

***LEGENDS, LAUGHTER***  
*and a*  
***LITTLE BIT OF LINEAGE***  
*from*  
***LIM ROCK, ALABAMA***

(Jackson County)

Part 3 of 3



**Marlin D. Tucker**

***LEGENDS, LAUGHTER***  
***and a***  
***LITTLE BIT OF LINEAGE***  
***from***  
***LIM ROCK, ALABAMA***  
(Jackson County)  
Part 3 of 3

This book completes a series of three on the story of Lim Rock. Volume 3 gives some of the genealogy of some families. Much of the history of the community is told through copies of original documents regarding land purchases and coal mining activities.

The first book dealt with the community strictly from memories that were fifty years old.

Volume 2 dealt with the stories generated during the Great Depression.

In all three of the books great effort was made to preserve the language of an isolated community.

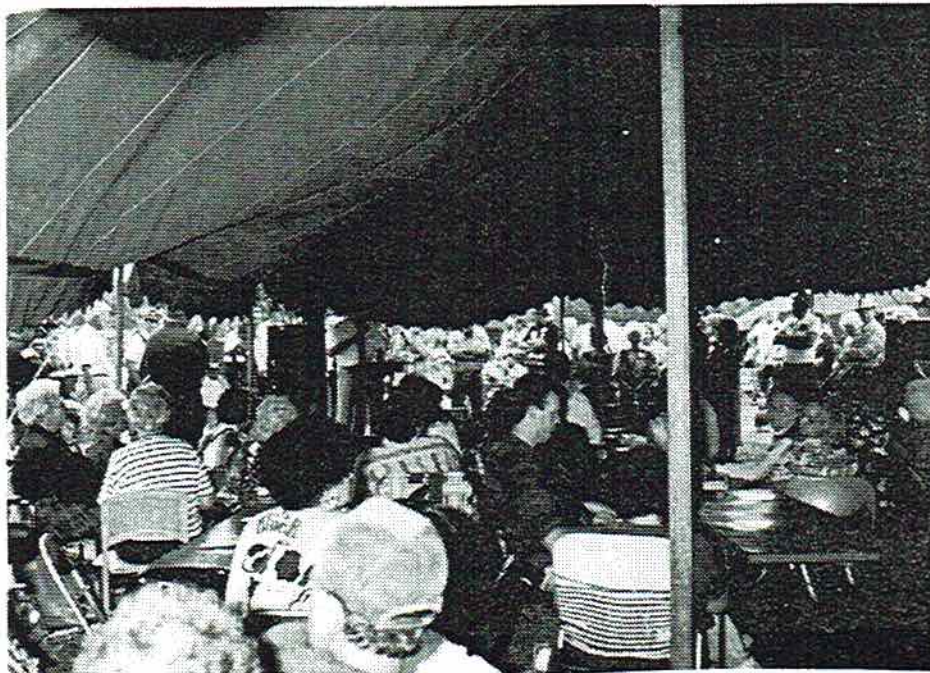
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October 1993



*Left to right: Bruce Tucker, Lora Tucker, and Marlin Tucker*

This is the group that put together the books on the Lim Rock story. The work could not have been achieved except for the help of many friends. Our thanks are offered for their valued contributions.



## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These books on Lim Rock were not intended to be books on genealogy. Some family members may be omitted. Some families may not be mentioned. Many people were generous with their stories. A number of those people who were kind enough to share information were highlighted more than some others who were just as important in the history of the community.

Readers may find given points of more interest than other points. If a reader is looking for some firsts at Lim Rock, he may find these historic points interesting. One grave marker shows the oldest marked birthdate of a resident. Another stone shows the first death that is on a marked grave. Some family research indicated the first Houk child born in the area. Copies of the original contract to secure "Old Huldy" and to build the spur line to the incline make for interesting reading.

Copies of some original land deeds that involved Presidents are included. In some instances land could be acquired merely by staking a claim and recording the description.

Threaded throughout the books a reader will learn the language of a hearty people and how they survived during some difficult times.



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## POINTS OF INTEREST

- A. Uptown Boyd's Switch--Line Rock--Lim Rock
1. Train Station
  2. Post Office
  3. Tannery
  4. Stave Mill
  5. Store on the Spur Line between the tannery and stave mill:  
This store was in operation sometime between 1879-1920. Rodney Gentle tells the story passed along by his grandfather, Milton Gentle, that this store used a token-like medium of exchange instead of cash. The confusion of the Civil War money and the scarcity of Federal money after the war probably accounted for this private medium of exchange. Rodney still has copies of the tokens.
  6. Obe Hurt's Store
  7. Willie Flippo's blacksmith and grist mill. Willie's business was located where Higginbotham's Nursery is now located. It preceded Jeremiah Gentle's business.
  8. Squirrel Hill School
  9. The 3-mile spur line from the main station at Boyd's Switch to the incline in Gentle's Cove
  10. John Boyd's stagecoach switching station where horses and stages were switched
  11. Jake Word's sawmill
  12. Higginbotham's cobbler shop and Dr. Sherrell's office in same building
  13. Milton Gentle and Clyde Gentle General Store
  14. Jeremiah Gentle's grist mill and blacksmith
  15. Railroad sidetracks for timber products and coal
  16. Rock quarry and lime kiln
  17. Willie Gentle's Store
  18. Olinger's Store
  19. Methodist Church behind the Gentle Store
  20. Union hall upstairs in the Methodist Church
  21. Higginbotham Grocery Store
  22. Bank
  23. Gin
  24. Wagon Company
  25. Cedar Mill
- B. Outlying Areas
26. Several one-room schools
  27. Lim Rock School that once was a 1-12 grade school
  28. Methodist, Baptist, Church of Christ, and Primitive Baptist Church
  29. Small sawmills
  30. Molasses mills
  31. Corral for the animals used to construct Lee Highway--The corral was located between the railroad and Highway 30 just east of Stephens' Gap.
  32. Coal mines in Gentle's and Shiffman's Coves
  33. Several stores in private homes such as at Hooper's and Johnson's



