

Rivers and Rails
Truth and Tales
of
Stevenson, Alabama

Author
Allen L. Knox, Jr.

DEDICATION

The author would like to dedicate this book to his father, Allen L. Knox, Sr. and his mother, Susie R. Knox. These two people made it possible for the author to be alive and to have the rich abundance of friends and associates to use as resource people for information for this book. The friends and contacts which each made during their lifetime passed on to the author, and many have been very helpful in developing this book.

Allen L. Knox, Sr. is due much of the credit for his untiring efforts in all civic and community affairs. He worked with the schools and churches to help accomplish much for the city and community of Stevenson. He gave one of the cash donations on the present senior high school building after it was destroyed by fire in the 1940's. He and Mr. E. K. Mann gave the first donations on the grammar school building which was constructed in the late 1930's, and then solicited the remaining funds by canvassing the community asking for donations. He was responsible for saving the author's life in 1926 when the family home was destroyed by fire by going back into the house to rescue his son from the blaze. Allen L. Knox, Sr. died in June 1948.

Susie R. Knox died during the time that much of this book was being assembled. She died March 21, 1969. She did get to see a rough draft of the content prior to her death.

She was very active in church and community affairs. She served as an officer and was a lifelong member of the Home Demonstration Club. She was active in the Pink Ladies working at the North Jackson Hospital every week. She was very active in her church, working with the Missionary Society and other groups.

Through her inspiration, love, and lasting friendship for the people of Stevenson, the author learned to appreciate the people and the community. She loved Jackson County and the Tennessee Valley. She loved the old Knox Estate called "Ranfurlie Farm". Having this instilled in the author's mind and listening to the descriptions that she would picture of this community had its effect on the author's decision to write this history.

The sincerity of purpose and wonderful love that she had for the people of this community could never be surpassed. This was her world and she was content to stay between Sand Mountain and Cumberland Mountain and serve her fellowman. Some children of this community would have gone hungry had she not seen that food was provided. This loyalty and burning desire to love the people of this community has had a lasting effect upon the author. The impact has been so great that the author has learned to love and appreciate the people and the community which Stevenson serves with the same love and affection.

HISTORY OF STEVENSON, ALABAMA

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PREFACE

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

This book is being written for the purpose of demonstrating to teachers how that they can be instrumental in having local history written in the classrooms.

Local history is being made every day which may be lost forever if some effort is not made to preserve it. Much of the past history has been lost as a result of no one taking the time and effort to file such information. As time marches on, this information becomes more valuable.

Students and teachers are in a unique position in the community to collect, arrange, write and distribute historical dates and data. If datum is allowed to be passed from generation to generation without having been recorded, the facts tend to become more inaccurate as time marches on. If true data are to be kept they must be recorded as events happen.

It is not fair to the pioneers and ancestors of any community to fail to recognize the memory of their heroic service. The contribution that each pioneer has made toward the development of the town or the community is worthy of recognition.

For this reason the author of this book has attempted to write a history of the town of Stevenson, Alabama. This town was chosen by the author because this is his home town and the place where he attended school and was later assigned as the Principal of the school. This was a logical place for the author to choose to do his research since he had first hand knowledge of much of the happenings.

Former school members, family connections, faculty members, students, and life long friends contributed much of the information for this book. For this the author is very grateful.

Much of the history of Stevenson has been omitted as a result of many of the facts having fallen by the wayside as they were lost or not recorded. Other portions of this history are not as thorough as the author would have liked, but some people supplying information were more generous than others.

If the example used in collecting, recording and writing the history of Stevenson can spark other ideas in the minds of teachers and students throughout the State of Alabama, this effort will not have been in vain.

ALLEN LUCKEY KNOX
Author

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CHAPTER I

EARLY HISTORY

CAVEMEN AROUND STEVENSON

The National Geographic Society--Smithsonian Institute has uncovered things in Russell Cave near Stevenson which would indicate that life existed 8,000 years ago in this portion of the State. It revealed skeletons of cave-men 4,000 years old. Evidence of charcoal from ancient campfires has been uncovered. It is highly possible that life existed as early as 4000 B. C. Some of the findings indicate that Indians occupied this cave and many others as late as 1650 A. D. Just how many different tribes wandered in these parts in the primitive caveman period of history is not known.

THE INDIANS AROUND STEVENSON

When the first white man visited this land, the Indians that he found were the Cherokee tribe. The Cherokee tribe occupied the northern part of Georgia, eastern Tennessee, the western Carolinas, and the northeastern corner of Alabama, of which Jackson County and Stevenson were later to be a part. This area, which is a part of the great Tennessee Valley, served for a long time as a great hunting ground for different tribes. On down the river in what is now the Florence, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia area, the Chickasaw Indians roamed the forest and floated up and down the Tennessee River hunting and fishing in the northwestern part of the State. The Cherokee Indians had a reddish-brown complexion. The men were rugged, well-muscled, and moved fast in a warlike manner. There is also evidence that indicates the Shawnee Indians once occupied much of the territory of which Jackson County is a large part today. Many box burials or burials in stone graves are to be found in Jackson County. This type of burial was a custom of the Shawnee Indian. In Kennamer Cove, which for seventeen years was a part of Jackson County, is an Indian mound with graves lined with stone.

Many fierce battles could have been fought that involved the Chickasaws, Shawnees, and Creeks for the possession of this rich happy hunting ground. History makes no record of the many Indian wars. Tracing the events and the wars in this period of history is rather difficult. The Indians had no written language until Sequaya, a half-breed Indian, invented the Cherokee alphabet. Even then, many of the events and happenings were recorded as information which had been handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation.

One battle or engagement which is recorded happened about 1755 on Mountain Creek near Trenton, Georgia. This battle was fought between the Cherokees and the Creeks. The Cherokees were almost beaten, but they rallied and completely routed the Creeks. In 1759 a treaty was signed with the Cherokees causing the Creeks to withdraw from this territory and both remained friendly until 1813. In the Creek War, the Cherokee Indians furnished five hundred warriors to General Jackson at battles of Talladega and Horse Shoe Bend. Many of these warriors probably came from the territory in and around Stevenson.

The Cherokee men were good warriors. They would always march single file through the woods and fields. The warrior who would march behind would always wipe out their tracks to conceal their movement or number. They were very good at handling the bow and arrow, the spear, the tomahawk, and the gun. They were noted for their ability to withstand fatigue. Many times they would march on long hikes or chases in time of war without food and water.

Most all of the Indian towns and villages in the northeastern part of Alabama were named by the Cherokee Indians. Mr. O. D. Street lists five towns on or near the Tennessee River in Volume IV of the "Alabama Historical Society". Running Water, Nickajack, Lookout Mountain Town, Long Island Town, and Crow Town are the ones listed. Running Water and Nickajack were within the limits of the present State of Tennessee just over the Alabama state line. Crow Town was probably the largest. It was located on Crow Creek about one-half mile from the Tennessee River. This was probably the closest Indian village to the present location of the town of Stevenson. Long Island and Crow Town were the first Cherokee settlements established within historic times west of the height of Cumberland and Sand Mountains. These towns sprang up about 1782.

According to most historians, the Indians made paths or trails in this territory which later became Jackson County. Three Indian trails that passed through this territory later became the paths of the white explorers who claimed this land. Probably the trail that was used most by the Indian tribes, and on which many of the explorers followed into the present location of Stevenson, crossed the river at Long Island, near Bridgeport. The Creeks had a path which led to the "shoals" in the Tennessee River just below Guntersville. This was later known as the "Lower Creek Crossing". Many of the Indians from central Alabama going into the Cumberland and Ohio Valleys on hunting expeditions used this route. The third trail was just below Larkin's Landing.

Several Indian mounds are to be found in and around the present location of Stevenson. One such mound is to be found in the old mound field on the Hugh Rudder Estate, now owned by Wallace Rudder, near the Tennessee River. Two or three graves are located on the T. V. A. property, which was once a part of the E. L. Knox Estate known as "Ranfurlie Farm". This farm was named for the Scottish Estate of John Knox, the Reformer.

PIONEERS OF STEVENSON

We do not have any written records of the early pioneers, but we do have some things which are handed down to us from memory of some of the old-timers. The earliest white men were probably trappers and hunters. Accounts of the white man exchanging knives, guns, and other articles for furs and skins are among some of the first instances handed down from old settlers. The valley of the Tennessee River and the low level lands lying along Crow, Mud, Widows, and Bengers Creek were all covered with dense canebrakes, vines, and matted briars. Deer and turkey were plentiful and many fur-bearing animals were present for trapping. Trappers, pioneers, hunters, and traders had to go single file along Indian trails after traveling down the river and up into the streams to dock.

Mr. T. J. Campbell, in his book "The Upper Tennessee", claims that a white family emigrated in a flatboat from the Wataugh settlement down the Tennessee, the Ohio, and the Mississippi to the Natchez settlement in 1776. Members of this family could have settled in the territory around Stevenson.

In 1779 Colonel Evan Shelby transported troops down the Tennessee River enroute to join George Rogers Clark in Kentucky and Illinois. Colonel Shelby killed a number of Chickamauga Indians in the mountains west of the present city of Chattanooga. Some of the remnants of these families may have settled in what is now Stevenson.

History records that on March 8, 1780, Colonel Donelson's fleet of thirty boats went down the Tennessee River. This fleet was led by a boat named "Adventure". Indians fired on this fleet, killing all of the people on the river in the rear boat. These emigrants began their journey in Virginia. Some were from North Carolina. Others joined them from East Tennessee on the way to Nashville, Tennessee. It is highly possible that some of the surviving emigrants settled in and around Stevenson.

A land company was organized in 1783 of men from North Carolina. This company consisted of William Blount, John Blount, Joseph Martin, General Griffith Rutherford, Colonel John Sevier, Governor Richard Caswell and Colonel John Donelson. It was formed for the purpose of acquiring the title to all land lying in the present State of Alabama north of the Tennessee River. The present location of the city of Stevenson is a part of this territory. This company petitioned the Georgia Legislature to get the right to settle this land in Alabama. They told the Georgia Legislature that they had made a purchase of this land on the Tennessee River. They claimed that they had given the Cherokees, the real owners of this land, a small quantity of merchandise for vast tracts.

Prior to the time that the United States acquired this land, it was rather indefinite who owned this territory. Georgia, as early as 1783, claimed all of the land south of latitude 35°, or the southern boundary of the state of Tennessee, as far west as the Mississippi River. Georgia made an effort to plant a settlement and to organize a county in the Great Bend of the Tennessee River in Alabama.

In 1784 the Georgia Legislature set up a seven-man commission with power to sell the land. The maximum quantity was 1000 acres to any one person. The seven-man commission consisted of three persons from North Carolina - John Donelson, Joseph Martin, and John Sevier - and four Georgians - William Downes, Stephen Heard, John Morrell, and Lachlin McIntosh, Jr.

In 1785 Carr, Downes, Sevier, and Donelson hired eight men to help them in the sale of this land. They opened a land office in Long Island Town near the town of Bridgeport. This was probably the earliest effort of an English speaking people to erect a county in the State of Alabama.

The first effort to plant a colony in this Tennessee Valley failed

because the Indians were very hostile toward the commission.

In 1789 the "Tennessee Land Company" was organized and headed by Zachariah Cox of South Carolina. They purchased 3,500,000 acres from Georgia, paying less than two cents per acre. A Cherokee Indian Chief named Glass appeared with a body of Indians and threatened to kill Cox and his men if they did not leave. Cox and his party withdrew. The Indians destroyed their works and this ended the second attempt to settle the Tennessee Valley of which Jackson County and Stevenson are now a part.

On April 24, 1802 Georgia surrendered to the United States all her claims to land in this part of the world.

In 1812 a half-breed Indian Chief, John Ross, of Chattanooga, Tennessee made a trip by keelboat to and from the Indian Territory as an agent of the U. S. government. It is highly possible that he could have roamed this territory. We also know that the U. S. government acquired this land from the Indians on February 27, 1819.

CHAPTER II

JACKSON COUNTY

Creation

Jackson County was created by an Act of the Legislature on December 13, 1819, then in session in Huntsville, Alabama. The county was named in honor of General Andrew Jackson. On March 3, 1817, two days after Congress had admitted Mississippi as a state in the Union, the territory of Alabama was organized.

All that part north of the Tennessee River, east of Madison County, as then existed, was ceded to the national government by the Cherokee Indians on February 27, 1819.

The present location of the town of Stevenson was made a part of the territory on December 13, 1819, just four days before the legislature adjourned. Seven new counties were added to the twenty-two counties represented by Alabama in this legislature. One of these seven counties was Jackson. The next day, December 14, 1819, Alabama was admitted to the Union as a state.

The boundaries of Jackson County have been changed six times since its organization, but the present site of Stevenson has remained in Jackson County since it was created.

In 1821 the legislature passed an act to appoint commissioners to fix a site for a temporary Seat of Justice for the County of Jackson. The commission selected old Bellefonte to serve as temporary Seat of Justice until the government lands within its limits could be surveyed and sold. After the lands had been surveyed - December 17, 1827 - the land was purchased for use as a County Seat of Justice at Sauta, near Larkinsville; but the County Seat was never moved to this place. On December 17, 1859 it was decided that the County Seat would be moved to Stevenson from Bellefonte; however, the Civil War intervened and nothing was done about moving. The people of old Bellefonte had objected to having a railroad located near their town. The people of Bellefonte had a flourishing business and shipping point on the Tennessee River for years.

The people of Stevenson had proven to be more progressive by allowing a railroad to be built in their town. The track laying from Stevenson toward Decatur was begun in April of 1855 on the Memphis and Charleston (now the Southern) Railroad four years prior to the decision to change the County Seat of Justice. Had the Civil War not intervened, Stevenson would probably have been the County Seat of Jackson County today. For nine years the question was before the people. When the legislature met in 1868 it was decided that the County Seat would be moved to Scottsboro. On November 13, 1868 the County records were moved from Bellefonte, never going by way of Stevenson. The intervention of the Civil War proved to be Stevenson's loss and Scottsboro's gain.

COVES, VALLEYS, AND CREEKS

The coves and creeks around Stevenson have played an important role in its history and development.

McMahan's Cove

McMahan's Cove is northeast of Stevenson. It was settled at an early date. The city of Bolivar was located near the mouth of this cove. Bolivar was at one time an important place. The second oldest Masonic Lodge organized in Jackson County was in Bolivar. This town had one of the early post offices in Jackson County. The post office was established at Bolivar in 1834 with Lem Gilliam as the post master. Two churches have operated for years near or at the mouth of McMahan's Cove. The Edgefield Church is a Union Church that houses three denominations consisting of Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian, and Baptist. Reverend William Starnes was the Methodist minister of this church for many years. Reverend Morgan was the Presbyterian minister of this church for many years. Reverend John Brown has been the long time Baptist pastor and is, at the present time, pastor of this church. The Church of Christ is located north of the mouth of this cove.

The Edgefield School is also located at the mouth of this cove, and it has served as a landmark for years. This school was consolidated with Stevenson in 1960, and the County Board of Education sold this property to Lawrence Holder. A log school house was built just after the close of the Civil War at Edgefield. This school was about three and one-half miles from Stevenson near the mouth of McMahan's Cove. Captain Cephas Graham and Johnson Hackworth did most of the building of this school. It was used by both the Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterians as a church. On the side of the mountain nearby, Johnson Hackworth built an overshot water mill to grind corn or wheat. This mill was built before the Civil War. Farmers in that day and time ate whole wheat flour and home-ground meal.

Big Coon

Big Coon has developed through the years with its fertile land and abundant forest. James Allison, Jake Williams, Jud Tate, and David Tate were some of the early pioneers. Charlie Allen, Buck Wynn, Ben Coffey, Nye Allen, Joe Gentry, Samuel Shipp, Thomas Shipp, William Lovelady, Crockett Austin, Joe Allison, John Allison, George Allison, Frank Bell, Tom Allison, Russ Allison, John Coffey, and Rice Coffey are among the citizens who have helped to develop Big Coon. J. B. Vinson, George Lovelace, Mac Tate, Sam Allison, George M. Allison, Carl Keller, Clyde Allen, Avery Allison, and many others have made contributions.

John, George, and Sam Allison boarded with A. L. Knox and attended Stevenson High School. There were no school buses in the 1920's.

Little Coon

Early pioneers of Little Coon were James Matthews, Edmond McCrary, Laxton Rash, General Austin, Jackson Grider, G. D. Carlton, and Jake Gibson. Later

settlers are Zack Wynn, Z. H. McCrary, Jimmy McCrary, Buford Sentell, and others.

Crow Creek

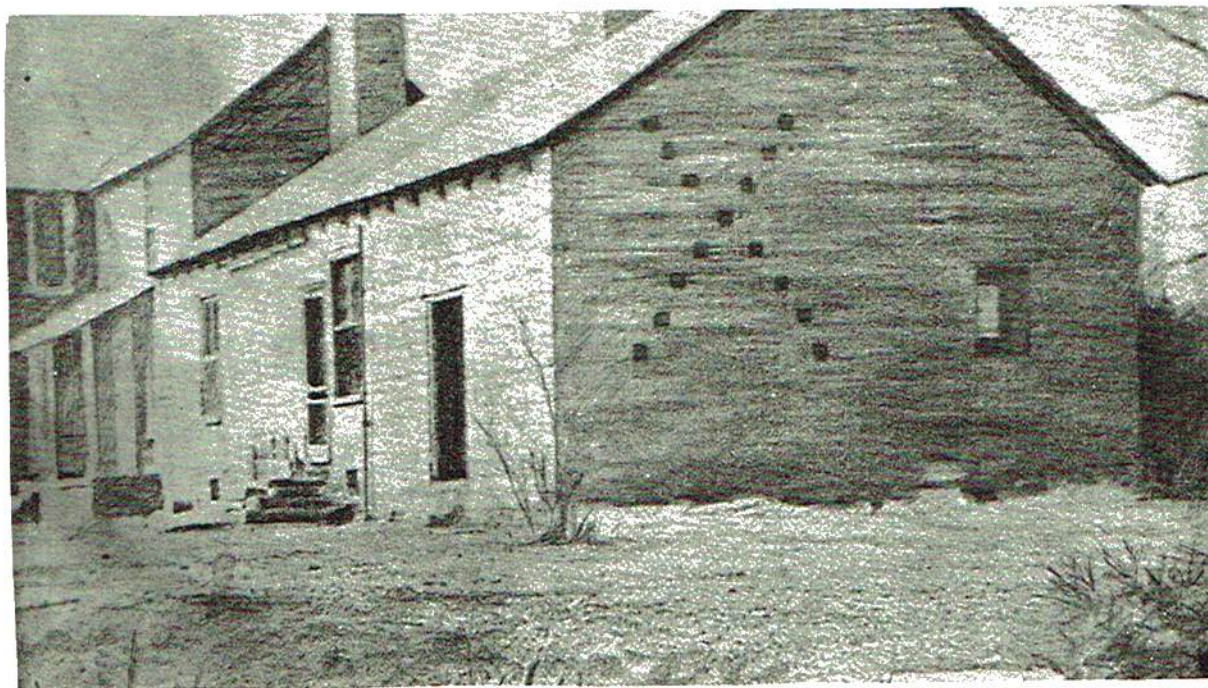
In order to be sure to include all of the settlers on Crow Creek, we must start up near the Tennessee line at Anderson and Bass. The early settlers were Randolph Gonce, Squire Jacoway, Newton Gonce, John Peacock, Jordan Peacock, William Rodgers, William Ferguson, Willis Jacoway, Will Farris, Wilce Gonce, and Jacob Tally. Others were Matthew Tally, James Arnold, Bud Arnold, Jerry Arnold, Jeremiah Matthews, William Matthews, George West, George Rice, James Caperton, Charlie Sutter, Andrew McCoy, John Stephens, William Stephens, Archibald Sutton, and John Roland.

Other more recent settlers were Will Walker, O. S. Matthews, Charley Stubblefield, Larry Gonce, Sr., John Gonce, A. A. Gonce, W. S. Brisco, John Thomas, William Tally, Ike Gonce, Ed Crabtree, Jim Crabtree, and others.

All of these people have contributed to the trade area and the development of Stevenson.

Doran's Cove

Doran's Cove is north of Stevenson. The oldest house in Jackson County is located in this cove. It was built in 1800 by Major James Ray Doran. It had no windows and the door was fastened to the wall with wooden pegs and home-made hinges. Major Doran lived among the Indians for many years. In this cove, Oscar Ridley owned a house and reared his family here by this cave and cool spring. This house has many port holes in the walls.



Picture was copied and redrawn by Carolyn Hall.

CHAPTER III

HOW THE TOWN GOT ITS NAME

The land on which the town of Stevenson was first built was owned by Henderson Price.

The first settlers came to Stevenson about 1825 from Tennessee and Virginia.

The town got its name from B. K. Stevenson who, with John F. Anderson, bought the land from Henderson Price. The town was later laid off in town lots about the time that the first railroad was built in 1851.

The names of some of the first settlers are:

James Hogen	F. M. McMahan
F. M. Pankey	William Russell
Roy Hatfield	N. B. Burch
Luke Willis	John R. Coffey
Lee Metts	James Hogue
John Blake	

Around 1851 merchants began to build stores and hitching posts, forming the main street. N. B. Burch was one of the first merchants. John R. Coffey arrived in Stevenson in 1853 and was a merchant there until the Civil War.

Many of the buildings erected were frame structures. On the present site of the City Hall, Mr. Walter McGriff constructed a three-story frame building. This was a hotel called the McGriff Hotel.

After the Civil War several stores sprang up and buildings were constructed. Some of the business men and merchants in Stevenson after the Civil War were F. E. McMahan, W. H. McMahan, W. H. Washington, G. W. Thornton, H. M. Bunn, J. P. Timberlake, W. W. Rosser, J. F. Martin, W. M. Cowan, "Squire" William McMahan, Captain C. D. Stoner, Dr. T. T. Cotnam, and Dr. P. H. Helton. Some of these business men bought and sold their stocks of merchandise to each other and to new merchants who came to town.

As the downtown business street grew, other merchants moved in from time to time. Around 1900 the Jacoway and Austin Building was constructed where the present Bargain Store is located. A negro man by the name of Herman Hancock built a cafe on the present location of Lay's Store. Herman Hancock and his wife were very good cooks. The first post office was operated in W. H. "Squire" Bogart's store, where Bill Lindsay's Dry Goods store is now in operation.

One of the first freight agents was W. W. Howe and his assistant was Will Wheeler.

On the fourteenth of May in 1910 Stevenson had a great fire which swept away most of the business part of the town except five or six buildings on the

north end of the main street.

The fire started in Ben Howland's store which was in the building where Barney Hale's Dry Cleaning Plant is now located. It swept southward burning all of the stores until it got to P. B. Timberlake's store, which is now the south wing of Bogart's Furniture Store.

The City Hall was located where the Stevenson Drug Store is at the present. Jim Jacoway, John Timberlake, and Joel Wimberley had an attorney's office over the City Hall. This burned.

P. C. Puckett, J. H. Shofner, Dick Merritt, G. W. Thornton, Luther T. Henninger, W. H. McMahan, Charles McMahan, Allison, Rudder, and McMahan Company, and Dr. J. L. Prince had their offices and places of business destroyed by fire.

This picture shows the ruins of the town of Stevenson after the fire. The picture was supplied by Mrs. A. G. Rudder.



The business establishments which were salvaged were as follows: The P. B. Timberlake Building-the present location of the south entrance to Bogart's Furniture Store, and P. C. Puckett's building-now Jones Hardware.

Many of the young men in and around Stevenson fought with the Confederate Army. History records that in 1861 Captain Ragsdale led a company from Stevenson to Fort Morgan.

Stevenson was noted for many years for its excellent hotels and fine livery stables.

The following picture is one which was presented to the author by W. R. Thomas. The old livery stable was located on Stevenson's main street, just back of the present site of Stevenson Drug Company. Dr. J. L. Prince is in the driver's seat and his brother, Albert, is seated beside him. Albert was the druggist at that time. This livery stable burned in the Stevenson fire of 1910. No horses were lost, but a few of John Graham's gamecocks were burned. The horses in the picture are Montana Mustangs.





This picture shows the same street of Stevenson in 1968 that was partially destroyed by the fire in 1910.

CHAPTER IV

MAIL ROUTES AROUND STEVENSON

The United States Postmaster General has established mail routes in and around Stevenson from time to time. Some have been changed or discontinued as the population shifted from community to community. The mail began to arrive near Stevenson when the first mail route in Jackson County was established on May 13, 1820. It extended from Huntsville, by the Jackson County Courthouse to what was then Ross's Landing (later named Chattanooga) to Washington. The Jackson County Courthouse was then located at Sauta. About six months later, the route was changed to go by Bellefonte, which became the County Seat. All mail routes were discontinued during the Civil War.

After the Civil War, Scottsboro became the mail center instead of Bellefonte. Mail routes to various places were gradually established. Most of these were scheduled for weekly service, which was much faster than some of the prior routes which took two weeks.

Prior to this new and faster service, mail routes had been established from such places as Winchester, Tennessee in 1832. The route crossed the Cumberland Mountain by Coon Creek, then passed to Crow Creek on to Bolivar, which was then the nearest point to Stevenson. The author does not have any record of the nomenclature by which this route was identified other than that mentioned above.

Around 1880 some mail routes were changed from weekly to twice a week service. This actually revolutionized the mail service as it was much faster than ever before. The first daily mail service in Jackson County was begun on July 1, 1882. A daily route was established from Woodville to Guntersville. John W. Perkins was the contractor who bid on this route and received the contract. Van Starnes and Ben Grayson were carriers on this route for years.

C. L. Cargile was probably the first mail carrier in Stevenson. He carried the mail from Stevenson up Big Coon Valley across the mountain to Estill's Fork. He served on this route when a young man. He later became Probate Judge of Jackson County.

Several star routes have been established and the mail has been routed in many directions, but the route which has served most of the people in and around Stevenson is R. F. D. No. 1. Much of the history of Stevenson, and the progress that the town has made from time to time in the surrounding communities, can be shown by tracing the history of the rural mail carriers.

W. R. (Russell) Thomas, who for forty-two years faithfully served as the carrier on R. F. D. No. 1, supplied the author with some good information which tells much of the history and progress of Stevenson.

According to W. R. Thomas, the earliest mention of R. F. D. No. 1 was on December 1, 1905. On that date the route was amended by the Postmaster General to read 18.3 miles in length, so we know that the route existed prior to 1905. It is safe to assume that R. F. D. No. 1 started sometime between 1882 and 1905.

By 1920 the length of R. F. D. No. 1 was changed to 29.42 miles and by 1962 it had increased to 67.87 miles. The present route is 71.62 miles.

R. F. D. No. 1 has had the following carriers:

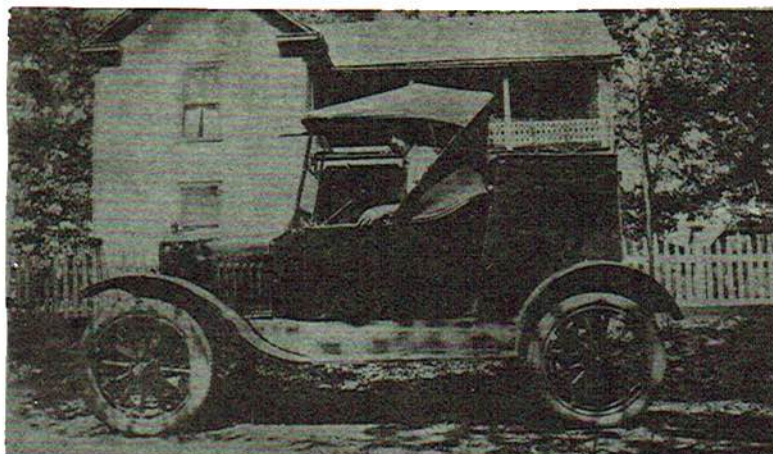
CARRIER'S NAME	TERM
Walter Delzell	1905 -
Taylor Burch	- 1914
L. R. Alston	1914 - 1920
W. R. Thomas	1920 - 1962
J. T. Carroll (Temporary)	1962 - 1964
Robert Curtis (Temporary)	1964 -
Sanders Bryant	1964 - Present

The following pictures tell the story of the progress made by W. R. Thomas on this mail route.



The above picture shows W. R. Thomas with his horse and buggy as he started on R. F. D. No. 1 on February 1, 1920. By 1925 much progress had been made in the mode of transportation used by Mr. Thomas.

The following picture shows Mr. W. R. Thomas in his 1925 Model T Ford in front of his home as he prepares to leave on R. F. D. No. 1.



Automobiles were not always reliable so W. R. Thomas always kept a horse and buggy as stand-by transportation. During the depression years in the 1930's he began using a horse called "Old Red", which he purchased from E. L. Knox. He used this horse for some years to get over the bad roads.

The following picture was taken at Jim and Dimple Rudder's mail box in February, 1942. The roads became impassable. Dick Smith made some iron frames of pipe and built a covered wagon for Mr. Thomas to use. Joe Johnson let Mr. Thomas borrow his mules and wagon.

Rural Carrier Receives Applause at Stevenson

Special to The Chattanooga Times.

STEVENSON, Ala., Feb. 24—Rural mail carriers of the Stevenson area were among the heroes of the recent floods which inundated wide areas in north Alabama, according to Sanders Russell.

Russell pays a special tribute to W. R. Thomas, who on Feb. 15 first alerted his isolated rural route patrons and then dropped the mail from a circling airplane.

On the previous day he made his deliveries as far as possible by automobile, then proceeded on foot.

On another day he borrowed a wagon and team from a patron on the route and completed his deliveries.



Stevenson Carrier Retires

W. Russel Thomas, route one, Stevenson, an employee of the Stevenson post office retired, after serving as a rural mail carrier for forty-two and one-half years. Mr. Thomas also served 22 months in the U. S. Marines, thus making his total service with the government a little over 44 years.

When Thomas started delivering mail by horse and buggy his route was only 29 miles long. It has since grown to 67.68 miles. During this time he used four horses, about 18 cars and all other modes of transportation.

A portion of the route he traveled from Stevenson to Fackler ran parallel with the Southern railroad, and before T.V.A. flood control projects began, several miles of the route was covered with water, forcing him to use whatever transportation he could find to get the mail to his patrons. When high waters came he would serve some of his patrons as he walked the railroad tracks from Stevenson to Fackler. When the roads were extreme-

ly bad and were almost impassable he says he found the people were all willing to help in every way possible. At times they would meet him at the railroad coal chute to get their mail. He recalls on a number of occasions having to use old hand type pump cars used by the section hands on the railroad, later the foot driven motor section hand cars.

He often rode the train as a fare paying passenger from Fackler, anything just to get the mail delivered. One year he had to use a covered wagon drawn by two mules borrowed from a patron.

Thomas also recalls on two occasions he dropped the mail from an airplane piloted by Ray Miller, who is now a Lt. Col. in the United States Air Corps.

Thomas has served under seven postmasters during his term of service and in all the years of service he has never had a traffic accident on his route. He says he believes the driver of the other half of the road helped him to earn the many safety council awards he has received from the post office department.

He has three sons, Walter Thomas of Memphis, Tenn., Jere Ben Thomas of Jacksonville, Fla., and Wendell Thomas of Stevenson. He is married to the former Miss Ruby Lucille Troxell. He says "If I could return to my youth, I think I would choose to say, Let me carry the mail on Route One, Stevenson, Ala."

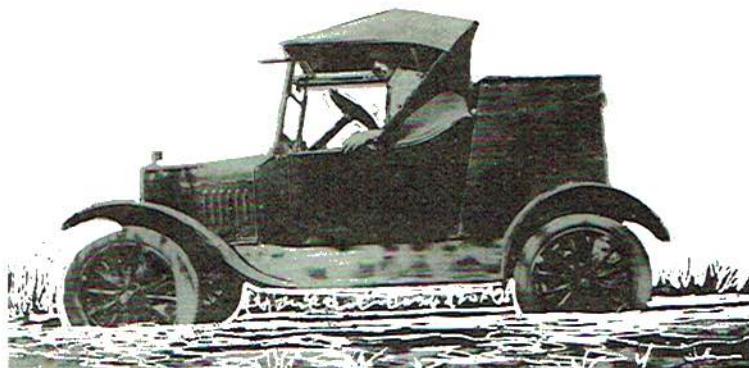
The above clipping from the "Retired Carrier" shows the impact that W. Russell Thomas had on the community of Stevenson. Everyone on Route 1 loved Russell. The author received his mail on this route for many years.

The preceding newspaper clipping indicated that Russell Thomas made his mail route by plane on one occasion. The following picture was made after the air mail delivery trip. Reading from left to right: W. R. Thomas, E. O. Mann, Postmaster, and Ray C. Miller, pilot of the Piper Cub that made the trip.



The following incidents are revealed by W. R. Thomas as interesting things that happened during his tenure.

"Once on the old road between the old Frank and Mazie Washington home (now known as the Frank Johnson Place) and the Southern Railroad Crossing, I found a portion of the road not only covered with water, but iced over, not too thick, I thought. As soon as my horse had its four feet on the ice, it stopped dead in fear, and refused to move another foot backward or forward. The ice was holding it up, and it sensed the danger. I got out and unhitched the horse from the cart and gave the horse free rein. It then slowly turned around and walked off the ice. I turned the cart around, hitched the horse back to the cart, retraced the distance, took the old farm road across the fields and rejoined the public road at the railroad crossing. But I knew my troubles for the day were not over. Farther up the road, I would come to Slaton's Branch with water over the road and iced over, too, and this time I could not make an 'end run'. As it was, I must go through. When I reached the trouble spot, I found some good Samaritan had already cut a path through the ice some eighteen inches wide. I took the horse from the cart and led it through the narrow path. I walked on the ice along side of the horse. Once on dry land, I tied the horse to an overhanging tree limb, went back and scooted the mail cart over the ice and again hitched the horse back to the cart and went on my way. I later learned that the good Samaritan was a man leading a cow from Stevenson to Fackler."



