and economic system. Morgan's dream is of small industries established in the small community whose intent is to supply the needs of the agrarian society.

Such an economic basis, Morgan believes, will revive the human spirit: "When one wants character and individuality, mass production tends to fail, for individuality and character in product demand workmen who can and do work with character and individuality."(14)

While conceding the inevitability of industry, Morgan believes that the corporate profit impulse can be restrained in the Tennessee Valley: "There will and ought to be some large industry, but the Tennessee River region should not be forced into it because it is the fashion. Here and there products of individuality and character can be developed which people will buy because they are tired of the monotony of mass production."(15)

To the end of establishing that new industrial order, Morgan advances some of his most radical proposals, among them a domestic credit and a monetary system that would serve as legal tender for the purchase of valley produced goods but not "foreign" products; a central purchasing cooperative; a central sales and distribution organization; the continuation of prohibition; and the prohibition of tobacco.

Morgan, like Thomas Jefferson before him, envisioned an "ocean of fire" between his envisioned social order and the portion of the society already infected by the industrial ethic.

The director's "fundamental job" in the valley, Morgan states, is "to try to recreate the conditions of living, so that there can be joy in working, so that there can be joy in living, so that it will not be necessary to flee away from living in drunkenness or gambling or in any other of the substitutes for normal experience."(16)

But Morgan's moral rectitude and his refusal to compromise his utopian vision brought him into conflict with his fellow board members who were more focused on the engineering and power-production mandates of the organization.

On March 7, 1938, Morgan published in *The New York Times* a draft of a letter he had sent to the Senate that contained grave charges against his two fellow TVA board members, David Lilienthal and H.A. Morgan. He charged that the other two conspired against him for control of the TVA; accused them of issuing "false reports" to Congress, the President, and the public; asserted that they had withheld essential operating information from him and his staff; and finally charged that "There is a practice of evasion, intrigue and sharp strategy, with remarkable skill and alibi and the habit of avoiding direct responsibility, which makes Machiavelli look open and candid."(17)

After three such meetings with the TVA board--on March 11, 18, and 21—Roosevelt removed A.E. Morgan as chairman of the TVA on grounds of "contumacy" (contemptuous resistance to authority). Morgan refused to recognize Roosevelt's power to remove him, and he subsequently took the issue to the courts where he eventually lost his bid for reinstatement as chairman.

Conceding that the TVA is "one of the most hopeful acts of the Roosevelt administration," *The New Republic* said of Morgan's tenacity to legislate social change in the valley "It is submitted that this is so much romantic mush. Dr. Morgan and his associates ought to drop, at once, their fantasy of an

independent, sovereign Tennessee Valley. As they must admit, they cannot cut off the Valley from the rest of the country, put tariff walls and forbid immigration."(18)

The New Republic piece laments that "the one planning body so far established by the government should meantime be representing planning as a Davy Crockett-coonskin cap retreat from life seems a great shame."

In the eighty years since its creation, the Tennessee Valley Authority has rarely excited praise or hopeful speculation from the popular press. It has been variously described as "just another utility" and as "an old dream, dull and flabby."

It withstood severe attack during the Eisenhower administration when it was singled out once again as a clear and unacceptable example of creeping socialism in a democratic country.

It survived a plan that called for its sale and a plan to break up its power monopoly in the valley. It also survived several political attempts to thwart its dam construction plans.

The TVA's public image was particularly battered when it exercised its right of eminent domain to develop recreational areas such as the "Land Between the Lakes" and defended itself from environmental lawsuits brought by the federal government.

Perhaps the bitterest battle revolved around the TVA's determination to build the Tellico Dam. The tiny fish, the snail darter, was the focus of a great deal of cynical derision of the environment movement, oftentimes obscuring more important issues, particularly the inundation of the Cherokee's sacred capital, *Chota*, and all of the tribe's legendary *seven cities* including *Tanasi* for which the state and river are named. The dam produced no power and the surrounding waterfront was sold by the TVA for commercial, residential development.

In reaction to the myriad of attacks against it, the TVA became more conservative, allying itself with private power interests and presenting itself in public forums as a corporation primarily interested in the generation of power and the control of seasonal floods.

Talk of a "new order" passed in the 1940s. So complete was the TVA's desire to abandon its association with New Deal liberalism that the Regional Planning Council, the department of the TVA charged with carrying out the social mandate, was abolished. All that remains of it today is the Office of Health and Environmental Science.

As a writer in *Smithsonian* portrayed the new TVA: "An agency that began life playing kickball with the liberals finally waddled off to the golf course with the conservatives."(19)

The "laboratory for the nation" envisioned by Morgan and Roosevelt was too ambitious and impractical to be realized. But their optimism, as naive as it might seem in from the perspective of today's division and cynicism, is remarkable and refreshing.

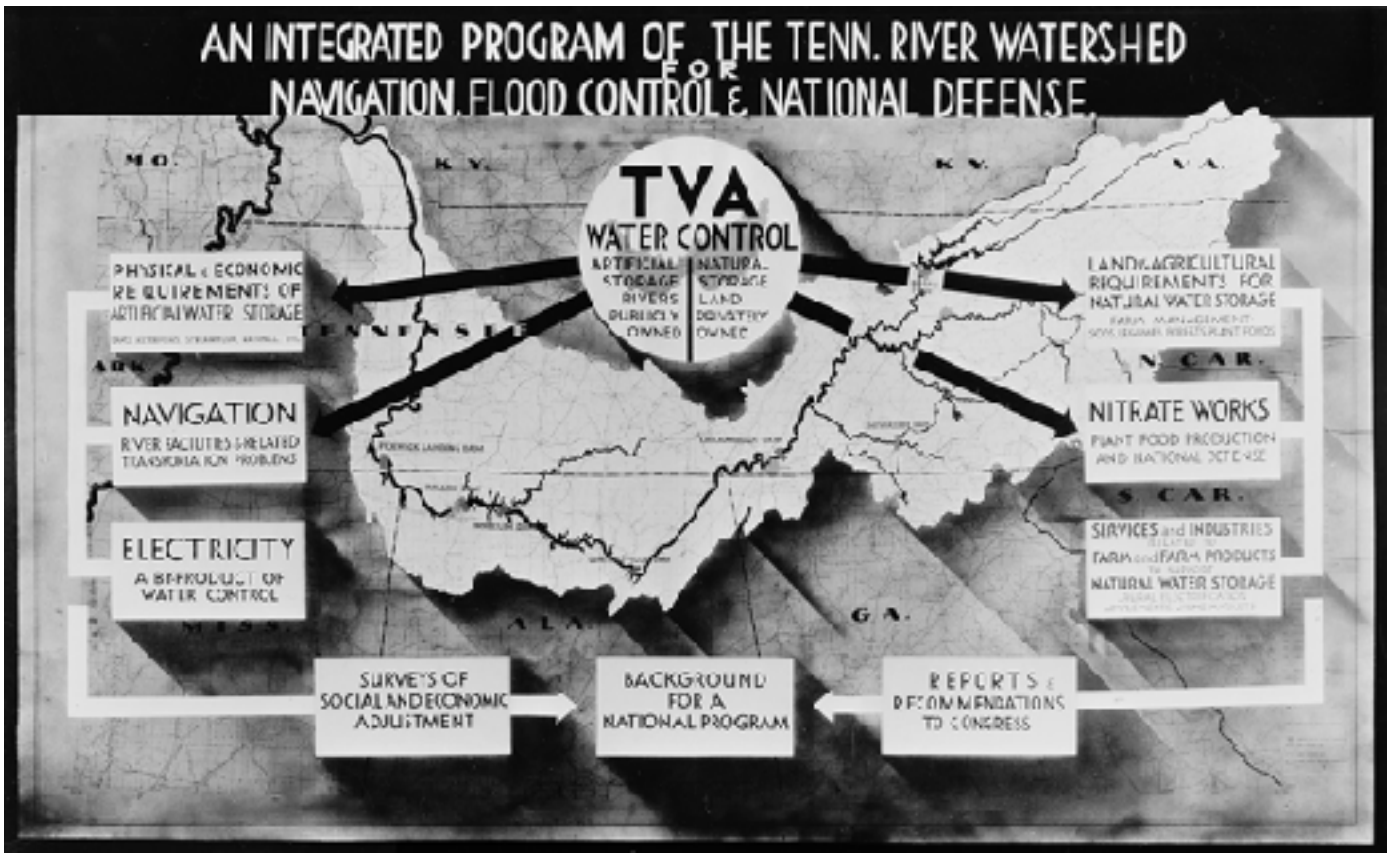
We have benefitted greatly from their dreams.

David Benson Bradford

Notes

1. Donald Davidson, The Tennessee 2 vol. in *Rivers of America*, Hervey Allen and Carl Carmer, eds. (New York, Toronto: Rinehart & Company, Inc., 1948), v. 2, p. 196.
2. Davidson, p. 208
3. George B. Tindall, "Benighted South: Origins of a Modern Image" in *Myth and Southern History*, Patrick Gerster and Nicholas Cords, eds. (Chicago: Rand McNally Publishing Company, 1974), p. 250.
4. Marguerite Owen, *The Tennessee Valley Authority* (New York: Preaeger Publishers, 1973), p. 14.
5. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Coming of the New Deal* (Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1959), p. 319.
6. Davidson, p. 222.
7. Schlesinger, p. 327.

8. Schlesinger, p.327.
9. Arthur E. Morgan, "The Strength of the Hills," *Survey Graphic*, 23 (January 1934), p. 43.
10. Arthur E. Morgan, "Planning in the Tennessee Valley," *Current History*, (September, 1933), p. 13.
11. Morgan, Current History, Arthur E. Morgan, "Planning in the Tennessee Valley," *Current History*, 38 (September, 1933), p. 667
12. Morgan, *Current History* (September, 1933), p. 667.
13. Morgan, *Survey Graphic* 23 (January 1934), p. 6.
14. Arthur E. Morgan, "Roads to Prosperity in the TVA," *Survey Graphic* 23 (November 1934), p. 552.
15. Morgan, Survey Graphic 23 (November 1934), pp. 551-552.
16. Arthur E. Morgan, "Progress in the Art of Living," *Recreation* 28 (December 1934), p. 417.
17. Willson Whitman, "Morgan and Morgan and Lilienthal: the Personalities in the TVA Wrangle" *Harper's Monthly Magazine* 177 (September 1938), p. 359.
18. Cassandra Tate, "Ambivalent TVA Roles in Energy and Conservation," *Smithsonian* 10 (January 1980), p. 95.
19. Tate, p. 95



TVA Watershed, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Divisions, FSA/OWI Collection, LC-USW33-015672-ZC

TVA Archaeology Before the Flood

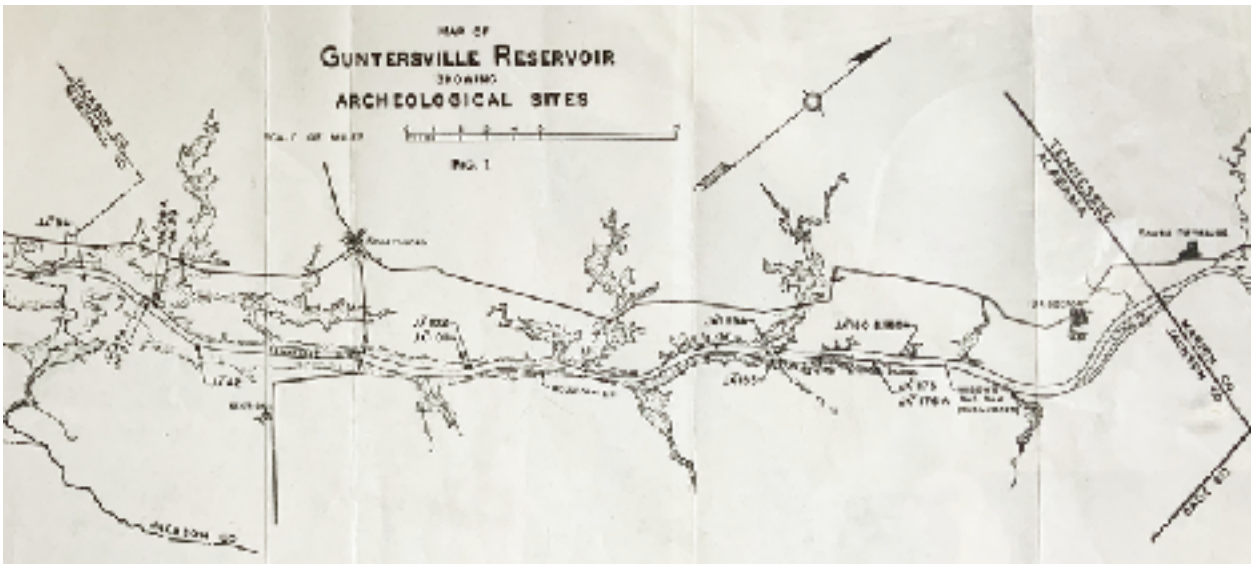
In 1939, Benny Bell's grandfather, John Zachery "Buster" Bell, was part of a frantic crew of men digging into an Indian mound in Bellefonte as the water rose behind them. Benny remembers his grandfather talking about how the supervisors hovered over the diggers to ensure that no valuable artifacts went directly into the pockets of the workers. Buster uncovered a container and held it reverently in his hands, wondering about its contents when it was snatched from him and cataloged. His whole life, Benny said, his father wondered what had been in that container, but never found out.

The Crew of Local wPA-financed diggers at the Snodgrass Mound in 1939. Mr. Bell is on the left, last row from the back. wearing a fedora.

Furious archeological digging and preserving went on in Jackson County in 1938-1939, where a trained army of supervisors and a great number of paid diggers tried desperately to do a rigorous job of excavating and recording data about Indian mounds with burials and villages on land about to be covered by the creation of Lake Guntersville. The digs were jointly sponsored by the Social and Economic Research Division of TVA in cooperation with the University of Alabama through the Museum of Natural History.

Two summers before this work started, Dr. David L. DeJarnette, with a grant from the National Research Council, had already made substantial progress at locating and describing the archaeological sites in Jackson and Marshall County. It is his name on the quarterly reports from 1938 and 1939 housed in the basement of the Alabama Archives. The field survey work was done by R. D. Silvey of the Engineering Service Division of TVA. "Each site was described and classified and its location plotted on aerial mosaics

of the region." (p.6) In all, 441 sites were identified in Marshall County, and 202 sites in Jackson County. The teams worked only on the sites about to be inundated by Lake Guntersville—27 in Marshall County and 12 in Jackson. The supervisors for the individual digs were Harold F. Dahms of Seward, NB; H. Summerfield Day of Des Plaines, IL; Theodore J. Johansen of New London, CN; Carl F. Miller of Tulsa, OK; Charles G. Wilder of North Holston, VA; and Steven Wimberly of Lincoln, NB (who appears to be no relation to the local Wimberley family). The laborers on the project were all local men like Benny Bell's grandfather.



Prehistoric Sites in Jackson County Explored 1938-1939

TVA Archaeologists William S. Webb and Charles G. Wilder published a book with the University of Kentucky Press in 1951, detailing the excavation and preservation work done by TVA in the Guntersville basin of the Tennessee River before the flood gates closed to create Lake Guntersville in 1939. The field work for this project, Webb explained, took more than 20 months in 1938 and 1939. About 29 sites were explored during these 20 months, and the artifacts found were brought to a warehouse in Birmingham where they were processed and studied.

In the introduction to the 1951 publication *An Archaeological Survey of Guntersville Basin,* Webb detailed the cost and scope of the TVA work: "The labor in the field and laboratory was provided by the Works Progress Administration at a cost of more than $600,000, exclusive of the salaries of the supervisors, which was paid by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and of expenditures by the Alabama Museum of Natural History."

The final report of this work was completed in 1941 and submitted to the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1941, which published it along with other TVA excavation data in their Bulletins Numbers 119, 122, and 128. The TVA also provided funds to do a more detailed publication, but before that publication could be produced, World War II started and TVA funding dried up, and the manuscript was returned to the authors and not published until 1951.

In discussing the civilization that frequented this area, Webb explained the prehistoric peoples traveled in dugout canoes down the creeks and rivers which served as the highways of our county. These time-defined groups of prehistoric peoples discovered the same locations and built villages in the same places over time, so that the artifacts of one time period sit on top of the artifacts of the previous civilization. In the analysis of each site, the supervisor identified artifacts and burials by the time period during which they occurred. Much of the information they base these identifications on is contained in pottery shards,

though the Guntersville Basin and vicinity were occupied in prepottery times. Webb identifies five stages of occupancy based on pottery types: Gunterlands I through V. Excavations at other sites revealed some metal work referred to as "COPENA (COPper galENA) manifestations." This more advanced and later artifacts were found at only two Guntersville Basin sites not in Jackson County. He does not put dates beside these classifications.

The manner of the burials were also detailed since many of the artifacts were found within graves. The amount of extension of the body was detailed (fully extended versus fully flexed with several degrees between) as was the condition of the bones (intact, badly deteriorated, only a few remaining, etc.) and the depth of the burial (pit versus shallow). Very often, perhaps to keep the size of the pit small, the skull was removed and placed within the curve of the body

Elaborate bead and shell jewelry was often found along with ear spools, jars, or bowls. Some burial pits were filled with shells.

Typical Artifacts Recovered from Site JAV27. A. Polychrome Water Bottle B. Effigy Water Bottle C. Pot D. Conical Base Jar E. Pot F. Arrowhead and Scraper Artifacts. G. Bowl body.

Here is a brief overview of the twelve Jackson County sites, moving from west to east, along with the name of the archaeologist(s) leading the dig. These sites are now under Lake Guntersville. TVA manages over 12,500 archaeological sites and structures and prosecutes relic hunters and looters.

Site JA^{O} 9A Langston (Wilder and Day): This mound was located on a farm that belonged to T. E. Morgan on the south side of the Tennessee River 2 1/2 miles southwest of the town of Langston in an area known locally as Plum Orchard. This domiciliary mound was located 100 feet from the bank of the Tennessee River and downstream from what had been a large village. The center of the mound was two feet high and 57 feet wide at the base; it was so subtle that it had been missed by two previous surveys. The area all around the mound was part of the flood plain and very flat. A depression at the top emptied into Wiley Lake, which in turn drained into South Sauty Creek. The artifacts recovered from the site revealed three separate historical periods of habitation. It included 5 non-pit burials, 7 nearly complete vessels, and 1,558 pottery shards found primarily at the lower levels.