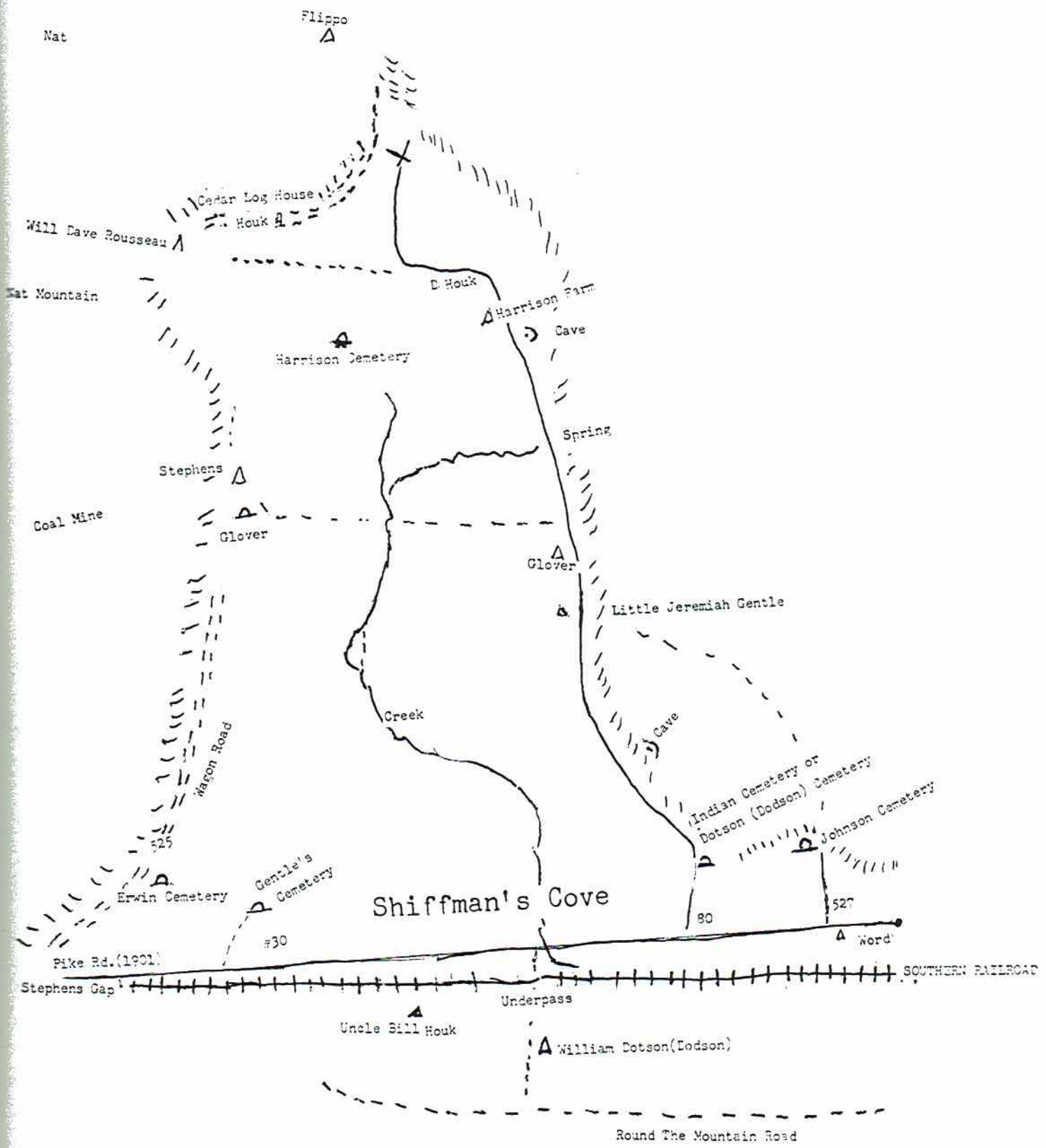






EARLY LIM ROCK

BEFORE 1900



## EARLY SETTLERS

There were white Americans seeking their economic opportunities around the area to become known as Lim Rock before there was a railroad. They came before there were any signs of public roads, perhaps with the exceptions of trails of the Native Americans. William Dodson's grave marker indicates that he may have been on his way to Alabama soon after the Revolutionary War. Lim Rock was being settled before Alabama was a state in December 1819.

These opportunity seekers came down the mountain passes from Tennessee and down the Tennessee River to near Guntersville. Some of them stayed. Others stayed for a while and moved on to Texas and to other parts in the west with the great western expansion of the nation.

Some liberties have been taken with the map of the roads. Extrapolations have been made from interviews with people who have lived in the area since the 1920's and before. They told where the wagon roads and trails were located. They passed along the stories of their parents and grandparents.

Woodville became crowded. There were only a few civil service jobs. Bars, blacksmith shops, stores and cobbler shops furnished a few jobs. Mostly, settlers were on their own. They had to find land and homesites. They had to locate building materials for their cabins and have means to deliver them to their chosen cabin sites. Oxen, horses and mules were needed for the muscle. Gaps in the mountains and slopes of the mountains were used to traverse to the other side. These slopes and gaps became the wagon roads and later the public roads and the railroad beds.

Wagon roads followed the edge of the mountain, thus, avoiding the bottoms and the steep creek banks. William H. Stephens settled near the gap east of Woodville. The area became known as Stephens' Gap. The Peters family had settled the nearby area known as Peters' Cove.

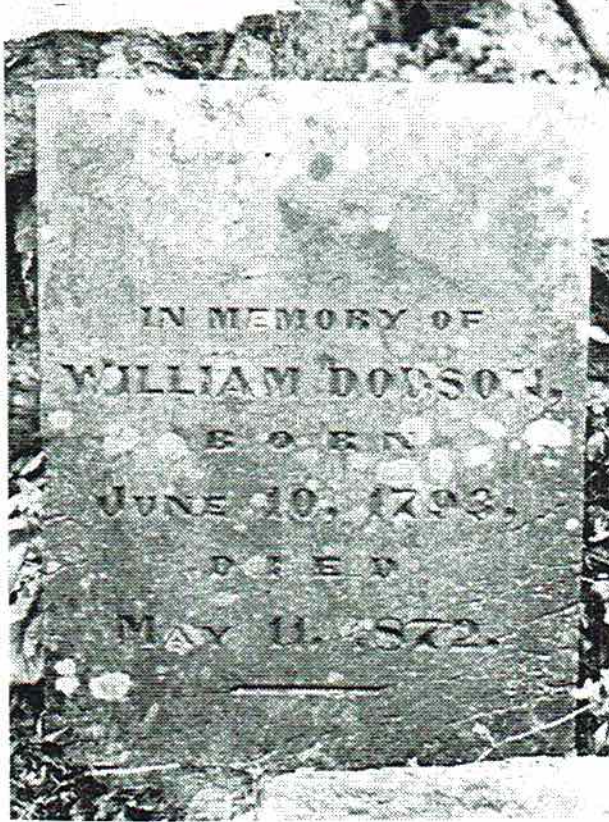
As the Houks and others moved to the area they had to move a little further. Some of them went north of Woodville, up the mountainsides using the passage that later became County Road 8 that passed around the mountaintop toward other passable slopes into the coves of Lim Rock.

Some of the Houk, Coffey, and Flippo families settled the small, level spots of the mountain. They had small garden plots and depended upon the bounty of the mountainside for their livelihood. Building material for homes was abundant. Food from animals was ample. A community that later became known as Nat was established.

Other members of the Houk family settled east of Stephens' Gap. Some went along the foothills of the mountain and settled at the head of what became known as Shiffman's Cove. When they settled at the head of the cove, they were close to their relatives who settled the mountaintop to the west of the cove. These family relationships created closer identities than did they with Lim Rock as the community grew east.

## EARLY SETTLERS

Two interesting grave markers in the Dodson Cemetery:



Left:

IN MEMORY OF  
WILLIAM DODSON,  
BORN  
JUNE 10, 1793,  
DIED  
MAY 11, 1872.



Right:

In  
Memory of  
George W. Consort  
of Caroline Williams  
Born Aug. the 25th, 1808  
Died Mar. the 24th, 1861

William Dodson's stone shows the oldest birthdate of any of the markers in the nine cemeteries of Lim Rock.

The oldest marked stone in the nine cemeteries of Lim Rock stating the date of death is in the Dodson Cemetery. It reads:

-----HALAE  
daughter of James P.  
and Martha  
Dotson who  
departed this life May  
the 16 D. 1837. Aged 4  
years 6 months and  
26 days



*Simeon Perry Houk (5/15/1818 - 1/4/1879) and Tobitha Murray Houk (12/24/1818 - 7/1/1912)*

Travelers had to find passable passages. They had to find fords in the creeks and avoid bogs. As they came east from Stephens' Gap for about a mile they found that they could approach the cove by cutting through by what was later used as the Gentle Cemetery and come out near where Henry Swearingin settled. From there they used the dry, east side of the cove to move north around the springs and caves to settle in with an adequate water supply.

Other travelers could move on east from Stephens' Gap to the creek and go south along the creek bank. They could follow the creek south to where William Dodson and William Houk settled to follow the mountain foothills on toward Aspel and Scottsboro. Later when the railroad was built, an overpass was constructed so traffic could still flow without having to go up a steep railroad bed. Traffic could veer off this road to serve the settlement of Lim Rock.