Stuck in the Mud

"My car got stuck in the mud. I locked my car and walked about three quarters of a mile to the Lewis F. Smith home where I borrowed a shovel to dig out. But when I got back, the mud had frozen so hard about the four wheels, the shovel was no good. I walked back to the Smith home and told my story. One of the boys hitched a pair of mules to the wagon. We returned to the car and using a grubbing hoe or mattock to dig around the wheels, then with a log chain we tied from wagon to car, and with the motor pulling, the mules we were able to pull free."

Perishable Mail

One amusing story that Mr. Russell tells is recorded as follows:

"A patron was at the box to mail a parcel. I asked him if it was perishable. He said, 'I reckon it is, it's my wife's underskirt'."

Water Up Near Russell Stables

"The water was up. I needed a horse to ride over a portion of the route. I phoned the I. P. Russell farm for a horse to ride. On this day Mr. Pick personally saw to it that I had a horse. He was waiting for me at the barn with a horse ready to go. He said, 'Now this mare used to go pretty fast when we raced her on the track, but she has had to slow down quite a bit', and with a bit of his wit, not too often displayed, he added, 'She may foal before you get back!'."

Claude Bramlett served as substitute mail carrier to W. R. Thomas for many years; and he, too, was loved and respected by all the citizens on Route One.

Sanders Bryant continues to fill the shoes of these men who have delivered the mail and the people who live on R. F. D. No. 1 are learning that he too has a human touch of kindness that the rural people enjoy. May we wish Sanders many years of happiness as he continues to make history in and around Stevenson.

The following picture is of W. R. Thomas' home near Stevenson. This home was built by John A. Thomas in 1898.



Elmer Goforth delivered the mail across the river on what was known as the River Route for many years. Sam Maxwell also worked this route.

Mrs. V. O. Knight has delivered the mail in the Coon Community for many years.

All of these people have made a contribution to service of mail delivery in and around Stevenson.

CHAPTER V

THE POST OFFICE

According to Frank Timberlake, the first post office in Stevenson was operated in W. H. "Squire" Bogart's Store (as previously mentioned), but he did not recall who the Postmaster was at that time.

Since Bellefonte was the first incorporated town in Jackson County (December 15, 1821), it was also the County Seat. It served as the mail center of Jackson County. We must assume that the area of Stevenson was served from the Bellefonte terminal in the early days of mail service.

John Robert Kennamer in his book "The History of Jackson County" published in 1935, claims that history records the first post office in Paint Rock Valley at Birmingham, Alabama in 1847 - twenty-five years before the great city of Birmingham ever existed. The name Birmingham was changed to Princeton on April 1, 1849. Elder citizens claim that the first Birmingham which was located in Jackson County was on Coon near Rash, Alabama. This could have been the first post office.

Bolivar could have been an early distribution point for the mail for people in the Stevenson area since it was on one of the main thoroughfares.

Stevenson became more of a railroad center, and railway mail service became more popular, so it was only natural that a post office be established in Stevenson.

According to W. R. Thomas, the following people served as postmaster of the Stevenson Post Office:

Christopher C. Cobb	April 25, 1875
John A. Cargile	August 5, 1875
R. Stockard	March 21, 1877
William R. Willis	December 20, 1880
John A. Cargile	February 20, 1882
W. Vaught	July 29, 1883
Rufus C. Hopkins, Sr.	January 20, 1886
James H. Cowan	April 17, 1889
Robert L. Wilson (Bob)	1909-1913
John M. Graham	1913-1921
Mrs. Allie Wilson	1921-1933
Mrs. Alice Armstrong	1933-1936
Miss Gladys Crabtree (acting)	1936
E. O. Mann	1937-1952
Edwin Allison (acting)	1952
Ruth Smith (acting)	1953-1964
J. T. Carroll	1964-Present

The building in the picture below served as the location of the Stevenson Post Office. It was owned for many years by P. H. Woodall. It is now a part of Stevenson Hardware owned by Lee Garner.



The picture below is of J. T. Carroll, the present Postmaster.



CHAPTER VI

COURTHOUSE SITE LOST TO SCOTTSBORO

The first courthouse in Jackson County was built at Bellefonte in 1828. Bellefonte had grown to be the market center of the county as a result of its great river transportation and trade. The citizens of Bellefonte did not want a railroad in their town, as previously mentioned. When the M. & C. Railroad began to survey for the tracks, the people of Bellefonte let this fact be known. This decision proved to be a factor which helped kill the growth of Bellefonte, and resulted in the loss of the courthouse.

The old courthouse in Bellefonte was badly in need of repairs or a new building, so the legislature passed an act in 1859 setting the first Monday in May, 1860 as an election day for this purpose. This election was to determine whether or not the courthouse should be moved. The words "removal" and "no removal" were written on the tickets. The majority of the people voted to remove the courthouse.

An election was held on the first Monday of August, 1860 to determine the place to which the courthouse would be moved. The vote indicated that Stevenson had won the election, fairly and squarely; but, as the Civil War got under way, the people failed to give this matter its rightful attention. Charles O. Whitney, then state senator from Scottsboro was responsible for the act passed on August 3, 1868, allowing the County Commissioners to locate the County site. Mr. Whitney had cleverly worded his act to eliminate Stevenson. The act stated that "The County Commissioners are hereby authorized and required, within sixty days, to select the most suitable place for a permanent County site on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad within eight miles of the center of the county". This clause eliminated Stevenson which was not within the eight mile limitation.

The Court of Commissioners, consisting of William Stockton, R. A. Coffey, T. J. Mitchell, and Alexander Reed, voted on September 5, 1868 to locate the County site. David Tate, sixteenth judge of Jackson County, declared Scottsboro the duly elected County site as a result of this vote. Judge Tate moved into his new brick office at the courthouse in November, 1868.

The courthouse burned in 1879, but was rebuilt that same year using the same walls for the new courthouse.

J. B. Hackworth was Probate Judge of Jackson County when the Commissioners decided, in May of 1912, to rebuild the courthouse.

When R. H. Hunt, an architect of Chattanooga, condemned the old courthouse walls, it was decided that a completely new courthouse would be constructed. The people of Stevenson made another attempt to locate the county seat at Stevenson.

A mass meeting was held at Stevenson which consisted of citizens of Stevenson, Bridgeport, Bass, and surrounding communities to enjoin the Commissioners from building the courthouse at Scottsboro. W. W. (Corndock) Sanders was selected as chairman of this meeting. Ernest K. Mann was selected as secretary. This group requested that the people of the county be allowed to vote on the place where the new courthouse should be built. The towns of Stevenson and Bridgeport filed a bill in Chancery Court to cancel the contract to build the courthouse in Scottsboro. W. H. Simpson, Chancellor, rendered a decision favorable to Scottsboro. The decree read as follows:

"Upon due consideration, thereof, it is the opinion of the court that the said demurrer is well taken. It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the court that the said demurrer to the original bill as amended be, and the same is hereby sustained. It is further ordered that the complainants have fifteen days from this date in which to amend their bill as they may be advised." - Signed by W. H. Simpson, Chancellor and dated July 1, 1912

The following picture shows the courthouse at Scottsboro prior to 1912. According to Mrs. Jim Rudder, who supplied the author with this picture, the tall man in the black suit in the doorway is Sam Christian of Stevenson.



Many people of Stevenson still feel that the Jackson County Seat rightfully belongs in Stevenson. The author has attempted to portray the courageous efforts that were made by its citizens to no avail.

CHAPTER VII

THE CITY GOVERNMENT

The first city charter was issued in 1890. The first mayor of Stevenson was C. G. Stoner. This government functioned for about two years and was never really effective until the city of Stevenson was reorganized in 1908.

The city government became active again in 1908 and the first ordinance was actually approved on March 30, 1909. Luther Henninger was elected mayor of Stevenson in 1908. The first city clerk to function as a clerk was J. H. McMahan, a well-known merchant, who served as city clerk on a part-time basis.

At the time of this writing, Stevenson has had seventeen men elected to the highest post (mayor) in the city's government. Six of these mayors have held more than one term in office. Mayors who held the office for more than one term are J. K. Shofner, J. F. Rudder, H. J. Jacoway, B. R. Thomas, W. M. Allison, and G. A. Henninger. The mayors of Stevenson are as follows:

NAME	TERM OF OFFICE
C. G. Stoner	1890 - not recorded
L. T. Henninger	1908 - 1910
J. K. Shofner	1910 - 1914
H. J. Jacoway	1914 - 1916
J. K. Shofner	1916 - 1920
C. R. Timberlake	1920 - 1922
L. R. Alston	1922 - 1924
J. R. Rudder	1924 - 1926
H. J. Jacoway	1926 - 1930
W. M. Allison	1930 - 1938
G. A. Henninger	1938 - 1947
C. W. Holder	1947 - 1948
J. F. Rudder	1948 - 1952
B. R. Thomas	1952 - 1960
Johnny E. Rudder	1960 - 1964
Cecil Adams	1964 - 1968
B. R. Thomas	1968 -

Please note that when the city was reorganized in 1908, mayors were to serve for two-year terms. This procedure was followed from 1908 until 1926. Beginning with the 1926 election, mayors were elected for a four-year term. This method is still in practice at the present time. H. Jim Jacoway was the first mayor to serve in the four-year capacity. Walter M. Allison, who was elected for the first time in 1930, was the second mayor to hold office for two consecutive terms. Prior to this time, J. K. Shofner had been elected three times, but his terms were only two-year terms. G. A. Henninger was elected for the third term in 1947, but he died before his third term expired. Clyde W. Holder was then appointed to serve as mayor of Stevenson until J. F. Rudder was elected in 1948. B. R. (Dick) Thomas is the most recent mayor of the 1950's who has served more than two terms. Only three of the past mayors of Stevenson are living today - B. R. Thomas, Johnny Rudder, and Cecil Adams.

The following picture is of John E. Rudder, one of the three living mayors of Stevenson.



The old covered bridge is the type built during the turn of the century. Bengers Creek had this type of bridge crossing the creek entering Stevenson just below Ira Thornton's Store. This bridge was abandoned when the new bridge was constructed in the 1930's.



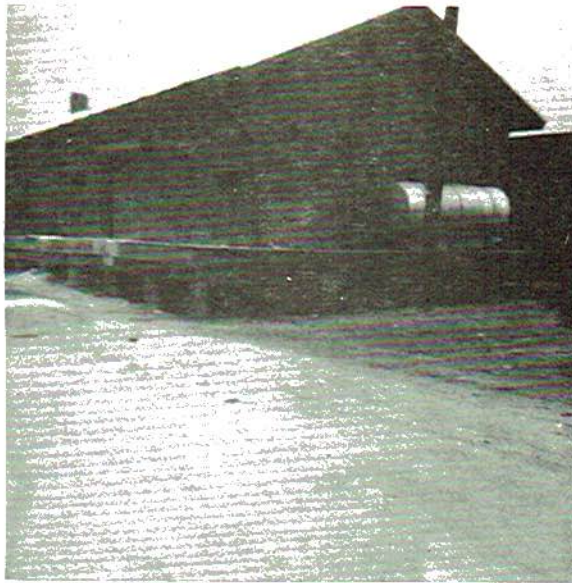
The following picture is a portion of the main street of Stevenson. This picture was presented by Mrs. Jo John Williams, Jr.



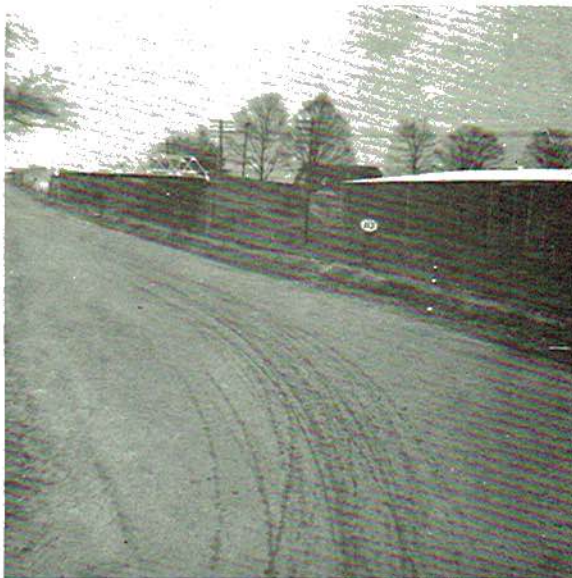
This picture shows the famous Alabama House which was used as a hotel prior to the burning of the town.



The following is a picture of the freight depot which was built in the early 1900's.



The viaduct pictured below is one of the landmarks of Stevenson.



The following picture is the residence of Mr. & Mrs. William W. Bogart. This is the location of the original Bogart family home. This is an example of the manner in which an old structure can be converted into a beautiful modern dwelling.



The following picture is one of the landmarks around Stevenson. This is probably the oldest house in Jackson County still in use today. This home was built in 1840 with bricks made by slaves. According to Mrs. W. R. (Ruby) Thomas, the fifth generation of the Troxell family is living in this home. The Union Army stored supplies here during the Civil War. This picture was supplied by Mrs. Ruby Troxell Thomas.



This old log house owned by Mrs. R. R. Rudder is located near Stevenson. It was known for years as the Cross farm owned by Mrs. Rudder's father, Mr. J. M. Cross.



The government of Stevenson has made much progress since many of the old buildings which have been shown were erected.

Prior to 1938 Stevenson had hose carts which the city could hitch behind cars and transport the hose to the nearest fire plug when a fire would break out. In 1938 the first fire truck was purchased and a fire department established. Eugene Henninger was selected as the first fire chief. He has remained in this position until the present time, except for four or five years during World War II when he was away in the army. During this time, Jack Lillard served as fire chief.

The fire alert siren is located at the Stevenson Depot. Voluntary firemen are alerted and rush to the scene of the fire when the alarm is sounded.

The following picture shows the Union Depot and the Stevenson Hotel. The fire siren can be seen on top of the depot.



Stevenson's hotel was operated for many years by E. O. Mann as trains stopped for meals. Abe Joseph would wear a white coat as he rang the brass dinner bell.

CHAPTER VIII

NEWSPAPERS

The first mention of any official record of the first newspaper in Jackson County was a notice of a mortgage sale, published in a newspaper at Bellefonte, Alabama in 1839. It was made by Mose Maples.

History records that J. F. Green and his brother published the North Alabama Register at Bellefonte. It is believed to have been started around 1835, but there are no records to prove this.

Ex-governor Samuel B. Moore delivered a Fourth of July speech at Bellefonte in 1835 and accounts of this oration can be traced, but there is no mention of a Jackson County paper publishing it.

The North Alabama Register probably served as a newspaper media for Stevenson during this period of time.

The Bellefonte Democrat was published by R. C. T. Gill in 1846. He published the paper until he sold it to Frazier and Jones prior to the Civil War. This paper and the plant was destroyed by the Federal Army under General O. M. Mitchell in April 1862. The people of Stevenson depended on this paper for the news during this period of time.

Stevenson's First Paper

Stevenson actually got its first newspaper in 1868. Thomas D. Osborne and Crawford published this paper. It was called The Stevenson New Era. This paper was a four-page weekly paper. In September 1870, Thomas Osborne moved the paper to Jasper, Tennessee. No paper was published in Stevenson for three years until the spring of 1873 when The Stevenson New Era, which was being published in Jasper by Thomas D. Osborne and circulated in Stevenson, merged with The Star, published by Charles M. Gardner of Scottsboro. The merged paper went under the name of The New Era. It was sold to B. F. Shook. In 1886, W. T. Boyle bought The New Era, and changed the name to The Progressive Age. He sold The Progressive Age to Jesse E. Brown in 1895.

A paper, The Stevenson Chronicle, was established in January 1887. The paper had two editors - J. H. Vaught and J. H. Gregory - in 1903. The paper was then sold to W. J. Rorex in 1912, and he became editor and proprietor. C. D. Cargile became publisher in August of 1912. The paper was sold to R. H. McKinley of Jasper, Tennessee in the latter part of 1914.

Madge Caperton supplied the author with many articles from this paper which she saved from those stored in trunks by her mother, Mrs. J. F. Rudder. Since she has taught at Stevenson School for many years, her advice on much of this history of Stevenson has proved to be very valuable.

The following pages contain some of the articles and adds from this famous newspaper.

THE STEVENSON CHRONICLE.

THE CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY

CARGILE & CARGILE,

J. M. Cargile, C. D. Cargile.

Editors and Publishers.

Subscription, one year, \$1 00
" six months50

Entered at the postoffice at Stevenson, Ala.
as second class matter,

THURSDAY, FEB. 25 1909.

U. S. Deficit.

Uncle Sams deficit for the present fiscal year may reach the total of \$130,000,000. During Jan. alone it reached \$16,000,000 and up to the present time the total is something like \$80,000,000. Republicans want to lay this deficit to lack of national income on account of slackened commercial activities. While the democrats claim it is due to the extravagance of the Roosevelt administration. There is not much difference in the two opinions for was it not the "big stick" that caused so much slackened activity? And now the republicans want the dear people to make up the most of this deficit by taxing them three cents on each pound of coffee, ten cents on each pound of tea and \$1 to \$2 on each barrel of beer. By this method the deficit would be paid mostly by our working classes. The democrats, on the ways and means committee, want the deficit paid by wealthier classes in the way of an income and inheritance tax. It will soon be that the actions of our government will be dreaded by the working people the same as we now dread the big trusts.

If you are living here and can't say a good word to strangers about our town and excellent advantages generally, go home, pack your grip and leave, but before taking your departure, take a glass of water, stick your finger in it and then look for the hole and you can form some idea as to how much you will be missed.

FOR COUGHS KING OF CURES FOR COLDS

THE WONDER WORKER

FOR THROAT

DR. KING'S

AND LUNGS

NEW DISCOVERY

FOR COUGHS AND COLDS

PREVENTS PNEUMONIA

I had the most debilitating cough a mortal was ever afflicted with, and my friends expected that when I left my bed it would surely be for my grave. Our doctor pronounced my case incurable, but thanks be to God, four bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery cured me so completely that I am all sound and well.—MRS. EVA UNCAPHER, Grovertown, Ind.

Price 50c and \$1.00 **ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED!** Trial Bottle Free

SOLD AND GUARANTEED BY

Alston Brothers, Steverson, Alabama.

**SEED OATS
FOR SALE**

If you want seed oats

GO TO

ALLISON, RUDDER & CO.

Just received a car load of Tennessee Burt will sell them at **75c** per bushell

**OR WILL EXCHANGE THEM FOR
CORN OR PEAS.**

Mite Meeting.

On next Wednesday afternoon, March 3rd. the Womans' Foreign Missionary Society will hold a mite meeting at 3 o'clock, at the residence of Mrs. J. L. Armstrong.

A short literary and musical program will be rendered after which the afternoon will be spent in social enjoyment. The chief feature of the occasion will be the opening of the mite boxes. These have been kept by the members during the year, and filled from time to time, and their contents will go to make up the amount sent in, for the year, by this society, as a free will offering. The public is cordially invited to attend and any additional mites toward this fund, however small, will be gladly received.

Lights and Shadows of Stevenson Briefly Told.

W. H. Woods has put in a stock of groceries with a produce business in connection, in the W. J. Hackworth picture gallery on the south side of the railroad.

Ernest and Bob had a holiday Monday but it rained so they could not go hunting and now they want to have Washington's birthday changed to the 25th.

A terrific wind and rain storm visited this section Tuesday night about 8 o'clock, but no damage has been reported so far.

Hunt up the announcement of J. K. Shofner in this issue and do as he says. You cant make a mistake in giving him your trade. To give satisfaction is his chief aim.

The Chattanooga Feed Co. speaks to you in an advertisement in this issue. This firm is well known here and will give you good returns for every cent you invest with them.

W. J. Hackworth has sold his sawmill, gristmill and gin to L. J. Hackworth & Co. This new firm headed by L. J. Hackworth who is thoroughly competent in all matters pertaining to the mill and gin business, propose to run their business on strictly up to date style and no doubt will meet with success.

Bees Laxative Cough Syrup is guaranteed. This is because we know what it will do and want to convince you. It is especially recommended for children as it is pleasant to take and is gently laxative. For coughs, colds, croup, hoarseness whooping cough. Price 25c 50c and \$1.00. Alston Bros.

Mr. J. A. Heether Supt. Memphis Division So. Ry. was here last Friday on a tour of general inspection and found everything in good shape.

Mrs. J. L. Dickey of Tullahoma is visiting her daughter Mrs. J. W. Tilley who has been very sick but is now improving.

Will Arendale of South Pittsburg was in town last Friday.

Mrs. M. A. Cargile is quite sick this week.

B. F. Smart was in Chattanooga Tuesday.

Mrs. J. D. Hughes of Bridgeport is the guest of Mrs. T. J. Rudder.

Best grade of flour is now selling at \$1.00 per sack.

G. W. Helton was in Scottboro yesterday on professional business.

Today week Washington will have a big day, placing a big man in a big seat.

J. A. Hackworth and Atty. W. J. Martin were at Carnes last Friday on professional business.

Three new buildings going up in town and another almost ready to start. Who said Stevenson wasn't growing.

Mrs. L. Miller and little son James of Tusculumbia are here this week visiting friends and relatives.

Miss Cheatie Eason of Haley Tenn is here this week the guest of her cousin Miss Miriam Eason.

J. W. Hall one of the Southern's most popular engineers, was on our streets last Tuesday.

Mrs. B. A. Bibb and children of Mooresville Ala. are here this week visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Jacoway.

Mr. J. A. Thomas Pres. N. C. & St. L. Ry. was here Tuesday and Wednesday on a general inspection tour and as usual found everything here in good shape.

Plant your potatoes in the ground this year. The moon wont kick about it. No wonder the moon gets full every month, people plant too much in it.

B. J. Rudder of Ripley was here on business last week

Last Monday was a legal holiday it being Birthington's Wash-day.

Rev. V. H. Hawkins of Bridgeport visited Rev. C. A. Bowen Monday.

Dr. G. B. Giltner V. S. of Murfreesboro was here first of the week professionally engaged.

W. D. Short has moved his family here from Tusculumbia. They will live with Mrs. Short's father Robt. Greer.

Jas. L. Armstrong Jr. visited his uncle, Pearl Armstrong, at South Pittsburg last week.

Miss Roxie Cargile is visiting her sister Mrs. T. E. Wilson in Chattanooga this week.

C. W. McCallie has returned from Oklahoma and will make this his future home.

Some of these rains we've been having would be mighty fine at the close of a real dry spell in May or June.

The painting crew of the N. C. & St. L. Ry. has just completed a nice job on the depot and waiting rooms.

Mr. Ben Campbell and family visited relatives and friends at Hollywood Saturday and Sunday last.

Mrs. W. J. Potts visited her sister Mrs. Leamab Lovelace at South Pittsburg last week.

Messrs Tommie and Will Sims of North Ala. after spending several days with friends and relatives here returned home Sunday.

Misses Sadie and Jean Kindig has returned to their home in Chattanooga after spending a few days here the guest of Miss Clyde Bogart.

Walter Tally was in town on business last Friday.

Eldridge Swats was over from Nashville last Sunday.

Frank Timberlake was down from Chattanooga to visit home folk the latter part of the week.

We will never again doubt Prof. Groundhog's ability as a weather prophet.

Dr J. L. Payne was in Nashville Monday on business.

Roy Woodall was here from Memphis to spend Sunday with home folks.

SALESMEN WANTED to look after our interest in Jackson and adjacent counties. Salary or commission. Address
The Harvey Oil Co.
Cleveland, O.

B. R. Ellis and Dr. G. L. Austin are on a wild goose chase at Muscle Shoals this week.

Mrs H. G. McReynolds of Shellmound spent the week-end with her mother Mrs P. A. Graham.

Col. D. O. Austin, Candidate for Sheriff, was in town Tuesday shaking hands.

Attention

Will close my office Feb. 15th, for one week. Please notice Chronicle for further announcements, as I expect to be away again a part of my time during Spring and Summer months.
Sincerely your friend,
Geo. L. Austin, Dentist.

A moving picture now and then, is relished by the best of men. Go see 'em.

The Masonic fraternity of Stevenson will give it's annual banquet here at the Stevenson Hotel on the evening of the 27th Inst.

Sidney Hooker, one of Stevenson's most popular telegraphers, who has been off duty for some time on account of a lame foot is again able to be at his post of duty

Oran Wynne is in Richard City this week establishing a tailoring and pressing shop which will be a branch of the firm of Wynne Bros of this place.

For Sale

A second hand Standard Folding typewriter, Practically new. Visible, two-colors, standard keyboard and an all round good strong machine in nice, strong, and nicely lined carrying case. For particulars and to see the machine, call at Chronicle office.

For Sale

One good farm or driving horse, for cash or good note.
See Geo. L. Austin.

PATENTS

TRADE MARKS and copyrights obtained or not. Send models, sketches or photos and brief description to FREE SEARCH and report on patentability. 25 years experience.

Send your name to NEW BOOKLET, full patent information. It will help you to write.

READ PAGES 11 and 12 before applying to patent. Write to-day.

D. SWIFT & CO.

PATENT LAWYERS,
303 Seventh St., Washington, D. C.

Dr and Mrs J. C. Becker who have been among us for several months, left this week for Scottsboro where they will make their home. The people of Stevenson regret to lose such people as these but we can heartily recommend them to the citizens of Scottsboro. They leave many good friends here and will, no doubt, gain many more in their new home.

J. H. Keller of Maxwell gave us a pleasant visit Tuesday and had his subscription moved up another year.

For Sale Cheap

4 or 5 show case in first class condition. Call on, phone or write at once to

I. M. Sentell,
Rash, Ala.

Work on the Methodist parsonage has begun in earnest and it is expected it will be ready for occupancy about the middle of March. It is being erected on the lot adjoining the church, which was purchased from B. R. Ellis. H. S. Davis is in charge of the construction work.

The management of the Stevenson Hotel is under the efficient care of Lawrence Howe during the absence of the proprietor, E. O. Mann.

We are sorry to report J. B. Miller on the sick list this week.

Misses Stella Holder and Bertha Smith of Hollywood, were the week-end guests of Mr and Mrs W. H. Landen.

BE PROSPEROUS IN 1909.

Wm. & Emma Austin College

Wm. & Emma Austin College, situated at Stevenson, Ala., is a school of high grade instruction, and under present conditions; and with a high class and efficient faculty, is worthy the consideration and support of every man and woman of this community. We have

A FACULTY

Whose efficient service and sincerity of purpose will necessarily build themselves into the lives of the students.

THOROUGH COURSES

Are given in the Academic, Secondary and primary work. We solicit your patronage and shall endeavor to serve you faithfully.

For further particulars call on or address

JAS. K. STONE, Principal.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE
N. C. & St. L.

NORTH BOUND

No. 94	arrives	12:45	p. m.
No. 92	arrives	11:05	p. m.
No. 6	arrives	6:37	a. m.
No. 4	arrives	2:49	a. m.
No. 2	arrives	3:02	p. m.

SOUTH BOUND.

No. 3	arrives	1:23	a. m.
No. 5	arrives	8:01	p. m.
No. 93	arrives	5:20	a. m.
No. 95	arrives	3:20	p. m.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY,

EAST BOUND.

No. 36	arrives	7:20	p. m.
No. 42	arrives	8:15	a. m.

WEST BOUND.

No. 41	arrives	9:30	p. m.
No. 35	arrives	11:55	a. m.

Business Cards

Wm. BOGART Jr. M. D.
OFFICE OVER
BOGART BROS. STORE.
Phone No. 5. Stevenson, Ala.

Dr. J. W. Boggess,
PHYSICIAN and SURGEON
Phone No. 27-2 Rings
Stevenson, - Alabama

W. W. Rosser.
PHYSICIAN and SURGEON.
PHONE 35
Stevenson, - Ala.

School House Fund.

The public school house fund is still increasing. \$450.00 has already been subscribed and there are others who will subscribe in the near future.

The following shows the citizens who have already donated the amount being opposite each name.

W H Burks	\$50.00
W H Stewart	10.00
W J Money	50.00
P H Woodall	25.00
J F Rudder	25.00
C L Cargile	25.00
C D Cargile	10.00
A E Moore	10.00
W R Bogart	10.00
P C Puckett	10.00
C W Potts	25.00
J R Potts	10.00
R H Smith	25.00
Geo Bookout	25.00
H S Davis	10.00
J K Shofner	10.00
G W Allison	5.00
E B Porter	10.00
J W Boggess	10.00
J T Parton	5.00
T T Cargile	10.00
T T Burch	10.00
Henry Walker	5.00
J L Vaught	5.00
A N Varnell	1.00
J B Hackworth	1.00
J W Allen	5.00
C L Hackworth	2.00
G W Helton	1.00
R L Cargile	1.00
J M Sanders	3.00
W A Stewart	5.00
A J Grider	5.00
J V Terry	1.00
R L Wilson	5.00
T J Rudder	10.00
W T Cox	1.00
J M Sanders Jr	1.00

The above shows that the majority of our citizens want the school house built. There are several more to come yet and no doubt if it becomes necessary of those who have already subscribed many will increase their amount. Let this good work go on. The people need and must have this building. Never think of failure, but push thru.

THE STEVENSON CHRONICLE.

Business Cards

Dr. William Bogart.

OFFICE OVER
First National Bank.
Phone No. 5. Stevenson, Ala.

Geo. L. Austin

DENTIST
Office Over Allison & Rudder
Store.
Hours 8:30 to 12. 100 to 4:00.
Office Phone 45. Residence 36
STEVENSON, - - ALA.

Dr. Jas. A. Gentry

PHYSICIAN
Office over J H McMahan's Store
Phone, Res No. 50. Office No. 39
Stevenson, - Alabama

Dr. J. L. Payne

Veterinary Surgeon and Dentist
Main and Church Streets
Office Phone.....25
Residence Phone.....14
STEVENSON, - - ALA.

W. J. Rorex.

DENTAL SURGEON.
Office in Concrete Building
Stevenson, - Ala.

Dr. J. L. Prince

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON—
OFFICE OVER
Prince Bros. Drug Store.
OFFICE PHONE 25. RES. PHONE 49.
STEVENSON, ALA.

BIBLE & JACOWAY.
Stevenson, - - Ala.

Attachment Notice

A. J. Grider & Co. vs. Jas. Thompson, in Justice Court of J. R. Wimberley, at Stevenson, Ala. Whereas an attachment issued out of my court at the suit of A. J. Grider & Co. vs. Jas. Thompson, on the first day of Jan. 1914, has been levied by J. A. Hackworth, constable, on the following as the property of the defendant to-wit: 2 beds, 1 dresser, 1 wash stand, 1 bridge auger, 1 safe, 1 lot of dishes. It appearing that defendant has absconded and his place of residence is not known, it is ordered that notice of same be made by publication in the Stevenson Chronicle for three weeks, and that same will come up for further hearing on the 28th day of Feb. 1914.

This Feb. 10th 1914.

J. R. Wimberley,
N. P. & Ex. Off. J. P.

Let Me Call and Show You the 1914 Styles in Home Decoration—

My 1914 American Wall Paper Sample Books have arrived.

They contain the most up-to-date, largest and most artistic line of Wall Papers ever shown

All of the latest things—all of the best patterns and the choicest colorings are contained in my samples.

My prices are right—my work is guaranteed.

I'll gladly call, show samples and estimate on your work

Phone or write me.

Clyde W. Holder
Stevenson, - Ala.

For Sale, Cheap

One good buggy pony mare—
Apply to this office.

**Go To
Isabelle Theatre
And See
Moving Pictures of
The Highest Grade
Saturday p. m. &
Night.**

Stray Mule

I took up a stray mule on Feb. 10th. Small red horse mule with black mane and tail, closely shaggy with small bunch of hair left on tail. Is about 4 years old. Owner can get him by paying for this ad and other expenses.

W. H. CARLISLE
Rash, Ala.

Milan.

There was an all day singing at Larkin Sunday; those of the Milan choir who attended were Misses Emma and Bula Prince, Annie Collins, and Urline Wammack, Messrs Felix Swaim, Billie Prince, Ove Collins, and Merian Carter. All reported a good time.

Mr George Greene spent Sunday night with Mr Mack Collins.

Mr Bunn Bouldin has returned to Hollywood after a week's visit with his uncle, A. B. Collins. He will leave Hollywood for Okla.

Miss Vertra Swaim of Ponce de Leon spent Sunday night with her grand parents, Mr and Mrs W. J. Swaim.

Mr Vincent and daughter Mrs Dillard of Jasper, Tenn., have returned home after a few day's visit with Mrs J. H. Sentell.

Messrs Bill Stovall and O. B. Collins made a business trip to Scottsboro the first of the week.

Success to all.

"Red Bird."

THE STEVENSON CHRONICLE

C. D. GARGILE.
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

\$50 Reward

**I Will Pay \$50
Cash for the arrest
and conviction of
the party or parties
who burned my
barn on the night of
Jan. 22, 1914.**

Signed,

J. A. Ridley

Rt. 1 Stevenson,

Ala.

Notice of Sale

By virtue of the lein given me as a hotel keeper, I will on the 7th day of March 1914, sell to the highest bidder for cash, in Stevenson, Ala., in the legal hours of sale, one suit case and contents, and one sample case and contents held as the property of H. Burnett Lawson, to satisfy unpaid board bill and expenses of advertising and selling.

J. W. WOODALL.

G. F. GREER, Jeweler.

At Ellis & Vaught's Store, Stevenson, Ala.