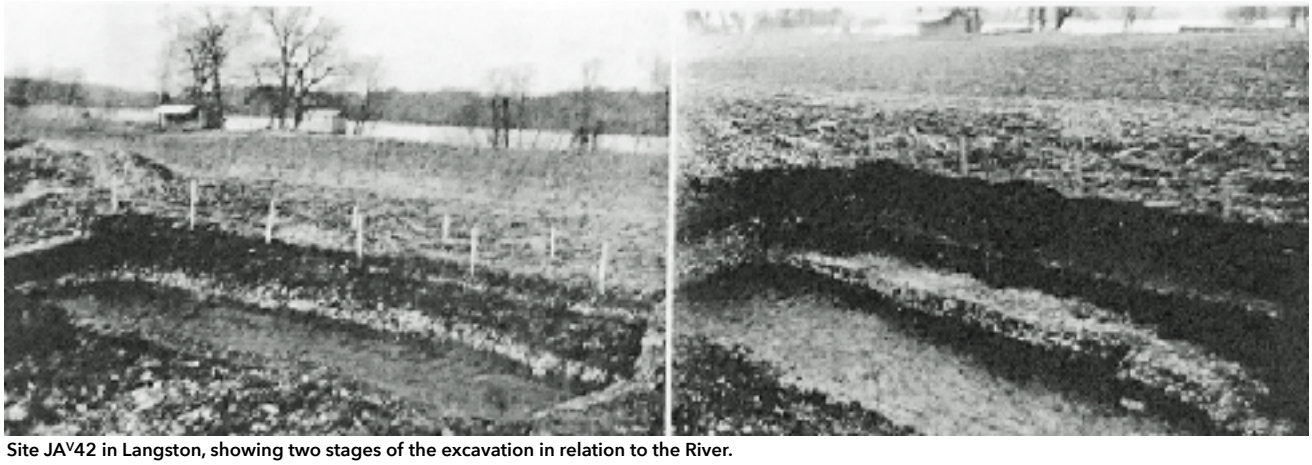
Site JA^{V} 27 Hardin (Wilder and Johnson): This village was located on a farm that belonged to Claude Spivey on the north bank of the Tennessee River 9 miles south of Scottsboro at the end of the river bank. One third of this 60-foot area was beneath a long-cultivated field about 18 feet above the river, shallow in some places because of erosion. The site had been violated by relic hunters. Thirteen burials were found on this site, and seven whole pots and 2,570 shards were found on this site. The site showed evidence of two cultures from two different time horizons (Early Gunterlands III and IV).

Site JA^{V} 27A Guffey (Wilder): Located 800 feet downstream from the Hardin site, this village was also located on a farm belonging to Claude Spivey on the north bank of the Tennessee River 9 miles south of Scottsboro. The site contained six burials, four of which were pit burials and two were near the surface. Very few pottery shards were removed from this site, and no vessels could be recovered. Like the Hardin site, the site showed evidence of two cultures from two different time horizons (Early Gunterlands III and IV).

Site JA^{V}28 Sauty (Wilder): Located on the north bank of the Tennessee River 300 feet below the mouth of North Sauty Creek on property that belonged to Claude Spivey. The river bank rose gradually from the water's edge to a height of 17 feet to an expanse of level flood plain farmland extending about a mile, covered in sand and fine silt. Shortly before excavation of this site, the TVA had cleared the large trees, with several stumps remaining. A canebrake had to be cleared before excavation could begin. The area measured 60 feet by 80 feet. The site was part of a cultivated field, and the original height had been reduced by plowing and erosion. Two other sites were found within a half mile. Webb speculates that this was the location of the Indian village that George Everett Foster in 1885 referred to as Sauta. According to Foster, the village of Sauta was established in 1784, one of the many mythical places where Sequoyah was reported to have "made known" the Cherokee alphabet (maybe George Washington slept here too???). Trails existed between Sauta and Coosada, a mixed settlement of Creeks and Cherokees at that time known as Larkin's Landing, according to the same writer. Webb regrets having no time to excavate or otherwise explore this earlier writer's statements. There were 80 burials on this site with associated artifacts, with 9 whole pieces of pottery and 8,000 shards recovered.

Site JA^{V}28A Riley (Wilder): Adjacent to the Sauty site and also on the Claude Spivey property, this mound is located 300 feet further downstream from the Sauty site and about 180 feet back from the river bank. The analysis for this site was rolled into the larger Sauty site. There was evidence that this site was used for burials as late as 1784.

Site JA^{V}42 Benson (Wilder); Located on property that belonged to John B. Benson, this site is on the south side of the river 2.5 miles NW of the town of Langston. This site was excavated before the TVA work stated. It was approximately 1,200 feet long and 100-120 feet wide. It rose to a height of 5 feet above the flood plain. The flood plain and the ridge on which the site was located had been under cultivation for many years. Work on this site began as an emergency operation when rising flood waters interrupted work on a nearby site. Two post molds and two burial pits were found. The site had been so disturbed that it was necessary to dig into the second level before finding artifacts. Some 2,514 pottery shards were recovered from the site. Evidence of two different periods of occupation (Gunterland I and Gunterland III) was found. Also found on this site were two dog skeletons, indicating "that dog veneration was practiced."



Site JA^{V}42 in Langston, showing two stages of the excavation in relation to the River.

Site JAO101 Snodgrass (Wilder): Located on property that belonged to Mrs. Texas Hess Snodgrass, this domiciliary mound was situated a quarter mile downstream from the old Sublett Ferry Landing, 150 feet from the north bank of the Tennessee River. This mound was oval, 130 x 160 feet and stood 23 feet high with a flat top. At the time this excavation started, the mound was covered in large trees and had been the site of two contemporary corn cribs. The report contains many pictures of this excavation. The

site was a favorite of local amateur diggers who had dug and refilled several pits. The area around the mound was a flat flood plain. Another smaller mound approximately 50 feet in diameter had served as the foundation of a house, and was therefore ignored. Five other small mounds surrounded the major mound, and they also were not excavated. The river was rising quickly and the usually careful archaeologists had to modify their techniques to do anything approximating a complete job. "At this point, before half the mound was excavated, the reservoir was flooded and the remaining portion of the mound was inundated." (p.196) Only one burial was found, but found structures could be identified and many hearths were found. Nearly 3,000 shards, one whole vessel, and one partial vessel were recovered. This mound was a village site for two groups: Gunterlands IV and Gunterland III.

Site JAO101 Snodgrass (Wilder): Located on property that belonged to Mrs. Texas Hess Snodgrass

SiteJAV102 Sublet Ferry Site: Also located on the Mrs. Texas Snodgrass property, the village mound was located 1,500 feet downstream from the Sublet Ferry Landing on the north side of the Tennessee River. It is a mussel shell mound 60 feet in diameter and 5 feet high that is part of a cultivated field, backed up on the end of River Ridge. This mound had been dug by amateur diggers who had returned all the bones found to a stone chamber on Site 11. The site revealed post holes and oval areas of burned clay indicating fireplaces. Twenty-four burials were recovered from this site, 7 fully flexed and 17 partially flexed. Ten pottery vessels accompanied these burials, and a great number of pottery shards were recovered. This mound was a village used by Gunterland IV and Gunterland III groups.

Site JAV155: Crow Creek Island (Johansen and Wimberly): Located on property that had belonged to Miss Mary Bell Simpson, this village mound was located at the north end of Crow Creek Island four miles south of the town of Stevenson and a quarter mile downstream from the Caperton Ferry. Crow Creek Island was slightly over a mile long and a quarter-mile wide at its widest midpoint. The entire ridge showed an abundance of Indian occupation. The team found 13 mounds of shells and animal bones. Parts of the site had been under cultivation and showed signs of erosion. A circular fire basin 2.5 feet in diameter was found, along with 48 human burials in various states of flex and three complete dog skeletons in separate pits. Nearly 10,000 pottery shards and a large number of restorable vessels were recovered. This mound was a village used by Gunterland IV and Gunterland III groups, primarily the later time period.

Site JAV155A Stearnes (Wimberly): Also located on Crow Creek Island on property that had belonged to Miss Mary Bell Simpson, this village was located midway between the banks at about the center of the island. Discoveries on this site included a circular baked fire basin, a dog skeleton, and two well-preserved human burials. The site yielded 4,193 pottery shards but no restorable vessels.This mound was village used by Gunterland IV and Gunterland III groups, primarily the later time period.

Site JAO176 Cox (Johansen): Located on property that had belonged to Mrs. Veda Jacobs Spivey, this mound was located on the left bank of the Tennessee River 8000 feet above Caperton Ferry, 2 miles east of Stevenson and 2 miles below Widow's Creek Dam. This site revealed an extensive village 150 feet wide by 3,200 feet long. At this point, the river bank was high and rather steep. This site is prominent and had

been previously recognized as a prehistoric site, and investigated several times previously by less than professional diggers. It was not disturbed by Clarence Moore in 1915 because there were buildings belonging to J. H. Cameron on top of the mound, though a single test pit he dug revealed 30 burials. Some of the most elaborate analyses of flint and pottery samples were conducted for these two Cox sites. Sixteen undisturbed burials, each in its own pit, were found, and approximately 10,000 pottery shards were recovered. The heads of three blank-faced human effigy water bottles were recovered, at least one showing an elaborate head dress. A great village existed on this site during Gunterland III habitation. Gunterland IV occupancy existed for some years before the building of the mound, which occurred in the late Gunterland IV period.

Site JA0176A Cox Village (Johansen and Wimberly): Also owned by Mrs Veda Spivey, this site was located on the east bank of the Tennessee River about two miles below Widow's Bar Lock. It abuts JAO176, extending north about 600 feet. The site yielded 11 dog burials, with the animals placed on their sides in a sleeping position. Ninety-three human burials were also found in various states of flex but with few burial artifacts. Flint specimens on the site numbered 369, and pottery shards more than 10,000. The most significant pottery feature on this site the diversity of types represented. Exceptional artifacts found on this site include a notched limestone hoe, rimmed bowls, boatstones, and polished cones.

Site JA0180 Rudder Site (Johnasen): Located four miles southeast of Stevenson on land that had belonged to Hunt Rudder, this site was located about 500 feet from the north bank of the Tennessee River and consisted of two mounds and the surrounding village area. This site was abused by Clarence Moore and later the side of a pyramid was cut away by a team of local residents with a scraper searching for relics for a collector, destroying a portion of the underlying pyramid. Several smaller shell deposits indicating small villages were located between the Rudder sites and the Cox site. The village site included circular storage and burial pits, fire basins, and evidence of the walls of structures. There were 57 burials with associated artifacts. Fifty-eight whole or partial vessels were recovered. Four burials with associated pottery and household relics were discovered belonging to the Gunterland IV and III horizons.

Site JA0180A Rudder Site (Johnasen): Also on the Hunt Rudder property, this site is the second and smaller of the two mounds found here. It included the outline of a structure and a small number of artifacts, the most interesting of which was fragment of a grooved greenstone axe. The site included the same two historical periods, Gunterland IV and Gunterland III.

Annette Norris Bradford

For more information about and pictures of these archaeological sites, see *An Archaeological Survey of Guntersville Basin* by William S. Webb and Charles G. Wilder. (University of Kentucky Press, 1951). All page number references in this article refer to citations from this book.

For more information about TVA archaeological sites, resources, and governance, see https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/land-management/cultural-resource-management/tva-archaeology.

Artifacts found on TVA public lands are federal property. It is against the law to take them. Also, the use of metal detectors on TVA public lands is strictly prohibited. If you find an item that may be an artifact, such as an arrowhead, leave it right where it is. Take a photo and capture the GPS coordinates. Then email the information to TVA at culturalresources@tva.gov. Anyone witnessing looting, vandalism or use of a metal detector on TVA public lands should call TVA Police at 855-476-2489.

The Skyline Farms Band Plays for President and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt

On May 12, 1938, a group of musicians and dancers from Alabama performed for President and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt at a garden party at the White House and later that evening took a cruise on the presidential yacht. Only a few years before, these hill-country farmers and their families had been struggling to make ends meet day–to-day and looking at an uncertain future. Life definitely had taken a change for the group from Alabama's Skyline Farms.

Folk music and dance had sent the group on their journey. They were participants in the Skyline Farms Project, a community development program on Cumberland Mountain in Jackson County, begun for unemployed Farm families during America's Great Depression.The project itself was as unique as the group's journey. The project was begun in 1934 by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), then operated by the Resettlement Administration (RA), and later by the Farm Security Administration (FSA) (Campbell and Coombs 1985: 244–255). The project, carved out of the Cumberland mountain wilderness, was intended to provide a new life for destitute families, most of whom were chosen based on their good name and character and work history (Campbell 1991).

Families selected for the project were provided with 40-60 acre farms, a house, barn, farm equipment, livestock, and they were given loans to finance their farming. The overall plan was that the participants would make money from their farming and then repay the federal government for their farm, house, and loans.

The project, however, was geared toward more than economic rehabilitation. Officials in the Franklin Roosevelt Administration saw this and similar projects as a way to improve the quality of rural life in America, and not just economically.

Skyline Farms dancers and band perform at the garden party. Waiting the performance is Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt (standing, second from left).

For example, Carl Taylor, a rural sociologist by training, headed the Rural Resettlement Division of the RA. Taylor's ideas on rural life structured the agenda for the RA in regard to social programs. Taylor believed that rural life should provide more social opportunities for people to offset isolation (Taylor 1933: 502). As a result, a number of programs were begun at Skyline Farms to improve life socially for the participants. Arts and crafts programs were conducted, pageants and plays were produced, and a community band and square dance team was formed. It was these musicians and dancers who would perform for the President.

Within the RA/FSA, the Special Skills Division was given the assignment of improving the quality of life at Skyline Farms through "cultural enrichment" programs. After a visit in 1936, Charles Seeger, a technical assistant in music with Special Skills, filed one of the first reports from Skyline Farms and gave a glowing account of the project (Seeger 1936). Seeger recommended that the Special Skills Division develop a full array of programs at Skyline Farms—music, drama, painting and sculpture, woodworking. weaving, landscaping, and pottery.

Based on Seeger's recommendation, the Special Skills Division sent Bascom Lunsford to Skyline Farms. Lunsford expressed his philosophy toward mountain folk music by saying: "My business was to draw attention to the fine cultural value of our traditional music and our dancing and the fine honor of our people. I was trying to perpetuate the real, true cultural worth of the mountain people. Our section, you know, has been slandered. People had the notion that it was somehow inferior. Now, they've turned around and found that there might be something to it" (Quoted in Jones 1984: 53). Within a few weeks after arriving at Skyline Farms, Lunsford organized a program of what he called "folk music and dancing." Members of this group performed traditional square dance numbers that had been handed down to them through the generations, such as"Home," "Right Hands Across and Left Back," "Ladies Docedo," and the "Grapevine Twist" (Lunsford 1936).

The Skyline Group-in Washington D. C.

Lunsford had tapped into a golden seam of Appalachian folk music. He wrote : "Following are the names of some of the ballads, or songs which I have secured: 'The Little Yellow Hound' (Edward), 'How Come the Blood on Your Shirt Sleeve" (Edward), 'The Merrie Golden Tree,' 'There was a Bride Come Through the Land' (The Wife of Usher's Well). The above ballads are variants of the Child classifications . . ." (Lunsford 1937). Lunsford was thrilled to have found and identified songs still sung at Skyline Farms that were included in Francis James Child's landmark listing of ballads of British origin.

In early 1937, Lunsford lost his job with Special Skills due to cutbacks in the program. However, he did not forget the group he had organized at Skyline Farms. Indeed, in the summer of 1937 he invited the group to the Mountain Dance and Music Festival in Asheville, a festival that he had first organized. By bringing the group to Asheville, Lunsford had laid the groundwork for the performance in Washington that soon followed. Based on their Asheville performance, Nicholas Ray, a specialist in theatre and drama productions with Special Skills, recommended that the group perform at a garden party Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was to host at the White House. Soon, Mrs. Roosevelt invited the Skyline dancers and musicians to perform at the White House at her expense and the invitation was quickly accepted.

Ray arrived at Skyline Farms in April of 1938 to produce the Washington program, and also to interest the schools and community in the use of theatre for enrichment and enjoyment (Ray to Dornbush 1938). At the project Ray found the rich, musical heritage that Lunsford had discovered. The community band that Lunsford had organized was named the Skyline Farms Band. The band consisted of Chester Allen, guitar and vocals; Clifford Anderson, dobro; H. L. "Hub" Green, fiddle; Thomas Holt, tenor guitar; Joe Sharp, mandolin and vocals; and Reuben Rousseau, fiddle. The band had honed its skills playing at the community dances held at the project on Friday nights. Also, as was the tradition, the band often played at homes in the community, sometimes until the early hours of the morning. During these local performances, other musicians, such as Walter Holt, Lake Weldon, and Grady "Red" Campbell, would play with the band. On some occasions the Holt sisters, Irene and Lucille, would perform, with Irene playing the mandolin and guitar and singing, while Lucille sang and played the mandolin. (3)

A key member of the band was Chester Allen, a talented, humorous entertainer with a deep, booming voice, who along with his friend Grady "Red" Campbell, had recorded commercially before joining Skyline Farms. Allen and Campbell had recorded in early 1935 in Atlanta for the Victor Bluebird label, a branch of RCA Records. Among the songs they recorded were "New Huntsville Jail," "Fool Drinking Daddy," "Drinking Fool," and "Railroad Blues." The songs were released regionally by RCA and sold relatively well, according to Campbell. Campbell later would recall that a "misunderstanding with a local policeman" caused him not to be at the project in 1938 when the band went to Washington (Campbell 1990).

Ray received official notice from Washington that the group was to perform on May 12, 1938. On May 10 the group of twenty–nine Skyline Farms residents began the 750-mile trip to Washington by car, crossing through east Tennessee and on into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In addition to the band members, the group consisted of Mr. and Mrs. W. l. "Ike" Floyd, Willie Rodgers, Opal Holsonback, Mrs. A. Walker, Prince Whorton, Mrs. E. E. Wilson, John Lindsey, J. W. Holmand, Edith Green, Mr.,and Mrs. Elton Kennamer, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Waldrop, Walter Freeman, Juanita Jarnagin, Jane Floyd, M. L. Lands, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Sharpe, and Mr. and Mrs.W. N. Ross."Ike" Floyd was the project's timber resources manager and he served as manager for the band and dancers.

Mrs. Roosevelt's garden party was to honor women executives of various government departments. In all, some 2,323 people attended the garden party , including President Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt introduced the group by saying that they had come 750 miles by automobile to "play" just like they did every Friday night at their community house on a plateau in the lower Cumberland Mountains. After Mrs. Roosevelt's

introduction, “Ike" Floyd took over as master of ceremonies (*Washington Post* 1938).

The band began by playing "Alabama Jubilee," followed by the square dancers. who according to news releases, “opened and shut the garden gate," "Ocean waved," and “broad sashshayed,” "threaded the needle,” and “ Rang up four." The Skyline Farms Band itself played “Old Hen Cackled," "Old Rattler,” and “Over the Mountain," the concluding song. Chester Allen led the vocals on“Old Rattler,” and during the song imitated a hound dog chasing a rabbit, providing his own sound effects. According to those present, President Roosevelt roared with laughter when Allen performed his number. Roosevelt himself was a fan of “authentic mountain music.”

Ms. Hope Ridings Miller of the *Washington Post* called the performance, “a highlight of the afternoon’s entertainment” and said “judging by the thunder of applause following each performance, the gingham–clad girls and coatless boys were highly successful as entertainers (*Washington Post* 1938). Later, Mrs. Roosevelt gave the group a personal tour of the White House where each met the President in his office. Chester Allen would recall: “When he spoke to you, there was a wake behind him...you could feel it. It wasn’t just put-on or make-up. He meant what he said. And that smile on his face. He didn’t act like he was worried about a thing in the world" (Allen 1981).While in Washington, the band would again perform for Roosevelt and his guests aboard the Presidential Yacht on the Potomac River.

Obviously, the project participants had come a long way and not just geographically. Only a few years before they had been unemployed or marginally employed farm tenants, destitute, with little hope for the future. For a day, however, they had performed for President and Mrs. Roosevelt in a city far removed from the mountain that was their home. In that city they had been treated as special guests. It was a remarkable journey.

After their performances for President and Mrs. Roosevelt, the band had yet another engagement, for arrangements had been made for Alan Lomax to record the group for the U.S. Library of Congress (LOC).4 Lomax had begun work for the LOC in 1937 following in the footsteps of his father John as a traditional music collector. Both father and son would in time become renowned ethnomusicologists. In their collaboration, *Our Singing Country,* Alan Lomax and his father stated how folk music was to them an unappreciated American art form: “We have known country fiddlers who couldn't read or write, but could play two, three, or four hundred tunes. We have known white ballad singers who remembered one, two, three hundred ballads. We have known Negroes who could sing several hundred spirituals. We have shaken hands with a Mexican share-cropper who carried in his head the text, tunes, and stage directions for a Miracle play requiring four hours and twenty actors" (Lomax and Lomax, 1941) The Lomaxes were intent on redefining art to include the music and folk stories of rural America.