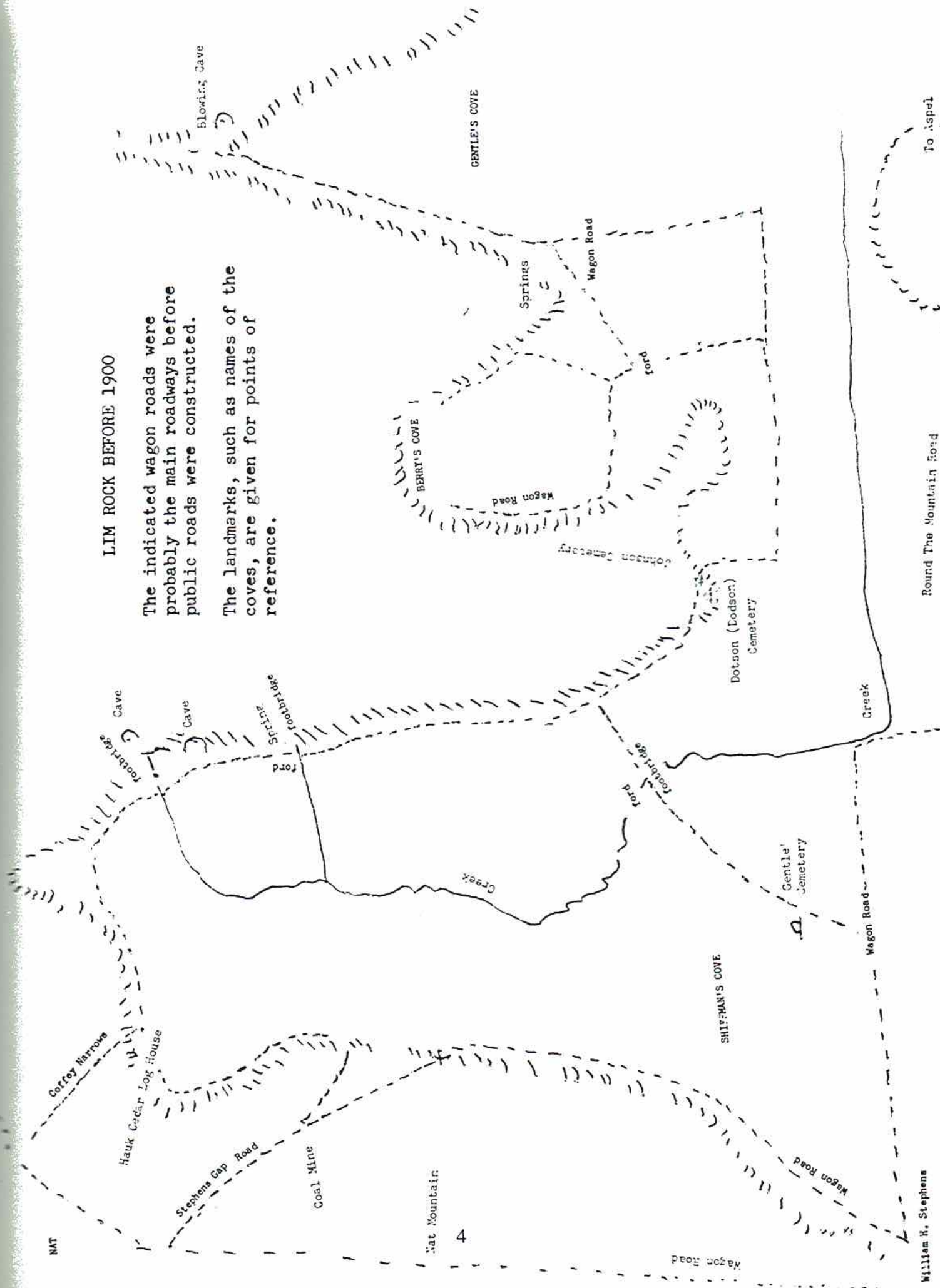
Stagecoaches serviced these roads from Woodville to Scottsboro. Roads were rough to traverse. Horses and stages had to be switched sometimes. As they were switched, people began to refer to the stop (after the owner of the stop) as Boyd's Switch. Mail was left off at the switch for general pickup. The United States Post Office sent its local mail to Boyd's Switch. Years later the mail would be sent out by horseback riders. Then it was sent by buggy to those areas that had passable roads.

As the settlers came looking for land and jobs, they brought with them great survival skills. They brought with them their guns, tools, saws, and things like the shoe lasts. As they came and settled, they set up their small businesses like blacksmith shops, grist mills, and sorghum mills. Some people did service jobs from their home such as mending shoes, making handles for tools, or shingles for homes and barns. They could file saws, make smoothing irons, spokes for wagons, and a hundred other things. They were self-reliant and independent.

LIM ROCK BEFORE 1900

The indicated wagon roads were probably the main roadways before public roads were constructed.

The landmarks, such as names of the coves, are given for points of reference.



They came from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Carolina. They came by wagon and by the Tennessee River, looking for unclaimed land and ways to make a living. Formal school was limited and the language was simple. Since means of communication were limited, much of the language remained untainted, with words being spelled as they were heard. Words were often distorted as the need arose to express new ideas.

Everything the family owned could be brought on the wagon. The family Bible was a part of the valued possessions. If something lost its utilitarian value it was left at the house when the family moved. Guns were necessary. People often lived off the land including both animals and vegetation.

One- or two-room cabins were built around springs. People who owned no land would move around as jobs became open in the mines, or timber industry, or sharecropping. They might go to a timber stand, harvest it, and move to the next job.

As late as 1940 some homes were inaccessible except by horseback or walking. With some efforts, wagons might get to them. When a family moved into one of the houses, a wagon would take the furnishings as far as it could go. At the road's end furnishings would be carried by hand the rest of the way. Some people liked the isolation. Others lived there because of necessity.

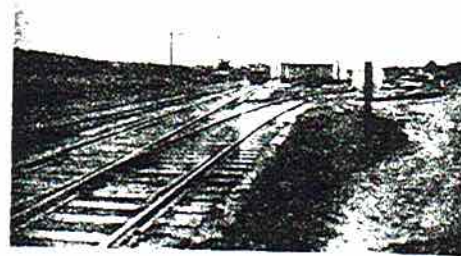
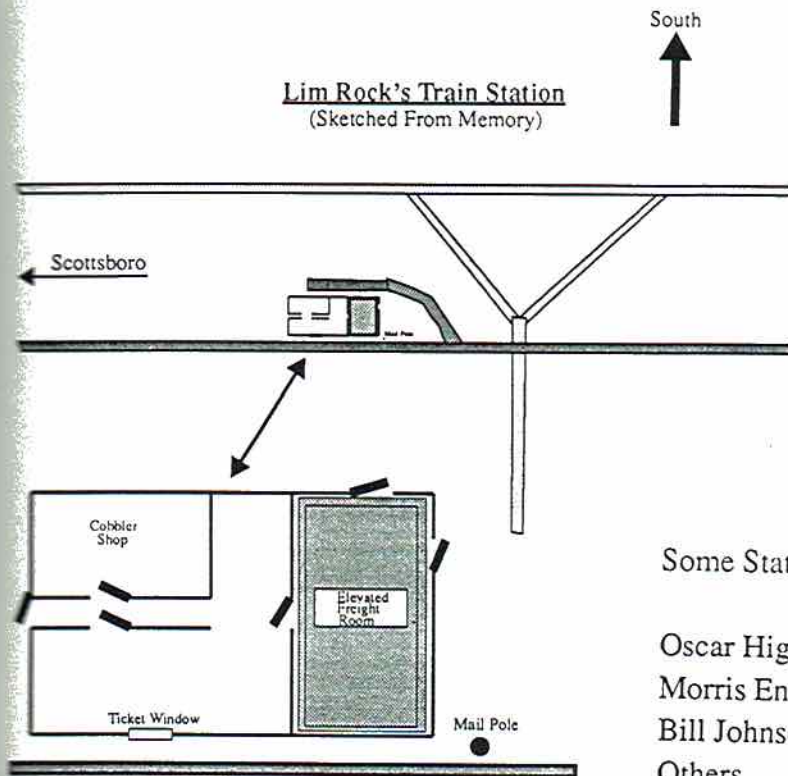
These hardy people showed fierce independence. They would readily help a neighbor but they did not want too much meddling. They saw nothing wrong with having some wine and corn squeezings and frowned upon any government attempt to regulate their lives. Settlers of Jackson County, especially the mountain dwellers, were strong in their beliefs in freedom.

When the Civil War came, most of the people did not feel obligated to participate. They could not identify with anyone owning another person. Each family had its hands full to support itself. The mountain people were especially vocal in their hatred of the few landowners who owned slaves. A few people did join the Federals, because they wanted no part in secession.

The war did come to North Alabama. When it came, the people did resist the Union troops as the Federals ran roughshod over North Alabama in 1862. The troops pillaged, burned homes, robbed and bushwhacked Southerners in the streets and in the homes. In 1862 mostly boys under sixteen and men 45 or older were available to resist; therefore, there was little defense. Lim Rock offered its meager resistance in skirmishes.

On January 16, 1830 one of the first railroads to be chartered in Alabama ran from Tuscumbia to Sheffield. After this date other railroads were chartered. By 1853 Memphis, Tennessee and Charleston, South Carolina were connected by passenger service with the Memphis-Charleston Railroad. This line ran through Huntsville and Lim Rock to Chattanooga. This was the economic force that the Union troops felt a need to encounter as they wreaked havoc all across Jackson County. These experiences are still painfully remembered by some of the Lim Rock residents who are in their 70's as they retell stories handed down by their grandparents.

Immediately following the section on railroads there is a section on land acquisitions and land titles of some early settlers in the Lim Rock area.



Some Station Agents and Employees:

Oscar Higginbotham, Telegraph Operator  
 Morris Ennis  
 Bill Johnson  
 Others

The next several pages will show railroad and mining activities of Boyd's Switch. A careful reading will show how "Old Huldy" was acquired. The contracts will show the equipment supplied and the building of the spur line. The purchase price of the coal is shown. It is also told how the coal was to be used.