Local Items

We will appreciate your assistance in getting the news for this page. Items for this department should reach us not later than Wednesday noon, of each week.

Phone the news to No. 61.

W. R. Willis was over from Murfreesboro Tuesday.

Jno. McCrary was here from Fackler Tuesday on business.

L. P. Timberlake of Richard City was here Tuesday.

I. M. Sentell of Rash, was in our office on business Tuesday.

Dr G. B. Tate of Fackler was here Monday.

B. G. Houser was down from Bridgeport on business Monday.

Henry Bunn was over from Sherwood Monday.

For Rent

Four houses in Stevenson. Cheap. Mrs Stubblefield.

Oran Wynne spent the weekend in Nashville.

F. L. Barns was here from Bridgeport Sunday.

Born to Mr and Mrs A. J. Gri-der the 16th, a fine baby girl.

Dr J. W. Boggess of Bridgeport was here last Thursday.

**Houses to Rent,
Mules for Sale.**

I Have Two Houses For Rent. Also two mules for sale cheap for cash or good note.

John D. McCrary.

19

B. T. and C. S. Howland were in Cincinnati first of this week buying spring merchandise.

Mrs W. H. Bogart returned Monday from Chattanooga where she had been to see her mother, who is quite sick.

Get Ready for the 3rd Lyceum number to be given at the opera house on night of Wednesday the 25th. It's the Boyds this time and promises to be a wide awake number.

6% GOLD BONDS
PRINCIPAL INTEREST GUARANTEED
\$100 to \$5000 DENOMINATIONS
INTEREST PAID IN CASH
PROFIT SHARING
ONE HALF THE NET PROFITS PAID
TO BONDHOLDERS IN ADDITION
TO GUARANTEE INTEREST
ASSETS OVER \$200,000.00
WRITE FOR FREE BOND BOOK.

PLUS-

AMERICAN FINANCE & BOND CO
BIRMINGHAM ALA.

DON'T LET THE HARD SCRAP!
WE PAY SIX PER CENT PLUS-

Please send in all the local news you know. Just because you already know it is no reason it wouldn't be new to some one else.

SATISFACTION IN CLOTHING

Is what the M. BORN & CO., line of Tailor Made clothing represents

We are agents for this line and have samples of the very latest creations in fabric and style.

The name M. BORN & CO., means perfection in clothing.

Give us your trade and we will **GUARANTEE SATISFACTION**

BOGART BROS.

A hen has the capacity of laying 600 eggs in her life time and no more. This illustrates the fact that Nature has placed a limit to the productive capacity of everything, even the human mind. Scientists declare that the earth itself is rapidly wearing out and that its entire surface will eventually become a desert waste upon which no living thing can exist.

Shrinkage In The Weight of Eggs.

In Spain railway companies have a ruling which takes into consideration the shrinkage in the weight of eggs in shipment but poultrymen contend there is no loss whatever in cold weather. They admit, however, that evaporation takes place in summer time sufficient to equal a loss of from one to five per cent, according to temperature and length of time the eggs are in transit.

Colds contracted at this season of the year should be treated with Bees Laxative Cough Syrup. It clears the head and throat. Instant relief for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, hoarseness and bronchial troubles. Should be kept in the house for children. It is pleasant to take and laxative, Guaranteed. Alston Bros.

NOTICE.

We cannot publish any correspondence unless the writer signs his or her real name to it. We will withhold your name from the public at your request.

For chapped hands, face and lips Pinesalve Carbolyzed is immediate relief. (Acts like a poultice) Good for cuts, bruises, skin diseases. Draws out inflammation. Price 25c per tin. Alston Bros.

Makes You Want More.

Just try some of my Hickory Smoked Bacon. Nice sweet and juicy. Makes you want more every time you taste it. J. K. SHOFNER

Allison Rudder & Co. tells you in two advertisements in this issue about the famous Tennessee Burt Oats and where to buy your fertilizer for this year. They deserve your patronage and should receive a good share of it.

Rings Little Liver Pills prevent biliousness sick headache and keep you well. Do not gripe. A pill in time will save nine. Price 25c. Alston Bros.

In a colored debating club the question arose as to whether a house in the neighborhood burned up or burned down. After considerable cussing and discussing they finally decided that it did.

Eupora, Miss. Oct. 8 1908. Tennessee Valley Fertilizer Co.

Florence, Ala.

Gentlemen:- I have used your King Cotton Grower along with other high grade fertilizers this year, and have no hesitancy in saying that it has given me entire satisfaction. It is a high grade goods in every respect, besides being put up in bags made out of our cotton.

I think that our people ought to patronize those, who not only give us good honest goods, but are trying to create a greater demand for our cotton.

Yours truly,
Signed- H. G. COOPER.

Notice To Sunday Schools.

Miss Minnie Kennedy of Montgomery Ala., will lecture at the Union Church here Monday, March 1st. at 7.30 p. m. Miss Kennedy has had extensive experience in lecturing and no doubt will interest all who hear her. Lets give her a full house. Everybody is invited to attend.

C. Granger just moved into the house on Main St. Recently vacated by W. H. Landen.

Miss Adell Taylor, enroute from Nashville to her home at Cartersville Ga., stopped over today for a few days visit with Mr and Mrs J. F. Vaught.

The Boyds at the Theatre Wednesday 25th. High Class Show. Don't forget date.

Just Received

Fresh

White, Jelly, Raisin, and Golden loaf cake. Only 10c. Ellis and Vaught.

Several cases of measles are reported in Stevenson and vicinity.

Mrs E. T. Durham is visiting relatives at Chase, Ala.

A car load of cattle was shipped from here Tuesday; the price received for them was 5c per lb. Does dipping pay?

Bolivar

Mr and Mrs Earl Hoebach and children of Sequachee spent part of last week at the home of their brother, G. E. Hoebach.

Mr and Mrs Doss Smith and Master Garner of Limrock are visiting at the home of their parents Mr and Mrs D. J. Smith this week.

Maples For Legislature.

We call the attention of our readers to the announcement of Walter Maples of Hollytree, as a candidate for the legislature. Mr Maples is well known in the greater part of the county and as he is well qualified to fill this office he will no doubt receive a good vote. We believe that if Mr Maples is elected as our legislator that he will bring his influence and vote to bear in favor of good government for the people.

For Constipation

Famous Liver Buttons from Hot Springs, Arkansas Better than Calomel.

When the best physicians in the world's greatest health resort don't bother to write prescriptions, but just say "Get a box of Hot Springs Liver Buttons for your bowels and liver, and to give you an appetite," then all who suffer ought to know enough to cut out Calomel, and get a box to-day. They surely put your liver and bowels in regular working order—all druggists 25 cents. Get them at



Prince Bros.

STEVENSON, - ALABAMA.

Mr and Mrs C. B. Stacy of Chattanooga were the guests, Sunday, of Mr and Mrs J. F. Rudder. Mrs Stacy will be remembered by friends here as Miss Anna McKeehan who for several years made her home here.

Nuxcara Co. of Atlanta, start a series of ads in the interest of their stomach remedy, in this issue, over the name of Bible & Jacoway who handle the medicine.

Dr and Mrs A. S. Todd left last week for Nashville where they will spend a few days with relatives before going to Mobile where they expect to make their future home. They made many warm friends during their stay here and it is regretted by all that they have gone. However, we wish them much success in their new field.

We are authorized to announce W. W. Callahan of Decatur, Morgan Co., as a candidate for Congress from the eighth district, subject to the democratic primary election to be held on the 6th day of next April.

We are authorized to announce that Rev. W. S. Bridge 39 preach at the Union Church at 11 o'clock next Sunday

For Sheriff

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Sheriff of Jackson County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary.

D. O. AUSTIN.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Sheriff of Jackson County subject to the action of the Democratic Primary.

Chas. A. Wann.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Sheriff, subject to the Democratic Primary.

C. W. Lovelady.

For Solicitor

I hereby announce myself a candidate for County Solicitor, subject to the Democratic Primary.

Jno. F. Proctor.

I hereby announce myself candidate for the office of County Solicitor, subject to the democratic primary.

John L. Hackworth.

For State Senator

We are authorized to announce John A. Lusk of Marshall County, as a candidate for State Senator from the 5th Senatorial District (Jackson and Marshall Counties), subject to the action of the Democratic Primary.

For Congress

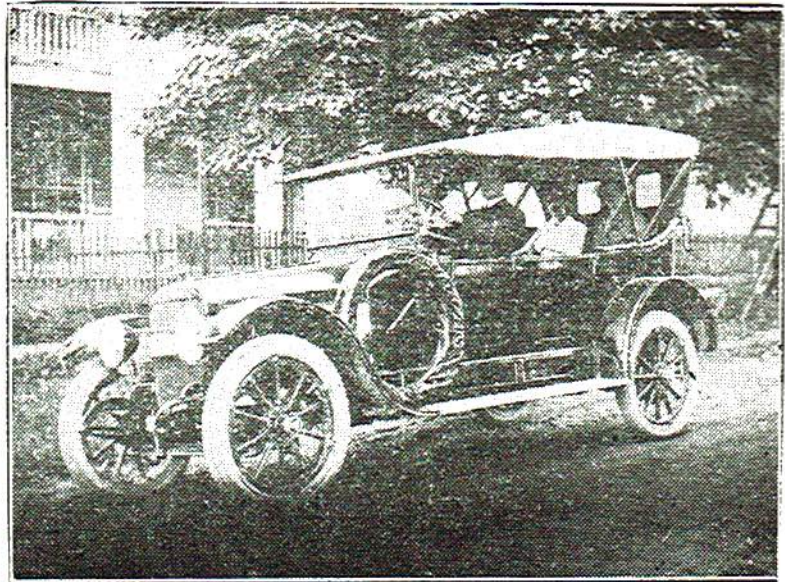
We are authorized to announce Edward B. Almon of Tuscumbia, Colbert County as a candidate for Congress from the Eighth District subject to the action of the Democratic primary election to be held on the 6th day of next April.

For Legislature.

We are authorized to announce Walter Maples, of Hollytree, as a candidate for legislature, subject to the action of the democratic primary.



C. S. BREWTON.
Superintendent of Education,
Jackson County.



Supt. C. S. Brewton and a party of teachers visiting the Club Girls' tomato patches.



Douglas Timberlake.



At the instance of Supt. Brewton this photograph was taken of the teachers exemplifying domestic science.

Senior Class of 1915
Graduated - Jackson County High School

Since this time, other attempts have been made to organize and print a newspaper by such men as Guy Timberlake and Sedrick Heath, but these circulations were short-lived periods of from two to three years. At the time of this writing, Stevenson does not have a daily or weekly paper, as such. Scottsboro, Huntsville, and Chattanooga serve as the new center for this city.

CHAPTER IX

RICH HERITAGE

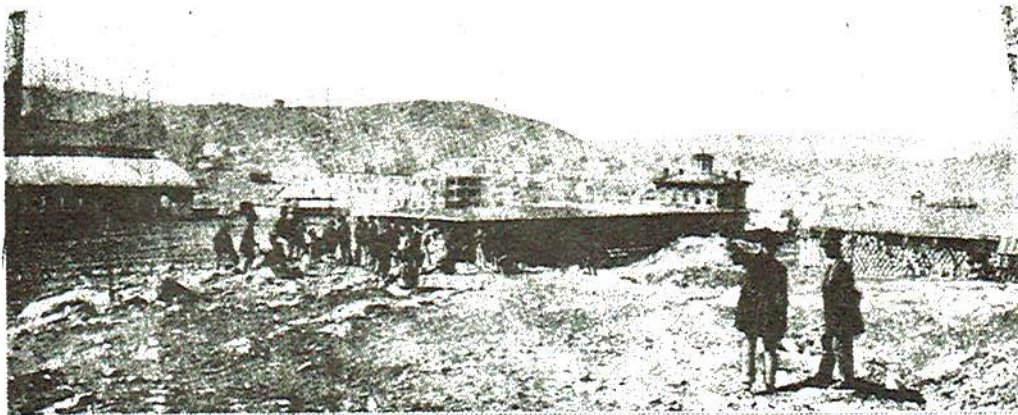
Stevenson has a rich heritage of Civil War history behind it. Located on the south end of the business district, just off of Main Street, is the former residence of A. B. (Uncle Bo) Jacoway, known as the William M. (B.O.) Cowan home which served as headquarters for the Union soldiers during the Civil War.

This picture was presented by Mrs. C. V. Rudder, the former Miss Ellen Cowan. A. B. Jacoway is seated in the chair on the porch.



History records that on October 21, 1934 the D. A. R. Chapter dedicated a marble slab in memory of Annanias Allen, a soldier of the Revolution. This dedication took place at Maxwell, Alabama, eight miles from Stevenson.

The following clipping appeared in the Sunday edition of the Jackson County Sentinel -- Progressive Age, February 26, 1967.



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THE GUARDED DEPOT--STEVENSON IN 1862

This little Alabama town first became the subject of a war photograph during General Buell's campaign. It sprang into strategic importance as a base of supplies, and in order to hold it Buell sent forward Colonel A. S. Barker, who began the construction of extensive defenses, pressing into service some five hundred Negroes. Barker succeeded in completing two large redoubts and seven lockhouses; so defensible was the position made that during Hood's invasion of Tennessee it was not attacked by the Confederates.



COPYRIGHT, 1911, REVIEW OF REVIEWS CO.

THE STRENGTHENED FORTS

This picture of Fort Barker, at Stevenson, shows the care with which the Federals defended this advance base. In this fort, which was about 150 feet square, there were barbette platforms for seven guns and an extensive magazine, and bomb-proof. Fort Mitchell, south of the station on the other side of the railroad, was equally strong. The two forts guarded the approach from the north.

PICTORIAL HISTORY--This is two of the photos that will be published in the Jackson County Pictorial History to be printed soon. Anyone having old photographs is asked to contact the Sentinel-Age.

Location of Fort Stevenson

Fort Stevenson was located near Crow Creek on a hill which is now occupied by the Chicamauga Cedar Company. Near this old fort was a shallow place in Crow Creek. Early settlers had built a ford with rocks and used it as a means for crossing the Creek. Just below the fort was an old swimming hole where many of the boys went swimming in the summer. The Gunterville Dam or T. V. A. flood waters have erased the identity of the old fort, but it was located southwest of the football field of Stevenson High School.

Another place that is near Stevenson which probably has historical significance is the famous 'Minie Ball Hill', formerly a part of the E. L. Knox Estate and now owned by the C. C. Loyd, Sr. Estate. This hill is located east of Pump Springs about one mile north of the John Snodgrass Bridge. Minie balls have been plowed up in large quantities on this hill. The minie ball was used during the war between the States by both the Union and Confederate soldiers. The French developed this type of projector for use in a rifle musket.

A regiment of Sherman's Army was stationed at Stevenson in the winter of 1863-64. This group was under the command of Colonel Krzynewski of the State of Michigan. He was a German Jew. His headquarters were in the B. O. Cowan home, which has been pictured in this chapter.

The Quartermaster Corps was located in the only brick building in the town, the Jacoway or Austin Building. Major Warren was in charge of the Quartermaster. His wagon master at this time was Captain Wash Phillips of Ohio.

According to the most accurate accounts, General Bragg placed Colonel Russell at the head of seven hundred infantry soldiers. They had only three cannons. They crossed the Tennessee River from the south side and fought the Union soldiers in and near Stevenson. They fought for one day. The Union soldiers retreated to Winchester, Tennessee. Colonel Russell followed them as far as Anderson, Tennessee. Colonel Russell placed one cannon on Cotnam Hill, one on McMahan Hill, and the third on Russell's Hill. History records one confederate soldier wounded as his horse was shot from under him near the Mitchell's Mill Place. Several Union soldiers were wounded and some were killed.

During the Civil War times were very hard. The people suffered much during this time. No part of the South suffered more than the people of Stevenson. It was in this territory that army after army passed from the beginning of 1862 until the close of the war. The Union soldiers would take anything that they could find. The Fifteenth Army Corps of General Sherman's Army wintered in Stevenson, and it was his policy to take all property to cripple the enemy so the property could not be put to use in the war effort. All chickens, geese, ducks, or cows were taken.

Salt was the highest priced article during the war. It was a prime necessity. It sold for as much as \$5.00 per pound and was impossible to get at that price. People dug up the ground in smokehouses and put the dirt into hoppers. They would place a trough or vessel underneath to catch the seeping water, which had been poured on the dirt in the hopper. The water was then boiled down to make salt. This salt was as dark as brown sugar. Even with this dirty color, it sold for a high price. Every smokehouse was dug for salt; none escaped.

CHAPTER X

WAR AND SERVICEMEN

Stevenson supplied many soldiers for wars of the twentieth century. From 1914 until 1918, many answered the call to duty in World War I. The picture below is of Dr. W. W. Rosser, who was a major in World War I.



Stevenson was hard hit from war casualties and deaths in World War II.

Pictured below are two of the boys who gave their lives for their country in World War II.

JUNE 11, 1944.



MISSING IN ACTION—Lt. Jack F. Knox, 24 (above), son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Knox, of Stevenson, was reported missing in action over Germany since April 7. In service since April, 1943, he has been overseas since February, and has completed more than 14 missions as a navigator, having been awarded the Air Medal with Cluster. Lt. Knox is the only navigator from Stevenson now serving overseas. His brother, Pvt. Allen L. Knox, Jr., is stationed in Rome.



PVT. ROBERT PARTIN
 Pvt. Robert Partin, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Partin, of Stevenson, Ala., reported killed in action May 13 in Italy. He enlisted three and a half years ago and had served 18 months overseas with the army. He is survived by his father, Daw Partin, 2619½ Carr Street, one sister, Mrs. D. C. Crabtree of Sheffield, Ala.; three brothers, Cpl. Fred Partin with the army in England; James Partin of Tuscaloosa, Ala. and Jimmie D. Partin of Chatanooga.

Many families were hit hard by World War I and World War II. Many loved ones of the families were wounded or killed in action.

Franklin L. (Buddy) Timberlake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Franklin Timberlake, was one of the first to give his life for his country in World War II.

Dr. and Mrs. G. L. Austin, Sr. lost two sons in World War II. George L. Austin, Jr. was the first son to get killed. Anderson Austin, another son, also gave his life in the service of his country.

Jack McMahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMahan, was another Stevenson boy who made the supreme sacrifice.

Dowell Haswell was a Stevenson boy killed in action. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Haswell.

J. T. Parks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight "Pete" Parks, gave his life for his country in World War II.

Colonel Carl F. Rudder, who fought as a fighter pilot in North Africa and Italy, was lost in Greenland for eight days when his plane was forced to land, but he is one of the lucky ones who returned.

The Elmer Cash family lost a son who was known to all of his schoolmates as "Cackle".

Many other citizens from Stevenson participated in World Wars I and II. It is not the intention of the author to fail to mention any of the war heroes or casualties. Records and pictures are not available for all of the servicemen.

Many other young men from Stevenson have answered the call to duty in the Korean War and the present Viet Nam War. It is the hope that peace will soon be restored and the boys can return home from all over the world.

The newspaper clippings and pictures which follow tell the story of Corporal John Pierson who was missing in action, but later returned alive and healthy. Corporal Pierson's return was one of the happy moments in the history of Stevenson. The parents, friends, and citizens rejoiced with a prayer of thankfulness in every heart. Some of the families who shared this happy moment knew of the heartache and sadness which had preceded this celebration because they had lost loved ones in the same manner. The clipping at the left of the following page shows John Pierson as he entered the service. The other clippings tell the story.

We are grateful for fine young men like John Pierson who serve our country in time of stress.



IN KOREA—Pfc. John W. Pierson, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pierson of Stevenson, Ala., is serving in Korea with the Seventh Division.



PFC. JOHN W. PIERSON

STEVENSON GI DIES IN ACTION

Pfc. Pierson First
From City to Be Killed

Pfc. John W. Pierson, 18, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pierson, is the first Stevenson, Ala., serviceman to be reported killed in action.

His parents were notified this week by the army that he was killed in Korea Dec. 2.

The Alabama youth enlisted in the infantry last year during February, and took his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

He sailed from Camp Stoneman, Calif., July 11, with the 31st Infantry Regiment of the Seventh Division, which has done such gallant fighting in Korea for the last several months.

In addition to his parents, Pierson is survived by one brother, Charles Pierson of Detroit, who served in the European theater during World War II; five sisters, Mrs. H. L. Muirhead of Palestine, Tex.; Mrs. Claude Bice, Mrs. John Searcy, Mrs. Mary Smith, all of Chattanooga, and Mrs. Rudolph Phillips, Sylacauga, Ala.

Pierson spent 14 days with his parents last summer en route from Fort Knox to Camp Stoneman.

Area Soldier Reported Killed, Writes Parents 'All Goes Well'

Pfc. John Pierson
In Chinese Red Prison

STEVENSON, Ala., Oct. 27—Pfc. John W. Pierson, who was reported killed in action in Korean fighting last Jan. 7, has written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pierson, Stevenson, Ala., that he is alive and well in a Red Chinese prison camp.

The boy, who enlisted in the army in early 1950, said in his letter he is receiving good treatment at the hands of his captors. His food and clothing are of the same quality as that of the Chinese soldiers themselves, he wrote.

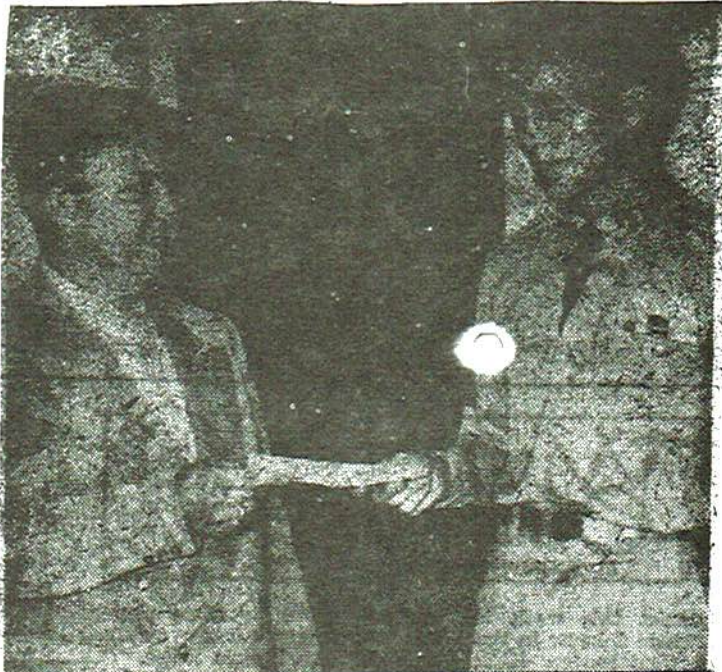
Mr. Pierson said he is certain his son is living. He has an address at which he can write the soldier, who was captured after being wounded in North Korea territory last December. The letter was definitely in the boy's handwriting, the Alabaman said.

"My boy asked us to pray for



PFC. JOHN W. PIERSON

peace so they all may soon be home again," Mr. Pierson said.



RETURNED POW FETED—Pictured are two scenes at a dinner recently in Stevenson, Ala., honoring Cpl. John W. Pierson, a returned prisoner of war. In the top photo, Gene Henninger has just presented the corporal's mother, Mrs. Joe Pierson, with some flowers. The father, Joe Pierson, looks on. In the bottom photo, Edwin Allison is shown presenting Cpl. Pierson with a purse raised in the area Alabama town. The purse since has been increased. Both Henninger and Allison are members of the Stevenson civic group that arranged for the dinner.

Jackson County Citizens Rush Welcome for Released POW As Cpl. John W. Pierson's Train Running Ahead of Schedule

Alabamian Spent 32 Months in Red Prison

By J. B. COLLINS

Stevenson, Ala., and Jackson County today hurriedly, but happily set about to change the program of a big celebration it had planned in welcoming home its only citizen to be reported liberated from a Red prisoner of war camp.

Everything had been set up for the arrival at 1 a.m. Wednesday morning of Cpl. John W. Pierson, a prisoner of the Reds for nearly 33 months and whom his family had believed killed in action.

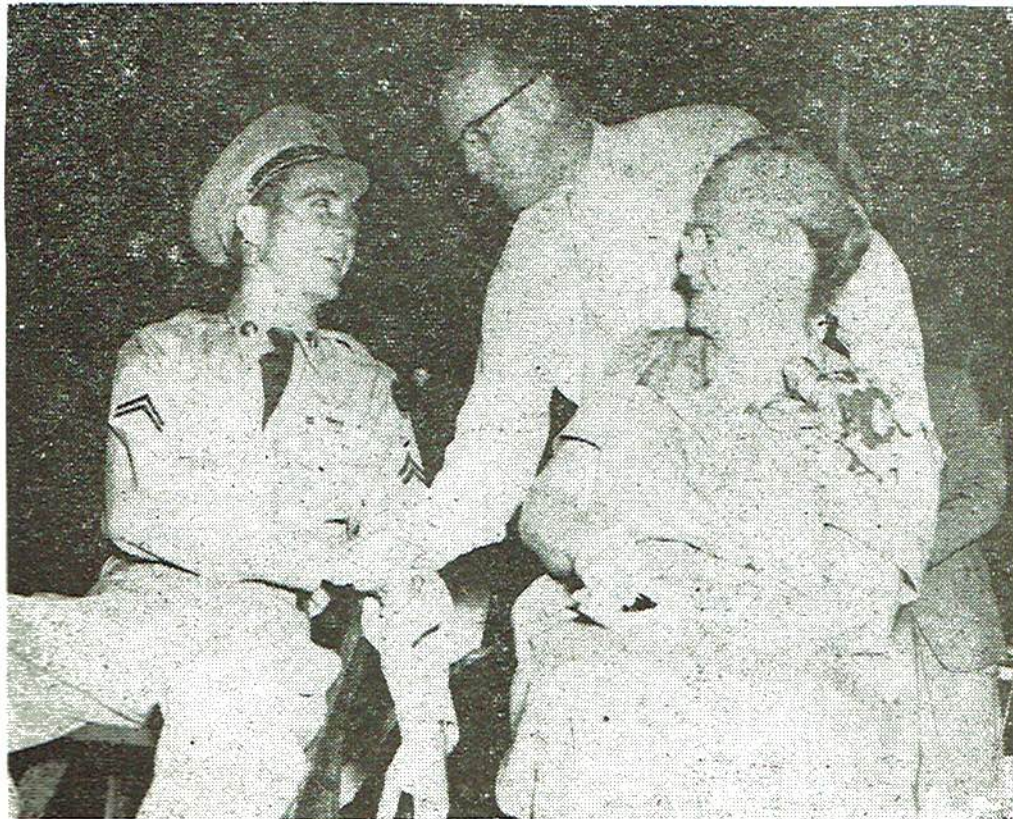
But for some reason Cpl. Pierson ran ahead of schedule, and at 6 o'clock this morning he arrived at Union Station and immediately called his mother and dad at Stevenson that "I'm on my way home."

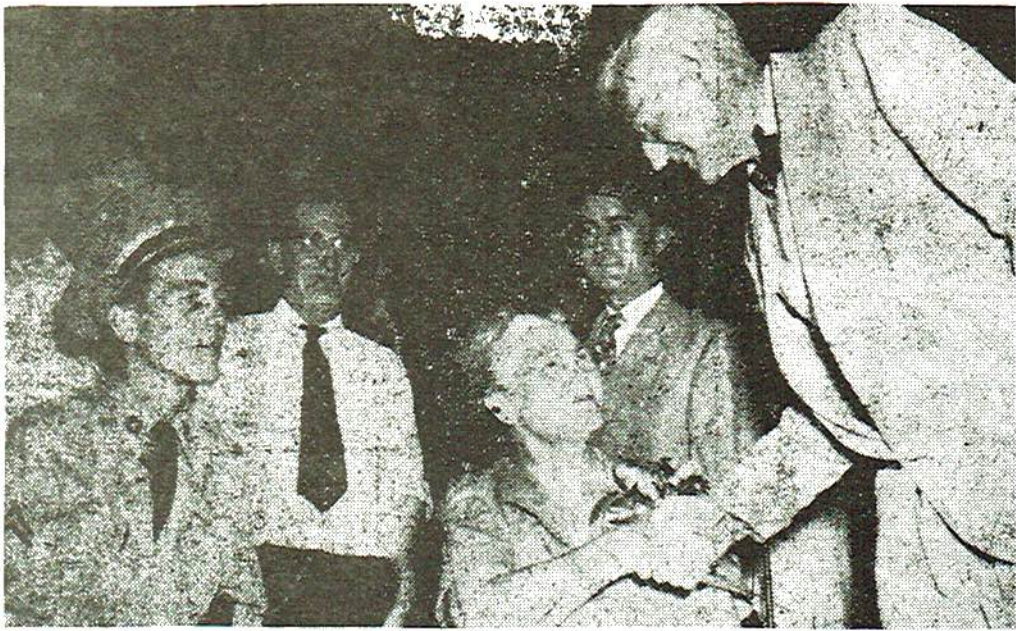
Overjoyed but realizing that the townspeople wouldn't be ready so early to welcome their son, Mr. and Mrs. Pierson immediately

(Continued on Page 2, Column 6)



OPERATION BIG SMILES—It was a happy reunion for Cpl. John W. Pierson, 21, and his family this morning in Chattanooga, where the liberated prisoner of war was being detained while folks at Stevenson, Ala., planned a big celebration at his home-coming. Pictured greeting Cpl. Pierson are, left to right, Charles, an only brother; his dad and mother.—(Photo by J. B. Collins.)





STEVENSON POW WELCOMED HOME—Pictured are three scenes at Stevenson, Ala., recently as that town welcomed home Cpl. John W. Pierson, who was released as a prisoner of war of the Communists after almost 33 months in prison. In the top photo, Pierson is shown being welcomed by Stevenson Mayor Dick Thomas as Pierson's mother beams her approval. In the middle photo front row, are Cpl. Pierson, Mrs. Pierson and the Rev. B. F. Miller, pastor, Stevenson Methodist Church. In the back row are Mayor Thomas, Joe Pierson, the father, and William Francis, adjutant of the Stevenson American Legion Post, sponsors of the event. In the bottom photo are the father, Congressman Bob Jones of Scottsboro, Francis and Cpl. Pierson.—(Photos by Smith Studio, South Pittsburg, Tenn.)

As we end the story of Corporal Pierson, another Stevenson boy was killed. Pfc. Virgil Prestwood was another Stevenson youth who gave his life for his country.



CPL. JOHN PIERSON

On Way Home . . . Corporal Ends Three Years In Red Camp

"It's wonderful to be on my way home."

With these words, Cpl. John W. Pierson ended three years in a Communist prisoner-of-war camp. When the Stevenson, Ala., soldier was captured Dec. 1, 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pierson were told their son was killed in action.

It was not until October, 1951, that they learned from his own letter that he was still alive. Since that time, Cpl. Pierson has gotten several letters through to his Alabama family.

One of his fellow prisoners, released in April, wrote the Piersons that their son had lost most of his toes when his feet were frozen.

RADIO VIGIL

Wednesday night the Piersons took up their vigil before the radio. As they listened for their son's name, the phone rang. A reporter from the Birmingham News told them of his release.

One of Cpl. Pierson's sisters, Mary Smith of Chattanooga, received a copy of the telegram from her mother. It read:

"Dearest Mom,

"Freed from Reds at last. Thrilled beyond words to be released. Your prayers have been answered. Receiving excellent care. Don't worry about me. It's wonderful to be on my way home.

"Best wishes for our speedy reunion."



PFC. VIRGIL PRESTWOOD

AREA GI KILLED, SEVEN MISSING

Pfc. Prestwood Dies In Korean Fighting

A Stevenson, Ala., youth was killed in action and seven other Chattanooga area men were reported missing today by the Department of Defense.

Pfc. Virgil Woodrow Prestwood, 20, was killed Jan. 5, his wife, Mrs. Mary Ruth Prestwood, was informed.

The Alabama soldier enlisted in July, 1948, and took his basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C. He re-enlisted Sept. 26, 1950, and entered the Korean fighting in November. He was serving with the Eighth Army.

Other survivors are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Prestwood; one sister, Mrs. Bill Morgan of Stevenson; three brothers, William Jr. of LaCrosse, Wis.; Alfred of Fort Devins, Mass.; and James of Stevenson.

Another Stevenson Soldier Killed

Pfc. Virgil Woodrow Prestwood, age 20, was killed in action in Korea January 5, 1951, according to a report received from the War Department by his wife, Mrs. Mary Ruth Prestwood, January 19th.

Pfc. Prestwood enlisted in the U. S. Army in July, 1948 and took his basic training in Camp Hood, Texas, from which place he went to Camp Stoneman, sailing from there to Japan and then into Korea.

He was married to Miss Mary Ruth Potterfield, daughter of Mrs. R. T. Potterfield and the late Mr. Potterfield, on August 19, 1950. He was with Co. C, 38th Inf. Reg., Second Division of the Eighth Army.

Besides his wife he is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Prestwood, Sr.; one sister, Mrs. Bill Morgan, of Stevenson; three brothers, William, Jr., of LaCrosse, Wis., Alfred, who is in the service stationed at Fort Devins, Mass., and James Prestwood, of Stevenson.

Before entering the service he was a student of Stevenson High School.

Pvt. John W. Pierson, another Stevenson soldier, was killed in action in Korea on Dec. 2nd.

Listed as missing were:
M/Sgt. John J. Morrow, husband of Mrs. Mary B. Morrow, 1410 East 49th Street.

Pfc. Milton Harris, son of Walter Harris, 110 O'Neal Street.

Pvt. Billie J. Ridge, son of Mrs. Bessie M. Nolen, 1124 Woodland Street.