In Washington, Lomax recorded the Skyline Farms Band performing seven songs: “John Henry," “Cumberland Mountain Farms," "Cotton Mill Colic,” "Cacklin’ Hen,” "Here Rattler Here," “Let Me BeYour Salty Dog," and “Roll on, Buddy.” (Archive of Folk Culture) Three of the songs, "John Henry,”“Roll on,Buddy,”and“Cotton Mill Colic”were work/laborer songs.

Lomax recorded three other songs by the Skyline Farms Bands One was “Cacklin Hen," a lively square dance, instrumental number, with the band providing the hen “cackling” sound effects. “Salty Dog" was another fast-paced number about a man “looking for a woman (that) ain’t got no man” (Skyline Jubilee 1989). The song, one of the most risqué tunes of the 1920s, originally was recorded by black blues singer Papa Charlie Johnson as "Salty Dog Blues.” Later, the song was recorded by the Allen Brothers from Chattanooga,Tennessee, two of the more popular country recording artists of the late 1920s and early 1930s. “Here, Rattler, Here” was the dance tune in which the singer. Chester Allen, called his prize hound dog sound effects which had so captivated President Roosevelt.

After returning to Cumberland Mountain, the Skyline Farms Band musical legacy was further preserved when in 1939 Herbert Halpert came to the project with his mobile unit to record the band and other singers. Halpert was on his

"Southern Recording Expedition," a field trip sponsored jointly by the LOC and the Works Progress Administration. Halpert and his assistant, Abbott Ferris, traveled the South in their "sound wagon, a converted U. S. Army ambulance, and they concentrated on recording Anglo–American fiddle music (Rankin 1985). In a brief visit to Skyline Farms. Halpert used a portable, battery–powered recorder to record various Skyline musicians, including the Skyline Farms Band, at the community school, Halpert re-recorded a number of the songs that Lomax recorded of the Skyline Band in Washington, although in some cases the musicians had changed the songs titles slightly. Halpert listed the members of the "Skyline Farms String Band" as: Chester Allen, guitar and violin; Joe Sharp, mandolin; Thomas Holt, guitar; and Herbert Green, violin. Allen, Sharp, and Holt sang the vocals, with Allen again providing the sound effects on "Old Hen Cackle' and "Ol' Rattler." Halpert recorded the band playing "John Henry," "Skyline Salty Dog," "Old Hen Cackle," "Cumberland Mountain Blues," and "Ol' Rattler" --the songs recorded by Lomax in Washington.

At Skyline, Halpert sought out the older, traditional folk ballads. He recorded four young girls singing the"play-party"song "Green Coffee Grows on a White Oak Stump" (Skyline Jubilee 1989). And he also recorded "The Miller," sung by a boy and three girls. Halpert's final recording at the Skyline school was of sisters Irene and Lucille Holt, who sang a religious song they had written, in which they warned that on the "resurrection morning" you will wish "that you was one of us." With that, Halpert and Ferris continued their journey across the South, next recording railroad "steel callers" and sacred harp singers.

Seeger, Lunsford, Lomax, and Halpert all brought into focus the role music played in the subcultural lifestyle of the Southern tenant farmer. Music was important in that lifestyle; the people looked to music not just to escape from daily drudgery, although certainly the music did permit them this. The music defined life for the tenants and clarified their emotions and feelings For the tenants, the musicians played and spoke a language and conveyed feelings for which they themselves sometimes did not have the words. To their credit, Seeger, Lunsford, Lomax, and Halpert worked within the parameters of this

Nicholas Ray rehearses the Skyland Farms Band.

music and tried to preserve it without changing it to what many at the time would have considered a more acceptable form.

As for the Skyline Farms Band members, following their grand performance for the President, they continued to play as a band in the Cumberland Mountain area during the next several years. The Band, however, began to break up in the early and middle forties as members left the project for one reason or another. However, all continued in music in some capacity through the years, although none became professional musicians. They did play with various bands and groups in the area, performing country and gospel music. Chester Allen was offered a recording contract, but he never pursued a professional career. instead, Allen performed at local shows or made appearances on AM radio. Whenever he performed, he sang "Ol' Rattler," the song that had made the President laugh during a troubled time in America and the world. After leaving the project, Allen worked at various jobs, including car salesman, an occupation for which no doubt his abundant charm was an asset.

The Skyline Farms Project itself turned few of the farm families into landowners. Agricultural problems plagued the project, and soon families were falling into debt, this time owing the government instead of banks or landowners. Efforts to stimulate the project, such as building a factory, were to no avail, and in 1944 the government decided to end the project. Many of the Skyline Farms families had left by then, taking other jobs as the economy improved, or moving north to work in industry. Only two families of the approximately two hundred at Skyline Farms obtained their farms.

Still, there were many positives to the project. It had gotten families in need through the hard times of the Depression. Many, too, had learned job skills that they would use later in life. Furthermore, Skyline Farms children were educated at the picturesque sandstone school that had become the heart of the project. There was also a genuine effort to create among the participants a sense of pride in their cultural heritage. Indeed, the work of Charles Seeger, Bascom Lunsford, Nicholas Ray, Alan Lomax, and Herbert Halpert pertaining to Skyline Farms was a pioneering effort to acknowledge and preserve this rich folk heritage in Alabama, particularly the Appalachian region of the state. The band's and dancers' performance in Washington went a long way toward instilling a sense of pride in the people. Long after the project had ended, those connected to Skyline Farms talked wistfully about the day project members "played for the President" in a city far from their mountain home.

David Campbell

Notes

1 Lunsford had given up a career as a lawyer and politician in North Carolina to become a folk song collector (Jones 1984). He devoted his life to collect folk songs in the Southern Appalachians, eventually obtaining some 300 songs for the United States Library of Congress and Columbia University archives.

2 Ray's work with the Skyline Farms group was the beginning of a long and successful career. He would later produce and co-host a national radio program for CBS with Woody Guthrie, then move to Hollywood to become a highly–regarded movie director, including in his career credits the James Dean epic *Rebel Without a Cause*.

3 Traditional music was a part of the subculture of the Appalachian farmers and had been passed from generation to generation. Walter Holt recalls that his father played a fiddle and bought him his own instrument as a young boy. His father played the fiddle in the old mountain style, Holt said, tuning it in the straight A chord, rather than the G chord used in tuning by modern fiddlers. Holt admired the skill of the old style fiddlers, because they were constantly "moving their fingers" when they played to hit the right notes (Hold 1990)

4 For the original recordings see, "Tapes recorded by Alan Lomax (1939)," AFS 1629-1630, Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, U. S. Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. An audio-cassette of these recorded, edited for sound quality, in "Skyline Jubilee," produced by David Campbell, Northeast Alabama Community College, P. O. Box 139, Rainsville, AL 35986. A limited number of these tapes are available upon request. For online information about the American Folklife Center, see http://lcweb.locgov/

folklife/. For a listing of the Alan Lomax and Herbert Halpert collections in the Library of Congress, keyword search by name http://lcweb.loc.gov/catalog/online.html.

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WPA Photographers in Jackson County

If you pick any other county in Alabama in the 1930s, it is unlikely you would find that a world-class photographer had visited and taken archival photographs found in the Library of Congress. Jackson County had not one but three photographers visit, brought to Alabama as part of their work for the New Deal Farm Security Administration program, created in 1937 to combat rural poverty.

Carl Mydans (1906-2004) was born and raised in Boston, earning his B.S. degree from Boston University School of Journalism in 1930. He began his journalism career as a freelancer for the *Boston Globe* and the *Boston Post*. He continued as a staff writer for the *American Banker*, a New York Wall Street daily.

In 1931 Mydans acquired a 35mm camera and became a photojournalist, a new job description for a reporter who could both write and take pictures. Critics admired him for his ability to capture with photos situations and emotions that were difficult to capture with words alone.

His first important photographic assignment came in 1935 after he had joined what was to become the Farm Security Administration (FSA), one of the Roosevelt New Deal alphabet agencies founded in 1937 to combat rural poverty. Mydans "began work as a photographer under the leadership of Roy Stryker, who assigned Mydans to document the cotton industry in the South. Besides recording the facts of that industry, Mydans photographed compassionately the lives of those who suffered, the dispossessed and the exploited, setting a pattern to be followed by many other photographers who worked for the FSA."

Mydans worked for the FSA only a short time, but it was long enough to bring him to Alabama in June 1936 to photograph the Skyline Project. Later in 1936 he was hired as one of the four photographers to help launch *Life* magazine; he remained an active staff photographer until the magazine closed in 1972. Those 36 years, during which he covered major news events in the United States, Europe, and Asia, were the most important years in his career.

The Library of Congress web site includes 28 of his Skyline photos: https://www.loc.gov/search/?q=Carl+Mydans+Skyline&sp=2 Here are samples.




During World War II, he photographed England preparing for attack, Italy under Mussolini, the Finnish campaign against Russia, Belgian refugees streaming into France, and France at war in 1940 and again in 1944 during the advance of the 5th U.S. Army. Between 1940 and 1944, Mydans and his wife Shelley, a former Life researcher, were in Asia, first covering Chungking in its stand against the Japanese bombings, then in Burma, Malaya, and the Philippines. In the Philippines they were both captured by the Japanese and imprisoned for 21 months. They were released to US authorities in exchange for Japanese prisoners.

In 1944, after a short time in Europe, Mydans was assigned to General MacArthur's command in the Pacific, during the reconquest of the Philippines. At the war's end, Mydans was chief of the Time-Life

news bureau in Tokyo for four years; he went on to cover the war in Korea, then was stationed for several years in England, and for a year and a half in Moscow.

After *Life* stopped publishing, Mydans continued his work as a photojournalist, handling assignments from *Time*, *Fortune*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and many other publications. He published several books, one co-authored by his wife, and in 1951 he was the recipient of the US Camera Gold Achievement Award.

Biography based on the Carl Mydans article in the International Center of Photography: https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/carl-mydans?all/all/all/all/0 and on the Carl Mydans wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Mydans**.** Photos from the Library of Congress.

Arthur Rothstein (1915-1985) Born to immigrant parents in New York City in 1915, Arthur Rothstein showed an early interest in photography. While studying at Columbia University, he met economics instructor Roy Stryker, who would later establish the photographic section of the Resettlement Administration (later the Farm Security Administration) in Washington, DC. Appreciating Rothstein's technical proficiency and enthusiasm for photography, Stryker hired him in 1935 as the first staff photographer for the FSA. Praised for the directness and immediacy of his imagery, Rothstein produced notable photographic series on farming communities in the Midwestern Dust Bowl. After leaving the FSA in 1940, Rothstein took a position as photographer for *Look* magazine; he remained there until 1971, ultimately serving as the magazine's director of photography until the magazine stopped publication. The following year he joined *Parade* magazine, serving in various capacities until his death. During that period he also taught photography and was a founding member of the American Society of Magazine Photographers, editing its in-house periodical for a year. Rothstein authored seven books about photojournalism that featured his images.

Rothstein spent a great deal of time in Alabama; he visited the state in 1935, 1937, and 1942. He visited the Skyline Colony in September 1935 and again in February 1937. Though his signature work is his dust bowl photography taken during the Depression, he photographed the Appalachian mountain people who were displaced when Shenandoah National Park was created, living in a cabin for a month and finally winning their confidence so that they allowed themselves to be photographed. He did not lug around a big view camera; his philosophy was based on “the unobtrusive camera” and he shot most of his location photos with a Leika 35mm camera. His work was heavily influenced by Walker Evans and Ben Shahn. He has an amazing catalogue of Alabama photos. he was in Jackson, Macon, Walker, Lauderdale, Chilton, Montgomery, and Mobile counties. He photographed steel workers in Ensley and coal miners in Birmingham. He took the seminal photos of Gee’s Bend, Alabama featured so prominently in the Alabama Archives. He took the Skyline School picture of Lila Benson that was part of Alabama History textbooks for many years.

When he visited Skyline in September 1935, he photographed clearing and building in the new colony and the infrastructure that needed to be created—quarries, sawmills, and shingle making. He photographed raw temporary homes and the newly resettled families. The Library of Congress has 36 photographs from this 1935 visit.. He visited Skyline again in February 1937 and photographed new structures like the rock store and the school. The Library of Congress has 7 photographs from the 1937 visit. He did not return to Skyline on his June 1942 visit, where he photographed the changes made by New Deal programs. All of his Alabama photos are here in chronological order: https://www.loc.gov/search/?fa=contributor:rothstein,+arthur%7Clocation:alabama&sb=date&sp=1 .

Here are samples taken from both trips:




Biography based on the Arthur Rothstein article in the International Center of Photography: https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/arthur-rothstein?north-america/all/all/all/0 and The J. Paul Getty Museum site: http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/artists/1698/arthur-rothstein-american-1915-1985/. Photos from the Library of Congress.

Ben Shahn (1898-1969) is unique among these three photographers in that he is better known as a painter and a lithographer than as a photographer. He was born in Kovno, Lithuania, and immigrated with his family to New York at the age of six. He first worked as an apprentice to a commercial lithographer, acquiring skills that would later support him financially while he pursued his ambition to be a painter. Shahn's initial interest in photography stemmed from his use of the medium as a reference tool for his paintings.

In the 1930s, Shahn was employed as an artist at the Resettlement Administration in Washington DC, where from 1935 to 1938 he also worked in a part-time position in Roy Stryker's photography department. Shahn exploited the portability of the 35mm camera to capture his subjects in an informal and spontaneous manner; he used a Leica with a right-angle viewfinder that enabled him to photograph subjects without their knowledge. In addition to his photographic work for the FSA, Shahn established a reputation as a leading American realist painter. A retrospective exhibition of his work was held at the Museum of Modern Art in 1947, and he represented the United States at the Venice Biennale in 1954.

Ben Shahn visited the Skyline Colony in 1937 and took some of the most memorable photos of musicians and craftsmen and of the Skyline Band and Dancers. His photos seem to have been taken at Skyline, not on the trip to Washington. There are 65 Skyline photos found in the Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/search/?q=Ben+Shahn+alabama&sp=1 . Here are samples of his photos:




Biography based on the Ben Shahn article in the International Center of Photography: https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/ben-shahn?all/all/all/all/0 and on the Ben Shahn wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Shahn. Photos from the Library of Congress.

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The Jackson County Chronicles

Volume 32, Number 4

In this issue:

Young Rupert Proctor with the road engineer during the building of the Cumberland Mountain Road. Photo from Lisa Proctor Reece.

FALL MEETING: The Fall meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association will be **Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.** at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Reece in Tupelo, west of the Pikeville Community. Please note that this is an hour earlier than our normal meeting time.

The focus of the meeting will be the unveiling of a historic marker commemorating the construction and importance of the Cumberland Mountain Road. At the dedication of the road on November 1, 1933—exactly 87 years ago—an astonishing **one thousand people** attended the celebration, sharing a huge barbecue feast together. On November 1, we will have an interesting and lively meeting with reminiscences from several people and a discussion of the importance of Cumberland Mountain Road to the community then and today, as well as its critical importance to the Skyline Farms Project.

A DELICIOUS BONUS: Our friends from the Skyline Farms Heritage Association will host a barbecue picnic lunch beginning at 1:00 p.m., just like in 1933. The menu includes pork barbecue (sandwich or plate), baked beans, cole slaw, chips, sweet potato pie or pecan pie and beverages. In 1933, Hal Cunningham, a farmer who lived near the base of Cumberland Mountain, supplied sweet potatoes to feed the workers—in 2020 we'll recall his generosity with sweet potato pies!

Plates are $10.00 each and should be reserved in advance by buying tickets for lunch from the Skyline group. You may call Cindy Rice at 256-587-6626 (leave a message if no answer) or (preferably) buy the tickets by going to the Skyline Farms Heritage Association's Facebook page and follow the directions there using the Eventbrite app.You may also email Deb Helms at gracedlh@yahoo.com to reserve a plate. *Please* reserve in advance so the fine folks at Skyline will know how much barbecue to prepare.

DIRECTIONS: The Reece home and the marker address is 18 County Road 553, Scottsboro. From Five Points in Scottsboro, take Tupelo Pike (County Road 21) North to the Pikeville Store, turn left or West on County Road 21 and drive about 3 1/2 miles to the foot of the mountain. The Reeces are on the left. Park in the yard, following the directional signs.

PRACTICAL ADVICE: Dress for the country and be prepared for uneven ground. Bring a lawn chair. Social distancing will be observed—bring your mask and give people plenty of room so we'll all stay healthy.

WHAT IF IT RAINS? Check the JCHA and/or Skyline Farms Heritage Association Facebook pages for last minute changes, if any.

For those of you who cannot join us for the dedication of this marker, here is the text of the new **Cumberland Mountain Road** marker.

This critical five-mile road connected Cumberland Mountain to the river valleys of the Paint Rock and the Tennessee. A feat of engineering and determination, its construction was part of a New Deal-era project to aid Jackson County residents left unemployed and destitute by the effects of the Great Depression. Probate Judge James Morgan Money, chair of the Jackson County Relief Committee, envisioned the project. Five thousand people, all on the county's relief rolls, applied for jobs on the road project; 3,500 were hired.

Construction began in March 1933. For their labors the men were paid a dollar each day. No employee could work more than two ten-hour days per week, enabling the hiring of more workers. County leaders and local residents aided in the project. Judge Money purchased boots for the workers. Hal Cunningham, a farmer who lived near the base of Cumberland Mountain, supplied sweet potatoes to feed the men.

One thousand people attended the November 1, 1933, ceremony opening the road. Its completion made possible the 1934 creation of the 18,000-acre Cumberland Mountain Farms Project, later known as Skyline Farms. This experimental farming community was an initiative of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. In operation until 1945, the farm left a legacy of self-reliance in Jackson County.

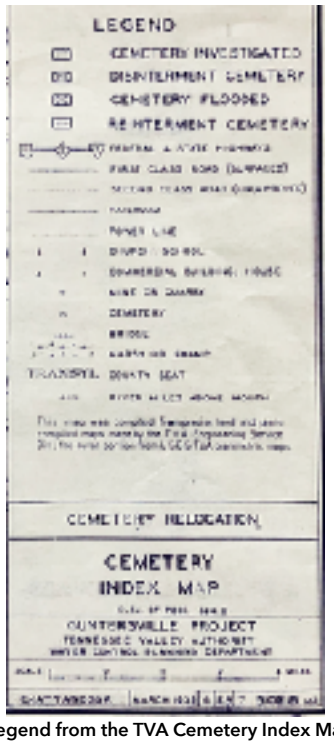
The WPA Chronicles, Part 2: This *Chronicles* contains the second part of the Roosevelt-era, post-Depression projects of the 1930s that was started in the previous issue. Last issue, David Bradford wrote about the founding of the TVA, and I detailed the 12 archaeological digs in the county that took place ahead of the creation of Lake Guntersville. In this issue, "Disposition of Country Graves Affected by Lake Guntersville" explores the cemeteries that were studied as candidates for relocation and the graves that were moved and left behind. This issue focuses on the three signature back-to-work programs that are the heart of Roosevelt's recovery program: the **Civilian Conservation Corps**, rolled out in March 1933, to put young men to work providing for their families; the **Civil Works Administration** unveiled November 8, 1933 that extended the job creation beyond just the young; and the **Works Progress Administration** founded May 6, 1935, by Executive Order 7034, funding and labor provided not just to county agencies but also to cities and towns, school boards, park boards, highway department, departments of health and geology, funds that provided wages only. While the various municipalities in North Alabama were using piecemeal solutions to provide electricity to their residents, Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act, paired with the TVA, enabled the electric co-ops. The final two articles in this issue focus on the WPA writers' program to support out-of-work writers, librarians, clerks, researchers, and historians, and the Federal Art Project, which provided employment for sculptors and fine art painters.