1879 CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GORDON BROTHERS AND THE MEMPHIS AND CHARLESTON RAILROAD TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE THE COAL MINES AT BOYD'S SWITCH

1879 CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GORDON BROTHERS AND THE MEMPHIS AND CHARLESTON RAILROAD TO SELL NEEDED RAILROAD EQUIPMENT TO DELIVER COAL TO BOYD'S SWITCH



C I R C A I 1 8 8 0  
**THE HUNTSVILLE DEPOT**  
TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM  
320 Church Street Huntsville, AL. 35801 (205) 539-1860

April 14, 1993

**CHAIRMAN**  
Guy J. Spencer, Jr.  
**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Steve E. Tondera

Marlin Tucker  
Rt. 1  
Tanner, AL 35671

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Well, we don't have much information on Boyd Switch, or Lim Rock.

In Place Names in Alabama, by Virginia O. Foscue (University of Alabama Press, 1989), under "Lim Rock":

"Settlement with PO at 344020N0861118W in Jackson Co. on the Southern RR. Originally called Boyd Switch for John Boyd, a local merchant. Later Walter S. Gordon made a contribution to the Methodist church on the condition that the village be named Lim(e) Rock, a name descriptive of the rocks used in the local lime kiln. Boyd Switch PO est. in 1870, Lim Rock PO in 1882."

Ms. Foscue got her information from John R. Kennamer's History of Jackson County, Alabama (Winchester, Tenn.: Southern Printing and Publishing Co., 1935).

From an article written by Catherine Gilliam, "Memphis and Charleston Stations and Stops," under "Lim Rock":

"Originally called Boyd's Switch, Lim Rock first appeared in the M & C records in 1880. It is probable that a cotton platform or small depot was built there about that time, although none was listed in the M & C reports. In the 1895 report, the Lim Rock depot is listed 'in good condition.'"

And under "Belmont Coal Mine Branch," Mrs. Gilliam writes:

"In 1879 a six mile private branch railroad was built from Boyd's Switch (Lim Rock) to Belmont Coal Mine near the top of the Cumberland Mountains. They furnished coal for the M & C Railroad."

The reports that Mrs. Gilliam refers to are the Annual Reports of the M & C Railroad. We have copies of these reports at the museum, and you are welcome to do research in them, if you are interested. Just call first to set up an appointment. Unfortunately, the only information included for individual stations is usually just the amount of freight shipped from that station that year.

At Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, Norfolk Southern has placed, on loan, their archives of all the railroads that eventually became a part of Norfolk Southern. Many of the Memphis and Charleston records are there. In a box of correspondence, contracts, etc., there is a file labeled "Miscellaneous Agreements and Correspondence, 1879." In this file is an agreement by which the Memphis and Charleston Railroad sold a steam locomotive for \$ 3,000 to John B. Gordon, E. C. Gordon, and Walter S. Gordon, at Boyd's Switch, for use at their coal mine. The M & C RR agreed to buy coal from these gentlemen as part of the agreement.

I'm sorry we don't have any more information than this, but I hope it is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

David Reid  
Curator



# Pleasant Grove was once scene of extensive coal mining

By DAVID BREWER  
Times Staff Writer

**PLEASANT GROVE** — Not too many people are alive today who can remember the coal mining community of Piercetown atop Cumberland Mountain and the incline railway which enabled coal to be transported to the main railroad line near here and shipped out to various areas of the country.

Those were prosperous days for this now quiet, rural community which is now called Pleasant Grove.

In July 1978, Wendell Page, curator of the Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center, conducted a tape recorded interview with Clyde Gentles, who is now deceased, at his (Gentles') home in Limrock.

Gentles, who was 86 at the time, recalled the coal mining operation as it was in 1913.

The Pierce Coal and Lumber Co. of New York used an incline to transport railroad cars loaded with coal from atop Cumberland Mountain to the bottom of the

mountain near Limrock where a tippie, or storage hopper, was used to load standard-sized railroad cars from the smaller mining cars. The company had its own steam-driven engine, Engine No. 4, to transport the coal from the railroad spur on to the main track, which is now the Norfolk Southern railway.

Gentles worked with his father, Milton Gentles, at a general store in Limrock during the mining operation. The store still stands today just off Alabama Highway 35 next to the Norfolk Southern railroad.

A train depot for the then Memphis & Charleston railroad used to stand across the railroad track from the store.

Company employees sometimes rode up the incline to their office on the mountain, Gentles said in the interview.

A steam-powered drum, or winch, with a steel cable pulled the railroad cars up the mountain.

Page said Clyde Frazier of Woodville, who worked in the mines when he was 19 or 20, told him in an interview that he used a board with two horseshoes at-

tached to the bottom to slide down one of the rails. It was very dangerous since the mountain grade was steep and there were no brakes on the makeshift slide.

Gentles said miners used explosives and hand tools such as picks and shovels to extract the coal from the mine and load it into small railroad cars. A steam engine called a "dinky" pulled the coal cars from the mine to the incline rail station at the top of the mountain to Pleasant Grove, or what was then called Piercetown (named after the company). Here the coal cars were lowered down the mountain, one car at a time, by the steam-driven drum into Gentles Cove at the base of the mountain.

The mine was located just under the bluff on neighboring Fork Mountain near Skyline School.

Because the entrance of the mine was just under the bluff, the coal had to be hoisted to the top of the mountain, Page said.

Page said the Belmont Coal Co. of New York began mining in the area in the 1880s and continued its

See COAL, page B5

## Coal

Continued from page B1

operation until Pierce took over. He said he's found no record of when this takeover occurred.

The company used the incline to haul its dinky steam engines to the top of the mountain, Page said. In addition to coal, the Pierce Co. also used the incline to transport several car loads of lumber from its large sawmill at the top of mountain on the incline.

Gentles told Page in the interview that he had ridden the train across the mountain.

On one occasion, he said he and a friend went into one of the company's several mines, which were numbered by the company, to observe the mining operation and did not realize that the miners inside were in the process of blasting for coal.

"We were pretty much frightened," said Gentles, adding that they were ready to leave the mine until the miners ordered them to stay until the blasting was over.

Viola Cain, a resident of Pleasant Grove for most of her 87 years, said her father worked for Pierce Mining Co. until he died in 1914.

"I can remember the train hauling the coal off," Mrs. Cain said, adding there are ravines today that are evident of where the track used to be.

She said she and her family resided near the commissary that was built by the company for providing groceries to the mining fam-

ilies. Her family, she said, lived in one of the several houses that the company also had built for the families.

The community, known as Piercetown at that time, she said, had its own doctor and school.

Page said his wife, Elizabeth, taught school at Piercetown School in 1933 and 1934. The school was located next to the Pleasant Grove Holiness Church.

James Helms and his brother, Marvin, recently took a Huntsville Times reporter to where the commissary used to stand, a short distance from where they live at the top of mountain near Pleasant Grove.

The densely wooded area could only be reached by a four-wheel vehicle that James Helms drove over a rugged, narrow road down the mountain. Portions of the road were once used by the incline railroad, he said.

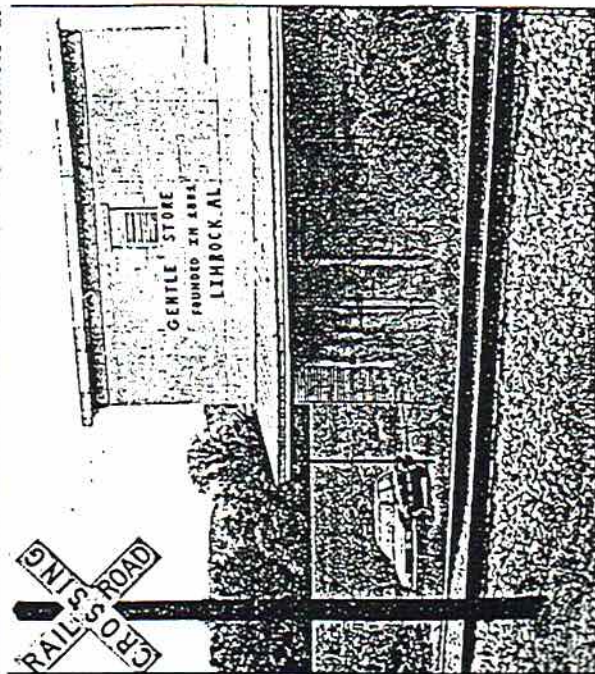
At the site, the concrete platform on which the two-story commissary once stood was bordered by an empty vault and a small, vertical building which was used as the boiler room. Both of these structures were concrete.