Pvt. Melburn H. Eldridge, son of Mrs. Nanie B. Eldridge, Sparta.

Cpl. Bailey Keeton Jr., son of Mrs. Elsie Keeton, Oneida.

Sgt. James W. Keith, son of Mrs. Hattie Keith, Ooltewah.

Pfc. Glenn S. Schoenmann, son of Mrs. Minnie Schoenmann, Tracy City.

CHAPTER XI

CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

According to the best available information, the first church services were held in the old wooden Masonic Building located upon the side of the mountain near the present P. L. Bentley property in what is now the City of Stevenson.

Some log churches were conducting services outside the City of Stevenson and continued to operate after the Union Church was established in the Masonic Building. Some of the leaders of this church were Ben Jacoway, Al Joiner, and P. B. Timberlake.

Later the brick church was built on Church Street as a union church house for the three denominations: Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian, and Baptist. As the town grew, the membership of each of these churches continued to grow. To make room for the expansion the Methodists were the first congregation to move out into a separate church building which will be explained in this chapter. The Methodists were followed by the Presbyterians selling their share of the property to the First Baptists who have remained in this location until the present time.

At the time of this writing, the First Baptist Church has purchased some property out on Highway 117 just across the street from the Caperton Gin Company. This property joins the Caperton Gin Company, and is known as the Milt Brooks Farm. The First Baptists plan to build on this property.

History records that Jackson County was active in the Mud Creek Primitive Baptist Association as early as 1821. Before the Civil War, the Methodists, Cumberland Presbyterians, and Freewill Baptists had congregations in Paint Rock Valley. Some of the citizens of Stevenson sprang from these churches.

W. W. Thompson, who pulled out of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and went into the Presbyterian when the question of uniting came up, was one of the early pastors. Some of the people of the congregations followed these pastors and others remained in the church.

Many of the early church members traveled on foot, horseback, in ox wagons, and rode donkeys to church. The roads were filled with mud in the winter time which made progress rather slow. This, however, did not discourage many of the early pioneers from attending the Lord's house on Sunday.

D. K. Hunter of Madison County, Harry Larkin from Tennessee, and Henry Larkin did much of the early preaching for these congregations.

Early Church Records

The Flint River Association could have been one of the early beginnings for many of the Baptist churches which started in Jackson County. James Wilhelms was the first clerk of the Mud Creek Association. He supplied the information from the original minute book.

Flint River Association Minutes

Early records indicate that the Baptists organized the Flint River Association at Bradshaw's Meeting House, Lincoln County, Tennessee on September 26, 1814. Churches from the territory in Alabama, which afterward became Jackson County, were represented at this meeting.

According to the original minutes, the Mud Creek Association was organized on the third Saturday in November 1821 at the Mud Creek Meeting House. This Association included all Baptist churches in Jackson County and Sequatchie Valley in Tennessee. Nine churches were listed in the Association -- Mountgilled, Mud Creek, Providence (Maynard's Cove), New Hope, Hopewell, Blue Springs, Friendship, Paint Rock, and Union in Sequatchie Valley. Many Baptist churches in and around Stevenson sprang from this Association.

There was a great revival of religion in and around Stevenson after the Civil War.

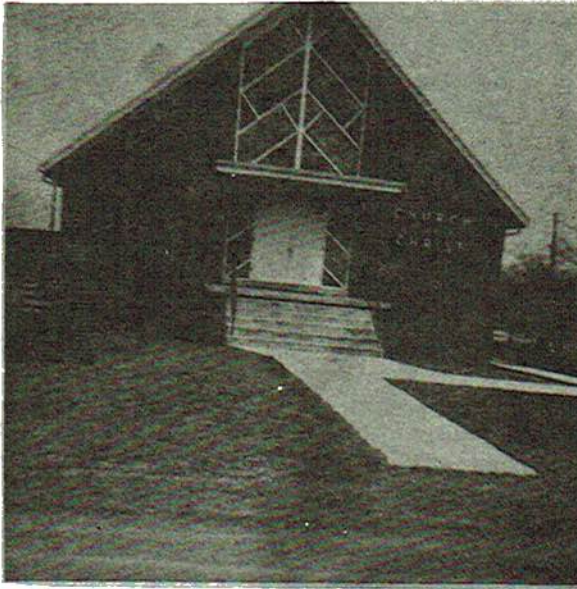
Church of Christ

The first Church of Christ in Jackson County was organized in 1815 at Antioch about three miles west of Bridgeport. James Anderson, President of Nashville Bible School, was one of the first ministers of this church. Elisha M. Price, William King, and Andrew Russell were some of the first elders of this church. This was probably the first Church of Christ established in Alabama.

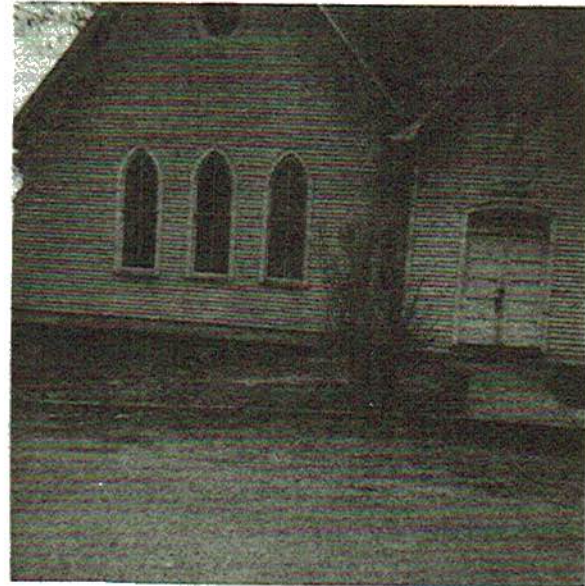
In 1846 the Antioch church moved to Rocky Springs, one mile nearer Bridgeport. It was destroyed by the northern soldiers during the Civil War. After the War a temporary church house was erected at Rocky Springs.

The church at Stevenson was started by W. J. Rorex, Dock Wilson, Zack Taylor, and Frank Foshee. The church was organized when S. R. Logue held a meeting in Stevenson. Dr. Athens Clay Pullias, President of David Lipscomb College, Nashville, Tennessee held services for revivals in this church. Many other famous ministers have preached in this church.

The present location of the new Church of Christ building is on Highway 117. The building was completed in the early part of the 1960's. Jim Crownover has been the minister since its completion. He is loved by all the community of Stevenson.



New Church of Christ Building



Church of God
(Formerly owned by Church of Christ)

Church of God

The Church of God purchased a building formerly occupied by the Church of Christ and began services in 1960. This church is located near the J. L. Armstrong, and next door to the Walter Potts, property now owned by Claude Oliver.

First Methodist Church

Ernestine Russell, Ruth Morris, and Rev. Talmadge M. Clayton supplied the author with much information in the form of bulletins which tell the history of the First Methodist Church of Stevenson. This information was published on August 11, 1963 when the James A. Mann Educational Annex was dedicated. Robert Murphree, then the pastor, was loved by all citizens of Stevenson.

History of Church

In 1940 Mr. J. A. Dennison proposed to the membership of the Stevenson Methodist Church that they build a new church building. At that time the congregation, with Reverend Johnson as pastor, was worshipping in the frame building erected in 1904 on property donated by Mr. B. R. Ellis, father of Mrs. Gertrude McGuffey. Mr. Dennison made an offer of \$5,000.00 toward the new church if the project was undertaken, and the members voted to accept this proposal.

Two committees were appointed to begin planning for the building: a Building Committee to select a site and purchase property for the church, and a Finance Committee to canvass the membership and friends of the church to raise funds. The Building Committee, which served also as purchasers of materials and general overseers during construction, was made up of Mr. Guy M. Timberlake, Mr. E. O. Mann, and Mr. J. A. Dennison. The Finance Committee chairman was Mr. E. K. Mann, assisted by Mr. G. H. Caperton and Mr. I. P. Russell.

These committees selected the location of the present church, bought the property from Mrs. T. J. Jones, and raised about \$20,000.00 before construction began in August 1941. At Conference that year Reverend Johnson was replaced by Reverend S. W. Brooks who was pastor when the building was completed in April of 1942. The total cost of the church, \$24,500.00 was paid on completion and the building was dedicated in a special service the next year, just twenty years before the date of dedication of the James Mann Annex.

The organization of the dedication service was in the capable hands of Rev. Robert Murphree. Reverend Murphree was very active in the community, taking part in all church, civic, and industrial affairs. He was the type of person that could walk with king or slave and still keep his humbleness. He would take the youngsters on camping trips. All of the children of the community loved him. He was a pastor to the community and not just to the members of his congregation. The following bulletin shows the picture of the First Methodist Church.

First Methodist Church

Stevenson, Alabama

ROBERT MURPHEE, Pastor

Duncan Hunter, Superintendent of Huntsville District



The following was taken from the dedication bulletin in 1963.

JAMES A. MANN EDUCATION ANNEX

At this service of dedication the name being given to this building is most appropriate. Indeed, no other name could have been considered, for in a very real sense this unit of the Stevenson Methodist Church is James Mann.

There were many who were interested in making an addition to the church and there were many who eventually put forth effort that it might be achieved. James Mann, however, was the one person who still dreamed when others grew discouraged, who pushed ahead with new effort while others rested. It was primarily through his initiative that we were visited by the man who ultimately became the architect for this facility. Again, it was predominately James' labor that brought us into contact with the company through which the church arranged to sell the bonds that financed the cost of construction.

It would be amiss to neglect paying tribute to the many others who aided in varying ways to the erection of, and payment for, this building. Still, more than any other one individual, James Mann gave that leadership which changed a dream into reality.

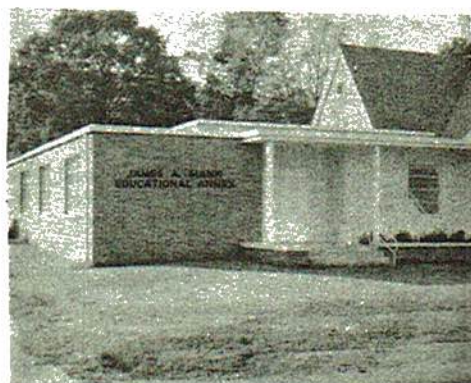
A church building, no matter how beautiful or costly, is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. It is a tool used to provide a place and an atmosphere where the soul of man seeks communion with his God. And, imbued with the strength that comes from such an encounter, that individual yearns to give himself in service and substance to promoting God's Kingdom and executing Christ's commands to spread the gospel throughout all the world.

With this in mind, the dedication of this building means that we are now ready to promote a more fervent and worthy program of teaching and serving in Christ's name. We have built the physical church. Let us march on to build the spiritual church in the hearts of our people - one that will reach to all ends of the earth and with the glad tidings of Christ's love.

OFFICIAL DEDICATION



James A. Mann
Educational Annex



Sunday, August 11, 1963

2 o'clock p. m.

The officers of the First Methodist Church in 1963 were:

LAY OFFICERS

Charge Lay Leader - - - - - H. K. Timberlake
 Sunday School Superintendent - - - - - Mr. Mack Morris
 Sunday School Secretary - - - - - W. R. Blount
 Superintendent of the Youth Division - - - - - Mrs. R. L. Bowles
 Supt. of Children's Division - - Mrs. Mack Morris and Mrs. Robert R. Sanders
 Counselor of the Methodist Youth Fellowship - - - - - Ben Lee
 Church Treasurer - - - - - H. K. Timberlake
 Treasurer of Church Improvement Fund - - - - - Mrs. Alice Armstrong
 Chairman of the Official Board - - - - - Mrs. Robert R. Sanders
 Chairman of Membership and Evangelism - - - - - Mrs. Robert R. Sanders
 Chairman on Commission of Education - - - - - Mrs. R. L. Bowles
 Chairman on Commission of Missions - - - - - Mrs. Macklin Holder
 Chairman on Commission of Stewardship and Finance - - - - - Mr. Weaver Lacy
 Chairman of Christian Social Concerns - - - - - Mrs. George Hambley
 President of the Women's Society of Christian Service - - - - - Mrs. Frank Peck
 President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship - - - - - Becky Long
 Lay Member of the Annual Conference - - - - - Mr. Weaver Lacy
 Head Usher - - - - - Pickens Russell
 Parsonage Committee - - - - - Mrs. Mack Morris
 Music Committee - - - - - Mrs. Frank Peck, Mrs. R. L. Bowles,
 Leon Bentley, Kathryn Phillips and Frances Lacy
 Communion Stewards - - - - - Mrs. James A. Mann, Mrs. Pearl Mitchell

ELECTIVE STEWARDS

Robert Sanders	Frank Peck	Charles B. Keith
Sanders Russell	Mack Morris	Cam Crabtree
Pickens Russell	Weaver Lacy	Joe Wheeler Smith
H. C. Richardson		H. K. Timberlake

TRUSTEES

(1964)	(1965)	(1966)
Mack Morris	Frank Peck	Pickens Russell

REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday School - - - - - 9:45 a.m. Sunday
 Morning Worship - - - - - 11:00 a.m. Sunday
 Methodist Youth Fellowship - - - - - 6:00 p.m. Sunday
 Evening Worship - - - - - 7:00 p.m. Sunday
 Choir Practice - - - - - 7:15 p.m. Wednesday
 Official Board - - - - - 8:00 First Sunday Night
 Women's Society of Christian Service - - - - - 7:30 Second Monday Night
 Fellowship Supper - - - - - 6:30 Third Monday Night
 Methodist Youth Fellowship Subdistrict - - - - - 7:00 First Monday

MINISTRY

Resident Bishop ----- Bishop Kenneth Goodson
District Superintendent ----- Dr. R. L. Dill
Minister ----- Talmadge Clayton, Jr.

CHURCH STAFF

Director of Music ----- Mrs. Weaver Lacy
Organist ----- Mrs. Frank Peck
Pianist ----- Miss Katherine Phillips

OFFICIAL BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. Harold Phillips ----- Chairman
Mr. H. K. Timberlake ----- Secretary
Mr. Robert R. Sanders ----- Church Lay Leader
Mr. H. K. Timberlake ----- Treasurer

COMMISSION CHAIRMEN

Commission on Evangelism ----- Mrs. Mac Morris
Commission on Missions ----- Mrs. R. M. Holder
Commission on Education ----- Mrs. Joe W. Smith
Commission on Social Concerns ----- Mrs. Harold Phillips
Commission on Stewardship and Finance ----- Mr. Weaver Lacy
Commission on Worship ----- Mrs. Frank Peck

STEWARDS

Mr. Bob Betts		Mr. John Singleton
Mr. R. L. Bowles	Mr. Frank Peck	Mr. Joe W. Smith
Mr. Cam Crabtree	Mrs. Pickens Russell	Mr. H. K. Timberlake
Mr. Weaver Lacy	Mr. Pickens Russell	Mr. Ralph Williams
Mr. Mac Morris	Mr. Sanders Russell	Mrs. C. H. Woodall
Mr. Harold Phillips		Mr. C. H. Woodall

TRUSTEES

Mr. Sanders Russell Mr. R. L. Bowles Mr. Mac Morris

Superintendent of Church School ----- Mr. Pickens Russell
President of Woman's Society of Christian Service ----- Mrs. Cam Crabtree
President of Methodist Youth Fellowship ----- Miss Jean Roper
Quarterly Conference Recording Steward ----- Mrs. Pickens Russell
Communion Stewards ----- Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Woodall

Cumberland Presbyterian Church

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized February 4, 1810 in a two-room log dwelling in Dickson County, Tennessee.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built in Scottsboro in 1882. In 1883 the Presbytery consisted of more than twenty congregations in Jackson County with 700 members. Churches were located at Goose Pond, Scottsboro, Larkinsville, Mount Olive, Pleasant Spring, Stevenson, and Pleasant Grove. Early ministers were E. J. Stockton, Robert Frazier, C. B. Sanders, John Irving, William Estill, M. G. Milligan, J. J. Burdine, W. A. Kennamer, F. M. Proctor, P. Clay Word, W. I. Holt, R. D. Shook, W. S. Bridges, J. R. Morris, and others.

Stevenson religion began with services in homes and in log and frame church buildings in and around the community prior to 1900. One of the early attempts occurred around 1900 when the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists started a Union Church on Church Street. Reverend Fulmer was among some of the first ministers to preach at the Union Church. Rev. Peter Shook was another minister who preached to this early group. Reverend Morgan also preached in the early days of the old brick church. In 1906 Will Brandon was one of the Methodist ministers who preached for the Union Church. Rev. Jim Willis was active as a minister during these years.

The Methodists were the first of the three denominations to build a separate church on Main Street, which was used until 1940 when the Methodists sold this church to the Welcome Hill Baptist group. A new Methodist Church was built across the railroad on the Jones property. The Missionary Baptists kept the Union Church building and worshipped in it until 1967 when it was torn down. At the present time the Baptists are using the Sunday School Building for worship while the new building is being constructed.

The Welcome Hill Baptist is now the Grace Baptist worshipping in a new building on Highway 117. The author was unable to secure a picture of the Union Church. Mrs. C. V. Rudder presented the author with a picture of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church built in 1926 after the Presbyterians began their building program. Reverend Barrow was the first pastor, followed by Reverend Christian, Jimmy Jones, Charles Hughes, Walter James, and the present pastor, George Coleman. At the time of this writing George R. Allison, Sr. is the only living member of the original church board.

In 1926 when the present Cumberland Presbyterian Church building was being erected, George R. Allison was a deacon. He is an elder at the present time. No other person has served the church as faithfully as George R. Allison. He has served on the Board with such men as J. Z. Shultz, Ben Davis, G. A. Henninger, B. O. Jacoway, A. J. Grider, E. L. Knox, Sr., Ben Rudder, Clyde Holder, A. L. Knox, Sr., Oscar Davis, J. F. Rudder, Eugene Henninger, Neil Knox, Laster Willis, Guy Harris, Tom Holder, William W. Knox, C. H. Bromlett, Jr., Clyde Foshee, R. L. King, Porter Arnold, Everett Crabtree, Charley Searcy, Bill Butler, A. G. Rudder, Gus McMahan, E. L. Knox, Jr., Horton Wyatt, and J. W. Crow.

James Jones was pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Stevenson for twenty-seven years. Everyone in Jackson County loved Jimmy Jones. He was known in all church and religious circles. People of all faiths loved and respected him. During World War II he was head of the American Red Cross, rendering a vital service in this capacity. He married the former Elizabeth Legg who has faithfully served as organist for the church for many years.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church has named the new addition to the church the James T. Jones Annex. This was the logical name for this building.

Jimmy Jones and John Brown, of Edgefield, have probably conducted more funerals than any other pastors in Jackson County. These two men are known far and wide in Jackson County.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church is pictured below.



Missionary Baptist Church

A Missionary Baptist Church which has historical significance is Rudder's Chapel, located just outside the city limits of Stevenson. The land on which the Chapel is located was given by Marcus Lafayette Rudder, the father of J. F. Rudder, Tom Rudder, Robert Rudder, Mark Rudder, Will Rudder, Susie R. Gonce, Mary R. Gonce, Ann R. Allison, Eliza Allison, Pixie Alspaugh, and Alice Parton.

Rev. Bill Sparkman of Rocky Springs and Rev. Hugh Jack Rudder conducted a revival in the summer of 1932. At the close of the revival, forty-seven people were baptized at Caperton's Ferry. This is the present Rudder's Chapel Church, where Rev. Cecil Powell and Rev. Thomas Shoemake have held many services.



Advent Christian Church

One of the early organizers of the Advent Christian Church was Rev. William Carroll. Although he never realized his dream of seeing his congregation worship in the new church building, which was constructed after his death, he is credited with keeping the church active during the depression years.

This church has had some famous pastors - Reverend Blackstone, Reverend Owen, and Reverend Sims.

The church is presently located on the outskirts of Stevenson near Carroll's Store.

Circuit Rider Preachers

Few citizens are living today in and around Stevenson who can remember the famous circuit rider preachers. These men rode horseback or walked many times from community to community preaching the gospel. These ministers would eat and sleep at the homes of converts or church members, many times staying two or three weeks at one home.

The Methodist Church history records that in 1822 Elias Tidwell and Richard Neely, circuit riders for Jackson County, reported that Jackson County had 231 members under their jurisdiction. There were 525 white members and 38 Negro members in the Jackson County Circuit by 1832. Bellefonte, Bolivar, Doran's Cove, Maynard's Cove, Stevenson, and Blue Springs made up this circuit.

Long before the Civil War a Methodist Church was built in Langston, Alabama. William Rhoder and William Stewart were circuit riders in Jackson County. They would walk on their rounds, taking two months to cover it, preaching nearly every day and night. Some of the pioneer settlers of the First Methodist Church of Stevenson could have been converts and members of these circuit rider preacher congregations.

In 1870 the North Alabama Conference was organized for all Methodist churches.

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church remained in the Union Church building on Church Street after the Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterians moved out. From 1926 until 1967 this church held services in the old building. The services of the First Baptist Church are still being conducted at this same site in the new Educational Building. Many weddings were conducted in the old building. The author's parents were married in this church on November 24, 1915.

Grace Baptist Church

Following World War II, sometime in the late 1940's, part of the First Baptist congregation formed the Welcome Hill Baptist Church. This group later occupied a church building on Main Street which was purchased from the Methodists who had moved into their new location.

The Welcome Hill Baptist changed their name to Grace Baptist and moved to a new building on Highway 117 near the Dave Coffman property. John Wheeler, Dave Coffman, and Alfred Morris, along with many others, worked hard to build this church.

Pentecostal Church

In the early 1950's the Pentecostal Church was built near George Hambley's home just past Mrs. R. R. Rudder's home.

Edgefield is another Union Church outside of Stevenson. John Brown is the present pastor of the Baptist, George Coleman of the Presbyterian, and Talmadge Clayton of the Methodist. Edgefield also has a Church of Christ.

Negro Churches

Two Negro churches, one Methodist and one Baptist, hold services in what is known as the Georgia Section of Stevenson. The Methodist's built a new building in 1961. L. B. Bynum and J. D. Stevens helped on this.

Other Negro congregations are located in New Stevenson and Avery. Another is located on Penders Hill. Rev. Frank Robinson and Rev. Abe Joseph were some of the ministers who gave their lives as pastors of some of these churches. Manuel Ward preached in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Cedar Switch.

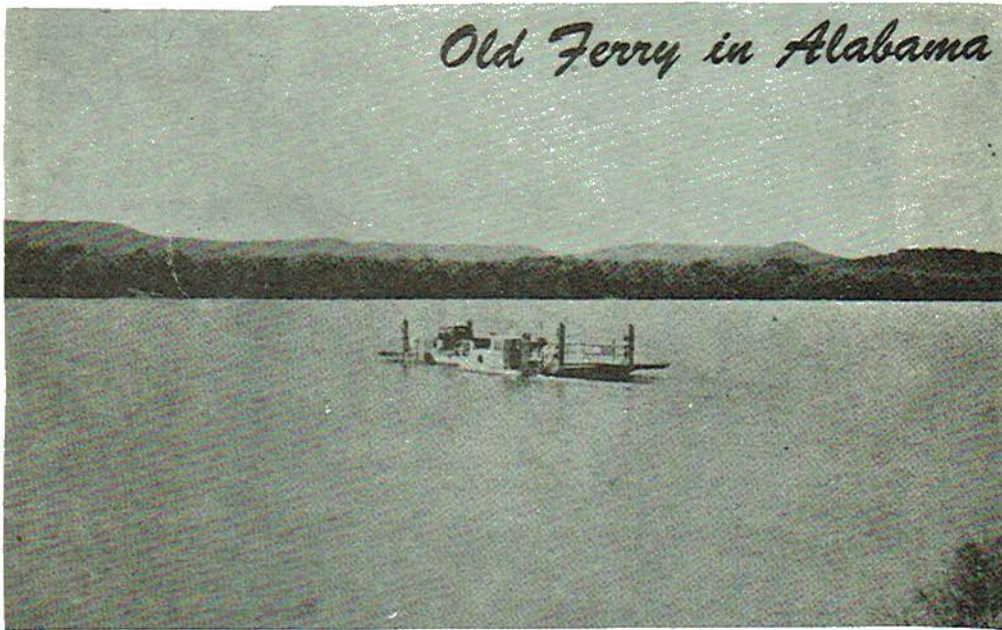
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The author has attempted to name all of the churches now active in the City of Stevenson. If any were omitted, it was not his intention.

CHAPTER XII

TRANSPORTATION

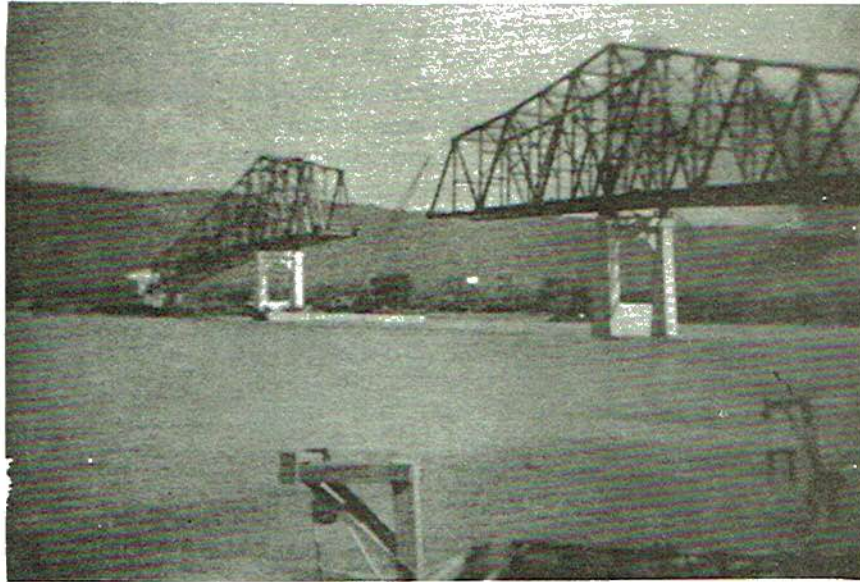
Ox carts, mule wagons, boats, and donkey packs were some of the first means of transportation in Jackson County. Indian trails were used which in many instances became roads. Most of the streams were crossed in shallow places, and later log bridges were constructed. Caperton's Ferry served as the link between Flat Rock and Sand Mountain for many years. The picture below presented by Mrs. David Cargile shows this ferry.



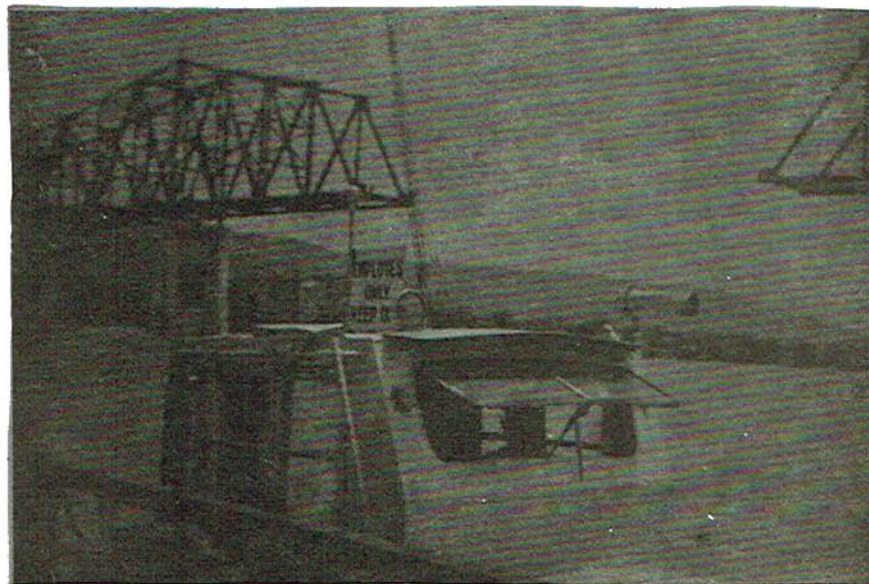
The John Snodgrass Bridge, which was completed April 24, 1958, opened a new area of trade for the City of Stevenson. It linked Stevenson with Flat Rock and Sand Mountain.

This bridge opened a new frontier to the people of Stevenson. It revolutionized road transportation for the people in the Cameronsville and Fabius communities. This made a much faster route to Stevenson.

SNODGRASS BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Mrs. Jo John Williams presented the picture below of Caperton's Ferry on one of its last journeys.



One person who is responsible for linking Sand Mountain with Stevenson by his faithful service as the ferryman for many years is Dave (Gander) Owens. Mrs. Jo John Williams presented this picture of Dave Owens.



As mentioned in previous chapters, the coming of the railroads in the early 1850's helped to speed transportation in and around Stevenson prior to the Civil War.

The men of Stevenson have responded to the call of the railroad. Stevenson has probably produced more railroad men than any town in Alabama. The author attempted to get a complete listing of all the railroad men from Stevenson, and the following list was presented to him. It is not certain if this is a complete list. Among those famous people who have served on the railroad are: S. H. McMahan, R. S. Porter, J. B. Hackworth, G. R. Grimmett, C. V. Rudder, J. R. Gonce, L. E. Sanders, W. H. Cox, J. P. Wilson, W. T. Cox, R. G. Smith, O. E. Carroll, G. H. Carroll, J. R. Hackworth, F. J. Malone, Hugh Hackworth, C. P. Cason, Bunk Smith, J. R. Russell, S. M. Grider, A. J. Grider, Sr., A. J. Grider, Jr., M. E. Crabtree, D. C. Crabtree, R. A. Stewart, R. S. Glover, J. M. Sanders, H. E. Buckner, J. M. Parton, G. O. Lovelace, F. B. Shofner, Jr., W. F. Johnson, W. F. Parton, J. L. Farris, C. W. Short, A. H. Wilson, W. E. Hackworth,

C. H. Smith, Ike Wilson, G. W. Cowan, James L. Wimberley, Thomas Martin Rudder, James Cloud, Sr., W. Y. Bunn, Ruben I. Sanders, J. L. Dobbins, K. T. Grider, Calvin H. Smith, J. W. Smith, Jim Smith, Charles E. Smith, W. F. Howland, Frank Graves, J. W. Payne, R. L. King, Willie Lee Rogers, Floyd Rogers, Porter Arnold, Harry Arnold, Mitt Peters, Elise Jones, Tom Young, Will Wheeler, Sam Elliott, Leslie Woodall, J. W. Coffey, Barney Hale, Lawrence Huddleston, Boyd Rudder, Johnny Huddleston, John Rice, Doll Rice, Jay Davis, Trigger Stewart, Lem Stewart, Will Mae Stewart, Horton Rudder, Will Legg, Will McCurdy, Pip Robinson, J. L. Armstrong, and Lawrence Brown.

Mrs. C. V. Rudder presented the following picture of a band that four men from Stevenson formed. Three of these men, Sam Cowan, Lawrence Huddleston, and Hugh Cowan, worked for the Southern Railroad. Pictured left to right are: seated, Lawrence Huddleston and Hugh Cowan; standing, Sam Cowan and Luther Henninger.



The History of the Railroads in Stevenson

History records that as early as 1830 the Tuscumbia Railway Company was chartered to build "a railroad from Tuscumbia to some eligible point on the Tennessee River". This was the first known effort at railroad building west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Some of the citizens of Stevenson heard of this effort to build a railroad and became very interested in knowing about it. Riverboat transportation was being used to market cotton at New Orleans, but the boats were handicapped trying to get over the shoals in the river at Muscle Shoals. In 1831 some of the citizens of Stevenson and other places in Jackson County attended a meeting at Courtland to prepare a request to build a railroad for presentation to Governor Samuel B. Moore, Jackson County's only governor. This request was later written in the form of a bill and presented to the Alabama Legislature.

The first railroad was known as the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad. On February 2, 1846 this railroad became a part of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. An act was passed January 7, 1850 by the Alabama Legislature for the purpose of establishing a means of travel between Memphis, Tennessee and Charleston, South Carolina, two cotton market outlets for the people of the Stevenson community.

At the first meeting of the stockholders a resolution was presented and passed which stated that the location of the railroad east of Huntsville be through the county of Jackson to intersect the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad near Crow Creek. The spot at which these two railroads intersected was the place where the town of Stevenson is now located.

The work was done, mainly with pick and shovel, by Negro slave labor. Wooden derricks, two mule carts, hand drills, and blasting powder were some of the crude tools and methods used by men to build the railroad.

The men who actually built the Memphis and Charleston (now the Southern) Railroad were citizens of Jackson County. Laying of the first track from Stevenson toward Decatur started in April 1855, and was finished in March 1856. The work was delayed for ninety days when the Bridgeport Bridge burned on November 23, 1855.