Disposition of County Graves Affected by Lake Guntersville

It is fair to say that TVA did the same kind of hasty but rigorous job assessing which cemeteries would be covered by the creation of Guntersville Reservoir that was done with the archaeological digs. Guntersville was not TVA's first dam project, and by the time preparations were being made for the Guntersville Reservoir, TVA knew how to determine how far the water would rise and what cemeteries would need to be moved. In fact, the 1936 United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps are a fascinating study. The valley was flooded in 1939, but the 1936 USGS show both the 1936 rivers and creeks and river and the backwater that would be created by the flooding of the main river valley and the creek beds. By looking at these maps, you can see the county before and after the 1939 flood, captured in very accurate detail. Instructions for finding the historical USGS maps are found at the end of this article.

The pervasive tales in popular fiction of coffins and vaults popping out of the ground when the flood gates for Guntersville Reservoir were closed appear to be just that: tales. I can find no reports of such events either in the TVA records or the newspapers. I believe this happened at other dams, but TVA's preparation process was well defined by the time the Guntersville Reservoir was created. It is also illogical to place a family cemetery in an area that flooded frequently. People would not have buried their family members on the rich bottomland that they needed for farming, land that flooded frequently. Cemeteries are usually on a hill. Conversations with John Cook Rudder and Benny Bell, whose families have been involved with the funeral business for generations, indicate that no such events occurred. Embalming was not common practice in the rural parts of Jackson County when the river was flooded in 1939. Most coffins in the 1930s were wooden and not airtight. Many were homemade. John Cook recalls that the Rudder family's mercantile business sold hinges, handles, and liners for people who built their coffins for family burials. Burial vaults were not in widespread use. Funeral directors would have had to place a vault, and they would have known to tell TVA where graves with vaults were located.

TVA provided strict instructions for disinterment of a grave. Relatives were usually present, and the TVA sent a car to pick up and return the supervising family member. Laborers dug until they reached a casket or box. At that point, a licensed undertaker took over and moved the remains to a sturdy, clean box lined with white wrappings and nailed it shut. The new coffin was placed in the back of a truck and covered with "a clean tarpaulin" and the box was lowered into the new grave. TVA also moved the marker, if one was present; otherwise, they marked the new grave location with a metal marker. The new site was chosen and negotiated by the family. The flyer about this process from the Library of Congress in Atlanta states that TVA "realizes the delicacy of this type of work, and is especially alert to see that it is performed in a respectful manner."



Legend from the TVA Cemetery Index Map.

To create Lake Guntersville, TVA surveyed 30 cemeteries in Marshall and Jackson County. They visited the cemeteries and copied down the information on the headstones and noted the number of rock-marked graves. They drew maps of the cemeteries. And finally, they set out to find the next of kin of all the people in the cemeteries. These cemeteries were plotted in a March 1935 summary map that you can see on the JCHA web site. A summary report with recommendations about which cemeteries or graves would be covered by the rising waters was prepared by Henry H. Turner of the TVA Engineering Service Division in Guntersville. Turner presented his preliminary report to the TVA office in Chattanooga on June 21, 1937, and his final report on July 30, 1937. He is the "I" in the analyses that follow.

The survey map owned by the JCHA was created in March 1939. The meanings of the symbols on the two Jackson County excerpts are shown here.

From Scottsboro to Points South and West

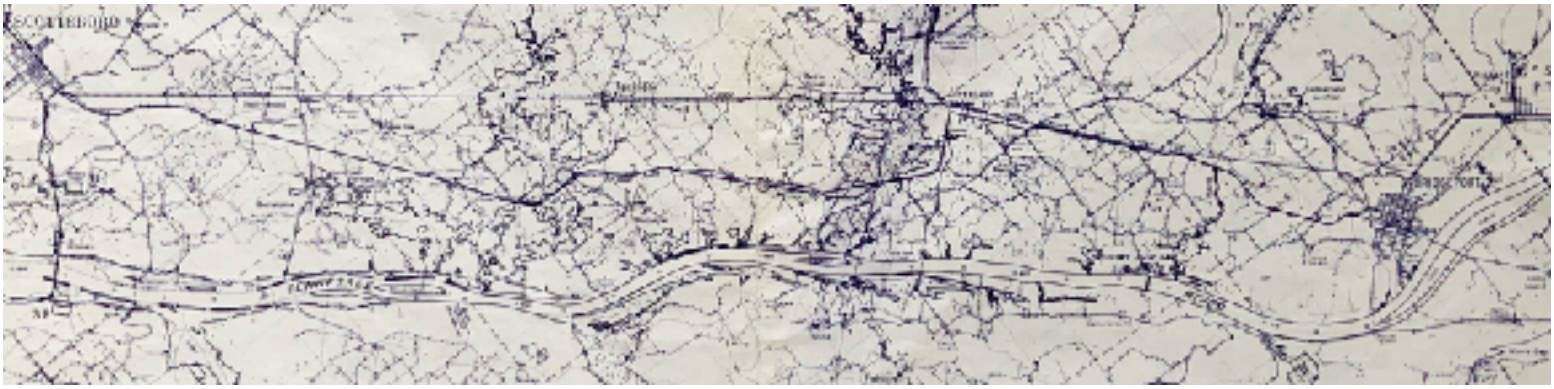
TVA Cemetery Index Map from 1937 looking west from Scottsboro.

This portion of the map shows the Jackson County cemeteries west of Scottsboro. Numbers on the map correspond to numbers in the table below. The full map is on the JCHA web site.

Number	Name	Disposition
8	Kelly Public (61 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of S. D. Presley et al in Section #29 - Twp. 5 S - R 5 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev, 608. Present accessibility is by County Road and on foot and the same will not be impaired by flood water from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
21	Vaught Private (10 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of D. M. Vaught (Heirs) in Section #10 - Twp. 6 S - R 5 E, in Jackson County, Alabama. Elev, 621. Present accessibility is by County Road and the same will not be impaired by flood waters from Lake Guntersville. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
22	Moody Private (2 graves)	This cemetery located on the Property of Milo Moody in Section 11, TWP 6 S, R S E, Jackson County, Ala. Elevation 596. 2 remain permits were executed and Cemetery is to be flooded. (July 30, 1937)
23	Coffeetown Public (29 graves)	This cemetery is located on the Property of W. H. Campbell in Section 11, RQP 6 S, R 5 E, Jackson County, Ala. Elevation 598. We identified 6 graves and executed three removal and three remain permits. 3 graves have been moved to a new location and 26 graves will be flooded. (July 30, 1937)

Number	Name	Disposition
24	Boyd Public (35 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of T. E. Morgan and H. O. Weeks in Section #8 - Twp. 6 S - R 5 E, Jackson County, Alabama. - Elev. 617. This is an old abandoned cemetery, grown up in weeds and underbrush, with graves barely discernible. Present accessibility is by farm road and on foot. The primary purpose of this farm road is to serve farm and not cemetery. This road is to be flooded and the land in this vicinity acquired by T. V. A. Road accessibility to this cemetery is not greatly impaired. Another field road that is above the pool contour may be used. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
25	Roman Abandoned (11 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of T. P, Davis in Section #10 - Twp. 6 S - R 5 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev. 612. This is an old abandoned cemetery on a knoll in a cultivated field. Identity of any graves unknown. Present access is on foot and same will not be impaired by flood waters from Lake Guntersville Dam. I recommend this cemetery be not moved. ((June 22, 1937)
26	Chaney Public (62 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of Veda Spivey in Section #8 - Twp. 5 S - R 5 E, Jackson County, Alabama. - Elev. 634. Present access is by County Road and one foot and same will not be impaired by the flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 22, 1937)
28	Pierce Public (41 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of the Pierce (Heirs) in Section #17 - Twp. 5 S - R 5 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev. 660. Present accessibility is by County Road and on foot and same will not be impaired by the flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
29	Chisenhall Public (106 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of Lottie A. Hembree in Section #21 - Twp. 5 S - R 6 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev. 607 Present accessibility is by County Road and on foot and the same is not impaired by flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
32	Chisenhall Private (21 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of the Chisenhall (Heirs) in Section #1 - Twp. 5 S - R 6 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev. 607 Present access is by County Road and the same is not impaired by flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
33	Clayton Private (1 grave)	This grave is located on the property of Maggie Parks in Section #26 Twp. 5 S - R 5 E, in Jackson County, Alabama. Elev 706 This grave is located on top and is accessible only on foot. Access will not be impaired by the flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved.

Scottsboro to Points North and East



TVA Cemetery Index Map from 1937 looking east from Scottsboro.

This portion of the map shows the Jackson County cemeteries east of Scottsboro.

Number	Name	Disposition
27	Delancy Private (2 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of Charles K. Bradford near Bellefonte, in Jackson County, Alabama. - Elev. 817. Present accessibility is on foot only and the same will not be impaired by the flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
30	Colored Public (49 graves)	This cemetery is owned by the general public in this community. Located in Section #21 - Twp. 3 S - R 7 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev. 621. This cemetery is located outside the T. V. A. purchase line. Severance lines were established around this cemetery with a 20' roadway for ingress and egress. Same in not impaired by the flood waters form Guntersville Dam. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved. (June 23, 1937)
31	Henry Private (3 graves)	This cemetery is located on the property of J. F. Armstrong (Heirs) in Section #28 - Twp. 4 S - R 6 E, Jackson County, Alabama. Elev. 620 This is an old cemetery and seems to be abandoned. Present access is by farm road and on foot for about 1000'. A section of this road to be inundated by flood waters from Guntersville Dam. I can't see any responsibility on the part of the T. V. A. to maintain this road as the prime purpose for same is to serve farm, which is being acquired by the T. V. A. and not the cemetery. I recommend that this cemetery be not moved nor access road for the same be provided. (June 23, 1937)
34	Ashmore (1 grave)	This cemetery is on the property of W. N. Bain in Section 3, TWP 7 S, R 4 E, Jackson County, Ala. Elevation 585. A removal permit was executed for this grave. The exact location of grave is remote and after a thorough search and a number of excavations were made, we failed to find any evidence of the grave. Mr. John Ashmore was present and stated he was satisfied with our efforts to find grave. This grave was flooded. (July 30, 1937)

Number	Name	Disposition
40	Wheeler Private (Approximately 12 graves)	This cemetery is located on the Property of E. L. Franklin in Jones Cove, Jackson County, Ala. To be inaccessible by roadway. Physical evidence as to exact location of individual graves is very vague. We have executed an agreement with the nearest relatives of all deceased whereby the Cemetery is to be not disturbed but remain inaccessible by roadway. (July 30, 1937)

Did You Have Family Members Affected by the TVA Reservoir Preparations?

The TVA did a good job documenting family graves affected by their reservoir projects. Their records are stored in multiple locations.

TVA has created a database of all the graves moved or studied for removal over the course of their projects. This database is available either as a PDF or an Excel file. The PDF file is 879 pages with 35 entries per page and includes all the projects TVA has been involved in, not just the dams. Searching this file for Jackson County, Alabama turns up graves relocated for the TVA Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant and the Widow's Creek facility, in addition to those moved to create Lake Guntersville. The consolidated records are found here:

https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/land-management/cultural-resource-management/relocated-cemeteries

All original records relating to TVA's Cemetery Relocation Program, including permits, removal orders, grave inventory sheets, maps, disinterment records, and field notes are now housed at the National Archives, Southeast Region. I contacted Maureen Hill at the National Archives (which is currently closed because of the Covid pandemic). She tells me that "All of the Cemetery Relocation records have been digitized and are available in our catalog: https://catalog.archives.gov/id/656399. These records are also available on Ancestry.com. To be honest, if you have a subscription to Ancestry, it will be easier to locate the records by name or location."

To find these records in Ancestry, it is easiest to google "TVA cemetery relocation records." It is difficult to navigate to this location. Here is the direct link: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60427/. More important than these records are the TVA family relocation records. For every family moved by TVA, whether the family was the property owner or a tenant farmer, there are records in Ancestry for each person moved under Wills, Probate, Land, Tax, & Criminal, "U. S., Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953.

The National Archives also includes wonderful 1930s records of TVA activities. brochures, relocation of families, kudzu cultivation, found at this location:

https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/142.html

The final report notes that in both Marshall and Jackson, 227 graves were considered, with 70 removal permits issued and 124 remains contracts created.

Finally, the JCHA has excellent raw records that I have not found in either of the other locations. I think these records must be housed in the Guntersville Museum, the repository for the detailed TVA reservoir records and photographs, but the facility is closed during the current Covid pandemic and I cannot confirm this. All of the JCHA TVA cemetery records are scanned into a single downloadable PDF file stored on the JCHA web site at this address. These cemetery tables include: the cemetery name and county, some original cemetery maps, the range and township location, whether the cemetery is public or

private, the owner of the cemetery, and the next-of-kin contacted to determine whether or not graves that would be covered by the lake should be moved. Download from www.jchaweb.org/tvacemetery.pdf.

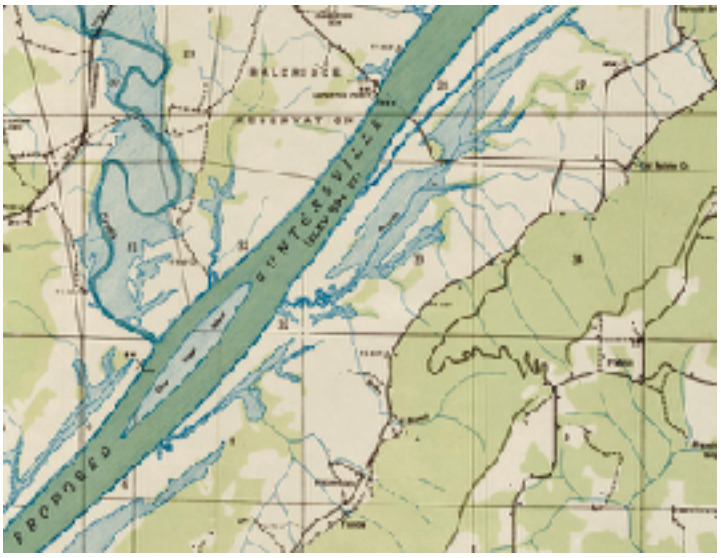
We are all aware that even well documented graves, those with professionally created headstones, often disappear over time. Old stones were often made of slate or sandstone and eroded to the point of being unreadable. Cemeteries are vandalized; stones are broken and never repaired or replaced. And worst of all, many graves are never marked. This was especially true during the 1930s when many families could not afford a headstone. This is why obituaries are so important. Jan Boyd Roberts clipped area obituaries for many years; her work has been rolled into a database available as part of the Scottsboro Jackson Heritage Center web site, at https://www.sjhc.us/pages/jbrdd/. As I work through old newspapers, I add obituaries to findagrave, and I create records for cemeteries based solely on obituary information, documenting burials where no headstones exist.

TVA did the county a real service by recording these graves in great detail in 1937, when more headstones existed and more family members were living who knew the locations of rock-marked graves. I was concerned that the lives of the people who were buried in these TVA cemeteries were lost in old paperwork and never made it into Findagrave, but I have spot checked these names and cemeteries and have found all of them recorded. The final part of this article is a roll-up of the Jackson County data in the TVA cemetery database. Check the table below for family names. I have found only three (or four, since one grave contained stillborn Snodgrass twins) graves that were actually moved. There are TVA reinterment records for these graves on Ancestry.

topVIEW location selection menu

Accessing Historical USGS Maps

1. Access the topoVIEW tool here: https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/
2. Enter a location in the black-background search field in the upper right corner or click the location on the United States map that is part of this location. Or if you have other Quad maps, you can search on the name of that map. Move the sliders at the top to narrow the dates you want to search.
3. A menu similar to the one at the right appears, showing all the years that historical maps are available for the site you selected. You can then download the map in one of four formats, or use the map in the topoVIEW tool.


A portion of the 1936 USGS topo map for the Stevenson quadrant.

As noted earlier, the 1936 USGS historical maps are a fascinating study for people interested in how the old river and creeks flowed beneath the new river and flooded creeks. Here, for example, is the 1936 USGS map for Stevenson. In Crow Creek, the dark blue line is the original creek. The light blue is the area that the TVA anticipated would be flooded when Lake Guntersville was created three years later. The Caperton Ferry, shown on this map, is approximately the position of the Snodgrass Bridge.

What follows are the Jackson County names (minus Bellefonte) pulled from the TVA cemetery table.

Name	Original Cemetery	Moved?
Allen, J. C.	Nichelson	N
Bus-bee, Minnie	Nichelson	N
Carter, Alena C.	Coffeetown	N
Chaney, Aaron L.	Chaney	N
Chaney, Emma	Chaney	N
Chaney, Hendricks	Chaney	N
Chaney, Mary Hell	Chaney	N
Chaney, Sallie	Chaney	N
Chisenhall, 24 members	Chisenhall	N
Clemens, Eva Parks	Pierce	N
Coffee Infants	Coffeetown	N
Coffee, Polly Ann	Coffeetown	N
Coffey Family, 6 members	Price	N
Delaney, Nancy	Delaney	N
Delaney, Hyram F.	Delaney	N
Evans, J. T.	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Flowers, Mrs. Sarah	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Flowers, Thomas B.	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
German, Elizabeth	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Hale Family, 6 members	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Hayes, Unidentified	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Hillian, Henderson	Boyd	N
Hillian, John	Boyd	N
Hutchinson, Alfred L.	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Jaragin, Elizabeth	Coffeetown	N
Jaragin, Infant	Coffeetown	N
Jaragin, Jane	Coffeetown	N
Jones, Bonnie	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Ladd, 3 family member	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Moody, Ada Loveless	Moody Cemetery	N
Moody, Elizabeth F.	Nichelson	N
Moody, Infant	Nichelson	N
Moody, O. A.	Moody Private	N
Raspin, Spartin	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Sanders, Neil	Sanders	N
Snodgrass, Nancy	Coffeetown	Y Vaught
Snodgrass, Twins	Coffeetown	Y Vaught
Stallings, 2 Unidentified	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Steward,J. L.	Price	N
Vaught, Infant	Nichelson	N
Vaught, Leon	Coffeetown	Y Vaught
Wellborn, W. H.	Boyd	N
Wellborn, W. S.	Boyd	N
Ziglar, B. M.	Hale (Chisenhall)	N
Ziglar, Mell	Hale (Chisenhall)	N

Putting People to Work for the Common Good: The CCC, the CWA, and the WPA in Jackson County

If you recall the roll out of the FDR "alphabet agencies," you see an effort to not just "throw money" at citizens, but to give them ways to earn it that benefited their families, the infrastructure, and indeed, history. In this article, we look at three of those social welfare programs: the **Civilian Conservation Corps**, rolled out in March 1933, to put young men to work providing for their families; the **Civil Works Administration** unveiled November 8, 1933 that extended the job creation beyond just the young; and; the **Works Progress Administration** founded May 6, 1935, by Executive Order 7034, funding and labor provided not just to county agencies but also to cities and towns, school boards, park boards, highway departments, and departments of health and geology, funds that provided wages only.