Around 50 families had homes near the site, James Helms said, which was next to a spring that has since dried up. He said he attended a one-room schoolhouse nearby when he was a child. The schoolhouse is no longer there.

The Pierce Co., which made much of its money from the sale of patented medicine, sold its mining operation to Claude Rudder some time before 1930 and moved to Florida, Page said.

David Brewer/Huntsville Times

Coal mined on Cumberland Mountain was transferred from incline onto main track near this store.



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES.

This contract made and entered into by and between the Memphis & Charleston R. R. Co., the party of the first part, and Jno. B. Gordon, Eugene C. Gordon, and Walter S. Gordon, parties of the second part.

"Witnesseth"

That, whereas the parties of the second part are about to open, develop and operate, a coal mine on the line of said Company's R. R. on the north side thereof, in the county of Jackson, in the State of Alabama, between Scottsboro and Paint Rock Station. And the said first party being desirous to foster and encourage the said enterprise for the benefit of the country along its line of travel and for its own benefit, hereby agrees to buy from said second parties all coal needed for its locomotives on its said road, at the price of Eight (8) cents per bushel of Eighty (80) pounds; the said coal to be procured out of the said mine and to be of good quality and suitable for economical use in locomotives, and to be delivered in our cars by the said second parties on the side of said Company's main track, at some convenient place to be designated by it.

It is further agreed that the cars of the party of the first part are

to be allowed to be taken out to the branch road to and from the mines by the parties of the second part, and no rental or mileage is to be charged for their use. But, if broken or damaged while in the possession of the parties of the second part, the cost of repairs is to be paid for by them.

The said second parties agree to proceed at once with proper energy and means to the opening, developing and operating, the said mine, and the second parties agree as soon as said mines are open to deliver as aforesaid, and the first party agrees to receive and make monthly statements for all the coal needed for locomotives on the said R. R. for the period of Five (5) years from date of first delivery of coal.

Should the said mine become exhausted or so reduced as not to be profitable under suitable management, then the second parties shall be released from the obligations of this contract, and it shall become null and void.

It is further agreed that said Company will sell, or rent, to the said second parties an engine to be used in operating said branch road, if desired to do so, the purchase or rent money therefor to be paid in coal of the quality and price before named.

And the said first party agrees to give no aid or encouragement to the opening of other coal mines in the same vicinity, and if other coal mines are so developed without the aid of said Company, it agrees that it will, in no respect, give any advantage to such mine, or mines, over that of the second parties but will, on the contrary, so far as the obligations resting on a common carrier permit, encourage and favor the mine of the latter; provided said parties of the second part shall prosecute the business of mining with proper energy and business capacity.

And said Company also agrees that, if the same coal field to be mined by the second parties, is operated West of his opening by other parties, the rates charged by the Company for carriage shall be the same from the mine of the second parties as from such further West opening.

And said Company agrees to charge no higher rate per mile for carriage of the coal from said mine of the second parties than of any other coal whatever.

It is further agreed that annual passes over the Memphis Charleston R. R. shall be given to two persons connected

with the mines as long as they are operated; such parties are to be designated by said parties of the second part.

The parties of the first part agree to furnish transportation for all the coal offered for shipment over its line by said second parties.

In Witness Whereof the said Jno. B. Gordon, Eugene O. Gordon, and Walter S. Gordon, have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, and the Memphis and Charleston R.R. Co., by its President, and Secretary, has hereunto subscribed its name and affixed its corporate seal, all in duplicates, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1879.

The Memphis and Charleston R.R. Co. by  
R. S. Nelson President

Witness:

*[Circular Seal: MEMPHIS & CHARLESTON R.R. CO.]*  
Chas. W. Fisher  
Wm. J. R. Coover Secretary  
Witnesses to signature of John B. Gordon  
R. B. [unclear]  
Jas. Fitzpatrick  
J. B. [unclear]

I certify that  
E. E. Gordon  
Eugene O. Gordon  
W. S. Gordon  
& W. S. Gordon

Signed the contract  
in my presence  
Chas. W. Young J.P.

1879

In witness whereof, the undersigned, John B. Gordon, E. C. Gordon, and Walter S. Gordon, at Boyd's Switch, on the track of the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road, in the County of Jackson and State of Alabama, one Railroad-steam-engine and locomotive and appurtenances at the price of (\$3000<sup>00</sup>) three thousand dollars, also, old-iron-rails for laying a railroad-track, to the amount of three to four hundred tons, at the price of (\$25<sup>00</sup>) twenty five dollars per-ton; and the said locomotive and engine and iron-rails will be promptly delivered to the undersigned at said Boyd's Switch, to enable them to lay a track from said switch to their <sup>incline</sup> ~~mine~~ in said Jackson County, a distance of ~~two~~ <sup>three</sup> miles, and to commence operations immediately. The amount of iron rails shall be determined by the quantity necessary to lay the track from Boyd's Switch to the <sup>foot of incline</sup> ~~mine~~, not to exceed four hundred tons except at the option of the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road Company, and the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road Company agree to accept the payment for said engine and iron-rails in coal to be delivered at Boyd's Switch, at the price of (8) eight cents per-bushel, and said Rail Road Company agrees to pay each month <sup>for</sup> one half of the coal delivered to them, in

1879 CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GORDON BROTHERS AND THE MEMPHIS AND CHARLESTON RAILROAD TO SELL NEEDED RAILROAD EQUIPMENT TO DELIVER COAL TO BOYD'S SWITCH

cash, and credit the other half on the indebtedness for said engine and iron rails until the same are paid for. - In consideration of the premises the undersigned have and do hereby agree to accept said engine and rails as, and at the prices above stated and stipulated, and forthwith to devote and apply them to the laying of said track, and the operations of said coal-rail-road in transporting coal from said mine to Boyd's Switch; and the undersigned further agree and bind themselves, on receipt of said iron-rails and engine to make and deliver to the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road Company their promissory notes for the full amount of the purchase money due for said engine and rails under the terms of this agreement; the dates of the maturity of the notes to be fixed by mutual agreement at the date of their delivery, but the longest deferred payment not to exceed six months; and the undersigned further agree to secure the certain and prompt payment of said notes at their respective dates of maturity by the execution and delivery to the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road Company, at the time of the delivery of the notes aforesaid, of a deed of trust on their branch road from Boyd's Switch to their coal-mine, also on their entire interest and estate in said coal-mine, also on their saw-mills, and

all other improvements, and property they may hold in Jackson County, Alabama, with power of sale on default of payment to be exercised by such agent of the Mem. & Cha. R.R. Co. as the President or Vice-President thereof may appoint or designate, and with the right expressly secured to said R. R. Co. to bid at such sale should one become necessary under said trust-deed, and it shall contain an express stipulation, that in the event of a failure by the undersigned to pay said notes, or any one of them, or any part thereof at maturity, the Mem. & Cha. R. R. Co. may enter upon, and take possession, without suit or legal process, of all the property embraced in said deed of trust, and operate said coal-mine and branch-road, paying one half cent royalty for the coal raised and used, and for the use of the coal-rail-road, and all the property of the undersigned until the entire debt due on said notes shall be paid; but said Mem. & Cha. R. R. Co. shall not be compelled to continue operating said mine and branch-road, should they not wish to do so; said R. R. Co. may, when it first takes possession or at any time afterwards be entitled to take up the iron rails, and remove them and the engine, as their own at a fair estimated price, or advertise the whole property for sale for thirty days in a newspaper published in Huntsville, Alabama giving time, place, and terms of sale, and in accordance with said advertisement, sell the same, at public outcry to the highest bidder.



for cash, and make to him a deed  
and bill of sale absolute with out  
any right or equity of redemption  
whateer, and after paying the  
the expences of the trust, pay  
the amonunt due on said notes  
and the balance if any to  
the grantors or their order.  
Witness the hand and seals of the  
parties above named, this  
18<sup>th</sup> day of June 1879.

J. B. Gordon  
E. C. Gordon  
W. S. Gordon

CREDIT

The previous eight pages of information regarding the contracts of 1879 between the Gordon Brothers and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad were furnished by and credited to:

**NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY ARCHIVES COLLECTION**  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
P. O. Box 90001, Blackburg, Virginia 24062-9001

About the turn of the century a Major Eugene Gordon owned a home in Athens, Alabama known as the Lane-Gordon home. It was well-known because of its octagonal shape. Until the 1950's it was located on the site of the present First Baptist Church.