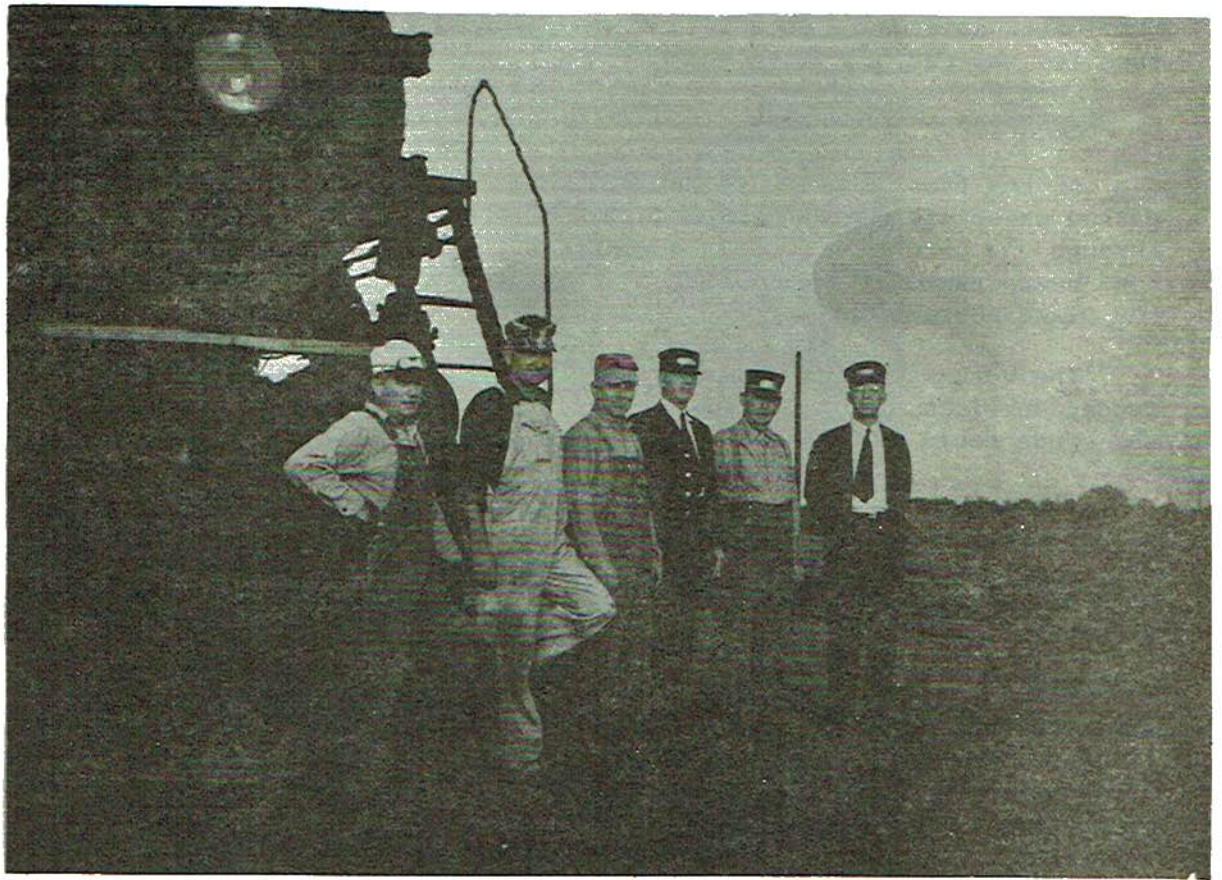
The Nashville, Chattanooga, and the St. Louis Railway was the first road built through Jackson County. It was incorporated under the laws of Tennessee in 1845. The railroad entered the county near Bass, went through Stevenson, and left Jackson County near Carpenter. The total length of the mileage in Jackson County was twenty-four miles. It was built in 1852-53 and this same road bed is used today. This road was completed through to Chattanooga in 1854.

In 1857 the Memphis & Charleston made a contract with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis to run cars over their track from Stevenson to Chattanooga. This contract was to last thirty years, but was suspended by agreement on October 1, 1880 in favor of a new contract which stated that the Memphis and

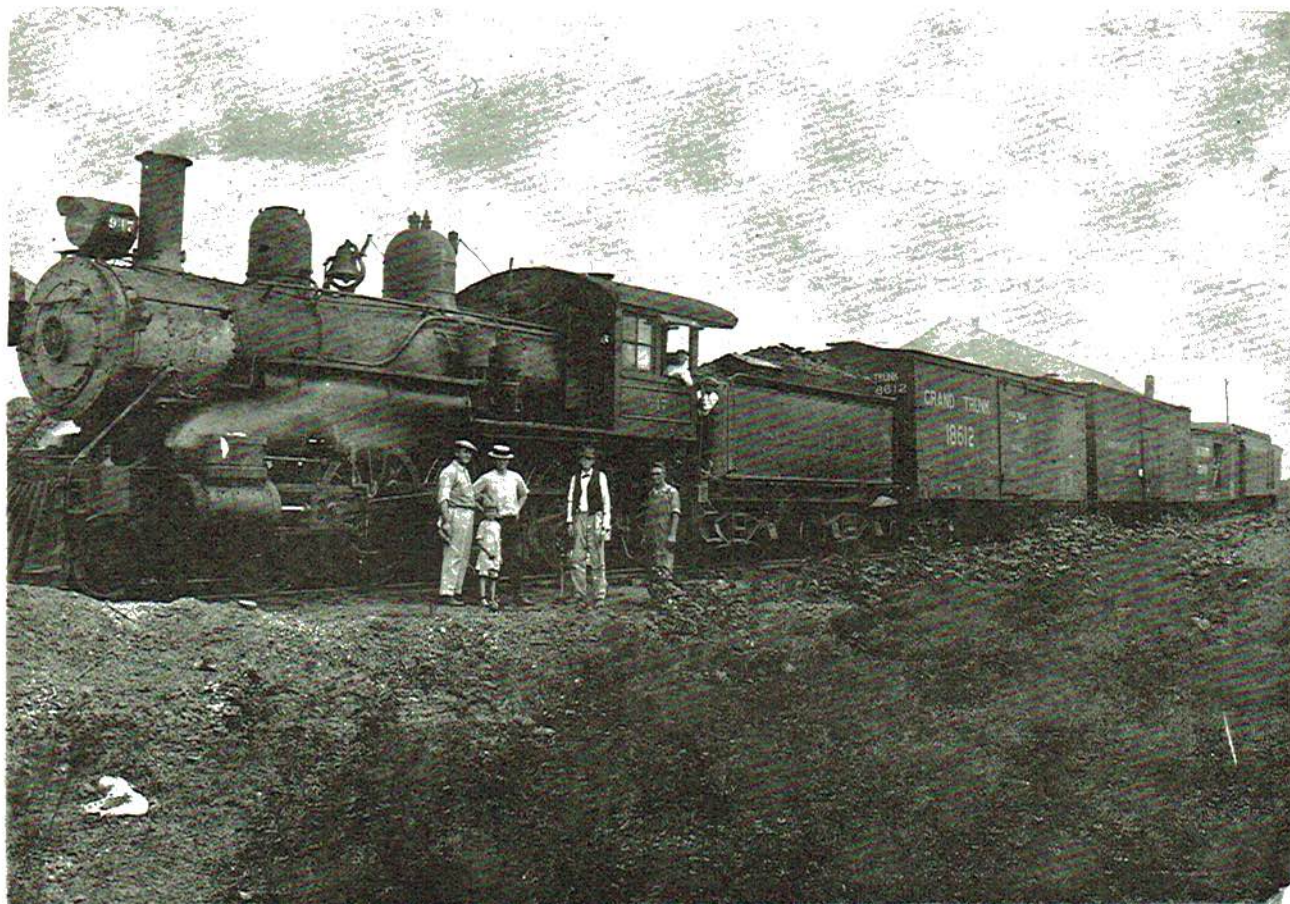
Charleston was to use the tracks from Stevenson to Chattanooga. The Louisville and Nashville owners of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis were to use Southern's bridge at Decatur. The railroads were a big factor in the development of the town of Stevenson.

A great deal of progress has been made in the speed and service of the railroad. Stevenson was once a refueling station with the coal chute and several water tanks located near the city when the steam engines were in use for many years.

One of the old steamers and her crew is pictured below. The crew from left to right is: C. V. Rudder, fireman, F. C. Walker, engineer, H. L. Johnson, mail clerk, W. R. Malone, conductor, W. R. Gullick, brakeman, and Turner Willingham, fireman.



This is the type of steam locomotive driven by many of the men from Stevenson. According to Mrs. C. V. Rudder, the man with the cap on the left is her father, Hugh Cowan, engineer. Ellen Cowan is the little girl. J. R. Blankenship, conductor, Jim Turberville, brakeman, and Hunter Hardy, fireman.



Other Locomotives

As many as sixty-four trains per day have been scheduled through Stevenson so the people of Stevenson have been blessed with good railroad transportation through the years. Until the steam locomotive was abolished, Stevenson served as the hub of the passenger exchange from the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis to the Southern Railway. Passenger service was discontinued in 1968.

Railroad Brotherhood President

Men on the Southern Railroad were quick to recognize the leadership ability of C. V. (Vernon) Rudder. The engineers of the Southern Railroad elected him president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Engineers for the Memphis

Division. He has served in this capacity for the past ten years. This is another example of the impact that the men of Stevenson are making in the business world as time marches on.

The First Automobile

Stevenson had to be content with trains as its fastest mode of transportation until the first automobile appeared on the scene. According to Frank Timberlake, the first car to come to Stevenson was a Zimmerman in 1902. This car was a chain drive vehicle owned by Dr. John F. Foster.

Probably the first automobile accident to be recorded in Jackson County near or around Stevenson occurred on the bridge crossing Crow Creek. The bridge was southeast of Stevenson on the old Fackler Road going toward Russell Stables. A Negro man named Dave McCurdy was riding a mule across the bridge. Dr. Foster attempted to pass the man and the mule. He was traveling at a speed of twenty miles per hour when the mule became frightened and jumped into the path of the car, killing both the man and the mule.

The First Airplane Built in Stevenson

The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, aren't the only famous brothers to make an airplane. Although the Wright brothers are credited with making the first man-carrying glider in 1900 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Stevenson Alabama can lay claim to a similar experiment some twenty-five or thirty years later.

On the farm of their grandfather, Jasper Potts, some two miles northeast of the City of Stevenson, the Russell brothers, Jasper, Raymond, Lagora, and Ernest performed the same experiment.

Jasper Russell, a very smart mechanic, always experimenting with automobiles and motorcycles, persuaded his brothers to help him construct an airplane. They used a Model T car and a motorcycle as the chief sources for parts for this flying machine.

This was many years prior to the construction of the Stevenson airport so no flight patterns or flying regulations had been established. Pilot licenses were in the primitive stage, so Jasper decided to appoint himself as pilot for the great experimental flight. He took off on his first flight into the wind circling the city, going out over Mitchell's Mill and returning home, landing safely on the improvised runway in the pasture.

The second attempt on the following day was not as successful as the first. In order to take off into the wind, Jasper was forced to go in the direction of his grandfather's barn. As he left the ground the wing of the plane hung on the top of the barn, wrecking the plane and crushing the barn. Fortunately, Jasper was not hurt.

This is the first recorded instance of an airplane being assembled and piloted by its maker in Stevenson.

Road Building

Road building has had a great impact on transportation over the years. A general road law enacted in 1836, with a few amendments, was in force for sixty years, and was the only authority used by the state and county to maintain the roads.

This act required that all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 work ten days per year on the road. An overseer reported the time to the county courthouse.

An act was passed in the Alabama Legislature on December 7, 1898 entitling Jackson County to build pike roads. This act entitled Jackson County to sell bonds for the construction of bridges and roads. Many citizens of Bridgeport, Stevenson, and Scottsboro opposed selling bonds for roads. Meetings were held in these towns to raise funds to stop the bond sale. Judge R. C. Brickell of Huntsville was employed to fight the bond sale; however, the Citizens Committee lost the litigation. Many of the old pike roads were constructed under this plan. The old stage road leading out of Stevenson by way of the bridge near the John Blevins farm was built during this period.

In 1889 the act was amended. This act stated that five road commissioners were to be appointed by the governor. The commissioners for Jackson County were R. S. Skelton, Chairman, George R. Hodges, Mark L. Rudder-representing the District of Stevenson - S. R. Grimmett, and B. F. Shook. Later the road commissioners were elected by popular vote of the people. The state took over the roads again in the late 1940's.

During Governor James E. Folsom's administration nearly all roads in and around Stevenson were paved. This has led to faster and better transportation.

The author has attempted to show up-hill struggles in the efforts which have been made to improve the roads and transportation in the Stevenson area. Today the streets of Stevenson are all paved. Automobiles are constantly coming in and going out of the city. The Trailway Bus service furnishes passenger transportation twice daily. Railroads provided more frequent passenger service in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's, but automobiles were not as numerous as they are today.

CHAPTER XIII

EDUCATION

Early in the history of Alabama, a law was enacted to provide for each township to elect three trustees for a public school. The county judge and the trustees were to handle the school funds and pay the teachers. The State School System was not established until 1854 even though the law had set up the trustees in each township.

An act was passed in February 1856 creating the office of the county superintendent of education. The appropriation for the whole state was \$100,000.00. Most of the schools would run for four or five months each year. (The appropriation for the year 1968 was \$167,000,000.00.)

Before the Civil War only the sons and daughters of planters, merchants, doctors, lawyers, and money people were educated.

Education has progressed in Stevenson as the population increased and as the people became more industrious.

Early Lower Elementary School

Probably the first elementary school was operated on the property which now belongs to Mr. P. L. Bentley up on the mountain side. This school was known as the Goat Hill School because goats slept under the floor of the school each night. This was a private school and tuition was charged. The building also housed the Masonic Lodge. The Masons provided the building for the school.

Another elementary school - grades 1 - 3 - was operated on Church Street in the house behind the Jones Hardware and on the property owned by Guy Harris where Ruth Smith presently resides. Around 1890 two sisters named Blanch and Cordelia Stubblefield taught and administered this school prior to 1900. The Stubblefield sisters were the daughters of Mr. Stubblefield who was owner and operator of the hotel. Tuition was charged at this school.

Other Early Lower Elementary Schools

An elementary school was operated on what is now the Rosser Alston property. This school was called the Little Red Schoolhouse. It had such famous teachers as Mae Rosser, who later married Russell Alston, and Ollie Mae Howe, who later married Hugh Latimer. This school served as a feeder school for the William and Emma Austin School. This school may have been a converted house.

Early Upper Elementary and High School

The first school was built in Stevenson in 1875. It was called the William and Emma Austin College. It was located on the present site of the city cemetery. This school was named after William Austin and his wife because of the sizeable donation he gave to the citizens who were going about the community collecting donations to build a school. Mr. Austin told these citizens that he

would give a large donation if they would name the new school the William and Emma Austin College. The school started with two teachers, Professor Moore and Professor Livingston. It was a private school and charged tuition. Students even came to Stevenson from other places, and boarded in private homes for \$10. per week.

The name of the William and Emma Austin College was changed in 1898 to the Austin Training School. Professor Gross served as the first principal of this school. Since the objective of this school was to serve as a college preparatory, and not actually as a college, it was felt that the name should be changed. It continued to operate as a private school until 1903 with such teachers as Professor Cooper, Ann Graham (John Graham's sister), Myrtle Jacoway, who later married Ralph Bender. Will Baxter of Huntsville served as principal from 1902 until 1904.

First Public School

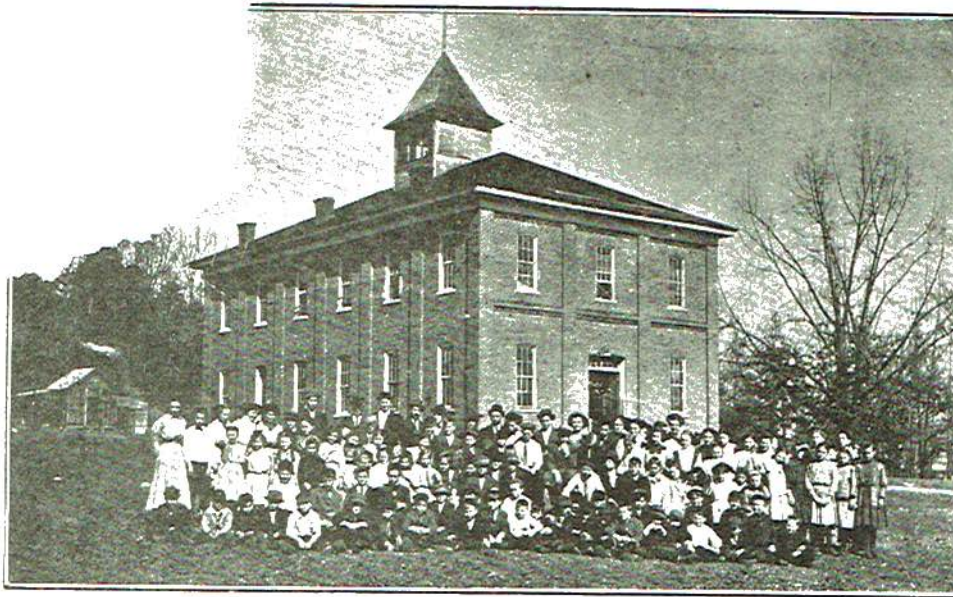
The public school proved to be too much competition for the private school because students could attend public school free. The owners of the private school began to phase it out.

In 1904 the city obtained possession of the William and Emma Austin building and property. It was later organized as an elementary and junior high school, grades one through eight. It was later reduced to grades one through six. Professor Davis was hired as principal in 1904. He was noted for his fancy dress. He always wore a pigeon-tail coat to school. The faculty of this school consisted of such teachers as Professor Maury, Professor Hargrow, Professor Bell, Professor Harvey McGlothlin, who taught Latin and Greek. Harvey McGlothlin later married Sarah Foster.

In 1900 Frank Timberlake was reported to have been at the head of the class in spelling in Miss Ann Graham's class.

Some of the students who attended this school during the early part of the 1900's were Frank Timberlake, Boyd Rudder, Will Guess, Harry Hickman, David Lee Timberlake, Byron Wimberley, Maxie Ussery, Will Thomas, Carl Wimberley, Mattie Pittman, Bessie Sanders, Fern Shultz, Lizzie Pearl Armstrong, Paralee Cowan, and Clyde Bogart.

Mrs. David Cargile supplied the author with a picture of the school as it appeared in the Stevenson Chronicle in 1909. This was the same building that was erected in 1875 and started as the William and Emma Austin College. This picture is on page 75.



STEVENSON PUBLIC SCHOOL
 PUBLISHED BY STEVENSON CHRONICLE
 STEVENSON, ALABAMA

William and Emma Austin School

Clyde Woodall supplied the author with a school souvenir which lists the following information:

Austin Training School, Stevenson, Alabama
 Term - 1907-1908
 A. Samuel Abernathy, Principal

The assistant teachers are listed as: Miss Lillian Musseter, Miss Loretta McFadden, Miss Mary DuKyle-Art Teacher, Mrs. Ida Timberlake-Music Teacher.

The pupils enrolled at the school in 1907-1908 were:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sam Abernathy | Foster Burkes | Mary Ellis | Fern Mitchell |
| Julius Abernathy | Zelia Burkes | Eleanor Foster | Bayne Mitchell |
| Walter Allison | John Blake | Wimberley Foster | Chester Patterson |
| Fulmer Armstrong | Virgil Brown | John Foster | Foster Patterson |
| Percy Armstrong | Ernest Culpepper | Ruby Burkes | David K. Pegues |
| Lizzie Pearl Armstrong | Bon Culpepper | Lettie Graham | Reuben Patterson |
| Harry Altenburg | Paralee Cowan | Jim Graham | Jake Peacock |
| Robert Altenburg | Harry Cowan | Mary Graham | Mildred Porter |
| Alfred Barnes | Mattie Cargile | Jessie Hastings | Henry Porter |
| Sara Barnes | Clarence Cargile | J. T. Hastings | Susie Rudder |
| Earl Barnes | Lester Cargile | Lizza Jean Hastings | Irene Rudder |
| Alice Barnes | Claytie Cargile | James Hill | Bodie Rudder |
| Dewey Barnes | Otho Davis | Lena Inglis | Hugh Rudder |
| Willie Bookout* | Myrtle Davis | Arthur Morris | Mae Rudder |

Leona Reid
Russell McKinney
Ruth Grider
Bessie Sanders
Elise Sanders
Talley Simpson
Charles Simpson
Will Thornton
Frank Timberlake

David Lee Timberlake
Douglas Timberlake
Ingold Timberlake
Arthur Timberlake
Jessie Thomas
John Thomas
Russell Thomas
Plummer Shofner
Mazy Ussery

Annie Ussery
Johnie Vaught
James Vaught
George Woodard
Velma Woodard
Virgil Woodard
Clyde Woodall
Leona Tate
Cam Maclin Talley

The following picture presented by Clyde Woodall shows the students of 1907 - 1908.



Stevenson School 1907-1908

Mrs. Pittman supplied the author with this paid tuition receipt made out to her father for her brother, Clarence. This is the type of receipt given by the private schools.

STATEMENT

Stevenson, Ala. *Sept. 8* 1909

Judge R. R. Carville

IS ACCOUNT WITH

JAS. K. STONE, Prin.

Wm. & Emma Austin College.

Tuition for month <i>beginning</i> <i>Aug 30</i>	1909.
	<i>6 00</i>
Total	<u>6 00</u>
Incidental Fee	<u>2 00</u>
Grand Total	<u>8 00</u>

Jas. K. Stone Prin.

According to Mrs. Mattie Pittman, who consulted with Mrs. Lawrence Huddleston, the grammar school principals of Stevenson school were as follows:

Name	Year
Unknown	1875 - 1898
Professor Gross	1898 - 1900
Professor Latimer	1900 - 1901
Professor Grossbeck	1901 - 1902

Will Baxter	1902 - 1904
Professor Davis	1904 - 1906
Sheffy Roller	1906 - 1907
Samuel Abernathy	1907 - 1908
A French Canadian, Sept. - Nov.	1908 - 1909
James K. Stone, Jan. - May	1908 - 1909
Harvey McGlothlin	1910 - 1911
Hosmer Price	1911 - 1913
Professor Mathis (1 month)	1913 - 1914
Jim Willis (8 months)	1913 - 1914
Hosmer Price	1914 - 1917
Jim Dixon	1917 - 1919
Mattie Cargile	1919 - 1922

When the new school opened in the fall of 1922 Mattie Cargile was moved to the high school as principal. The first six grades were retained at the old grammar school site. According to Mrs. Mattie Pittman the principals of the elementary school, while it continued to operate as a separate unit, were as follows:

Name	Year
Mrs. Pyxie Alspaugh	1922 - 1929
Mr. Riley	1929 - 1930
Mr. Skidmore	1930 - 1932
Mr. Graydon Jones	1932 - 1937
Mr. Claude Matthews	1937 - 1938
Mr. Lawton Kennamer	1938 - 1939
Mr. Ronald Treece	1939 - 1940
Mr. Delbert Hicks	1940 - 1941

Mrs. Pittman states that starting with the 1922-23 school year, grades seven through eleven were sent to the new school. The completion of the eleventh grade was then required for graduation. The first graduating class finished in the spring of 1923, but the school was not accredited by the State until the 1923-24 school year. Prior to 1927 the State of Alabama required that students finish the eleventh grade as the requirement for graduation. In order to meet the new requirement regulation of 1926-27, sixth grade classes at the grammar school split, and created a seventh grade class for the extra class at the high school. The graduating class of 1927 was the first which required twelve years for graduation.

The elementary teachers from 1926 to 1932 were Elizabeth Legg, first grade, Emma Wimberley, second grade, Virginia Graham, Marvin Rudder, Ruth Buckner, Pyxie Alspaugh, Madge Rudder, Mrs. McCrary, Mrs. Bob Wilson and Mr. Skidmore.

Mrs. C. V. Rudder supplied the following picture of the new high school as it appeared just before all the construction on the building and grounds was completed.



In 1938 a new grammar school building was built on the same campus with the high school and the old building was no longer used. Mrs. Jo John Williams supplied the author with a picture of this building which also includes the junior high addition completed in 1954.



According to Mrs. E. K. Mann, the first Parent Teacher Organization was started when Jim Willis was principal of the grammar school in 1913-14. Mrs. E. K. Mann was the first president of the organization. The name of the organization was "The School Improvement Association". Mrs. Mabel Simpson was among some of the first officers. The name was later changed to "The Parent Teacher Association".

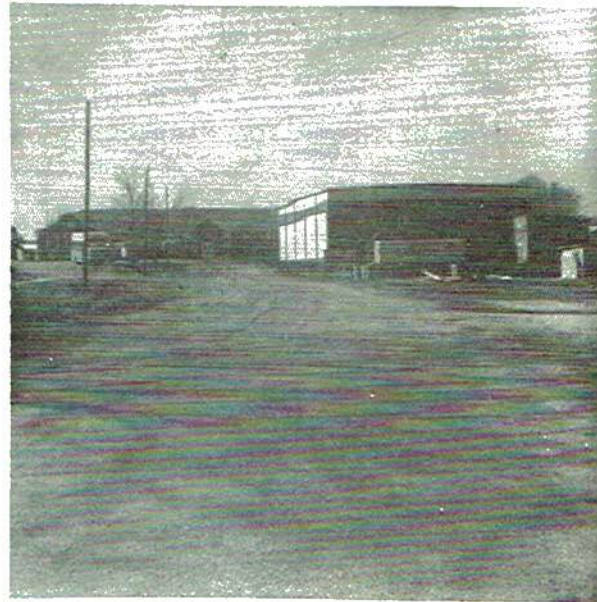
This picture was furnished by Mrs. Jo John Williams, Jr., and shows the ruins of Stevenson High School after it burned in 1943.



The principals of Stevenson High School were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Present Status</u>
Mattie Cargile	1923 - 1924	Retired
Frank (Bear) Hodges	1924 - 1928	Deceased
H. L. Nipper	1928 - 1929	Unknown
Walker Jordan	1929 - 1936	Retired
Graydon Jones	1936 - 1941	Retired Colonel, Civilian Employee, Maxwell AFB
A. H. Bordon	1941 - 1947	Principal, Smyrna, Ga.
Harold Phillips	1947 - 1952	Deceased
J. E. Stephens	1952 - 1955	Public Relations
Murray Yarbrough	1955 - 1956	Teacher, Decatur, Alabama
A. L. Knox, Jr.	1956 - 1963	Supervisor, State Department of Education
E. R. Knox	1963 - 1964	College President
Truman Maples	1964 - Present	

Pictured below left is the present elementary school which was constructed in 1939 on the Starnes property. Below right is the new gymnasium while it was under construction in 1968.



Pictured at right is the principal's home which was constructed in 1946 on what was known as the "Doc" Johnson property. Sanders Russell, George R. Allison, Sr., and A. L. Knox, Sr. were trustees at this time. They borrowed the money from the First National Bank of Stevenson to finance this house. Arrangements were made to allow the rent to make the house payment. Allen Borden was principal at the time.



The picture on the right supplied by Mrs. C. V. Rudder is of Harold Phillips, one of the best loved principals to teach at Stevenson.



The average tenure for principals of Stevenson High School since 1923 is three and three-fourths years. Two of the twelve principals of the high school, Frank Hodges and Walker Jordan, and one of the former elementary schools principals, Delbert Hicks, have served as superintendent of education for Jackson County. To the author's knowledge, all of the former principals of Stevenson School are living except two - Harold Phillips and Frank Hodges. Graydon Jones has retired as a colonel from the United States Air Force and is now working as a civilian at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama.

Three have served as college professors and administrators: A. H. Borden as Dean of Berry College, Rome, Georgia, L. W. Jordan as English Professor at Northeast State Junior College, Rainsville, Alabama, and E. R. Knox as President of Northeast State Junior College, Rainsville, Alabama.

Feeder Schools

Prior to days of consolidation, Stevenson High School had many feeder schools. Rudder's Chapel, Red Top, Union Hill, Chigger Hill, Pleasant View, Pleasant Grove, Rash, Bass, Edgefield, and Cameronsville were some of the feeder schools. The first six grades were taught at these schools, and then the students were sent to Stevenson High School to complete grades seven through twelve.

Space does not permit pictures of all the feeder schools. Mrs. C. C. Loyd, Sr. supplied the author with a picture of Rudder's Chapel as it appeared prior to consolidation. Since the first school bus route was established in the Rudder's Chapel School District, this school was one of the first to be consolidated with the Stevenson Elementary School.

According to Mrs. C. C. Loyd, Sr., the Rudder's Chapel students were as follows: Inez Huddleston, Flora Blevins, Hazel Wheeler, Margaret Huddleston, Russell Caves, Fannie Loyd, Lula Caves, Mollie Moore, Mary Nell Loyd, Ernest Blevins, and Virgil Inglis. Mrs. C. C. Loyd, Sr, nee Esther Williams, was their teacher at this time.

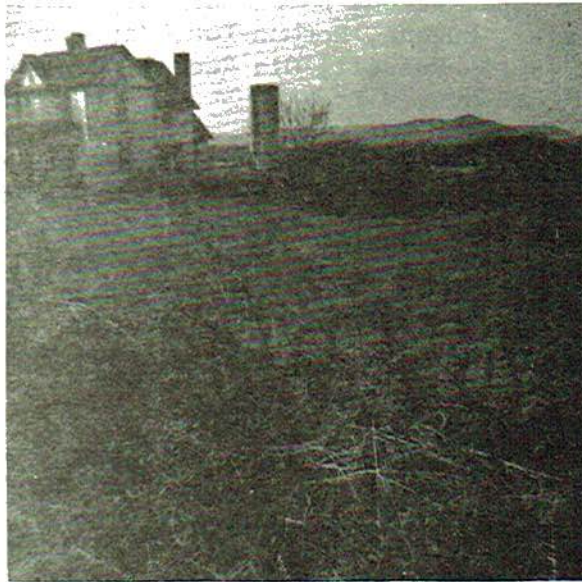
RUDDER'S CHAPEL SCHOOL



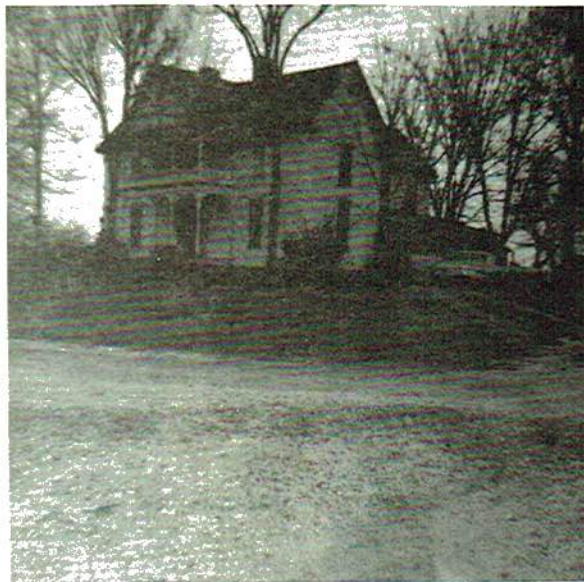
The first school bus was built by a group of private citizens who gave donations to build a wooden body on an Ajax car chassis owned by Ernest Inglis in 1931. Ernest Inglis was the driver of the bus, and it was known to all the students as the Chicken Coop. The bus route started at Ernest Inglis' home, which is pictured on the next page, and the bus continued to Caperton's Ferry and back-tracked to school.

Some of the students who rode this bus were: Earl Inglis, Ernestine Inglis, Wallace Inglis, Ernest Loyd, Aleen Loyd, Polly Wheeler, Billie Wheeler, Ed Smith, Dowell Smith, Irvin Phillips, J. W. Coffey, E. R. Knox, A. L. Knox, Jr., Jack Knox, Marie Rudder, C. H. Bramlett, Charles Bramlett, Jack and E. S. Kennedy.

Pictured below is the home of Ernest Inglis where the bus route originated.



The school bus turned around at the E. L. Knox "Ranfurlie" farm pictured below.



The second school bus started at the beginning of the 1930-31 school year. Virgil Inglis, who had a longer bus, extended his bus route on through the ridges turning onto the pike which went in front of Gordon Rudder's house going on in the direction of Stevenson, past Legore Russell's farm, coming back onto the highway at Carroll's Store. Such famous people as Oscar Carroll, J. T. Carroll, William Carroll, Louise, Wayne, Eugene, Norman Lou, Marie and Jimmy Lou Rudder, Billie Allison, Sadie Dunn, Betty Russell, Ola Reeves, Evelyn Reeves, and the Jesse Thomas children rode this bus.

The third school bus to travel to Stevenson schools was owned and operated by William H. (Bill) Steele. He began a bus route down Highway 72 in the Wannville Community. He also bid on the Caperton Ferry Route, and hauled these children to school. Betty Ruth Armstrong, Frances Armstrong, Cecil Loyd, Jr., Sandy Loyd, Billy Hugh Cameron, and Ruby Cameron were some of the famous people to ride on the Rudder's Chapel route. Chick Russell, Nina Russell, Katie Russell, Jackie Rogers, Buelah Rogers, Elizabeth Holder, and Steve Steele went on the highway route.

During the 1932-33 school year the State of Alabama ran out of money to operate schools. A subscription school was organized for the remainder of the year. Four teachers served as instructors at the high school: L. W. Jordan, Bessie Sanders, Lois Graham, and Harold Phillips.

By the beginning of the 1933-34 school year the county and state had started operating the schools again. Prior to this year the Stevenson Grammar School had operated an eight month school term and the high school a nine month term. Beginning with the 1933-34 school year both the elementary and the high school began nine month terms. Dan Parton bid on one of the bus routes and he purchased a new chassis and a factory built bus which was the first factory built bus to appear at Stevenson School.

Virgil Knight appeared on the scene about this time with a new International bus. By this time, Big and Little Coon had established bus routes into McMahan's Cove, Edgefield, Widow's Creek Lock and Dam and into Bass. The majority of the students riding the buses from these areas were high school students, and most of these rural communities still had grammar schools in operation.

At first the buses were privately owned. Then an arrangement was worked out where the driver owned the chassis and motor and the County Board of Education owned all buses and paid the driver a monthly salary. Ray McAllister, Mrs. V. O. Knight, George Hambley, Shorty Payne, Loyd Beavers, Troy Johnson, Rudder Gonce, and Carl Keller all appeared on the scene as drivers as the school population increased. The students gave names such as the "South Coon Express" to the buses.