Civilian Conservation Corps

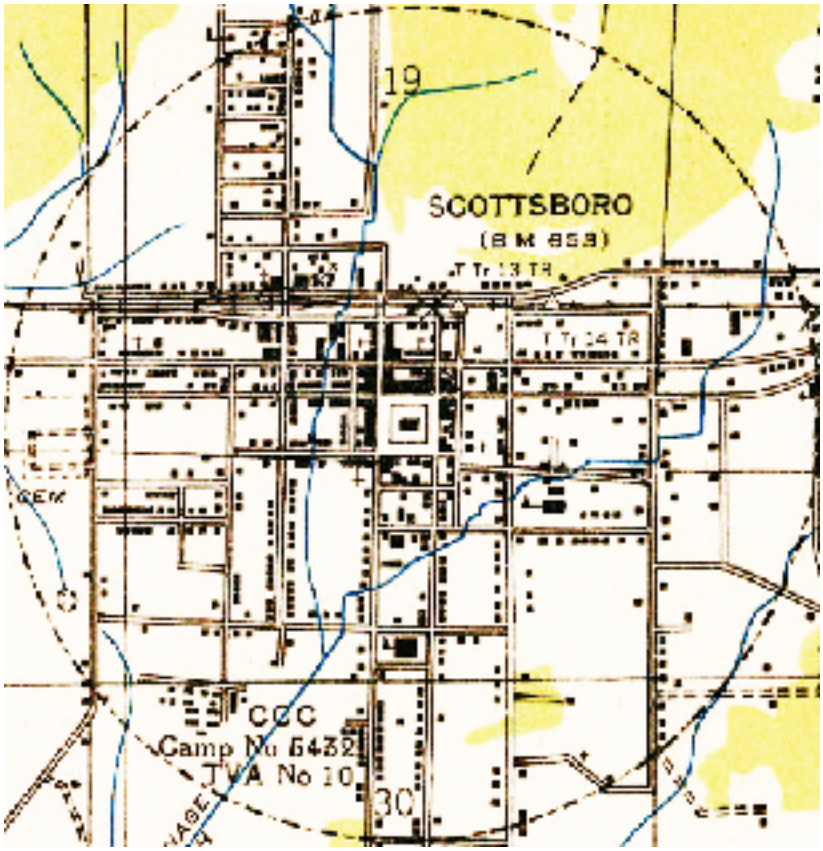
They were known as Roosevelt's Tree Army. If you have ever appreciated the rock overlooks on the way up to Mentone, climbed to the top of the rock observation tower at Cheaha, or stayed in a cabin at Chewacla Park in Auburn—or even more modestly, hated the kudzu that clings to the roadside as you climb the mountain toward Section or observed that all the big pine trees near the rivers and creeks are planted in a straight line—you are looking at the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC boys.

In March 1933, Franklin Roosevelt created the CCC to work on natural resource projects, and Alabama took immediate advantage of this useful program. The October 2014 *Chronicles* includes an article by JCHA member Judy Hubbard Arnold, who wrote about the CCC and her father's time with this group in Talladega County. It is an excellent summary of this program. Here is Judy's summary of the life of an enrollee in a CCC program:

An enrollee into the CCC was paid thirty dollars per month, twenty-five of which would be sent back to his family. He had to be single, unemployed, and between the ages of 18and 25. The War Department, in cooperation with the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Labor, administered the program and provided the needs of the men. Immediate needs included food, clothing, education, shelter, transportation, and religious services. The earliest enrollees wore surplus uniforms from World War 1.The CCC boys worked 40 hours a week and had their evenings and weekends free. Each camp had a recreation building, education building, and infirmary. The men lived in barracks (40 men) and ate in a mess hall. (Chronicles, October 2014, p.2)

After Roosevelt took office in March 1932, he enacted his plan "to recruit thousands of young men, enroll them in a peacetime army, and send them into battle against destruction and erosion of our natural resources." (1938 CCC Yearbook, p. i) Congress got behind President Roosevelt and in March 1933 enacted the Emergency Conservation Work Act, whose purpose was to relieve the poverty of many families and also replenish and protect the nation's natural resources. Early in the recruitment process, preference was given to veterans of World War I.

Tidbits about the CCC began to appear in the *Progressive Age* almost immediately after the program was created. The May 18, 1933 *Progressive Age* carried a story "Forestry Workers Are Being Enrolled." Roosevelt, the story explained, had approved a program for placing 275,000 men in emergency conservation work camps by July 1. The war department, the article explained, would "condition the men and install them in forest work camps at a rate of 27 per day." Of this number, 25,000 were to be veterans.



1936 USGS Map showing the location of the CCC Camp

Jackson County sent a quota of young men in May, reporting first to Gadsden and going for training to Camp McClelland in Anniston. These men were part of Jackson County's first group of CCC boys: Delbert Coots of Hollywood; James Barclay of Paint Rock; Delma Prince of Woodville; Carl Carter of Flat Rock; Ernest Martin of Scottsboro; T. C. Carter of Section; Leon Roach of Scottsboro; Home Murphy of Section; Foster Wilson of Langston; Willie Myers of Section; and Wiley Burks of Flat Rock. A "few colored men" were being recruited as well.

In September 1933, the CCC began to recruit in earnest, starting with veterans who could apply through the Veterans Bureau in Birmingham if they had an honorable discharge, were physically fit enough to perform manual labor five days a week, and were without employment with at least four dependents. By December 1933, enrollment was extended to non-veterans, and Jackson County Relief Administrator Mary C. Shrader reported that the county had a quota to fill, and that boys wishing to enroll had to be part of a family that was on relief and approved for Group 2 of the Rural Rehabilitation program so that their sons could "accept Civilian Conservation Corps enrollment rather than rehabilitation," though some boys who fell outside this program were made eligible as well.

The Scottsboro CCC camp was designated CCC Camp 5432, or TVA Camp 10. It was located on Parks Avenue near the location of Dr. Durwood Hodges' and Dr. Bolton's clinics., as the 1936 USGS map shows. Kaye Johnson remembers, "There used to be a big concrete slab where one of the big buildings sat. We

Scottsboro CCC 5432 Camp on Parks Avenue in 1938

would take brooms and clean it off and skate there as children. I lived on South Street and there were a lot of kids in my neighborhood. Many fun times there." Nearly the same photo can be taken today from the Owens parking lot. With all the trees and buildings on Parks Avenue today, we had to stand in an open space in Cedar Hill Cemetery to shoot the same perspective on Poorhouse Mountain (left) and July Mountain (right).

This photo and the other Scottsboro photos that follow are from the CCC District D Yearbook for 1938. There were 35 camps in District 8. The initial set-up on the Scottsboro camp was completed March 31, 1933. The yearbook provides the history of the Scottsboro camp's first three years:

A Cadre of juniors from Ft. Payne arrived in Scottsboro June 1935, to establish a camp in a cotton field. They were transferred shortly, and a cadre of veterans from Huntsville came in. After the completion of a camp a month later, the veterans, with the exception of the mess steward and the cooks, transferred to Company 2426, and key men from 3487 came in. Late in August, sixty-nine enrollees from Montgomery, eighty-one from Mobile, and fifty from Birmingham arrived, and the company was organized and conditioned. In October, thirty-four men came in from Guntersville camp which was being disbanded, but on the same day seventy-five men were sent to Guntersville to establish the side camp which is still in operation there. (p.208)

So clearly, most if not all of the CCC boys serving in the Scottsboro camp were from places other than Jackson County. There was a lot of turnover of personnel and commanders. Men regularly aged out of the program or found more lucrative employment and left the CCC.

The mission of this camp is also described in the annual:

Soil conservation is the purpose of all the work undertaken by this company, which operated over an area of 800 square miles, covering the two counties of Jackson and Marshall, and farmers throughout both counties are learning how to conserve their soil resources and how to fight the forces of erosion. The parent camp at Scottsboro and the side camp at Guntersville both have built hundreds of terrace outlets, sodded many miles of gullies, planted trees by the thousand, collected bushels of seed, and in recent month have collected posts from the area around the TVA reservoir basin [meaning the under-development Lake Guntersville].

1938 CCC Camp basketball team

1938 CCC Camp reading room

The CCC was an organization of young men barely past high-school age. The camp had a baseball team that in 1936-37 won the sub-district championship. A new basketball team was winning games, and, the yearbook explained, "Byron G. Cooke, a former enrollee, put this company in the limelight when he won both the subdistrict and district boxing bouts for two successive seasons."

It is also worth mentioning that these young men from poor farm families had never before had access to such good health care. Men received physicals and inoculations when they arrived at camp. Each camp

Map of Alabama National Forrest and State Parks in CCC dates 1933-1942. From State Parks in Alabama brochure, 1940.

had an ambulance and an infirmary. In 1938, the camp surgeon was Dr. Victor P. Genge. Captain Pendleton Edgar was the commanding officer, and First Lt. Lucian S. Algee was the junior officer. Miss Mildred Petty was the sponsor. V. L. Scharnagel served as project superintendent and J. C. Darnell as student leader. There were 114 men in the two photos of local CCC boys.

The camp also had an educational program. "Already twenty-six men have learned to read and write and twenty-one cooks have been trained, and the company has seventy-one qualified first aiders." Every camp also had a reading room.

Charles Rice Coffey, a farmer whose land on Nagooches Point fronted Mud Creek before he was moved to accommodate Lake Guntersville, was anxious to be part of this progressive work. He grew and plowed under the cover crop lespedeza as county demonstration agent T. J. Morrow suggested. He also cultivated and shared cuttings of the "Japanese vine," better known as kudzu. The TVA considered kudzu a major partner in controlling the erosion that so much cleaning of land for their reservoirs had created. TVA published pamphlets on the cultivation of kudzu. Coffey wrote in his diary about the work in his area done by the CCC. On September 9, 1937, he wrote about work done in the fields surrounding the John Reid Coffey home, River House, at that time in the hands of his grandson Dr. Macklin McCrary: "Went up on Maclin's place where the CCC boys are working—they are tailing his terraces—they are doing a fine job and one that will be there doing service for 100 years—they can't wash out any deeper at the end—they are fixed at the end of every one with rock and cement and the only cost to Mack is to furnish the rock at the places they use them." (Coffey Diaries V2, September 7, 1937)

In January 1935, Robert Fechner, director of emergency conservation work, announced that the CCC program would support 57 new or re-established CCC camps for the forest service, and that Jackson County would be one of the eleven sites chosen to receive CCC workers, with enrollment beginning June 15. Each camp would support 200 young men. The work description initially included "fighting forest fires and construction of truck trains, bridges, fire breaks, telephone lines, recreational dams, lookout houses, public camp ground development, fencing, pond development, planting food and cover plants for waterfowl and forest stand improvement." By June 1935, the government had decided to double the size of the initial CCC estimate from 300,000 to 600,000 recruits.

On March 31, 1936, TVA-10 in Scottsboro celebrated its third anniversary. In these early years, the young men had done soil erosion and reforestation work in cooperation with land owners. "This work is done free of charge to the owner's of private land when they agree to furnish natural materials needed" and "fencing to protect the work when it was finished." (*PA*, March 31, 1936) CCC men terraced hillsides to prevent erosion. Their work of the past six months had protected over 400 acres of land, and they had planted 44,000 black locust and 77,000 pine trees when erosion control was finished.

FDR was elected to a second term as president in 1936. So proud was Roosevelt of the CCC boys that he had them march in the inaugural parade. In July 1936, another state CCC expansion was announced where 1,200 Alabama boys between 17 and 25 years of age were recruited to fill the vacancies in the state's CCC quota of 6,300, with interviews beginning July 3, according to Dr. A. H. Collins, commissioner of the State Department of Public Welfare. In April 1938, the senate voted to maintain the CCC program at its high quota for the next fiscal year. Remember that the membership in the CCC was not fixed, and the

programs FDR put in place to help the economy recover were working as designed. In August 1936, Director Robert Fechner reported that nearly 13,000 members of the CCC had left the organization in June to accept private employment, largely because of "improved business conditions." (*PA* Aug 6, 1936).

On April 3, 1938, TVA-10 celebrated its 5th anniversary, and "the many friends of the organization" were invited to attend a celebration. Commander Pendleton Edgar noted in the invitation that "the CCC is held in high regard by persons in every walk of life and political affiliation" and that the CCC boys were "developing into the fine type of manhood." (*PA* Mar 31, 1938)

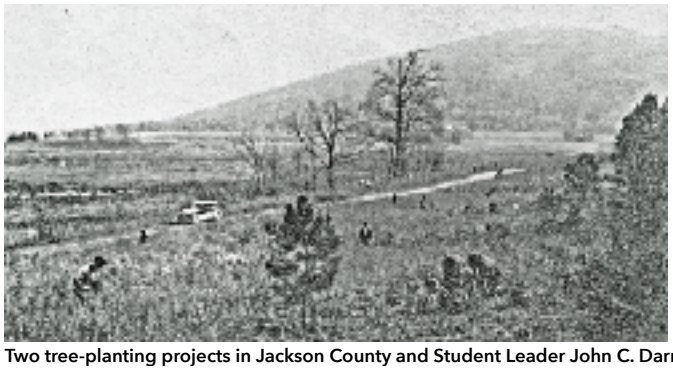
In June 1938, a "quota of 30 white youths and no negro youths" could be enrolled in the local CCC. Enrollees could be between the ages of 17 and 23 and were expected to remain in the camp at least six months to receive an honorable discharge. "Since 1933," the June 23 *Progressive Age* summary said, "approximately 40,000 youths from Alabama had enrolled in the CCC. Most of them made an allotment of $25.00 a month to their families. During the fiscal year 1937, Alabama enrollees formally allotted $2,073,805.53 to their dependents." (*PA*, June 23, 1938)

The CCC was administered through the Department of Public Welfare. In their October 1938 report, they stated that they had accepted 79 young men into the CCC, and that the agency had paid out $33,700 to the families of the boys enrolled in the county CCC. "The young men have well rounded training, board and lodging at $5.00 per month expense money during the time they are in camp." (*PA*, Oct 6, 1938). Openings were filled on a quarterly basis.

TVA-10 celebrated six years in April 1939, and parents of the boys were invited to a dinner and open house. These men were recognized at the dedication of DeSoto Park in May 1939 for their work on the park and along the road leading to Mentone. In less covid times, you might want to visit the CCC museum at DeSoto Park.

As Depression needs gave way to impending war in 1941, the CCC boys began to drill like regular military men. Training in "marching and simple formations" was ordered in August 1941, though CCC Director James J. McEntee announced that "the CCC boys would not be given guns" and promised "this is is not putting the corps in the military establishment." Instead, this drill regiment was intended to improve basic health and fitness so that the CCC boys would be better prepared to volunteer or be inducted into the military. (*PA*, Aug 21, 1941)

TVA continued to publish updates over the years, and in August 1953, the column in the *Progressive Age* featured the pines planted by the CCC 15-19 years before as they were ready to harvest into pulpwood. The trees being sold represented 6,400 of the 8,000 trees planted by the CCC. "The trees were largely planted on eroded or otherwise unproductive land, acquired in the process of developing the multi-purpose reservoir system." TVA continued to promote tree farming and reforestation over the years. In 1963, the column featured the Haynes Tate pine plantation, planted entirely by the CCC to control erosion, analyzing the cost versus the return on investment.



Two tree-planting projects in Jackson County and Student Leader John C. Darnell

CCC Statue in Cheaha Park, Photo from the Anniston Star, May 30, 2015

Between 1933 and 1942, an average of 30 CCC camps operated in Alabama. Their work was recognized in 2015 with a statue in front of the Cheaha Observation Tower that they built. The state's total participation in the CCC program was $55 million. The *Moulton Advertiser* of July 16, 1942, provides a statistical summary of the work of Alabama's CCC boys:

1,800 miles of roads built
490 bridges constructed
188 buildings erected for the protection and administration of forest lands and for public recreational areas 1,430 miles of telephone lines strung
61 lookout towers built
More than 2,200 miles of firebreaks constructed
More than 285,000 bushels of pine cones gathered and 20,000 denuded areas replanted to provide future forests
114,000 acres of timber improved
Numerous recreational areas developed with improved hunting and fishing

This is not a bad legacy for a group of young men using a public program to provide for their families, through one of the worst economic downturns in our country's history.

Civil Works Administration

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) was a very early program, and short-lived, but it funneled money to the places where it was needed during its short life. It was started November 8, 1933, and ended March 31, 1934. The program spent $200 million a month and put 4 million people to work. Its goal was to create manual labor jobs for the unemployed.

Jim Benson commented on the program at its inception and said on November 23, 1933, "We are informed that one of the first projects under the Civil Works Administration will be the building of the Sand Mountain Highway which will extend from Langston to the top of the Mountain at Trenton, Georgia. You will find few people who will object to this....It has been the dream of many of us that this road would some time be built and now with the help of the government, it appears the dream is coming true." (*PA* November 23, 1933)

From the consumer's point of view, the CWA replaced an earlier program, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which lasted nearly 10 years and provided $9.4 billion in loans to banks, railroads, and insurance companies to stabilize these organizations. Benson explained that the CWA "is replacing the RFC and will be an employment bureau and not a relief organization. Those who are put on the roll of the Civil Works Administration will be given 30 hours per week work and are given to understand that if they do not deliver the goods, their services will be dispensed with." In Jackson County, the CWA was headed by Walter Kyle, who had a quota of 986 residents he planned to put to work the first week of this program. FDR, Benson concluded, "is thoroughly convinced that this is the only thing that will start the wheels of prosperity to rolling....Men with pride do not enjoy being on the relief rolls, but prefer to be at work."

In early February 1933, the President asked for funds to extend the CWA programs through May, or preferably, the autumn. Big projects were just getting under way and the labor and administration of those

projects did not need to end before results were achieved. The President received complaints of misuse of CWA funds. The February 15, 1934 *Progressive Age* tried to explain away the confusion by outlining the structure of the CWA in Jackson County. An office was set up in each county and included a director outside the county (A. J. Speer in Montgomery), an engineer who worked with the director, a disbursing officer, and clerical help. The CWA board served as an advisory board for relief programs in the county. Much of the work started by the CWA was completed by the Work Progress Administration (WPA).

The February 1, 1934 *The Progressive Age* reported on the results of malaria control project funded by the Federal and State CWA. "This program is carried on under general supervision of the State Health Department, with two assistant state directors, and 14 supervisors who are experienced in sanitary engineers. A county supervisor, Mr. Charles Hartman, has charge of the work locally, and 15 skilled and unskilled men have been employed on the projects. They have dug 1,800 feet of ditches to drain 125 acres of land," benefitting about 300 people.

Programs incomplete under the CWA moved forward and were administrated by the Works Progress Administration.

Works Progress Administration

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was the largest and most diverse of the New Deal public works programs. It was created to alleviate the mass unemployment of the Great Depression and by the time it ended in 1943, the WPA had put 8.5 million Americans back to work. This organization also supervised Federal Project Number One, the collective name of all the arts projects, which included the Federal Art Project (see FAP article in this *Chronicles*), the Federal Music Project, the Federal Theatre Project, the Federal Writers' Project (see FWP article in this *Chronicles*), and the Historical Records Survey that existed 1935-1939.

Roosevelt created the WPA on May 6, 1935 with Executive Order No. 7034, under authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. Harry Hopkins was the first administrator of the WPA, serving from July 1935 through December 1938. This summaryof this agency is from *The Living New Deal* web site: https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/works-progress-administration-wpa-1935/

The majority of WPA projects built infrastructure, such as bridges, airports, schools, parks, and water lines. In addition, the Federal Project Number One programs undertook theater, music, and visual arts projects, while other service programs supported historic preservation, library collections, and social science research. The WPA also employed women in sewing rooms and school classrooms and cafeterias, and in the later run-up to war it improved many military facilities.

