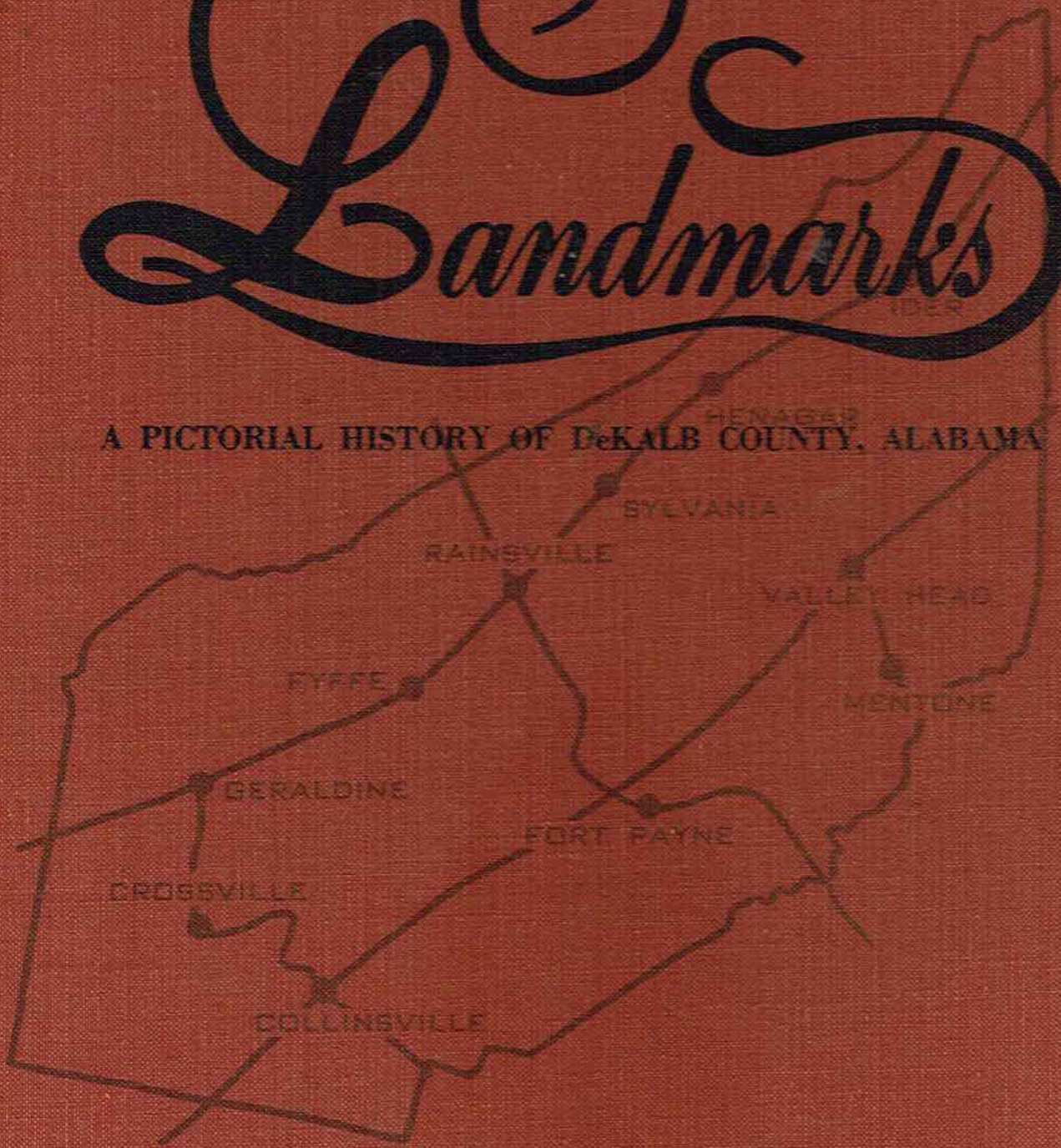


Landmarks

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF DEKALB COUNTY, ALABAMA



Landmarks

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF DeKALB COUNTY, ALABAMA

Published By
LANDMARKS OF DeKALB COUNTY, INC.
1971

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Printed in the United States of America

The College Press, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315

To

o all the people of DeKalb County –
To the Cherokees who sadly relinquished this
territory to the white man –
To the lusty pioneers who carved from a
wilderness these homelands –
To the New England visionaries whose capital and
ambitions gave “Boom Days” to the area –
To the present generation who has kept pace with
the “Space Age” and –
To those of the future, who through the Grace of
God, will maintain their rightful place
in future societies – this book is
respectfully dedicated.

*“And we move upon earth’s bosom,
Beings of sky and clod;
Bound to the sky by the spirit,
But chained by the flesh to the sod;
Yet the end and the aim and the Masterpiece
Of the Master-Builder, God.”*

Wallace M. Sloane, 1884-1947

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Preface

The writing of history is the work of scholars and historians, but the preserving of history can be done by lesser folk. That which follows is an attempt to preserve for our generation and future ones an account of early life in DeKalb County, Alabama.

Compiling the book has been a community endeavor with persons from throughout the county contributing materials about their respective communities. Some of the information contained in the book cannot be authenticated and probably is more legend than fact. Much of the information is based upon the remembrances of contributors and accounts which have been related by earlier generations. In any event, whether fact or fiction, the book is perhaps the boldest attempt yet to compile available information on DeKalb County's past.

The Historical Committee wishes to express appreciation to the many people who assisted it in the preparation of the book. It has been enjoyable labor for members of the committee, and we sincerely hope that the book will be an item of interest and pleasure for those who use it.

August, 1971

Historical Committee of
Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc.
Sarah P. Sawyer, Chairman
Mary C. Weatherly
Randall L. Cole
J. Clayton Keith

Organization of Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc.

Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., was organized on August 4, 1969, for the purpose of increasing and diffusing knowledge of historical information, and to encourage preservation of structures of historical interest in Fort Payne and DeKalb County.

This non-profit organization was chartered with the following officers: James R. Kuykendall, President; Mrs. W. M. Beck, Sr., Vice-President; Mrs. W. A. Mitchell, Jr., Treasurer; Mrs. A. J. McCrary, Secretary; Dr. G. I. Weatherly, Jr., and James M. Wright as directors.

In August of 1970 Mrs. W. J. Haralson, Mrs. Buddy Guest, Clayton Whittle, Clayton Smith, Robert E. Baxter and Royce Kershaw, Sr., were added to the board of trustees.

The board of trustees was increased to fifteen members at the annual meeting on August 8, 1971, with Dr. G. I. Weatherly, Jr., installed as president, and Charles M. Scott as vice-president. Mrs. Louise Van Allen and Floyd Abbott were elected to serve on the board.



FORT PAYNE OPERA BLOCK - 1889

The Opera House was purchased by Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., on October 2, 1969. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 28, 1970, becoming the first building in DeKalb County to receive this honor.

Acknowledgements

The Historical Committee of Landmarks gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following individuals in publishing this book:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ables, Mrs. R. E. | Guice, Tommy | Monroe, Johnny |
| Adams, Berthel | Hale, Robert | Morgan, Willie Mae Roberts |
| Akins, Mrs. Richard | Hall, Brenda | Myers, Carrie |
| Allgood, Miles C. | Hammer, Walter | Norton, Judy |
| Baker, John M. | Hammond, Ralph | Oak, Gladys Godfrey |
| Baugh, Mrs. A. V. | Haralson, Olena McCurdy | Painter, Jane |
| Bell, A. B. | Harrison, Bessie Ellis | Patty, Linda |
| Bell, John T. | Harper, Tommie | Poe, D. C. |
| Bennett, Jennie Brock | Harvey, Marie Quin | Potts, Marion |
| Berry, Mrs. Charles M. | Hawkins, Mrs. H. L. | Powell, Alton |
| Brindley, Mabel | Howard, Mrs. Max | Priest, Pat |
| Brown, Bill | Hunt, Richard C. | Pullen, H. M. |
| Brown, Maude Baxter | Hurley, Charles | Purdy, Fredrick |
| Bryant, Joanne Bruce | Igou, Richard | Purdy, G. B., Jr. |
| Burt, Melton | Igou, W. M. | Pyron, Roberta W. |
| Camp, Mrs. Guy | Johnson, James Andy | Rains, Euclid |
| Campbell, D. A. | Kay, Rev. Jimmy | Rains, Nell |
| Campbell, Margaret | Kershaw, Royce, Sr. | Richards, Jessie Elrod |
| Chambliss, Ray | Killian, Gussie | Royal, Mary |
| Clark, S. O. | Kirby, William B. | Sawyer, C. M. T., II |
| Cole, Willard | Kuykendall, Ola | Shirey, Mrs. H. C. |
| Crocker, Eloise | Kuykendall, Emmett | Speer, Lula C. |
| Cross, John L. | Kuykendall, James R. | Stancil, Garnett |
| Crow, Mrs. Paul | Larmore, Lilla | Slone, Lola P. |
| Davis, Mrs. Hurlane | Leath, Purl Malone | Tuttle, Brownie A. |
| Davis, Patricia | Lee, Ira | Taylor, Trell |
| Downer, J. A. | Little, John | Thompson, G. Bell |
| Downs, Ethel | Lowery, Irene Duff | Thompson, Sally Lowery |
| Ellis, Mabel | Lowery, Russell D. | Thomas, R. B. |
| Ellis, Maria Davenport | Lyda, Burt | Van Allen, Louise Crow |
| Ellis, Mrs. Clyde J. | Macfarlane, Georgia Campbell | Watson, Cornelia |
| Embry, Bob | Machen, Johnny | Walker, Henry |
| Emmett, Rose Durham | Malone, Jack | Walker, Louise |
| Fears, Hilda | Mauldin, Pearl | Walters, Agnes |
| Finley, Brenda | Martin, Bernice | Weatherly, Floy B. |
| Fricks, June | McCartney, C. Eugene | West, Sam M. |
| Gilbert, M. L. | McCord, Katherine G. | Whitehead, Mrs. Paul J. |
| Gissendaner, Edith | McCurdy, E. E. (Susie) | Whittle, Clayton |
| Graham, G. S. | McDaniel, Mrs. Vera | Wicker, Mrs. Bill |
| Graham, Walter | McGehee, Rev. Charles W. | Wilson, Mildred G. |
| Graves, Walter | Metzger, A. Boyce | Wilson, Mrs. Jessie L. |
| Graves, Mrs. Roy | Miller, Dixie | Wright, B. C. |
| Green, Kathryn | Mitchell, William H. | Wolfes, Hattie Sawyer |
| Guest, Mrs. R. J., Jr. | | Young, Mrs. Ben |

The Historical Committee expresses special appreciation to Mrs. Max Howard for her assistance in editing this book.

Settlement and Early History of DeKalb County

DeKalb County was once a part of the territory occupied by the Cherokee Indian Nation. The coming of white men to the county occurred during the American Revolution when a British agent, Alexander Campbell, was sent here for the purpose of arousing the Cherokees against the southern colonies. In 1777, Campbell made his headquarters at Wills Town, a Cherokee Indian village located on Big Wills Creek near the present community of Lebanon. Campbell was successful in arousing a number of the Cherokees by promising them clothing and conquered territory in exchange for the scalps of white settlers.

After the revolution, Cherokees continued to occupy the territory as did increasing numbers of white settlers who came from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Tennessee. Missionaries came to convert the Indians.

In 1816, when the Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church sent missionaries to teach Christianity to the Indians, the Wills Town Mission was established at a location now in the northeastern section of Fort Payne. The mission was named after a halfbreed Indian, Red Head Will, who is said to be buried nearby. The site of the mission is still marked by the gravestone of the missionary, Reverend Ard Hoyt. The famous old council oak near Wills Town has been destroyed by lightning.

Living in the vicinity of Fort Payne during this period was a Cherokee known by white settlers as George Guess. His Indian name was Sequoyah. In 1821, while living at Wills Town, Sequoyah announced that he had developed an alphabet for the Cherokee language, a project which he had commenced twelve years earlier. The alphabet contained eighty-six symbols. Each symbol represented a syllable, thereby enabling one to read and write the Cherokee language by merely learning the alphabet. Sequoyah's contribution to Cherokee culture gave rise in the Cherokee Nation to the publication of newspapers, Bibles, and other works, and won for him a respected place in Cherokee history.

As the immigration of settlers into the Cherokee country increased, friction between the two races grew. By 1830, there was a growing demand on the part of the settlers for the federal government to buy the land from the Indians and to move them off it, thereby making way for homesteads. A small group of Indians led by John Ridge and Elias Boudinot, who were opposed by a majority of the Cherokees, agreed to give up Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi River. The Treaty of New Echota, signed December 29, 1835, ceded the Cherokee lands in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia to the federal government for a consideration of five million dollars and a joint interest in certain western Indian territory. A federal agent sent into Cherokee country to investigate the

situation reported that a vast majority of the Cherokees were opposed to the signing of the treaty including the Nation's chief, John Ross, and considered it not to be binding upon them.

Nevertheless, the treaty was enforced and federal troops were sent by President Andrew Jackson to transport the Indians westward. General Winfield Scott was placed in charge of these federal forces in 1838 and, on May 10, 1838, issued a proclamation to the Cherokees warning them that their emigration was to commence in haste, and that before "another moon had passed" every Cherokee man, woman, and child must be in motion to join his brethren in the far west.

Under Scott's orders, troops were dispatched to various points throughout the Cherokee country, and stockade forts were erected for gathering in and holding the Indians preparatory to removal. Captain John Payne was sent to the present site of Fort Payne where a stockade was erected near a large spring on a lot later occupied by the city water plant in the southern part of Fort Payne. The fort was named in honor of its commander.

When the Indians departed from the stockade at Fort Payne, there were only two wagons available to transport their personal property. The failure of the government to furnish transportation facilities required the Indians to leave behind many of their prized possessions and increased the sadness of their departure. The journey westward was filled with hardship and suffering, and one out of every seven Indians died before the party reached its new home in the west.

CREATION OF DEKALB COUNTY

On January 9, 1836, eleven days after the signing of the treaty of New Echota, DeKalb County was created by the legislature of Alabama and was one of three Alabama counties carved from the Cherokee cession of 1835. Elections were held soon thereafter and the following were the first county officials: Judge of the County Court, Robert Hooks; Sheriff, Robert Murphy; Circuit Clerk, John Cunningham; County Clerk, Solomon C. Smith; Justices of the Peace, William Withdraw and Benjamin F. Greene; Constable, A. H. Lamar.

Removal of the Indians opened up new land for settlement. The census of 1840 revealed that the population of DeKalb County was 5,929. Most of the settlers selected land in the valleys because more valley land had been cleared, communication was easier, and the soil appeared more suitable for farming. However, a few hardy pioneers settled in the mountains and, by 1860, they were scattered over both Lookout and Sand Mountains.

By 1850, the population of the county had grown to 8,245 including 506 slaves and 9 free Negroes. Since most settlers were financially unable to own slaves, large families were an economic necessity. The settlers' chief crops were grain and vegetables. Cotton was grown primarily for domestic purposes. Farm families produced their own clothing from cotton and wool. Hogs provided the settlers with meat and lard and, for the most

part, settlers were dependent upon the commercial world for only such things as guns, ammunition, and hardware.

Roads were poor and, prior to the advent of the railroad, travel was slow and tedious. A map of Alabama in 1856 shows a road connecting Chattanooga and Elyton, now Birmingham, which passed through Valley Head, Rawlingsville, North Bend, Lebanon, and Van Buren in DeKalb County. The road was crossed at Van Buren by another road connecting Rome, Georgia, with Gunter's Landing on the Tennessee River. Rome was the trading center for people in the vicinity of Fort Payne. In traveling from Fort Payne to Rome, one could go south to Van Buren and then east to Rome by way of Blue Pond and Gaylesville.

CIVIL WAR

In 1861, W. O. Winston and J. N. Franklin represented DeKalb County at the secession convention in Montgomery which passed the Ordinance of Secession on January 11, 1861. Both Winston and Franklin voted against secession.

The outbreak of the Civil War found DeKalb County's citizens politically divided into three groups: (a) those favoring secession; (b) those opposed to secession; and (c) cooperationists. The cooperationists constituted a majority in the county as was the case in many of Alabama's northern counties.

Cooperationists were opposed to immediate secession. They wished to call a southern convention to discuss the grievances of their section and, if secession became necessary, they proposed cooperation in seceding and forming a new nation instead of separate state action. Some of the cooperationists hoped by these tactics to produce delay so that compromise and sober second thought would prevent the dissolution of the union. Most of these moderates admitted the legal right of secession but questioned its practicality and expediency.

No major battles were fought in DeKalb County during the Civil War, but several minor skirmishes took place during the Chickamauga campaign in the fall of 1863. On September 5, 1863, a salt works at Rawlingsville was destroyed by federal troops, and a skirmish occurred on the same day at Lebanon. Three days later, another skirmish took place at Winston Gap. In a letter to Major W. H. Sinclair of the Union Army, dated at Rawlingsville on September 4, 1863, Major General Alexander McCook, Commander of the 20th Corps of Rosecrans's Army, wrote: "The little children here tell me that there has (sic) been no regular soldiers in the vicinity for four months." Apparently, the skirmishes were with local forces and not with regular Confederate detachments.

However, Confederate scouts were active in the area as is evidenced in a report of Lt. C. A. Nichols, Assistant Inspector-General in the Confederate Army, which documented the presence of 40,000 federal troops at Whitehall near Valley Head on September 9, 1863. Another Confederate scout reported a force of four or five thousand federal troops encamped on Lookout Mountain on the same day.

The presence of the large encampment of federal troops near Valley Head was a part of the Union Army's campaign to seize Chattanooga. General Rosecrans of the Union

Army anticipated that a direct advance against Chattanooga would force General Bragg of the Confederate Army to abandon Chattanooga and fall back to Rome. General McCook's troops were to move from the Tennessee River across Sand Mountain to Valley Head and then, at the proper time, advance to Rome for the purpose of cutting off Bragg's expected retreat.

On the evening of September 9, 1863, while in DeKalb County, McCook was informed that Bragg was retreating southward from Chattanooga, and he was ordered to move rapidly upon Summerville, Georgia, to intercept Bragg's line of retreat and to attack his flank; however, the next day, after crossing Lookout Mountain, McCook learned that Bragg had not retreated very far from Chattanooga, and he was ordered to move to Chickamauga. McCook desired to take a mountain road to his destination, but felt that the route back through Valley Head was the only practical route. Taking this route delayed the arrival of his troops at Chickamauga a day, and General Rosecrans later testified before a Congressional Committee that the "tardy arrival of McCook's corps came near being fatal to us."

The following is a list of Confederate units made up wholly or in part from DeKalb County: Company I, Yancy Guards, 10th Regt.; Company E, DeKalb Invincibles, 12th Regt.; Company B, Wills Valley Guards, 48th Regt.; Company B, DeKalb Rifles, 49th Regt.; Company G, 44th Regt.; Company K, 58th Regt.; Companies A, B, C, and K, 3rd Confederate Regt.

POST WAR PERIOD

On February 3, 1852, the legislature of Alabama granted a charter to the following DeKalb County citizens for the purpose of constructing and operating the Wills Valley Railroad: Humphrey McBrayer, William P. Scott, Lewis Rea, Thomas G. A. Cox, Richard Ramsey, Charles Stowers, A. J. Cheney, Thomas A. Patrick, Samuel M. Nicholson, Obediah W. Ward, M. C. Newman, Alfred Collins, Charles D. George, Stephen McBroom, A. J. Ward, Reuben Estes, John G. Winston, John M. Bruce, John M. Lankford, Jesse G. Beeson, Joseph Davenport, Hiram Allen, V. C. Larmore, William O. Winston, Jacob Beene, B. F. Porter, John J. Humphries, George W. White, Gaines Blevins, Daniel B. Buckhalter, and Jacob Putnam. The charter authorized \$300,000 of capital stock in shares of \$50 each and allowed payment of stock subscriptions in materials, labor, and supplies needed for construction of the railroad. Construction was begun by the Wills Valley Railroad in 1858 at Wauhatchie, Tennessee, where it made connections with the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.

By 1860, the Wills Valley Railroad had been extended to Trenton, Georgia. In 1861, the railroad was consolidated with the Northeast and Southwest Railroad which was already serving southeast Alabama. Construction was suspended during the Civil War and was not resumed until 1868 when a group of Boston capitalists under the leadership of John C. Stanton, a carpetbagger, took over the charter and continued construction of the road under the name of the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad Company.

Stanton's power in the state legislature enabled him to secure the state's endorsement of bonds to the extent of \$16,000 per mile for every five miles of railroad constructed. Stanton also obtained a loan of \$2,000,000 from the state pursuant to an act providing for the issuance of bonds as the road progressed. However, Stanton obtained the issuance of the full amount within thirty days and used the proceeds to build the Stanton House Hotel and an opera house in Chattanooga.

The new road reached Birmingham in the fall of 1870, completing rail connections between Trenton, Georgia, and York, Alabama, but in January 1871, the company defaulted in payment of interest on the state-endorsed bonds. Following bankruptcy proceedings, the railroad was acquired in 1877 by Alabama Great Southern which has served Fort Payne since that time.

In 1876, Fort Payne became the county seat of DeKalb County. The coming of the railroad caused many citizens to feel that the county seat, which was Lebanon at that time, should be changed to a town served by the railroad. Lebanon had been the county seat for more than twenty-five years and previous to that, court had been held at Rawlingsville, Bootsville, Camden and Portersville. Rawlingsville was designated by the legislature to be DeKalb County's first seat of justice. From Rawlingsville, the county seat was moved to Bootsville, then Camden, then Lebanon, then Portersville, back to Lebanon and then to Fort Payne.

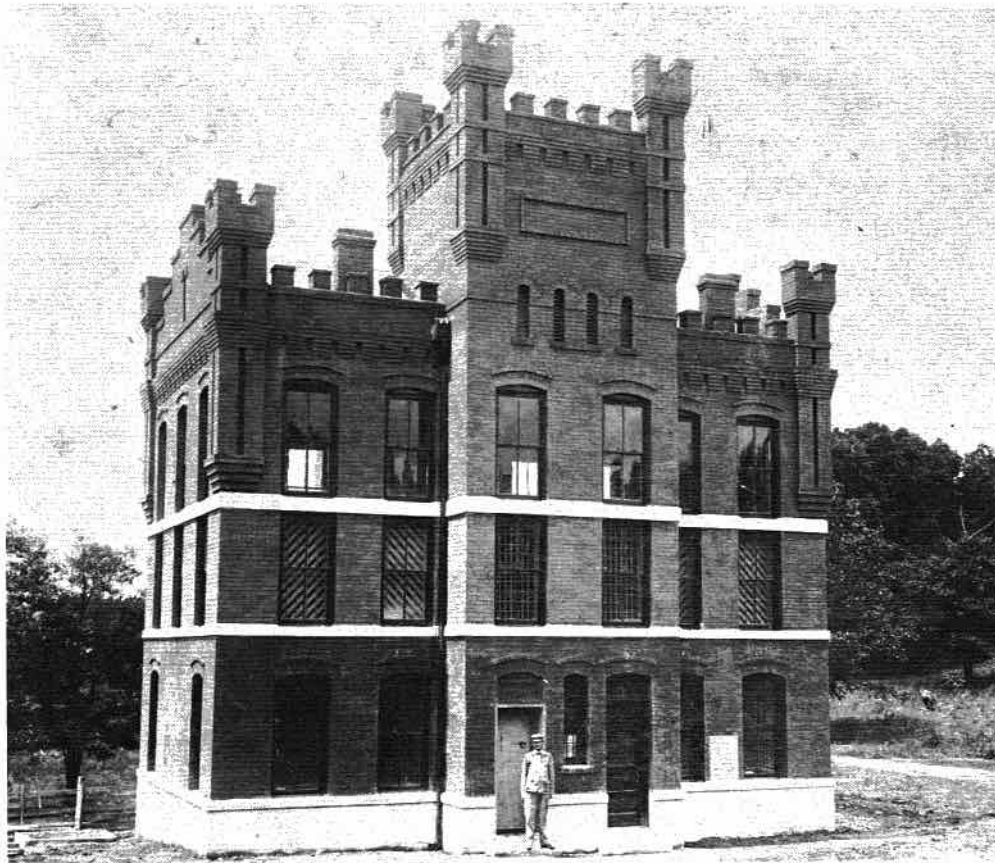
DeKalb County was named for Baron DeKalb who was killed at Camden, South Carolina, in the Revolutionary War. It is probable that the naming of the county and one of its first county seats was influenced by the presence of settlers from South Carolina.

The first courthouse in Fort Payne was built with funds donated by Dr. A. B. Green. It stood on a site which is now the intersection of Grand Avenue and First Street. The bricks out of which the old courthouse was built were made on the construction site, the walls having been erected around the kiln in order to save hauling and handling. The building was used by the county until 1890 when a new building was constructed on the same site.

In 1887, fifty years after the removal of the Cherokees, Fort Payne was a town of approximately 500 people. Families residing in the town at that time included the Claytons, Greens, McCartneys, Duncans, Poes, Cravens, Hammonds, Garretts, Lyons, and Smiths.



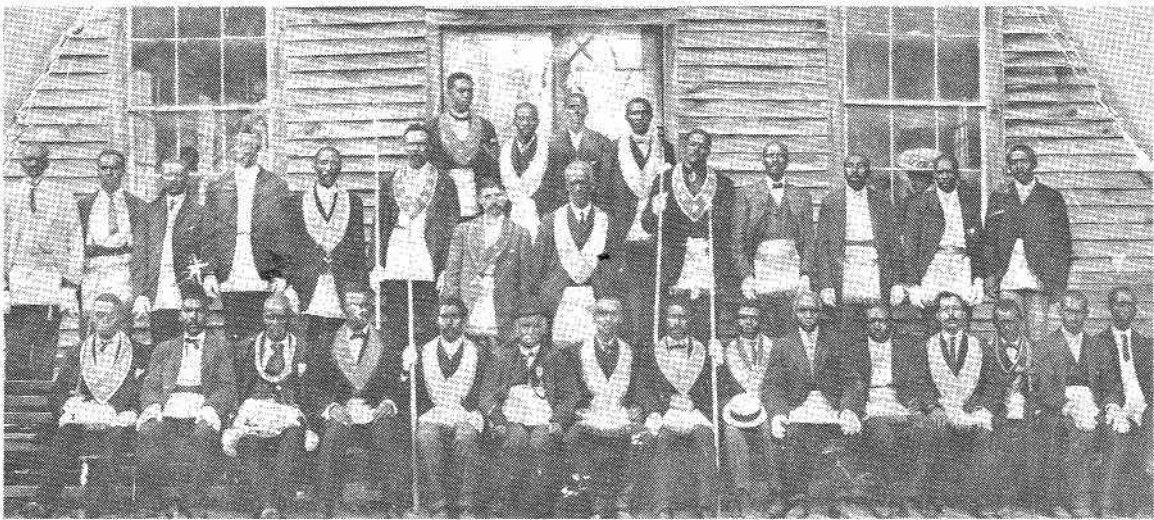
Lawrence Christenson, the first DeKalb County Civil Engineer.



Old County Jail located at corner of Grand Avenue and Second Street, S. W., Fort Payne.



The old "Piney Grove Church"



FIRST NEGRO MASONIC LODGE IN DeKALB COUNTY – 1906

Seated from left: Alex Teague, John Carter, Dillie Tay Tower, Tom Magby, Cassar Toler, Jeramiah Barnes, Joe Booker, Henry Edwards, Howard Blake, Lucian Robinson, Adam Meeks, Jesse Johnson.

Second row: Bert Malone, next two men unknown, Johnny Winston, Mat Toler, Jim Alford, Lige Baxter, Bob Hightomer, unknown, Rufus Moore, Perry Orr, 13th man unknown.

Back row: R. N. Hall, Reuben Malone, 3rd man unknown, and John Magby – First Grand Master of the Lodge.



A picnic of members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Fort Payne held at Allen's Spring.

Valley Towns and Communities

ALLEN'S SWITCH

Allen's Switch, a flag station on the Alabama Great Southern Railroad, was named for Major B. J. Allen who gave the land for the station. It served many well-known families (Allens, Carrells, Larmores, Chitwoods, Davenports, Fischers, Hammonds, Hodges, Keans, McSpaddens, Stewards, Warrens and others) who rode the trains to Fort Payne, Chattanooga, and other towns and cities during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is known to have served as a center for the transporting of farmers' produce to Fort Payne, Chattanooga, and elsewhere.

BOOTSVILLE, DEKALB'S SECOND COUNTY SEAT

Bootsville, located in Sand Valley, near the foot of Sand Mountain, was the location of DeKalb County's second temporary county seat. Chosen by means of a special election, Bootsville replaced Rawlingsville, which served as the first temporary county seat when DeKalb was created in 1836. Rawlingsville was located about midway between downtown Fort Payne and the Kershaw place, near the location of the new high school.

Bootsville was named after an Indian chief named Boots. According to lore passed down from the early settlers, Chief Boots used the penalty of temporary exile as punishment for any member of his tribe thought deserving of such a sentence. For a certain number of moons, such an Indian was forced to survive on his own in the wilderness. Anyone caught giving the offender aid was put to death. If the exile lived through his sentence unaided, he was allowed to return to his tribe.

Bootsville was located on what later became the farm of G. R. Horton, Sr., uncle of J. A. Downer of Fort Payne, who lived during his early childhood on an adjoining farm. Downer recalls that as a seven-year-old in 1900, he and his family moved to Sand Mountain and observed at Bootsville what was purported to be the scant remains of the old jail foundation.

A crude log building served as the court house. The first sheriff of the county, "Old Bob Murphy," is said to have attended court here in bare feet, with his breeches rolled up to his knees.

Less than a mile north of Bootsville was the Bootsville Gap, much used at one time by people traveling to and from Sand Mountain.

The community of Bootsville never became very large. The settlers there, following the restless urge of the times, soon moved on to a new location, a place called Camden, near Portersville. Bootsville is remembered today mainly because, long ago, where the Indians had once held council, the white man, for a time, held court.

COLLBRAN

Collbran, located on Highway 11, was originally named Brandon, after an early settler. Other families who settled here included the Baxters, Davises, Burts, Killians and Newkirks.

In the early 1890's Collbran's school was located in the first floor of a two-story building, the upper part of which was used by the Odd Fellows. The school was consolidated in 1936.

In the late 1880's and early 1890's there were several stores and warehouses owned by Burt and Bruce, Parr and Lewis, Whaley and Thompson, and Thompson. The A.G.S. Railway Depot, where freight, express and passengers arrived and departed, was very important to Collbran. At one time as many as three operators were on duty here.

The Gravel Hill Baptist Church, organized in 1865, was located across the highway from the cemetery. Among the names listed as early members were those of Davis, Garrett, Hughes, Hannah, Bruce, Majors, Killian, Franklin and Burt. In 1936, with W. C. Burt as head of a building committee, a new church building was erected on the present site.

COLLINSVILLE

Collinsville, one of the oldest towns in the county, was founded by Alfred Collins, who came to Alabama from Tennessee. In 1842 he bought the land where the town later grew, and built his first home, a long log building with two front doors and green shuttered windows, at the present location of J. M. Cunningham's residence. Collins, born June 13, 1836, in Rhea County, Tennessee, was one of the first school teachers in DeKalb County.

The second home built by Alfred Collins was a two-story frame building erected upon a mound overlooking Little Wills Creek. This mound, the present site of the Baptist Church, was said to be of Indian origin. Before Collins purchased this historic property, it had served as the homeplace of the first white man to locate within the present limits of Collinsville. A man by the name of Lamar, related to the Nicholson family, married into an Indian family which lived on this mound.

Other early settlers included John Napper, (who operated the first store ever located in the southern end of the county), and the family names of Ford, Gibson, Freeman, Napier, Fisher, Russell, Hoge, Reed, Ward and Watts.

Construction of the Wills Valley Railroad was actively promoted by Alfred Collins,

who served as a director and stockholder and gave land for the right-of-way. The coming of the railroad was a boon to Collinsville. Completed in 1870, it was to serve the town a full century. In July 1970, the A.G.S. Railroad received permission to discontinue operation of its Collinsville agency and to dismantle and remove its station building.

As one of the leading towns served by the railroad, Collinsville sought to become the county seat in 1870, when general sentiment favored moving it from Lebanon. But the town lost this honor to Fort Payne by a three-vote margin.

However, Collinsville continued to grow and to attract men of various professions. In 1880, Dr. Horace P. McWhorter, a young physician, moved from Gaylesville to Collinsville. His sister, Della, came with him to teach music and arranged for room and board with Mrs. G. W. Roberts at the old Collins homeplace on the mound. It is said that Miss Della's was the first piano ever seen in Collinsville and that her first Sunday there she played all day long for people who called to see her and the piano.

Other doctors who practiced medicine during Collinsville's early days included Dr. Richard Wall Cain, who had practiced in the area since Civil War days, Dr. A. J. Vann, Dr. J. T. Miller, Dr. T. H. Appleton, Dr. Joe Bogle and Dr. W. P. Hicks.

Collinsville's first dentist, Dr. J. A. Hall, came here as a bookkeeper with the railroad contractor, but had studied dentistry and decided to stay and practice that profession in the growing town.

Some professional cards carried in the *Educational Advocate* in 1887 included those of the following: B. H. Nicholson, attorney at law and solicitor in chancery; Dr. A. J. Vann, practicing physician; Miller and McWhorter, physicians and surgeons; R. P. Brindley, attorney at law; J. T. Sells, attorney at law; Dr. J. A. Hall, dentist; and N. W. Ward, justice of the peace.

There were advertisements in this paper listing a dry goods and clothing store, two milliners, a dressmaker, a hotel, a warehouse of groceries and fertilizers, a livery stable, a painter, a store for agricultural implements and machinery, a clothing store, a jewelry store and a drug store.

Collinsville was apparently first incorporated in 1887 or 1888 with Jim Tiner serving as first mayor. An act establishing a new charter for the town was passed by the state legislature in 1901, prescribing corporate limits of one square mile. Population figures for the year 1887 gave a total population of 304 for Collinsville, with 245 listed as white and 59 colored.

The first post office in the vicinity was established at Van Buren, one and one-half miles west of Collinsville in 1837. The mail was carried by stagecoach on a route running from Rome to Guntersville. A descendant of James Copeland, once a stagecoach driver between Collinsville and Rome, later recalled some stagecoach era memories. He related that Copeland, carrying the mail in a box under the driver's seat, and with passengers inside the coach, always kept his fiddle at his side, and was therefore ready to entertain eager listeners wherever he stopped for the night.

After the war, mail was carried over this route by horseback. The carrier, Loyd Brock, made the trip once a week, spending one night enroute to Rome and one night on the return trip at the Collins Inn. Another once-a-week horse route was established via Collinsville from Chattanooga to Gadsden.

A crude log building with mud-daubed cracks served as Collinsville's first schoolhouse. Located on the east side of the Collins Cemetery hill, the 30 by 50-foot building rested against Lookout Mountain at the rear and was braced at the front by stacks of field limestone about four or five feet high. The pressure exerted upon these supporting stones by the weight of a crowd of school patrons attending an end-of-school play brought about quite a dramatic ending of the students' performance of Hamlet. One of the stacks of limestone tumbled, causing the collapse of the front of the building and ending its use as a school.

A frame building was constructed in 1887 on property donated by Alfred Collins. This was a larger building with an assembly hall, a study hall, a primary department hall, and several smaller recitation rooms.

In 1917 the first brick school building was completed but was gutted by fire the following year. The Methodist Church was used for the remainder of the school year while the walls of the brick building were reinforced and the interior rebuilt.

About 1920, when Portersville School was consolidated with Collinsville, the first school bus used to transport students from Portersville was a pickup truck with curtained sides and planks for seats.

The present high school building was built on Highway 11 south of Collinsville in 1936. A nearby elementary school building was completed in 1949. Gregory High School for Negro students occupied the red brick building on the downtown lot from 1950 until 1962. The old building was demolished upon completion of a new brick building in the northern part of town, west of the highway. Gregory High was consolidated with Collinsville High in 1968.

The first church in Collinsville, known then as the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, was organized in 1837, one year after DeKalb County was formed. Its first building was erected in 1845, and later buildings were constructed in 1870 and 1886. In 1928 the present brick structure was built on the mound chosen by Alfred Collins as his homesite. A missionary church, Pleasant Grove Baptist, helped establish Mount Lookout, Mount Vernon and Shady Grove churches.

The church now bearing the name of Pleasant Grove Baptist is a Negro church which traces its history to the time of the freeing of the slaves. An overflow crowd of Negroes met in a home to sing and pray and to give thanks for their newly-gained freedom. As a house would not hold them, a brush arbor was built, and later land was purchased for a place to erect a log church. When they later obtained possession of the Van Buren Methodist Church, which had been vacated by the whites, Turner Kerley, the pastor, and about six church members dismantled the old church and moved it to a site beside Little Wills Creek at the edge of Collinsville.

In 1869 a Methodist church was founded at Van Buren. In 1880, after a Sunday School had been organized in Collinsville, the church moved there from Van Buren. The school house was used as a place of worship until 1890, when T. J. Pyron and his wife deeded their homeplace to the Methodist group. At this site, at the foot of what is now known as Cochran Hill, a church building was first erected.

In 1903 property was bought for a new location on South Valley Street, and a new building, costing approximately \$2,000, was constructed. However, this building burned

on a cold Thanksgiving Day in 1922. It was replaced by the present structure, built of buff-pressed brick.

Collins Chapel Methodist, a Negro church, was organized soon after the war by a Reverend Cole, a white minister. Before the war, Negro Methodists had occupied two rear benches in the white church. Collins Chapel is located near Little Wills Creek at the western entrance to Collinsville.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1904, and soon purchased the lot and two-thirds of the building vacated by the Methodists at the foot of Cochran Hill. The remaining third of the frame building consisted of the upper story, owned by Van Buren Lodge No. 355 F. & A. M., of Collinsville.