Music Education

Mrs. L. P. Huddleston served as music instructor for both the elementary and high school for many years. She gave private music lessons to pupils in piano and violin. She coached plays, and played for all programs. Many students learned to play under her guidance. Others who have taught piano in the Stevenson schools are Miss Clyde Bell, Mrs. Frank Peck, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. Walter James.

Athletics

Athletics at Stevenson have played an important part in the lives of the students as well as adults. Stevenson had undefeated seasons several years and could have qualified for state honors many times, but the first recognition came in 1954 when Wank Smallwood's team won the Birmingham News State Trophy. Football has always been the king sport.

The history of the athletic coaches of Stevenson High School is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Served</u>	<u>Years</u>
Coach Heath	1923-1924	1
Coach Frank (Bear) Hodges	1924-1928	4
Coach Phillips	1928-1929	1
Coach Abe Robinson	1929-1933	4
Coach Luther Smith	1933-1937	4
Coach A. C. Curry	1937-1939	2
Coach John Balcanoff	1939-1942	3
Coach Charley Searcy	1942-1943	1
Coach Tom Fletcher	1943-1945	2
Coach Willie (Sap) Steele	1945-1947	2
Coach John Beard	1947-1948	1
Coach Brownie Robinson	1948-1949	1
Coach Wank Smallwood	1949-1955	6
Coach Ralph Brett	1955-1957	2
Coach Bob Skelton	1957-1958	1
Coach Bob Murphree	1958-1960	2
Coach Dalton Threadgill	1960-1962	2
Coach Hillard Morris	1962-1963	1
Coach Ralph Williams	1963-1968	5
Coach B. R. Drishell	1968-1969	1

Coach Luther (Noah) Smith was the author's coach for four years. Two of the former coaches are pictured below.

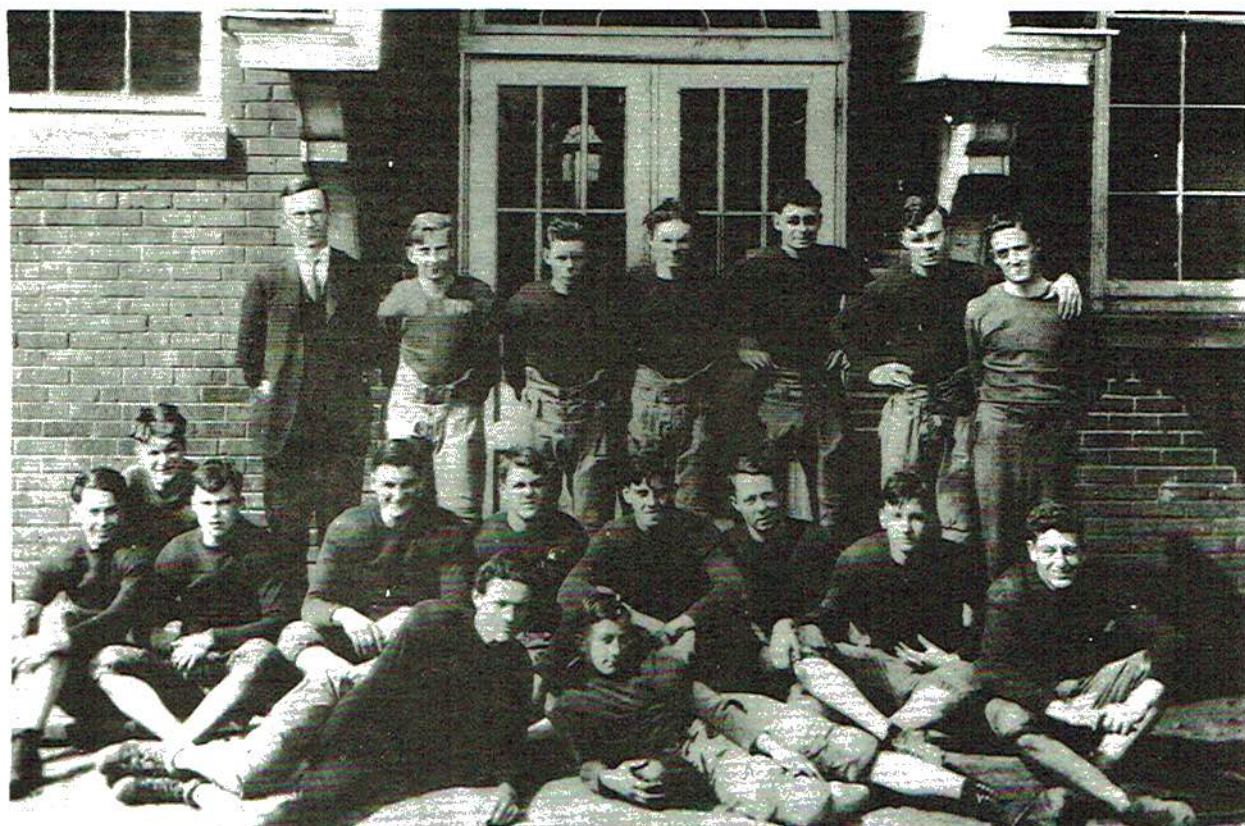


Coach Abe Robinson



Coach Luther Smith

The following picture presented by Mrs. C. V. Rudder is of the 1930 team. The players left to right are: Front row - Floyd Rogers, Vernon Rudder. Second row - Jack Bible, John Graham, Jack Caperton, Eugene Henninger, Ollie Gonce, Oscar Frank Davis, Clark Rudder, Tank Stewart. Third row - George L. Austin, Principal L. W. Jordan, Jim Gonce, Willie "Sap" Steele, Red Crowell, Mac Stewart, Ed Allison, Coach Phillips.



The following picture of the 1935 team was presented by J. T. Carroll. The people are from left to right: Front row - J. C. Pearson, Edwin Allison, Jack Allison, Ed Britton, William McKenny, Frank Parton, Julian King. Second row - Oscar Carroll, Carl Rudder, Jim Graham, Elbert Rudder, Aubrey Britton, Dick Smith, Luckey Knox, Jr., Coach Luther Smith. Third row - Frank Peck, Vance Timberlake, Jr., Carl Stewart, Thomas Parks, J. W. Coffey, Homer Stewart, Jack Grider, Hop Wimberley.



Quarterback Club Organized

The Quarterback Club was organized in 1958 with Bunn Lovelady as leader. Much has been accomplished by this group. A field house has been built, new lights have been placed on the football field, and an electric scoreboard has been installed. This group also sponsors the junior team, Pee Wee Boys. This organization has had many famous members and leaders. Many projects have been accomplished that would not have otherwise been provided if this organization had not existed.

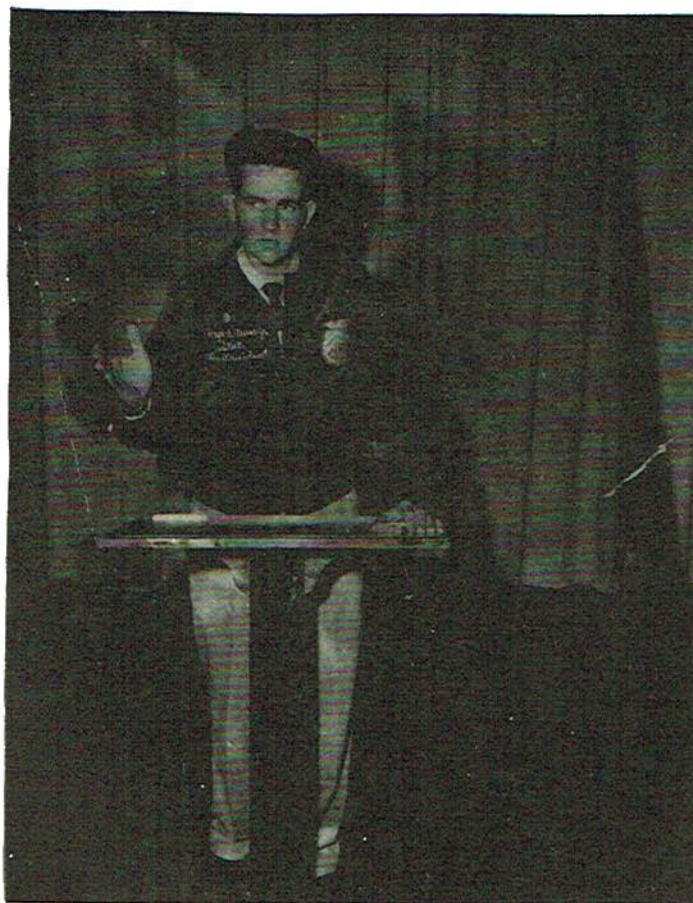
Vocational Agriculture Established

The Vocational Agriculture shop unit was transferred from Skyland Farms during the 1945-1946 school year. Claude D. Richardson served as the first agriculture instructor and remained in this position until 1960 when he moved to the North Alabama Coop. W. D. (Jack) Cornelius replaced him. This department has had only two instructors. Both men have made great contributions to the community.

Vocational Home Economics

The Vocational Home Economics department was created at the same time during the 1945-1946 school year. Emily Smith was the first instructor for this department. Prior to this time, Stevenson High School had been teaching non-vocational home economics with Miss Bessie Sanders as instructor. Miss Sanders taught other subjects in addition to home economics.

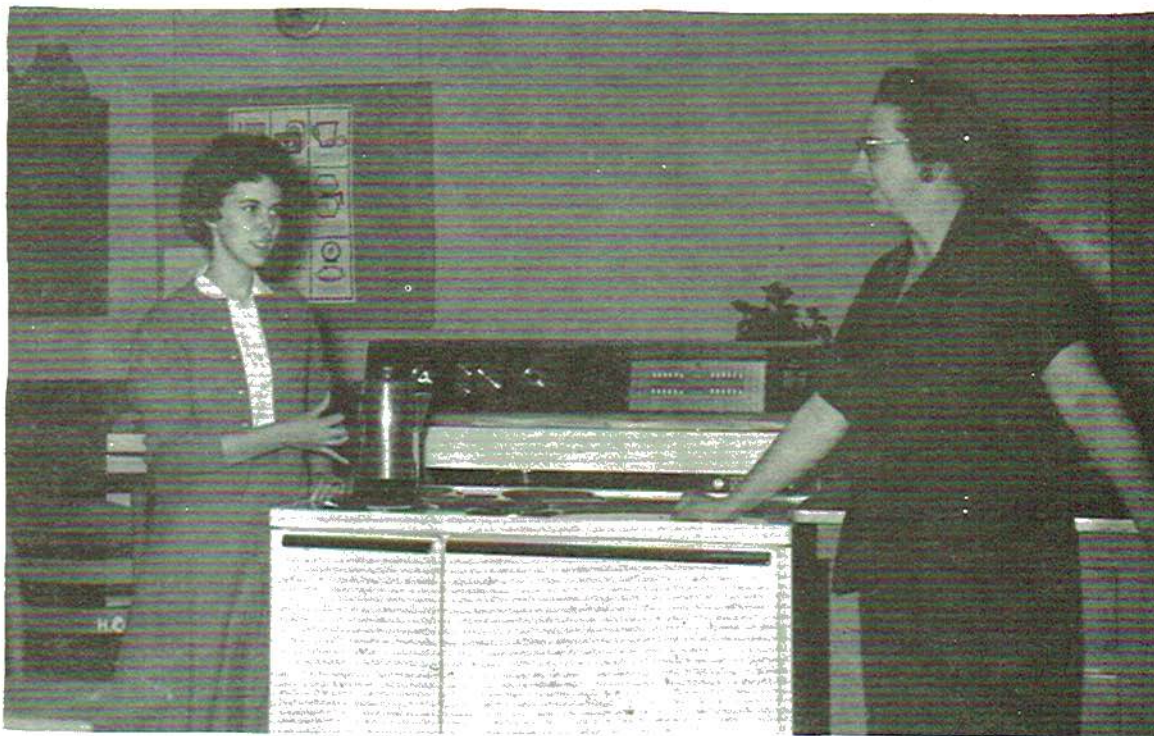
Many honors have come to the Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics Departments. In 1956 while C. D. Richardson was agriculture teacher, Foster Guess, Jr. won the F.F.A. Alabama Public Speaking Contest, and he and Mr. Richardson were invited to Kansas City where Foster competed in the national contest. This picture of Foster was taken while he was speaking.



The history of the Vocational Home Economics Department, presented by Emily St. Clair, is as follows:

Teacher	Term Served
Miss Easterly	1923 - 1925 2 years
Bessie Sanders	1925 - 1945 20 years
Emily Smith	1945 - 1952 7 years
Billy Puckett	1952 - 1954 1½ years
Willie Matthews	1953 - 1954 ½ year
Willie Matthews	1954 - 1965 11 years
Emily St. Clair	1965 - 1966 1 year
Faye Pearson	1966 - 1968 2 years

Carol Bonner won the Alabama State Betty Crocker Contest for which she received a college scholarship. Mrs. Willie Matthews was Carol's teacher. Many other honors have come to the Home Economics Department, but none greater than this one. Carol was well deserving of this honor. She participated in national competition. Carol and Mrs. Matthews are pictured below.



Stevenson high schooler wins scholarship

Martha Carol Bonner of Stevenson High School, Stevenson, Ala., has been awarded the title of 1962 Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow for Alabama and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship from General Mills.

Miss Bonner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bonner Jr., of Stevenson, becomes a candidate with 49 other state winners and the representative from the District of Columbia for the title of All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow. Winner of the national title will be announced at a banquet planned for Colonial Williamsburg, Va., on May 3. Her scholarship will be increased to \$5,000.

For five days before the award banquet, all the state Homemakers of Tomorrow and their school advisors will be guests of General Mills on a tour of places of historical significance in New York City, Washington, D. C. and Williamsburg. Score on a knowledge and attitude test, by which local and state Homemakers of Tomorrow were chosen, and observation during this tour will be the basis for selection of the All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow.

Sherry Jean Morris of Reelton High School, Reelton, rated second in Alabama and will receive a \$500 scholarship. Eight other senior girls in Alabama received honorable mention in the Homemaking test. They are Carol Goulding



MISS MARTHA BONNER . . . Wins title

Blakney, Pickens County High School, Reform; Margaret Kate Bostick, John Carroll High School, Birmingham; Tommie Lyn Chastain, Munford High School, Munford; Doris Hollingsworth, Hubbertville High School, Fayette; Madeleine Clitherall Ingalls, Sidney Lanier High School, Montgomery; Ann Williams McRae, Buckhorn High School, New Market; Jeanette Ethel Pate, Wilcox County High School, Camden, and Jamie Laurie Simmons, Carbon Hill High School, Carbon Hill.

Stevenson Girl In Nat'l Contest

Miss Martha Carol Bonner, of Stevenson a student at Stevenson High School named Alabama's "Homemaker of Tomorrow" last month, left via plane Saturday morning from Chattanooga, Tenn., to compete in the national finals at Williamsburg, Va., Thursday.

Miss Bonner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bonner, of Stevenson, was accompanied by her home economic instructor, Mrs. William Matthews, of Scottsboro, who is also adviser for the Stevenson chapter of future homemakers of America.

For five days before awards are made, all the State Winners and their advisors will be guests of the contest sponsors and will tour places of historical significance in New York City, N.Y., Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, Va.

The Award announcements will be made at a banquet to be given in Williamsburg, Va., Thursday.

Miss Bonner is a member of Stevenson High School's senior class and has been in the county, district and state contests, where she has displayed a great interest in all phases of the FHA work.

Mrs. William Matthews is pictured at the right.



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March 26, 1962

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Allen L. Knox
Principal
Stevenson High School
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Mr. Knox:

In behalf of General Mills I offer hearty congratulations on the selection of Martha Carol Bonner of your school as State Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow for Alabama.

Under separate cover, I am sending Miss Bonner's award certificate (emblematic of her \$1,500 scholarship). I'm enclosing a personal letter of congratulations from Betty Crocker. You may wish to present both of these at a suitable ceremony.

Miss Bonner's achievement reflects the outstanding work of your school in developing homemakers of tomorrow. In tribute to your service to your community and nation, we are enclosing a special certificate of honor for your school.

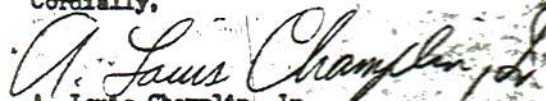
You will also receive a set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica for your school library. These fine reference books are a special award provided by Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., in recognition of the contribution of education to the American home and American society. We sincerely hope they will prove valuable to your students through the years.

If you wish to express a word of thanks for the Encyclopaedia, I suggest that you address it to:

Mr. Matthew Dillon, Jr.
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

For the entire General Mills organization, I again want to thank you for your cooperation.

Cordially,



A. Louis Champlin, Jr.
Assistant to the Vice President,
Public Relations

The Home Economics Department made a great deal of progress under the guidance of Mrs. Matthews. During her tenure she succeeded in acquiring five new electric sewing machines instead of the one in the department when she began teaching at Stevenson. The following clipping taken from the Jackson County Sentinel-Age shows the course in Red Cross Home Nursing which was started. The other clippings were taken from the Jackson County Farmer.

Red Cross Class To Begin At Stevenson

Mrs. Tracy Engedow, who will complete an instructors' course in Home Nursing in Fort Payne January 27th, will begin Red Cross class in "Home Care of the Sick", in Stevenson High School on Jan. 30th.

The course is part of the Red Cross training program and any High Schools who are interested in booking classes are invited to call 78 for full details and dates of availability.

It is hoped that every High School in the county will take part in this valuable training program.

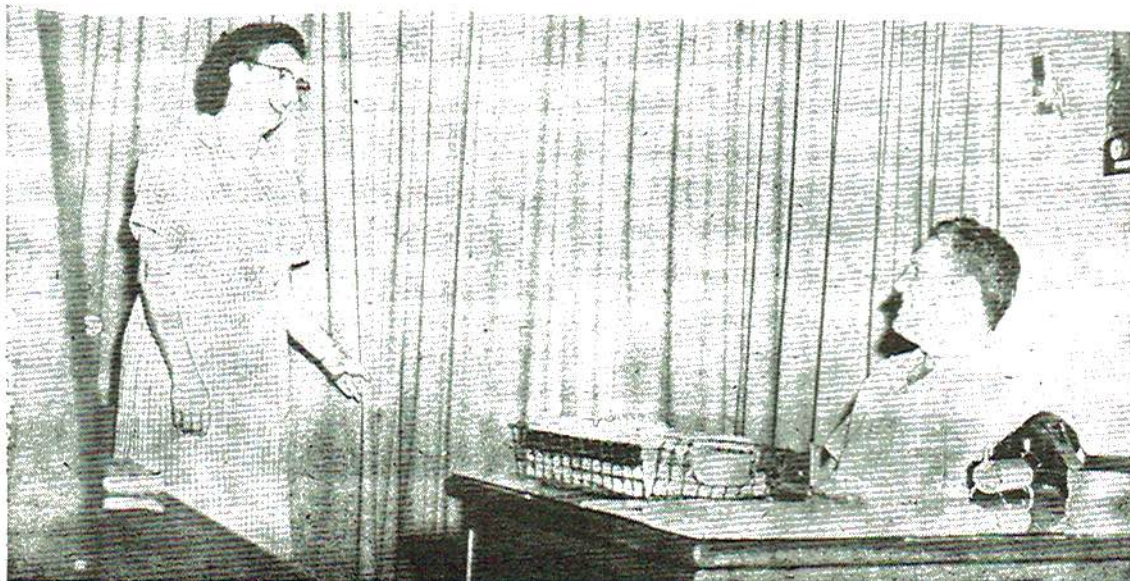


STEVENSON FHA--This year the Future Homemakers of America chapter is led by the officers above: (from left) Shirley Hargraves, president; Sue Vaughn, vice president; Mary Wyatt McCrary, secretary; and Mary Lee Edwards, treasurer. (Farmer Foto)



MAKING DRAPERIES for the school at Stevenson are members of the Parent-Teachers Association. The draperies were installed in the office and adjoining rooms. Busy at work are the ladies with Mrs. William Matthews (second from left).

Home economics teacher, looking on. Those who helped in the project (not all are pictured) are Mrs. Dick Thomas, Mrs. Charles Lyda, Mrs. Laster Willis, Mrs. Doran Russell, Mrs. Ruben Davis, Mrs. Guy Harris, Mrs. Cecil Loyd Jr. and Mrs. Kyles Smith. Home economics girls also helped. (Farmer Foto)



STEVENSON PTA PROJECT — Mrs. W. W. Matthews, Stevenson High School teacher, and Principal A. L. Knox appear happy about the newly installed drapes in his office. The project was sponsored by the Stevenson Parent-Teachers Association. Photo by Cedric

Future Farmers of America

George F. Guess, Jr., a native of Stevenson, Alabama, was born January 30, 1940. George attended Stevenson High School and was active in the Future Farmers of America organization from 1954 through 1961. During his tenure as an F. F. A. member, he was active in many aspects of the young men's organization. He served two years as chapter president and served the Alabama Future Farmers of America Association as vice president in 1956-57. Among George's achievements was being named to the American Farmer Degree in 1958, the highest honor that can come to an F. F. A. member.

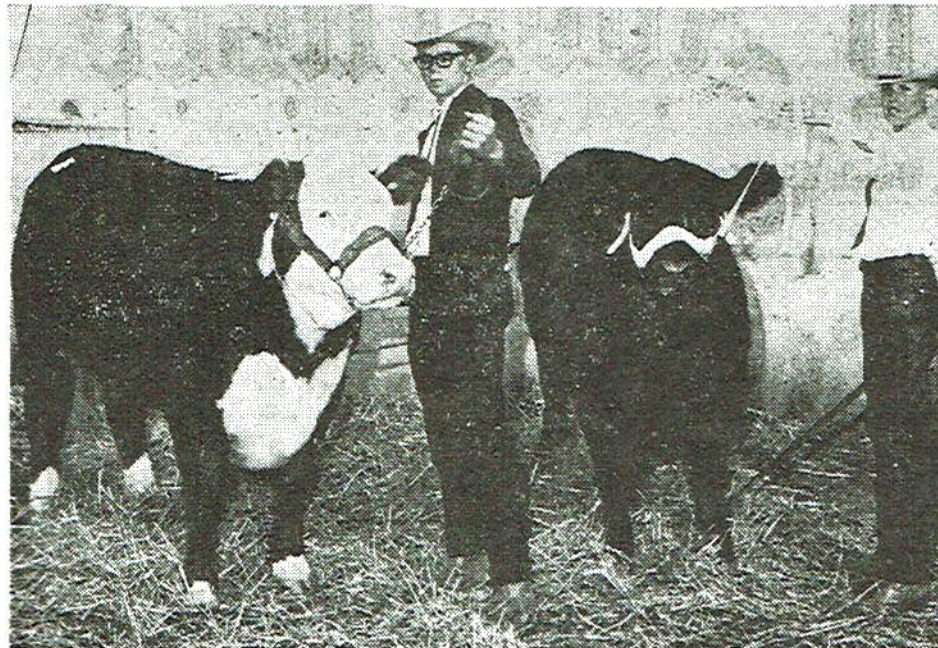
In addition to the above, George's most cherished honor was that of finishing fourth nationally in the F. F. A. Public Speaking Contest at the National F. F. A. Convention in Kansas City, Missouri in 1957. This public speaking endeavor opened an entirely new world for George, and he has been most active in pursuing public speaking activities whenever the opportunity arises. Since 1957 George has competed nationally in several other public speaking contests.

George now resides in Stevenson, where he owns and operates Stevenson Apothecary. George is active in many civic affairs of Stevenson, and is presently serving the Stevenson Jaycees as president.

In 1968 Bill Bryant won the Grand Champion Calf Show prize. His instructor was Jack W. D. Cornelius. The following picture appeared in the Montgomery Advertiser.

Wednesday, March 13, 1968

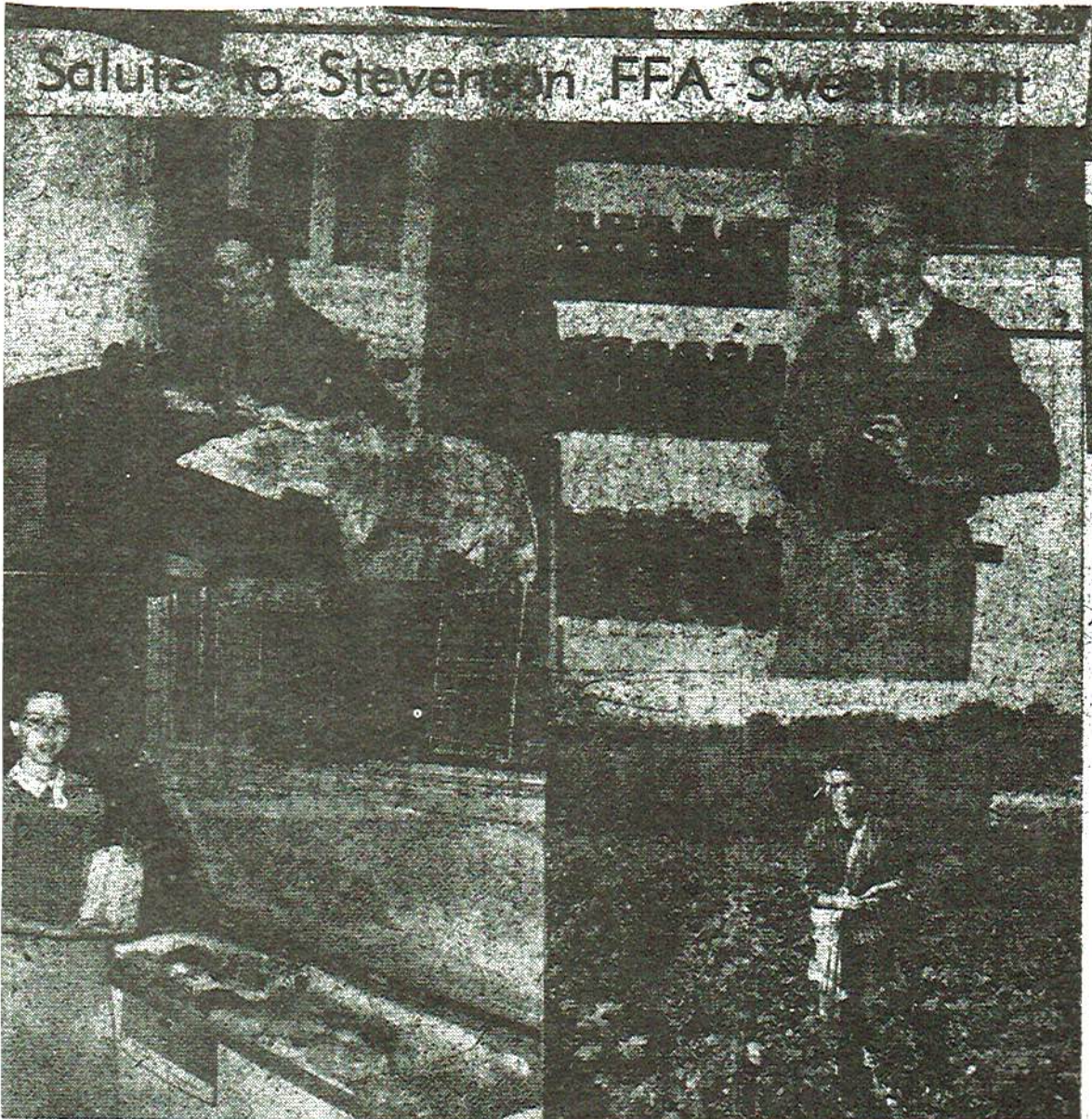
The Montgomery Advertiser



Champion and Reserve

Bill Bryant, Jackson County FFA member, left, shows his grand champion Hereford steer after the

Montgomery State Steer Show. Show's reserve grand champion is shown by 4-H member Greg Gossett of Lee County. The two steers were judged the best of the 331 entered from 24 Alabama counties.



A winsome senior of Stevenson High School, Margaret Britton, has been chosen the Sweetheart of that School's FFA Chapter.

Margaret, who is the daughter of Mrs. Roy Mantooth, has taken a leading part in school activities. She was active in the following: Cheerleader, Junior Class Officer last year, Junior Play, FHA Queen, Beta Club, Citizenship Club, Glee Club, McCalls Teen Fashion Board, Library Club and works on the Office Staff.

Outside of school, Margaret's projects include painting and decorating at her home. She has painted and redecorated and bought new furniture for her

bedroom and the family living room, which included refinishing some of the previous furniture. She had help with the painting of the kitchen and made new curtains and purchased new equipment a few years back.

Her outdoor activities include raising 100 chickens to stock her home freezer and in addition, has some laying hens.

To help pay her college education, Margaret has two acres of cotton, money from which is put aside for this purpose.

During the past four years, this industrious young lady has found time to sew for herself, her family and her friends.

Margaret has helped her family can 233 quarts of fruit and

vegetables, 48 quarts of jelly and assisted in putting up 200 pounds of beef and 100 pounds of pork.

Each Saturday and at other times when school is out, Margaret can be found as a clerk in Bogarts Dry Good Store. The money earned helps with her projects and goes toward her college education.

As a member of the Baptist Church, she teaches in Sunday School and Training Union while also assisting in the playing of the piano in both church and Sunday School.

Margaret has in the past helped with the local Red Cross Drive and this year she is a worker in the 1957 United Fund Drive.

Lunchroom

Prior to 1944, Stevenson School did not have a lunchroom as such. Mrs. Gertrude McGuffey operated a catering service selling hot chocolate and hamburgers to the students.

Miss Bessie Sanders operated the first lunchroom, in addition to her teaching duties, selling a bowl of soup and a bottle of milk for five cents.

Mrs. Ethel McCampbell began operating the lunchroom in 1945 and served a balanced meal for fifteen cents. Mrs. McCampbell operated the lunchroom with the help of Mrs. George Foshee and Mrs. Ruth Rudder. Mrs. Georgia Arnold replaced Mrs. McCampbell. Later Nannie Rudder, Ethel McCrary and Kitty Carroll helped with the lunchroom.

In 1955 Mrs. Edith Russell became manager and has continued to serve in this capacity until the present time. She worked in the lunchroom prior to serving as manager.

A new lunchroom was constructed in 1965 at the junior high school site.

History of the Band

Stevenson School did not have a band prior to 1950 when the Band Parents Association was formed. They purchased uniforms and started a band. The band has prospered through the years, and now has over sixty members playing instruments.

The band directors are listed below:

<u>Director</u>	<u>Year</u>
Grover E. Blake	1950 - 1952
Ellis Campbell	1952 - 1953
Earl Inglis	1953 - 1954
Luther Jones	1954 - 1955
Johnny Shook	1955 - 1959
John Bell (First Semester)	1959
Mary E. Walker (Second Semester)	1959 - 1960
Kathryne Phillips	1960 - 1961
Leon Bentley	1961 - 1968
Nathan Black	1968 -

Mr. Bentley was band director for seven years and did a wonderful job with the band.

History of Commercial Department

Prior to the 1940's Stevenson High School did not teach commercial subjects such as typing and shorthand. Bookkeeping and business law were the only subjects of a business nature that were taught in the school. According to the best information that the author could secure, the commercial teachers have been

as follows:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Year</u>
Marion Blakeley	1946 - 1947
Eleanor F. Muse	1947 - 1951
Helen Swearengen	1951 - 1952
Alice Thornton	1952 - 1953
Lena Smith Hale	1953 - 1955
Nelta Jean Thorne	1955 - 1957
Carolyne Harris	1957 - 1958
Nelta Jean Thorne	1958 - 1962
Sybil Knox	1962 - 1963
Ernestine Loyd Pace	1963 - Present

Famous Graduates

Stevenson High School has produced many famous graduates through the years. Many have gone to college and have taken their rightful place in the main stream of society.

Avondale Scholarship

The first Avondale Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 was awarded to Kenneth Holder in 1957. Prior to this date, Stevenson High School had not received any of the scholarships awarded by Avondale Mills. Since that time Jimmy Matthews, Macklin Grider, Barbara Nevils, Holbert (Dunk) Hale, Jr., Nolan Peters, and Kenneth Stewart have received this award.

Junior Colleges

In 1963 the Alabama Legislature passed a bill which permitted the State Department of Education to set up fourteen junior colleges in Alabama. The one which was designated to serve the Jackson area, of which Stevenson is a part, was constructed on Sand Mountain at Rainsville, Alabama on the Jackson-DeKalb County line. This college has been very helpful to the students of Stevenson High School. Opportunities are provided for more students to attend college. The Northeast Junior College is pictured below. Dr. E. R. Knox who was a former student and principal of Stevenson High School is the president of this institution.



Negro Schools

Early in 1920 Rosenwall School was built. Mrs. Charley Porter served faithfully in this school for many years. In 1960 the new Joseph Drake School was constructed. Archie Stewart has been serving faithfully as principal since this school opened. In 1965 the Negro students were permitted to go to Stevenson School for the first time.

History continued in the making when Superintendent A. A. Clemens announced on May 16, 1968 that the students of Joseph F. Drake School would be moved to Stevenson High School. The Jackson County Sentinel-Age carried the following article which explains this.

Some 123 students of Joseph F. Drake School have been notified they will be transferred, either to Stevenson High School, or to a school of their choice, effective with the 1968-69 school term Jackson County Supt. of Schools A. A. Clemens has announced.

About 70-75 high school students are involved in the transfer, he said.

Supt. Clemens, said that the closing of the former all-Negro Drake High School is the result of a court order, issued by Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., to Ernest Stone, Alabama Superintendent of Education, with Supt. Stone actually issuing the closing order.