The volume and diversity of work was so large that one researcher wrote at the time: "An enumeration of all the projects undertaken and completed by the WPA during its lifetime would include almost every type of work imaginable...from the construction of highways to the extermination of rats; from the building of stadiums to the stuffing of birds; from the improvement of airplane landing fields to the making of Braille books; from the building of over a million of the now famous privies to the playing of the world's greatest symphonies." An inventory of WPA accomplishments in the Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-43 includes 8,000 new or improved parks, 16,000 miles of new water lines, 650,000 miles of new or improved roads, the production of 382 million articles of clothing, and the serving of 1.2 billion school lunches

The WPA employed people directly. A typical project began at the local level, with city and county governments assessing their needs and unemployment numbers. Proposals were then sent to a WPA state office for vetting before being forwarded to headquarters in Washington, D.C. and, finally, to the president for final approval. Projects could be rejected anywhere along this three-step process, and were not imposed on local communities by the Federal government. Normally, localities had to provide about 12-25% to trigger federal funding of WPA projects

In 1939, after a federal government reorganization, the Works Progress Administration was renamed the "Work Projects Administration" and was placed under the newly created Federal Works Agency.

With the advent of World War II and absorption of the ranks of the unemployed into war production and the military, the WPA was gradually shut down. Official termination came on June 30, 1943, per a December 4, 1942 presidential letter to the Federal Works Administrator, while the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act of July 13, 1943 established liquidation procedures.

All counties in the United States stored their county's WPA and CCC records, but these records created in Jackson County have apparently been lost. The information about Jackson County projects which follows comes from "walking the period newspapers." In the discussion that follows, ***JCS*** is *Jackson County Sentinel* and ***PA*** is *Progressive Age*. This information is presented in the form of a timeline.

Jackson County WPA Timeline

April 1935-1943, Works Progress Association-Administration (WPA), name changed to Works Project Administration in 1939, employed more than 8.5 million persons in communities across the nation to work on 19 types of potentially fundable activities, including improving streets, roads, and schools and building highways, bridges, airports, water systems, and parks.

1935, July 11. *JCS* "New Regulations Announced for State Relief Work." Regulations set down under which 5000 Alabamians are expected to be put to work by Thad Holt, state WPA Administrator. Workers had to be registered with the National Re-Employment Office. Initial workers will come from the May relief rolls. Each worker will work 140 hours per month. Monthly wages called by size of the location, either 19, 27, 35, or 39 dollars per month in an area the size of Scottsboro. Workers paid every two weeks. First check in addition to relief roll payout to create a "nest egg." Have to be over 16. Only one family member.

1935, August 22 *JCS* "Nearly Four Million for Alabama WPA." Allotment board in Washington recommend that $3,784,867 be allowed for WPA Projects in Alabama. New projects in Birmingham and Montgomery would employ 2,000 people, bringing Jefferson County total to 7,400. Allocations to the state so far total $13,732,422. Thad Holt submitted 146 projects and recommended that the program discontinue direct relief by September 3. Projects include improvements to army posts and national cemeteries. Second WPA article stated that jobs have been approved and released for more than half of the 51,817 persons on the relief rolls in May. Jackson County May relief roll totaled 361 men and women; project released on August 10 provided jobs for 129 men. Project now being devised for the 102 women on the May relief roll. Relief offices had been consolidated into district offices.

1935, October 17 *JCS* "WPA Lists 42,000 for Scottsboro in New Grants." WPA has approved $2,545,206 in WPA projects for Alabama and $42,000 is for Scottsboro to build an airport." City of Scottsboro trying to secure $40,000 on a co-pay basis to resurface all the older paved streets in town and build some new streets. Scottsboro had asked for WPA or PWA funds to build a new jail in Jackson

County but it was turned down because it would not "give employment to enough workers." City wants to spend the airport money on streets.

1935, October 31 *JCS* "Jackson Gets Big WPA Allocation on Local Projects." Scottsboro rejects the airport allocation. "If Scottsboro wanted an airport and would have put up their part and meet the conditions, we could get that sum to make the project." No interest. Instead Federal fund awards the county $132,064 for road and school improvements. "The Cumberland Mountain Farm school building will be a large one with ten rooms and an auditorium and will be government planned as part of the rehabilitation colony plan of President Roosevelt....City Council is busy trying to get a street building proposition through to resurface streets and build some new ones."

1935, November 21 *JCS* "Jackson to Get WPA Money." In an announcement from Washington yesterday, Jackson County was allotted money for the projects listed in the table below.

1936, February 6, 1936 *JCS* "About Island Creek Bridge." "Mr. Riley of Scottsboro, supervisor of Jackson County WPA work projects, guarantees that the bridge will be completed by the US Government in the Spring. At present work is impossible on account of the high water and the deep mud. Riley says that all bids have been let and materials have been bought and paid for." There is also a Coon Creek project underway.

1936, February 13 *JCS* "Resolution of the State Board of Education, February 3, 1936." Schools are going to close unless additional revenue is found. Teachers getting a relief salary of $60 a month. Not been paid in full since 1932. Want to take advantage of WPA funds but there are not matching funds.

1936, February 27 *JCS* "Princeton High Gets Money." Attorney D. P. Wimberly of this city is in receipt of the following telegram from Senator John H. Bankhead...Orville Rush advises me that the President approved a WPA project for an additional amount to complete one wing and an auditorium at Princeton school, amount $7,377."

1936, April 9 *JCS* "Storms Kill Over 500 People Over South Last Sunday." President Roosevelt allocated $200,000 to the WPA for immediate emergency work resulting from spring storms and flooding on the Mississippi. MS dead 213; GA dead 183; TN dead: 12; AL dead 11.

1936, April 9 *JCS* "How Much We Got." Judge Petree of Russellville, federal co-ordinator of all relief agencies in the state, released a chart showing all money received in Alabama from relief programs: AAA rental and benefits $561,634.00; HOLC loans $4,931.00; Federal Land Bank loans $402,750.00; Relief expenditures $487,750.00; CWA expenditures $148,115.00; Emergency crop, seed loans; $55,655.00; Total $1,650.835.00. The other money not listed would carry the amount to over two million dollars for Jackson County alone.

1936, April 13 *JCS* "Statistics Shows Alabama Is Coming Along Nicely." A report prepared by Ray Crow, Alabama WPA administrator, set forth that the government had poured $85,613,715 into Alabama in a little more than three years. The report gave a summary of what it described as better economic conditions, emphasizing a decrease in distressed properties and a new figure in employment and wage levels.

1936, June 25 *JCS* "Fourth of July to be Celebrated at Colony." "On Saturday, July Fourth, a great picnic and celebration will be held at the Cumberland Mountain Farms Colony. The cornerstone of the new $24,000 School building will be laid by Mason officials of Alabama and the ceremonies will be

attended by officials of the Resettlement Administration, WPA and count and state governments....A grant from the WPA made the new school possible."

1936, July 16 *JCS* "Jackson County Girls Get Training Under NYA." Training in first aid, home planning and sewing is being given to thirty young girls in the county who come under the Federal provisions of the NYA, supervised in Jackson by Miss Hazel Ashmore. After being accepted and 'signing up' with Miss Ashmore, the girls receive their training from the regular sewing room under WPA supervision and control. The garments made are given to the welfare department and are distributed to the needy families all over the county. The workrooms are in Bridgeport, supervised by Miss Sue Williams; Stevenson, supervised by Mrs. Gertrude McGuffey, at Scottsboro, supervised by Mrs. Laura Gross. Mrs. Clarence Kirby, Scottsboro, is the county supervisor of all WPA projects for women." These programs were deemed a "splendid success" producing by December 10, 6561 garments from 16, 735 yards of material. "These WPA projects can assuredly be listed among the most valuable in the list of recovery efforts during the last three years. Through directing and foremanship, many of these women workers have been placed in more useful positions in life than they had ever thought possible."

1936, Nov 12 *JCS* "City Board May Add More Light to Local White Way." "Prof. C. P. Nelson, principal of Jackson County High School, came before the Board [City Council] to explain the possibility of securing some WPA labor and federal appropriation on the new city park, the land for which was recently purchased from Miss Lizzie Parks."

1936, November 19, *JCS* "Montgomery Letter." Ray Crow, Works Progress Administration director for Alabama has resigned his post, effective Dec. 15 and will be succeeded by A. P. Morgan, Jr., assistant administrator and director of the finance division."

1937, January 7, *PA* "200 Families Find Security at Cumberland Farm." Report on progress on the Skyline Farms project. Articles notes that "Nearly at $25,000 school building is going up as result of a WPA grant. There are 300 pupils on the project."

1937, January 14 *PA* "Receipts and Disbursements for Jackson County." Many line items called out WPA labor done in 1936. Total was $2114.15. To put this amount in perspective, remember that workmen building the Cumberland Farms road were paid $1 a day and could only work 2 days a week so that more people could participate in the program. CCC workers were paid $30 a month: $25 to the family and $5 to the young man working. This is tracking the disbursement of funds to the county from the WPA.

1937, March 11 *JCS* "About Scottsboro Athletic Field." Reprinted from PI Pruitt in *Huntsville Times*. Only final approval by WPA officials is needed to assure Scottsboro of a long-sought athletic field, which when completed, will represent a project valued at approximately $10,000. And, even though the final nod of satisfaction has not been given, work is going ahead on the field through the cooperation of town officials and the TVA. Several months ago, the county of Jackson purchased a 10-acre field in the southern part of Scottsboro for a little less than $1,000. Public subscription raised $750 needed to pay expenses of grading and leveling the property, preparatory to converting it into an athletic field. This work has been completed. Meanwhile, a brick clubhouse, 56 by 68 feet, is being erected in one corner. Primarily, the clubhouse is to be used for the benefit of TVA employees , but when their work in this section is finished, the building will be solely for Scottsboro residents. Costing approximately $2,800, the building will have reading and lounging quarters, a reception room, and dance floor. The football field will be located at one end of the 10-acre plot, with bleacher seats to be erected along an embankment on the east side. Plans for seating accommodations have not been completed, but enough for 750 to 1,700 are expected to be built. The playing field will be two feet higher than the rest and will be drained from three

directions. Another building for dressing rooms, showers and locker space is to be built on the southern side of the field if present intentions are carried out. A baseball diamond, also suitable for softball, is scheduled to be set up on the opposite side from the football field. In another corner, space for playground equipment for children has been provided. The football area is to be lighted, providing Jackson County with its first lighted gridiron. The completion of this project, which has been the aim of a number of public spirited citizens, will fill a needed spot in Jackson County High's athletic program, and will provide Scottsboro with one of the best equipped plants in this section of the State."

1938, March 10, *PA* "Observations of the Editor." Last Tuesday, we attended the dedication of a bridge across Bird's Creek near Gray's Chapel in upper Paint Rock Valley and rejoiced with them in the completion of a bridge that was most badly needed. When we learned that these people prior to this had to go up the bed of a creek a long distance to even get to the cemetery, to Church or school and most of the time it was impossible, we wondered at their patience in allowing such conditions. They are proud of it and so are we. The W.P.A. together with the county and the cooperation of the people of the section built it and held a celebration upon its completion."

1938, June 23 *PA* "Many Federal Millions Coming to Alabama." Many millions of dollars will be spent in Alabama from the $3,750,000,000 machine which was thrown into gear Wednesday by President Roosevelt to quicken the business pulse and aid the needy. Several allotments for Alabama were announced Wednesday...immediately after the new spending program went into action. An increase from 44,000 to 46,000 employees for July was announced Wednesday by Col. W. G. Henderson, Montgomery state WPA administrator...."Many states are jealous of Alabama because of her increased number of WPA employees," Henderson said Wednesday. "Since last September, the number has been increased from 17,800 to 46,000 in July."

Authorized County Projects

Project Description	Date	Federal Amount Allocated	Details
1. Surface the Lee Highway from Scottsboro to Hollywood 2. Surface the Lee Highway from Bridgeport to the Tennessee Line	7/11/35 Announced 11/20/35	One third of amount "the way plan" (county, state, federal. Cost $49,000. WPA provides $13,163	150 men for 6 months
Building an airport in Scottsboro and the "engineering necessary hereto."	10/17/35	$42,000	Rejected. Tentative Allocation. "No agitation for an airport around here at the present time."
Improving the road between Scottsboro and the Marshall County line.	10/31/35	$30,749	
Improving road from Scottsboro to DeKalb County for four miles.	10/31/35	$39,077	
School repair	10/31/35	$912	

Project Description	Date	Federal Amount Allocated	Details
Community service programs	10/31/35	$560	
Construct school buildings at Cumberland Mountain Farm	10/31/35	$21,277	
Repairs at school	10/31/35	$2,135	
Nursery school in Scottsboro	11/20/35	$2,270	
Road headquarters in Scottsboro	11/20/35	$6,132	
Island Creek Bridge	2/27/35		Amounts for supplies and labor called out in the county budget
Princeton School, completion one wing and auditorium	2/27/36	$7,377	
First aid, home planning and sewing training for girls under Mrs. Clarence Kirby	7/16/36	Unknown	Classes offered at a number of locations around the county.
Summary county budget, funds debursed for WPA programs. Might include labor for the new post office and the TB hospital.	1/14/37	$2114.15	Mostly payments for labor. Largest charge was 631.00 for supplies for wire bridge.
Athletic field complex at corner of Parks and Broad. Football field and playground.	3/17/37	$10,000	
New JCHS building, new Bridgeport High School, and new Stevenson grammar school	Start date unknown	Amount unknown	Dedicated on March 21, 1940 with WPA representative as speaker
Scottsboro Colored Library	Start date unknown	Amount unknown	Dedicated February 7, 1941, Located on Lee Highway near Darnell and Hollis Store. WPA representative was speaker.

The WPA programs were not without controversy. Conservatives worried about the amount of money being spent and the effectiveness of WPA workers. *The Jackson County Sentinel* ran this joke in May 1937. *WPA Foreman*—What kind of work can you do, young man? *Applicant*—Nothing. *Foreman*—Good! Now I won't have to lose any time breaking you in. Others joked that WPA stood for "we piddle around."

In May 1937, Senator William H. King of Utah and southern conservative Democrats wanted to abolish the WPA. WPA workers marched on Washington in early 1937 to protest cutting of relief appropriations. Roosevelt threatened to add six members to the Supreme Court if the court did not stop efforts to declare his agencies unconstitutional. In June 1937, Congress declared the local organizations had to pay at least 40% of cost of joint WPA projects. By mid July 1937, WPA administrator Harry Hopkins was forced

to trim 314,759 names off the WPA rolls, a cut effected by not replacing men who found jobs in public industry and combing the list for ineligibles. The suggestion of "an affiliation between the W.P.A. workers and the C. I. O in the process of formation" was "giving some members [of Congress] the jitters." (July 1, 1937 *PA)* In October 1937, the Church of Latter Day Saints sought ways to move their members off WPA rolls onto church-sponsored programs. A WPA-sponsored Public Health initiative in New York questioned the quality of air in cities and old buildings. By the end of 1937, President Roosevelt was looking at the progress made by the WPA and began looking for ways to bring the Federal budget into balance.

In January 1938, Roosevelt asked for a $790,000,000 appropriation to fund the WPA through July 1. In the wake of the Social Security Act of 1935, efforts were being made to find assistance for those unable to work, that is, to identify those in need of aid to dependent children, old age assistance, aid to the blind and mentally and physically handicapped. In Jackson County as of December 1937, 257 families were receiving these new forms of government assistance. In February 1938, senate leaders pushed through a $250,000,000 emergency relief appropriation bill that kept the WPA in business until June 30. Money and more money.

In May 1938, WPA workers in Alabama unionized, forming the Alabama Federation of WPA Worker's Union. In June 1938, columnist Frank Parker Stockbridge claimed that WPA workers were overpaid. "One phase of the whole Work Relief program which I have never been able to understand is why Government should pay WPA workers higher wages than private employers of the same class of labor can afford to pay. This is particularly true in the 'white-collar' projects of the WPA." (*PA*, June 30, 1938) Aubrey Williams, deputy WPA administrator, was accused of advising organized relief enrollees to "keep the Roosevelt administration in power.' (*PA*,July 7, 1938) In August 1938, Hopkins announced that farmers could be employed on WPA jobs as part of an expansive new farm aid program, of particular help to tenant farmers during slack farming times, an expansion of WPA scope.

In October 1938, *The Progressive Age* presented Flossie Gunter's annual report of the Jackson County Department of Public Welfare, and most of these programs were WPA-sponsored programs. The lead in this article is about expansion of the WPA program. 'The volume of work in every category has increased to such a degree that it has become necessary to use additional administrative force almost constantly in the past two months." The report calls out aid to farmers, distribution of surplus commodities from E. C. Snodgrass' warehouse ($17,659.24), cash assistance to employable people including clerical assistance ($63,537.28), old age assistance (80 in Jackson County added to the rolls), aid to dependent children $7,269.56), aid to the blind and mentally and physically handicapped ($1,169.50), and temporary aid ($110.00). Local PWA payrolls amounted to $107,626.94, paid to 802 county people working on WPA projects. Thirty-eight women were trained and certified to work on WPA projects. The local CCC accepted 79 young men with families receiving $23,700.00 from their service. Adoption assistance was also provided, as well as aid to crippled children.

That same month, local historian John R. Kennamer wrote a column criticizing government spending, stating that by the government's own figures, the country was spending $317,070.00 an hour more than it collected. (*PA*, Oct 20, 1938) In the same paper, State Geologist Walter B. Jones wrote that the TVA would be the "ruination of the Tennessee Valley's vast fishing resources," based on a report that the TVA health division "plans to kill plant life in the Tennessee Valley reservoirs to a depth of eight feet," rendering the impounded water sterile. In November, County Health Officer Dr. Dix urged those without indoor plumbing to take advantage of WPA labor to install pit toilets on private property throughout the county. With the presidential election still two years away, political debates still raged over the future promised in the Roosevelt-era programs. At the same time, Adolph Hitler was moving aggressively across Europe; in March 1938, he took Austria. The *PA*'s year in review in 1938 centered around the highlights of the news year: persecution, floods, politics, and aggression.

In January 1939, progressive probate judge Jim Benson warned that WPA money would not go on indefinitely and urged the county to use the time and funds wisely. Loss of the local three cent gas tax was set to throw almost a thousand people on the WPA rolls out of work. With WPA funding assured through June, Benson urged WPA workers all over the county to "earn their money and make their work felt" since the county was "getting some very expensive bridge and road work done through WPA. It is work that could never be hoped for if the county had to pay for the cement, steel, and work on these bridges." (*PA*, January 19, 1939) In the same newspaper, President Roosevelt announced that the WPA would have to lay off a million or more relief workers by June 1 due to cuts in appropriations. Congress continued to cut the WPA budget in spite of the President's anger. (*PA*, March 9, 1939) Cuts continued every month, with an April reduction of 200,000 from the rolls, leaving only 2,600,000 across the nation working on WPA projects and taking Alabama down to 4,500 WPA workers. On June 1, 1939, the WPA office in Scottsboro closed while the county scrambled to secure more projects and funds. Those on the WPA rolls were encouraged to look for other work.

Congress continued to cut WPA funds. In July 1939, the President announced a 3.98 billion dollar lending program to spur business, though "advocates of a new WPA construction program were denied further funds. In August 1939, Roosevelt continued to fight for WPA funding, asserting that 20,000,000 individuals would be affected by cutting of WPA rolls next spring." All of this was tempered by the expectation that war was imminent. On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland.