This Presbyterian group was joined by many members from the Beulah Chapel Presbyterian Church at Copeland's Bridge. And in 1926 the Midway Church at Dawson merged with them. In 1908 a lot was purchased on South Valley Street. Here a new frame building with Gothic lines and high pointed windows of cathedral glass was erected.

The Church of Christ completed a brick structure on the north side of Collinsville in 1964. It was an outgrowth of the Smith Chapel Church of Christ in Big Wills Valley.

Collinsville's first newspaper was the *Collinsville Post*, published in the late 1870's by a man named Yarbrough. Col. B. H. Nicholson purchased the *Post*, renamed it the *Collinsville Headlight*, and edited it for several years in the early 1880's. The *Clipper* was edited in the 1880's by John C. Norwood, followed by Ed Mosteller. The *Collinsville Courier* was established in 1904, with Mosteller as editor. About 1926, subscribers were requested to suggest new names for the paper. Of the entries submitted, the *Collinsville New Era* was chosen. In 1946 Guy Jackson became owner and publisher. He later merged the paper with the *Fort Payne Times* and Collinsville has had no local paper since.

Collinsville's first public library was made possible by the W.P.A. in 1930. The library was located in a room over the bank. Mrs. Lula Longshore was the first librarian. When government funds were no longer available, the town appropriated money for operation of the library and civic clubs also gave financial aid. The location was moved to a room in the Presbyterian Church.

Collinsville's first bank, organized in 1902, had a brief existence. L. C. Harding, who organized banks at Fort Payne, Collinsville and Attalla, absconded with the funds. Many other banks were to follow, however. The Farmer's and Merchant's Bank corporation papers were filed in 1904. In 1918, the Collinsville Savings Bank was organized, followed by the People's Bank in 1919. The Farmer's and Merchant's Bank became, in 1919, the First National Bank of Collinsville. In 1937 the First National was taken over by Tennessee Valley Bank, a chain with its home office in Decatur. This later became the State National Bank, and in 1964 the Collinsville branch was transferred to Fort Payne.

Down through its long history, Collinsville has suffered from the plagues of fire and flood. Twice the town has burned.

On Christmas Eve, 1894, at about midnight, a small yellow stone depot, located just north of where the last depot stood, caught fire and burned. The blaze spread and the Hall-Mackey store and several smaller stores were destroyed.

In 1900 an even more destructive fire swept through the town. It was on a bitterly cold day in February and a strong wind blew eastward across the town. A small blaze was discovered shortly after noon on the roof of the sprawling wooden structure which housed B. A. Nowlin's store at the west end of Main Street.

As the fire grew larger, the news quickly spread. School closed and excited children hurried home to tell about the consuming flames. Storekeepers, home for lunch, rushed back to the scene of the holocaust, joined by housewives and older youths who worked frantically to save merchandise and to fight the fire.

Wind-fanned flames swept rapidly to the east, crisscrossing the street several times and leaping from building to building, quickly demolishing the wooden structures and completely gutting the single brick building in the fire's path. The depot was destroyed, along with several boxcars loaded with field peas. The warehouse, filled with bales of cotton, cotton seed, and shelled peas, burned for a week. Oliver Hall's warehouse for farm equipment and caskets went up in flames. But a carload of new wagons piled high with merchandise was grabbed from the burning store and moved by hand to safety.

Sparks flew across the railroad tracks and ignited the Holmes Hotel, which burned to the ground, unnoticed by the busy fire fighters downtown.

As the barn next door began to burn, V. M. Brindley received a frantic message from his family and rushed home. Climbing to his roof, he grabbed buckets of water handed to him and poured it upon the shingled roof, dousing the sparks and flying fragments, while the side of his house became so hot that the resin was drawn out. When the weary man finally descended from his roof, he found the north side of his house covered with a solid sheet of ice. With only buckets of water with which to fight, he had saved his home and broken the savage chain of fire.

All other homes on East Main Street were saved except the home of the postmaster, Henry Collins, whose house at the foot of Lookout Mountain was ignited by wind-blown fragments. Other houses on the mountain also caught fire, and the flames of burning timber lashed their silver tongues across the black landscapes of night for more than a week. The strong odor of smoldering cotton, cotton seed, peas, hides and chickens permeated the air for days.

Only two buildings remained intact, having been saved by bucket brigades. C. C. Jordan's store and H. R. Jordan & Son's store stood behind a small stream which ran from the railroad and emptied into Little Wills Creek. Men had stood in this water and filled the buckets which were used to save these two buildings.

Virgil Nicholson, the town's first druggist, contracted pneumonia fighting the flames and died. Dr. H. P. McWhorter also became ill with pneumonia, but recovered.

The little town, so suddenly and almost completely destroyed, soon began rebuilding. Oliver Hall journeyed to Fort Payne and bought lumber from a basket factory which had been put on the market following the collapse of the boom. With this lumber, he constructed a new store building which was then painted blue and was known afterward as the "Blue Store." From this same location, the Halls were to compile a total of 90 years in the mercantile business.

Other new buildings were soon constructed, many of them built of brick. And several years later the gravelled sidewalks were replaced by poured concrete.

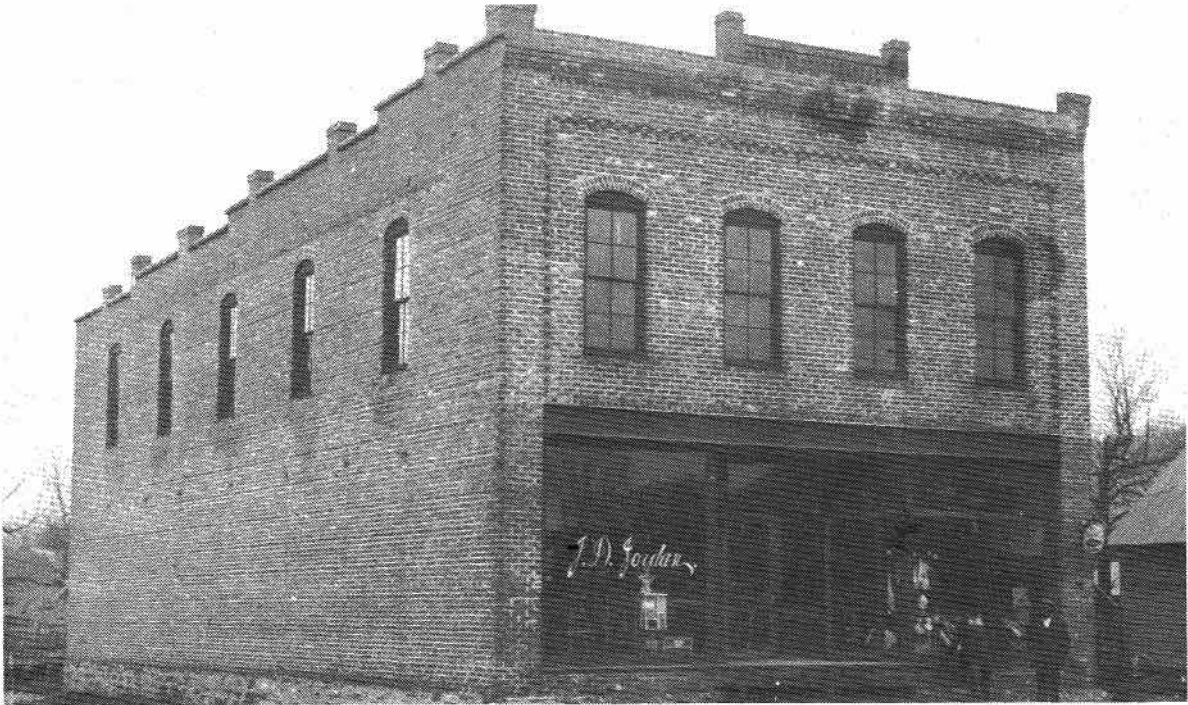
Less damaging, but of more frequent occurrence, were the floods which heavy rains brought to this narrow valley. As torrents of water poured down the mountain on the east and down the slopes to the west, Little Wills Creek quickly overflowed the banks of its shallow stream and sent flood waters racing over the streets of the town. Muddy, silt-filled water covered low shelves of merchandise in the stores and stood two feet deep in the old Methodist Church, damaging its organ and carpet. School children were loaded on wagons backed up to the door of the schoolhouse and carried to higher ground. And bank patrons were advised to dry out papers stored in their lock boxes.

Minor flooding occurred about once a year. More damaging floods, like the one in July 1936, when water in the business section reached a depth of 30 inches, occurred about once in five years. The 1936 flood was caused by a rainfall of 3.25 inches which fell in two and a half hours. The peak of the high water was reached three and a half hours after the rain stopped.

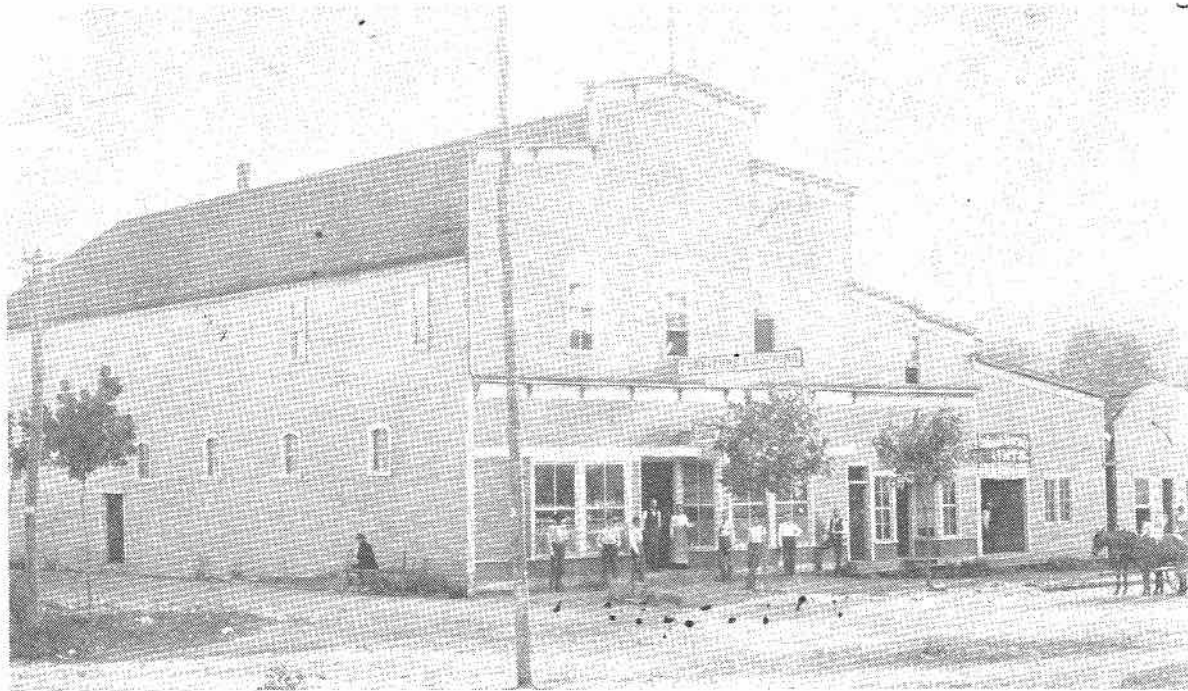
The following year after this last major flood, a flood control project was authorized by Congress for the town of Collinsville. This project included channel changes by excavation, the construction of levees and concrete flood walls, the removal and replacement of six timber bridges and sewage disposal and drainage structures. The project was completed in 1939, at a cost of \$71,120, and ended the town's perennial flooding problem.



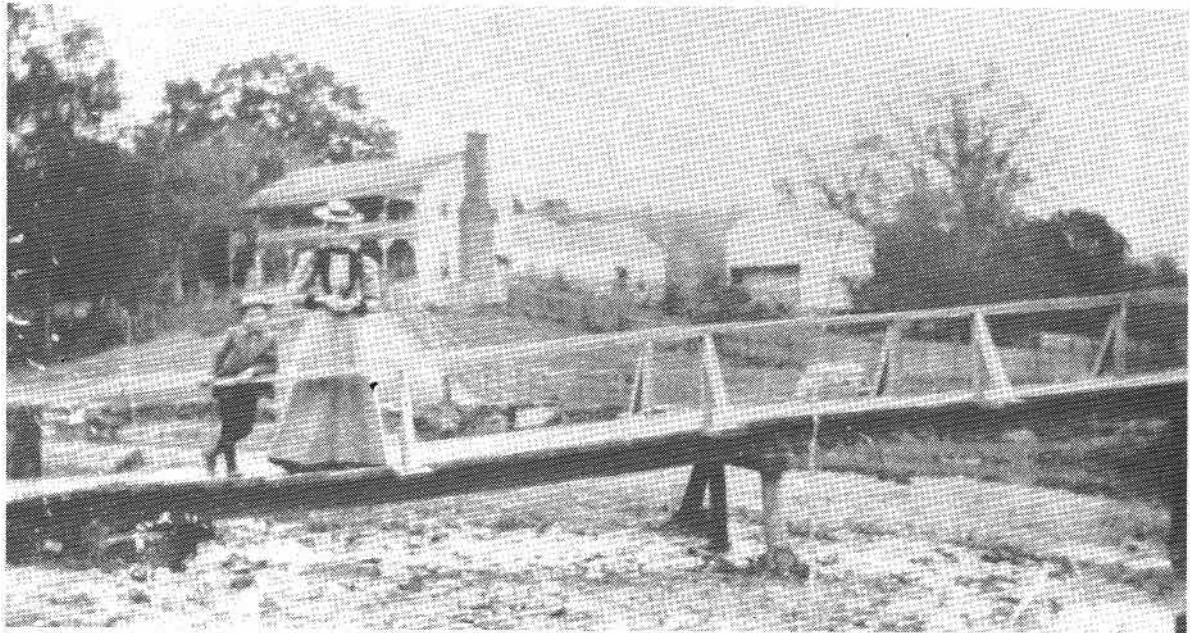
Collinsville's Methodist church that burned on a cold Thanksgiving day in 1922.



The H. R. Jordan and Son store which withstood the fire of 1900, later known as the J. D. Jordan store.



The original Oliver Hall store in Collinsville which burned in 1900.



Old foot bridge across Little Wills Creek at Collinsville's South Valley Street.



South Valley Street with Little Wills Creek in foreground, Collinsville, Alabama

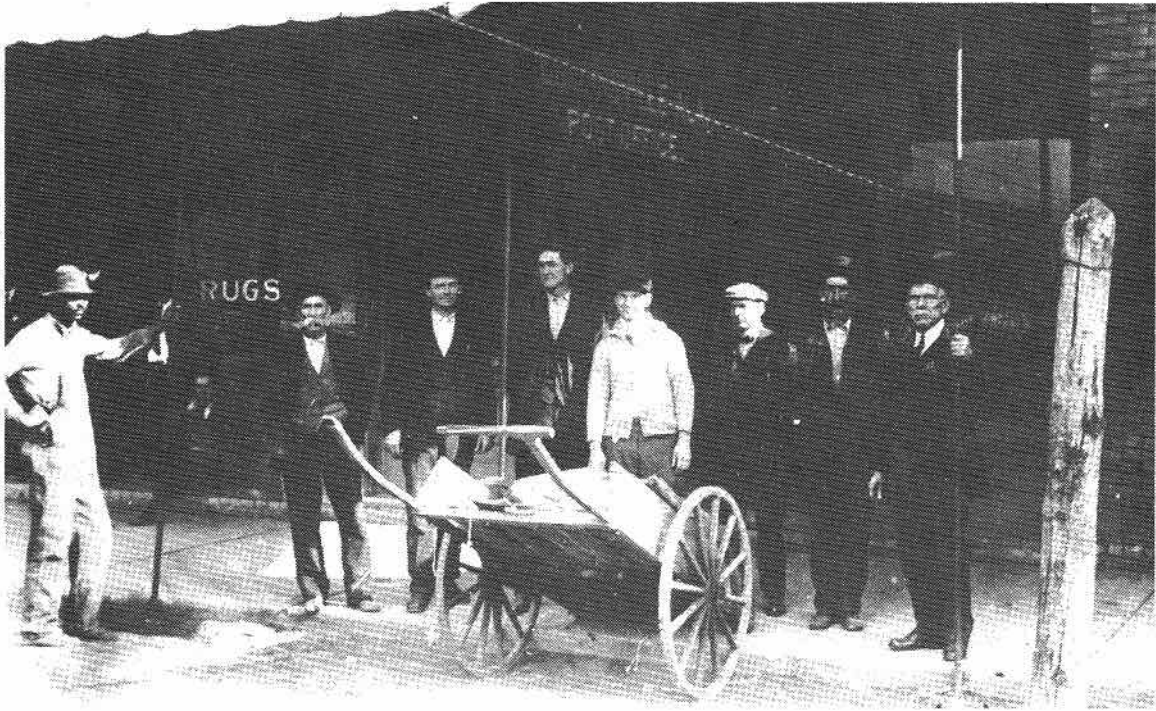


Collinsville's High School built in 1887



Oliver Hall's Annual Turkey Trot.

Throng of people jammed the streets of Collinsville each year on the day before Thanksgiving. Sol Kerley released turkeys and guineas, one by one, from a pedestal atop Hall's store. School dismissed and men and boys climbed telephone poles and scaled walls of buildings, each intent on catching a bird for his Thanksgiving dinner.



Collinsville citizens and mail cart in front of Post Office.

COPELAND BRIDGE

The Copeland Bridge community got its name from James A. Copeland who came to Alabama in the 1830's and became one of the largest landowners and most influential pioneers of Northeast Alabama. He cleared land for miles around and cut out a primitive highway from Crossville on Sand Mountain to Rising Fawn, Georgia, to provide a mail route. He and numbers of his descendants have been associated with the United States mail service ever since.

James Copeland married Nancy Mackey Copeland on January 2, 1841. All of their twelve children were born and reared at Copeland Bridge built by one of the Copeland descendants to span Wills Creek just below Lebanon on the old road from Crossville to Collinsville. James died at the age of sixty-seven and was buried in the Copeland Cemetery. A huge oak tree with a spread of 102 feet still stands at the original site of the home.

Traditionally, an all-day singing has been held at Copeland Bridge on the fourth Sunday in May, a yearly occasion for homecomings and family reunions.



COPELAND BRIDGE

CORDELL

Cordell, the location of a small post office, was probably named for M. V. Cordell, a citizen of the early community. The post office is thought to have been established in 1882 and was located in Reuben Price's store, near a flag stop on the Alabama Great Southern Railroad approximately three miles from Valley Head.

Cordell and Price's Switch were very helpful to the people of northern DeKalb County. In the early days, men and women in this area rode horseback, traveled in wagons and buggies, or even walked to receive mail at Cordell, and freight at nearby Price's Switch. Some families known to have used this post office were the Barnards, Carrells, Carrs, Cordells, Hollemans, Howards, Larmores, Morrows, Prices, and Thomasons.

FORT PAYNE – BOOM TOWN

It was a small rural community, a little village of less than 500 people, surrounded by Wills Valley cotton fields. This was Fort Payne, Alabama, in 1887. The families making their livelihood here included those of the McCartneys, Claytons, Greens, Duncans, Poes, Cravens, Garretts, Lyons and Smiths. Weather and crops were important topics of conversation, though some attention was given to news of the industrial growth



FIRST STREET IN FORT PAYNE LOOKING WEST
DeKalb County courthouse in background. Photo taken 1889.

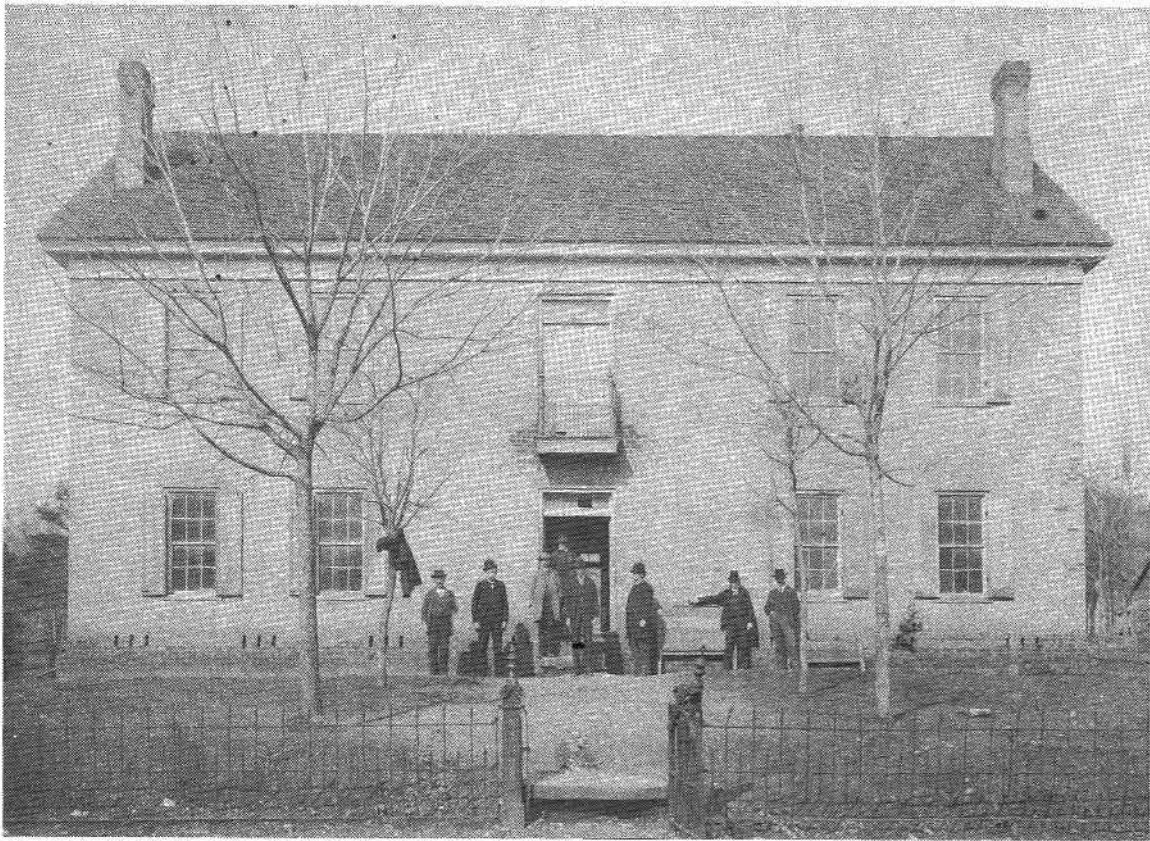
in the Birmingham-Bessemer area of the Alabama mineral belt. But that was almost 100 miles away.

Rumors did persist that Fort Payne, too, was surrounded by rich mineral deposits. But none of the original residents here could have predicted the mad rush of prospecting, speculation and development which was soon to descend upon them. For, of all the industrial booms which developed in north Alabama towns thought to be possibilities for future "Magic Cities," Fort Payne's boom was by far the most colorful and spectacular.

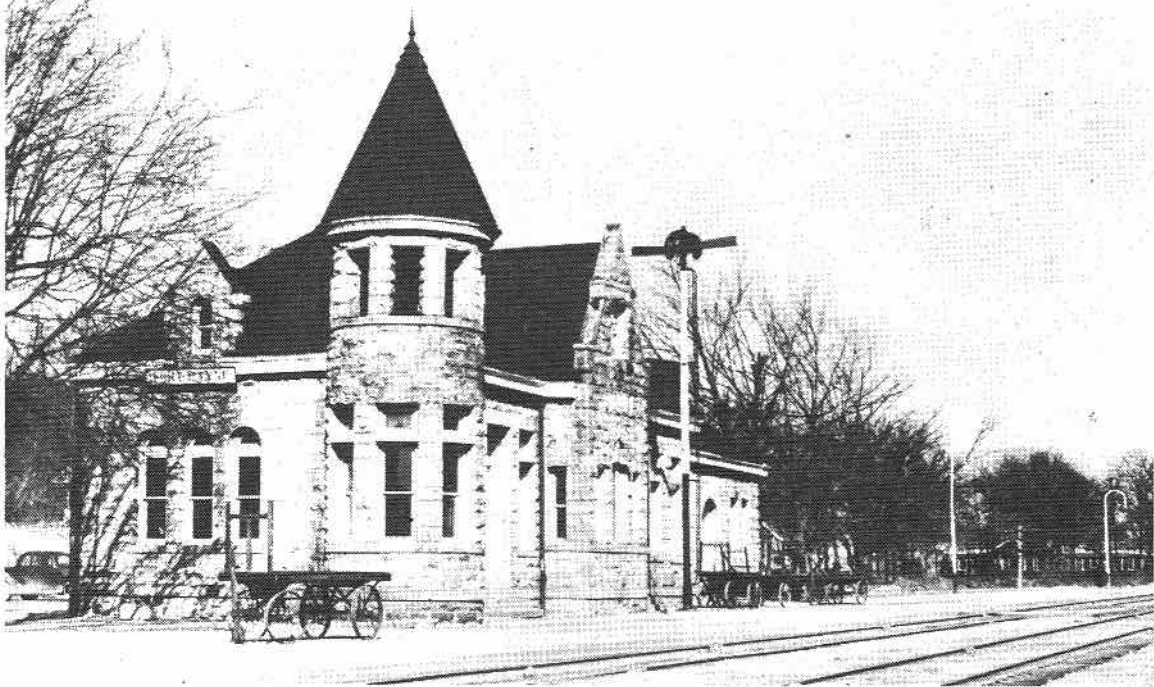
The three-year boom period, which began in 1889, was to provide historians and amateur buffs with more absorbing factual material — as well as exaggerated myths — than had the whole previous fifty-year period beginning with the removal of the red man.

But first, a brief summary of Fort Payne's earliest period reveals the following historical facts. In December 1869, the first post office was established in Fort Payne. Nicholson S. Davenport was appointed postmaster at a salary of \$12 per year. The location of the post office changed many times during the 70's and 80's as the postmaster moved the office to his own home or place of business.

The coming of the railroad and the location of the county seat in Fort Payne served to attract merchants to the town. Among the first business establishments was a saloon operated by John McCurdy, a one-armed former soldier, in a railroad shack. The leading store in the early 1880's was a general store operated by J. E. Russell. He built up a



The first county court house built in Fort Payne served the county from 1876 to 1891. This building was built from brick made on the site; the same bricks were later used in the construction of the I.O.O.F. building which still exists. Those in picture, from L. to R., are: 1. Patrick Frazier, Sheriff, 2. Thomas G. Stewart, Register in Chancery, 3. Sam Monroe, County Treasurer, 4. Sam Stout, a farmer, 5. Unknown, 6. Judge L. L. Cochran, Probate Judge, 7. James Kirby Dobbs, a citizen, and 8. James Gibson Dobbs, a citizen.



The passenger station of the Alabama Great Southern Railroad, built in the 1890's at Fort Payne, Alabama. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 10, 1971.

thriving business by taking mortgages on farms and selling supplies to the farmers of the vicinity. There was also a firm named Nix & Quin, which changed about 1885 to Quin & McArver. There were also grist mills which had been built by the Beeson and Hudson families in the 70's. The Fort Payne *Journal* was founded in 1873 by Thomas H. Smith. A Memphis lumber company set up a sawmill in Fort Payne about 1885 but closed it in 1887.

The first church in the vicinity of Fort Payne was a Cumberland Presbyterian church, established some time in the 70's and known as Union Church. Its building was used by other denominations until more churches were constructed in the 80's. A Missionary Baptist church, organized in 1885 by Reverend John B. Appleton and Bailey Bruce, was located on the corner of Spring Street and Gault Avenue. The upper story of the building was owned and occupied by the Masonic organization, which was the only fraternal organization of its kind in Fort Payne prior to the boom. The First Methodist Church of Fort Payne, also founded in 1885, was organized by John Norton and J. R. Williams. These three churches were active during the boom days which followed and have continued to serve Fort Payne ever since.

The first school in Fort Payne was located on the present site of the Dobbs sisters' home. The instructor, Mrs. Mary Childers, taught an ungraded school of about 18 students for one term in 1876. The following year the school was moved to the Presbyterian Church, where it remained an ungraded, one-teacher unit. John Hammak taught 30 or 35 scholars there. Around 1880 the school was moved to the site now occupied by John B. Isbell's residence, where it served Fort Payne until the boom days.

Thus Fort Payne, with its small school, one church building and few businesses, had not grown much in its half century of existence and remained an unincorporated village when wealthy and ambitious men focused their attention upon some mineral samples from a ridge and devised fantastic plans for a giant manufacturing city.

Four men, Milford W. Howard, C. O. Godfrey, W. P. Rice and J. W. Spaulding, were responsible for the speculation mania which was touched off in Fort Payne in 1889.

Howard, a restless and imaginative young attorney, had for some time been busily proclaiming the advantages of Fort Payne as a manufacturing center. His ideas appealed to Major C. O. Godfrey of Massachusetts, who was interested in lucrative investments for eastern capital. Through the Fort Payne Land and Improvement Company which he organized, Godfrey secured an option on several hundred acres of land in the vicinity of town. Howard, though not directly connected with the company at that time, helped secure an option on the Duncan farm, located in what is now the center of the business district.

During the latter part of 1887, Frank Y. Anderson, affiliated with the Alabama State Land Company, entered into a partnership with Godfrey. But their efforts to promote the town were unsuccessful. The following year aid was sought from W. P. Rice, a New England speculator and former warden of the Vermont State Prison, who had made several successful financial ventures, especially in the field of banking.

Thus it was that the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company was organized in November 1888 by a Vermont financier and the fabulous boom soon began. The capital of the company was established at \$5,000,000, with 50,000 shares of capital stock having a par



Hotel Rainey, a mecca for tourists, salesmen and local boarders for many years. Rainey's snacks and chicken dinners became famous through the "Butch" service on the Southern Railway trains.



The First Methodist Episcopal Church, Fort Payne, built in 1922.

value of \$100 each. Most of the \$4,000,000 worth of stock offered to the public was sold in New England by Rice and his friends within five weeks after being placed on sale.

Another bit of groundwork was the incorporation of the city. A bill providing for this was introduced in the legislature in February 1889 by DeKalb's senator, W. W. Haralson. After passing both houses, it was signed by Governor Seay on February 28.

The Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, having by now purchased 32,000 acres of land in the vicinity, immediately set about designing a city and preparing for hordes of speculators and fortune seekers. Streets were graded and new ones opened across the valley and up the ridges. A water supply was developed and a two-mile-long sewage system was constructed at a cost of \$35,000.

By mid-summer the boom was in full swing. Mines were being opened and more and more laborers and investors arrived at Fort Payne. Industrial companies, banks and investment companies were organized, and stores, schools and churches were built. The DeKalb Hotel, occupying an entire square in the center of town, was constructed. The largest and best equipped hotel in northeast Alabama, this hotel boasted 180 rooms, a billiard room, a huge dining room and a ballroom. The owners refused offers as high as \$100,000 for this hotel. Nearby an \$80,000 opera house, now a tourist attraction, was built.

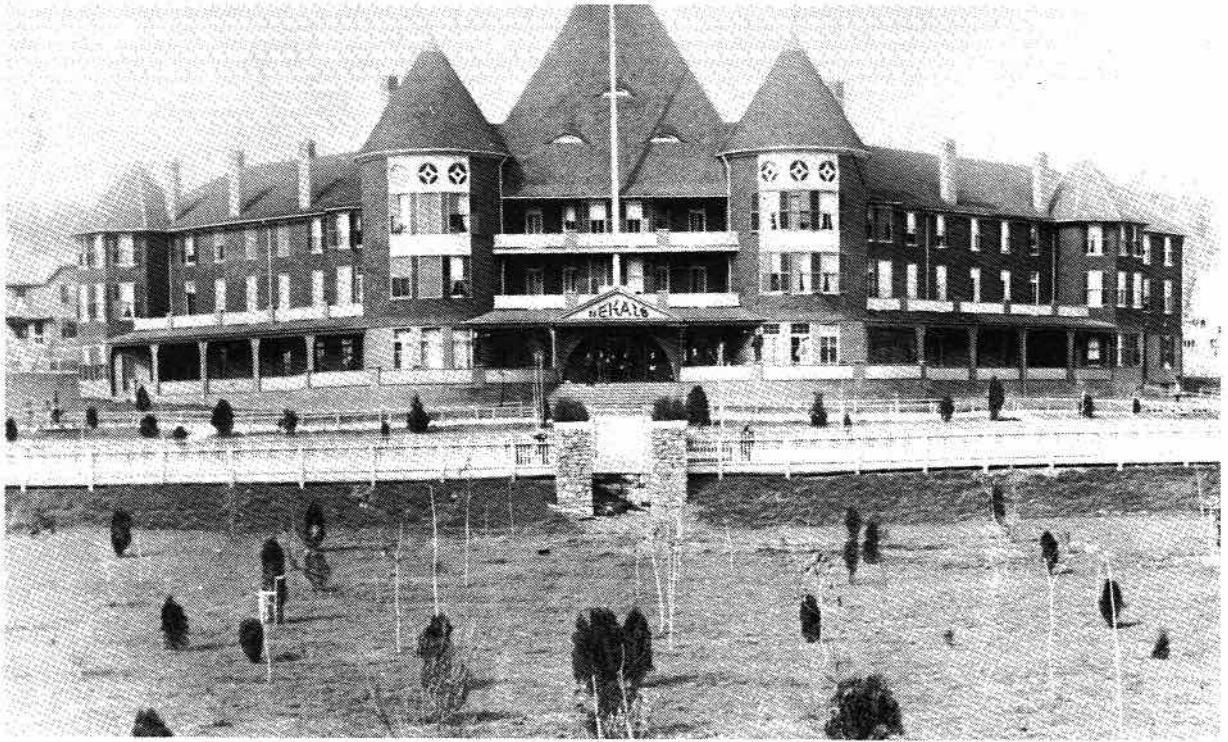
To landscape the city, the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company hired Charles Landstreet who had come here from Virginia in 1887. Public parks were created, including Union Park across from the DeKalb Hotel, the site of the present city park on Gault Avenue. Trees, plants, flowers and shrubs were brought from all parts of the world. Several Japanese poplars planted at that time are still living.

One of the most interesting attractions developed under Landstreet's supervision was Manitou Cave, located in the side of Lookout Mountain. Bridges and winding stairways were built leading to the huge ballroom, where dancers could watch the reflections of hundreds of candles glitter from the stalactites of the walls and ceiling. Later electricity was installed inside the cave and a public park created near the entrance.

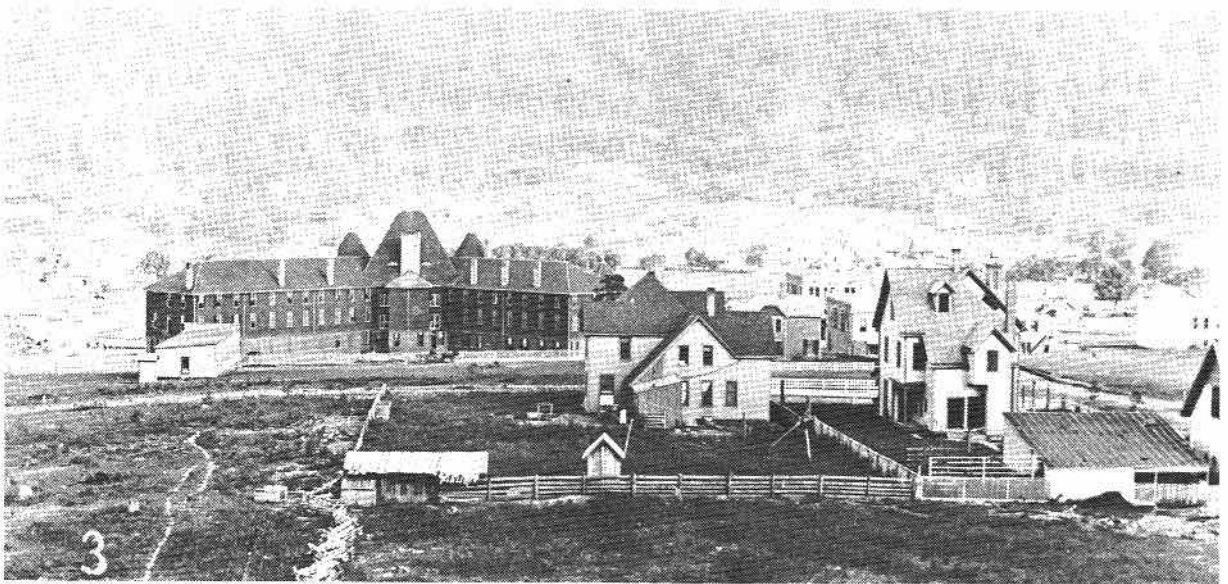
Even the machinery of politics ran smoothly. The new and old residents of the city agreed, prior to the first municipal election on July 1, 1889, to elect Major Godfrey as mayor. And, in order to give both groups an equal voice in the city government, it was further agreed that three councilmen would represent the older residents and two the newer arrivals. Elected as the city's first aldermen were A. W. Train, J. J. Nix, W. H. Minot, W. F. Payne and S. E. Dobbs. Ordinances were soon passed for the government of Fort Payne, including a law banning the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Due to the building boom, the grading of streets became one important function of the new city government. Within a year, 13 miles of streets had been graded and many streets were built upon as soon as they were located, often before they could be graded. With the population leaping from 500 to several thousand within a few months, temporary tents covered the ridges on either side of town, serving the newcomers as homes until hastily constructed houses could be completed.