The order from Supt. Stone to Supt. Clemens, said: "Attorneys from the Justice Department have made a further analysis of your inventory report sent me under the date of Sept. 8, 1967 and for your information I am attaching a mimeographed sheet, received from the Justice Department," stated as follows: The September equalization report submitted by the Jackson County School System shows that the only remaining Negro school in the system, Joseph F. Drake (Grades 1-8; 123 students), is subminimal in enrollment according to the State standards for an eight grade school. During 1967-68, eight grades are being taught in six classrooms and the school has less than one teacher per grade.

From the bus route map submitted by the system it appears that the Negro children now attending Drake live in the general attendance area served by Stevenson School, a predominantly white school in which 63 Negro students are already enrolled. Unless there is a significant increase in the enrollment at Drake after the spring choice period, Drake School should be closed.

If all the 123 Drake students were to choose the Stevenson School, the pupil-classroom ratio at Stevenson would increase only from 27.2:1 to 30.3:1. Such a plan for completely eliminating the dual system is consistent with the program discussed by Superintendent Clemens and representatives from the Department of Justice in July and August, 1967."

Supt. Clemens said that the court order had "suggested" that "the consolidation be made, unless there was evidence of a large increase in enrollment at the Drake School."

Teachers from Drake will be given assignments in the Jackson County School system, he said.

He also revealed that both the Head Start Program and the Summer School programs would open June 10.

High school classes will be held at Stevenson, Pisgah and Woodville schools for the 9-12 grade summer students with two buses running the main roads from each school.

Faculty Integration

The faculty of Stevenson High School was integrated for the first time in the 1966-67 school year. Mrs. Mary Jo Lankford who had taught for fourteen years in segregated schools was assigned to teach at Stevenson High School. She is a graduate of Alabama A. and M. College, Huntsville, Alabama, and holds a B. S. degree with a major in English.

According to Mrs. Lankford's principal, Truman Maples, she has been well received by the faculty, students, and parents. Although the student body had been integrated in the 1965-66 school year, the faculty was not integrated until 1966 in Jackson County.

Doctors and Nurses

Many people who have chosen the medical profession as a career received their early schooling at Stevenson. The doctors are Sam Cowan, Eugene Ellison, Fred Rudder, Gideon Timberlake, Sam T. Simpson, W. J. Talley, William Simpson, Henry D. Austin, and others. Some of the girls who have entered the nursing profession are Madelyn McGuffey, Alice Rogers, Alice Timberlake, Mary Cathrine Jones, Mary Dawson Bogart, Jane Caperton, Janie Foster, Shirley Mattox, Betty Jo Mattox, Biddie McAllister, and Pat Thornton.

Military Men

One of the first men around Stevenson to receive an appointment to the Naval Academy was Alton Legg who served in the United States Navy until retirement. Alton was a captain in the U. S. Navy when he retired in the middle 1950's and returned to Stevenson to live. His wife, Bernice, taught at Stevenson High School until the spring of 1968 at which time she retired from the teaching profession.

Colonel Huntsford Short is another former Stevenson High School pupil who has followed the military as a career.

Colonel Carl F. Rudder is presently serving as Adjutant General at Dobbins Air Force Base in Georgia.

Colonel Walter Russell Bogart, Jr. is now stationed in Washington D. C., having served as a newspaperman in Gadsden, Nashville, and Memphis prior to reenlistment in the service.

Mat and Otto Grider were career navy men who attended school in Stevenson.

Educational Careers

Many graduates of Stevenson High School have trained and served in the field of education. Many have been mentioned in this book. Such people as Joe Tompkins who has served as a coach and teacher in Georgia, and is now an administrator.

Tim Carlton is presently serving as principal of Robert E. Lee High School, Montgomery, Alabama. He is considered one of the outstanding educators of the State of Alabama.

Wilson Gonce has been a superintendent and principal in the State of Alabama. He is presently in Huntsville serving as a principal of one of the Huntsville city schools. He is also considered one of Alabama's top educators.

Neil C. Knox served as a teacher and principal of Bridgeport School in the 1950's. He is now a federal lawyer in Atlanta, Georgia, having been admitted to the bar in Georgia and Alabama.

Doyle Adams, Jean Caperton, Mary Nell Gonce, Andra Lynn Allison, Ann Allison, Cowan Huddleston, Frances Jordan, Mary Tom Willis, Margaret Russell, Jan Brittian, Margaret Brittian, Frances Grider, Frances Hayne, Catherine Phillips, Sue Vaughn, Ernestine Loyd, Mabel Hackworth, Mazy Rudder, Bennie Lee Arnold, Don Timberlake, Ann Pittman, Kitty Pittman, Lena Smith, Sarah Rudder, Mary Rose Hackworth, Helen Phillips, Mildred Hackworth, Ida Meeker, Jack Allison, Don Allison, Joe Tompkins, Maude Bogart, Ernestine Mann, Bill Huddleston, Mary Mann, Sarah Mann, Elizabeth Legg, Virginia Graham, Emma Timberlake, Esther Tate, and many others have joined the teaching ranks, and had received their early training in Stevenson schools.

CHAPTER XIV

BANKS

According to Clyde H. Woodall, Mr. S. S. Broadus organized the first bank in Stevenson in 1901. The name of the bank was the Merchants Bank with Mr. Broadus as President, Mr. P. B. Timberlake, Vice President, and Mr. E. K. Mann, Manager. This opened April 1, 1901 in the building where the post office is now located.

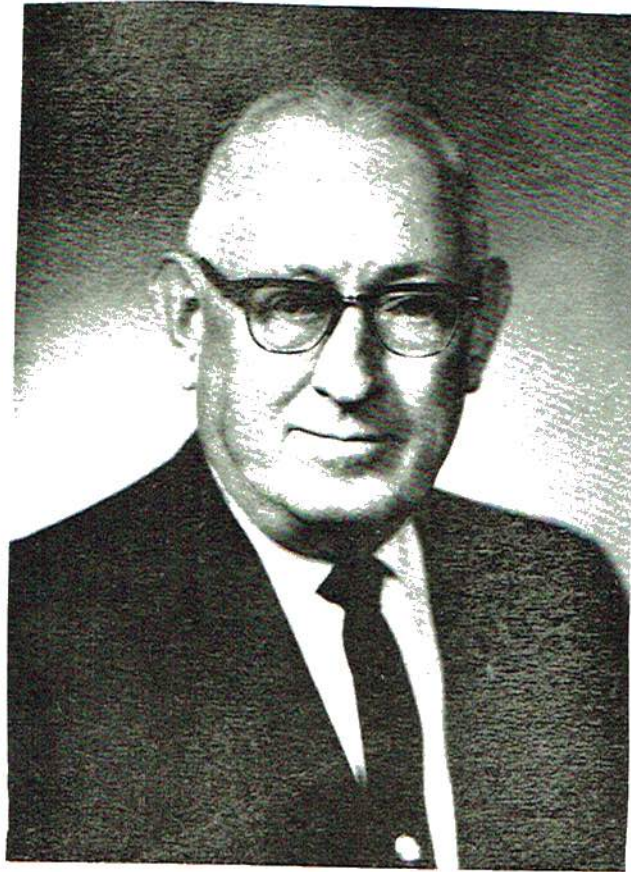
The Bank of Stevenson was organized in 1901 with Mr. W. H. Bogart as president, and N. Charles Alston as cashier. This bank opened March 31, 1901 and was, therefore, the first bank in Stevenson. It was in the building where Dr. E. A. Browder now has his clinic. The Bank of Stevenson closed its doors in 1907 and the Merchants Bank moved into this building. The name was later changed to the Tennessee Valley Bank and was a member of the chain of Tennessee Valley Banks with headquarters in Decatur, Alabama. This branch moved from Stevenson sometime in the 1930's.

The First National Bank of Stevenson was organized in 1910 and opened for business in October 1910. It was located in the building which the City Hall now occupies. W. J. Talley was the first president, P. H. Woodall, vice president, J. Z. Schultz, cashier, and Paul G. Schultz, assistant cashier. The president of the bank until 1923 was Mr. Talley. Mr. J. Z. Schultz was elected president in 1923 and served until his death, March 20, 1933. Paul G. Schultz was cashier until 1928. Mr. G. H. McMahan was elected president in May 1933, and acted in this capacity until December 26, 1946. Walter R. Bogart was elected president in January 1947, and remained in this position until January 10, 1961. He then became chairman of the board until his death in May 1963. C. H. Woodall was elected cashier in May 1928, and held this position until January 10, 1961, at which time he was elected president. Bunn W. Lovelady and Jane Timberlake became cashiers at this time.

The First National Bank of Stevenson occupied its original building until March 1954 when they moved to their new building. The old building was later sold to the town of Stevenson.

The Sand Mountain Branch of the First National Bank of Stevenson was built at Higdon, Alabama at the intersection of Highway 71 and 73, and opened for business in August 1967. Mr. James A. Wade was manager. This branch is enjoying a thriving business. The First National Bank was opened with a capital stock of \$25,000.00 and surplus of \$25,000.00. It now has a capital of \$100,000.00, a surplus of \$100,000.00, undivided profits of \$300,000.00, and total resources of \$6,000,000.00.

President Clyde Woodall has been a very able administrator and key person in the First National Bank for many years. Members of the Board of Directors are W. W. Bogart, Jack Caperton, Lee Bowles, Pickens Russell, Sanders Russell, and Guy Harris.



President Clyde H. Woodall

Stevenson has produced many famous men who have gone to other parts of the world and been successful businessmen. The banking business has produced many famous people. Raymond Austin began his career in Stevenson, and is now an official of the Hamilton National Bank, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ingold Timberlake and Charles Edward Timberlake of Decatur worked for the State National Bank of Decatur, Alabama, and the Stevenson Tennessee Valley Bank. Lonnie Howard worked in the Gurley and Huntsville Banks.

Some of the people that have been employed at the First National Bank of Stevenson are Bunn Lovelady, Bobby Powell, Doyle Stewart, Billy Vinson, J. D. Sharder, Betty Ruth Armstrong, Shirley Hargraves, Jane Timberlake, Mary Elizabeth Talley, Ruth Smith, Josephine Knox, Foster Ballard, Carolyn Harris, May Wyatt McCary, Paul Shultz, and Robert Graham, Jr.

Luther B. Smith is the present cashier of the First National Bank of Centerville, Tennessee. He is an alumni and former coach of the Stevenson High

School. Mr. Smith is pictured below.



CHAPTER XV

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Prior to 1900, only small factories were built in Stevenson. Pictured below is one of the leading outlets for Peters Shoes. According to Mrs. C. V. Rudder, who presented this picture, J. F. Rudder is standing in the right side of the doorway, Mr. Jim Jacoway, standing in the doorway, A. B. "Bo" Jacoway standing on the steps, and an unidentified person.



The first industry in the form of a factory to come to Stevenson was a Butter Dish Factory in 1900. The Broadus Cotton Mills were also built in 1900. In 1903 a hub factory was built in Stevenson which was operated for eight years by T. C. Campbell and Paul Campbell.

The Butter Dish Factory was located just across the street from the present Avondale Mills.

Prior to World War I, from 1908 to the latter 1930's, Mitchell Mills, a lumber concern owned by B. F. Mitchell, was one of the most enterprising industries in the Stevenson area.

During the early 1920's the Chichamauga Cedar Company was established. Mr. J. E. Dennison owned and operated this mill which was built just across the railroad from the downtown, or main street, of Stevenson. J. E. Dennison operated this mill until 1945 when P. D. Armstrong purchased the company. The

Chichamauga Cedar Company was then made into a corporation. P. D. Armstrong, Alice Armstrong, and Katherine Armstrong formed the corporation. This industry furnished employment for many people in and around Stevenson for years. In 1963, the Chichamauga Cedar Company was sold to a larger corporation; however, Katherine Armstrong still owns most of the corporation.

In addition to working with cedar, hardwood flooring has been produced through the years. This mill has proven to be a good source of employment for the people of the community. Many timber cutters were employed in the mountains in addition to the ones at the flooring and cedar mills.

According to Frank Timberlake, in 1905 S. S. Broadus came to Stevenson from Decatur, Alabama to establish a cotton mill. In 1905 the S. S. Broadus Cotton Mills were built. S.S. Broadus served as president of the company, and Phil Timberlake was vice president. This mill continued to operate as the S. S. Broadus Cotton Mill until 1920 when Mr. Broadus sold the cotton mill to a group of stockholders for about \$110,000.00. Phil Timberlake bought 49% of the stock and had the controlling interest. W. J. Talley, W. H. Bogart, E. K. Mann, Jim Armstrong and others owned stock in the mill. E. K. Mann was secretary-treasurer of the company. Most of the men were on the Board of Control. The name was changed from the S. S. Broadus Cotton Mill to the Stevenson Cotton Mill. This mill continued to operate as the Stevenson Cotton Mill until about 1929 when it was purchased by Avondale Mills.

Bragg Comer was one of the first superintendents of the Stevenson Mill. He was followed by Lee Bowles who faithfully served as superintendent until 1966. During the thirty seven years that Mr. Bowles was acting in this capacity, the mill enjoyed much success. In 1966 Lee Bowles retired and Robert R. Sanders replaced him.

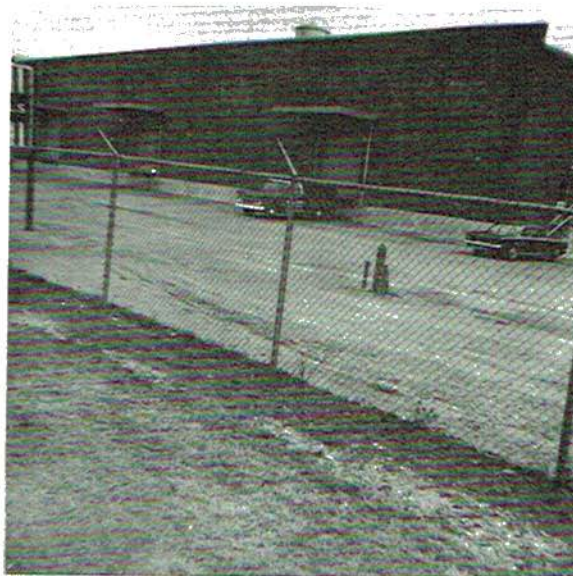
The present Avondale Mills consists of five mills. The completion of the additional mills was as follows: Grace Mill in 1962, Dye House Mill 1964, High Jackson Mill 1965, and the Heat Set Mill in 1966. This information was secured from J. Craig Smith, president of Avondale Mills.

Grace Mill was named for Grace Bowles who is the wife of Lee Bowles, manager for many years.

The breakdown of the management and administration is as follows:

<u>MILL NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
S. S. Broadus	1905	S. S. Broadus	P. B. Timberlake
Stevenson Cotton Mill	1920	P. B. Timberlake	P. B. Timberlake
Avondale Mills	1929	Donald Comer	B. B. Comer, III
Avondale Mills		J. Craig Smith	R. L. Bowles
Avondale Mills		J. Craig Smith	R. R. Sanders, Jr.
		R. B. Betts, General Manager	

The picture below is of the front of the new Grace Mill completed in 1962 and dedicated at a ceremony in which the newly elected Alabama Governor George C. Wallace gave the keynote address. Ben Lee is the present manager and Robert R. Sanders the superintendent.



In the 1920's a hosiery mill was built in Stevenson. Mr. E. O. Mann was the manager of this mill. According to Frank Timberlake, this company manufactured hosiery for Sears, Roebuck and Company. This mill was in operation less than ten years.

The Talley Mines operated in the 1920's in the mountains on W. J. Talley's property near Stevenson. A portion of these mines was leased to the Baugh Mining Company in the 1930's.

The Tennessee Coal Company operated a portion of this same chain of mountains and dug and shipped much coal from this same vein. Will Guess operated a coal mine in McMahan's Cove, near Stevenson. Jim McMahan also operated a mine in McMahan's Cove.

Coal from Farco Strip Mines is shipped up the Tennessee River on barges to Widow Creek Steam Plant. The present mines on Sand Mountain are serving as a source of income for people of this area. These mines are located near Caperton's Gap. These rich coal fields were a contributing factor in the location of the Widow Creek Steam Plant near Stevenson.

Construction of Widow Bar Dam

According to W. T. Nichols, the United States Corps of Engineers with the district office at Chattanooga, Tennessee, began construction of Widow Bar Dam on the Tennessee River near Stevenson, Alabama on June 15, 1920. It was

completed August 31, 1925. Mr. Nichols was lockmaster of Wilson Dam for twenty-five years.

W. T. Nichols was employed as master mechanic during this period. Bridgeport, Alabama was used as the headquarters and mailing address for the first eight months of this period; but was changed to Stevenson, Alabama which was about a mile nearer to the dam site.

Widow Bar Dam was a navigation dam backing water to Hale's Bar Dam, making the river navigable for commercial boats.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was organized in 1933 for the purpose of building high dams on the river for both navigation storage and water power. In 1935 Guntersville Dam was completed and backed water up into Hale's Bar Dam---no longer needed so it was dismantled in 1935. At a later date, Widow Creek Steam Plant was built on the same site. The concrete lock walls are still used by the steam plant.

Many marriages resulted from the influx of eligible young men who came to work in the construction of the dam. W. T. Nichols married Elizabeth Knox as a result of this project. Many other marriages, too numerous to mention, occurred during this period of time.

Widow Creek Steam Plant

Mr. C. H. Bramlett, Jr. was instrumental in the author securing the services of Mr. Gilbert Stewart, Jr., Assistant Director of Information for the TVA. According to Mr. Stewart, the history of the Widow Creek Steam Plant is as follows:

The Widow Creek Steam Plant is the third steam engine electric project built by TVA. The first, Watts Bar, was built as a part of TVA's first emergency program of the World War II period and began commercial operation in February 1942. The second, Johnsonville, began a series of seven large steam electric generating plants constructed between 1949 and 1959, a building program which resulted mainly from increased power demands of the Atomic Energy Commission, Arnold Engineering Development Center, and other federal defense agencies in the region. Additional electrical energy was required by the expanding programs of private industry and the increased needs of commercial and domestic consumers in TVA's service area.

The Widow Creek plant was originally planned as a necessary system addition to reduce the transmission of power from the Eastern area of the TVA region to the Chattanooga area by supplying the anticipated demands of the Chattanooga area. The intervention of the conflict in Korea on June 25, 1950 increased the power demands enormously and accelerated the construction schedules of this and other new generating facilities. The first Widow Creek unit was placed in commercial operation July 1, 1952. Five units with 125,000 kilowatt capability each were added between that date and July 17, 1954. Two additional units, numbers 7 and 8, each having a capacity and capability of 500,000 kilowatts,

were authorized for the Widow Creek Steam Plant on November 15, 1957 and October 6, 1960 respectively. Construction of Unit 7 began March 3, 1958, and commercial operation was attained February 1, 1961. Unit 8 construction started October 12, 1960 and was placed in commercial operation February 7, 1965.

The following picture, presented by Mrs. Jo John Williams, Jr., is of the 1952 commercial unit operated by the TVA at Widow Creek. The plant has served as a source of employment for many people in Stevenson, Bridgeport, South Pittsburg, Jasper, Scottsboro, and Chattanooga.



Russell Stables

The Russell Stables is one of the most noted training tracks for race horses in the United States. I. P. Russell, Sr. established a training track in the early 1900's. His sons, Sanders and Pickens, Jr., have continued the harness racing operation.

Sanders has won more major races than any jockey or any other major active driver today. Many famous horses have been trained under his supervision. His two sons, Henry and Walter, have raced and helped with the training. Walter serves as a judge during the racing season and is a college professor during the off season.

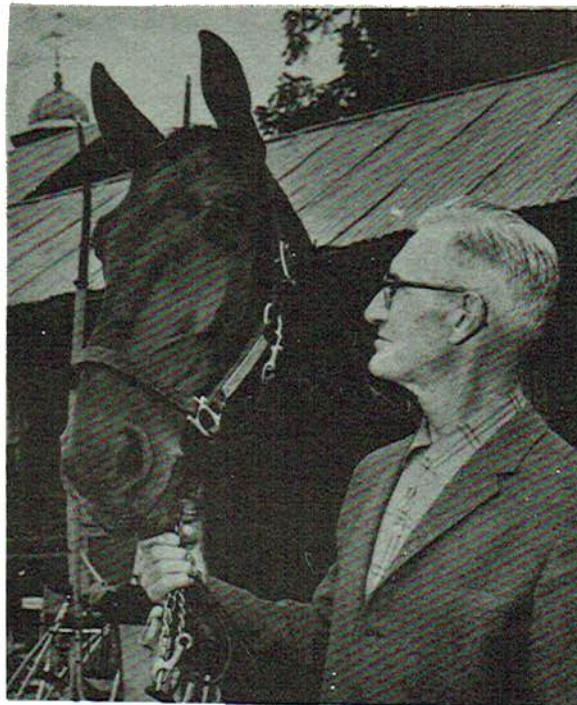
Sanders and his wife, Evelyne, leave Stevenson for the races every year going north to such states as New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio where they stay for eight or nine months each year.

Pickens Russell manages to get to the races and drive several times during the season. Harold Russell Phillips, a grandson of I. P. Russell and nephew of

Sanders Russell, also serves as driver and helps in the training program.

Junior Matthews has been one of the most dependable men in the Russell Stables operation. He has performed about all of the duties from shoeing the horses to actually driving in the races. Much of the success that the Russell Stables have enjoyed can be traced to some of Junior's work.

Sanders Russell runs a well organized operation on the outskirts of Stevenson. Winning races has become a way of life for Sanders. One of the most famous race horses, known as "The Viking", appeared at the Russell Stables in the early 1960's. The horse was one of the few in the history of racing to qualify for the triple crown in the same year. The picture below shows "The Viking" with his trainer and driver, Sanders Russell. This horse won about \$200,000.00 in purses in one racing season. The citizens of Stevenson and all of the people at Russell Stables can be justly proud of Sanders Russell and "The Viking".



Loyd's Dairy and Feed Mill

Cecil C. Loyd was born on November 19, 1897 in the Mt. Carmel Community of Jackson County near Stevenson. Little did his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Loyd, realize that he would some day mastermind a dairy industry in Stevenson.

Cecil married Esther Williams in 1923. He had already started a small dairy on his father's farm near Caperton's Ferry, which is now owned by his brother, Earnest Loyd. He began delivery in a buggy.

Cecil Loyd purchased 360 acres of land in 1927 which was located one mile southeast of Stevenson, and is the present location of Loyd's Dairy. Additional plots of land have been added since that time.

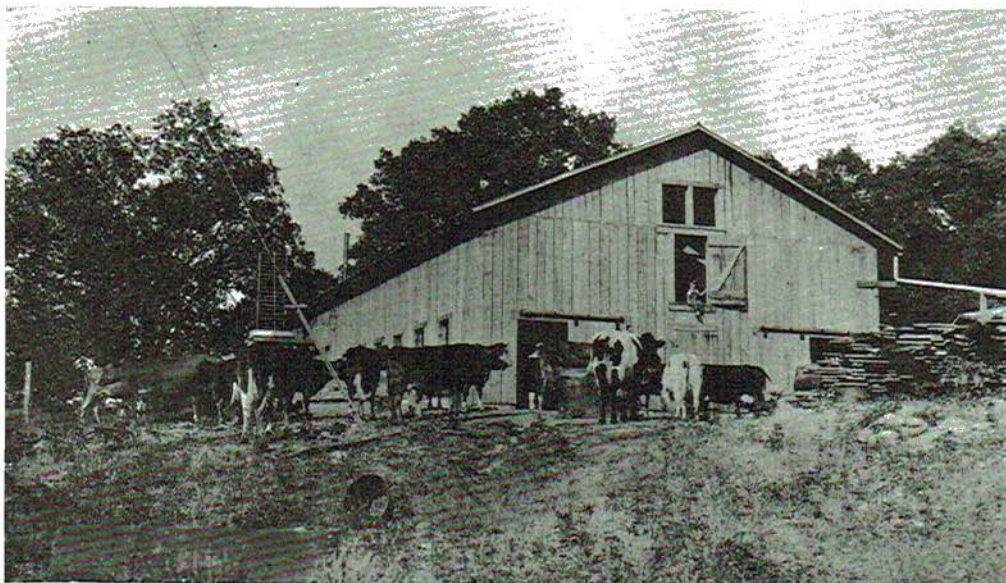
Dowell "Dash" Shirley was one of the early employees of C. C. Loyd and helped to get the dairy industry started. Bill Crabtree helped for several years. John Smith, Wheeler Durham, and Milt Brooks were some of the early pioneers who helped to promote the dairy industry. These men were followed by William Owens, Paul Rowe, Bud Rowe, Claude Long, and others.

After the death of C. C. Loyd in the early 1950's, C. C. Loyd, Jr., Charles Bo, Bill Jack and Sandy Jean, his four children, set up a corporation which included Loyd's Feed Mill which was built in the late 1950's. The farm, feed mill, and dairy have supplied employment to many people of the Stevenson community. C. C. Loyd, Jr. is the manager of the feed mill, Charles Loyd manages the dairy, and Bill Jack Loyd manages the farm.

The following picture was presented by Mrs. C. C. Loyd, Sr. It was taken in 1938 and is of Bill Jack Loyd standing in front of a barn which was located on the farm which C. C. Loyd, Sr. purchased from C. A. Simpson in 1927.



The pictured below shows the modern barn which is now located on the Loyd farm. This barn was built by C. C. Loyd, Sr. The dairy has modern equipment for bottling milk and is one of the leading dairies in north Alabama. Several trucks leave this barn every morning on the milk route. This has grown into a big business.



Rudder Funeral Home

According to Frank Timberlake, caskets or coffins were sold in the back of Mr. Vaught's store where the present Lacy's Five and Ten Cent Store is located. Ellis and Vaught were some of the early undertakers. J. F. Rudder became a partner of Ben Ellis upon the death of Vaught. Ellis and Rudder then moved the location to the Masonic Building. These men had a horse-drawn hearse. Then in the late 1920's or early 1930's an ambulance was purchased.

Colonel Ben Ellis, as everyone called him, died in the early 1930's. J. F. Rudder changed the name to Rudder Funeral Home. In 1935 J. F. Rudder's son, A. G. Rudder, became a partner in the business. J. F. Rudder retired in 1945. Jimmy J. Jones became a partner in 1948. A. G. Rudder operated the business until the early 1950's when his son, John E. Rudder, became a partner. In August of 1967, A. G. "Dinky" Rudder passed away. He was one of the best loved men in Jackson County. The business is now operated by John R. Rudder. A. G. "Dinky" Rudder converted the C. A. Simpson home into a funeral home in 1956.

The picture below of the Rudder Funeral Home was presented by Mrs. A. G. Rudder. According to her information, this was first known as the Coffey Place. Mrs. Mary Anna Johnson Rudder, wife of A. G. Rudder, is a great grand-daughter of John R. Coffey, who built this house. The three people in the picture are Mabel Talley Simpson, William (Bill) T. Simpson (on the roof), and a Coffey cousin from Florence, Alabama.



Stevenson Ice Company

In the late 1920's Horton McMahan built an ice plant in Stevenson on Main Street. Prior to this time, Stevenson had two small ice storage place: one on the edge of the railroad tracks near the Oscar Jones property, and the other across the street from the present location of Bogart's Grocery Store, near the city scales.

The ice plant enjoyed many years of prosperity. It ran twenty-four hours a day. Frank "Speaker" Allison and George Foshee, Sr. were the first men to operate the ice plant. George Foshee worked until retirement as the manager and operator of this establishment. In the 1940's William "Bill" Lindsay purchased the ice plant. Electric refrigeration proved to be too much for the ice plant, and in 1962 was forced to close its doors. Pictured below is the building where the plant operated.



Rural Electrification Administration

The R. E. A. has served to bring new industry into Stevenson and the Tennessee Valley. The local R. E. A. industry is the North Alabama Electric Cooperative which is located near Crow Creek on Highway 72.

North Alabama Electric Cooperative

The North Alabama Electric Cooperative was organized on July 19, 1940. Jack Lillard was one of the first managers of this organization. Kyle Smith has served in this capacity for several years. Miles of rural lines have been developed since 1940. Every farm house has electricity today. C. C. Loyd, Sr. and C. C. Loyd, Jr. have served as Stevenson's representatives to the board since it was organized. North Alabama Electric Cooperative is pictured below.



Stevenson Gin Company

Stevenson Gin Company has served the farms of the community well for many years. The Gin is owned by Wallace Rudder and R. D. Rudder. The following picture is of R. D. Rudder's home. The picture was presented by Russell Thomas. This home was built in 1886 by John A. Cargile. Mr. Cargile was one of the smartest men of his day. He could quote most of the Bible from memory. This home is known as the J. B. Huddleston home. He was the father-in-law of R. D. Rudder.



Some of the former owners of the Stevenson Gin Company are: P. D. Armstrong, Ed Rudder, E. K. Mann, Frank Johnson, Frank Allison, J. F. Rudder, Walter Allison, and Ike Wimberley.

The picture below, presented by Mrs. A. G. Rudder, is of an old cotton gin of the 1920's. The small boy seated on the bale of cotton is A. G. (Dinky) Rudder, and his father, J. F. Rudder, is standing on the far left. A. L. Knox, Sr. is seated on a bale of cotton at the bottom right. Claude Timberlake is also in this picture. The other men are unidentified.



Information Center

The nearest thing to a Legislative Reference Service or an Information Bureau was conducted for years in J. Horton McMahan's Store. Information was sought on everything from legal to religious matters.

Since Stevenson had no courthouse, it was not profitable for an attorney to set up a practice. Men like Gus McMahan, E. K. Mann, Tom Parks, J. H. McMahan, William (Corndock) Sanders, and Jimmy Jones were usually around to advise citizens on many questions concerning legal matters and etc. Establishing records for birth certificates was a complicated procedure and a very popular one prior to World War II.

William (Corndock) Sanders was a very intelligent man who was well read on the law, and usually advised people on matters of a legal nature. His advice proved to be very useful and constructive in nearly every instance.

Merchants and Business Places

Many of the pioneer merchants of Stevenson have been mentioned in previous chapters of this book.

From the standpoint of seniority, William (Bill) Lindsay has operated a business on the main street longer than any of the present merchants. Bill Lindsay came to Stevenson in 1924 and opened a barber shop.

Lee Garner operates Stevenson Hardware in the Pat Woodall Building, previously owned by Robert Glover.

The Jackson County Farm Supply is owned and operated by Mrs. E. L. Knox, Jr. and Laster Willis.

Doctor Kenneth Browder has served faithfully as the town dentist since the retirement of Doctor G. L. Austin. He has two able assistants in this field, Maxine Smith and Ernestine Roberts.

The town is blessed with two medical doctors. Doctor Ernest Browder and Doctor J. E. Hall. Doctor Browder came to Stevenson in 1938. He won a place in the hearts of the people of Stevenson from the start. He has dedicated his life to serving the people of Stevenson. He has delivered over four thousand babies in the community. Most of these were delivered in the homes of parents, under adverse conditions, prior to the construction of the North Jackson Hospital. Doctor Browder was forced to walk many times, go by boat, or ride horseback to relieve suffering in remote areas.

Doctor Hall is also making his impact on Stevenson. He serves the people daily, and works long hours to relieve suffering.

John Wayne Thompson purchased the Stevenson Drug Company after World War II and was the only druggist in Stevenson, until Foster Guess, Jr. established a business in 1966. Jack Bible was owner of the Stevenson Drug Company for many years and served the people well.

Allison's Cash Market is owned and operated by George R. Allison, Sr. and his son, Edwin D. Allison. The Bargain Store and Lay's Store are operated by private companies. Billy Hall owns Hall Insurance Company. Mrs. James T. Jones owns and operates Jones' Hardware. Clyde Hartselle has a barber shop. Buck Edwards operates the auto parts place. Claudia Timberlake has a beauty shop on the main street in the Masonic Building. Jimmy Willis owns and operates Willis Grocery. The Rich Grocery is owned and operated by Floyd Rich. Marie Henninger operates the Henninger Filling Station. Cam Willis is the Standard Oil distributor. Barney Hale owns Hale Cleaners on Main Street. Mrs. Lorraine Kirk operates a beauty shop in the McMahan Building. Jane's Grocery is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. George Foshee, Jr.

J. C. Hipp and Audrey Thomas operate restaurants on the outskirts of Stevenson. Cecil Wells operates a filling station on the edge of town. Eugene Henninger owns and operates Henninger Building Supply and serves the building needs of the community. Bunn Lovelady has been a prominent figure in business and industry in Stevenson. Bunn is presently serving as cashier of the First National Bank. Until recently he operated the Lovelady Insurance, and was a partner with Robert Glover in an automobile business. Guy Harris has operated several businesses, including a television shop, in and around Stevenson. He is now involved in the contracting business. Holbert (Barney) Hale owns and operates a trailer court. He has owned and operated a grocery store, novelty store, and cleaners in Stevenson.

Stevenson is proud of the merchants and stores who have served the customers and people of the community over the years.

William W. Bogart

William W. Bogart has made a great contribution to the business life of Stevenson. Bill began business in Stevenson during the heart of the depression in 1932 with a very small stock of merchandise. He began with a small stock of groceries, then his business grew into a general store. He started selling furniture upstairs over his present grocery store. He then established a dry goods store. The furniture business grew until he was forced to move into another building. He set up a furniture store with L. L. Hayne in charge. Bill contributes much of the success of his business ventures to his father, Charley, who worked in the store for many years, and had many friends and customers in the Stevenson community. William W. Bogart has three stores on the main street today. He and John D. Smith own and operate Bogart's Grocery. W. W. Bogart, Ruth Timberlake, and Mary Alred own and operate Bogart's Dry Goods. W. W. Bogart owns and operates Bogart's Furniture Store jointly with Mrs. Leo Smith.

The following picture is of Bill Bogart and his wife, Polly.