The April 25, 1940 *Progressive Age* reported that Jackson County had received $3,682,409 in Federal benefits through loans and expenditures from 1933 through the end of the fiscal year 1939, of which $546,793 represented loans that needed to be repaid. "Aside from the numerous public improvements and rather created in the form of new public buildings, all-weather roads and highways, streets, sewers, waterworks systems and rural electric lines,...programs perhaps have found their greatest good in conserving human life, and in protecting and developing soil and other natural resources throughout the State." In May 1940, "Commissioner F. C. Harrington told his 2,162,000 WPA employees that they were absolutely free to vote as they pleased," countering claims that WPA employees were being coerced to vote for Roosevelt in the coming November 1940 election. The county budget summary in June 1940 called out 17 WPA line items.

On February 7, 1941, the new Scottsboro Colored Library, a WPA project, was dedicated. That same month, the WPA workforce in Alabama was reduced by 5,000 workers, and the counties were warned that further monthly reductions could be expected. Colonel Henderson urged those still on WPA assistance to look aggressively for other work. Administrators were being transferred off WPA jobs. The programs were clearly winding down. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, bringing the United States into the war and shifting the emphasis in the country away from the Roosevelt programs. The WPA workers remaining in the county in September 1942 drove trucks to collect scrap iron and other reusable materials needed for the war effort. Roosevelt ordered a swift end to WPA activities to conserve funds that had been appropriated for the war efforts. Operations in most states ended February 1, 1943. With no funds budgeted for the next fiscal year, the WPA ceased to exist after June 30, 1943.

***Note**: The photos in the CCC article are courtesy of Stacy Darnell who lent me her family's 1938 District D CCC yearbook. I was also helped by local people who provided information about the CCC in Jackson County. The 1938 CCC Yearbook can be downloaded from the JCHA web site: www.jchaweb.org/cccc1938.pdf.*

REA: Bringing TVA Power to Jackson County

On May 11, 1935, FDR issued Executive Order 7037, which created the Rural Electrification Administration. In 1936, the Congress endorsed Roosevelt's action by passing the Rural Electrification Act. At the time the Rural Electrification Act was passed, electricity was commonplace in cities but largely unavailable in farms, ranches, and other rural places. The bill was signed into law by Roosevelt on May 20, 1936. That same year, the Alabama Rural Electric Association Cooperative was founded, an organization still very active today, made up of the 22 electric distribution cooperatives across the state.

Scottsboro and Stevenson were already receiving electrical power when the REA was established. North Alabama was electrified later than Chattanooga and South Alabama. Stevenson residents had electricity before Scottsboro because their power came from Chattanooga. The county seat saw "current" arrive on January 21, 1916, and its first use was for street lighting.

Power did not reach the distant rural areas until electricity became plentiful and providers were motivated to string lines into the coves and hills and remote rural areas that make up Jackson County. A family in Boxes Cove and folks off the side roads of Tupelo Pike remember being without electricity until the 1960s. Alabama Power had to end its on-going battle with TVA before one of them committed to lighting rural Jackson County. Over time, TVA-supplied power has totally replaced whatever inroads Alabama Power had made into north Alabama. Today, the map of power producers for north Alabama and our county looks like this:

Municipalities developed their own power providers and rural areas banded together to form co-ops. The Sand Mountain Electrical Cooperative defines a co-op as "businesses owned and controlled by the people who use them. Cooperatives differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the benefit of members, rather than earn profits for investors." (1) By that definition, the Scottsboro Electric Power Board is also a co-op.

The map above shows that three cooperative entities provide power for the residents of Jackson County: Scottsboro Electric Power Board, Alabama Electric Cooperative, and Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative

The First Electrical Power Providers in Jackson County

The best summary of the negotiations that first brought power to Scottsboro is found in Jerry Gist's book, *The Story of Scottsboro, Alabama*. With apologies to him, I reproduce his entire summary:

On May 10, 1915, M. R. Sterns, a representative of the Public Light and Power Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was invited to Scottsboro by the city council in regard to the prospects of lighting the town by electricity. The object of Sterne's visit was to inspect the electric transmission lines from Hale's Bar to Scottsboro for light and power. The company asked for a thirty-year exclusive franchise and a contract for the city street lights. The company also stipulated that the city must have at least two hundred subscribers and that the cost of the street light would be at least seventy-five dollars. On August 2, 1915, a contract was let to furnish the city with electricity. The right of way for the transmission lines from Stevenson to Scottsboro was secured and construction was begun immediately. The Scottsboro citizens hoped that the electric current would be in Scottsboro by the time the county fair opened in October, but due to

inclement weather and a shortage of materials, the first electric lights in Scottsboro were not turned on until January 21, 1916." (2)

Turf Battle Between TVA and Alabama Power (3)

Alabama Power Company was born in Gadsden in 1906 and had established quite a foothold by the time the upstart, New Deal, government-backed TVA came onto the scene. Before Alabama Power, production of electricity around the state was spotty at best. Some municipalities "generated a small amount of electricity from isolated mostly coal-fired dynamos that operated street lights, occasional streetcars, and some residential lighting. A few industries had generators for lights or motors." But before Alabama Power, there was no central agency and only local funding.

William Patrick Lay and Alabama Power secured congressional approval in 1907 to begin construction on dams on the Coosa River. Lay sold his company to James Mitchell who completed Lay's vision for a dam on the Coosa River, with substantial funding from British backers. Alabama Traction, Power, and Light, as Mitchell renamed the company, purchased the assets of several small companies that had acquired the rights to dam sites. His first major project was the construction of Lock 12 on the Coosa River, known today as Lay Dam. Completed in December 1913, the dam began supplying hydroelectric power to the Birmingham industrial district by 1914.

When World War I started, the Democrats in Congress railed against the foreign investments that were at the heart of Alabama Power. In 1917, when the U.S. entered the war, the U.S. War Department pressured James Mitchell to donate his company's dam site on the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals to the federal government so it could produce chemicals for explosives with an ample supply of hydroelectricity. Mitchell chose to donate the site to the government because the federal government threatened to appraise the land at northern Alabama farm rates and confiscate it under war powers. Alabama Power received a $1 check for property that Mitchell and the company had purchased for $500,000. Alabama Power ran transmission lines from its Gorgas Steam Plant on the Warrior River to Muscle Shoals to supply electricity for construction of Wilson Dam, which was not completed until 1925, long after the war was over.

Mitchell died unexpectedly in 1920, and Thomas W. Martin, who had been hired as general counsel, assumed executive authority. "That same year, under Martin's leadership, Alabama Power initiated a rural electrification program and built its first rural line in Madison County. To increase the use of electricity on farms, the company funded research at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn and the state's agricultural experiment stations to determine how electricity could be used to make farms more profitable and more efficient and improve the quality of life for farmers and their families. In 1920-1921, the company established a New Industries Division and sent a company representative to tour the North and Midwest to recruit industry to locate in Alabama, particularly selling the advantages of less expensive power from hydroelectricity. Economic development would provide more jobs for Alabamians, pump more money into small towns, and increase the company's industrial electricity sales." So, the carrot of cheap energy in the Tennessee Valley did not originate with TVA. TVA coopted an effort already well under way when TVA came into being.

After some congressional wrangling, Alabama Power was able to address the state's growing demand for electric power over the next 10 years, completing Mitchell Dam in 1923 and Jordan Dam in 1928 on the Coosa River, and Martin Dam in 1926, Yates Dam in 1928, and Thurlow Dam in 1930 on the Tallapoosa River. None of this building was helping North Alabama. No one was stringing power lines into the rural coves around the Tennessee River. Towns like Stevenson and Scottsboro continued to negotiate with providers at Hale's Dam for the area's power needs. Alabama Power was moving into the area and replacing Tennessee providers. Southern Cities Power Company acquired the Hale's Bar Lock and Dam franchise and all electrical distribution equipment. Alabama Power Company purchased the Southern

Cities Power Company on January 15, 1930, and continued to serve Jackson County until 1939.The Great Depression in rural areas like North Alabama had been a way of life long before the crash on Wall Street in October 1929. In 1932, when Roosevelt won the election and began to implement the alphabet programs that made up the New Deal, one of the first programs created in May 1933 was the TVA, a government–funded, public–power corporation. "Alabama Power had been supplying electricity to the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama as early as 1912, but when the federally owned TVA began generating power in 1933, Alabama Power could not compete financially and sold its Tennessee Valley assets either to TVA or to newly created municipal power systems." TVA became the power supplier for North Alabama, and isolated coves and rural areas looked forward to the miracle of electricity arriving at their homes and businesses.

In rural Jackson County, farmers struggled with the coming of TVA power, especially those who lived along the river whose farms were taken by eminent domain. They were paid for their family farms and forced to relocate. TVA seems to have gone about the relocation process with as much compassion as a large entity could muster, but there were--and in fact, still are—a lot of bad feelings from those relocated from farms that had been possessed by one family since the land was patented. But many of those moved were subsistence farmers or sharecropper families barely carving a living farming unpredictable bottom land that was both rich and flood prone.

One of the best ways to understand the silent desperation of these families is to look at the U.S., Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953 recently added to Ancestry (.https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4903/). This collection includes case histories and surveys of those who were in the path of the projects. Whether your family owned or sharecropped a farm, if they were moved to accommodate TVA, the profile of their lives before the move is available in this database. Records include such data as proximity of schools, church, and trade areas; number of years in their home; number of rooms in their home; whether the house was heated or painted; types of outbuildings; condition of home; water source; indoor or outdoor plumbing; value of furniture; debts; members of the household; husband's employment; how family land is used (crops, wooded, other); livestock; farm machinery; net cash income for the previous year; total cash income; food sources produced or managed; and attitude toward the move and TVA. Sometimes a note at the end assessed whether this family would be a good candidate for the Skyline Colony. The overwhelming feeling you get from reading these records is how little these rural farmers had and how hard they worked. If you are interested in TVA and relocation, the Library of Congress includes many interesting documents such as "Rural Families of the Guntersville Reservoir Area" and "Information Concerning the Family Removal Program." (https://www.loc.gov/item/2005692371/)

Let's look at a real example, Charles Rice Coffey was better off than most. He had more education and some family help, being a grandson of John Reid Coffey and a son of America Norwood. He had held a job in Arkansas as an insurance salesman that enabled him to own his home in Arkansas. When he moved back to a farm on Darwin (his wife's family) property on what is today Nagooches Point (the land you see from Mud Creek Barbeque) he was a sick older man moved home to Alabama. He owned 35 acres which he farmed out to sharecroppers but kept a large kitchen garden and was a good steward of his land. Rice and his wife Lena Darwin got by without the conveniences that his sister who lived in the town of Stevenson enjoyed. Without power, he had ice delivered to his home weekly, and when ice was available, he froze ice cream for the neighbor children. He struggled with his battery radio, but his neighbors depended on him for news of the outside world. A crowd always gathered on his porch to listen to important speeches and events like the Joe Lewis fight.

His farm was bought by TVA, and at the end of his life, he was forced to move and rebuild closer to what is today Highway 72. He left his garden and beloved yard and fruit trees behind. The silver lining was that he would be eligible for TVA power. When his home reached the stage where it could be wired, he went

to the courthouse to complete the paperwork to have his home electrified and planned only for drop cords in every room. But, he discovered, he was not eligible for electricity if he did not buy an appliance from TVA. So he threw away his trusty icebox and bought a new refrigerator with his strained funds—because this is what he had to do to have TVA power. This seems absurd. The confusion that was TVA power in its early years is lampooned in this political cartoon that appeared in the *Hartford Current* on March 24, 1938. The arrival of TVA did not mean that magically, all of Jackson County had electricity.

Editorial cartoon lampooning early TVA power. Library of Congress Atlanta website.

The Birth of the Electrical Co-ops

Alabama Power did not give up their foothold in North Alabama without a fight. Anticipating that TVA power would supplant Alabama Power, Alabama Power took out ads and wrote stories celebrating their accomplishments in delivering power to North Alabama customers. In a January 31, 1935 article in *The Progressive Age*, Alabama Power celebrated "Eleven Years of Rural Service," and claimed that 36,750 customers were now "on company lines....Electric service has been extended to more than 24,000 customers in small rural communities and along more than 2,000 miles of state highways. These customers were entirely without electric service prior to the extension of our lines. They would still be lacking in electrical conveniences except for the company's activities on behalf of rural electrification. Today your company is servicing rural customers in 64 of Alabama's 67 counties. There is no community of 500 or more in this area which does not enjoy the conveniences of electricity." Alabama Power was quick to point out that they had "borne the entire investment of the lines."

But Alabama Power had not made much progress in reaching rural customers in Jackson County. The Alabama Rural Electric Association (AREA) web site explains that "In the 1930s, 90 percent of Americans living in cities had access to central station electricity service, but only 10 percent of rural Americans could claim the same. Since rural electric service generated little 'profit' and required capital expenditures to reach the consumer, investor-owned utilities demanded farmers and their neighbors pay up to $3,000 per mile to build lines to their homesteads, then charged monthly rates as high as $30 – far above what city dwellers paid. This was during a time when per capita income averaged around $1,800 a year." (4)

But it was not just high cost; it was total lack of availability. "Before co-ops, in many rural areas, power was not available at any cost. To get around the utilities, enterprising folks deployed "light plants" powered by steam engines and windmills or complicated battery systems to provide themselves with electricity. However, these household generators were not only bulky, noisy, expensive and costly to maintain, but they produced very little electricity – just enough to 'light the lights (dimly)' or run a few appliances – and posed a safety risk.' (5)

This is why Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Administration in 1935 was so welcomed. The goal of this organization was to provide low-cost loans and engineering support to help electrify the countryside.

There was a great deal of optimism about the prospect of building a TVA dam in Guntersville. No less a person than TVA Director Dr. H. A. Morgan came to a soil erosion meeting in Pisgah in November 1934. Dr. Morgan "was especially emphatic and anxious about the problem of rural electrification. He stressed the benefits to be derived and the peace and happiness as well as the prosperity the rural little man should gain thereby." (*PA*, November 8, 1934) The tone is so condescending that were it not for the deep pockets

he promised, he might not have gotten out of town without tar and feathers. In his column praising Senator Norris for has dedicated support of TVA, Jim Benson wrote in the May 16, 1935 *Progressive Age*, " There are few people who doubt the dam will be built on the Tennessee river between Scottsboro and Guntersville. It is the completing link in the navigation project between Knoxville and the Ohio river and of course it will be built and soon. It is going to mean so much to this section. Scottsboro and Guntersville will receive much from its construction. With the construction of this dam, the clearing out of all the land that will be flooded by it, with the construction of the CCC Camp here, the construction of 44 miles of pavement in Jackson County, the big rural electrification program in this area, the building of a new jail, Post Office building and many other projects that will soon start in this section, it looks good to us and should be a source of hope for all."

In a July 18, 1935 *Progressive Age* article, Thad Holt, the director of the Alabama Relief Administration said that Alabama "was set to receive jobs for 49,100 persons at an expenditure of $43,000,000 in work-relief funds during the next year." His listing of projects included 1000 jobs and $1,500,000 targeted for rural electrification. The *Fort Payne Journal* was full of optimism in August 1935 and wrote, "The old saying 'Go West, Young Man' may yet be changed to 'Go to Sand Mountain.' Great changes are in store for Sand Mountain with rural electrification, the Guntersville seventeen million dollar dam, and some day, possibly, a huge tobacco industry, where some of the finest tobacco in the world can be grown." (*PA*, August 22, 1935)

A Pisgah meeting of the Sand Mountain Good Roads Association in September 1935 called for "rural electrification through the T. V. A." (*PA*, October 10, 1935) J. E. Moody held a similar meeting of Jackson County farmers in December 1935 to discuss rural electrification issue. (*PA*, December 12, 1935) There was a lot of optimism and anticipation that at last, electric power was coming to rural North Alabama.

So how does a co-op work? Three different organizations in Jackson County brought together farmers and other rural community leaders joined forces to form electric cooperatives. "A fee of $5 was collected from each family," the AREA website explains, "making them members and the owners of the co-op – to generate the capital needed to qualify for a loan. As a result, most of the nation's 900-plus not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops were formed in the late 1930s and early 1940s." (6)

As noted earlier, three coops served the citizens of Jackson County: North Alabama Electric Cooperative in Stevenson, the Scottsboro Electric Power Board, and the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative in Rainsville. These three entities drove electrification of their areas in Jackson County. As shown in this 1948 *Progressive Age* ad, the three advertised together to make customers aware of the needs that all three cooperatives shared.

The three co-ops ran a series of cartoons that showed power brownouts and connection nightmares and encouraged customers to contact their electrical cooperative about improving the quality of their electrical service. Guest who arrived at the door before the couple was even dressed because of brownouts. Children who drove tent stakes into the living room floor and exclaimed to exasperated parents, "Gee whiz, pop! With wiring that looks like THAT you mean you CARE about nails in the floor?" Visitors who entered rooms where electric cords radiated from a drop cord light in the middle of the room to 12 different appliances. There was much room for improvement and lots of encouragement.

Electric Power Service in Scottsboro (7)

On July 27, 1937, Scottsboro held an election to decide if the city of Scottsboro would pursue a consumer-owned public power system. By an overwhelming majority vote of 301 to 42, the citizens of Scottsboro

voted to authorize the City Council to sell necessary bonds to build a local electric distribution system. The electric system would use current obtained wholesale from the Tennessee Valley Authority. A $25,000 Public Works Administration grant enabled TVA to speed construction of a transmission line from the Guntersville Dam. Public power became a reality in the fall of 1939.

The city of Scottsboro purchased distribution equipment from the Alabama Power Company, and on October 12, 1939, began receiving TVA current. In that first year, 1,005 homes and businesses received electricity, using a total of 3,545,208 kilowatt hours. The electric system realized a value of $150,000.

In 1954, under the authority of an Alabama Legislature act, the city of Scottsboro passed an ordinance to create the Scottsboro Electric Power Board (SEPB). SEPB replaced the city's Electric Department and relieved the city from the burden of financing any future expansions of the electric system.

In 1964, the SEPB was serving 2,830 customers. Total kilowatt-hour usage had reached 64, 922,701 and electric system value had increased to $967,454. During the first 25 years, the electric system became the largest payer of taxes to the city's general fund.

In 2019, the SEPB celebrated its 80th birthday. SEPB remains a consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric system serving 8,400 customers within the city limits. SEPB has a TVA delivery point and seven substations in operation. As needs changed, the company expanded its services to include not just electricity but cable, internet, and phone services.

Stevenson and the North Alabama Electric Cooperative

Prior to 1940, only a few areas in Jackson and Marshall Counties – mostly in cities and towns – had electricity. Rural customers were still cooking on wood stoves, heating with fireplaces and reading with coal-oil lamps. When President Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act, creating REA, on May 11, 1935, doors began to creep open to a brighter world. Large power companies said providing power to rural areas was too costly and too dangerous, that the farmers would not be able to pay their electric bills and the cost of extending electrical lines into rural areas would be prohibitive. Because no one else was willing to serve the rural areas, leaders from across Jackson and Marshall Counties organized a member owned cooperative and thus North Alabama Electric Cooperative (NAEC) was born.

TVA linemen in Alabama, 1935. From the TVA FaceBook Page.

On March 11, 1940, the first office of NAEC was opened. Located on Main Street in Stevenson, it was upstairs over the fire department, next to what today is the Ideal Beauty Shop. The office moved once more before locating to its present site, at 41103 US Highway 72 in Stevenson, in 1942.