The advertising campaign was intensified, and the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company issued an attractive prospectus which was sent to prosperous businessmen all over the country, especially those in the New England states, Agents in charge of



THE DeKALB HOTEL. Photo taken from A.G.S. Railroad — trees in foreground remain in Fort Payne City Park.



An early scene of Fort Payne showing rear of DeKalb Hotel as seen from ridge west of city.

publicity placed a display of Fort Payne minerals in the Quincy House in Boston.

Boasts were made of the high quality of iron ore contained in "Iron Mountain," the name so optimistically given to the western ridge closest to the center of town. The capacity of the red ore mines located here was given as 300 tons a day. The capacity of the Brown Ore Mine, located on the eastern slope, was said to be 200 tons of good ore per day. The western side of Iron Mountain was thought to be rich in red hematite and large fields of ore containing manganese had supposedly been located on Sand Mountain, as well as smaller deposits of red and brown ore on Lookout Mountain.

The coke used to convert the ores into pig iron was made from coal mined on Lookout Mountain. Lookout Village was built near the mine.

To facilitate the movement of ores and fuel, the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company even built and equipped a railroad. The Mineral Railroad, begun in 1889 and completed the following January, ran from the Alabama Great Southern Railroad in the valley in a northeastern direction to Beeson Gap and eastward to its terminal at the Lookout Mountain Coal Mine. A network of sidings in the manufacturing district made it possible to load and unload freight at the factories. The train consisted of a locomotive, combination passenger and baggage coaches and coal and construction cars. Regular routes were run from the city to Lookout Village. A considerable amount of passenger and freight service was provided for the public in addition to the company's business.

The Mineral Railroad was intended to form a link in an east and west line connecting the Tennessee River at Guntersville with the Atlantic Coast. Fourteen and one-half miles were laid on this line at a cost of over \$76,000, but the road was never completed. It was later taken over by the Alabama Great Southern line.

By the summer of 1890, the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company had invested \$1,900,000 in plants and equipment, and an additional \$1,250,000 had been spent in developing the city. Meanwhile, Rice and other financiers had invested \$50,000 on a water plant. This plant utilized the two immense springs of mild lime water at the base of Lookout Mountain and supplied the city with pure water. A power house had also been constructed, causing Fort Payne to be referred to as "the electric city," although rates were beyond the means of the average citizen. The Fort Payne Ice and Storage Company, organized in 1889, supplied the city and surrounding area with ice and cold storage facilities.

By 1890 Fort Payne had quite an impressive directory of businesses and factories. The Fort Payne and the Bay State Furnaces had been constructed. The Fort Payne Rolling Mill and Steel Company was said to be the largest of its kind in the South. The Alabama Builders' Hardware Company was one of the most extensive hardware manufacturing factories in the South, and a stove foundry was being constructed by the Fort Payne Stove Works. The Fort Payne Basket and Package Factory, located two miles south of Fort Payne, and the Fort Payne Fire Clay Works appeared to be promising industries. In addition, there were other hardware and lumber companies and quite a few miscellaneous industries. There were also four banks and several investment companies. Of the banks, the Bank of Fort Payne, organized in March 1889, was the first. The Fort Payne *Journal*, which had preceded and would outlast the boom, was joined by another newspaper, the Fort Payne *Herald*.

The Fort Payne Educational Association was organized in June 1890, with ambitious plans for a system of preparatory schools in anticipation of a university to be founded soon thereafter within the city. The Fort Payne Academy for Young Ladies opened in October of that year. But other high grade schools, including a projected military academy for boys erected on Lookout Mountain – and the university itself – remained an unfulfilled dream of the city planners.

The building of the new industrial plants caused real estate prices to soar as a speculative fever spread through the city and fortunes changed hands many times. Older residents sold their property at fabulous prices. John McCartney sold a lot to John B. Stetson, the hat manufacturer, for \$11,000 and bought it back after the boom for \$100. E. S. Killian, a local cotton merchant, sold the lot now occupied by Southern Hardware on Gault Avenue for \$75 per front foot. The Fort Payne Land Company then resold the same lot to Milford Howard for \$200 per front foot. Judge W. W. Haralson paid \$50,000 for one lot, at a rate of \$100 per foot.

Among those who came to Fort Payne during the boom days and remained even after they were over was C. M. T. Sawyer, originally from Littleton, New Hampshire. While still in his teens, Sawyer went to Orlando, Florida, to serve as office boy for John W. Weeks, who later became secretary of war in Wilson's cabinet.

After acquiring skill in surveying and title work, he brought his bride to Fort Payne and helped organize the DeKalb Abstract Company. He was to remain here for 62 years, until his death in 1950. Active in civic and political affairs, he served as mayor for 26 years, which included all but two terms between the years 1910 - 1940. Though he was admitted to the bar in 1896, after having studied under his business partner, he preferred to spend most of his time at his abstracting work and his insurance business. Sawyer donated the land for Forest Avenue School, as well as that for the old high school activities building and for the Saint Paul Methodist Church.

In 1889 the remarkable Kansas City financier, W. P. Rice, further proved his aptitude for advertising and publicizing by arranging excursions for literally trainloads of New Englanders. When the hotel and boarding house facilities became full, barracks and tents were hastily erected to take care of the overflow. These visitors were lavishly entertained while being duly informed about the value of local real estate and the "vast deposits" of minerals in the area. Every effort was made to bring even more New England people and capital to Fort Payne.

Property continued to change hands rapidly and at higher prices during the first half of 1890. The taxable property rose that year to \$3,000,000, as compared to a value of \$147,000 two years earlier. Many of the northern buyers came to Fort Payne hoping to sell their property later at a big profit.

Southern residents became far outnumbered, and the city took on the atmosphere of a New England city. There was a New England Shoe Shop, a New England Barber Shop, and a New England Clothing Store. Friends and visitors were invited to "beans" until even the older residents sometimes developed a taste for the famous Boston dish. In advertisements Fort Payne was often referred to as the "Pittsburg of the South," or the "New England City of the South."

The election of 1890 approached with little interest aroused and few issues, other



Charles M. T. Sawyer.



STREET SCENE ON GAULT AVENUE
The Sawyer Building on corner is still in use today.



Garnett Stancel managed the Opera House from 1932-35 and was the last person to present vaudeville and "talkie" motion pictures there as a commercial enterprise.

than the enforcement – or alleged lack of it – of the law against the sale of liquor. Friends of Mayor Godfrey were in favor of renewing the compromise made previously between the new and old residents. A petition signed by J. W. Spaulding, the Maine attorney serving as president of the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, and 100 other residents asked Mayor Godfrey to serve another term. But the editor of the *Journal* led an opposing group which thought it time an older resident served as mayor. When Godfrey declined to seek re-election, Spaulding announced his own candidacy and was elected by the votes of his northern colleagues.

During the latter half of 1890, it began to appear that the mineral resources, especially coal and iron, were below expectations both in quality and quantity. Thus far the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company had actually been operating at a loss. Even desperate attempts, including the floating of a \$5,000,000 bond issue in December, could not keep the boom going.

By 1891 property values had dropped, industries had lost money, and people had begun to leave the city. In December, with total collapse of the boom eminent, the stockholders of the eight largest industries made one final effort to avoid financial ruin. They voted to merge into one giant company in order to secure a loan from English investors.

But, after three years of rapid and unwarranted expansion based upon faith in greatly exaggerated mineral claims, Fort Payne's bubble was ready to burst and the clouds of a long depression were already settling over the city. The value of real estate soon declined to a point below the level of 1887. Each train took on more passengers than it left behind, as many New Englanders again headed north. Most of these people either sold their property at a great loss or left it in the care of a rental agency, hoping for better prices in the future.

The boom had been almost exclusively controlled and managed by New England people, while southerners, knowing little of the "Yankee" business methods, had served as interested observers. Only a few native Alabama citizens had lost fortunes, as most of the older residents of the city had sold their property on a rising market.

However, two local men, Milford Howard and Dr. W. E. Quin, did lose fortunes. Howard had been a rather flamboyant speculator and had amassed a sizable fortune which he had reinvested in a mercantile business and real estate. The collapse left Howard unable to meet his financial obligations and he lost all his holdings.

Dr. Quin's losses were not as great as Howard's, but he had the added misfortune of being left \$10,000 in debt. His creditors, however, allowed the doctor to pay back the money as he was able to do so. He repaid most of the debt from profits made by buying property at a low price and selling it after its value increased. Among Dr. Quin's purchases were a house formerly valued at \$2500, which he bought for \$50, and another which had cost \$1500, but which he acquired for \$25.

Many of the large boom houses were sold for the lumber used in building them. Farmers often purchased houses to salvage the lumber, rather than cut their own timber. Some families who had never lived in anything but log huts moved into the large houses and lived in one section of a house while using the rest for fuel.

On December 8, 1892, the city of Fort Payne sold and bid in for the city taxes the

property formerly held by the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company. But the city itself was also faced with indebtedness and warrants used to pay city obligations were often used by citizens to pay their taxes.

When the panic of 1893 rocked the nation, its full force was not felt in Fort Payne where people had already suffered the effects of depression for over a year.

In July 1893 when the third municipal election was held, it was the first time that New England boom promoters were not in control. Dr. Quin was elected mayor, along with councilmen S. E. Dobbs, A. B. Green, Jr., Charles Landstreet, John A. McCurdy and C. M. T. Sawyer.

Fort Payne's population at the beginning of the new century was approximately 1700, as compared with over 3500 in 1890. Most of its citizens realized that the city's future prosperity would depend upon small industries and the surrounding agricultural area.

Early in 1900 the North Alabama and Georgia Telephone Company was granted a franchise by the city council, thus adding a telephone system to the water works and sewage system already established. But several years were to pass before electric service was again provided for the town's residents.

In 1910 the DeKalb County High School was built and five students graduated the following year. In 1957 the school became a part of the city school system and was renamed Fort Payne High School. A new addition, costing \$170,000, was added to the school in 1959. A new high school, consisting of a complex of seven buildings, was completed at a cost of over \$2,000,000 in 1969 at the north end of Fort Payne.

A city library had been established during the boom and located on a second floor in the Opera House block. But during the depression years there was no money available for library service. Although various women volunteered their services as librarian during these years, no new books were purchased. Old books were lost or destroyed and interest waned.

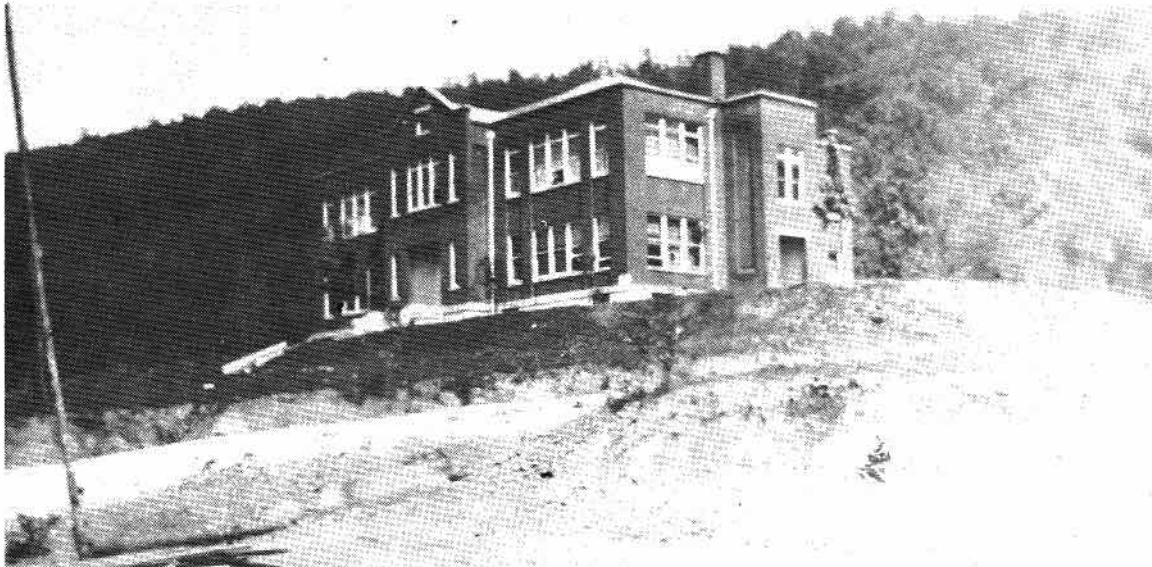
Later, through the efforts of a very remarkable Fort Payne woman, a library was again established in the depression year of 1930. Mrs. Mary C. Weatherly, wife of G. I. Weatherly, president of the First National Bank, scoured the county for books and, with 400 volumes donated by interested citizens, started the Fort Payne Library on October 1, 1930. This date was to mark the beginning of 40 years of library service to the citizens of DeKalb County by Mrs. Weatherly, a period during which she neither received nor desired any compensation.

The city council having agreed to pay the \$5.00 per month rent for the upstairs room of the Masonic Building, F. E. Ladd donated coal for the open grate which heated the room. The initial supplies were purchased from a \$100 loan made by Mrs. Georgia McFarlane, who was reimbursed in a month from small charges collected for the rental of books. Every day of the week Mrs. Weatherly ascended the stairs to the library, carrying her infant son in her arms, and proceeded to build and tend the fire and to serve as librarian, janitor and handyman.

By 1940 the little room was not large enough to hold the 4,000 volumes Mrs. Weatherly had accumulated through donations and careful buying. Fortunately the W.P.A. was at this time providing funds for small libraries, and \$11,000 thus obtained



"The Jefferson Society" of the first freshman class of DeKalb County High School in 1908. Front row: L. to R., Augusta McBroom, Jess Cooper, Vivian Lacy, and Gladstone Yewell. Second row: John L. Cross, Mae High and Eula Majors. Third Row: Leila Carroll, Gertrude Chitwood, Alma Bradbury, Ruby Slone and Lula Majors. Fourth row: Luther Lyons, Arthur Downer, John Horton, Prof. Bert Teal, Maude Baxter and a Miss Cooper.



The DeKalb County High School, Fort Payne, Alabama

was matched by the state and county. But as federal and state money could be used for county libraries only, the name was changed to DeKalb County Library when it was moved to the basement of the new City Hall.

The industry for which Fort Payne became best known first came in 1907. In that year the W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill became the first of numerous hosiery mills which have brought Fort Payne the title of "Sock Capital of the World." Steel-fabricating plants, home-fabricating plants and many other diversified industries add to the financial well being of the town. A new and lucrative tourist industry is also being developed in Fort Payne, where the many natural scenic wonders of the area are a great attraction, as well as the historical sites of the boom era.



MRS. MARY C. WEATHERLY
Alabama Mother of the Year and American Mother of the Year for 1961-62.

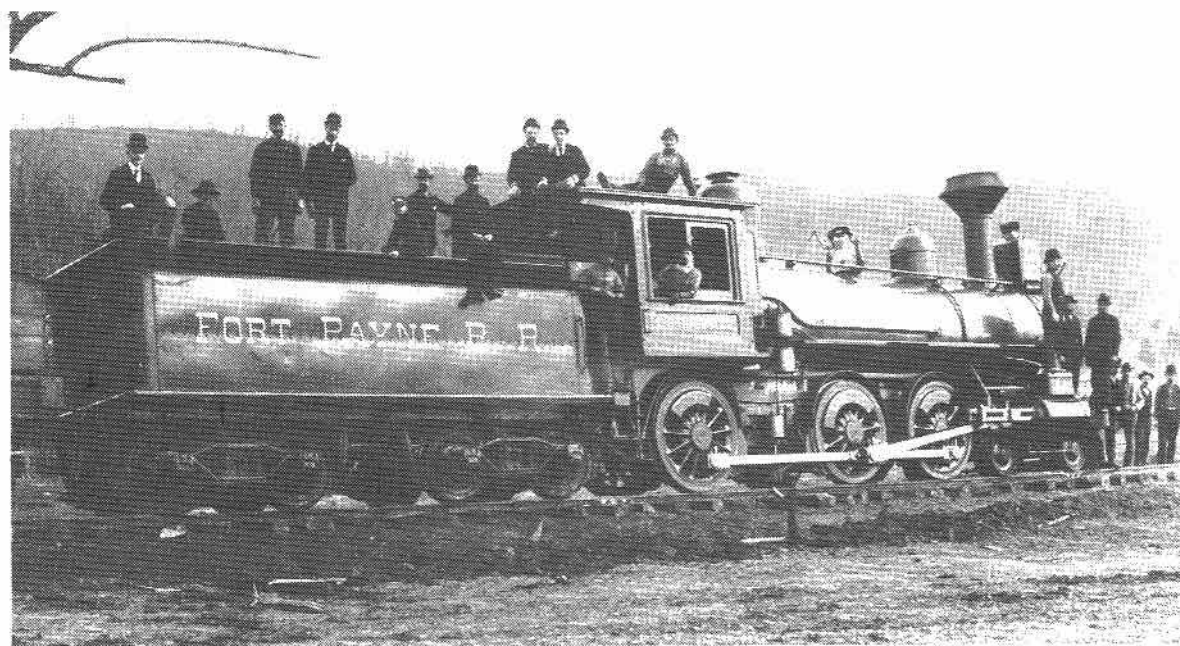
(Footnote)

The above picture, as well as the information concerning this gracious and modest lady, was entered without her knowledge or permission.

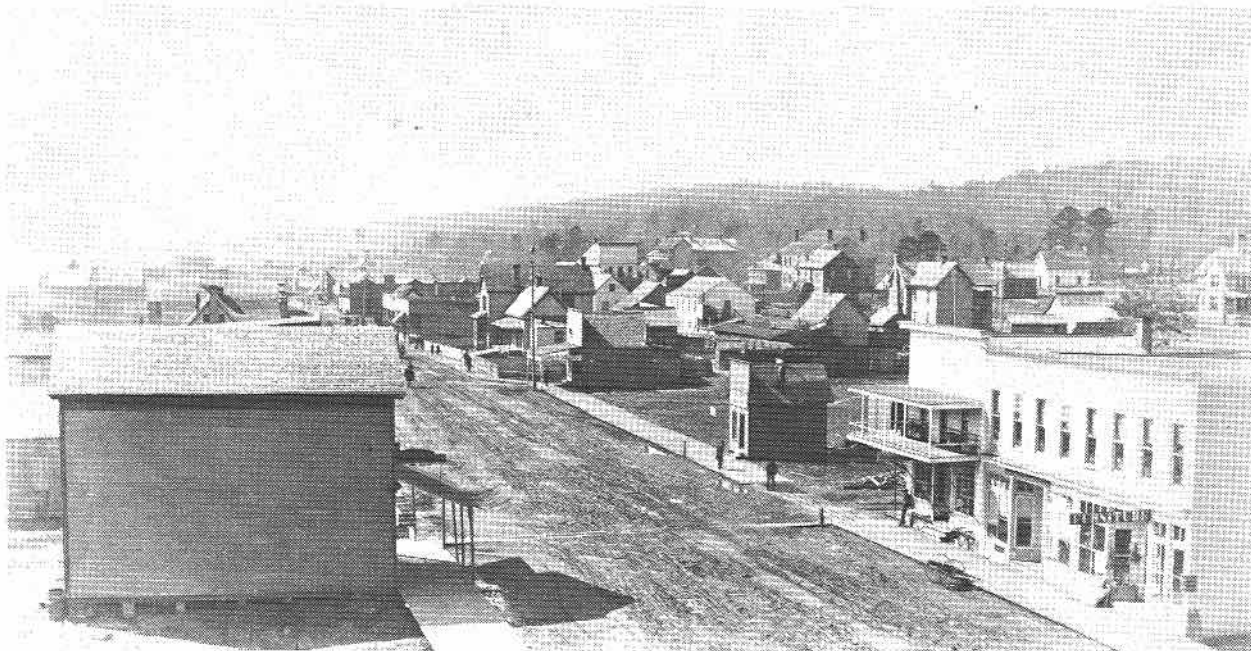
Ft. Payne Boom Days



FORT PAYNE AND EASTERN RAILWAY TRAIN



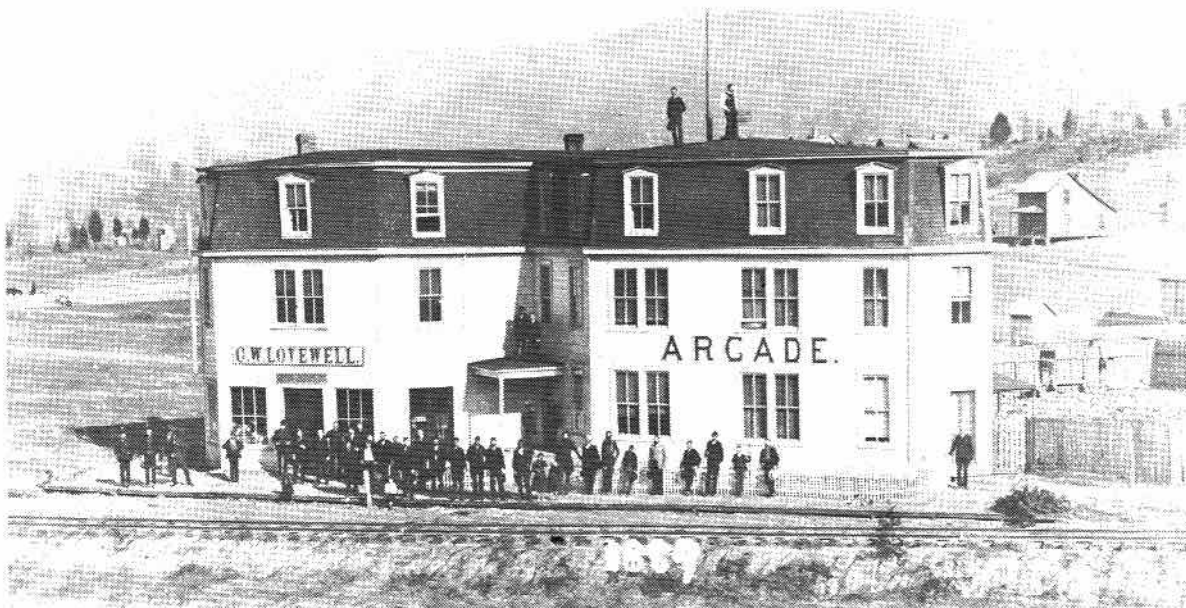
THE LARGER OF TWO LOCOMOTIVES, "The C. O. GODFREY" OWNED BY FORT PAYNE RAILROAD. The other engine was called "The Pee Wee."



Gault Avenue, Fort Payne, looking southwest from 300 block north.



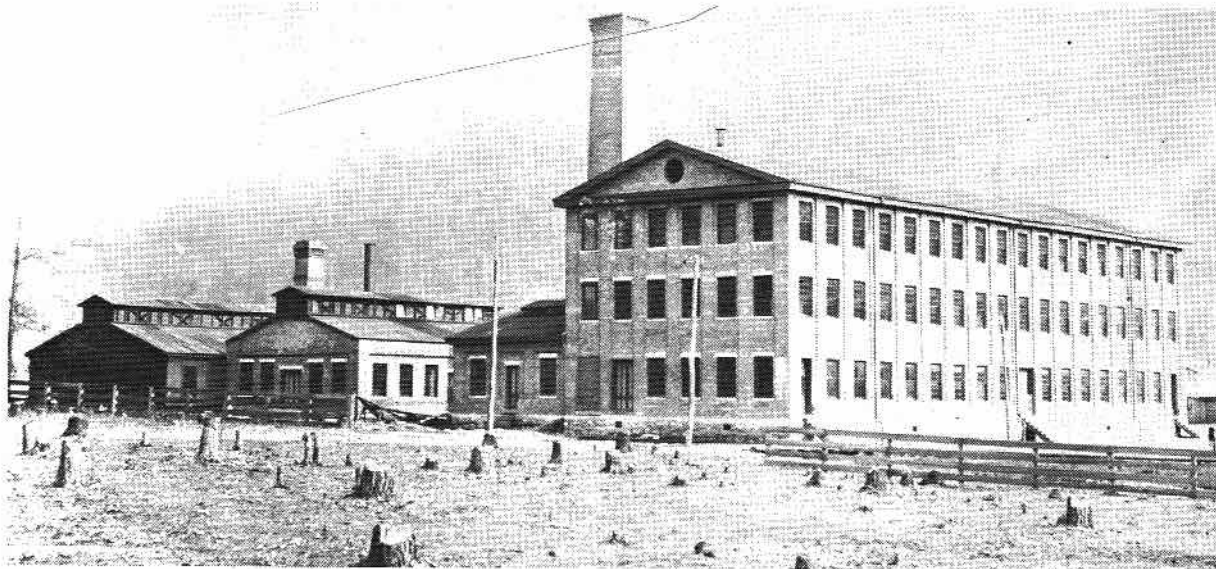
A bustling business corner, Gault Avenue at Fifth Street North, occupied by Bank of Fort Payne and numerous business offices prior to turn of century.



THE ARCADE HOTEL IN SOUTH FORT PAYNE
This hotel served as depot of Fort Payne Railroad in 1889.



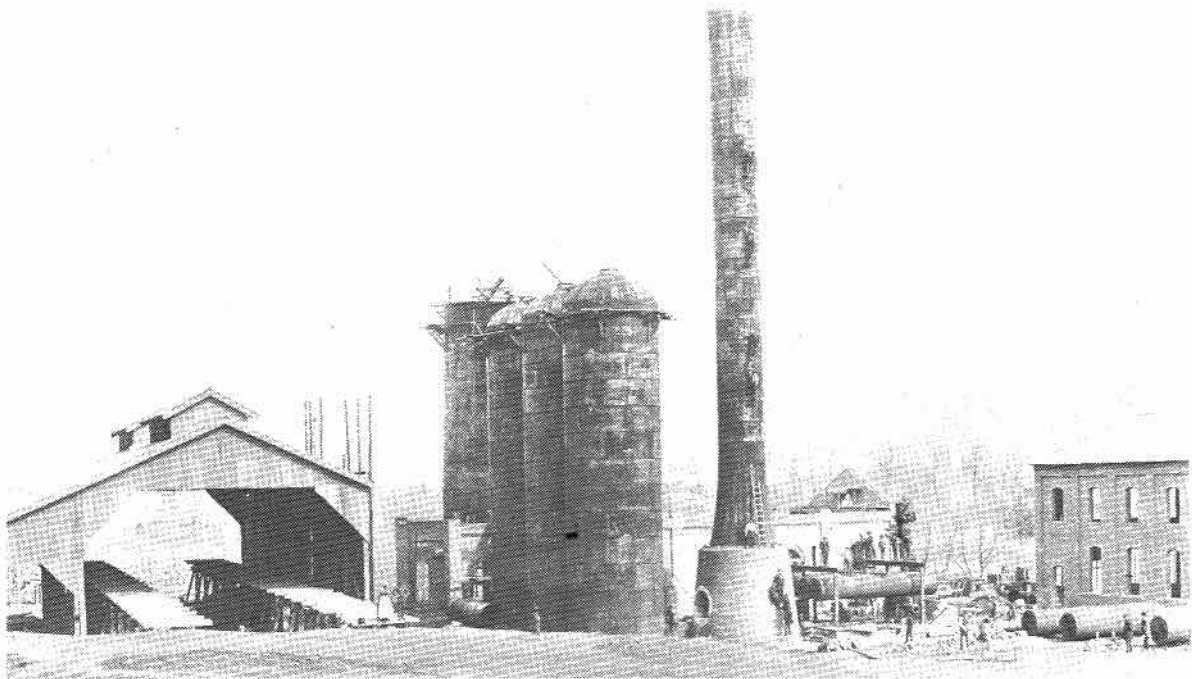
NEW ENGLAND DRUG STORE WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN BACKGROUND.
Photo made during "boom" era.



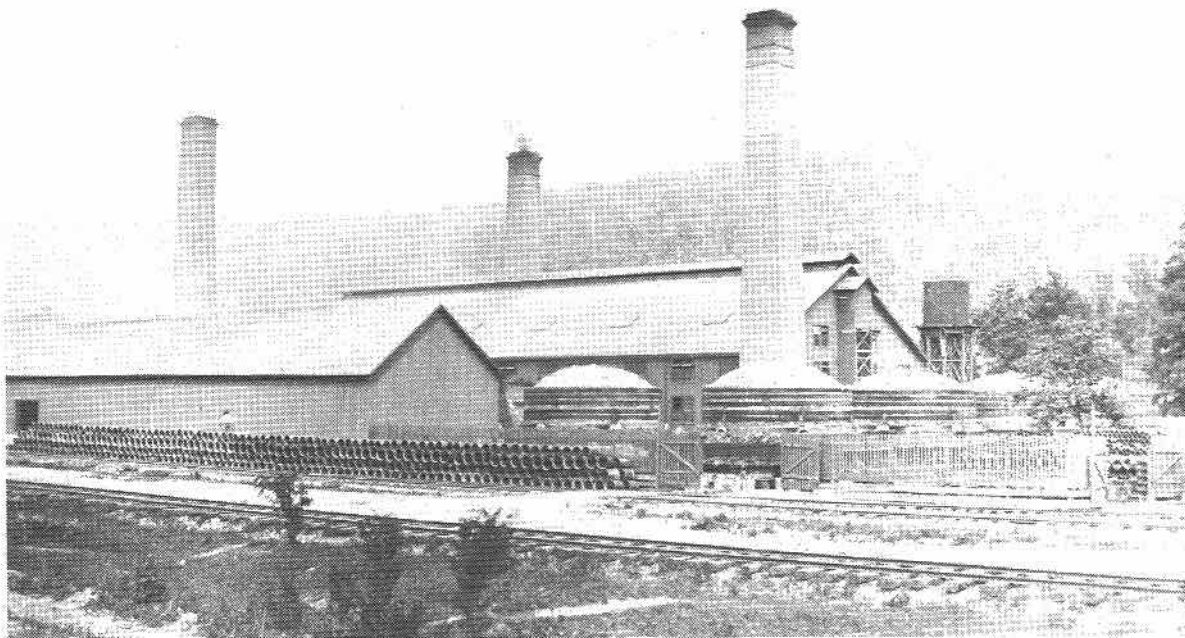
Building built by Fort Payne Builders Hardware Manufacturing Company later sold to W. B. Davis for hosiery mill. (Still in operation as W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill - 1971).



Original building and scene at northeast corner of Gault Avenue and Third Street North, Fort Payne, Alabama.



BAY STATE FURNACE
In "Boom Days" Fort Payne.



FORT PAYNE FIRE CLAY WORKS



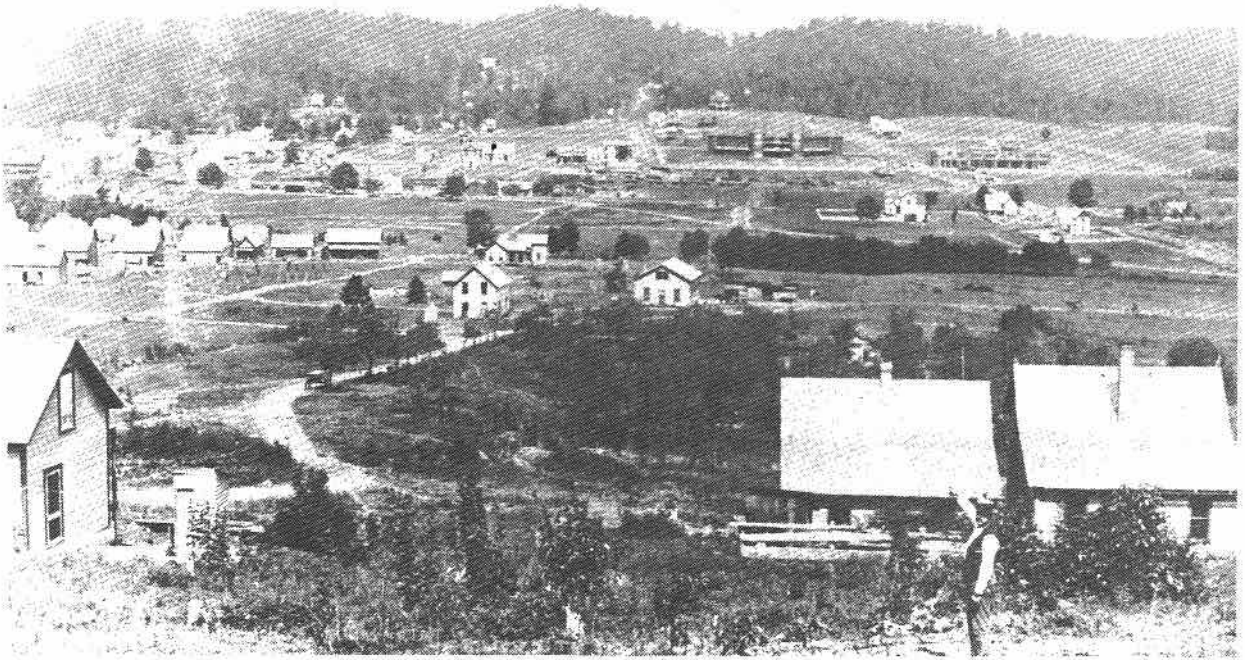
THE FORT PAYNE ACADEMY



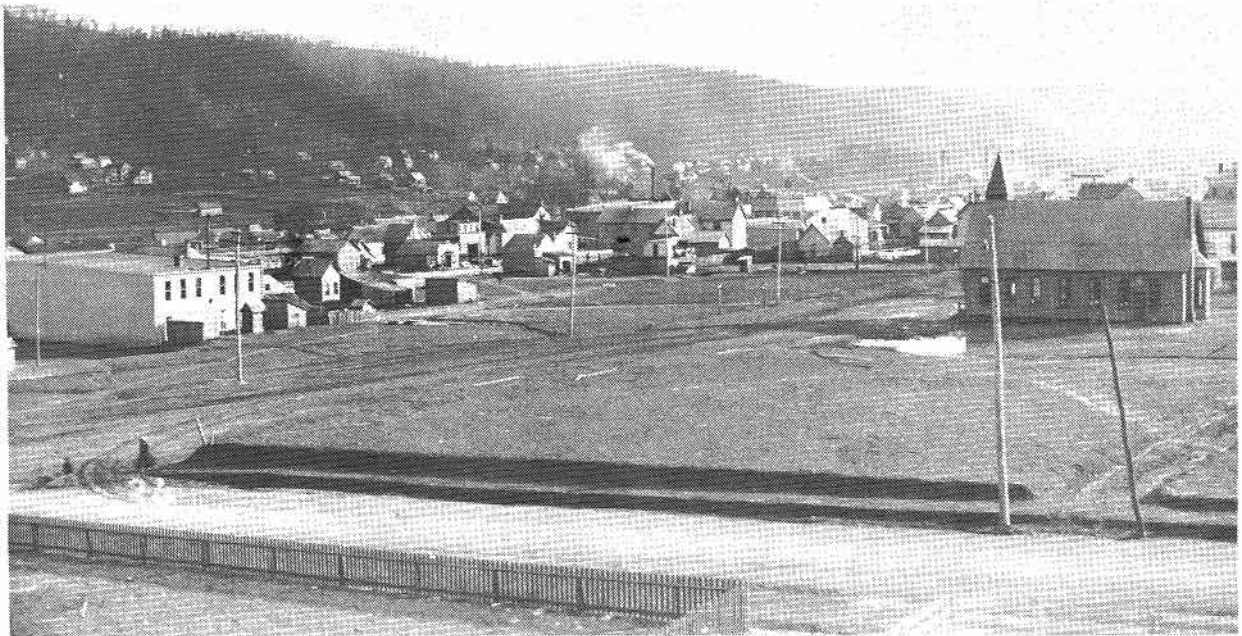
An outing at "MANITOU" Cave in 1895. These are all local youngsters and are, from left to right: John Hops Campbell, Lucy Dobbs, Sid Smith, Ella Dobbs, (both children unknown), Mrs. Ward, Vashti McCartney, Minnie McCartney and Leila Jefferys. Back row: Mr. Spaulding, Harry Minot, Charlie Pursley, Howard Landstreet, Mort Spaulding, Lake Moore, John Ike Campbell, Tom Dobbs, W. W. Haralson, Fannie Campbell, Maggie Cochran and Charles McCartney.



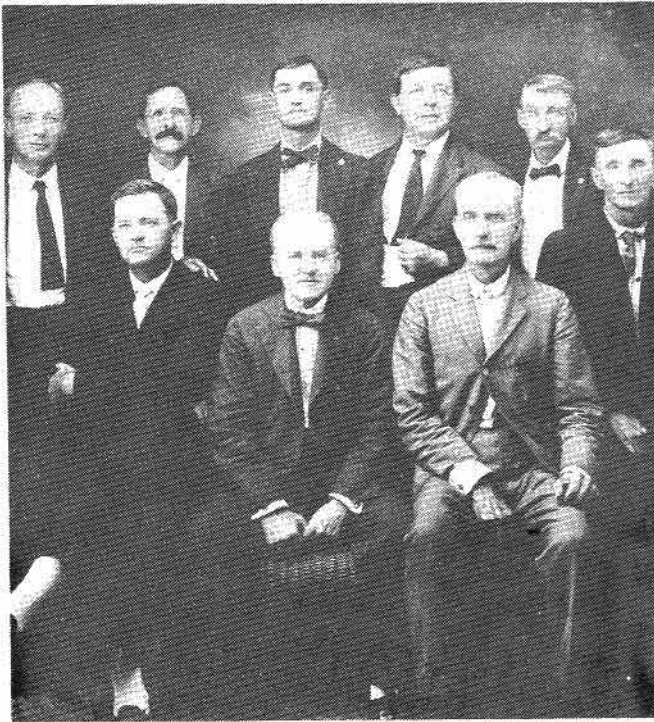
A group of local citizens photographed at entrance to MANITOU Cave in south Fort Payne about 1878. Those identified are Harry Reed Godfrey and Orlando Godfrey, second and third on right, respectively, and Captain William H. H. Minot, on left of cave entrance in straw hat. In cave entrance, left, Archie Spaulding; right, Mort Spaulding.