Salesmen

Stevenson has produced many famous salesmen who have gone out into the world proving that they can sell merchandise.

Harry Cowan served as a salesman for one of the largest electrical firms in Nashville, Tennessee for many years.

W. P. Guess has been a salesman for forty-five years. He has traveled for Musgraves Pencil Company, National Pencil Company, and Moon Pencil Company, in addition to selling other lines of office supplies. Mr. Guess has been on the road longer than most of the salesmen traveling today.

Avery (Duck) Allison is another example of a good salesman born and educated in Stevenson. He started trading when a boy in school. He now owns and operates Allison Candy Company at Paint Rock, Alabama. His brother, Hub, started in a similar manner and now operates his own candy company.

Carmen (Chick) Russell who owns and operates the Star Market, Huntsville, Alabama is another salesman who began in Stevenson. Will (Hop) McMahan was a traveling salesman for many years. Lee Grider traveled for Swift and Company for a long time. George Grimmitt is now a salesman for Sears, Roebuck and Company in California.

Johnny Lindsay is another example of a person who has proven that he is an executive as well as a salesman by the advancements that he has made in the industrial world with Sears. Jack Parks also works for Sears, Roebuck and Company selling All-State Insurance.

George R. Allison, Jr. is another Stevenson citizen who has proven himself as a salesman in the business world. George (Corky) Allison now lives in Memphis, Tennessee and serves as district manager for the Southeastern states promoting the sale of medical supplies.

Richard (Dick) H. Smith was a very successful advertising salesman until his death two years ago. William Mann was salesman for an electrical firm for many years. Carl Allen is a salesman for Life of Georgia Insurance Company.

Executives

Stevenson has produced many executives of big business and industry. Leslie Woodall, brother of Clyde Woodall, was president of the Southern Railroad for many years.

Walter T. Rudder is now vice president of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. He has made a great advancement since working with this company. William Hambley is another example of a person who has displayed his ability as an executive since being with Allis Chalmers, and has had many promotions.

Jimmy Rudder is another Stevenson boy who has made his impact upon the business world. Jimmy is now president of Bennett's Jewelry Company, Atlanta, Georgia. He is past president of the American Jewelers Association.

David Cargile has been very successful in politics as he has served as tax collector for three terms and presently holds this office.

Maclin Grider, an Avondale Scholarship winner, is now employed in Barnwell, South Carolina as a textile executive. Dunk Hale, also a former Avondale Scholarship winner, is an executive in a Decatur plant.

Vivian Timberlake Mock is serving at the present time as vice president of Mock Electronics Corporation of Decatur, Huntsville, and Sheffield, Alabama.

David Frank Smith is another Stevenson boy who has made good in industry. David graduated from Stevenson High School in 1952. He finished at Auburn University in 1956 with a B. S. degree in textiles. After graduating from Auburn David did graduate work in chemistry at the University of Chattanooga. He was superintendent of the dyeing industry for Burlington Industries Woolen Division, Cleveland, Tennessee for six years. He is serving as president of Permna-Color Corporation, Cleveland, Tennessee at the present time. This is a textile dyeing and finishing plant. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John David Smith of Stevenson. His father is a well-known merchant in Stevenson.

Woodrow Smith, owner and manager of Southland Studio, Chattanooga, Tennessee, is another example of a successful Stevenson High School boy.

Jimmy Johnson is an executive and salesman for Balfour Ring Company of Birmingham, Alabama.

Edwin Davis Allison is one of the most successful merchants in Stevenson today. After serving in World War II he returned to Stevenson to enter the grocery business with his father, George R. Allison, Sr. This business has expanded under his leadership. He is one of the most respected businessmen in Stevenson. He and his father are located in the Kennan Timberlake Building. Edwin has a pleasing personality. His honesty and sincerity in dealing with each customer is much of the key to his success.

CHAPTER XVI

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Social Gatherings

Through the years Stevenson has had many social gatherings. The early settlers were by no means selfish. Many times the nearest neighbors often lived quite a distance away. They were fond of social gatherings and amusements; therefore, they traveled many miles to attend one. Families had quilting bees, log-rollings, wood-choppings, square dances, and turkey shoots as forms of recreation.

The Masons were probably the first organized group in and around Stevenson. This organization moved from Belefonte around the turn of the century, and was known as Boliver Lodge.

The History of the Alice Sanders Book Club

The Alice Sanders Book Club was probably the first womens organization in Stevenson. The following letter to Mrs. R. H. Smith from Mrs. Jim Armstrong explains this:

In the fall of 1904 Mrs. W. W. Sanders, after visiting and telephoning different ones in town about organizing a Book Club patterned after one she had belonged to in Chattanooga, finally got together on October 6th in the meeting for organization which was held at the home of Mrs. W. J. Legg. The usual procedure for a thing of that nature was gone through: constitution, by-laws, committees, and so on. I think dues at that time were twenty-five cents per member per year. At that time instead of each person ordering her own book, the list of books was given to one person who went to Chattanooga and purchased them at Payne's Book Store. She was allowed a discount on the books, then the whole amount was divided by the number of members and each paid the same price for their book. The first year there were only twenty-five members, but after that we had twenty-six members for years. This ran through the whole year, meeting every two weeks without any vacation period.

Back in those days when methods of travel were not what they are today, we welcomed the idea of a fixed day of recreation, for that is what the Club has been through all its years of existence - recreation and relaxation. We didn't have all the magazines, papers and other reading matter that is circulating today. I remember that Miss Annie Russell had a bountiful supply of items at all times from the Youth's Companion. We stuck to the current events and in a great measure discussed them. The books were always discussed even if it had to be done during refreshments. I believe that all benefited by the discussion method and learned a lot that broadened our lives. During our first years we usually sent flowers if any member of the Club had a death in the family, but that was finally discontinued. Also we used to have memorial services when any member left us, but this proved to be so sad and depressing we were requested not to have them any more.

We have been urged at different times to join the Federated Clubs, but each time it was voted down because all of the meetings would have to fit in with their way, instead of our being free to do as we pleased.

I don't mean to say by "recreation and relaxation" that we didn't do some worthwhile things, for we did. For instance, during World War I, we supported a French war orphan for several years. During the war years when Red Cross work was so necessary and took so much time, we almost disbanded to be made into a Red Cross Auxiliary, but after much consideration, it was finally voted to continue the Book Club. Then at times the Club bought books for needy school children, and on occasion furnished money to pay for lunches at schools and would send clothing also. At one time we sponsored the library which was having such a struggle to exist. In fact, other organizations entered in this support with the Book Club, but some way we just couldn't keep it going and finally had to give it up entirely.

Also during those years of "wheatless days" and "meatless days", we decided we would deny ourselves the pleasure of the delicious refreshments we usually had served. As I usually had the first or second meeting of the year, it came to me to be the first to do without refreshments, which I did. I composed a poem contest to let the ladies know what I would have had, and they seemed to enjoy it. When we had gotten through with the contest, my daughter came along behind me and passed out some other poetry (the preparation of which was all unknown to me) advocating refreshments, because what we had couldn't be sent to the boys overseas anyway, she said, and wouldn't do them a bit of good, and everybody's shelves were filled with all sorts of good things to eat. Well, the consequence was I was the only one to do without refreshments until we went to Mrs. Sanders' meeting. She lived in the country at that time and had an abundance of delicious peaches, which she served us bountifully.

Like Mrs. Chrissie Robinson said of her meeting and items about her trip to Williamsburg, Virginia recently, "I'm afraid you will hear a good deal of "I" before this is finished. Most of the happenings are things that have stuck in my memory some way or somehow.

Back in those first years with our young families coming on, we always had to make arrangements about having the children looked after while we were away. "Miss" Ida Timberlake's husband was always ready to take care of the children of the neighborhood and sometimes mine were included. Right here, I would like to say we made it a custom NOT to talk about our children at the Book Club. I guess because if mothers got to talking about their children, they wouldn't talk about much else - - wise decision, I'd say.

There was one outstanding occasion, or rather three occasions, when the Book Clubs of Bridgeport, South Pittsburg, and Stevenson each entertained the other two in their respective towns. This was a very nice gesture, but a big job for the Club which was entertaining because they all had about as big a membership as we did. This was only done the one year.

One very nice meeting we had was when Mrs. Denison entertained us in Chattanooga after she moved there. She had such an interesting meeting with

some of the good singers of the city to sing for us. We had a beautiful trip as well as an enjoyable afternoon.

Another outstanding trip was to the top of Sand Mountain. We were entertained by Mrs. Idalene Reid in her summer home situated on a bluff overlooking our valley. You will not be able to find a finer view anywhere than from her place, and she was such a gracious hostess, though not a member. This was appreciated very much by the Club.

I think the most recent and different trip was given the Club by Mrs. Oren Reed when she took the members out to the Steam Plant. Mr. Reed conducted the group through the plant, explaining all its intricacies which was so interesting and very informative.

One meeting that left its impression was with Mr. I. P. Russell, Sr.. The Club member's husbands were also invited. There were seats arranged at the race track where we all sat to watch the races, after which we were served refreshments which consisted of peanuts, iced drinks, sandwiches and popcycles. Everyone enjoyed this different meeting very, very much.

Mrs. Knox was another who had unique meetings and in most instances original ideas. Once, after she had made a trip to Arizona, she arranged chairs on each side of an aisle as seats in a train. She had two grandsons to be the conductor to collect our tickets, which were given us before hand, and off we started. At the right time, the news butch came through the train handing out refreshments to boost our morale after the long trip. Also she had an auction sale, with packages all wrapped and auctioned 'as is', using "bibbies" or tokens for money. The guests made rash bids since it wasn't their real money they were using. One package selling for \$3.50 went to Miss Annie Russell. As an example of what was in the package, one bag contained one potato. In reading about this meeting in one of the old books which was sent to me to get help for writing this history, what surprised me so was the fact that I had gotten the prize - "a beautiful guest towel, for being the best auctioneer". It brings back pleasant memories of one who gave us so much unusual pleasure.

The name of the Stevenson Book Club was changed to the Alice Sanders Book Club in honor of our founder, who, out of her quiet dignity, endeared herself to all who knew her. Through the years, with ever changing membership and changing of the times in general, new ideas were being adopted. The Club now has such a meaningful collection which is read in unison at each meeting. The programs of current events, or any other thing the hostess wants to do, are still a matter of choice. With all the other organizations and general activities of the community, the membership is less and the meetings are held every three weeks instead of every two weeks, but the Book Club, as most of us call it, has served a good purpose, and I believe all will agree that they have spent many pleasant hours together.

Another new idea which has been included in the entertainment of the Club members is a Christmas party. There is no set place for having this party, but it is held in the home of some member who especially wants to have it. Each member brings an inexpensive gift in Christmas wrapping to be exchanged later

I can't close this without expressing thankfulness that Mrs. W. J. Legg, in whose home we met fifty years ago to organize the Stevenson Club, is still going strong enough to offer her home for the celebration of half a century of many, many pleasurable "get togethers", and we wish for her many more years of active membership.

I know there must be many things I have left out that should have been mentioned, but my memory fails me, and most of our records through the years were burned when Mrs. George Cowan's home burned years ago.

So I'll bow out now and pass the torch on to someone much younger than I to write the history of the next fifty years. May God bless each and everyone of you is my prayer.

'Miss Amanda' Armstrong

The Junior Book Club

The Junior Book Club followed the Alice Sanders Book Club and like this club is very active today. The name has been changed to the Stevenson Book Club.

Woodmen of the World

The National Woodmen of the World began in 1890. Just what year this organization moved into Stevenson is not clear. A. J. Grider probably is responsible for holding this organization together during the depression years. John Kirk and Clyde Foshee have been active in promoting this organization since A. J. Grider's death.

Stevenson Civic Club

Joe Wheeler Smith is the person who is largely responsible for the organization of the Civic Club of Stevenson. Joe contacted men like Terrell W. Houser of Gadsden, Alabama on November 5, 1948. The author has a letter in his possession to Terrell Houser from Joe Smith seeking advice on how to organize into a club. Terrell suggested that Stevenson consider the National Civitan Club; however the club chose to be local.

Joe reported on November 12, 1948 that the Civic Club movement had met with tremendous success. This Club was organized with twenty-eight members. The officers and members of the first Civic Club according to Joe Smith were Rev. James T. Jones, President, Eugene Henninger, Vice President, Joe Wheeler Smith, Secretary, B. R. (Dick) Thomas, Treasurer, Jack Lillard, Critic.

The pioneer members of the Stevenson Civic Club were Harold Phillips, Mack Morris, James A. Mann, R. L. Kilgore, H. L. Hale, Kyle Smith, George R. Allison, Jack Lillard, Sanders Russell, Guy Timberlake, Edwin D. Allison, Ollie Rudder, C. L. Cheek, General Arnold, H. K. Timberlake, David Timberlake, R. L. Bowles, A. G. Rudder, Bunn W. Lovelady, Bill Bogart, Pickens Russell, Dick Thomas, Roy Perkins, James B. Willis, John David Smith, James T. Jones, Bill Lindsay, and Joe W. Smith.

This Club has sponsored some very worthwhile projects. It is still promoting projects annually.

Junior Chamber of Commerce

In the late 1950's and early 1960's the Junior Chamber of Commerce organized in Stevenson. This organization has sponsored many worthwhile projects in the short period of time that it has been active. Unlike the Civic Club, this Club is nationally affiliated.

Other Clubs

Stevenson has formed other clubs from time to time, but most of these were social in nature. Several bridge clubs have been formed over the years.

Clyde Woodall supplied the author with many newspaper clippings, mostly from the Chattanooga Times, but in nearly every article some club or social event is mentioned. The articles presented by Clyde Woodall as copied from the papers are as follows:

Chattanooga Times Special

1. Stevenson, Alabama. October 6 - Miss Elizabeth Legg was hostess to the Junior Book Club on Friday. A questionnaire on "Alabama" had been provided for the entertainment of the guests. An amber chain was given to Miss Adell Varnell as the high score prize. The invited guests were Mesdames Nichols of Florence, Armstrong and Rudder; Misses Willis, Smith, Varnell and Wilson.
2. Mrs. L. P. Huddleston entertained her club Tuesday afternoon, five tables were arranged for the guest and games. Mrs. P. D. Armstrong, Mrs. Frank Timberlake and Mrs. Virginia Graham won the prizes.

The above articles were not dated, but the announced birth of James Hill Allison born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Allison at Newell's Hospital appeared in the same paper.

Other articles presented by Clyde Woodall which were mounted and could not be dismantled appeared as follows:

Chattanooga Times Special

1. Stevenson, Alabama, May 5 - The Study Club has been divided into two sides which have been contending for honors. On Wednesday the losing side entertained the winners with a buffet luncheon at the home of Mrs. P. G. Schultz, the leader of the class. A four-course luncheon was served.
2. Mrs. A. B. Jacoway entertained the Book Club with an April party Thursday afternoon. The invited guests were Mesdames Smith, Walsh and Wilson.
3. Miss Helen Russell was hostess to the Junior Book Club Friday afternoon. Ten members were present and a salad course was served in the afternoon.

4. Mrs. J. A. Woodall entertained her bridge club Tuesday afternoon. Six members were present.

No dates were listed on these papers, but the above articles appeared in the same paper in which Theola Smith played the part of Spring and Mary Lee Hale was crowned "Queen" of the May Day in a school play.

5. Mrs. E. O. Mann was hostess to the Book Club Thursday afternoon. The entertainment was a flower show. Misses Sarah, Ernestine and Mary, daughters of the hostess, served the guests.
6. Mrs. Bunn Hackworth entertained with bridge, Thursday afternoon honoring Mrs. Andrew Schultz. Mrs. E. O. Mann won high prize. Mrs. P. D. Armstrong won low prize. Miss Nancy Hackworth assisted the hostess.
7. Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Mitchell entertained Wednesday honoring Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Schultz of Birmingham.

The above articles were not dated, but an article announcing the wedding of Miss Stella Devers of Stevenson to Hal B. Word appeared in the same paper.

Other organizations that have appeared in these papers are the Tenants Union in the early 1920's.

This was followed by the Ku Klux Klan, but these two organizations were short lived.

The clipping on the following page appeared in the Jackson County Sentinel on July 2, 1936.

Stevenson News Items

Mrs. George Allison was hostess to the Junior High Club last Friday afternoon at her home on Church Street. Contests were enjoyed with the prize going to Mrs. John Faudrich. At the close of the afternoon an ice course was served. Several other than club members enjoyed the afternoon. Mrs. John Faudrich of Belvedere, Tenn. was an out-of-town guest.

Mrs. L. P. Huddleston entertained her bridge club last Friday afternoon at her home. The rooms were brightened with summer flowers where four tables were placed for the game. Mrs. S. M. Elliott won high score club prize and Miss Alice May Shofner received high guest prize. A delicious salad course was served.

Misses Allen Loyd and Polly Wheeler were joint hostesses to a miscellaneous shower last Saturday afternoon at the home of Miss Loyd, honoring Mrs. Irwin Phillips, a recent bride. Contests were enjoyed with Miss Eliza M. Briscoe winning cup prize. About 37 guests enjoyed the afternoon and the honoree received many lovely and useful gifts. A delicious ice course was served.

CRABTREE COX

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cox announce the marriage of their daughter, Kathleen, to Berette Crabtree Sunday, June 28, 1936. The wedding was celebrated at 10:30 o'clock at the home of Rev. Martin in Bridgeport with Rev. Martin officiating in the presence of a few close friends and relatives. After a short wedding trip the young couple will be at home here. Much happiness is wished them by their friends.

Miss Marjory Ann Irwin of Decatur is the guest of her sister Mrs. Cecil Timberlake and Mr. Timberlake.

Miss Reba Wynn has returned to her home in Shelbyville after visiting relatives here.

Lt. Alston Legg left this week for Annapolis where he will be an instructor. He has been spending his vacation with his mother, Mrs. W. J. Legg.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Timberlake have returned from a two weeks vacation in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Mann, Jr. and children of Knoxville were guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Mann last week.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Tally and W. J. Tally are spending the summer with their mother, Mrs. Mary Tally in Cincinnati.

David Cargile left Tuesday for Nashville where he will accept a position.

Miss Nancy Hackworth of Scottsboro was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Huddleston.

Miss Mary Dawson Bogart is visiting her sister Mrs. L. C. Church and Mr. Church in Knoxville.

Jim Thomas of Detroit left Monday for Texas where he will attend the Centennial.

Miss Alice May Shofner has returned to Sarasota, Fla. after spending her vacation here with her father, F. B. Shofner.

Andrew Schultz of Wichita, Kan. is the guest of his sister Mrs. William Bogart and Dr. Bogart.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Timberlake are spending their vacation in Florida.

Misses Letty and Mary Graham, Mrs. Gus Campbell and daughter and Mrs. Cecil Cagle of Clovis, New Mexico are visiting relatives here.

Anderson Austin and William Simpson left last week for Wylie, Ga. where they will be instructors at Camp Dixie.

Mrs. John Cox of Tuscumbia is visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wimberley of Oklahoma City, Okla. were guests of relatives last week. They left Monday but will attend the Texas Centennial before returning home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ragan of Nashville were guest of Dr. and Mrs. G. L. Austin last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Wimberley of Scottsboro were guest of relatives Sunday.

Mrs. L. P. Huddleston and Bill Newman Huddleston spent last Thursday in Fayetteville, Tenn. as guests of relatives.

Mrs. Horton Bell spent Monday in Chattanooga.

Miss Mabel Hackworth has returned from a visit with relatives in Huntsville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Dennison left Monday for a two weeks vacation in Havana, Cuba.

Mrs. Sam McMahan of Sheffield was guest of relatives last week-end.

CHAPTER XVII

HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY NEGRO CITIZENS

The Negro population, which consists of an estimated ten percent of the total population, has made great contributions to the history of Stevenson.

The first Negro appeared on the scene when slavery was introduced in this part of the country. Many slaves were brought into the community by their master as they visited the slave markets in the East, and at the seaport towns. The usual price ranged from \$600.00 to \$1200.00 for a young negro man. Most of the farmers had two to five slaves, and the largest planters had ten to twenty.

The author is not old enough to recall any stories first hand, but as a young lad he remembers hearing a Negro man named Andy Talley tell many interesting stories. Andy would take us back to the plantation scene with his stories. At the end of the day we would hear tales of the amusements which were called the frolics. This consisted of music, dancing, and opossum hunting.

If any of the "Old Uncles", as they were called, were too old to work as a farm hand and in the fields, they would shuck corn for the horses or make shoes for the other slaves. The "Old Aunts" who were too old to work on the farm would wait on the Misses and supervise the cooking in the "quarters". Everyone had to stay busy. This was slavery in the South prior to 1861.

Negroes Freed

Historians tell of the action of the Ku Klux Klan, carpetbaggers, and others who would disguise themselves in robes and hoods after the war between the States. In 1870 so many outrages were committed around Stevenson by men in robes, that a major and a few soldiers were stationed in Stevenson to preserve order. This was short-lived, however, and the two races began to live together in harmony.

By the turn of the century many Negroes owned property consisting of a house and farm. In the early 1920's Tom Young purchased a farm from Ben Rogers which joined the Knox Ranfurlie Farm. Tom was a good neighbor and farmer.

Many other citizens have made their impact on the city and the community. Cam and Ola Rudder ran a grocery store out beyond Avondale Mills for many years. Cam was one of the best carpenters of his day.

J. D. Stevens has made a great contribution to Bogart's Furniture Store serving as radio, television, refrigerator, stove, and deep freeze repairman for many years. His father, Harvey Stevens, manages a farm for W. W. Bogart and has sent his children to college while working for Mr. Bogart.

Charley Porter made a great contribution serving the people of Stevenson while working for A. J. Grider. Mrs. Charley Porter was a school teacher at Drake School for many years. She also served as part-time nursing help.

Lonzie McCain was the only garbage man for years in Stevenson. He would collect the garbage for his hogs. This was a big help to the people before the modern sanitation program began.

George "Fox" Robinson has made his impact on the citizens of Stevenson as he and William Langford were among the first Negro men hired by Avondale Mills. Fox works the night shift, and during the day works at the Knox Brothers farm. He is a very deserving person in every way.

Buster Cole, as he is known in the community, has spent most of his life with Jones' Market and Allison's Market.

George McCurdy and his wife, Betty, owned and operated a farm for many years near Stevenson. George and Betty worked many years for G. H. Caperton.

John and Doll Rice worked as porters at the Stevenson Depot for many years.

The Jessie Bynum family has made their contribution to the business and industrial life of Stevenson. George, L. B., and Shine have worked in many of the industries, including the Steam Plant and the Lumber Mill.

The first athletic scholarship to Jacksonville University was granted to a Negro named Lewis Hutchin in 1968. He scored twenty five touchdowns for Stevenson High School in 1967.

Mandy Porter worked for many years for Mrs. J. L. Armstrong. Prior to her illness she worked for Mr. A. L. Knox, Sr. Emma Langford has worked for Madge Caperton for years.

The family of John Porter has made a great contribution to the development of the history of Stevenson. Johnnie Hopkins is another example of a life of service to helping others. She is working for Maxine Smith at the present. Dilsey Rutledge worked for Mrs. L. P. Huddleston for many years. The Oscar Jones family is remembered for their contribution made while working for others. Elise Sr. worked on the railroad for many years as a porter. Dennis McCain has served as a plumber many years. Headley Smith has made a contribution by serving as a dry cleaner for many years.

Lee Jacoway worked for J. F. Rudder for many years. He served as the driver of the horse-drawn hearse which Ellis and Rudder used at funerals many times. Mrs. Jordon Wellington has worked many hours helping nurse the sick. Will McCurdy has worked on the railroad for years. William Lee Cobb and Rosa Cobb have made a great contribution to the church as they have developed a catering service. The profit from this is donated to the church by William and Rosa to purchase an organ.

Space does not permit the author to name all the people who have made lasting contributions.

CHAPTER XVIII

STEVENSON'S TWENTIETH CENTURY HALL OF FAME

Hundreds of Stevenson citizens have made lasting contributions to the development of the town. It is impossible to recognize all of them. The author had to rely on the available sources to do the necessary research. It is highly possible that some of the events and people have been omitted.

If the author was asked to pick one man for each decade of the first sixty years of the twentieth century, it would be an impossible task. He could do a better job of selecting men who have lived during his lifetime that have made great contributions from the standpoint of service to their fellowman.

The following men should be listed in the author's hall of fame for the contributions which they have made to the Stevenson community: James T. Jones, Dr. Ernest Browder, C. D. Richardson, Dr. William M. Bogart, A. G. Rudder, and John Brown.



James T. Jones



Dr. Ernest Browder

James T. Jones was pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for twenty-seven years, preaching funerals, administering to the sick, taking part in community and civic affairs. He was known nationally for his work with the Red Cross.

Dr. Ernest Browder is noted for his tireless effort in the field of medicine. He has probably done as much to relieve human suffering as any person in America. Many of his accomplishments have been mentioned in this book.



C. D. Richardson



John Brown

C. D. Richardson served as agriculture teacher for Stevenson School for fourteen years. He was a public servant. He would respond to the call of duty anytime that he could be of service to any worthwhile cause in the community.

A. G. Rudder served the community during his lifetime as an undertaker and friend of the people. Many times he buried people for whom he never received pay. He was loved by all the community.

Reverend John Brown serves as pastor of the Edgefield Union Church, but he is probably called upon to conduct more funerals than any other minister in the county.

Prior to 1938 Stevenson was blessed with the services of Dr. William Bogart who was very devoted to the people of Stevenson, practicing medicine day and night.

Dr. Bogart was born in 1876 and died in 1939. He was one of the most intelligent men to live in Stevenson.



Dr. William M. Bogart

The following picture of A. G. (Dinkie) Rudder receiving the Man of the Year Award appeared in The Huntsville Times on Thursday, February 11, 1965.

Page 5—THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES—Thursday, Feb. 11, 1965



Stevenson Man Honored

A. D. (Dinkie) Rudder, Stevenson funeral director, was named Man of the Year by the Stevenson Civic Club Tuesday night at the annual meeting, which was held at the Scottsboro City

Auditorium. From left are Rudder; Dr. George Coleman, who made the presentation speech, and Bob Sanders, president of the club.

(Times Photo)

CHAPTER XIX

RELATED INCIDENTS

During the course of time many incidents have taken place in Stevenson which are related to its history, but are too numerous to be placed in chapters with other materials.

Tragedies

On March 25, 1931 the famous Scottsboro Case began when a freight train had passed through Stevenson with twelve negro men, ten white men and two white women aboard. As the train entered Alabama at Bridgeport, a fight started between the white and Negro hobos. The white hobos jumped from the train at Stevenson, according to witnesses who testified at the trial.

The train dispatcher at Stevenson called the Paint Rock Station and reported the fight. When the train arrived in Paint Rock, nine Negroes were taken off and placed in the Scottsboro jail.

On April 9, 1931, seven of the nine men were convicted of rape. The two white girls from Huntsville who claimed to have been raped were Victoria Price and Ruby Bates. This case was later known nationally as the Scottsboro Case.

The details of the case may be traced if readers wish to do more research by looking at the court records. The author was only concerned with that portion which took place near Stevenson.

* * * *

On March 31, 1932 the Stevenson Community witnessed one of the worst tornadoes in its history. The twister came rushing down into Washington's Cove just south of Stevenson in the Russell Race Track direction toward Fackler. It lifted over the city of Stevenson dropping down again at Penders Hill. It swept all houses on Penders Hill on through the ridges into the Widow's Creek Steam Plant territory and on into the Basket Factory hills near Bridgeport. Many people were killed and many houses destroyed. Thirty-two people were killed in Jackson County, including Mr. & Mrs. George Reeves, Mrs. Jim Shoemaker and Mrs. Frank Robinson. Schools continued to operate.

Tragedies of 1960's

During the 1961-62 school year Charley Beavers was driving the Stevenson School bus on the Fackler route with eighteen students on the bus. As the bus attempted to cross the railroad crossing just north of Fackler, a train engineered by Mr. Edwards hit the bus, killing five students and injuring thirteen.

This incident was a great blow to the entire nation as well as to the people of Jackson County and the Stevenson Community. The story was on all of the national television stations, and the United Press and Associated Press also carried this event.

* * * *

Another great tragedy which occurred in the 1960's was in 1964 when Johnny Daniel Beecher, a Negro serving a rape sentence in Clarke County, escaped from a road working crew just across the Tennessee River near South Coon, and was convicted for raping and killing Martha Jane Chisenall, who lived near Stevenson.

Beecher was convicted in 1964; however the Supreme Court overturned this decision in 1967. He was then indicted again, and at the time of this writing is confined to Kilby Prison.

Early Incidents

Another interesting incident occurred in 1896. P. B. Timberlake was elected as a representative of the State of Alabama to the Alabama State Legislature. He and Virgil Boulden were Jackson County's two representatives in the legislature at this time.

According to Frank Timberlake, who is the son of P. B. Timberlake, the following incident occurred. P. B. Timberlake wrote and introduced a bill in the legislature known as the Bloomer Bill. This bill stated that any woman with a dress six inches above the ankles must wear bloomers when attempting to ride a horse. Side saddles were very popular at this time and all the women of the community used side saddles while riding horseback.

Stevenson has produced many state legislators. Among some of the ones listed in old records are: J. H. Cowan, 1870-1874; James Evans, 1878-1880; J. H. Vaught, 1880-1882; S. H. Glover, 1882-1884; W. H. Bogart, 1884-1886; W. H. Bogart, 1888-1890; T. B. Parks, 1890-1892; J. H. Roach, 1892-1896; P. B. Timberlake, 1896-1898, and others.

The School Bell

One incident was revealed to the author concerning the school bell. The principal of one of the feeder schools was hired by the County Superintendent of Education and told to report to a trustee. The trustee informed him that he kept the school bell on his cow during the summer vacation, but that he would return the bell the first day of school. The bell appeared at the school on the first day of school.

The Great Depression

History records that the stock market crash happened in 1929, but it was really felt in Stevenson in 1932 when the Tennessee Valley Bank closed its doors. Money became hard to get. Unemployment was at an all-time high. Many of the urban people were forced to go back to the farm where they could at least dig a living out of the soil. Labor was available at fifty cents a day. Since very little money was in circulation, the barter system was practiced. Script was used as a substitute for money. Many people joined the soup lines and got on relief programs under the Roosevelt Administration. The Public Works Administration known as the PWA was the first welfare program to appear during the depression. Times were hard. Chickens, butter, and eggs were traded for gasoline, shoes and haircuts.

Johnson Grass

In 1878 Henry Lyda brought Johnson grass seed to the Tennessee Valley. He harvested the grass and used it for hay. According to one of his descendants, Henry Muncey Lyda, his neighbors never forgave him.

1968 Incident

During the time that this book was in the process of being written an unfortunate incident happened in Stevenson. The Mayor's (Cecil Adams) house and Shine Bynum's house was bombed. Fortunately no one was hurt and little damage was done to the property involved.

The citizens of Stevenson were puzzled at this incident. Most people felt that it was uncalled for in every respect because the citizens of Stevenson seem very much in harmony. At the time of this writing there is no trace of the law violator in this case.

* * * *

Stevenson has enjoyed good police protection in years past with such men as Tom Willis, Mr. Colquet, Byron Smith, Alfred Arnold, Odell Denton, Buck Edwards, Sam Glover, Wesley Smith, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Brown, Bill Privett, and others. Much of the tireless effort of these men has done a great deal toward keeping the peace and law and order in Stevenson.

Most citizens of Stevenson continue to go about their task of doing their job to make the city a better place in which to live. If the citizens of Stevenson are to continue to enjoy the freedoms which our American Constitution guarantees, they must remember the characteristics which have preserved this fine city.

In America today a great number of voices are blending to tell us what is wrong with America. We want to look at the other side of the ledger and say, "What's Right With America". Now the author does not object to anyone saying what's wrong with America as long as they look at both sides of the ledger. We certainly do not want to ignore the things that are wrong with America, but some people have so concentrated on what's wrong with America that they have forgotten the things that are right with America.

The author feels that the virtues of America far outweigh her faults. This is also true, on a local scale, with Stevenson.

What, then, is right with America? For one thing, she is still the same sun-kissed, God-blessed land of unlimited beauty and she has unbounded physical resources that she has always had. This is the same land of beauty and abundance that it was in 1776. We have cut down some of her trees, leveled some of her hills, damned some of her rivers, and built railroads; but, all of this was in God's plan to make it a better place for man to live.

Is this not also true of Stevenson? Stevenson is located in one of the most beautiful sites in America in the valley between Cumberland and Sand Mountains. Some of the mines have been worked, the rivers damned, and the railroads have been built, in order to make Stevenson a better place in which to live.

To mention the things that are right in economics, government, and religion, one has to think of America. Is this not true of Stevenson? Her economics is right, her religion is right, and her government is right.

If the people of Stevenson will practice the characteristics which have identified our American heritage, such as love, trust, duty, loyalty, truth, honesty, faith, respect, and courage which have been practiced by many people mentioned in this book, then and only then can we keep our nation and our city strong.

During the time that the information was being gathered and assembled for writing this book, three national people have been murdered. This list includes John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert F. Kennedy. Many major cities of America were riot-torn during this period of time.

National unrest and national survival is of the utmost urgency in our thinking today. This urgency will weigh heavily on the citizens of cities in our nation like Stevenson, and on the citizens which it produces.

God has spared Stevenson from some of the burning and rioting which has taken place in other American cities. This should be a challenge to the people of Stevenson to work doubly hard to see that the characteristics which have made this city and nation strong are still practiced by its citizens today.

Remember, books are written by men like me, but God creates history.



The picture above was taken before the fire of 1910 and shows the north end of Main Street, while the picture below is of the south end of Main Street.