The first manager was Jack Lillard. Among the first employees were: Georgia Cox, Francis Carroll, Kyle and Leo Smith, Aaron Colquitt, E.P. Bevels and John Helton. In the Late 1940's as the post war boom found its way to the Tennessee Valley, it became necessary to hire additional linemen for constructing lines across the NAEC service area. Among the extra crews were: Joe Hill, Carmen McCrary and Ferrell Colquitt.

During the first year of service the Cooperative grew to 1,026 members and 126 miles of line. The next 10 years saw the largest percentage of growth to date – 5,229 customers and 802 miles of line. Today there are more than 17,700 members and 2,000 miles of line. (NAEC web site https://www.naecoop.com)

Discussions with NAEC historians indicate that power made its way into remote areas very slowly. Potential customers could approach the co-op and pay a fee to have lines strung to their homes, but this process was interrupted by World War II and the scarcity of copper and steel. Plans on the table had to be shelved and subscriber money returned because the needs of the war caused the materials required for stringing power lines to be rationed, and the needs of the country outweighed the needs of citizens wanting electricity. (8)

The Other Side of the River: Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative

Dianne Hale of Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative remembers that when the co-op started, their first action was to buy 1800 customers and the lines and equipment they used from Alabama Power. Like Stevenson, the organization faced the daunting task of providing the infrastructure to string electrical lines to remote and widely separated rural customers. Just as with the Stevenson co-op, the SMEC suffered from wartime materials shortages. A letter in the April 21, 1942 *Sentinel* assured customers that "all REA projects which were at least 40 percent completed on December 5, 1942" would "be permitted to complete construction," in spite of wartime materials shortages

Today, Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative is an electric distribution utility serving over 31,538 members in portions of DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall and Cherokee counties. The cooperative is located in northeast Alabama and it purchases power from the Tennessee Valley Authority, which is currently the nation's largest generator of electricity.

The cooperative was organized on March 25, 1940 for the benefit of providing electric service to the people in rural areas at the lowest cost possible, consistent with sound business practices. In addition, this cooperative is a working partner for economic and environmental growth in the communities it serves. The service area covers over 996 square miles of territory in the northeast corner of Alabama, including 19 incorporated towns.

A nine-member board of directors is the governing body of the cooperative. Directors are elected each year at annual meeting to a three-year term. Directors must be cooperative members and must reside in the districts they serve. The board of directors hires the general manager to oversee the day-to-day business of the cooperative. A total of 76 employees including the general manager and staff are responsible for the daily operation of this organization. (SMEC web site: http://www.smec.coop)

Notes: *Attributions to period newspapers included inline.*

(1) The Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative web site (http://www.smec.coop)

(2) W. Jerry Gist, The Story of Scottsboro, Alabama (Rich Printing Company, Inc.: Nashville, TN, 1968), p. 155.

(3) This objective summary of the historic conflict between TVA and Alabama Power is from Leah Rawls Atkins' "Alabama Power Company" entry in The Encyclopedia of Alabama (http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1524).

(4) Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives website (http://areapower.coop).

(5) Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives website: History: (http://areapower.coop/who-we-are/co-op-history).

(6) AREA website.

(7) Vicki Watts at Scottsboro Electric Power Board and in a compilation of a material that has appeared in the company newsletter and in a story by James Sandlin that appeared in Lines in Fall 1979.

(8) Bruce Purdy and his staff at North Alabama Electric Cooperative provided information used in this summary. The website provided addition information :http://www.naecoop.com

(9) Diane Hale and the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative (http://www.smec.coop) website provided information about this co-op.

The WPA Writers' Program

Few of the post-Depression Roosevelt-era projects produced as much controversy as the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) The project was established July 27, 1935, funded by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The FWP employed more than 10,000 people and produced hundreds of publications including state guides, city guides, local histories, oral histories, ethnographies, and children's books. It provided employment for out-of-work writers, librarians, clerks, researchers, and historians. Some of the most notable writers who were part of this project included: Conrad Aiken, Saul Bellow, Max Bodenheim, John Cheever, Ralph Ellison, Studs Terkel, Richard Wright, and Frank Yerby. The project was directed by Henry Alsberg (a journalist, playwright, theatrical producer, and human rights activist) between 1935 and 1939. In 1939, Alsberg was fired and federal funding of the project cut. After Alsberg, the project was directed by John D. Newsom until its end in 1943. During its eight-year lifespan, it cost approximately $27 million, which was only one fifth of one percent of the budget for all WPA appropriations.

Why was the project so controversial? For more of its eight years, the project faced criticism from conservatives who attacked the publications over sympathetic coverage of such events as the 1912 textile strike and other labor issues, and over its coverage of the Sacco and Vanzetti affair. The FWP and its sister project, the Federal Theater Project, came under attack from the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC). This committee accused the projects of support for "the communist agenda." The FWP was supported by Eleanor Roosevelt and mainstream publishing companies like Viking Press, Random House, and Alfred A. Knopf. But in 1939, the newly elected congress cut the FWP funding while quadrupling HUAC's funding. In January 1939, 6,000 people were laid off and the theater project was eliminated. The states continued to fund the project through 1943 to allow the American Guides to be completed. By the end of 1939, the FWP had produced 321 publications, though hundreds more remained in various states of prepublication.

Alabama and Jackson County benefitted from the work done by the FWP. Three sets of materials produced by the FWP are available online.

1. The Alabama Department of Archives and History WPA Alabama Writers' Project collection. Digitized by the Genealogical Society of Utah in 2007, this collection was published by the Archives in February 2014 and includes 145 folders (approximately 6,000 pages) FWP materials, primarily ex-slave tales, life histories, short stories, and folklore. Two folders in this collection contain Jackson County information.

   Short Stories and Essays compiled and edited by William P. Burke. These 22 pages were compiled between 1937 and 1939 and cover the following topics:

   The Escaped Convict (7 pages)

   Cottonseed (5 pages)

   State Laws, Two pages documenting unusual laws

   History of Jackson County, AL emphasizing Cherokee history and including a list of 1933 towns (3 pages)

   First Monday history (1 page printed in Alabama Magazine, Nov 22, 1937)

   Rabbit Raising (1 page printed in Alabama Magazine, Nov 22, 1937)

   Skyline Project (1 page printed in Alabama Magazine, Nov 22, 1937)

   Download from: https://digital.archives.alabama.gov/digital/collection/wpa/id/814/rec/1

Short Stories and Sketches compiled and edited by Jennie Sue Williams. These 122 pages were compiled between 1937 and 1939 and cover the following topics:

The Walkers by Edgar Walker, landowner in Doran's Cove (5 pages)

Mamie Turner, character sketch of Bridgeport resident (3 pages)

Isaac Slaughter, slave narrative transcribed by Williams (7 pages)

The Snodgrass Family, life story of the King David Snodgrass from Hollywood (6 pages)

The Kelly Family of Bridgeport, teacher and car inspector, with character sketches of household members Juanita Chism Kelly, Harry A. Kelly, Harry Lynn Kelly, and Joyce Walker (colored maid) (10 pages)

Interview with Dock Grant Hill (colored) from Bridgeport (6 pages)

Interview with Mary Rodgers Paris of Bridgeport (6 pages)

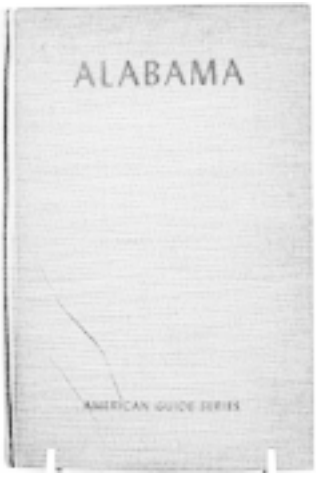
Oscar and Mary Ridley of Doran's Cove (4 pages)

Emmel D. "Daddy" Morris of Bridgeport (5 pages)

Frank and Paralee Coffee (Negro) of Bridgeport (1 page)

The slave narratives are written in an embarrassing though period dialect. Apologies. Download from: https://digital.archives.alabama.gov/digital/collection/wpa/id/772/rec/2

2. **Alabama Guide Series: The WPA Federal Writers' Project: The Guides:** Created through a cooperative effort of the federal and state organizations, the American Guide Series book were part travel guide, part almanac. They presented snapshots of the 48 states in the early 1940s. The Campbell Library at Rowan University has the full text of *Alabama: A Guide to the Depot South* online. First published in 1941, it was subsequently reprinted in 1941 and 1949. Various editions can be found online and can be bought as an eBook through Google. Rowan University reproduces the 1941 version. The best information on Jackson County in the book is part of a tour and includes sketches of Bridgeport, Stevenson, and Scottsboro.



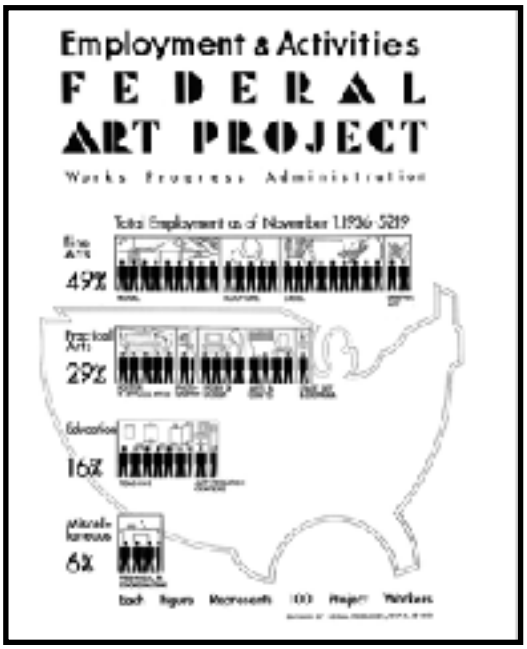
Download from: https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4469723&view=1up&seq=7

***Notes**: The overview sketch of the FWP is based on information from Wikipedia "Federal Writers' Project" entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Writers%27_Project*

The Alabama Archives includes this wonderful photo of the people involved in the Alabama Writers' Project. No IDs were provided.

The Federal Arts Project: Ortmayer and Gonzalez

One of the most amazing aspects of Roosevelt's vision for putting America back to work was that FDR addressed the broad spectrum of citizens who needed help. Roosevelt had programs for farmers and for young men. But he also considered the writers, photographers, and artists who were suffering, and he started the Federal Art Project. He paid unemployed fine-art painters to create art for public buildings.



Several New Deal agencies were established to give relief to unemployed artists: TRAP (Treasury Relief Art Project), PWAP (Public Works of Art Project), The Section (Treasury Section of Fine Arts), and FAP (Federal Art Project). The Alabama Archives explains: "The PWAP and FAP were entirely relief measures, run through the CWA (Civil Works Administration) and the WPA (Works Projects, later Progress, Administration), which meant that all artists employed had to come from the relief rolls. The other two projects, TRAP and the Section, had relief and the production of quality art in small-town America as combined goals....TRAP was a fairly short-lived early New Deal program which sponsored easel painting and other smaller works of art for federal buildings. The program that produced the large numbers of murals and sculpture that can still be found across America was the Treasury Section of Fine Arts."

The two most common structures built under the New Deal were post offices and courthouses. Not all the buildings constructed during this period received decoration, but twenty-four works were created in Alabama (a typical number for a state of its size), twenty-three in post offices and one in a courthouse (the Madison County United States District Court building in Huntsville). Several other murals were proposed for Alabama but never completed.

The standard New Deal post office carried a decorative allotment of $650-750, covering a space about twelve by five feet above the postmaster's door. The courthouses, larger and more costly, could pay a commission of $3,000 and covered much more extensive surfaces. From the allotted funds the artist was required to purchase all the necessary supplies and pay the costs of installation and photographs. Payment to the artist came in three installments: when the initial sketch was approved, when a scale drawing was approved, and when the final panel was verified as in-place by the local postmaster.

Although the project was meant to use local talent, running competitions proved too difficult for small post office commissions. No competitions were ever held in Alabama. The artists who produced our state's art works received the award based on work submitted for other sites, or for work done previously in Treasury programs.

The Section agency suggested that their contest judges had no particular preference in style or school of painting, but their clear favorite was contemporary realism or regionalism. Symbolic allusions, social protest, or abstract works were generally critiqued by the Washington office as inappropriate for small-town America. The Section also had its favorite themes—themes that could easily be worked into their preferred style. On their list of acceptable subjects were local or historical places or events, people of local fame, or scenes of daily life or postal history.

An artist invited by the Section to produce a mural was encouraged in an initial letter to visit the site if possible or at least to write to the postmaster and important local citizens for suggested topics. The public, in most instances, was helpful and encouraging when asked, but occasionally demanding on the artist and the Section when their wishes were not met, and publicly critical when mistakes were found. In the vast majority of cases, at least in Alabama, the system worked well and both the artists and the public seemed pleased with the results. All but a few of the Alabama works were received with admiration when they were put in place and many of the artists reported to the Section that they had been well-treated during their stays in the towns. The murals generally remain sources of local pride and are well-preserved and well-liked. Of the twenty-four works produced in Alabama only one is missing today. Several have been moved to new locations, and several of the buildings have been given new functions. To see all the remaining Alabama FAP projects, go to **www.wpamurals.com/alabama.htm**.

Constance Ortmayer and "Alabama Agriculture"

Scottsboro was fortunate to receive one of these public art projects: the plaster bas-relief sculpture just to the left of the front door of the new post office entitled "Alabama Agriculture."

The sculpture was completed in 1940, four years after the completion of the post office, and is the work of Constance Ortmayer (1902–1988). Ortmayer was an American artist, the daughter of Austrian-born Rudolph Ortmayer, who worked as a lithographer. She studied in Vienna and London and returned to the US in 1932. With the country mired in the Depression, she was lucky to be employed through 1937 with the Section of Painting and Sculpture, coordinating design contests for federal buildings. She was then recruited as a sculpture instructor at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She entered a national design competition and was awarded commissions to design and create two bas reliefs for post offices in Arcadia, FL and in Scottsboro.

"Alabama Agriculture" is a set of three plaster panels based on the growing of cotton and corn in the state. Ortmayer described the work thus: "Three phases of cotton growing form the theme of the central panel. On the right the cultivation of the crop is symbolized by the young man working with a hoe among the new plants. Opposite a young woman is depicted picking ripened bolls, and for the background, the processing and shipping of cotton is represented by the bales and the strong figure of a second young worker standing between them. Both of the flanking panels interpret the growing of corn. The young man and woman shown on the right are examining the fruit on the ripened stalks and the couple on the left are represented as workers who have harvested the new crop." The work was well-received by the Section office that awarded her the commision. They wrote: "In a sculpture characterized by clean, flowing lines, Miss Ortmayer gives an exceptionally effective representation of the youthful strength and grace that each new generation brings to the agriculture of the south."

After completion of the two sculptures, she returned to Rollins College. During her career at Rollins, Ortmayer created a number of award–winning medals. She retired in 1968 and died in 1988.

Xavier Gonzalez and “Tennessee Valley Authority”

Xavier Gonzalez is the more famous of our two local FAP artists; his works are exhibited in several prestigious museums, and the *New York Times* ran his obituary when he died of leukemia in 1993. At various times in his career, he worked with Picasso.

His Alabama WPA mural (painted on canvas) hangs in the US District Court for the Northern District of Alabama (Federal Courthouse) at 110 Holmes Avenue in Huntsville. According to the US Government Service Administration (GSA), money has been appropriated for a new courthouse, but the GSA reported that January 2020 was the target completion date, and no work has been done so far. The debate about tearing down the current Greek Temple style building and replacing it with a modern glass and steel structure rages on. But for now, you can still see this mural in the Federal Courthouse building.

Xavier Gonzalez was a painter and sculptor born in Almeria, Spain. When he was 8, his family moved to Mexico, where he studied art and mechanical engineering. After moving to the United States as a young man, he studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, supporting himself by designing display signs at the Carson Pirie Scott department store.

Known for his versatility, Mr. Gonzalez painted and made sculpture in several styles, both figurative and abstract. He also executed a number of painted murals and a few carved stone reliefs as public commissions. Among them was "The History of Man," an abstract relief executed in 1963 for the lobby of David B. Steinman Hall on the uptown campus of City College in New York.

He taught at Tulane University, the Brooklyn Museum and Case Western Reserve University. He had his first one-man show in New York City at the Grand Central Galleries in the late 1950's. His sculpture was shown at the Century Association last fall. His work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

His Huntsville mural titled "Tennessee Valley Authority” was started in 1936 and completed in 1937. It was the largest and most expensive panel commissioned in Alabama. Gonzales received the invitation for the panel based on designs he had submitted for a competition in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1936. He originally proposed a rather odd allegorical panel that the Washington office criticized for both its style and its lack of meaning for the people in Huntsville. Instead of making allegorical allusions it was suggested that Gonzalez place emphasis on the realities of life. Using a realistic style and basing his new theme on the work then being done by TVA in northern Alabama, he redesigned the panel several times. It was ultimately put in place in October of 1937. The landscapes and people in the mural were carefully chosen and are highly symbolic. The curators who were commissioned by the General Services Administration to clean and conserve the mural during the first decade of the 21st century proclaimed it the finest WPA mural still in existence in Alabama, and one of the best in the Southeastern United States.

The symbolism of the mural is explained thus: The presence of the Tennessee Valley Authority is symbolized by two dams: Norris in the foreground and,Wilson in the background. The depiction of those dams was intended to make the viewer aware of the importance of TVA's work, and the progress it engendered. They also remind the viewer of TVA's achievements in river control, the elimination of erosion from annual flooding, and the fruitful prosperity to be expected from environmental improvements.

The depiction of beautiful mountains, plenteous valleys, and the river running through the valley remind the viewer of the area's bountiful natural resources.

The land — depicted as plowed, planted in furrows, and surrounded by rock walls — called attention to TVA's work in the areas of erosion-control, soil conservation, and reforestation. Indeed, the entire right-hand side of the mural depicts the benefits of scientific agriculture through improved methods of erosion control, plowing, and reforestation.

Important TVA work in the areas of business services, banking, and industrial development is symbolized in the background of the painting by the depiction of such structures as: the original Huntsville Times building; the Bank on the southwest corner of the Square; the Dallas Textile Mill; and the United States Courthouse and Post Office in which the mural is located.

Each of the five figures in the foreground of the mural symbolizes different facets of an organized society.

- The central figure — a woman shouldering a basket of fruit — represents youth and fertility.
- The young man in the lower right-hand portion of the mural holds the leaves of a corn stalk as if he is opening the pages of a book. He represents scientific agriculture, and the transition of learning from the natural environment to formal education through written resources.
- The woman in the foreground, cradling a baby, represents the traditional American ideals of motherhood and a happy home life.
- The woman on the left side of the mural, decorating a ceramic bowl on a Potter's Wheel, expresses the artistic endeavors that develop in a prosperous community. The patchwork quilt on her lap represents domestic crafts.
- Finally, the brown-skinned, male figure in the background — showing only his broad shoulders as he toils at an iron anvil with a heavy shop-hammer — is a veiled reference to the African-American residents of the Tennessee Valley. The artist intended this image to remind the viewer of the hard, back-breaking labor entailed in some industries, and also to symbolize how African-American individuals were, at that time in American history, relegated to the edges of society and such occupations.

Annette Norris Bradford

***Notes**: It is impossible for me to bring any new knowledge to this topic. What appears here is synthesis of of the following sources. Look here for additional information.*

- *Alabama Archives site :http://www.alabamamoments.alabama.gov/sec49det.html*
- *New York Times obituary of Xavier Gonzalez: https://www.nytimes.com/1993/01/15/obituaries/xavier-gonzalez-94-painter-and-sculptor.html.*
- *Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constance_Ortmayer*
- *Description of the Huntsville mural from John Tally.*