A VIEW OF EARLY FORT PAYNE FROM FOOT OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN



EARLY FORT PAYNE
Photo taken from Fourth Street Northwest



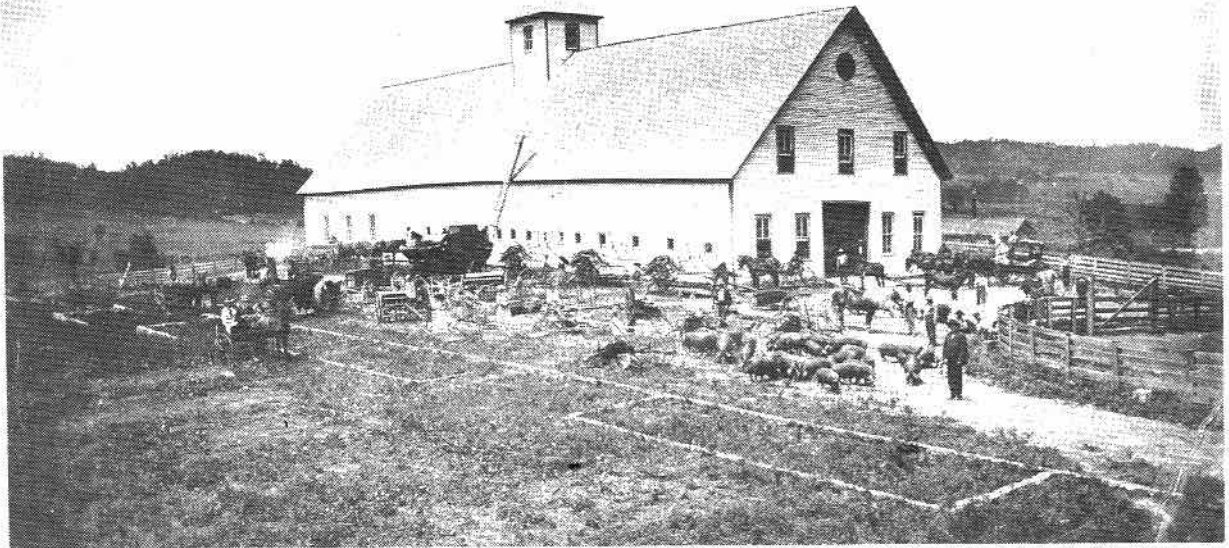
EARLY 1900

Officials of the city of Fort Payne: Front row, L. to R., Charles J. Scott, Mayor, Charles M. T. Sawyer, J. P. Stanley, and the policeman. Back row: C. W. Wright, Charles Landstreet, Charles P. Driskill, W. L. Haralson and Joseph N. B. Faulkner.



EARLY BUSINESS MEN OF FORT PAYNE

From left: George Pharr, Captain Minott, Will Haralson and a Mr. Ledbetter



LARGE BARN AT "CHEROKEE" BUILT BY C. O. GODFREY
This was one of the most progressive farms during early days.



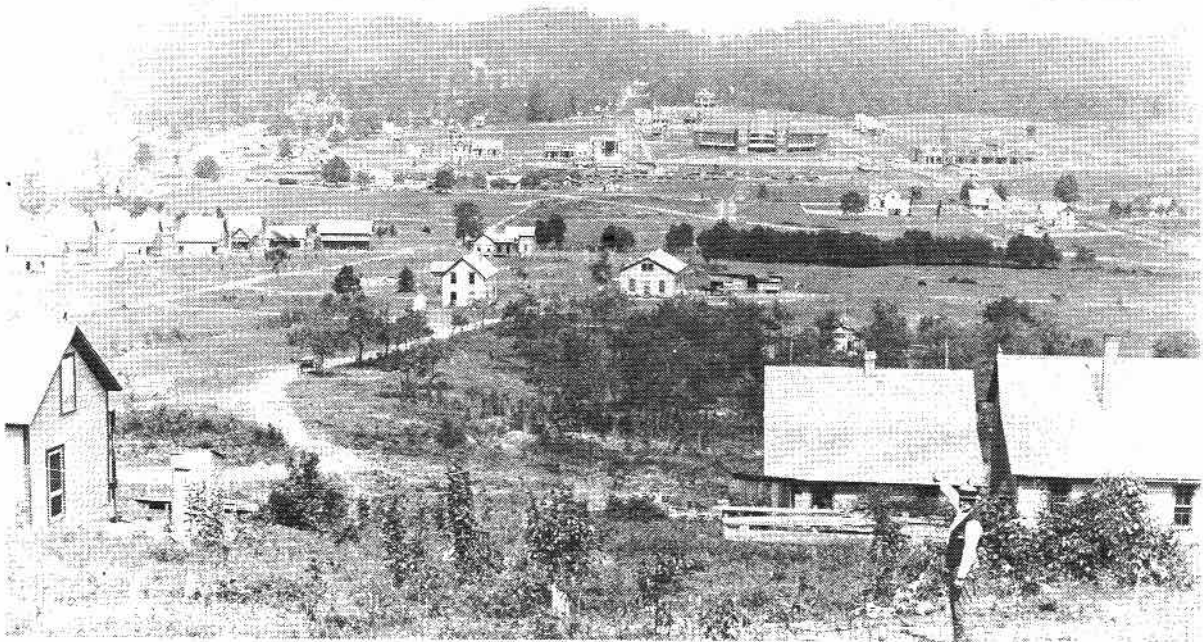
Main Street looking West
DeKalb County Court House
in distance. Fort Payne, Ala.

1925

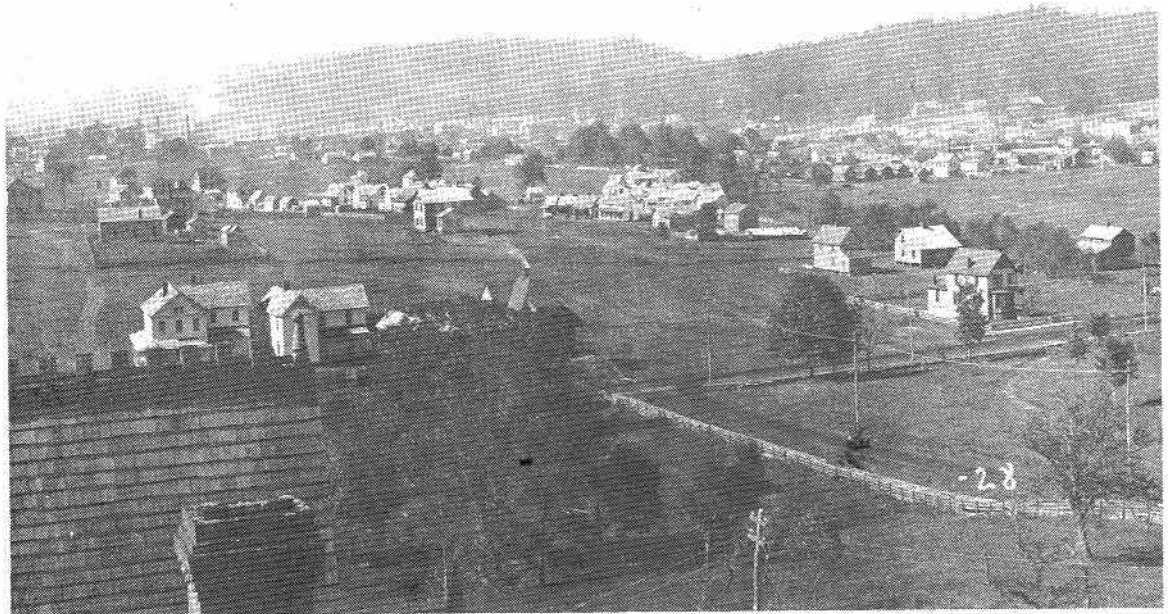
54



A rural DeKalb County family in oxen-drawn wagon. The building at right is store and home of the Rainey family. The second building from right was first courthouse in Fort Payne.



Early Fort Payne photographed from foot of Lookout Mountain.



FORT PAYNE IN EARLY DAYS

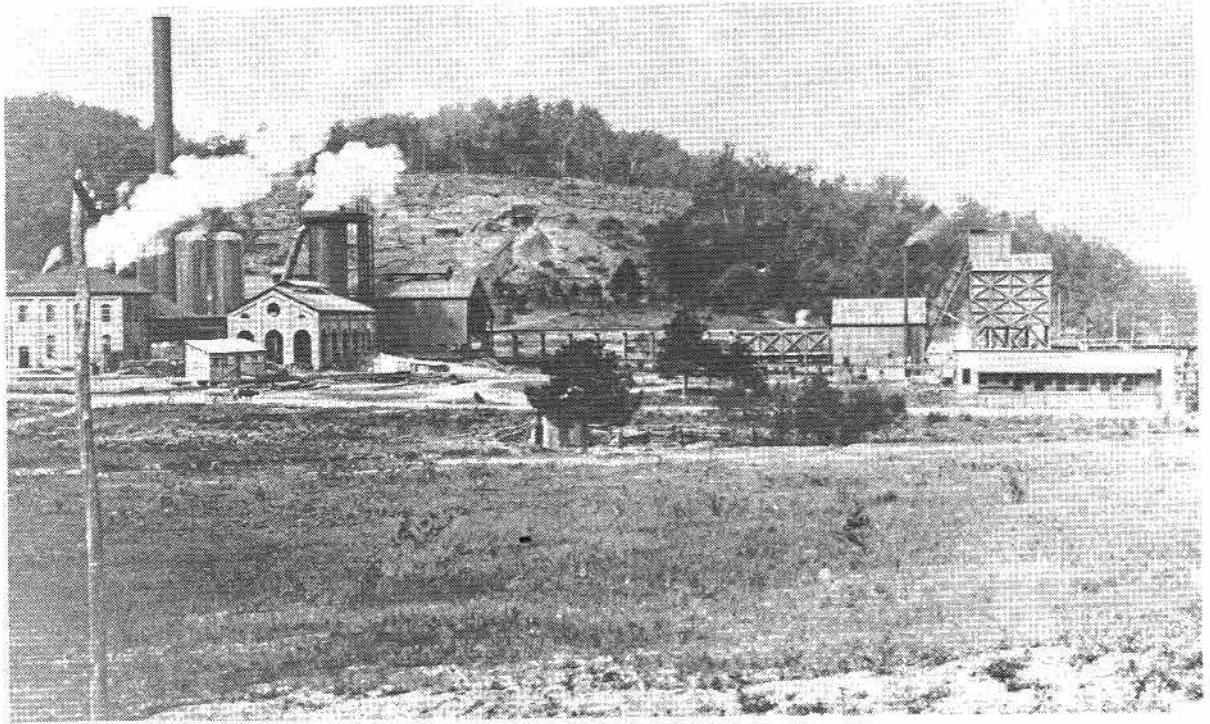




BROCK'S BARBER SHOP, 1919
Barbers are, L. to R., Eulie Gibson, L. L. Kuykendall
and Joe L. Huggins.



Lucien Livingston Cochran – An important
personality of the county who lost an arm in the
Civil War and served as probate judge about 1895;
grandfather of C. E. McCartney.



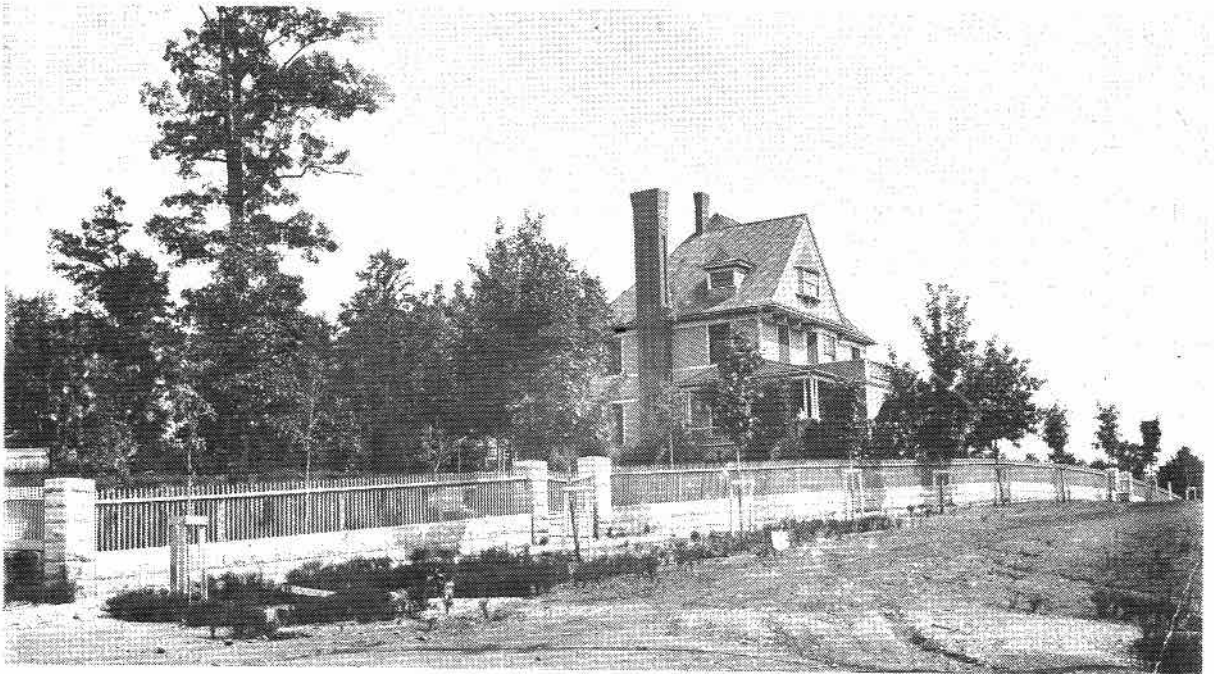
The Bay State Furnace in south end of Fort Payne, Alabama.



Street scene on Gault Avenue, Fort Payne, Alabama, 1920.



The First Baptist Church of Fort Payne erected in 1921.



New England type architecture displayed in the home of Maj. C. O. Godfrey, "Boom Days" mayor of Fort Payne.

W. B. DAVIS & SON

Manufacturers Of

Hosiery

FORT PAYNE, ALA.

G. G. HARTLINE

Let Us Vulcanize Your Tires

FORT PAYNE, ALA.

CHORUS BOYS

Paul King
Shepherd Killian
Wayne Baxter
Pelham Green
Ira Moore
Wesley Rose
Russell Cochran
R. J. Guest
Albert Ellis
Gladstone Culppepper
Hugh Bennett

CHORUS GIRLS

Amy C. Hughes
Sadie Campbell
Sarah Ellen Keith
Lee Dell Hawkins
Ann DuBois
Ina Durham
Anna Anderson
Nellie Faye Joanson
Elvie McCracken
Ruth Cannon
Minnie Fugatt
Lizzie Erwin
Clara Dean
Willie Clay Burks
Eulene Everett
Nannie Mae Miller

The members of the Senior Class of the DeKalb County High School wish to call your attention to the merchants who have advertised on our program. We ask that you give them special consideration in your dealings.

BLACK CAT CONFECTIONERY

Serves the best in

SOFT DRINKS—CIGARS—TOBACCO—CANDY

LOWRY'S MARKET

"If we please you—Tell others."

"CHEVROLET"

For

Economical Transportation

KIRBY AUTO SHOP

Fort Payne, Ala.

The Senior Class of The
DeKalb County High School

—Presents—

"ROSETIME"

(Copyrighted)

A MUSICAL PLAY

Directed by Bernice Brown

Accompanied by Mrs. Nell Russell Killian

O P E R A H O U S E T H E A T R E

8:15 P. M.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1925.

Controlled and Managed Exclusively by

Wayne P. Sewell Production & Lyceum Co.

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Balloon tires standard Ford Coupe equipment
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Alabama.

Fort Payne,

THE BELLE THEATRE

Wednesday, May 20
Jackie Coogan in
"LONG LIVE THE KING"
Also Aesops Fables

TIME OF PLAY—1925

ACT I.—A Swell Western Village.

ACT II.—High Art Film Co's Lot in
Hollywood.

ACT III.—Same as Act I. Three years
later.

BUICK BIG SIX LINE

GADSDEN — FORT PAYNE

Daily for your convenience. Three round
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In Car Driving When You Use
Shur - Hit Gasoline
Because it is the best

MUTUAL OIL COMPANY

Call at our filling station for service

Go To
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
FORT PAYNE, ALA.
For Service, Safety, and Security

HENRY FEINBERG
Ladies and Gents Furnishings
MILLINERY
Shoes for the whole Family

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In order of appearance)

Jerry Brown.....Arthur Brannon
Pa Perkins.....Erby Fischer
Rose Perkins.....Vestal Eva Hawkins
Ma Perkins.....Verdie Durham
J. Dillingham Jones.....Eldred Baker
Sajiat Smith.....Bruce Holcomb
Proops O'Reilly.....Webster Blake
Isabe Bennett.....Louie Lyons
Percy Peabody.....Virgil Davis
Jacqueline Dauville.....Mayne Tolbert

Dixie Cafe & Bob-Her Shop
Palace Barber Shop of Fort Payne
J. M. SMITH, Prop.

Compliments of
Mr. D. L. Campbell
Fort Payne, Ala.

H. O. FAULKNER
TAXI SERVICE
Your patronage appreciated.

For That Next Job of Printing—See
THE DEKALB PRINTING COMPANY

PHONE 35

HAMMONDVILLE

Hammondville, although not incorporated until 1932, had settlers a century earlier. George M. D. Lowry built a plantation home, and later became a leader in the War Between the States. William Cook Hammond settled in 1832 on the western side of the present town. John Wright came later in the 1800's, and like Lowry and Hammond, raised a large family. Later on came Blevé Hammond, W. B. Thompson, James Carmichael, Farris McSpadden, George Phillips, D. M. Tate, C. C. Davenport, Glover Samples, John Gardner, Johnny Winston, Lucy and Jim Ballard, R. M. Hulan, and the Chadwicks, Crows, Fishers, Hawkins, Alexanders, Harrisers, and Roses.

The town was incorporated under the leadership of Blevé Hammond who served as its mayor for the first 27 years. The Alabama National Guard Armory located there is named Fort W. B. Hammond in his honor. The town grew up around a crossroads that resulted when U. S. Highway 11, constructed in 1926, crossed the Valley Head-Henegar road.



LEBANON MASONIC LODGE – Organized in 1849; photo, 1905. First row, L. to R., Richard Andrews, Thomas Jones, F. M. Baxter, William Killian, a Mr. Smith, Unknown and Richard Chitwood. Second row: 1. Mr. Cross; 2, 3 and 4, Unknown; 5. Mr. Bass; 6. Pete Davis; 7. Ryal Burt; 8. Known; 9. Wm. H. H. Minot; 10. Unknown; 11. Isaac Ryan; 12. Millard McNutt; 13. Unknown; 14. G. L. Malone; 15. Unknown. Top row: 1. Unknown; 2. Bain Frazier; 3. Tom R. Jacoway.

LEBANON

Lebanon is located in an area long favored by the Cherokees for camping sites and hunting grounds. Level plains, high enough to escape rainy season floods from nearby Wills Creek, still bear evidence of the Indians' presence. Spring showers, falling upon freshly plowed fields, reveal glistening arrowheads, usually flint or chert but occasionally quartz. Collectors of Indian relics, while searching these fields, have also found polished greenstone tomahawks, or celts, spear heads, stone knives and other tools and weapons left by the first residents of what is now the Lebanon community.

The first white men to attempt to settle in the heart of this part of the Cherokee territory are thought to be two brothers, James and Bud Baxter. Arriving from South Carolina in 1825, the two young men selected a tract of land and began to clear it for cultivation. But a band of Indians, who were swimming in the creek at what is now known as Burt's Swimming Hole, discovered the Baxters and immediately attacked them. During the fight the Indians stopped to tend to several of their wounded comrades, and the brothers escaped in different directions, each believing the other dead.

James made his way northward, while Bud went south to Choccolocco Valley near the present site of Anniston where he lived for two years. After marrying Sally Frazier, Bud decided to return to Wills Valley and persuaded friends among the Frazier and Dobbs families to accompany him. Shortly afterward, he was reunited with James, who had also married and returned to the area from which they had earlier fled.

The Carden family settled at Lebanon soon after the Indians left. Coming from Lebanon, Tennessee, in the early 1840's, Christopher Carden practiced law. His son, Hugh, went back to Lebanon, Tennessee, to study and returned to Lebanon, Alabama, to practice law also.

William T. Killian, of another pioneer family, must have been a handy man indeed in this frontier community. Killian owned a water mill, grist mill, sawmill, shingle saw, planing mill and cotton gin, and also did blacksmith work.

Other pioneer families include those by the following familiar names: Haralson, Cunningham, Estes, Malone, Franklin, Nicholson, Chitwood, Davis, Beene, Horton, Vann, Hughes, Jack, Warren, Burt, George, Maroney, Johnson, Majors, Dobbs, Hoge, Ryan, May, Brock, Winston, Dunlap, Nicholson, Walden, Brandon, Payne and Williams.

A post office was established at Lebanon in 1838, with Larkin Everett as the first postmaster. Two years later Lebanon was chosen as the county seat of DeKalb County, on the condition that a courthouse and jail be erected there. A brick courthouse was built in 1842 on land donated by the Frazier and Dobbs families. This building was purchased in 1960 by Mrs. Evelyn Stafford Sharron, a descendant of the Fraziers, and remodeled to serve as a beautiful home.

A jail was built across from the courthouse, on the north side, and was moved to Fort Payne when the county seat was changed in 1876.

A government land office was also located in Lebanon during this early period. And one of the first newspapers in the county, the *Republican Union*, began publication about 1867.

The first small school in Lebanon was organized in 1839. Later, a four-room school offered such advanced courses as Latin, geometry, trigonometry and zoology, as well as English, history and other fundamental subjects. George W. Weatherly, a native of Georgia, served as principal of the school from 1884 to 1892. Other teachers included Charles McNaron and Beulah Spencer.

During the Civil War several companies of Confederate volunteers were organized in the Lebanon community. The first company organized in the county, the DeKalb County Invincibles, was formed here in July 1860, under the leadership of Captain Bob Higgins. Two companies of cavalry were organized in September 1862, one led by Captain George Washington Malone and the other by Captain Dan Clayton.

The Lebanon Cemetery, started even before the county was formed, became an early meeting place for annual homecoming and memorial services by descendants and friends of those buried there. A combination schoolhouse and church was used by the large crowds which gathered there on the Saturday preceding the second Sunday of each May. This tradition is still observed today and is a big event at Lebanon each year. Only the time and building have changed. On the first Sunday of May, descendants of the Baxters and Fraziers and many other pioneer families gather at a new chapel equipped with a modern kitchen and pay homage to their ancestors.

PORTERSVILLE

Portersville, located just north of Collinsville, was first called Porter Town until the family for which it was named moved from the community, at which time it became known by its present name. The site of the Porter home was where Mrs. Elzina Stapp's house now stands.

Portersville was one of the first temporary county seats before Lebanon became a permanent seat. The small building used as a courthouse stood on the Smith farm near Mush Creek, a stream named for an old Indian chief who was buried on this farm at the foot of Lookout Mountain.

The old depot building which now stands was built about 1868 or 1869. A man named Cunningham cut the stone for the building and hauled it from his farm below Collinsville. Unfortunately, the railroad company went broke before he received pay for his work. And work on the railroad bed was stopped near Clyde Killian's farm. Sometime later work was resumed, with much of the work done by Chinese labor, some of whom were housed at a camp just south of Collinsville. The original building was soon enlarged to serve the growing demands. The enlarged building remained in use until the early thirties, at which time the wooden addition was torn down.

Across the tracks from the depot stood a number of section houses which were later moved away. G. S. Heard was the first section foreman. For a time there were three daily operators here, but the early days of the depression brought the closing of the Portersville depot. The last passenger train, "The Birmingham Special," passed through on August 24, 1970.

One of the first post offices was in a building across the track from the depot, with Mrs. Zee Morgan serving as the postmaster. Later, Bailey Hughes, Monroe Killian and Mrs. Harold Heard had charge of this office. Rural routes have been served from this post office over the years. The rural carriers included Dow Heard, Paul Gilbreath, Land Moore, Otis Reed and Calvin Reed.

The first school building, which stood on the hill southwest of the J. N. Pritchett house, is said to have been one of the first to have glass windows. Many students walked miles to attend this school, including children from various Lookout Mountain homes. One teacher at this school used as his office the loom room which can be seen in the J. N. Pritchett's yard today.

When the ore mines opened nearby in the early 1900's, this school building was

desired for use as a boarding house for the miners. The mining company arranged to construct a new building just north of Gussie Killian's property in exchange. This school continued in operation until about 1920, when it was consolidated with the Collinsville School. The building was torn down in 1927.

The only other old school located nearby was one on the Lackey Gap which was called the Popular Spring School. It was in use during the Civil War and served its area until about 1880.

The ore mine, located in the gap of the ridge, continued in operation until 1907. Many houses and several boarding houses were built on the side of the ridge and north of the gap during this time. Death was brought to this community twice in two different tragedies, one a mine cave-in and the other a train wreck near the mines.

During the period of mining activity, Portersville had a drug store. Many different mercantile businesses have been established here over the years. Monroe Killian opened a business in 1889 and operated it until his death in 1949. At one time even caskets were sold at Killian's store. People from surrounding communities came in wagons with chickens, eggs and hides to exchange for merchandise.

Cotton gins, blacksmith shops and automobile garages have also been located here. In former years cotton and cross ties were also bought and sold here.

The old homes include the McBroom home, built before the Civil War and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Pritchett. The Belvey Nowlin home on the Smith Farm was built around 1880.

Across the ridge from Portersville, there were a number of water mills on Wills Creek where corn and wheat were ground. Wesson Mill was located down the valley, and Frazier Mill and a gin were built near Lebanon. William T. Killian also built a mill, gin and sawmill near Lebanon about 1874. Farther upstream Hudson Mill and a sawmill were located on Wallace Hughes' farm. Mac Simpson's farm, near Lebanon, also had a gin.

For a time there was a post office here called Hughes. Nearby on the Beam Hughes' farm was a gin, corn mill and a tanyard where harnesses, shoes and saddles were made.

In the gap to Collbran there was a mill for grinding corn. And on the Jack Creek, which empties into Wills Creek, there was a card mill for wool called the Jack Mill. There was also a mill for grinding corn here and a tanyard was located nearby on the Will Garrett farm.

The Methodist Church at Portersville was organized long before 1900 and has occupied several different buildings. In April 1932 the church was blown down during a severe storm, and the present building was soon erected. The Baptist Church, when first organized, met in the first old school building. The present building was erected in 1912.

SULPHUR SPRINGS

With lush green foliage and trees in the summer, with harsh, cold, barren rock in the winter – and a terrible odor rising from the numerous springs all the time – Sulphur Springs was once billed as a health resort and cure-all, to which people flocked from far and near. Aptly named, the springs still give off the sulphur which once brought health addicts to lodge there.

It is not known just when the first settlers arrived here, but the first post office was established in 1885, and a three-story hotel with 50 rooms was built soon afterward. The Sulphur Springs Hotel was a resting place for travelers arriving by way of the Great Southern Railroad, and was also a mecca for many who came to bathe in and carry away foul-smelling water from the springs.

The first merchants in the community were the Blansit brothers, Bogue and Bob, and Lem Harris and his son-in-law, Orville Davenport. Dr. Phil Green practiced medicine here. His brother Griff married a Whitehead of the John Whitehead family.

The first church in Sulphur Springs was a Baptist church. A Mr. Matthis was one of the first teachers at the school, a fairly large one for the time.

In 1918 the post office was moved two miles away to Sulphur Springs, Georgia, where the railroad depot was located. The explanation to this somewhat confusing situation is that two towns of the same name were located on opposite sides of the state line. For many years afterward, Tom Oiler carried the mail on horseback from the Georgia post office into Alabama.

Other than the railroad, horses were the main means of transportation. Bill Shaddick drove a horse-drawn hack from the depot to the hotel during the busy summer months.

Today the springs still contain sulphur, but the hotel was torn down in 1948 and few people live in the area. The school and church each burned down twice, and local residents must travel several miles now to reach either a school or a church.

Once a popular resort town, Sulphur Springs, Alabama, has been a victim of modern medicine and the local drugstore.



Winston Place

VALLEY HEAD

At the head of Wills Valley is the small historic town of Valley Head, sheltered by hills and the ridges of Lookout Mountain in a quiet and peaceful scenic area unspoiled by modern problems of ecology and congestion.

From Winston Spring, in the heart of the town, Wills Creek follows the southwest slope of the land to meander on its way to the Coosa River. Yet other small creeks flow from nearby to follow a northeast slope and form Lookout Creek which empties into the Tennessee River at Chattanooga.

Rich in Indian lore, Valley Head shares in the claim to the great Sequoyah. The Valley Head Woman's Club erected a historical marker to his memory in 1955, placing it at the original site of a huge black oak tree under which Sequoyah taught his alphabet to the Cherokees.

Believed to be the first white settler where the town is now located is a Dr. James Gardner. This versatile doctor became Valley Head's first postmaster in 1837, and also made an unsuccessful attempt to establish the country's first industry, silkworm and silk production. Dr. Gardner lived in a double log cabin, connected by the usual hallway. This small house was later to form the nucleus for Winston Place, one of the main historic attractions of the area today.

The builder of Winston Place was William Overton Winston, probably Valley Head's second white settler. Winston was from a very old and respected English family. His great grandfather, William Winston, was born in England to the Winston family from which Sir Winston Churchill later descended. William Winston, along with two brothers, Issac and James, left Yorkshire, England, and settled in Hanover County, Virginia. Issac was to become the grandfather of Patrick Henry and the great grandfather of Dolly Madison.

William's great grandson, William Overton, was born in Virginia in 1904, later moving to Tennessee and becoming a lawyer. About 1836 he and his family came to Alabama, settling in Lebanon, the county seat of DeKalb County.

After a brief residence there, the Winstons secured a 3,000-acre estate and built their permanent home at Valley Head. The site they chose for Winston Place was near a large spring, the source of Wills Creek.

After several years of hauling hewn timbers, and with the aid of slave workmen, the huge twelve-room house was completed. The rooms each contained a fireplace and many windows (totaling 94 windows in all). The large kitchen, according to custom, was built separately in the back yard. Cabins for the 42 slaves were added nearby. Later three rooms were to be added, the porches made deeper, and four massive Doric columns added to the front. Furniture for the new home included a large rosewood piano and a four-poster mahogany bedstead and bureau which the family had brought by wagon from Tennessee.

This beautiful home became well known as a place of entertainment and hospitality. But unwelcome guests arrived in the fall of 1863, when 60,000 Union soldiers occupied Wills Valley for three weeks. 30,000 infantry camped around Winston Spring, led by a Union general named, ironically, Jefferson C. Davis. His headquarters were located at Winston Place. In the middle of September, the troops left to join in the battle of



Home of Dr. J. N. Winston. Picture on page 70 shows different view of same house.

Chickamauga, the guns of which could be heard in Wills Valley.

William Overton Winston was one of the first lawyers to practice in this county and served in the state legislature for 15 years. He was a Buchanan elector, and was elected to the Secession Convention in 1861 (where he voted against secession), and to the Constitutional Convention in 1865. He also served as solicitor of the Huntsville district for seven years, resigning to promote the Wills Valley Railroad of which he became the first president. He retired to private life in 1867 and died four years later.

He and Mrs. Winston, the former Marie Louise Beene, had 14 children but few reached maturity. In two instances the time of death for one child and the birth of another almost coincided. Two sons died in the Civil War. Only four children, three daughters and one son, lived to marry and rear families.

One of the sons, Dr. J. N. Winston, built a beautiful home for his fifteen-year-old bride, Kate Chitwood, near Winston Place in the early 1870's. This house, with large porches upstairs and down, was nestled at the foot of the ridge and was the scene of many gay parties. A tree house built in a huge tulip tree nearby served as a popular courting place for many young people of the town. Dr. Winston's office was in a separate building located near the house. His home was moved to Birmingham several years ago and restored.

Another well-known old home is Oak Lawn, presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lowery. Built by Captain Rodolph Davenport in the early 1860's, this home was designed by an Englishman and was one of the first English-type homes in this area. Captain Davenport served in the Confederate Army.

Vermead, the present home of John Allman and Zack Barnard, was built by John Levi Barnard who was born in Georgia in 1821. His wife was the former Mary Hodge. Barnard helped organize an early farmer's union, or grange. During the war he operated a foundry at Battelle for the Confederate government.

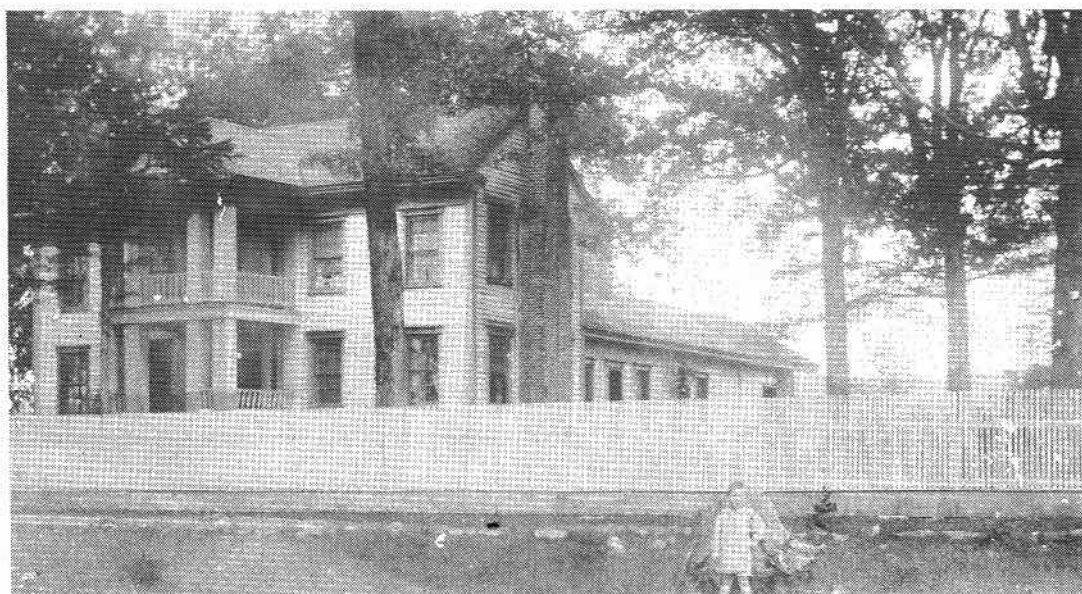
Another prominent family was that of the Hoges. John K. Hoge served as Valley Head's second postmaster. The Hoge family came from Virginia by way of Tennessee.

One of the oldest Valley Head area families is that of the Larmores. Colonel Vance Cummings Larmore married Margaret Lyle McSpadden and came to Alabama from Virginia about 1836, acquiring several hundred acres of land in Big Wills Valley.

He later donated the required land and built Whitehall Academy. He was also known as an early advocate of soil and timber conservation, crop fertilization, and improved cultivation methods. The first engine used on the Wills Valley Railroad was given the name Larmore because of Colonel Larmore's help in building and promoting the railroad.

Larmore descendants still own the old homeplace and some of the original plantation acreage. Across from the J. C. Larmore home, an old slave cabin still stands.

Another early settler was William Thornbury, born in Tennessee in 1813, who came to Wills Valley in the mid 1830's. He and his wife, the former Elizabeth Folson, acquired land in Big Wills Valley and built their log cabin between Wills Creek and the ridge. Because of his age, Thornbury served in the home guard, rather than the army, during the war. The Union forces which camped around Valley Head helped themselves to the Thornbury corn, taking more than twenty large loads of corn at one time. A young calf, added to the last load of corn, jumped from the wagon and managed to avoid recapture.



"Oak Lawn," ancestral home of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. D. Lowry on U. S. 11 near Valley Head, Alabama.



Home of Dr. J. N. Winston, Valley Head. The "Tree House" was built in 1868.

The first Davenports to live in this area were the children of Joseph Davenport, a veteran of the War of 1812, and the Battle of New Orleans, who was born in Virginia in 1789. Davenport, who married a "Miss" Thomas of Virginia, moved to Tennessee where they became the parents of four sons and three daughters. All seven of the children later brought their families as a group and settled on farms in Little Wills and Big Wills valleys about 1839. The sons were Orville J., Montraville, Rodolphus R., and Belker. Rodolphus' home is still in good condition in Big Wills Valley. The daughters were Addine Davenport Spring (Mrs. David Spring), Emmaline Davenport Holleman (wife of Reverend William Howard Holleman), and Evaline Davenport Moore.

Orville J. Davenport married Mary Grant of Tennessee in 1839 and they had twelve children. Mary died in 1857, and Orville married Mary Caroline Allman two years later. They had four children. Orville's younger brothers, Rodolphus R. and Belker, served in the Confederate Army. His sons, Francis Marion, Cicero, and Zachary Scott, also served in the army, as did Emmaline Davenport Holleman's son, William H. Holleman.

The Whites of Valley Head trace their ancestry to John White, born in Ireland in 1798. At the age of 12, he came to this country and lived in South Carolina, where he later married Clara Keith. To this union were born nine children. As a young couple they moved to Tennessee where they lived for several years before moving on to Crow Creek, Alabama. After hearing of good land in the northeast section of the state, John White took a son and a daughter with him to explore this territory. They found suitable land on which a good spring was located, and chose this site to homestead, with the father, son and daughter laboring for three weeks to clear space and build a cabin. This done, they returned to Crow Creek to bring the rest of the White family to their new home, at what is now known as White Hall in April 1835.