Minutes County Commissioners' Court,

Term, 18

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION. OF PIERCE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

We, the undersigned in order to form a corporation under and pursuant to ARTICLE # 1, of Chapter 69 of the Code of the State of Alabama, do hereby certify as follows, to-wit:

First: The name of the corporation be PIERCE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY,

Second: The objects for which the corporation is formed are:

To acquire, own, lease, occupy, use, develop or deal in lands containing coal, gas, ores or other minerals, or mineral substances, also timber or agricultural lands.

To carry on the business of mining, coal or other minerals, mineral substances or ores, quarrying stone and lumbering, upon the lands of the company or upon any other lands; and to bore or prospect for the same.

To manufacture coke, lumber, brick, cement and any and all other products or by-products thereof, or of the lands owned, acquired, leased or occupied by the company; to buy, sell or otherwise to deal or traffic in, coal, coke, ores, wood, lumber, stone and any of the products or by-products thereof and any other product or by-products of the lands of the company.

To buy and sell and deal in general merchandise in connection with the other business of the company, and to establish, equip and carry on stores for the same.

To carry on the business of agriculture, and to establish, maintain and carry on experimental farms or agricultural stations in connection with the properties of the company, or otherwise, as may be deemed calculated to promote the business of the company or to enhance the value of its properties.

To construct, maintain and carry on mills, factories, store houses, houses for employees and works and equipment of all kinds necessary or convenient in conducting the business of the company.

To acquire, own, lease, build or operate in connection with the properties of, or for transporting the products of the company, railroads, docks, roads, tram roads, canals, barges, tow boats, terminal facilities and other means of transportation.

To engage in and carry on any other lawful manufacturing, mining, quarrying, constructing or merchandising business, or any other lawful business capable of being conveniently carried on in connection with the above or calculated to enhance the value of the property or business of the company.

Third: The location of the principal office in the State of Alabama shall be at the City of Bridgeport, in the County of Jackson and State of Alabama.

Fourth: The amount of the total authorized capital stock of the company is one hundred and twenty five thousand (\$125,000.00) dollars, divided into twelve hundred and fifty (1250) shares of the par value of \$100 each and the amount of the capital stock with which the company shall begin business is thirty one thousand, three hundred (\$31,300.00) dollars.

Fifth: The name and post-office address of the officer designated to receive subscriptions is as follows: Ralph W. Pierce, #663 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Sixth: The name and post office addresses of the incorporators and the number of shares subscribed by each are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: NAMES, POST OFFICE ADDRESSES, NUMBER OF SHARES SUBSCRIBED FOR. Rows include V. Mett Pierce, R y V. Pierce, Franklin D. Pierce, Hugh C. Pierce, Ralph W. Pierce, P. Duane Pierce Jr., and another name partially obscured.

This document shows stocks and their worth in the Pierce Development Incorporation. It also shows the daily order from the sawmill at Lim Rock.

ALABAMA. Sawmills in 1915. 29

**KENNEDY. S. Ry.**  
Bell & Holloman, 40, YP, WO, RO, G, Po, Hi, Tu, 20-80, t, Dim, KFin. (Two mills.)

**LARKINSVILLE. S. Ry.**  
E. L. Kendall & Co. 3, Co, 50-50, R $\frac{1}{2}$ , RedCeLbr. See also Huntsville.

**LATHROP. M. & O. R. R.**  
Lathrop LbrCo. 60, YP, WO, RO, G, Po, 60-40, 1, S24-16-16, D24-8-8, K20-3, Flg, Bds, Dim.

**LAW'S LANDING. Water.**  
W. N. Bain, 3, YP, WO, RO, G, Po, Ct, Be, SE, Hi, Sy, Wa, 75-25.

**LAX. N. C. & St. L. Ry.**  
L. W. Brockway & Bro. 4, WP, Ce, WO, RO, HM, SM, G, Po, Ct, Be, SE, WA, Hi, Sy, 20-80, t, S19-21-19. See also Huntsville and Madison.

**LEIGHTON. S. Ry.**  
J. T. Landers, 5, RO, RE, SE, Po, 60-40, t, S18-12-16, RO.

**LEXINGTON. Belew Bros.** See Florence, Ala., and Loretto and St. Joseph, Tenn.

**LIM ROCK. (S. Ry.)** → SOUTHERN RY. connection  
Pierce Development Co. (25) YP, NC, Ce, WO, RO, Po, Ct, Ba, WA, Hi, 90-10, S20-8-24, D20-6-14, R $\frac{1}{2}$ , Po, WO, RO. → 25,000 FT. DAILY BOARD CAPACITY SAWMILL

**LINEVILLE. A. B. & A. R. R.**  
S. B. Gaston, 5, YP, 50-16, s, S18-6-1, Ctg, Flg. See also Heflin.

**LISMAN. A. T. & N. Ry.**  
C. L. Gray LbrCo. 35, YP, 20-80, t, S60-20-20, D60-16-20, Fcty. See also Pachuta and West King, Miss.

**LITTLEVILLE. N. A. Ry.**  
A. D. Whitlock. 3. YP, WO, RO, G, Po, Hi, Tu, 20-80, t, Dim, KFin.

Form S. D. 100-P. P. Co.

LIMA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, INC.

OWNER ✓

SERVICE DEPARTMENT CARD

Owner Pierce Development Company.

Main Offices Bridgeport, Ala.

Officer in Charge J. D. Pierce

Purchasing Agent same

Road Name same Business LBR. L & Coal

Mileage 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  Gage 36 & 56 $\frac{1}{2}$  Rail 30 & 40

Maximum Curve 25° Weight Limits 60

Maximum Grade 5% With or Against Loads with

Maximum Loads \_\_\_\_\_ Empties \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Terminal Limrock, Ala.

Nearest Railroad Southern Station Limrock, Ala.

Estimated Time Locomotive Will Be Needed \_\_\_\_\_

SHAY LOCOMOTIVES

Loco. No.	Road No.	Order No.	Date Sold	Weight	Date Resold	Sold to
257			1889	13	N.G.	

LOCOMOTIVES OF OTHER TYPES IN SERVICE

Road No.	Builder	Type	Weight	Built	Condition
	Bald.	4608	30	STD.	
	Porter	040	14	N.G.	
	Davenport	042	12	N.G.	
	R. Ia.	4608		STD.	

Possibility of Future Needs Mill not operating all  
equipment for sale (C.S. 4-16-20)

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

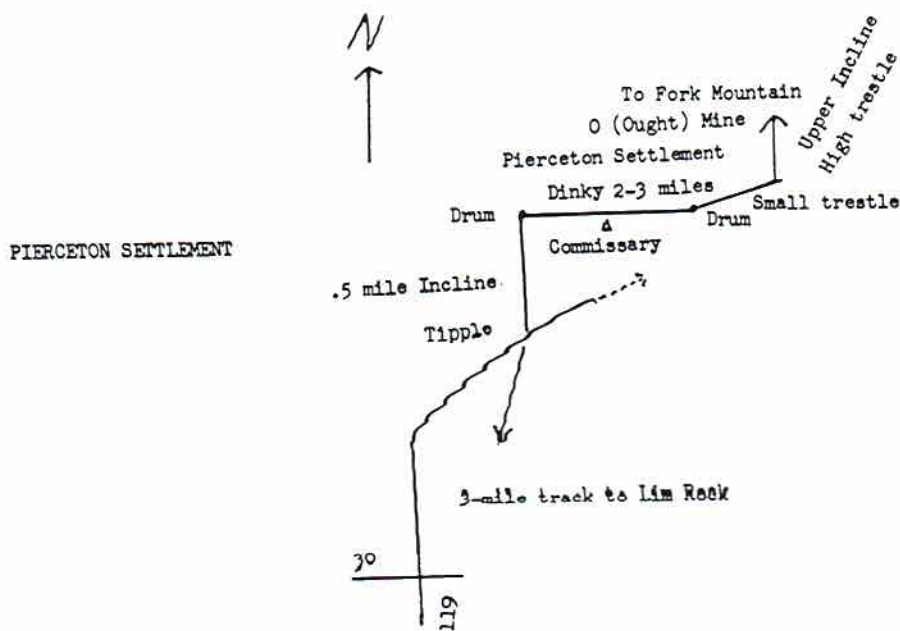
16-20

Due to this writer's self-limited definition of the parameter of Lim Rock, little effort was made to tell the story of the life around the Belmont Coal Mines and the community that later became known as Pierceton. Pierceton consisted mainly of 15-20 houses, a commissary, a sawmill and a vault. A post office was established for a time at Pierceton. The included contracts describe the work of the Gordon Brothers in railroad building and coal mining.