One son, William H. White, married Margaret Jane Todd, who had moved here from Virginia. They had 12 children, including one daughter, Mrs. Martha White Reece, who was so blessed with longevity that she celebrated her 101st birthday in 1970.

One of William's sons, John White, donated an acre of land for the cemetery which is now known as White Hall Cemetery.

The one hundredth anniversary of the founding of White Hall was celebrated in 1935, at which time a bronze plate was erected in commemoration of the John White family by a great grandson, William Monroe White, an accomplished and world-famous electrical engineer.

Bethel Baptist Church was established north of White Hall in 1847, on land donated by the Barnard family. Two of John White's descendants were pastors here. John Lowry White served for 33 years, and James Mason (Uncle Dock) White exceeded that record by filling this position for 50 years. James Mason White (1858-1955) also owned and operated the J. M. White Gin and Lumber Company in Valley Head.

One of James Mason White's sons, Elder Robert N. White, is also a Baptist minister and served as Valley Head postmaster for eight years. Another son, Ben Winston White, was a prominent Fort Payne businessman. Pallie White Ellis, granddaughter of John White, was postmistress in Valley Head for 25 years.

The family doctor was held in high esteem, though rarely overworked in the early settlement. It has not been determined whether Dr. Gardner was a practicing physician.

But these pioneer doctors often had supplemental professions or jobs. Dr. Benjamin F. Paine, who came here from McMinnville, Tennessee, as a surveyor for the Wills Valley Railroad, was also a musician and once served as postmaster. Dr. Paine, who was married to one of Colonel Winston's daughters, Maria Louise, died of pneumonia while at the home of a patient on Lookout Mountain.

Two members of the Winston family became doctors. Young Dr. Jessie Winston died just as a baby sister was born. Part of her name was made Jessie in his memory. Dr. John Nelson Winston practiced medicine in Valley Head for many years.

Dr. E. P. Nicholson, from a prominent Collinsville family, also practiced here and married Mary Larmore of the pioneer Larmore family. Aunt Molley, as Mary became known, often boarded the "drummers" who arrived on the daily trains to sell their wares to local merchants.

Dr. Bill Green, whose family was among the early settlers of Valley Head, also served as one of the early physicians.

The town became an important early trading center of the area. A small store and a grist mill were established first and located at Winston Gap. The first general store was operated by R. R. Davenport in front of his home, Oak Lawn. Later this store was moved to the depot site and run by N. S. Davenport, Sr., and G. M. D. Lowry, who had moved to Oak Lawn after the war. At one time E. T. Davenport had an interest in the store, and later it was operated by N. S. Davenport and his sons. A trading center for people from miles around, this huge rambling store building was destroyed by fire in 1956. Bell's store and Citizens Bank are now in this location.

Another popular store was opened around 1875 by E. T. Davenport, affectionately called "Mr. Erskine." Jim McKown was his first partner. Later, Mr. Erskine's son, Tom, became his partner in this store.

In 1913 a freak tragedy struck the town. It was set on fire by a defective smoke stack of an evening northbound passenger train. Balls of fire from the smoke stack first inflamed the roof of Mr. Erskine's store, and soon this and all other buildings facing the railroad were in smoldering ruins. Very little was left of the business section of Valley Head. Within a short time, however, brick buildings and sidewalks were being built where there had previously been wooden buildings and dirt and board walks. And another large mercantile partnership was formed by Anderson Maxwell, Ernest Jones, and Jim McKown.

C. Y. Culberson, a local merchant, established the first telephone exchange in the rear of his store around 1910 with Miss Jessie Phillips serving as the first operator.

Other historical data concerning the early business development of Valley Head includes the establishment at one time, around 1908, of a small soda pop bottling company, operated by a Gibson family from a nearby valley.

The first ice cream parlor in Valley Head was located in a store operated by W. B. Bennett. The first drug store was run by W. B. Thompson in 1915. The first bank was organized in 1914, with G. M. D. Lowry as vice-president. And, for a brief time, a newspaper was published in Valley Head by a Mr. Hood.

With much of the area's early economy based upon the production of cotton, lumber, tan bark, and cross ties, Valley Head became an important receiving and shipping point, due to its location.



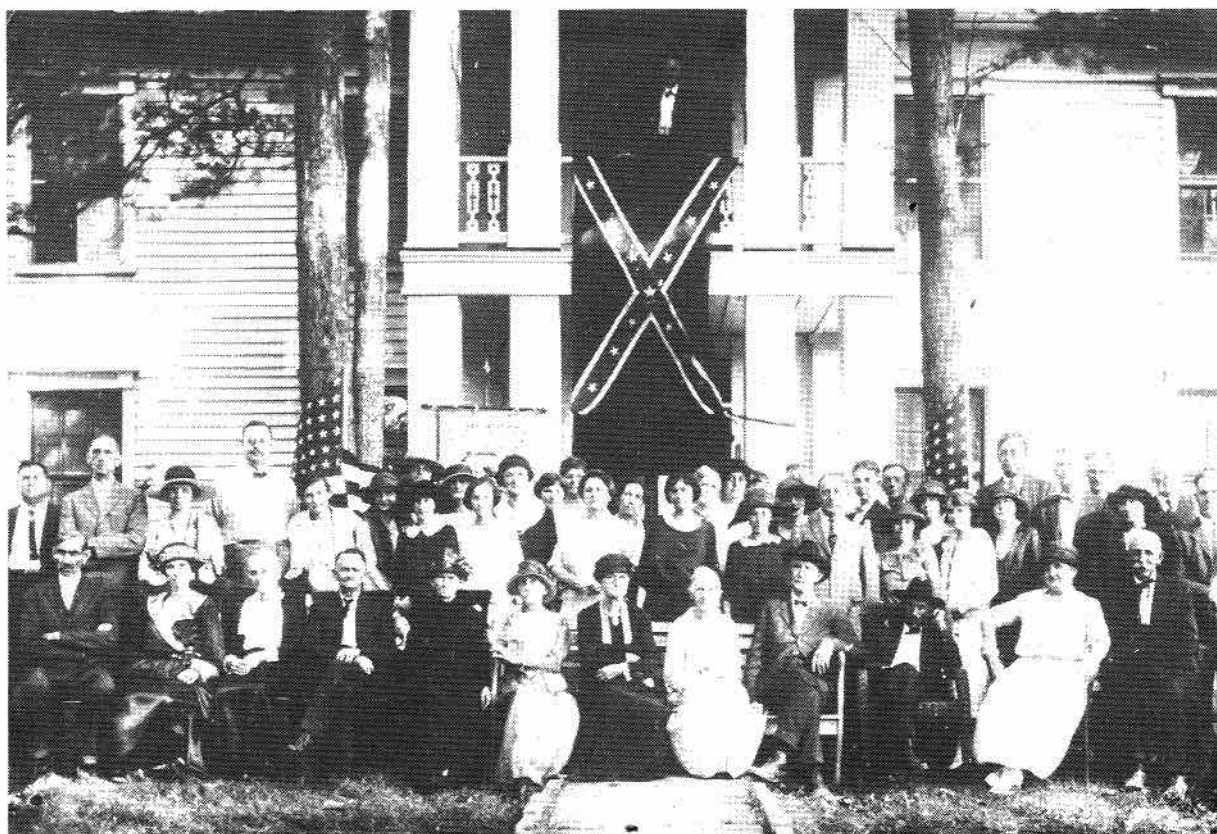
Civil War veterans from Valley Head. First row: L. to R., Major John Campbell, G. M. D. Lowery, Tommy Holliman, Unidentified, Cicero Davenport. Second row: Sam Johnson, I. Y. Willis, Jim Price, John Riddle, Taylor Davenport. Third row: Joe Johnson, G. W. Pharr, Unidentified.



An early street scene, Valley Head, Alabama.



The Old Valley Head School about 1915. C. Y. Hall was principal and teacher. His wife, Mary Will Collins, also taught. Miss Ruth Wright was music teacher.



A group of prominent Valley Head people at a social at "Oak Lawn."

Two large cotton gins and sawmills drew business from a large area extending into the nearby valleys and both mountains. In the gap of the ridge, where the city park is now located, "Dock" White's large gin and grist mill did a thriving business for years and continuously fascinated the passing school children.

A prelude to modern automobile congestion occurred during the cotton ginning season, when a traveler could hardly make his way through the town, due to the number of ox carts and horse and mule-drawn vehicles which filled the whole town and overflowed into roads leading into Valley Head.

Valley Head's three churches are located on the same street. The land for all three, as well as that for two colored churches near the foot of the mountain, is on the original Winston property and was donated by Adelaide Winston Davenport and her heirs.

The Baptist Church was organized in the 1860's. Used first as a community church, it also later served as a school. Originally located on a hill near the present home of E. N. Jones, Jr., this brick building was moved to its present location in 1920.

The Presbyterian Church, first organized in the parlor of Winston Place in 1872, first occupied its own building in 1890 at the present location. The original construction was replaced by the present brick building in the 1930's.

The Methodist Church was established in 1871. In 1905 the building was moved on log rollers from the hill to its present location. The original church remains a part of the present building which was completed in 1917.

The maintaining of family cemeteries located near the homes was the traditional practice during pioneer days. Such cemeteries in the Valley Head area include the Captain Rudolph R. Davenport family cemetery, located to the east of the old home, Oak Lawn. Captain Davenport and other members of his family are buried there. Winston Cemetery still serves as a family burial plot.

Another old cemetery was located on the ridge behind the present home of E. N. Jones, Jr., where bodies of both black and white persons were interred. The remains of several of these graves have been removed in recent years to what was formerly Hick's Graveyard, but is now known as Valley Head Cemetery. The land for this cemetery was donated by a former resident known as "Aunt Pliney" or "Grandma" Hicks.

The town of Valley Head was incorporated in 1922, and C. Y. Culbertson served as mayor for three months until John William Ellis, Sr., who served for 18 years, became the first elected mayor. During his term of office, the present city hall was built with the aid of C.C.C. labor, and the original water works were installed.

Others who have served as mayor of Valley Head are: W. O. Davenport, Sr., H. H. Hammond, Paul N. Davenport, Sr., Albert Ellis, William Morrow, Russell Fischer, Ted Holleman, Jack Cooper, Jack McGlincy, Tom Hill, and Kenneth Hammond.

VERNON COMMUNITY

The Vernon Community, located four miles southwest of Collinsville, was settled by the Appletons, Joneses, Edwardses, Mathews, Smiths, and other families prominent in DeKalb County history.

Before the Civil War, Reverend J. B. Appleton homesteaded the land where he lived

until his death in 1908. A family reunion of the Jones family descendants is held there annually, two plots of land having remained in the family from the early days to the present.

Early activities such as spelling bees, picnics, and all-day singings with dinner on ground centered around the school from which the community derived its name. Sunday School was held in the schoolhouse, as was the annual summer revival with which various churches helped.

In 1915 the Vernon Baptist Church was organized with 22 members. Services were held in the schoolhouse until land for a church was donated by Charlie Smith. In 1967 a modern air-conditioned church was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smith. The present membership is 190 members.

About 1936 a Home Demonstration Club was organized, and a clubhouse fully equipped with stoves and refrigerators, and tables and chairs was built. Various gatherings such as suppers and breakfasts are held at this clubhouse which also serves as a fellowship hall for the church.

WHITE HALL

The White Hall community, located eight miles north of Fort Payne on Highway 11, was named for John White. In 1861 John White and wife, Clara Keith White, signed a deed for land near the White Hall Academy for the Masonic Lodge No. 196 to be built. Mr. White also gave land for a cemetery and for the first known church organized in the community. This is now the Bethel Baptist Church. The White Hall Methodist Church was originally erected as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and was later sold to the Methodists of the North Alabama Conference.

One original homestead with slave quarters is still intact today. This was built in 1836 by Col. V. C. Larmore and wife Margaret Lyle McSpadden Larmore from Virginia. Col. Larmore is reported to have given land for the White Hall School which existed more than a century ago. The first cradle for harvesting grain in the area was purchased by Col. Larmore for his use and that of his fellow farmers. Other early settlers in the White Hall community were the families of T. C. Allen, William Thornbury, J. L. Barnard, R. S. Price, O. D. Harris, L. Campbell, T. H. Slaton, G. M. Slaton, William Keith, M. Crabtree, L. L. Thomason, and R. L. Price.



A SOCIAL AT HEATON SCHOOL IN ADAMSBURG AREA

Pictures of this area and era often displayed shotguns, which attest to the need of protection from animals, and Banjos which show the fun-loving spirit of the people.

Lookout Mountain Towns and Communities

ADAMSBURG

Shortly after Alabama became a state in 1819, pioneer settlers started moving into what is now the Adamsburg community. Most came from the Carolinas, but a few came from Georgia and Tennessee, and a few from as far as Virginia and Kentucky. Bob Wilder, who blazed the first roads in this area, is believed to be the first white settler in the area, which originally was Cherokee Indian hunting ground.

Densely wooded hollows and Little River Canyon afforded excellent breeding conditions for many kinds of wild animals and birds. The screams of panthers were heard in Starnes Hollow north of Adamsburg as recently as 1930, and a huge black bear was seen several times by various people of the community during the summer and fall of 1910.

The following are some of the earliest settlers of the community: Joe Kirby, Mose Baugh, Tobe Walker, Dave Walker, Charlie Reynolds, Dow Lewis, Jake Reynolds, Scott Tarbot, Rachel Merrell, Fred Sutterlin, Ed Welden, Jackie Walker, William H. Whitley, and W. V. Bailey.

The community's first school and public gathering place was some three or four miles west of the present Adamsburg school and was known as the Heaton School.

Irving Baker donated land on which the Liberty Hill Freewill Baptist Church was built one mile west of the present community. The building was constructed of logs and also served as a schoolhouse.

In 1905 this church was moved to land donated by Reverend Thomas M. Keith. The church built in 1905 stood until 1950 when it was replaced by a larger and more modern facility.

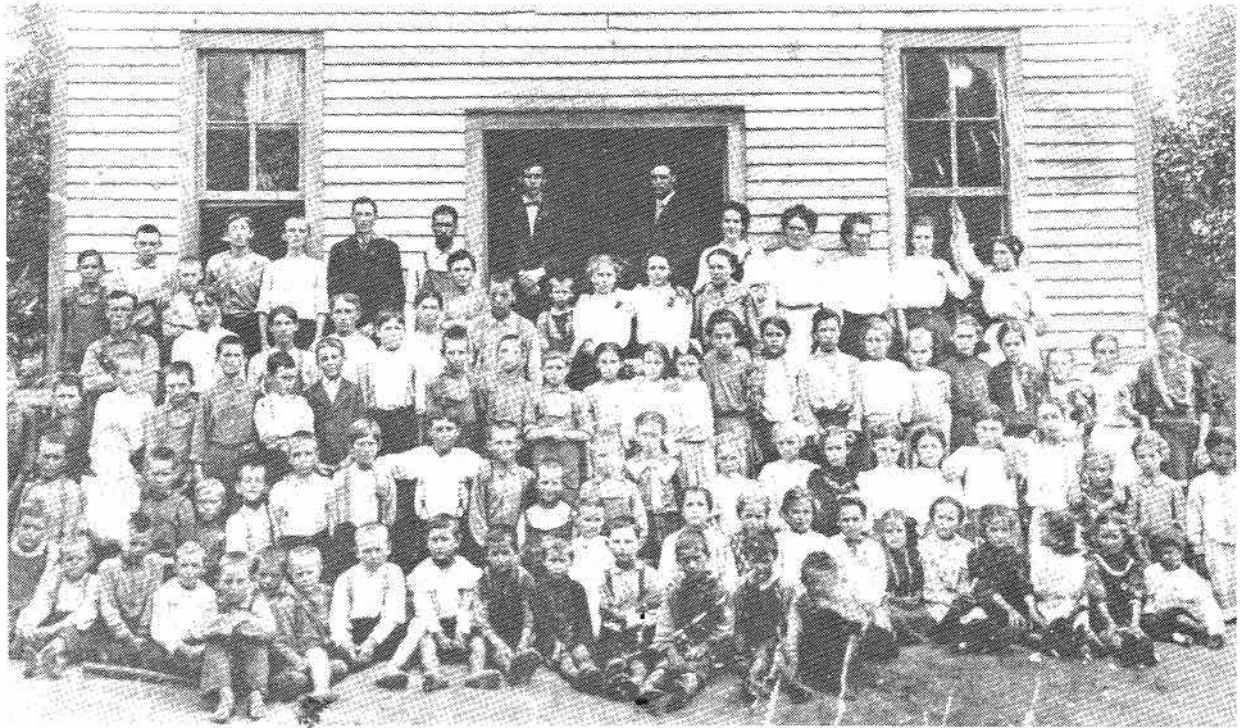
Adamsburg lies five miles east of Fort Payne atop Lookout Mountain. Its population is about 250 people.

In 1891 Reverend Simon Russell Canfield Adams was called from Carrollton, Georgia, to pastor First Baptist Church in Fort Payne. While serving the Fort Payne church, Reverend Adams became attracted to the area on the mountain which was later to be named for him. Adams bought land there and actively promoted the establishment of Adamsburg school which was built in 1902. The school served the community until 1935 when a new building was completed. In 1958 the Adamsburg school was destroyed by fire but was soon rebuilt.

Reverend Adams, who donated land on which Adamsburg school was built, also gave



EARLY SYRUP MILL ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
From such mills came 18,417 gallons of syrup in 1949.



ADAMSBURG SCHOOL - about 1905

a tract of land to his sister, Aida Penola Odessa Rebecca Anna Mary Temperance Adams. After moving from Georgia to her new home, Miss Adams married John Helton and they reared a large family. Fannie, the oldest daughter, married Levi Baugh, and their offspring are citizens of the community today.

Prior to the advent of welfare payments, the homeless and needy people of the county were cared for in "county farms." One of these farms was located about one mile from Adamsburg and consisted of a caretaker's home and a group of smaller units in which the inmates lived. Some of the caretakers through the years were John Howard, Allen Dewyer, Chesley Whittle, Tillman Nappier, and Lee Beaty.

A post office was established in the home of Sam Howard, and Vannah Howard served as postmistress. Mail was carried on the Star Route from Fort Payne to Adamsburg and returned by carriers on horseback. This trip was made three days a week. Two of the riders were Henry Dawson and Chesley Whittle.

Other churches which have existed in the Adamsburg community include Baker's Chapel Congregational Church which was pastored around 1877 by Reverend Jerimiah Bean, who rode a mule from Tenbroeck for a Saturday and Sunday service once a month; a Southern Methodist church which was pastored for many years by Reverend John Peyton from Jamestown; a Missionary Baptist church built in the 1920's; Mt. Carmel Methodist church organized in 1929 built on land donated by Jim Jordan.

Adamsburg's first store was a two-story building which housed the Odd Fellow Lodge on the second floor. Jim Powell was the first merchant, succeeded by Rupe L. Fowler and Eli Jennings. The old store was a place of much activity for many years and served as a polling place.

One of the largest fruit farms in North Alabama was operated for many years by the Fugazzi Brothers. The farm was located about three miles northwest of Adamsburg and produced more than 400 acres of apples and peaches annually. However, eventually changes in the seasons, insects, and ever increasing labor costs forced the enterprise out of business.

Located near Adamsburg is Little River Canyon which is known as the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi.

BROWN FELL

The Brown Fell community is located on Lookout Mountain approximately four miles east of Portersville. In close proximity to the Brown Fell community are the communities of Loveless, Mt. Zion, and Mt. Vernon. Each of the latter communities had schools located in them until 1939 when the state required that the three schools be consolidated into one. The site agreed upon by citizens of the communities was acquired from the widow of Brown Fell whose name the school bore when completed. Under the leadership of John F. Cole of the Loveless community, interested citizens made available for the school's construction 90,000 feet of lumber.

Brown Fell school served the communities until 1956 when, ironically, it was the victim of still another consolidation.

Among the early residents of the Loveless, Mt. Vernon, and Mt. Zion communities were the following families: Cash, Cole, Cannon, Cleland, Longshore, Johnson, Jacobs, Glazner, McClung, Plunket, and Barkley.

FISCHER COMMUNITY

Fischer Community is named for Gustavis Fischer who came from Berlin, Germany, in 1842 to settle in that area. He homesteaded an 80-acre tract of land with a log cabin on it. He operated a tanyard, a grist mill, sawmill, a loom, a shoe-making shop, and a cotton gin. There are several homes in Fort Payne today made from lumber sawed on Gustavis Fischer's homemade sawmill.

Fischer School is named for Gustavis Fischer. The land on which the school is located was donated to the community by his grandson E. C. Fischer. He and other descendants of Gustavis Fischer still reside in Fischer Community.

LICK SKILLET

Of all the communities in DeKalb County, Lick Skillet can claim the most unique name. It is believed that the community, which is located about three miles east of Dog Town, was named by Silas Wells who built the first store there.

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church was built in the vicinity, and later a school, also called Bethel. The first teachers at Bethel School were Joe Kennedy and Wallace King.

Ransom King built a store shortly after Wells had built his. Later, Wells left Lick Skillet; and Ned Roberts bought his store, later selling out to Henry Price. Other owners of the store were Bob Powell, Jessie Prater, and Ab McMichin.

A cotton gin was built in the area to serve the farmers' needs, and Mt. Mariah Baptist Church replaced Bethel, which fell into disrepair and was torn down.

MENTONE AND SURROUNDING AREA

Lookout and Sand Mountains are the southern extremities of the venerable Appalachian Range. This range was once as grand as the European Alps or the Rocky Mountains; however, the Appalachians are millions of years older, and, consequently, have been eroded to their present size and configuration.

On the western brow of Lookout Mountain, overlooking the sweeping valley below, is Mentone, once a fashionable and popular vacation retreat. Two of the large and once bustling old hotels remain as silent and nostalgic reminders of a time when the "summer people" came in throngs by train to Valley Head, and were carried by horse-drawn carriages, and later by automobiles, to these hotels or to their summer homes where they could rest or play in a pleasant atmosphere.

Mentone was founded by John Mason, a native of New York City, who, as a young



John Mason



Alice Mason



man, joined the United States Cavalry and was sent to the Middle West. His parents were interested in the opening of the Oregon territory, but they were city people, comfortably well-to-do, and did not care to face the hardships of a transcontinental trip by wagon and so, instead, they set sail from New York planning to reach Oregon by ship around Cape Horn. Young John expected to join his family later in Oregon, but he received the news that the ship and passengers had been lost, which was the fate of many vessels rounding the treacherous cape.

John Mason decided to remain in the Middle West and settle in Iowa. He proved to be a good businessman, and in time became moderately wealthy. During this period, however, his health began to fail, and believing in the curative value of fresh air and pure water, he traveled extensively to find these resources, and eventually reached Lookout Mountain about twelve miles north of what is now Mentone. He remained there several months, was restored to good health and returned to Iowa. His health began to fail again, so he returned to the mountain and once more regained his strength. Whereupon he traveled back to Iowa, sold his holdings and returned to Lookout Mountain with his family in 1870. He settled in the area of Moon Lake and lived there until his death at the age of 92 in 1911.

Mason wanted others to enjoy the benefits of mountain life and was instrumental in bringing in settlers from distant places. He would tell the newcomers, "Do not come with the expectation of making a fortune, but if your fortune is already made, it is the most wonderful place in the world to live."

Among these early settlers was Dr. John E. Purdon, a retired British Army Surgeon. Dr. Purdon, in turn, encouraged young Englishmen to come and live with him while he taught them how to farm. At least three young men did come, but the venture failed because of one flaw in Dr. Purdon's plan: he knew nothing about farming.

The Purdons lived across the DeSoto River from the Masons and were later joined by relatives, the Thomas F. Sproules, a titled Irish family driven out of Ireland during an uprising. The Purdons left Mentone, but the Sproules lived out their lives there and received an annual income from the revenues of their Irish home.

Others came from Maine, among them: Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Libby and their son Ralph, Mr. and Mrs. Alvares Tylers and Gene Tyler. All of these remained except the Alvares Tylers.

Edward Mason was the eldest son of John Mason. His father owned many acres of land all around Mentone so Edward decided to survey streets, name them and build a summer resort. Frank Caldwell came from Ohio, it is thought, to investigate Edward's plans for the building of a hotel on the brow of the mountain. He found the plans quite feasible, and the hotel construction was soon begun.

Caldwell was boarding with the Masons during the construction, and at a meal one day he remarked that the hotel was progressing toward completion, and the town proper was laid out, but that it still had no name. Alice Mason, John's only daughter, said that she had just been reading an article about "Queen Victoria Vacationing at Mentone" (Menton), France. Mentone means "Musical Mountain Spring," and because this was a fairly accurate description on the grounds on which their hotel was being erected, Caldwell agreed that this was a very suitable name for the town, so before the end of the

meal the names Mentone and Mentone Springs Hotel came into being.

The Mentone Springs Hotel was a popular and fashionable summer hotel during the 1880's and 90's and on into the turn of the century. Its popularity gradually declined however, and it eventually closed its doors.

Many of those who visited the hotel during its active life later built homes and cottages forming a summer colony. Other hotels were built as well as several business buildings. The first store in the area, built near what is now DeSoto Lodge was operated for many years by Harry Gillette, a stepson of John Mason.

As the village grew, a number of prominent people established summer homes there including the Wright family and Miss Martha Berry, the famed founder of Berry Schools of Rome, Georgia. Some descendants of these early families still live in the vicinity, including the family of Ralph Libby (direct descendants of the well-known Libby Packers and Glass Manufacturers) and three granddaughters of John Mason, the daughters of Alice Mason and Samuel O'Rear. These sole survivors of the Mason family are Mrs. Ethel O. Davenport, Miss Winifred Ruth O'Rear, Mrs. Paul Whitehead and son, James, Hope Davenport and Mrs. W. Paul White.

The grand old days of the summer hotels of Mentone have passed, but another kind of summer activity has replaced them. Each spring hundreds of boys and girls from all over America, and the Southeast in particular, converge on more than a dozen camps to enjoy the open air life. These camps include Alpine Lodge, Cherokee, Lookout Mountain, Cloudmont, Valley View Ranch, Ponderosa, DeSoto, Shady Grove, Laney, Juliette Low, Skyline, and Comer, a huge camp owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America. This camp can accommodate several thousand scouts at one time.

The Mentone area has had its share of interesting and colorful characters. Colonel Milford W. Howard, who was a politician, lawyer, actor, writer and visionary, developed the area around River Park. He publicized this area which lies along Little River (DeSoto River) in the vicinity of Alpine Lodge on the west side of the River. Howard was also instrumental in the development of DeSoto State Park, and in River Park he constructed a church known as Howard's Chapel, one end of which is formed by a huge boulder. At Colonel Howard's death, his body was cremated and his ashes were placed within this great rock.

Tribute to another man of national prominence from Mentone is found in the following excerpt by Congressman Tom Bevill taken from the United States Congressional Record, Vol. 116, No. 82, dated Thursday, May 21, 1970, page H4716, and titled, "Alabama's Allgood":

Mr. Bevill: Mr. Speaker, occasionally we in America are blessed with the services of men, who by their vision, hard work, and love of country, leave a valuable legacy for future generations. Such a man is Miles C. Allgood, the most distinguished Congressman, of Mentone, Alabama. . .

As Representative to the United States Congress from this district for many years, Mr. Allgood is the man who first got President Roosevelt interested in coming to Alabama to see the possibilities of what is now the Tennessee Valley Authority. He rode with the President in his private car, pointing out the potential spots for developing hydroelectric power, which has brought prosperity to this whole region.



SCENE FROM SILENT MOVIE, "THE BISHOP OF THE OZARKS."
Col. Milford W. Howard wrote the novel and was featured in the film shown under the arch.



Howard's Chapel in River Park south of Mentone.

In future histories, it will be pointed out that by creating TVA in this area, Congressman Allgood did more than any other man to introduce and develop hydroelectric power in America. He was chairman of the committee which provided for the great Boulder Dam. Also, he made the speech on the site of the present Boulder Dam that turned the tide of committee opinion in favor of its construction.

Mr. Allgood served in Congress from 1922 until 1934.

LaHOUSAGE

East of Mentone near the Georgia state line lie the remains of the old Lake LaHousage Hotel. This 180-room hotel was the dream of a group of investors from Florida who came to Lookout Mountain in 1924. They realized the possibilities of a resort in this picturesque setting along the eastern fork of Little River, and they formed the Lookout Mountain Development Company with H. H. Pounds as President. A stone dam was constructed across the river in 1924 forming a beautiful lake, but the dam was washed away in November of the same year and was rebuilt. The project was engineered by a Mr. Hall, and Blue Strickland was foreman of the rock work.

The Depression of 1929 struck before the great quarried sandstone building was completed, and the company went into receivership. The property was taken back by the original owners, Dr. Chapman and Dr. Chaney of Lindale, Georgia. Although the hotel was never completed, it was used by the government as a convalescent home for World War I Veterans and later as a campground for C.C.C. boys who were building DeSoto State Park during the 1930's.

RUHAMA

The Ruhama Community, commonly known as Dog Town, is located on Lookout Mountain northeast of Fort Payne and east of Collbran.

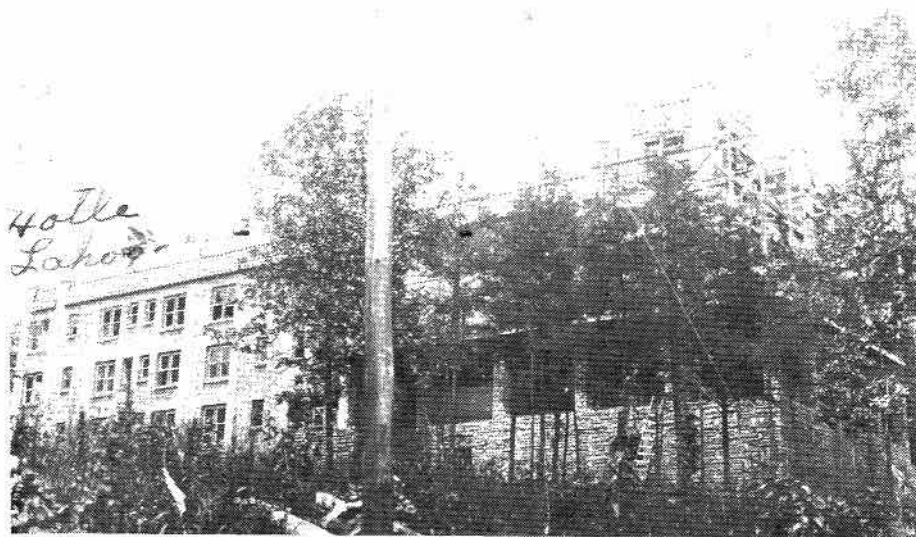
Once known as Cagle's Crossroads, the community derived the name Dog Town allegedly from the fact that in early days it was a gathering place for hunters accompanied by their dogs.

The community is the site of Ruhama School, which is an elementary and junior high school.

There are a number of churches located on Lookout Mountain including Rock Bridge, New Organ, Oak Hill, Pleasant View, Eller's Chapel, Edna Hill, Delmar, Huskey's Chapel, Mount Moriah, Walker's Chapel, McNutt Memorial and others. These have ministered to the spiritual needs of their respective areas, and several of these have adjoining cemeteries which have served as burial places for previous and present generations.



The old Mentone Springs Hotel.

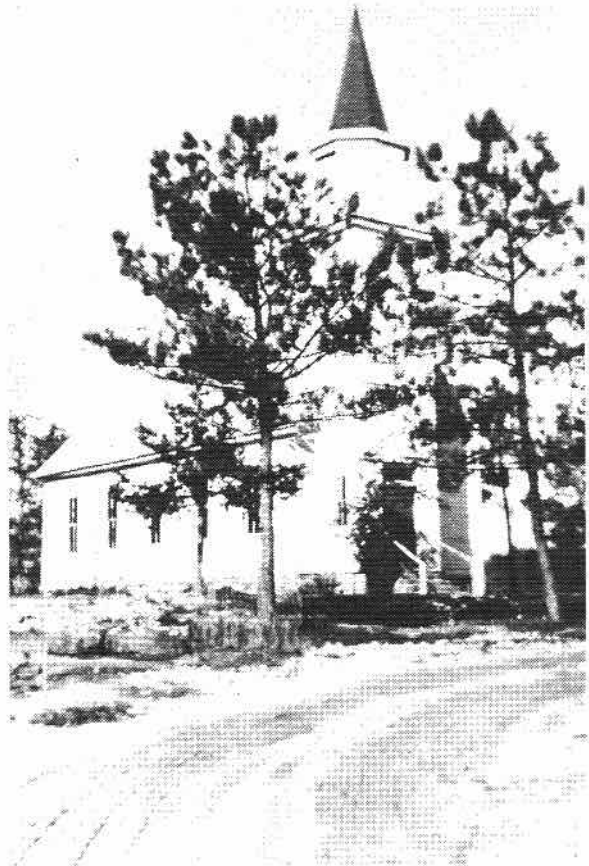


Hotel Lahousage, East of Mentone on East fork of "Little River."



DeSoto Falls, South of Mentone, Alabama. Named for the Spanish explorer and soldier, Hernando De Soto, who came through this area looking for "The Great Riches" reported to be here.

DeSoto Park is a 4,825-acre tract on Lookout Mountain which lies northeast of Fort Payne and south of Mentone. The Park is well developed with rustic cabins for rent to the public. The picnic shelters, lodge and caretakers' quarters were all constructed of quarried natural sandstone, and the work was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



Mentone United Methodist Church erected in 1884.

Sand Mountain Towns and Communities

ARONEY COMMUNITY

The Aroney Community is located in the extreme southwest corner of DeKalb County. Some of the early families of the area were the Scotts, Leeths, Davises, Nalers, Uptains, Broadwells, Orrs, Camps, Moons, and Peppers.

The post office was named Aroney, and the community got its name from this source. John H. Scott was the first postmaster, followed by Bill Leeth. The mail was brought from Collinsville by way of horseback or buggy. It is known that Scott once walked to Collinsville to carry one post card.

The early schools of the area were Stigler, Mt. Zion, and Halford. In 1936 these small schools were brought together to establish Center Point Junior High School, which is still in operation.

The two active churches in the area are Liberty and Mt. Zion. Liberty, formerly Nalers, was established in 1865 on land donated by Steve Naler. Under auspices of the Marshall County Missionary Baptist Association, Mt. Zion was established in 1884. Mt. Zion remained with the Marshall Association until 1951 when it became a member of the DeKalb Association.

BEATY

The Beaty community is three miles southeast of Ider. Activities have often centered around Dobbs Chapel, also known as Beaty School, organized in the early 1920's. The land for the building was donated by Walter Dobbs, and the early teachers included Oliver Beaty, Robert Chapman and Clyde Hartline. Geneva Morris Dawson was the last teacher at Dobbs School before consolidation with Ider School in 1937. Interdenomination Sunday School was taught at Dobbs Chapel, and pastors from all denominations filled the pulpit on a regular basis.

Land for the Chestnut Grove Freewill Baptist Church was given by the Trowse Fuller family. This is one of the oldest churches in this section of Sand Mountain.

Beaty Community Club was organized in 1935 as a Test Demonstration group. Auburn Extension Services, County Extension workers, T.V.A. and local people worked together to demonstrate the benefits of properly seeding and fertilizing pastures and other crops. John W. Pate, county extension head, and O. B. Beaty, local leader, were

instrumental in organizing the group. A clubhouse was built in 1949 on the property given by Ollie Bell and his wife.

Early settlers in the Beaty community included Ben Brown, Rev. C. G. Keith, Sam Beaty, Hiram Beaty, Rev. Joe Beaty, Jeff Crowe, John W. Freeman, John Stallings, and George Stallings.

BLACK OAK

Black Oak Church and Ryan Academy are located near Buck's Pocket on Black Oak Creek.

Several people of national prominence have come from this community: Congressman Albert Rains; musician and composer V. O. Fossett, the father of aircraft manufacturer T. Claud Ryan; and the mathematical genius Waymon Strother. *The Spirit of St. Louis*, the airplane in which Charles A. Lindbergh made his historic nonstop crossing of the Atlantic, was designed and built by T. Claud Ryan. The old Ryan home is standing today on the farm of Charley Fricks near Black Oak Church.

The Academy was established by the Ryan family sometime after the Civil War and remained a center of learning until about the turn of the century. Luther Ryan, Sally Willingham, Bonnie Gilbert, Kernie Stancell, and Willy Thomas were some of the teachers at the Academy.

Black Oak Church was one of the pillars of the Methodist faith in northeast Alabama in the pioneer era. In the 1870's and 1880's people came in ox wagons from miles around to camp meetings and revivals here. From Black Oak, Frank and Thomas Stancell assisted in the establishing of other Methodist churches in this region. Frank Stancell, Josiah F. Rains, and Thomas S. Rains were some of the first preachers at Black Oak.

CHAVIES

Although there is no official date known for the founding of Chavies, located on Sand Mountain on the banks of Town Creek, it was one of the earliest settlements in DeKalb County. James West, the first merchant in the town, decided one day to name the settlement after the next person to enter his store, who happened to be Marion Chavers. Chavers' name was misspelled and Chavies resulted.

West also became the first postmaster of Chavies when a post office was granted on September 20, 1883. He held the position until 1891, when Orange S. Powers took over. The first mill, located on the creek, was operated by John McCurdy, a Confederate veteran who lost a leg at Gettysburg. Jim McCall was another miller, and later merchants were James Monroe Stafford, C. Holden, B. Gilbreath, T. O. Lister, P. Durham, and A. Durham.

Early families at Chavies were the Wootens, Norrells, Cassidys from Georgia, and Dobbins from North Carolina. There was a school at Chavies until it merged with the one at Plainview.



SEVEN DURHAM BROTHERS WHO ORGANIZED THE FIRST MASONIC LODGE AT CHAVIES: Warren, Irve, John, Jim, William, Leander and Byron.

Chavies seems to remain the same as progress sweeps past it, and though many families in DeKalb County can claim a relative from Chavies, its population has dwindled as the inhabitants have gradually moved away.

CHIGGER HILL

There are two stories of how Chigger Hill got its name. One has it that during a brush arbor revival meeting in August of 1918 it was decided by the people of the community to build a permanent church. Someone asked what the name of the new church would be, and another said that perhaps it would be called South Hill just as the community telephone system was called. Since the old post office that once served the community was South Hill, this seemed to be the proper name for the new church. But Bertha Goggans is reported to have said, "They should call it 'Chigger Hill'." Everyone remembered how those pesky little tropical fleas had bothered them during the revival, and so the name "Chigger Hill" stuck.

The other story is that it was named spontaneously by the children of a private school that was taught in a little church building above the Elrod Mill site. It seems that these children had no place to play during recess but in the woods which surrounded the little church that housed their school. They were pestered so much by the chigoes from the hillside where they played that they called it "Chigger Hill." Take your choice.

During the first half of the twentieth century Chigger Hill was a great trading center for mule and horse swappers. Sometimes three-day "horse swappings" would be staged with horse traders converging on Chigger Hill from all points of the compass. Mige Traylor was one of the great promoters of these horse swappings.

One of the first and best rural telephone systems in the county was the South Hill exchange which was located near Chigger Hill at Mount Pleasant. These good communications may have helped in promoting the trading post of Chigger Hill.

Millard Arrington, Pres Berry, Richard Burns, Lonas Gilbert, Newt McClendon, and a number of others have served the community as merchants.

CROSSVILLE

For centuries the heavily wooded sandy plateau where Crossville is located was a vast uninhabited wilderness. But when the Spanish explorer DeSoto crossed north Alabama in 1540, he found Creek and Cherokee Indians in this area. The occasional discovery of arrowheads and other artifacts in cultivated fields still attests to the role of the Indians in the history of Sand Mountain. When Andrew Jackson waged his war against the Indians in Alabama, his troops used an old Indian trail up the mountain which passed near the present site of Crossville. Several local men assisted in the removal of the Indians to their new reservations in the west.

It is not definitely known how Crossville got its name, but some of the older residents believe a man named Cross lived nearby and that the town was named for him.



EARLY EMPLOYEES OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT OF CROSSVILLE
Jasper Hendrix, C. D. King, Marcus Carns, a Mr. Curtis, Walter Roden, Frank Kirby, and A. B. Copeland.



EARLY MAIL CARRIER
A. B. Copeland of Crossville Post Office

Among the earliest settlers of Crossville were the Justices, Joneses, Rodens, Bryants, Allens, Copelands, and Claytons.

G. W. Justice, one of the first businessmen of the area, played a major role in the early development of Crossville. At the time of his death in 1933 he had the largest store in the area. The store was inherited by his daughter, Lela, and her husband, Dr. J. Thomas Gaines. Dr. Gaines operated the business successfully until his death when his estate came to his two daughters, Rheudell and Loraine. Later the Dover family purchased the store, and it is now known as Dover's, Incorporated.

E. B. Jones, known as Uncle Brown Jones, was another pioneer businessman of Crossville who diligently built a good business with a general store. At his death the store was sold to H. B. Black, who operated it successfully until it was destroyed by fire some years later.

W. B. Jones, not related to E. B. Jones, first came to Sand Mountain in the late 1890's and set up a gin and sawmill in Crossville in 1901. He introduced heavy machinery to this area, drilled the first wells in the community, put up an oil mill, started the first planing mill, and the first wheat flour mill. He also employed machinery in building and maintaining roads, a job which until then had been done only by man and mule power.

The outstanding pioneer settlers of the Crossville area also included farmers as well as businessmen. One example is the Creed Clayton family, a farm family from which four sons made their way through college and became physicians.

Among the buildings constructed to serve the early residents of Crossville was the First Methodist Church organized in 1870. Crossville's post office is another of the oldest institutions of the community, even though it remained outside the city limits for forty-two years. The man responsible for the establishment of the local post office in 1870 was James Copeland, the ingenious man who built the first bridge across Wills Creek and called it Copeland's Bridge. His son, A. B. Copeland, was appointed postmaster and served in this position for twenty-eight years. In 1898 Mrs. Mollie Clayton was appointed postmistress and moved the office to her home about half way between Copeland's home and Crossville. When Marcus Carnes was appointed Crossville postmaster in 1914, he moved the post office to the old Creed Clayton Home, and for the first time the Crossville Post Office was actually in Crossville. Postmasters serving during the long subsequent period that the office was at this location included Marcus Carnes, Hiram Graves, Jim Fant, Fred Croft, and Amby Campbell.

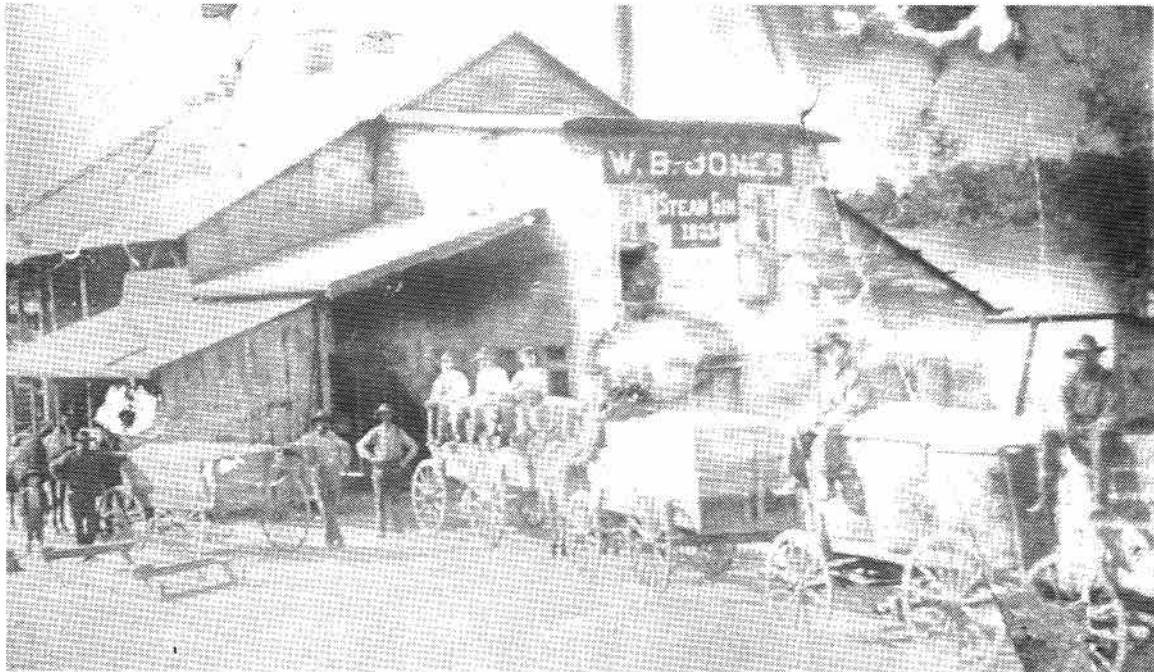
A movement to establish a school in Crossville began about 1915. By that time the center of the school population was nearer to Crossville than either the Union Grove or Lathamville Schools. In addition, the existing school buildings were inadequate both at Union Grove and Lathamville. After the consolidation of Union Grove and Crossville schools, a wood building was constructed and used until construction of the present Crossville High School.

The population of Crossville (1970) is 1294. The citizens are proud of their new city hall, new streets, and other improvements made during the administration of the present mayor, W. D. Watts.

Crossville has three churches, First Methodist, The First Baptist, and the Church of



**THE FIRST STEAM ENGINE
IN DeKALB COUNTY – used
to power W. B. Jones Gin and
Mill at Crossville.**



W. B. JONES GIN, Crossville, Alabama

God. Among the major businesses are the Dover Store, DeKalb County Exchange, Southern 5 and 10-cent Store, Crossville Drug, Fants' Store, Shirey's, Crossville Hardware, Johnson's Home and Supply, Crossville Cleaners, Gilbert's Salvage, Roy Black Tractor Company, Jones' Mills, Elrod's Mill, The DeKalb Bank, and a number of small businesses.

The area has a thriving poultry business, and the economy of Crossville is greatly aided by bountiful crops grown on the fertile loam of surrounding farmland. The Sand Mountain Experiment Station, an extension of Auburn University, has long been a great asset to Crossville. The community is also becoming well-known for its nurseries. There are three of which the Monroe nurseries is largest with over three hundred acres of shrubbery. The Crossville Nursery covers eighty acres, and the Tidmore Nursery has seventy-five acres of fine nursery stock.

DAWSON

Dawson's post office was established in 1887. Early settlers in this Sand Mountain community at the top of the mountain from Collinsville include Dr. W. I. Wright who practiced medicine for forty-nine years, W. G. Ward, Jeff Fencher, W. F. Darby, J. J. Cochran, L. B. Lackey, William A. Small, and B. C. Wright. Early merchants in Dawson were Robert E. Lee, Scott Nicholson, and Edd Gibson. During 1908 more than 175 local and boarding students attended the Dawson School established prior to 1900. A very active I.W.O.O.F. Lodge No. 134 was located upstairs over the school building.

FAIRVIEW

Fairview is located just northeast of Dawson. Early settlers in the Fairview community were W. H. Morgan, R. M. Taylor, M. L. Ballentine, W. H. Myers, John Myers, and Anderson Dobbins. A. P. Hampton operated an early store in Fairview. The Methodist and Friendship Baptist Church provide a place of worship for the people in Fairview, Dawson, and the surrounding area. The Fairview Methodist Church was organized on April 20, 1879, with Reverend J. M. Dobbs as the first pastor. The charter members included Peter Stewart, William H. Morgan, Simon A. Stewart, Martha J. Holdridge, Alice O. Ballentine, George Stewart, Abrilla Morgan, Nancy R. Morgan, and Elmira Wolf. This early church was a log structure, and the present church building was erected in 1922 on the original site.

FYFFE

The name Fyffe was suggested by the Post Office Department around 1900. The first postmaster was W. V. Graves, Sr., followed by John Baker, and then David A. Campbell.

Vince Roden opened the first store in Fyffe around 1905. It was purchased in 1910 by W. V. Graves, Sr., who kept it until John Alexander, Sr., bought it in the early '20's.



DURHAM SCHOOL AT FYFFE – 1907

Teacher: Mrs. Ida Everett Crawford

Students: Myrtis (Graves) Chitwood, Tressie (McAbee) Chitwood, John Campbell, Roy Graves, Dr. Willie Campbell, D. A. (Alex) Campbell, Mary Graves, Flora Graves, John Graves, Pearl (McAbee) White, Ethel Tucker, May Bell (Graves) Gilbreath, Hollis Tucker, Mary Campbell, John Baker, John Tucker, Jim Graves, Alma (Baker) Lindsey, Jim Baker, Orion Baker, Effie (Baker) Green, Clyde Baker, Wiley Green, Will Baxter, Arthur Green, Minnie (Brown) Bobo, Clarence Green, Earl McAbee, Charley Gravett, Otis McAbee, Rube Gravett, Wallace Gravett.

Among the first families who settled in Fyffe were the Burkes, Chappells, Whites, Campbells, Durhams, and Rodens.

The first gin was operated by Bud Gravitt and is still in operation by the Brookses.

The first school was established in 1917 with the high school being accredited in 1935.

Fyffe Baptist Church was established in 1925 with the Worthys, Willingham, and Johnsons as charter members.

GERALDINE

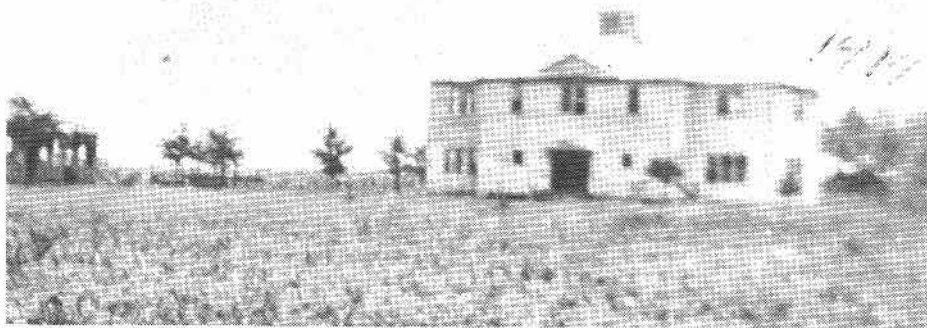
Geraldine, a community dating back before the Civil War, is located on Sand Mountain. Early settlers in the area were the Elrod, Rucks, Houston, Spence, and Johnson families.

The first post office, for which application was made by William A. Johnson, was established on October 11, 1882. It is believed that Mr. Johnson served as the first postmaster.

Two of the earliest churches in the Geraldine area were the Macedonia Baptist Church and Salem Methodist Church. The Macedonia Baptist Church became a member of the Cherokee Baptist Association on May 19, 1853. Salem Methodist Church was organized near the end of the Civil War. Phillip Elrod, who helped establish Salem Methodist Church, preached the first sermon in it and was the first person buried in the cemetery there.

The first commercial enterprise in the area was a government still which specialized in apple and peach brandy. One of the oldest landmarks in the Geraldine area, Elrod's Mill, ground wheat and corn, and also carded wool commercially. The first gin was run by mule power with a hand press. The two earliest stores were owned by Jimmy Stephens and W. A. Johnson.

Geraldine bears the distinction of having had the first accredited rural high school in the county and also the first vocational school.



GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL, 1919



MIDWAY SCHOOL on Sand Mountain near Peek's Corner – about 1915

GREEN'S CHAPEL

Green's Chapel community is five miles west of Fyffe on the road to Grove Oak. It is located at probably one of the best and most fertile farming regions of all Sand Mountain.

This community seems to have been settled largely by immigrants from South Carolina around 1850. Three prominent families in this group were those of William Green (Uncle Billy), Joe Blackwell, and Mr. Gilbert.

The first school was housed in the log house Uncle Billy built for his family after he moved to a new house. Later it was moved to Free Hill Church. In the early 1900's, Green's Chapel School was built by the county and remained a school until 1960 when it was consolidated with Fyffe.

Around 1920 John Alexander built a general merchandise store at the crossroad. A store has remained at the location ever since, and at the present time is operated by Garland A. Green, a grandson of Uncle Billy Green.

Green's Chapel Church and a cemetery are located just north of the crossroad.

GROVEOAK

When a post office was built in this community in 1873, a grove of oak trees stood across the road, so since one community was already called Oak Grove, it was decided that the name of Grove Oak (two words) be given this town and post office. Grove Oak was changed to Groveoak in 1895.

White settlers were known to be in this area before 1850, and some of the earliest families were the Latimers, Mannings, Prestleys, Summers, and Rains. By the 1870's a number of families had moved in from various parts of the country. Among these were the Armstrongs, Berrys, Bethunes, Fossetts, Gilberts, Hortons, Richeys, and Smiths.

Two churches were founded in Groveoak prior to the Civil War. Black Oak was started as an old camp meeting ground and later had a building erected. The first Black Oak church burned, and the present building was built in 1889. The other church, Ebenezer, still exists on its fourth site. Ebenezer once housed a school for a short time and there was a school at Black Oak called Graham School. The Black Oak Cemetery holds the remains of the only colored person in the community, Peter Lackey, a slave purchased by Moses Lackey for \$300. Also buried in this cemetery are Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Rains, who, along with their son Will, opened the first store at Rainsville. Rainsville was named for this family.

Mt. Pleasant Church was organized in 1878 with fourteen members and Billy Johnson was the pastor. Other churches in the area have been: Flat Rock, which dates back before 1888 and was also used for a school. By 1897 Flat Rock Church had thirty-nine members with M. V. Bailey as pastor. Piney Grove was organized in 1878 with ten members and E. P. Barroughs as pastor. New Prospect Church was organized in 1905 with J. S. Whitmire as the first pastor.



GROVEOAK SCHOOL about 1915



Dr. C. W. Wright who practiced medicine on horseback at Groveoak until he moved to Fort Payne to become a partner to Dr. Quin.

A post office named Gad was organized in 1890 and was served by Jesse P. Horton as the first postmaster. Stephen Hall succeeded Horton in 1891, and this office was discontinued in 1892. Another post office named South Hill was established by William A. Elrod in 1873 and was discontinued in 1909.

A school called "The Academy" was organized in 1891 and operated until 1907 with both winter and summer sessions. Bonnie Gilbert taught at this school at one time. About the time "The Academy" was discontinued, land was donated by Edd Armstrong, J. W. Rains, and Mrs. Mary Terry for a public school.

Buck's Pocket

Buck's Pocket, a gorge of magnificent natural beauty, is in the Groveoak area. There are several legends as to the origin of this name; because of the remoteness of the gorge, it has become widely known as a haven for defeated political candidates.

Some of the early settlers around the Pocket were the Heads, Barbers, Bethunes, Masseys, Nichols, and Reeds. A private school was opened at the Pocket and ran summer and winter sessions for two or three years with Sophia Ryan and Dovie Bailey as teachers and Alma Boozer as substitute teacher. Head ran a sawmill in the Pocket and supplied lumber for many of the buildings in this area.

Recently Buck's Pocket was purchased by DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties, each paying the sum of \$15,000, and, with the aid of the state, a beautiful state park is being developed.

HENAGAR

The first settlement in what was later to be known as Henagar was made by J. M. Moore about 1855. Shortly thereafter other places were settled by Donnis Moore and Owen Henagar. J. M. Moore opened the first general store, and as the community continued to grow, another general store was established by Jim McGuffy.

The first church in the immediate area at what is now Henagar was a log building on the present site of Henagar Cemetery. This church of the Methodist faith was known as Howard's Chapel, and also housed the first school in the community.

Some twenty years after Moore settled in the community, several of the early settlers decided there was a need for a post office as there was no rural delivery at that time, and the nearest office was four or five miles away. Among the leaders in getting the post office established were Owen Henagar and Hugh H. Kerby. The post office was established on July 19, 1878, and was given the name Henagar in honor of Owen Henagar. James M. Moore was appointed postmaster.

Around the turn of the century, Henagar had the distinction of having one of the few private schools in the area. It was known as "The Mathis School," and was attended by several people who were later to become very prominent in DeKalb County history.

During the next half century, the community experienced only nominal growth and continued to be a trading center for a primarily agricultural community. Around 1960, however, the community started experiencing considerable economic growth, and in 1965 the town of Henagar was incorporated. Since that time much progress has been made, and there are two manufacturing plants and forty or fifty business places in the corporate limits with a population of approximately 800.

HIGH POINT

The small community of High Point marks the high point of Sand Mountain, and thus received its name more than 50 years before the Civil War, and was settled by the Clarks, Biddles, McCurdys, and Rushes. Other settlers in the community were the Cordells, Ellises, Swaders, Mayes, Hales, Igous, and Halls.

King's Chapel was founded in 1846 and served as the only church for many years. Two other churches were founded to take care of the growing population, Advent Church in 1896 and Stamp Missionary Baptist in 1906.

The post office located across from Mitchell's Gin was called "Jude" and is so listed in county records.

As new families moved into the community, house-raising was a popular pastime with friends and close neighbors meeting together to build the newcomer's house, barn, and outbuildings. Farming was the main way of life, and crops were bountiful most years.

In 1923 the four small schools of Jude, Stamp, Hawkins Chapel, and Council Bluff were consolidated to make High Point School. The lumber used for this building was given by the farmers, taken to Carl Ellis' sawmill for making into planks, then carried by mule and wagon to the highest point, to make a fine, airy school building. One of the first teachers to use the building, A. Boyce Metzger, later became a professor of political science at Auburn University. Miss Emma Hales taught for forty-two years here — setting many feet on the right path. This school was built by the following: Houston and Forest Biddle, Will Rush (who gave the land for the school), Carl Ellis, Reverend Jonathan Hales, Amos and Will Hall, Willie Biddle, and others, whose names are unknown.

HOPEWELL

Hopewell community has the distinction of being the only site on Sand Mountain where a Civil War battle or skirmish took place. In January of 1865 a clash between the New York 68th Infantry and a company of Confederate soldiers occurred at Elrod's Tanyard, which was said to be on the farm now owned by Talmadge Pike.

The Elrods and other pioneer families in this region were great leaders in education and industry. Dr. Bill Elrod, George Washington Masters, and others established the Wolfe Cave School before the Civil War, the first school in this area for miles in any direction.

The Elrods, Shelton Shaw, Doc Richardson, Poke Horton, Dr. Joe Harrison, and Middleton Stott are some of the teachers of the Wolf Cave School which closed in 1885.

After the closing of the Wolf Cave School, Magnolia Elrod taught a school in a log dwelling north of Hopewell Church until about 1892 when the Elrod School was built. Magnolia Elrod, Lula Crowley, Ben Thomas, Smith Mitchell, and Dan Bethune taught in the Elrod School.

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, established in 1896, held its services in the Elrod school for seven or eight years after it was organized until a church building was erected. J. G. "Si" Hall was a leader in establishing the church.

The Jolleys, the Chafins, and the Morgans are among the early merchants of Hopewell. Jake Wilbanks operated a tanyard, and Lawrence Galloway, a water-powered sawmill.

The magnificent and valuable contribution which Hopewell community has made to DeKalb County and the state of Alabama in the fields of education and industrial development has been considerable and was made at a time when it was needed most. An unusually high percentage of Hopewell's citizens through the years have gone into teaching, medicine, and other professions.

IDER

Ider, Alabama, located in the extreme northeast section of DeKalb County, is one of the oldest settlements in the county. The postal records indicate that the first post office was in existence on October 8, 1856. This area was once the scene of magnificent chestnut forests through which the Indians roamed and hunted, but over the years the chestnut trees were cut for lumber and crossties that were taken to Sulphur Springs and used in the building of the Alabama Great Southern Railroad.

One of the leading citizens of this community was C. G. Keith (Uncle Tobe), a Baptist minister and educator, who lived from 1852 to 1926. Another outstanding citizen was the late Dr. William Simeon Hansard, who was well known for his kindness and generosity toward patients who could not afford medical treatment.

One of the first schools in the area was the Marona School, which had a graduating class in 1895 of approximately twenty-four students.

Today Ider has a modern high school as a result of the consolidation with other community schools. Ider is a community of small farms and serves as the home of many DeKalb County residents who are employed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and neighboring towns in Georgia.

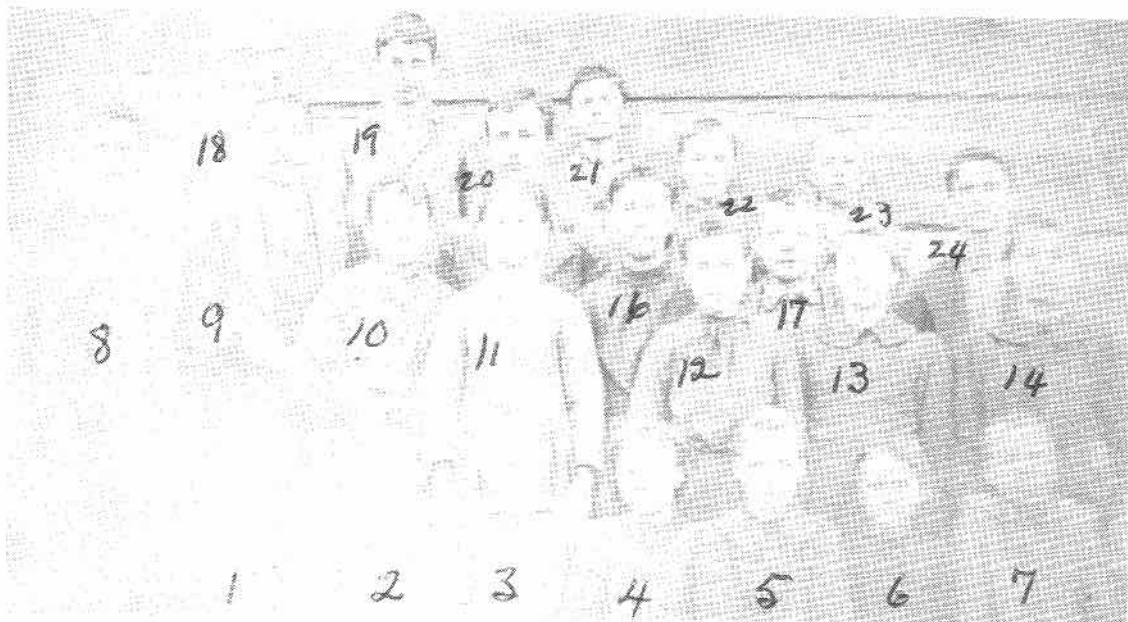
KILPATRICK

Kilpatrick community is named for James R. Kilpatrick, who in 1856 came from Walker County, Georgia, and was the first person known to own land in the community.

Kilpatrick and his first wife, Della Johnson Kilpatrick, reared six children: John,



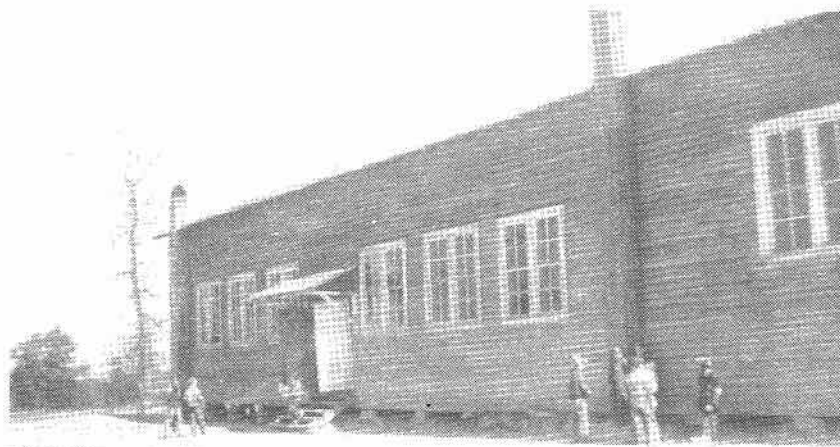
REV. & MRS. G. C. (TOBE) KEITH
 G. C. Keith was a teacher, minister, song writer and member of the Board of Education at Ider.



MARONA SCHOOL GROUP
 1895 or 1896

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tom Smith | 7. Berlis Marona | 13. Anna Smith | 19. Leonard Smith |
| 2. Martin Palmer | 8. Virgil Smith | 14. Bell Smith | 20. Albert Smith |
| 3. John Fuller | 9. Mr. John Callaham | 15. Albert Smith | 21. Elwood Smith |
| 4. Charlsie Smith | 10. Sophronia Smith | 16. Ada Fuller | 22. William York |
| 5. Mary York | 11. Pearl Smith | 17. Marion York | 23. Arthur Marona |
| 6. Meliccia Smith | 12. Stella Fuller | 18. D. M. Marona | 24. Harry Smith |

(Identified by Mr. and Mrs. Amon Boydston, Pearl Marona, Bell Smith, and Ida Wilson.)



IDER HIGH SCHOOL GYM, 1928-30



IDER HIGH SCHOOL, 1940. Burned September 16, 1969.

Doc, Mrs. Mary Luther, Mrs. Mat Chandler, Mrs. Margaret Rains, and Mrs. Sue Chambers, all of whom attended school at Myrtle Tree.

It is said that the Reverend Lim Chambers' family of Dawson, Georgia, was the first to move onto James R. Kilpatrick's land. They came to the community in 1882, along with twenty-two more persons in covered wagons, bringing with them cattle, cooking utensils, and any other items they happened to have.

Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick gave land for a school, and in 1892 classes were held in the one-room school with Faye Roden as the first teacher. Among the trustees of Kilpatrick have been Lim Chambers, John Black, Mat Bruce, Noah Anderson, James Kidd, Thomas Mack Bruce, Kenneth Bohannon, I. W. Plunkett, and Paul Gann.

There are four churches in Kilpatrick community. New Home Church was organized in 1871 in a little log building with the Reverend Lim Chambers as pastor. Blessing Church of Christ had Lee Dollahit as pastor; Kilpatrick Church was organized as a Congregational Methodist Church under a brush arbor in 1900 with the Reverend Mr. Tarven as pastor. And the present Missionary Baptist Church was built in 1926 with Bill Gillbreath as pastor.

The first store at Kilpatrick was under the management of "Uncle Joe" Rains, and Kilpatrick's gin was built in 1893 by Doc Kilpatrick, John Fowler, Bill Thompson, and John Black.

McKESTES

The McKestes community received its name by combining the names of McKelvey and Estes. Henry McKelvey and Wesley Estes gave the land, two and one-half acres each, for the McKestes School erected in 1939. Until the school was consolidated, grades one through eight were taught there. A portion of the building is now being used as a community club house. Early settlers in the community included the Gilbert, Jones, and Houston families. Lusk Chapel, organized prior to the Civil War, is the oldest church in the community. The Flat Rock Baptist Church was organized in 1876, and the present church building was built in 1945. Liberty Methodist and Mt. Tabor Baptist are also active churches in the McKestes community.

NEW CANAAN

New Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in southwest DeKalb County, near the Marshall County line, was established in 1856. This was among the earliest churches in the county, and for many years served as a community center. Bailey Bruce, William Jasper Hodgens, Thomas Pinkney Galloway, and other circuit riders and propagators of the Baptist faith in northeast Alabama preached at New Canaan.

In 1891 the log church, which also served as a school, was replaced by a frame building. Eliab Moore, John Isbel, Maud Rains, Will Treadaway, Bama Rucks, and others

taught school in New Canaan Church. During the 1890's there were several other elementary schools which were later consolidated to form Central Grammar School located on Newt Slaton's farm in Marshall County.

Rogers' post office, chartered in the 1890's, served the immediate area. Joel Rogers, Sr., Z. Taylor Dowdy, and Willy Bush were the first merchants in the community. Joel Rogers, Sr., also operated the first cotton gin in the area, a mule-powered piece of machinery located on what is known as the Bob Thomas farm.

About the turn of the century Calloway Cole and Tom Bowens ran a water-powered grist mill, sash sawmill, and cotton gin near the county line.

Some of the other pioneers of the New Canaan area were Willy Cooper, Henry D. Slaton, Jack Wilkes, Dick Rogers, Henry Smith, R. E. (Rube) Price, Doc Maddox, Z. Taylor Dowdy, Jeff Rice, and John Cranford.

NEW HARMONY

New Harmony, located about six miles west of Geraldine, near the High Falls on Town Creek, gets its name from the New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church which was founded in 1872 by Reverend William Jasper Hodgens.

Settlers started moving into the region about 1850. Some of the pioneer families homesteading the land were the Dowdys, Masters, Holcombs, Elrods, Shirleys, Halls, Hodgens, Hortons, Winstons, Bryants, Westbrooks, Lees, Johnsons, Bells, Burns, Smiths, Sneads, and Slaters.

Jink Post Office served the community until the rural routes were established in 1905 with Gad Winston as the first postmaster. School was started in New Harmony Church about 1881. Dr. Frank Machen, Middleton Stott, Tom Thomason, John Morgan and Mary Morgan, who married Burris Hall, are some of the first teachers to teach at New Harmony.

School was organized solely by the patrons – the teachers were hired and paid by the patrons – firewood to fuel the pot-bellied stove was chopped by the students and patrons. The school and education of the children was completely organized and administered locally.

About 1904 land was provided one-half mile east of the church, and a new school was built. The school became a junior high school in 1912, and from one to three teachers were employed until the school was closed on May 24, 1939.

The first merchants in the community were Gad Winston, who was also the first postmaster, Hump Bryant, and the Hortons. Some of the doctors to serve the community were Frank Machen, Joe Harrison, Lee Dowdy, Archie Horton, and Briggs Parris.

The High Falls on Town Creek, the natural arch rock, the picturesque gorge and the Mineral Spring, which has drawn people for many years for water to cure their ills, lend New Harmony a mantle of interest and distinction.



EXHIBITION AT NEW HARMONY, 1892. Teacher: Mary Morgan (lady with hat)

PAINTER COMMUNITY

Painter community is located near the west boundary of DeKalb County at the junction of Highway 75 and the Whiton-to-Crossville road. It was named for M. Harold Painter who came from North Carolina about 1855 in a covered wagon with his wife, Ann, and their two sons, Jim and George. He homesteaded and acquired about a thousand acres of land in the Painter community. Some of the other early settlers of the community were the Wilkses, Hartselles, and Howards.

School started at Painter in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Some of the early teachers were Bama Rucks, Charlie Upton, Walter Bryant, Will Treadaway, and Lemuel F. Painter. In 1952 the school was closed and consolidated with neighboring schools.

The Hanveys, Andy Gaines, Fred Benson, Chester Brooks, and Milford Hall are some of those who operated cotton gins and other machinery at Painter. The water grist mill was run by a Caldwell and by Bill Taylor.

Joe Smith, Charlie Upton, Jim Kerr, and Lee Howard were some of Painter's merchants. Reverend Rufus Perry was one of the blacksmiths in the early days.

Joe Harrison, Dr. Gaines, A. L. Isbell, Archie Horton, Lee Dowdy, and Briggs Parris served as doctors during the years before World War II.

The Howard Methodist Church was built in the late nineteenth century, but because of a dearth of membership, the church did not survive. Most of the citizens of the community were of the Baptist faith and belonged to the nearby Concord Baptist Church. George Painter donated land when Liberty Baptist Church was built in the Painter community.

PEA RIDGE

Pea Ridge was so named because of the wild peas that grew on this sandy ridge of approximately twelve square miles running generally east and west on Sand Mountain. A copy of the application for its post office stated that the proposed office was fourteen miles east and three miles west of Town Creek on the route from Crossville to Rising Fawn, and would serve a population of seventy-five people. This application was signed on December 24, 1877, by Johnson Jones who became the first postmaster.

Besides the Jones family, early settlers included the Biddle, Keith, Tripp, Kerby, Durham, Stoner, Lea, Maxwell, and Cordell families.

A log cabin served as the Pea Ridge Post Office until 1909. This structure was moved in 1966 from its original site to its present location off Highway 35 and Interstate 59, and has since been maintained by the DeKalb County Tourist Association as a Welcome Center.

PINE GROVE

Pine Grove is located approximately nine miles northwest of Fort Payne on Sand Mountain near Henagar. It is surrounded by the communities of High Point, Stamp, and Mt. Paron.

Early settlers were the families of Doc Crane, George Igou, Napoleon Biddle, Blane McCurdy, the Gosses, and Bill Swader.

The first school, known as Central, had two rooms separated by a curtain. The first teachers were Jim Cagle and Mrs. Hattie Cagle who taught subjects through the eighth grade. They were followed by Wallace King, Dessie Shankles, and Minnie White. Later Central was consolidated with Union Hill, Stamp, Council Bluff, and New Home, and was known as High Point School.

Pine Grove Methodist Church was organized in the late 1800's. The first pastor was Reverend Paul T. McWhorter.

General merchandise stores were owned and operated by Arthur Moore, C. J. Smalley, and later by J. A. Stone, who built the first steam-powered cotton gin across the road from his store. It today is a landmark on Sand Mountain under the operation of W. B. Mitchell & Son.

POWELL

According to his deeds, D. W. Powell purchased forty acres of land from M. S. Jones on November 20, 1906. This was the beginning of Powell.

D. W. Powell took an interest in the progress of his community, both in schools and churches. He was a member of the Methodist Church at Hall's School, then later became a member of the Methodist Church at Trinity, better known as Burnt Church. Later after New Bethel Baptist Church was built, he became a member there. Truly he was a leader in the progress of his community. He continued to buy land and build houses until he owned a section of land in Jackson County besides a large tract of land in DeKalb where he lived.

Now there are several modern business buildings along with modern homes in the city limits of Powell.

RAINSVILLE

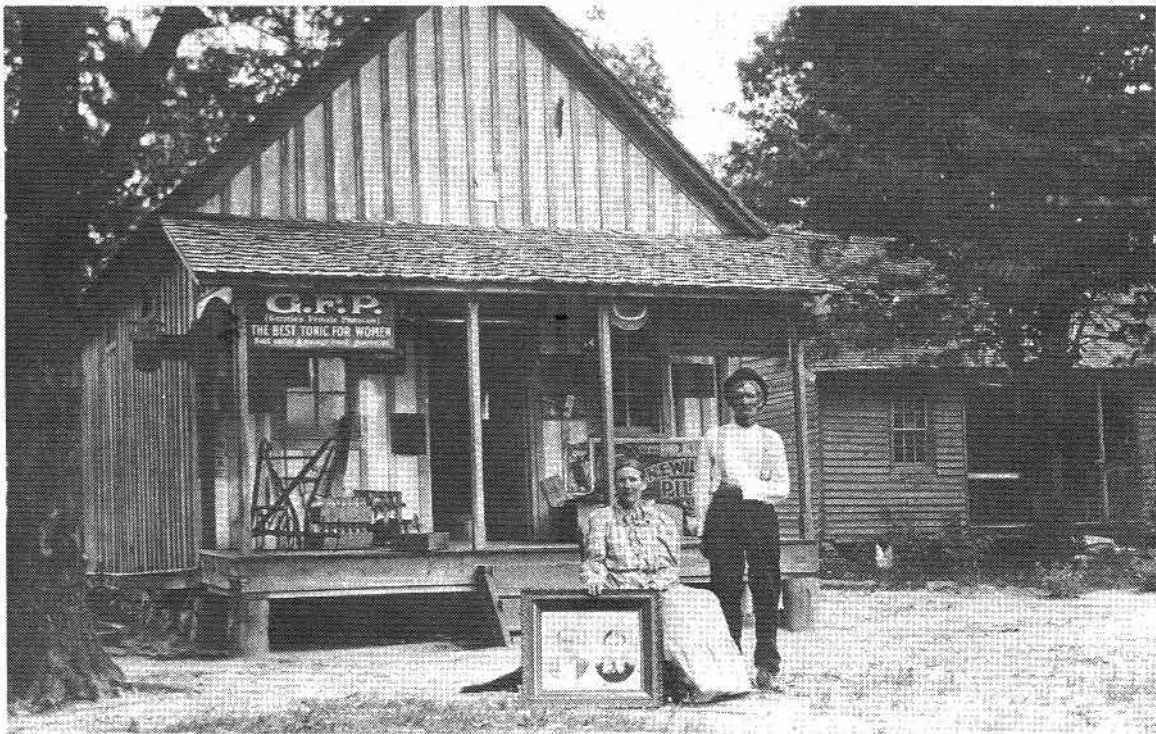
Rainsville received its name from Will Rains who moved there from Grove Oak. At that time there were only three or four houses – two of which were occupied by Cicero Dawson and Alphonso Robertson's family. Later in 1904 Henry Thompson's family came, and in 1905 Joe and Tol Parker joined them.