Later doctors F. D. Pierce and R.V. Pierce bought the coal mining fields and tried their efforts at coal mining and timber harvesting. They are probably better remembered by local people as the doctors who sold their patent medicines on the radio. The Heritage House at Scottsboro has a few empty bottles showing the home remedies of the doctors.

The Pierce family, with J. D. Pierce named as the officer in charge, formed a corporation in Jackson County. The incorporation operated on the 3-mile spur line to the main station at Lim Rock with an additional 5-6 miles of small gauge tracks up the incline and across the benches of the mountain to the coal mines.

Business documents, dated April 16, 1920, of the Pierce Development Company show that the sawmill was not operating and that all equipment was for sale. Coal Mining continued on until the middle 1930's. All activity was discontinued and the metal, including Old Huldy was sold for scrap metal.



The information on this map and the following tidbits came from the memories of Earl Bishop, age 90, and Gentry Hastings, age 72. Earl at one time owned property that included some of the incline. Gentry has all his life listened and learned from people older than himself. Now he shares his knowledge. He has walked the incline and the other narrow-gauge tracks. Both of these

men have clear memories of the railroad activities.

The steep incline went from the tipple to a bench of the mountain, a distance of about one half mile. There a steam engine was mounted. It had a "drum" for the cable. The cable was connected to the small cars. The loaded cars were lowered on tracks to the bottom of the incline, The Tipple. There they were emptied into a hopper-like chute that fed into the cars on the big spur line for transportation to the station at Lim Rock.

Local people referred to the top of the mountain area as "The Drum." The bottom area was referred to as "The Tipple." Sightseeing trips were made to The Tipple and The Drum.

A "dinky" engine pulled cars along the relatively level area of the bench to a second drum and engine. This second drum brought coal down from the main coal mine known locally as the "Ought" mine. Mines had been assigned numbers with the last two to be known locally as the 0 (ought) and the 00 (double ought) mine.

Trucks and wagons also hauled coal and logs from the Pierceton area. County Road 119 extended up through the sinks to the commissary area. The homes were served by the rough road.

There was a small community of houses at the head of Gentle's Cove for the families of the mining and timber employees. In addition to the activities around the coal chute there was a water tank for the industry and local families. The water tank was fed by a 3-4 inch pipe that tapped into a spring a little way up the mountain near the incline. In addition to this tank, water was also brought from the Blowing Cave to the nearby homes.

Some written records indicate that a sawmill at the head of Gentle's Cove at first harvested timber for the material used in the incline and railroad construction, including ties, bridges and trestle. After the construction was completed sawmill activities took place around the community of the coal mines. The lumber was transported down the incline to the big spur line. Some of the lumber was hauled out over the mountain to Larkinsville on its way to Bridgeport. The Pierce Company was prepared to saw 25,000 board feet of lumber a day.

Neither Earl nor Gentry can remember any strong lumber activities of the Pierce Company. Neither can remember lumber being brought down the incline by a company. Earl remembered when Dave Rousseau, who lived nearby, rigged up his own tractor to lower lumber down the incline. Earl and Gentry both remember when individuals would go to the drum and, for ~~skills,~~ ride down the incline by using sticks or chunks of coal to regulate the speed of their descent.

Today Pierceton and all the homes of the town are gone as footnotes in history, and so has the mining activity around the outer limits of Lim Rock.

## LAND TITLES AND LAND ACQUISITION OF SOME EARLY SETTLERS IN THE LIM ROCK AREA

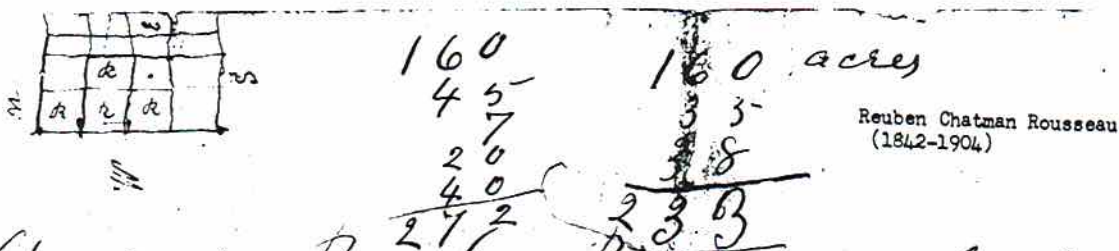
Most of the information was secured from the private files of Olan Rexford (Shorty) and Evelyn Rousseau Kenamer. They own most of the Will Dave Rousseau farm. Many of the original papers of the Rousseau-Houk families have been passed along with the new ownership.

Methods of acquiring land are shown with the various documents. The examples shown are copies of original documents signed by President Martin Van Buren in 1839 and by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1876. President Grant's document indicated the 100th year of Independence of the United States.

One document shows that in January 1881 Josiah Stevens secured 40 acres of land by the Pre-emption Laws. No one else had claimed the land so he was free to register his claim.

Simeon Houk, in November 1876, homesteaded his 120 acres for \$3.00 through the Homestead Laws.

Most of the titles in the Kenamer files are handwritten. Men nearly always signed the documents. Land was nearly always in a man's name. Many men who signed along with their wives signed with their "mark or seal," perhaps indicating the inability to write. Land was sold using objects on the terrain as boundary markers. Deeds could read such as: the land that lies between the oak tree on the east, the big rock on the north side to the creek on the south and back to the Stevens' line on the west. Homes could be, and were, built on land with such descriptions.



List of R & C Rousseau's land  
 West 1/2 of NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 and  
 SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 sec 9 Township 4  
 Range 4 E. 20 acres in NW 1/4 of NW 1/4  
 & acres in NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of sec 17 T 4 R 4 E  
 & in NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of S 18 T 4 R 4 E  
 & part of the house farm about 38 acres  
 sec 7, 8 and 17 T 4 R 4 E.

CERTIFICATE

No. 1556

# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS Simon Houk of Jackson County Arkansas deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Huntsville whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Simon Houk according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the South West quarter of the South West quarter of Section number one, Township four of Range four East, District of lands Subject to State of Mississippi Alabama, Containing thirty acres and fifteen hundredths of an acre

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said Simon Houk;

AND WHEREAS, in consideration of the said Lands, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Simon Houk, his heirs, and assigns forever: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Simon Houk, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

## IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the fourth day of August 1890 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the eighty fourth.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

*Simon Houk*  
Simon Houk

RECORDED OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
*Simon Houk*

Recorded 1556 Page 21



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

## Do all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 1402 }  
APPLICATION 2609.

**Whereas** There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Huntsville, Alabama, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Josiah Stephens has been established, and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the Quarter West quarter of the South East quarter of Section 22, in Township 10 North, Range 4 East, in the District of lands subject to sale at auction in Alabama, containing forty acres and ten hundredths of an acre.

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General:

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Josiah Stephens the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Josiah Stephens, his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.



Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the 1st day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seventh, and of the Independence of the United States the 37th year.

BY THE PRESIDENT, *U S Grant*, By *D D Moore*, Secretary, Recorder of the General Land Office.

Recorded, Vol. 1, Page 263.



HOMESTEAD.

Receiver's Office, Huntsville Ala  
Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 1876

RECEIVED of Simon Hank Jackson Co the sum  
of 31 three dollars cents,  
being the balance of payment required by law for the entry of

N E 1/4 N E 1/4 Sec 18. S E 1/4 S E 1/4 Sec 7  
S 1/4 S 1/4 Sec 8

of Section 18 + 7 x 8. in Township 4. of Range 4 East  
containing 120.24 acres, under Section 2291 of the  
Revised Statutes of the United States.

\$ 3.00

T. J. Kaufman  
Receiver.

DECLARATORY STATEMENT

For Cases Where the Land is not Subject to Private Entry.

I Josiah Stevens, of Jackson Co, being head of  
family have, on the 26 day of Jan'y, 1881, settled and improved the SE 1/4  
quarter section No. 18, of range No. 42, in the district of lands sub-  
ject to sale in the Land-Office at Huntsville, and containing 40  
acres, which land has not yet been offered at public sale, and thus rendered  
subject to private entry; and I do hereby declare my intention to claim the  
said tract of land as a pre-emption right under section 2259 of the Revised  
Statutes of the United States.