Rains built the first store in 1907, which later became a schoolroom in which Lillie Durham served as the first teacher. By this time Tol Parker had acquired the store, and the school became known as Parker's School.

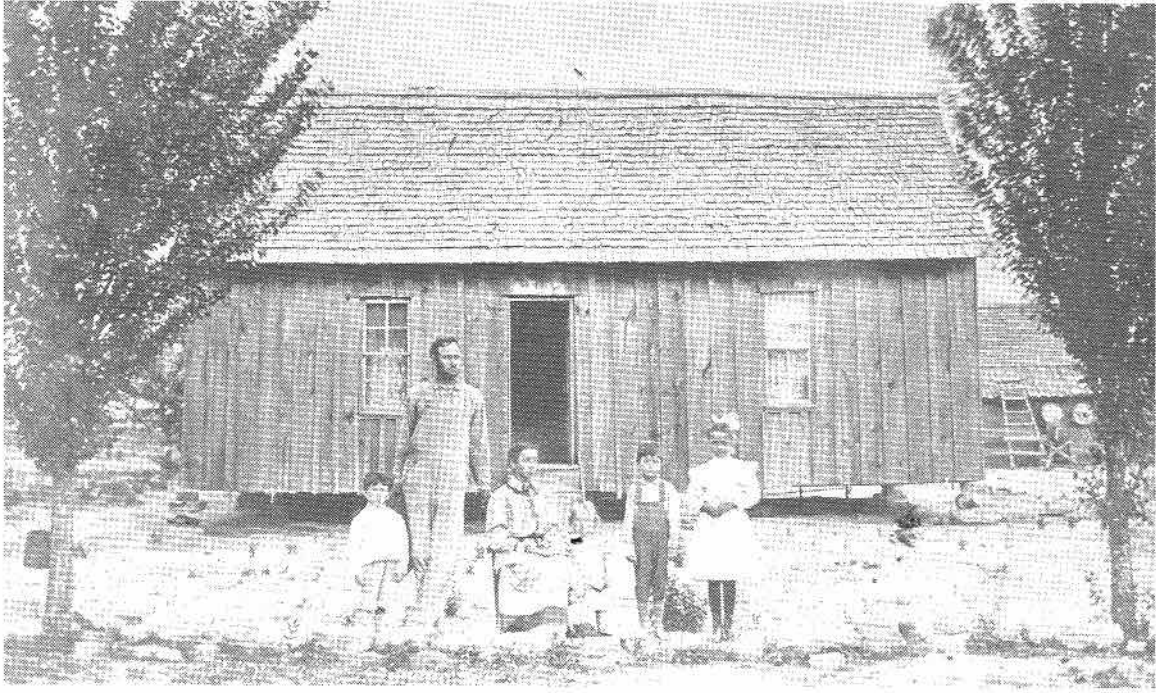
In 1911 E. E. McCurdy moved to Rainsville, purchased some property, and in 1915 acquired the store. He later served the community as commissioner and was instrumental in securing the present state highways, Nos. 35 and 75, through Rainsville. He was also the leading influence in locating the Farmers' Telephone Cooperative and other businesses in Rainsville.



SINGING SCHOOL GRADUATION
Hall's School, one and one-half miles west of Rainsville, early 1900.



STORE AND RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. DAVID HALL, Rainsville – 1910



THE HOME OF W. A. LARGE FAMILY near Rainsville about 1910.
This type home replaced the log cabin of earlier settlers.



THE HOME OF R. L. HARRISON FAMILY NEAR RAINSVILLE ABOUT 1910.



RAINSVILLE COMMUNITY, 1912



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Rainsville, Alabama, 1914



FIRST FACULTY OF PLAINVIEW HIGH SCHOOL, Rainsville, 1937
Kneeling L. to R.: Truman Durham, Audley Bruner, Eldridge Thompson, and E. R. King, Principal
Back row: Mrs. Hilda T. Fears, Valista M. Owen, Donna Mae Lowrey, Eudine Thompson, Delphia Hodges,
Nannie P. Hosmer, and Vonnie Lee Parker.

After McCurdy's death in 1954, his widow continued to reside in the home built by the McCurdys in 1930. She gave some fifty years of her life to the teaching profession, serving as principal at Rainsville and Powell and teaching in the Sylvania School.

Rainsville experienced its greatest growth during the 1960's when a new post office, town hall, bank, ASCS Office, Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative Headquarters, and a water supply were added to the area. Descendants of the McCurdys, Parkers, Thompsons, and Dawsons yet reside in the area.

RODENTOWN

The beginning of Rodentown dates back to the early 1880's. The earliest establishments were a general store owned by Johnny McPherson and a store built by Billy Roden.

In the 1880's Dr. J. H. Black began the practice of medicine in Rodentown.

The first church of the area was Mt. Flat Missionary Baptist Church. This building was also used for the first school. A little later two other small schools began, and in 1916 all three schools were consolidated, and Central School was built where Rodentown Community House now stands.

By the 1900's Rodentown had another store and its first gin, owned and operated by George Chumley. The same steam boiler was used to power a feed mill, a grist mill, and a sawmill as well as the cotton gin.

The old public well, which was used to water all the animals and the travelers as well, is still in use in the center of Rodentown.

Rodentown now has a modern cotton gin, a gift and hardware store, a gas station-garage-grocery store combination, a barbershop, another gas station, a refrigerator repair shop, a community center, and churches of various denominations.

SHILOH

Lewis Langley, the oldest member of the Shiloh community, does not know how Shiloh got its name. At one time the post office was called Nancy. In 1962 the community was incorporated with E. L. Harper serving as the first mayor, succeeded by H. M. Pullen.

The town now has about three hundred members, and its limits extend to the Rainsville and Fyffe boundaries.

Since the incorporation the men who have served as councilmen are Harry Norrell, Sherman Light (deceased), Walter F. Stowe, W. C. Harper, H. M. Pullen, Buster Coffee, Claude Parker, Bernard Morton, Bill Green, J. L. Tumlin, Sr., J. L. Tumlin, Jr., J. E. Myrick, J. B. Derrick, Rayburn Petty and Winford Chitwood. Tommie Harper has served as clerk.



TYPICAL HOMESTEAD OF EARLY WHITE SETTLERS IN DeKALB COUNTY



Sylvania Normal School about 1919

SKIRUM

Skirum is a community on Sand Mountain that received its name from a nearby creek with an Indian name. The community was originally called Partridge Town since one of the first settlers in the community was named Partridge. Other early settlers were the Morton, Graham, Rucks, Croley, Fuller, Bolton, Brumbloe, and Monroe families, and the first store was Monroe's General Store. The Skirum Baptist and First Prospect Methodist are the oldest churches in the community.

SYLVANIA

Jim Duncan, with his wife, moved to this spot on Sand Mountain in the middle 1800's from Sylvania, Georgia. The people walked or went in wagons or on horseback to Unity Church and Union Grove, the nearest churches. In 1905 the Baptist Church was organized using the Odd Fellow and Mason Hall until 1907, when the first church was built with Reverend Lifus Stone as pastor.

Sylvania school began around 1900 in a small one-room school with Edd Deanas the first teacher followed by Lizzie Mason in 1902.

In October 1914, Sylvania experienced a tragedy when there was an explosion at the cotton gin claiming the lives of Marion Allen, Ollie Wiggins, and Anderson Elrod, and crippling Ollie Murdock.

Sylvania is the home of a beautiful state lake which is a popular fishing site.

TENBROECK

Tenbroeck, named for a run-away horse which was caught in the community, was settled by the Bassetts, Baxters, Hortons, and Julia Sargeant. Andrew Morgan opened the first store, which was later owned by J. B. Rains. Traveling salesmen who called at the store in the "horse and buggy" days found lodging in the Rains home.

Union Hill Congregational Church, organized seventy-five years ago, was built on property donated by Stephen Elisha Bassett. The Baptist Church, organized in 1904 and chartered in 1905, and Tenbroeck School were built on land donated by Russell Downs. The first cemeteries in the community were Mt. Pleasant and Beulah. Elrod's Bridge, which was nearby, was a favorite spot for picnicking and picture-taking.

Tenbroeck was incorporated in 1925 with J. T. Chadwick mayor and J. B. Rains, J. E. Johnson, W. S. Clements, R. J. Daniel, and G. P. Gilbert councilmen. The Council held its first meeting March 17, 1925, and elected J. E. Johnson as clerk and Thomas E. Downs chief of police.

WHITON

The name Whiton was formed as an abbreviation of the two words "White's Town," honoring Major P. White, the town's first postmaster and first merchant. Major White's house had the first glass windows in the area in 1885, and his father, Mathy White, was the first in the community to run machinery, a mule-powered cotton gin.

The first post office was established April 25, 1878, with Ephraim Mitchell, Alfred Jackson Cody, and Henry W. Fossett following Major White as postmasters. This post office was discontinued May 31, 1905.

Some of the early steam-powered cotton gins and grist mill operators were Wiley Peppers, Andy Rains, Homer Rains, Bud Burrell, Early Kellett, E. B. Kellett, R. B. Decker, Paul Decker, and Arvil Decker.

A school was started at Whiton soon after the Civil War. Among the early teachers were Dr. Joe Harrison, Eliab Moore, Robby Wilbanks, Miss Maggie Morgan, Luther Gipson, a Miss Howard, Minnie Burrell, Walter Bryant, Maud and Maggie Gipson, Della Treadaway, Eliza Gilbert, and Burley Rains.

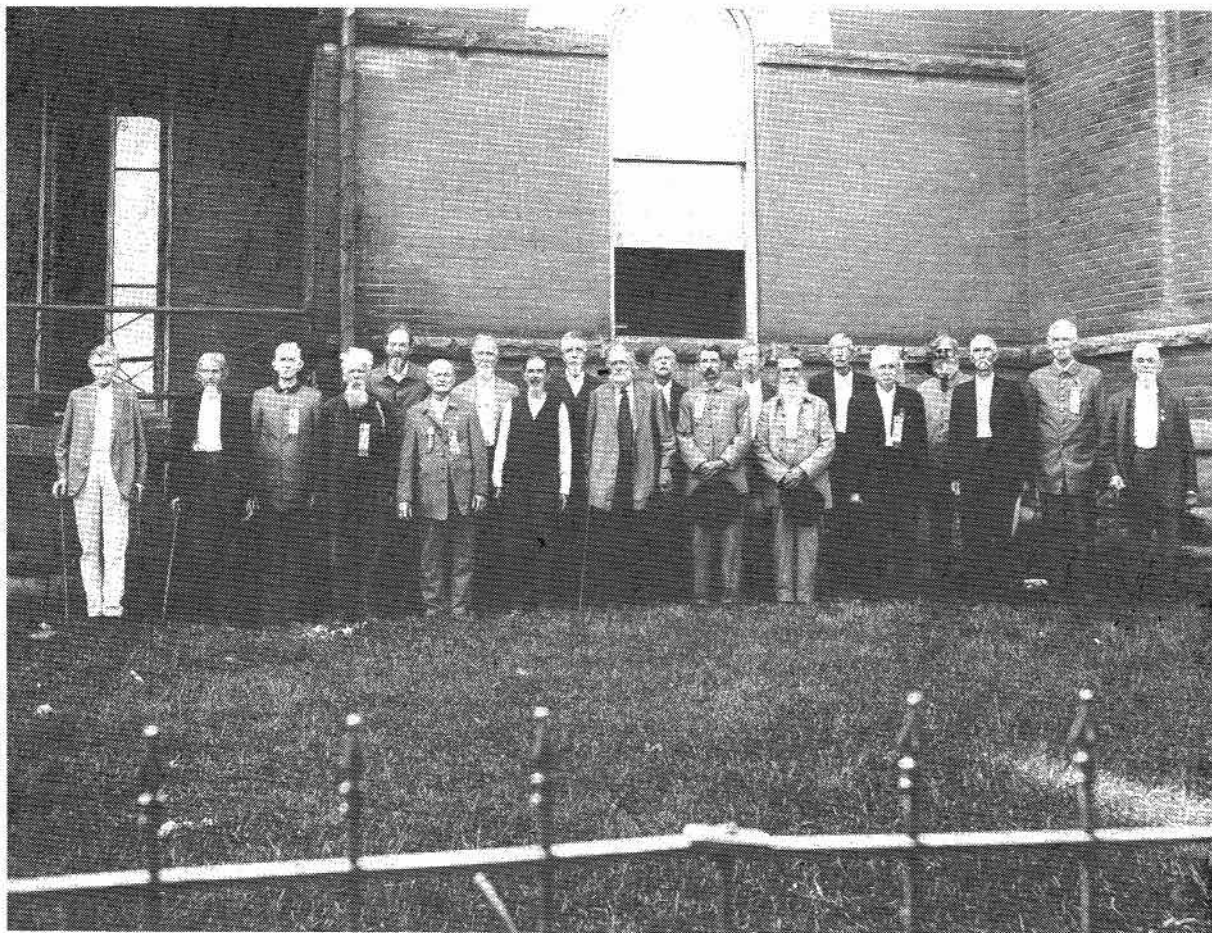
Dr. Joe Harrison, Dr. A. L. Isbel, Dr. Ee Dowdy, and Dr. Briggs Parris have served the community as physicians.



An old time baptizing in a natural stream which was a very popular practice among the Baptists of DeKalb County.



DOC L. BAILY, born in January 1880. One of Alabama's oldest surviving Spanish American War Veterans (1971). DeKalb's only veteran of this war has lived here last 30 years.



Civil War Veterans Reunion about 1913. Left to right: Henry Campbell, Billy Koger, G. M. D. Lowery, Bill Hartline, Doc Dampbell, Jim Cassidy, George Pharr, Nathan LaFayette Culver, Bill Holliman, Cicero Davenport, Sam Johnson, Jim Price, Unidentified, John Biddle, Unidentified, Lucien L. Cochran, Taylor Davenport, Unidentified, Sam Lowery and Tom Biddle.

Veterans Killed in Wars

A DeKALB COUNTY COMPANY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In the year 1900 a company made up of men from DeKalb County, Alabama who participated in the Civil War of 1861-1865 held a reunion in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was known as Company E, Twelfth Alabama Regiment.

A booklet written by P. A. Brandon was secured at this time by Robert Frazier of DeKalb County. He also obtained the company's muster roll, made by Brandon at this reunion. Fred W. Purdy, a grandson of Robert Frazier, has copied both the muster roll and the historical facts of Company E, as given in Brandon's booklet for use in this *History of DeKalb County*.

MUSTER ROLL – Co. E. Twelfth Alabama Regiment as of January 1st, year of 1900 at reunion held at Chattanooga, Tennessee, to honor this Company in Civil War of 1861 to 1865.

Officers:

Captain Robert W. Higgins – Died at Larkinsville, Ala.
First Lt. Wm. L. Meroney – Living at Comanche, Tex.
Second Lt. Robert H. McCampbell – Living at Dublin, Tex.
Third Lt. Wm. A. Lankford – Living at Fort Payne, Ala.

Non-Commissioned Officers:

First Sgt. Wm. A. Hammock – Living at Fort Payne, Ala.
Second Sgt. James R. Ward – Living in Tennessee
Third Sgt. John Carmack – Died at Brandon (Collbran), Ala.
Fourth Sgt. James J. Hammock – Living in Texas
First Cpl. Alexander Majors – Killed at Sniggers Gap, Va.
Second Cpl. John B. Findley – Died at Arkadelphia, Ark.
Third Cpl. Phillip A. Brandon – Living in Chattanooga, Tenn.
Fourth Cpl. Richard F. Hunter – Living in Texas

Privates:

Austin, William G. – Died in Cherokee Nation
Appleton, Joseph W. – Died at Lynchburg, Va.
Burt, Thomas – Living at Brandon, Ala.
Brindley, Alonzo B. – Died Jan. 12, 1862, at Mt. Jackson, Va.
Beeson, Jessie G. – Died Aug. 27, 1861, at Bristoe Station, Va.

Burnett, James M. – Died near Manassas, Va.
 Bartles, James E. – Died Sept. 1, 1861, Mask Battery, Va.
 Bartles, Christopher C. – Killed May 31, 1862, at Seven Pines, Va.
 Bratton, Lemuel S. – Living in Texas
 Brandon, William C. – Died Oct. 12, 1862, at Battle Liberty, Va.
 Coffey, Albert – Unknown
 Coffey, Joel – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Carmon, John – Unknown
 Cunningham, John C. – Killed May 31, 1862, Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Cunningham, George – Died Aug. 21, 1861, at Camp Walker, Va.
 Cunningham, David – Unknown
 Clayton, John Craig – Died at Scottsville, Va.
 Carrol, Peter – Died Jan. 13, 1862, at Richmond, Va.
 Campbell, John Wesley – Living in Alabama
 Crow, William H. – Killed May 31, 1862, Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Drake, Charles E. – Died near Manassas, Va.
 Duff, David H. – Died Feb. 8, 1862, at Richmond, Va.
 Dobbs, Lodwick A. – Died at Fort Payne, Ala.
 Dutton, Thomas – Died Aug. 21, 1861, at Camp Walker, Va.
 Evans, James W. – Living in Arkansas
 Estes, Josiah E. – Killed at Wilderness, Va.
 Estes, James K. P. – Died Aug. 17, 1861, at Camp Walker, Va.
 Edwards, Francis M. – Died on York River R. R., Va.
 Fulcher, Austin A. – Died at Richmond, Va.
 Fletcher, John C. – Died Aug. 13, 1861, at Camp Walker, Va.
 Frazier, Patrick M. – Living at Lebanon, Ala.
 Frazier, John B. – Died at Lebanon, Ala.
 Findley, Wm. W. – Living in Missouri
 Farmer, Wm. – Living at Floy, Ala.
 Fields, Wm. – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Griffith, John – Unknown
 Glazener, John – Living in Alabama
 Hudson, James – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Hunter, James P. – Died at Lebanon, Ala.
 Hunter, Casper H. – Killed May 2, 1862, at Battle Chancellorsville, Va.
 Howard, James M. – Living in Alabama
 Higgins, John Y. – Living at Larkinsville, Ala.
 Hartman, William W. – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Hulgin, Robert S. – Died in Texas
 Keaton, William T. – Killed at Battle Winchester, Va.
 Kennedy, David W. – Died Feb. 8, 1862, at Richmond, Va.
 Little, Thomas J. – Living in Jackson County, Alabama
 Lewis, Benjamin F. – Died Aug. 25, 1861, at Camp Picken, Va.
 Lankford, Alexander W. – Died Aug. 30, 1861, at Camp Walker, Va.

Lankford, Peter H. – Living at Fort Payne, Ala.
 Lawson, Henry – Living at Floy, Ala.
 McSpadden, Samuel M. – Died Jan. 1, 1862, at Richmond, Va.
 McSpadden, Thos. K. B. – Died in Cherokee Nation
 Morris, Thomas C. – Living at Whitesburg, Ala.
 Murphy, Mardis – Died in Alabama
 McPherson, Isaac – Living in Arkansas
 McPherson, George – Died at Brandon (Collbran), Ala.
 Moore, Elisha – Unknown
 McCurdy, John A. – Living at Comanche, Tex.
 Merrell, Francis M. – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Mitchel, Jacob – Killed at Battle Hagerstown, Md.
 Mikles, John A. – Killed Sept. 13, 1862, at Battle South Mountain, Md.
 Newkirk, Samuel H. – Living in Alabama
 Newkirk, James F. – Living at Fort Payne, Ala.
 Patterson, Lorenzo D. – Died Dec. 20, 1885, at Collinsville, Ala.
 Patterson, Franklin P. – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Porter, Christopher C. – Living at Brandon (Collbran), Ala.
 Pendergrass, Isaac R. – Died Aug. 31, 1861, at Camp Pickens, Va.
 Rogers, John – Killed at Battle Spottsylvania C. H., Va.
 Rogers, Jacob J. – Living at Brandon (Collbran), Ala.
 Roberts, Anderson G. – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Rucks, Napoleon B. – Killed May 2, 1863, at Battle Chancellorsville, Va.
 Smith, Noah – Killed at Battle Brandy Station, Va.
 Singleton, Joseph – Killed at Battle Petersburg, Va.
 Southerland, James M. – Died in Alabama
 Southerland, John D. – Unknown
 Sibert, John W. – Died in Alabama
 Thomason, Charles M. – Living at Guys Store, Texas
 Tackett, William J. – Living in Arkansas
 Taylor, William – Killed May 31, 1862, at Battle Seven Pines, Va.
 Taylor, John – Unknown
 Willis, Isaac Y. – Living at Trenton, Ga.
 Willis, Columbus T. – Living at Fort Payne, Ala.
 Walker, John M. – Killed July 3, 1863, at Battle Gettysburg, Pa.
 Word, John L. – Died at Lebanon, Ala.
 Word, Berry O. – Living in Alabama
 Withrow, John S. – Killed in Battle Strasburg, Va.
 Weaver, Henry – Living in Texas

Casualties Listed

At the battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, May 31, 1862, eight of this Company were killed on the field, and James Hudson and Franklin P. Patterson were mortally wounded and died in an ambulance, transferring others of the Company from the battlefield to the hospital at Richmond. Thirty-five others of the Company were wounded and recovered from their injuries. Fifty-six of the Company were in this battle, other members of the Company being sick and on detached service. There were 101 members, rank and file, in the Company as originally organized. There is of this number in the year 1900, supposed to be living, 32; killed, 26; died, 36; unknown, 7. John Carmon, Albert Coffey, John Griffith, David Cunningham, and unknown members of the Company.

Historical Facts of the Co. E 12th Alabama Regt.

Captain Robert W. Higgins was the son of George W. Higgins, a prominent and influential citizen of Jackson County, Alabama, and was born in said county in 1825, at the county site, Bellefront, at that time. Soon after completing his education, he moved to Lebanon, DeKalb County, and commenced the practice of law, and was associated with Hon. Tipton Bradford, Sr., in the clerical work of the local land office at that place. Capt. Higgins had the reputation of being one of the finest pleading lawyers at the Bar in the judicial circuit. Honored and respected for his kindness of heart, legal acumen, liberality and brilliancy of mind, his generosity was unlimited, and loyalty to his friends knew no bounds.

On the 11th day of May 1861, Governor Andrew B. Moore commissioned him Captain of the DeKalb Invincibles, this being the first company organized in DeKalb County for service in the army of the Confederate States.

The Company left Lebanon, Ala., June the 17th, 1861, marched to Bellefront, Ala., and went to Lynchburg, Va., and from there to Richmond and was organized into the 12th Alabama Regiment, and lettered Company E.

While in camp at Mask Battery, Va., in October 1861, he became violently ill of consumption of the lungs, and in anticipation of his very early dissolution, he was influenced by the earnest importunities of his company to resign his commission, which he very reluctantly did, and he immediately returned to the home of an affectionate sister, Mrs. W. R. Larkin, and died in Larkinsville, Ala., in Nov. 1861.

Private Lorenzo D. Patterson of the Company, by unanimous vote of its members, was elected captain and commanded the company until early in the spring of 1862, at which time the army reorganized, and he was elected Lt. Col. of the Regiment by a majority vote. Soon thereafter he resigned his commission as Lt. Col. and returned to Alabama and joined the Cavalry branch of the service under Gen. John T. Morgan, and remained in such service until the war closed.

Col. Patterson was a kind, benevolent man, strictly honest, a profound scholar and an educational philanthropist. The greater portion of his useful life was spent in the schoolroom training the youth for the country morally and intellectually. He was a

devoted husband and father, and on the 20th day of December 1885, at the home of his father-in-law, Col. Andrew J. Berry, four miles south of Collinsville, Ala., he died, surrounded by a devoted and affectionate wife, children and friends, without a blot of stain upon that Christian character which he had so successfully maintained from his early manhood. If Col. Patterson ever had any enemies, they were mutes. May angels twine for him a blissful and bounteous immortality.

First Lt. William L. Meroney was promoted to Captain of the Company by seniority to succeed Captain Patterson and resigned about one year thereafter, and returned to Alabama and resumed the practice of his chosen profession, that of a physician. When the cause was lost, he moved to the state of Texas, and is now living six miles from Comanche in that state. Captain Meroney is an honored and respected citizen and accomplished gentleman.

The roaring of artillery, whistling missiles and clashing of sabres had no terrors for him. He was a cool, deliberate and fearless soldier. He commanded his company on the field of battle in a manner that was purely characteristic of the ideal soldier, and commanded the respect and admiration of his superior officers, and, in a way, worthy of the emulation of his comrades. Capt. Meroney led the life of a true Christian through all the trials and vicissitudes of civil and military life. The frosts of November are fast falling upon his head, and he will soon cross the River and rest under the shades of the trees with Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

First Lt. Charles M. Thomason succeeded to the Captaincy of the Company upon the resignation of Captain Meroney, and was assigned to the Quartermaster's Department, and served in this capacity for several months, and returned to the company. He resigned his commission and returned to his home in Alabama, and joined the Seventh Alabama Cavalry Regiment, and was made prisoner of war in an engagement with the enemy. But his shrewdness outmeasured that of his more fortunate captors. He made his escape, and by his proverbial adroitness, he eluded the vigilance of the Federal authorities, and succeeded in making his way to Nova Scotia, returning to his home in DeKalb County at the close of hostilities. He was a fine scholar, and ranked among the most talented men ever raised in DeKalb County – an intellectual gentlemen of the true Southern type. The schoolroom was his chosen profession. He now resides at Guys Store, Texas, a prosperous and prominent citizen.

First Lt. John Rogers was promoted to Captain of the Company to succeed Captain Thomason. On May 12, 1864, while leading a charge at Battle of Spottsylvania Court House, Va., he was mortally wounded, and on the 19th of the month he died. This noble, warm-hearted young man gave his life in exchange for the cause he loved so long and gallantly defended. He was the flower of the Southern Chivalry in the closing scenes of the lost cause. I voice with sadness the sentiment of the few surviving members the sentiment of his company in saying peace to his ashes, and sacred the spot on which he so gallantly died.

Lieutenant Alexander Majors took command of the company upon the death of Captain Rogers, and in an unequal contest with the enemy at Sniggers Gap, Virginia, in 1864 he, too, gave a noble and useful life, vindicating a cause which his convictions led him to believe was right. Having been intimately associated with him in college and camp

life for five years, it is sufficient to state that a better man never lived. Loved and admired by his comrades, I cannot speak of this young man as his merits deserved. His memory has been gratefully and affectionately cherished by those who knew him. He died as he lived, discharging the highest duty of a patriot with a devotion that never faltered, and with courage that shrank from no danger. Death alone can remove the sad memory of my most deserving and intimate friend.

In concluding this brief history of the services that this company rendered to the lost cause, and ignoring any reference to special acts of heroism, and to the many dangers, hardships and privations that each individual member of this Company underwent, it is due to their credit and proper that I should say that they were active participants in the following named battles: Seven Pines, Chickahominy, Cold Harbor, Gaines Mill, Fraziers Farm, Malvern Hill, South Mountain, Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville, Winchester, Wilderness, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Hagerstown, Petersburg, Strasburg, Mine Run, Berryville, Martinsburg, Warrentown Court House, Spottsylvania Court House, and Appomattox Court House, and many others of less magnitude.

At Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April the 9th, 1865, the very few surviving members who were not already prisoners of war, were surrendered by General R. E. Lee, Commanding the Army of Northern Virginia, to General U. S. Grant, commanding the Army of the United States, known as the Army of the Potomac.

DeKalb County, Alabama, furnished five regimental officers to the lost cause: Col. William N. Estes of the Third Confederate Cavalry Regiment, killed at Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, September 17, 1863; Lt. Col. L. D. Patterson of the Twelfth Alabama Regiment; Col. Jephtha Edwards; Lt. Col. Abner A. Hughes of the Forty-eighth Alabama Regiment; and Major Thomas J. Reece of the Third Confederate Cavalry Regiment.

Col. Robert F. Jones, of Sumter County, Alabama, was the first commander of the Twelfth Alabama Regiment, highly educated in military tactics, and an excellent commander. He was killed at the battle of Seven Pines, Va., May 31st, 1862. Lt. Col. W. T. Gale of Morgan County, Alabama, was promoted to Col. of the Regiment. At the battle of South Mountain, Maryland, September 13th, 1862, he was killed, and Lt. Col. Samuel B. Pickens of South Carolina was dangerously wounded and was carried to the foot of the mountain to the village of Boonsboro, a distance of one mile, by Private Robert S. Hulgan, member of this Company E. Colonel Pickens recovered and commanded the Regiment until the surrender. He died in Charleston, South Carolina, seven years ago. Lt. Col. John C. Goodgame of this Regiment and native of Coosa County, Alabama, survived the war, but was killed and robbed in the state of Texas ten years ago.

Written by P. A. Brandon
Former Member Co. E 12th Ala. Regt.
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Jan. 1st, 1900

SPANISH - AMERICAN VETERANS

Fort Payne Journal, Earl Cochran, *Editor*

September 21, 1898

DeKalb Soldier Boys, or Most of Them, Are at Home

The following members of Company C came up last evening and were met at the depot by a large crowd:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. John McNaron | 7. B. Cook | 13. John Anderson |
| 2. Olie Smith | 8. William Mackey | 14. Oscar Roberts |
| 3. Charles McCurdy | 9. Nick Johnson | 15. Dick Chitwood |
| 4. Will Jones | 10. James Willis | 16. Charlie Hawkins |
| 5. John Miller | 11. Walter Mills | 17. Harry Minot |
| 6. John Durham | 12. John Collins | 18. Ben Allen |

Peter Norton stayed over in Birmingham for a few days with his sister.

Poor Payne Morgan is in a hospital at Birmingham, having been stricken with disease soon after going to Miami, and never recovered enough to return home.

W. L. Dorsett sometime since was surrendered to the civil authorities for some offense previously committed.

Obie Jack Newsome deserted and thus the members from DeKalb County of Company C, First Alabama, are accounted for.

On the morning train from Montgomery came Charles Hawkins, Harry Minot and Ben Allen, members of Second Alabama.

DeKalb County furnished in all twenty-two men. They are all home for thirty days and they will return and be mustered out provided there is no hitch in peace proceedings. The thirty days and the town are theirs.

DeKALB COUNTY VETERANS KILLED IN ACTION – WORLD WAR I

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Adkins, James | Doyal, Bryon K. | Horton, H. D. | Peek, Soloman D. |
| Bolden, C. B. | Dilbeck, A. W. | Hill, Herbert L. | Scruggs, F. W. |
| Berry, Noah C. | Dodd, Arthur | Howard, J. M. | Stewart, H. J. |
| Barbour, H. L. | Findley, C. W. | Hamrick, Dallas | Smith, W. W. |
| Beck, Cecil B. | Grooms, J. E. | Lewis, Frank A. | Sauls, Sam M. |
| Boydson, Cirvil | Gilbert, M. M. | Lynch, C. (Col.) | Thompson, David |
| Cannon, M. G. | Gilbreath, W. P. | McCollum, L. F. | Tedder, Willie |
| Collins, Crit | Gardner, T. F. | Nash, James S. | Waldrip, A. H. |
| Cochran, R. G. | Gifford, Richard | Pell, George A. | Waldrip, Beatlas |
| Coley, Oscar F. | Grubbs, E. J. | Peek, Thomas O. | Williams, Jack |
| Cannon, Eli | | | Wells, Thomas |

DeKALB COUNTY VETERANS KILLED IN ACTION – WORLD WAR II

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ables, Martin F. | Duncan, James V. | Isbell, Isaac L. | Pigg, J. J. |
| Allen, John H. | Durham, Jack | Johns, Harold W. | Poe, Joseph B. |
| Baker, John M. | Dobbs, James C. | Johnson, H. L. | Pointer, B. E. |
| Barkley, Carl D. | Eason, Ernest T. | Kelley, L. H. | Purdy, Robert F. |
| Bartlett, J. L. | Ethridge, Felix L. | King, Arnold L. | Rains, Kenneth |
| Bauerle, Louis D. | Fant, Herman M. | Kittle, Odis | Rector, Roy M. |
| Beaird, C. W. | Ferrell, R. H. | Knight, James R. | Rector, Paul J. |
| Beaty, William L. | Floyd, E. | Lackey, Grady A. | Roan, Henry T. |
| Bouldin, W. D. | Ford, Edward V. | Lambert, J. G. | Rogers, Buley G. |
| Bowman, T. R. | Fortenberry, W. H. | Lassetter, O. | Roden, V. M. |
| Bracknell, Artee | Frasier, John R. | Lea, H. L. | Rush, G. L. |
| Brewer, W. H. | Frasier, W. C. | Leake, William J. | Romine, Stacy |
| Brooks, J. D. | Freeman, M. L. | Light, Coy W. | Scott, Curtis M. |
| Browder, H. T. | Freeman, W. N. | Lingerfelt, U. R. | Shirey, Worth |
| Brown, Gerald H. | Gentry, H. R. | Lloyd, Boyd B. | Slater, F. O. |
| Bruce, C. R. | Gilbert, G. A. | Long, D. E. | Slater, L. V. |
| Brock, A. G. | Gilbreath, G. L. | Lowery, S. L. | Smalley, W. H. |
| Benson, H. D. | Gilbreath, R. E. | Matherson, W. M. | Smith, E. L. |
| Beard, R. T. | Gilley, W. L. | Mays, Vernon G. | Smith, James T. |
| Brooks, Calvin L. | Gladden, O. | Meadows, W. C. | Smith, M. H. |
| Cagle, Wilfred F. | Goza, James D. | Meeks, Ridley W. | Smith, Orin J. |
| Campbell, W. D. | Gravitt, B. W. | Monroe, C. B. | Stephens, Joe D. |
| Carroll, Bill | Greeson, B. R. | Murdock, C. L. | Stephenson, W. E. |
| Cash, Bryson | Gulledge, Roy | Murdock, M. E. | Stout, Millard H. |
| Cash, Deward | Gunter, Ray C. | McBryer, A. C. | Summerford, C. E. |
| Clark, Dewey H. | Gregory, Roy W. | McCord, J. C. | Steele, Albert P. |
| Cole, Vernon W. | Hall, M. | McClure, R. W. | Van Sandt, W. L. |
| Coley, William H. | Hand, J. L. | McKinney, D. C. | Wade, Erbie |
| Corbin, Alvin | Hammond, W. G. | McCracken, D. C. | Walker, Bert E. |
| Cross, Lewis M. | Hammond, D. H. | Newman, B. E. | Walters, Joe M. |
| Crumbley, L. E. | Hammon, R. R. | Newsome, C. D. | Weaver, Ben E. |
| Chambers, D. C. | Hammonds, J. D. | Nance, J. B. | Westbrook, R. J. |
| Colvard, E. G. | Harper, J. C. | Noles, Eddie M. | White, R. J. |
| Curtis, C. M., Sr. | Heaton, J. C. | Oliver, Eugene S. | Wilson, C. L. |
| Chandler, H. D. | Hicks, Cecil C. | Owen, Carl E. | Woolum, W. L. |
| Carns, Marvin C. | Hicks, Volney W. | Pace, G. S. | Workman, S. C. |
| Cooper, V. G. | Hicks, William R. | Painter, L. W. | Worthey, O. R. |
| Davis, Joseph W. | Hightower, H. N. | Peacock, G. M. | Worthey, C. E. |
| Debtor, Arthur J. | Holloway, M. L. | Pell, Leslie | Yancey, W. B. |
| Driskill, C. O. | Howell, A. M. | Pendergraph, W. P. | |
| Driskill, W. W. | Hutcherson, H. W. | Phillips, G. | |

DeKALB COUNTY MEN KILLED IN ACTION – KOREAN CONFLICT

Allen, Walter E.
Cleveland, Euclid L.
Evans, Emmett O.
Hammond, Homer M.

Ingle, Clarence B.
Jackson, Irby L.
Stewart, Edward F.
Wilks, Van L.

VIETNAM CASUALTIES FROM DeKALB COUNTY

Barksdale, William Howard
Burt, James Howard
Freeman, Garry Don
Hall, Byron Royce

McClendon, Jr., John Newt
Moncus, Bennie Ray
Shaw, John Andy
Stevens, Gerald Wayne

Post Offices and Postmasters

1836 - 1905

Compiled by T. Euclid Rains, Sr., and G. Nell Rains

Note: The names of these post offices are arranged in alphabetical order. The name of the postmaster is followed by his or her appointment. In each instance, the first name given is presumed to be the founder, and the date immediately following this name is the time of establishment of the postoffice.

When a name is followed by a question mark or some of the letters are represented by question marks, this indicates that the record was blurred or illegible, and we were unable to make a determination of correctness beyond a doubt. The abbreviation Dis. means discontinued, and Reest. stands for reestablished.

This information was taken from the official records and documents of the National Archives Department of General Services Administration in Washington, D. C. - T. E. R., Sr., and G. N. R.

Adamsburg - Samuel M. J. Howard, April 7, 1902; Benjamin F. Wooten, Aug. 3, 1903. Dis. to Fort Payne Oct. 14, 1905.

Andrews Institute - Warner R. McNeron, July 26, 1876; Dis. to Collinsville Aug. 22, 1895.

Annawaika - Ellison Cook, Feb. 21, 1844; Tho. Gilbreath, Dec. 3, 1845; Geo. C. White, May 14, 1850; Ervin Chadwick, Dec. 13, 1865. Dis. Aug. 24, 1868.

Anneta - Frances E. Partridge, Feb. 20, 1900. Dis. to Portersville Sept. 27, 1904.

Arbutus - John Burns, Oct. 1, 1900; Rescinded Dec. 22, 1900.

Aroney - Buddie Scott, May 24, 1890; Tho. J. Bates, Oct. 13, 1893; Wm. A. Seeth, March 19, 1898; Dis. to Boaz Feb. 28, 1903.

Atwood - Thomas Logan, Oct. 4, 1850; Sylvanus Logan, July 27, 1858; John W. Allen, Oct. 25, 1858; Dis. Sept. 20, 1859.

Bailey - Noah S. Jones, July 21, 1903; Dis. to Chavies Dec. Dec. 14, 1905.

Bankhead - Achsah? O. Green, Feb. 13, 1889; Dis. to Mentone March 30, 1900. Reest. John W. Smith, Feb. 18, 1903. Changed to Nightingale July 11, 1911.

Battelle - Wm. J. Hawkins, Dec. 26, 1903. (Only record available.)

Black Oak - Samuel G. Gilbreath, March 25, 1872; J. J. Gilbreath, Jan. 18, 1876; Warren E. Durham, Jan. 31, 1876; Alexander Graves, May 6, 1892; Patrick H. Hansard, Sept. 7, 1893; Absalom C. Howard, Dec. 18, 1897; Dis. to Chavies Dec. 14, 1905.

Blake - Sebra? Blake, June 30, 1891; Byron M. Stewart, Oct. 14, 1891; Jeff Moore, May 4, 1893; (rescinded 1894) Byron M. Stewart, Oct. 14, 1891; Job F. Miller, Oct. 12, 1899; Byron M. Stewart, July 11, 1901; Dis. to Fort Payne Aug. 31, 1905.

Brandon — Henry J. Jacoway, Aug. 23, 1870; Dan S. Killian, Dec. 14, 1871; Albert T. Killian, March 22, 1887; Wm. E. Killian, Dec. 29, 1890; James B. Bruce, Sept. 26, 1893; R. A. Burt, Nov. 19, 1895; Bailey B. Killian, Nov. 26, 1900; Changed to Collbran May 16, 1903.

Camp Station — C. B. Coffin, Nov. 29, 1869; Dis. Dec. 11, 1871.

Chavies — James West, Sept. 20, 1883; Dis. to Musgrove July 17, 1889. Reest. James M. Durham, Aug. 9, 1890; Orange S. Powers, Apr. 8, 1901; T. J. Morgan, April 26, 1893; Porter G. Pendergrass, May 25, 1893; Wm. B. Gibson, Dec. 12, 1895; James R. Williams, Dec. 18, 1897; Joseph J. Gilbreath, June 22, 1898; (rescinded July 18, 1898); Wm. B. Gibson, Nov. 1, 1898; Wm. B. Gilbreath, Sept. 27, 1910; Elbert F. Dobbins, Jan. 18, 1915; Samuel B. Gilbreath, (acting) Jan. 7, 1931; Albert E. Durham, March 27, 1931.

Chumley — Wm. M. Barksdale, July 1, 1889; Robert Lee Waldrop, Aug. 16, 1893; Warren C. Stephens, Feb. 4, 1895; Susie E. Barksdale, Dec. 4, 1896; Wm. M. Barksdale, Apr. 14, 1903; Dis. to Collinsville Nov. 30, 1903.

Clay — Obadiah W. Ward, June 1, 1860; Dis. July 25, 1866.

Clyde — Van M. Jones, March 31, 1898; Dis. to Wills Jan. 23, 1901.

Collbran — Bailey B. Killian, May 16, 1903; Hugh R. Brandon, Nov. 7, 1903; Wallace M. Franklin, March 14, 1908; Geo. W. Thompson, Feb. 10, 1914.

Collinsville — John K. Hoge, Apr. 21, 1860; Tipton B. Collins, Oct. 19, 1865; Napoleon S. Collins, June 10, 1868; Rufus R. Kirby, Apr. 14, 1870; John Winston, July 28, 1871; James H. Collins, July 12, 1873; Napoleon S. Collins, Sept. 2, 1874; James H. Collins, Oct. 26, 1881; Erasmus P. Reed, May 5, 1885; Noah W. Ward, Jan. 8, 1886; Henry R. Jordan, May 31, 1889; Wm. J. Roberts, Aug. 8, 1893; James H. Collins, July 15, 1897; Reappointed Oct. 9, 1901; Reappointed Jan. 1903; Reappointed Jan. 1, 1909; Henry R. Jordan, Sept. 11, 1909; Reappointed June 27, 1910; Reappointed March 3, 1911; Robert M. Crump, Dec. 16, 1916; Reappointed Feb. 11, 1920; Dyer B. Crow, Apr. 21, 1924; Reappointed Apr. 23, 1928.

Cordell — James B. Price, July 22, 1881; Minus M. Price, May 23, 1884; Reuben S. Price, Dec. 8, 1887; Wm. A. Laney, March 31, 1891; Wm. H. Howard, Dec. 20, 1894; James M. Howard, Dec. 20, 1895; James S. Burkhart, Oct. 12, 1899; Wm. H. Howard, Feb. 27, 1900; (rescinded Sept. 18, 1900.) Thomas Keith, Apr. 6, 1901; M. Lackey, Aug. 27, 1901; Matilda A. Wilson, Jan. 27, 1902; John M. Wilson, Aug. 19, 1903. Dis. to Fort Payne Jan. 31, 1905.

Cotnam — John Wallace, May 4, 1882; Marcus N. Gilbreath, June 5, 1882; James S. Gilbreath, Apr. 10, 1883. Dis. to Collinsville Nov. 30, 1903.

Coxville — Tho. G. A. Cox, July 5, 1850; Dis. July 25, 1866.

Cropville — Alex C. Copeland, June 29, 1869 (Only record available.) See Crossville. We are unable to explain this duplication.)

Crossville — Alexander C. Copeland, June 29, 1869; Mollie B. Clayton, Apr. 19, 1897; John M. Carns, Aug. 11, 1914; reappointed July 1, 1921; Hiram T. Graves, March 17, 1922; Reappointed March 22, 1926; reappointed March 22, 1930; Miss Eula Graves, June 26, 1930.

Crumly — Edward H. Small, Jan. 27, 1882; Changed to Dawson July 21, 1887.

Dawson — Scot Nicholson, July 21, 1887; James A. Croley, Sept. 24, 1890; Robert W. Brown, Nov. 5, 1890; Christopher G. Ward, Oct. 2, 1891; Nannie Cotnam, Sept. 24, 1892; James E. Gibson, Oct. 17, 1896; Wm. A. Coe, Feb. 24, 1900; Wm. F. Darby, Feb. 12, 1903; John J. Cochran, Jan. 14, 1904; Jephtha N. Fincher, Sept. 25, 1908; Joseph A. Russell, Jan. 21, 1914.

Deer Head – Daniel B. Burkhalter, June 18, 1877; Geo. W. Tylor?, Aug. 9, 1878; Daniel B. Burkhalter, May 7, 1879; Amon Blevins, Feb. 23, 1887; Dis. to Ider July 21, 1887.

DeKalb – Robert R. Cornell, March 31, 1898. Dis. Valley Head Nov. 30, 1904.

Driskel – Robert Lee, Aug. 17, 1882; Dis. to Lebanon July 18, 1883.

Duck Springs – Wm. Mullin, July 5, 1850; L. P. Ward, Aug. 22, 1851; Nathan S. Penn, March 21, 1855; Obadiah W. Ward, Sept. 26, 1856; Jephtha Edwards, June 20, 1857; Isaac Ward, Feb. 26, 1858. Dis. Oct. 1, 1859. Resst. Lewis P. Ward, Nov. 4, 1859. Dis. July 25, 1866.

Emmitton – Wm. A. Hawkins, June 30, 1891; Byron M. Stewart, July 11, 1901; James W. McGee, Oct. 22, 1901; Geo. A. Keith, Jan. 4, 1902. Dis. to Fort Payne Aug. 31, 1905.

Eula – Mary S. Steele, June 10, 1905. Dis. to Jackson County Jan. 12, 1906.

Eureka – G. D. Cook, Oct. 3, 1870; Tho. H. Morgan, Dec. 14, 1870. Dis. Jan. 31, 1873.

Fair View – Chs. W. Lay, Aug. 15, 1855. Dis. May 21, 1856.

Ferro – Wm. J. Hawkins, Jan. 12, 1903. Changed to Battelle Dec. 26, 1903.

Fisher's Gap – John Cox, Nov. 25, 1846. Dis. Dec. 23, 1847.

Floy – Wm. A. Everett, June 18, 1877; John Stockton, Jan. 9, 1879; Wm. H. Elrod, Feb. 26, 1879; Winfield S. Gray, Apr. 20, 1896; Wm. H. Elrod, Dec. 19, 1896. Dis. to Portersville Oct. 14, 1904.

Fort Payne – Nicholas S. Davenport, Dec. 14, 1869; John S. Powell, July 24, 1872; John M. Hendrix, Dec. 20, 1876; Wm. R. Por, Sept. 29, 1879; Frank Payne, Apr. 6, 1880; Joseph Hoge, March 27, 1889; Eugene W. Godfrey, Apr. 16, 1889; reappointed by the president and confirmed by the senate July 29, 1890; Thos. R. Jacoway, May 12, 1893; (appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate Sept. 23, 1893;) Reappointed July 2, 1895; Joe J. Nix, May 12, 1897; Ella G. Nix, Feb. 19, 1900; Robert W. Frazier, Aug. 2, 1904; Ella G. Nix, March 22, 1905; George L. Malone, March 3, 1911; Wm. V. Jacoway, March 13, 1915; (appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate Nov. 16, 1915; reappointed by the president and confirmed by the senate Feb. 11, 1920;) Griffin G. Guest, May 20, 1924; reappointed March 2, 1929.

Fyffe – James L. Graves, June 5, 1900; Hiram B. Graves, Feb. 12, 1903; Wilbur V. Graves, Apr. 22, 1905; John H. Baker, Jan. 19, 1918; Ernest D. Whitmire, May 11, 1927; David A. Campbell, Oct. 20, 1927; John Eldridge Johnson, Oct. 4, 1933.

Gad – Jessie P. Horton, May 29, 1890; Stephen Hall, June 18, 1891; John H. Morgan, Sept. 12, 1898; Annie E. Morgan, Aug. 6, 1902; Wm. H. Hopper, Sept. 9, 1902. Dis. to Groveoak June 15, 1907.

Gale – Jesse A. Minix, May 8, 1901; Crocket A. Wolf, Nov. 18, 1902; Dis. to Wills May 15, 1903.

Geraldine – Wm. A. Johnson, Oct. 11, 1882; Allen R. Stanley, June 22, 1897; Albert S. Stephens, Nov. 1, 1898; James M. Stephens, Feb. 8, 1902. Dis. to Crossville Aug. 31, 1904. Reest. James West, Apr. 27, 1929.

Gipson – Amos C. Gipson, Oct. 16, 1890. Dis. to Ten Broeck Apr. 15, 1897.

Girilton – Isham D. Walker, Feb. 15, 1894; Dis. to Blake March 27, 1896. Reest. Wallace M. Franklin, Apr. 11, 1896. Dis. to Blake May 9, 1896.

Glade – John M. T. Shrader, March 1, 1892. Dis. to Scott May 4, 1893.

Greenwood – Jephtha Edwards, May 1, 1850. Dis. Jan. 16, 1860. Reest. John

Rogers, Dec. 13, 1865. Dis. Nov. 15, 1866. Reest. Prudie S. Walker, July 1, 1867. (No other information is available.)

Grove Oak — Josiah T. Gilbreath, July 18, 1873; John J. Bethune, Jan. 17, 1879; Sarah H. Berry, July 29, 1891; (Changed to Groveoak Jan. 11, 1895.) H. B. Wilson, Dec. 20, 1894; rescinded Jan. 8, 1895) Mary P. Stapp, Jan. 8, 1895; Mary E. May, Oct. 23, 1895; Ulysses V. Gipson, Dec. 2, 1898; Wm. A. Norman, Nov. 24, 1899; Wm. T. Ryan, Apr. 4, 1900; Elijah C. Tucker, Aug. 27, 1914; Wesley N. Shirley, Sept. 26, 1922; Marvin Millirons, July 2, 1924; Mrs. Mary E. Terry, Jan. 27, 1925.

Guest — James P. Brown, Oct. 31, 1892; Indiana Brannon, March 20, 1894; Joseph B. Wood, Feb. 7, 1902. Dis. to Chavies Dec. 14, 1905.

Halford — J. A. Milwee, Nov. 1, 1889. Dis. to Boaz Nov. 14, 1903.

Hardin — T. P. Hardin, Aug. 25, 1893; John A. Hall, Jan. 20, 1894; Stephen J. Land, Aug. 18, 1898; Bryson Fish, June 27, 1903. Dis. to Chavies Nov. 30, 1906.

Head Spring — Abner Phillips, Oct. 6, 1854. Dis. July 25, 1866.

Henagar — James M. Moore, July 19, 1878; James M. McGuffey, Aug. 16, 1893; James Kerby, Jan. 21, 1901; George L. Hicks, Sept. 16, 1908; Ira E. Breland, June 8, 1914; Oliver P. Williams, March 1, 1928.

Henricksville — Joe Hendrick, July 5, 1850; Andrew J. Chaney, Feb. 15, 1856; James Y. Carithers, June 17, 1856; Wm. H. Benson, June 20, 1857; Wm. H. Coker, Feb. 26, 1858; Obadiah W. Ward, Jan. 19, 1860. Changed to Clay June 1, 1860.

Higdon — Harvey R. Barton, Jan. 18, 1896; Thomas W. Higdon, Dec. 8, 1900. Dis. to Shaw Apr. 15, 1901. (Jackson County.) Reest. Ethel D. Lancaster, Dec. 11, 1901. Dis. to Trenton, Ga. March 31, 1919.

Hix — Andrew J. Odom, March 27, 1894. Dis. to Fyffe Dec. 14, 1905.

Homer — John B. Appleton, March 31, 1898. Dis. to Collinsville July 15, 1900.

Hughes — Isaiah G. Hughes, Oct. 24, 1899; Vance L. Hogue, Oct. 19, 1901; Wallace W. Hughes, Nov. 15, 1902. Dis. to Fort Payne Oct. 15, 1917.

Hulgan — R. F. Hulgan, March 31, 1898; James T. Roberts, June 22, 1898; Doctor M. Miller, Sept. 26, 1898. Dis. to Brandon Nov. 22, 1898.

Ider — Archibald H. Ashberry, Nov. 7, 1877; Wm. J. Stallings, Oct. 10, 1890; Geo. F. Marona, Sept. 29, 1892; Samuel C. Estes, Feb. 4, 1895; Thomas C. Hardy, March 25, 1895; Wm. J. Stallings, Dec. 24, 1897; Francis L. Little, Nov. 26, 1900; Joseph J. Tolbert, Nov. 15, 1902; James B. Palmer, Dec. 23, 1903; John W. T. Scott, Jan. 25, 1906. Dis. to Henagar Jan. 31, 1907.

Jackson's Station — James S. Skillman, Sept. 6, 1843. Dis. Sept. 6, 1844.

Jude — James S. Dickson, Dec. 23, 1891; A. M. Igou, Apr. 26, 1893; Wm. J. Hammon?, May 25, 1893; Dis. to Fort Payne Oct. 31, 1917.

Kaolin — John M. Cox, May 26, 1890; John P. Finster, Feb. 27, 1900; Frank E. Finster, Nov. 15, 1902; Wm. H. Young, Jan. 23, 1905; Thos. S. Clinton, June 17, 1916; Joseph H. Young, Dec. 7, 1917; James D. Young, March 30, 1922. Dis. to Battelle Apr. 15, 1924.

Lahousage — Henry A. Reffroe, Oct. 4, 1904; John T. Bradley, Nov. 2, 1909. Dis. to Bankhead Apr. 15, 1911.

Larimore — Elizabeth C. McNaron, Jan. 8, 1896; Wm. F. Fulton, Jan. 15, 1898; Kate M. Morgan, Nov. 26, 1900; Mattie E. Rockett, Jan. 18, 1902. Dis. to Collinsville July 30, 1904.

Laurel — John Hamilton, Oct. 4, 1883; Wm. R. Hamilton, Apr. 26, 1886; John P.

Blake, Feb. 23, 1887; Elbridge G. Rose, Oct. 11, 1890. Dis. to Cordell May 15, 1903.
 Laurel Creek – Wright L. Evatt, Oct. 6, 1857. Dis. Oct. 9, 1866.
 Laysville – Charles W. Lay, Dec. 13, 1856; Wm. Lay, Apr. 17, 1857. Dis. March 11, 1859.
 Lebanon – John G. Winston, Jr., Sept. 18, 1843; Robt. W. Higgins, Dec. 3, 1845; John B. Findley, Jan. 27, 1849; Joseph Hoge, Oct. 28, 1851; George W. Malone, Dec. 17, 1852; Edward Winston, Oct. 16, 1857; Wm. J. Roberts, Nov. 7, 1860; John H. Hoge, Oct. 19, 1865; Ceylon C. Brickford, Apr. 11, 1866; James R. Baxter, Jan. 14, 1868; Asa F. Payne, Apr. 10, 1870; Jesse B. Horton, Feb. 4, 1878; James R. Baxter, Dec. 28, 1881; James R. Johnson, Feb. 18, 1886; Reuben J. Malone, March 23, 1886; James R. Baxter, Apr. 14, 1886; Reuben J. Malone, March 30, 1893; Andrew C. Horton, Aug. 4, 1897; Dis. to Portersville Feb. 28, 1905.
 Lookout – Samuel O. Doty, July 19, 1880; T. C. Driskill, June 20, 1881; Pleasant D. Phillips, July 6, 1881; F. D. Persley, June 26, 1884. Dis. to Smith, Dade County, Georgia, Dec. 1, 1884. Reest. Pleasant D. Phillips, June 24, 1886. Dis. to Sulphur Springs March 25, 1887. Reest. Sebastian C. Adams, Apr. 26, 1890; Robert L. McNutt, Aug. 25, 1894. Dis. to Fort Payne June 24, 1895.
 Loveless – Wm. C. Loveless, July 3, 1882; James M. Bryan, Jan. 23, 1885; Abbott M. McWorter, Sept. 24, 1890; Rollens H. Shaw, July 9, 1892; Charles Hattery? Aug. 21, 1894; (Rescinded Apr. 22, 1895;) Rollens H. Shaw, July 9, 1892; Wm. J. Jackson, June 6, 1895; Dis. to Collinsville Apr. 30, 1907.
 Loving – Henry H. Lovelady, May 3, 1837; Lum Billingsley, July 5, 1838; Anson Dearman, March 21, 1840. Changed to Annawaika.
 Luna – Green T. Bruce, July 19, 1880; Newton Mince, June 25, 1883; A. Newton Mince, July 16, 1883; James Denton, Feb. 18, 1886; A. Newton Mince, May 29, 1886; James G. Denton, Nov. 20, 1886; Claton G. Harris, June 25, 1894; Erasmus J. Welborn, Dec. 29, 1898; Lee P. Flock, Jan. 10, 1901; George W. Willer, Sept. 4, 1901; George C. Harris, Jan. 5, 1903; Erasmus J. Welborn May 20, 1905. Dis. to Chavies Dec. 14, 1905.
 Luttrell – Benjamin G. Luttrell, June 1, 1883; Charles D. Williams, Nov. 24, 1886; James O. White, Sept. 30, 1893; Charles D. Williams, Jan. 15, 1898; Dis. to Fyffe Dec. 14, 1905.
 Lydia – Hugh C. Mitchell, July 19, 1880; Lemuel S. Ivey, March 2, 1887; Thomas C. Haynes, May 1, 1893; Frank Rawlins, Dec. 21, 1896. Dis. to Chavies Dec. 14, 1905.
 Lynchburgh – Simpson C. Newman, May 3, 1837; Changed to Van Buren.
 Mahan – Willey J. T. Day, Nov. 7, 1877, J. J. Cordell, Oct. 8, 1880; George A. Igou, March 2, 1881; Jonathan M. Culver, Aug. 12, 1881; George C. Moore, Aug. 25, 1893; Doctor R. Brooks, Dec. 29, 1900; L. W. Miller, Nov. 22, 1904; (rescinded Apr. 5, 1905); Doctor R. Brooks, Dec. 29, 1900; Louis V. Croft, Apr. 7, 1905; Dis. to Stamp Sept. 14, 1905.
 Marchman – Perry C. Galloway, Aug. 9, 1883; Dis. to Peters in Marshall County June 8, 1886. Reest. Robert L. Pruett, March 3, 1900; John F. Fant, Nov. 18, 1902. Dis. to Crossville July 30, 1904.
 Marcus – Marcus D. Davis, May 14, 1890; Mary A. Chumley, Feb. 2, 1895; Willie E. Chumley, Feb. 17, 1903; Dis. to Collinsville Nov. 30, 1903.
 McCammac – Andrew J. Igou, Oct. 14, 1854; A. R. Gilbreath, March 29, 1855. Dis. Apr. 3, 1856. Reest. Wright L. Evatt, Oct. 1, 1857; Wright L. Evatt, Oct. 6, 1857. Dis. Oct. 9, 1866. See Laurel Creek. We are unable to explain the duplication in the records here.

Mentone – Edward Mason, March 10, 1888; Stewart H. Congdon, Apr. 27, 1891; Harry B. Gillett, Oct. 31, 1891; Lovena A. Huron, Oct. 12, 1899; Harry B. Gillett, June 19, 1900; Peter K. Smith, July 29, 1901; Guy A. Burgess, Sept. 9, 1902; Fred Huron, Sept. 10, 1907; James Huron, March 22, 1909; Grace V. Crew, Dec. 15, 1914; Miss Jimmie M. Brown, Feb. 15, 1918; Mary Maud Brown, Aug. 26, 1920; Stella M. Shigley, July 13, 1926; reappointed Dec. 18, 1929.

Metcalf – Emil Herrmann, March 9, 1899. Dis. to Sulphur Springs May 31, 1901.

Mount Zion – Christopher Malone, Nov. 22, 1837; Pleasant Bates, March 15, 1842; Andrew Jackson Richardson, July 6, 1842; James F. Mayes, March 13, 1844; William Mullins, Dec. 29, 1845; Dis. Oct. 19, 1846. Reest. Willard F. Owen, Dec. 19, 1887; William R. Amos, Feb. 19, 1890. Dis. to Fenton Jan. 7, 1892. Note Fenton is not listed in the records of DeKalb County post offices.

Musgrove – James H. McCall, Nov. 7, 1877; Wm. H. Tompkins, Feb. 2, 1898. Dis. to Chavies May 28, 1898. Reest. James E. Dean, Sept. 13, 1901; Samuel D. Workman, Sept. 30, 1903. Disc. to Chavies Nov. 27, 1905.

Mynard – James N. Wigley, Jan. 16, 1899. Dis. to Portersville Oct. 14, 1904.

Nancy – Nancy J. Bailey, June 16, 1900; Mollie A. Lambert, March 27, 1902. Dis. to Sauty Mills Aug. 30, 1902.

Newman – Larkin Everett, March 16, 1838. Changed to Lebanon.

Nicholson's Gap – Marshall M. Nicholson, June 23, 1874; Cornelia Nowlin, Feb. 18, 1886; Mary C. Nowlin, March 13, 1886. Changed to Nicholson Dec. 13, 1895.

Nicholson – Emily Nowlin, Dec. 13, 1895; Sarah A. Nicholson, July 23, 1896. Dis. to Dawson May 31, 1905.

Nightingale – John W. Smith, July 12, 1911; Emma J. Smith Nov. 8, 1913.

North Bend – John R. Smedley, May 1, 1844; Thomas D. Smedly, Jan. 7, 1850; Thomas Garrett, Sept. 10, 1850; Wm. Fortune, Jan. 7, 1854; Pleasant D. Phillips, Apr. 13, 1855; John J. Stewart, Oct. 19, 1865; C. P. Clayton, May 7, 1867; Dis. Sept. 15, 1868. Reest. Nicholas S. Davenport, June 29, 1869; Changed to Fort Payne Dec. 14, 1869.

Ophir – Alfred E. Crumly, March 30, 1898; Dis. to Portersville Sept. 27, 1904. Rescinded Oct. 14, 1904. Alfred E. Crumly, March 30, 1898. Dis. to Dawson Nov. 30, 1905.

Painter – Daniel W. Powell, Feb. 17, 1900; Darnel N. Powell, Apr. 2, 1900; Rufus M. Perry, March 6, 1907; Wm. N. Gary, March 29, 1909; James Kerr, Feb. 2, 1910; Thos. W. Howard, Aug. 16, 1915; James Kerr, March 9, 1917; Dis. to Crossville Feb. 28, 1921.

Paris? – William Withrow, Nov. 1, 1837; Luke Beeson, Dec. 17, 1838; Jesse Witt, Apr. 15, 1839. Dis. March 11, 1840.

Pea Ridge – Johnson Jones, Jan. 2, 1878; Thomas W. Biddle, Nov. 28, 1890; Wm. J. Jones, Aug. 6, 1902; John B. Jones, Aug. 20, 1907; William A. Lea, March 12, 1908. Dis. to Henagar Nov. 30, 1909.

Pierceville – Robert M. Lusk, July 14, 1855; Dis. Aug. 24, 1856. Reest. Robert M. Lusk, Jan. 15, 1857. Dis. Jan. 28, 1867.

Pink – A. M. Studdard, March 30, 1898. Rescinded Apr. 20, 1898.

Portersville – Jefferson L. Haralson, Aug. 12, 1852; John K. Cannon, May 19, 1853; Dis. July 9, 1853. Reest. Andrew J. Ward, Oct. 24, 1855; Alexander H. Mackey, Aug. 24, 1857; William J. Sibert, Oct. 29, 1857; Andrew J. Ward, Dec. 17, 1858. Dis. Oct. 9, 1866. Reest. Joseph W. Ward, Apr. 7, 1868; Jas. R. Ward, Dec. 5, 1873. (Changed

spelling to Portersville sometime between 1873 and 1882.) Beverly A. Nowlin, Jan. 17, 1882; Dawson P. McBroom, Dec. 17, 1883; Augustus M. McBroom, July 19, 1887; Robert F. Gilbert, Dec. 14, 1892; Francis M. Morgan, July 15, 1898; Zera A. Morgan, Oct. 16, 1899; Lorenzo D. Clayton, Jan. 29, 1907; (declined) Albert F. Brock, March 12, 1907; Bailey B. Hughes, June 21, 1907; Monroe H. Killian, July 18, 1914.

Powell – Augustus M. Studdard, Feb. 24, 1898; Dis. to Round Mountain (Cherokee County) Dec. 14, 1903.

Rains – Josiah P. Rains, Apr. 19, 1890; Dis. to Albertville (Marshall County) May 31, 1902.

Rawlingsville – Rezin Rawlings, March 2, 1837; Jesse G. Beeson, Feb. 13, 1838; Solomon Clayton, May 3, 1866; Wm. T. Fuller, Feb. 10, 1868; James P. McSpadden, Dec. 28, 1868; Changed to Richardsville Jan. 26, 1871.

Red Rose – Jonn M. Luttrell, Aug. 8, 1879; Robert J. Shelley, Dec. 14, 1885; Dis. to Andrew's Institute Apr. 29, 1886.

Reese's Mills – David V. Reese, Feb. 23, 1855; Wesley L. Gaines, Feb. 22, 1858; David V. Reese, Nov. 16, 1859; Dis. Jan. 7, 1867.

Reubensville – Reuben Hall, Dec. 4, 1856; Newton J. Masters, Nov. 24, 1860; Dis. March 4, 1867.

Richardsville – Wm. E. Holleman, Jan. 26, 1871; Changed to Valley Mines Feb. 16, 1874.

Rick Rack – Samuel B. Franklin, Jan. 30, 1892; Sam Franklin, May 4, 1893; Thomas Franklin, June 19, 1893; Dis. to Blake Aug. 30, 1893.

Rickrack – Rose Franklin, March 30, 1898; Dis. to Fort Payne Sept. 17, 1898.

River Park – William W. Williams, Oct. 29, 1929.

Roadway – John S. Chaffin, Feb. 4, 1901; Charles L. Morgan, Dec. 12, 1903; Franklin B. Hall, Dec. 28, 1904; Dis. to Albertville Apr. 15, 1907.

Rockbridge – William C. White, May 10, 1890; John A. Gray, Feb. 10, 1900; F. M. Keith, Nov. 20, 1902; Charles R. Brewer, March 20, 1903. Dis. to Cordell Apr. 15, 1903.

Rodentown – John Green, March 4, 1874; Geo. W. Chumley, March 5, 1880; Lodrick Gravitt, March 2, 1881; John A. Thrash, Jan. 30, 1902; Henry N. McNair, Feb. 27, 1902; Lora L. Bates, Dec. 26, 1903; Dis. to Crossville July 30, 1904.

Rogers – Joel E. Rogers, Feb. 11, 1891; James W. Rogers, March 13, 1896. Dis. to Crossville June 15, 1907.

Sand Mountain – Dillard H. Amos, March 7, 1837; Dis. July 26, 1852. Reest. John C. Latham, Aug. 23, 1855; Dillard H. Amos, Apr. 23, 1857; John G. Latham, Jan. 22, 1858. Dis. Oct. 9, 1866. Reest. Wm. M. Henderson, July 1, 1867. Dis. to Marshall County. Reest. Abraham W. James, Apr. 20, 1875; James R. Miller, March 17, 1876; James C. Crump, March 14, 1881; Wall Cain, May 4, 1893; James C. Crump, July 19, 1895; Frank Harris, Jan. 28, 1904; Dis. to Crossville July 30, 1904.

Sandrock – Hardy W. Blevins, Jan. 2, 1909; John H. Austin, May 27, 1909; Sanford E. Waldon, June 29, 1912. Dis. to Flat Rock Apr. 30, 1914.

Sauty Mills – James A. Smith, Sept. 16, 1879; Charles G. Matheney, Dec. 3, 1890; (declined) James M. Morton, March 27, 1891; Wm. H. Morton, July 28, 1892; John W. Jones, May 3, 1905. Dis. to Fyffe Dec. 14, 1905.

Scott – Francis M. Avans, June 27, 1890; Richard Palmer, Dec. 22, 1890; James W. Avans, Oct. 5, 1892; Hardy W. Blevins, Feb. 6, 1904. Changed to Sandrock Jan. 2, 1909.

Sigsbee – George A. Jennings, Apr. 13, 1898. Dis. to Collbran June 15, 1907.

Skirum – James M. Morton, Apr. 2, 1883; Nannie E. Dunson, Jan. 7, 1889; Billington S. Smith, May 4, 1893; John T. McDaniel, Jan. 15, 1898; Samuel W. Driskill, Feb. 4, 1901; Wm. J. Bentley, May 24, 1911; Dis. to Dawson Aug. 31, 1913.

Snake Creek – James T. White, July 17, 1879; Polina J. Bray, Nov. 14, 1893; Changed to Stamp July 21, 1894.

Soggie Farm – Henry J. Jacaway, Oct. 13, 1869; Changed to Brandon Aug. 23, 1870.

South Hill – Wm. A. Elrod, Sept. 30, 1873; James N. Wright, Oct. 29, 1898; Katie Wright, Sept. 26, 1908; Ulysis S. Lott, Jan. 22, 1909; Dis. to Groveoak Aug. 14, 1909.

Stamp – Plinia Crabtree, July 21, 1894; Feilding P. Sloan, Dec. 6, 1894; John S. Kerby, Jan. 15, 1898; Jugh H. Kerby, Jan. 14, 1899; Thomas E. Stone, July 8, 1903; Dis. to Jude Dec. 30, 1905.

Stella – Isaiah H. Brock, Jan. 11, 1893; Anna Guin, Feb. 19, 1901; Dis. to Round Mountain (Cherokee County) Dec. 14, 1903.

Stoner – Wm. C. Stoner, May 17, 1893; Thomas B. Garrett, Dec. 16, 1895; Dis. to Jan. 14, 1903.

Sulphur Springs – Archibald D. Blansit, Jr., Aug. 10, 1885; Andrew J. Chadwick, Nov. 1, 1890; Maria L. Brown, Sept. 26, 1893; Michael S. Brown, Sept. 9, 1895; James P. Whited, Sept. 23, 1897; Lemuel A. Harris, Feb. 3, 1903; Dis. to Sulphur Springs, Ga. Oct. 31, 1918.

Sylvania – Elizabeth H. Duncan, Nov. 24, 1893; John T. Reeves, Nov. 29, 1897; Noah D. Mason, May 20, 1899; Benjamin C. Stone, Sept. 7, 1899; George R. Traylor, Apr. 25, 1902; Christopher C. Crawford, May 12, 1919.

Ten Broeck – T. P. Brown, July 26, 1880; Walter L. Bassett, Oct. 18, 1882; Dis. to Grove Oak July 6, 1883. Reest. James J. Baxter, Nov. 8, 1883; Geo. W. Thacker, Feb. 18, 1898; Marion Allen, Aug. 6, 1902; Albert P. Smith, Feb. 13, 1905; Tilison W. Willson, Apr. 3, 1905; Dis. to Fyffe Sept. 14, 1905.

Thirty Nine – Pressley C. Chaney, Oct. 20, 1881; William Cooper, Feb. 15, 1882; Dis. to Fyffe Sept. 14, 1905.

Tucker – James O. Teague, July 18, 1905; Dis. to Collbran May 14, 1906.

Valley Head – James Gardner, May 3, 1837; John K. Hoge, Oct. 28, 1840; Geo. C. White, July 5, 1842; Wm. O. Winston, Dec. 24, 1849. John N. Winston, Sept. 17, 1856; Wm. O. Winston, July 5, 1859; B. F. Paine, Oct. 19, 1865; John R. Lea, March 19, 1879; John Stuart, June 16, 1879; Nicholas Davenport, Oct. 1, 1883; Samuel Shafer, March 30, 1889; Henry H. Smith, Oct. 28, 1892; Erskine T. Davenport, Nov. 29, 1892; Rosa E. Alexander, Apr. 18, 1893; Samuel Shafer, May 17, 1897; Pallie M. White, Feb. 8, 1902; Pallie M. Ellis, Nov. 19, 1902; Pearl M. Wright, Dec. 15, 1914; Pearl M. Jacoway, May 31, 1916; Edgar A. Tatum, Sept. 4, 1920; Pallie M. Ellis, March 10, 1922; Reappointed March 26, 1926; reappointed March 22, 1930.

Valley Mines – A. J. Haralson, Feb. 16, 1874; Hiram A. McSpadden, Apr. 27, 1874; Dis. Feb. 15, 1876. Reest. Henry B. Campbell, Feb. 25, 1878; Dis. to Cordell March 13, 1883.

Van Buren – Simpson C. Newman, Sept. 6, 1843; James M. Anderson, Dec. 3, 1845; Isaac E. Nicholson, Jan. 30, 1846; Obadiah W. Ward, Apr. 21, 1846; Jas. G. Ward, Dec. 24, 1849; Obadiah W. Ward, Dec. 12, 1850; Andrew W. Carter, Dec. 17, 1852; Obadiah W. Ward, Feb. 28, 1854; Marvin L. Driskell, Apr. 30, 1855; Moses C. Newman, Feb. 11, 1857; Andrew J. Vann, Dec. 22, 1857; Moses C. Newman, July 27, 1858; Dis. Oct. 9, 1866. Reest. James Newman, Dec. 21, 1868; Dis. May 10, 1870.

Whiton – Major P. White, Apr. 25, 1878; Ephraim A. Mitchell, Jan. 2, 1891; Alford J. Cody, May 6, 1892; John W. Wright, Feb. 5, 1894; (Rescinded Apr. 28, 1894.) Alford Jackson Cody, May 6, 1892; Henry W. Fossett, Apr. 11, 1905; (declined) Dis. to Crossville May 31, 1905.

Wills – William F. Dobbs, June 26, 1882; Cicero P. Stockton, July 23, 1884; Robert J. Shelley, Dec. 21, 1893; Lula Everett, Jan. 8, 1897; Martha E. Munroe, Jan. 4, 1902; Augustus A. Allen, Nov. 19, 1902; (Rescinded June 13, 1903.) Crocket A. Wolf, Feb. 7, 1903; (Rescinded June 15, 1903.) William Bishop, June 13, 1903; Dis. to Portersville Sept. 14, 1904.

Willstown – Rezin Rawlings, Apr. 21, 1836; Changed to Rawlingsville March 2, 1837.

Wills Valley – Stephen J. Tiner, Apr. 19, 1853; Dis. Sept. 12, 1857.

Worth – Gideon Graham, Dec. 23, 1847; Dis. Jan. 27, 1849. Reest. Gideon Graham, Nov. 27, 1849; Dis. May 12, 1854. Reest. John B. Nichols, Dec. 13, 1856; Henry R. Wikel, Sept. 20, 1859; Dis. June 10, 1867.

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