Given under my hand this 27 day of Jan'y, A. D. 1881

Josiah Stevens

In presence of.....

Land Office at \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ 188

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ has this day paid \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, the Register's and Receiver's fees, to file a Declaratory Statement, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged.

Receiver.



Mr. Joshua Stevens having paid the fees, has this day filed in this Office his Declaratory Statement, No. 507 for SE 1/4

township H, of range H E, section 18, containing 40 acres, settled upon July 27, 1881, being NOT offered.

Under the provisions of the Pre-emption Laws, the time within which final proof is required to be made on unoffered lands expires in thirty-three months from date of settlement, or from date of filing of township plat in District Land Office in case of settlement on unsurveyed lands, and on offered lands in twelve months from date of settlement; and under act of March 3, 1877, notice of intention to prove up must be given by publication in a newspaper, to be designated by the Register, for a period of thirty days, or in five consecutive issues of said paper, which notice must also contain the names of the witnesses by whom the necessary facts will be established.

Notice is, therefore, hereby given that this pre-emption filing expires on Sept 27, 1883, after which date the tract will be subject to the claim of any other qualified party.

Very respectfully,

John M Cross  
Register.

WARRANTY DEED.

Reuben Chatman Rousseau  
(1842-1904)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, }  
Jackson County. }

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT, we in consideration of the sum of fifteen  
for and in consideration of the sum of fifteen dollars

\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars,  
to us in hand paid by R. H. Rusaw

the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, we have this day bargained, sold  
and conveyed, and do by these presents bargain, sell and convey to the said

R. H. Rusaw his

heirs, administrators and assigns, the following described tract or parcel of land, to-wit:

five acres in the North west corner of the  
south west 1/4 of North west 1/4 and 1/2 interest  
in the balance of said quarter and 3 acres  
in the south west corner of the North  
west 1/4 of North west 1/4 of section 17  
and acres in section 18 in the North East  
1/4 of North East 1/4 known as a part of the  
Vina Stewart land north of William  
hawk and east of Gillis all in township  
# Range # East 22 acres and 2/3 more or less  
with all and singular the hereditaments  
and appertenance thereunto belonging  
in witness whereof we have here unto set  
our hand and seal this the 28 day of March  
1891

situated, lying and being in the County of Jackson and State of Alabama.

To have and to hold unto him, the said R. H. Rusaw his

heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever, in Fee Simple, and we

hereby covenant with the said R. H. Rusaw that

we seized in fee of the aforegranted premises,

and have the right to sell and convey the same, and we do hereby warrant

the title to the aforegranted premises, and agree forever to defend the same from the

lawful claims of all persons whatsoever.

In testimony of all which we hereunto set our hand and seal

this 28 day of March 1891

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Anna Giffon  
Jester of the Peace

J. S. Rousseau (L. S.)

Lucy Rousseau (L. S.)

27 (L. S.)

To Be  
Scholar: W. H. W. W.  
Filed 3 July 1879  
Shels in Kyle  
Judge

Recorded in  
Deed Book  
No 9 Pages  
382 383 386  
J. H. Kyle  
Judge

Fee \$1.75  
~~2.00~~



J. H. Kyle Judge  
Jacobus Co. I H Kyle Judge  
Probato for said Co here by certify to  
M. Thim. And was filed for record on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1879 and was duly recorded  
and compared in Deed Book No 9  
Pages 382 & 386  
Given under my hand  
This 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1879  
Nelson Kyle  
Judge

know all men by these presents that we  
George W hook & his wife Ymima A hook  
James J hook & his wife Sarah C hook  
Rubin C Rousseau & his wife Lydia A Rousseau  
Wm D hook & his wife Henry E hook  
James M Rucks & his wife Martha C Rucks  
Wm J Smith & his wife Sarah E Smith  
Melvina B maning

John M hook & his wife Mary J hook  
Wm M Stewart & his wife Milly M Stewart  
in consideration of the sum of three hundred  
in the said Simeon hook Deceased estate the  
receipt where of we do here by acknowledge  
have bargained sold and quitclaimed and  
by these presents do bargain sell and quit  
claim un to the said Tabitha hook the  
widow of the said deceased Simeon hook  
and to her heirs and assigns for ever all our  
and each of our right title interest estate  
claim and demand both at law and <sup>in</sup> equity  
and as well in possession as in expectancy  
of in and to all that certain farm or piece  
of land situate

A strip through the middle of the N<sup>o</sup> W<sup>o</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$   
of N<sup>o</sup> W<sup>o</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 17 20 rods wide containing  
20 acres more or less known as a part of the  
old home place and part of the N<sup>o</sup> E<sup>o</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N<sup>o</sup> W<sup>o</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$   
sec 17 lying in N<sup>o</sup> W<sup>o</sup> corner 26 rods wide  
54 rods long north and south a strip E and W<sup>o</sup>

$\frac{1}{4}$  of the N E  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N E  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 18 2nd shore  
on the N end 16 rods wide 16 rods from N line  
all in town ship 4 Range 4 East  
with all and singular the hereditaments  
and appurtenances there unto belonging  
in witness whereof we have here unto  
set our hands and seals this 29<sup>th</sup> day  
of January in the year 1879

George W. Houck

(Seal)

and his Wife Annina A. Houck her mark (Seal)

Roubin C. Roussau his mark + (Seal)

and his Wife ~~Leptia~~ Leptia A. Roussau her mark (Seal)

James J. Houck (Seal)

and his Wife Sarah E. Houck her mark (Seal)

William J. Houck his mark + (Seal)

and his Wife Henry E. Houck her mark (Seal)

James M. Rucker (Seal)

and his Wife Marthey E. Rucker her mark (Seal)

William J. Smith (Seal)

and his Wife Sarah E. Smith her mark (Seal)

John M. Houck (Seal)

and his Wife Mary E. Houck her mark (Seal)

William M. Stewart (Seal)

and his Wife Miley M. Stewart her mark (Seal)

Malvina<sup>2</sup> Manning her mark + (Seal)

State of Alabama

Jackson county { on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January  
in the year 1879 personally came before me

Malvin<sup>R</sup> Manning her mark + Seal

State of Alabama

Jackson county } on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January  
in the year 1879 personally came before me

George W hook and Jimima A hook his wife James J hook  
and Sarah E hook <sup>his wife</sup> Rubin C Rousseau & Lydia A Rousseau <sup>his wife</sup>  
Wm D hook and Henry E hook <sup>his wife</sup> James M Ruck, and Martha  
& Ruck, his wife Wm J <sup>smith</sup> Stewart and Sarah E Smith his wife  
Wm M Stewart and Milly M Stewart his wife John M  
hook and Mary E hook his wife Melvina R Manning  
and severally acknowledge <sup>in presence</sup> the within conveyance  
to be their act and deed and the said Jimima A hook  
Sarah E hook Henry E hook Lydia A Rousseau Martha  
& Ruck <sup>Sarah E Smith</sup> Milly M Stewart Mary E hook Melvina  
R Manning being examined by me apart from their  
husbands acknowledged that they executed the same  
freely and without any fear or compulsion from  
their husbands and I certify that I well know the  
said George W hook Jimima A hook Rubin C Rousseau  
Lydia A Rousseau James J hook Sarah E hook Wm D  
hook Henry E hook James M Ruck Martha C Ruck  
Wm J Smith Sarah E Smith John M hook Mary E hook  
Wm M Stewart Milly M Stewart Melvina R Manning  
and that they are the same persons who are described  
in the within conveyance and who executed  
the same

Attest my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of  
January 1879

E R Hodges  
Justice of the Peace



George Washing Rouseau  
Was born in the year  
of our lord February  
the 1st 1867

John Simeon Rouseau  
Was born in the year  
of our lord October  
the 4th 1868

William David Rouseau  
Was born in the year  
of our lord September  
the 12th 1870

The above statements show the handwritten record showing the birthdates of some of the Rouseaus.

Received of the said Simeon Houk  
Deceased estate my interest in full  
both real estate and personal property  
this the 1st day of February 1879  
Tabitha Houk

Alon Chay McArthur Wm D Houk  
Melvina Manning John M Houk  
George W. Houk Martha L. Kuch  
James J Houk

Sarah E Smith

The second statement shows the signatures of Tabitha Houk and her children as they agreed to a common statement in settling the estate of Simeon Houk, her husband.

\$25<sup>00</sup>

On or before the 25<sup>th</sup> day Nov  
1906 I promise to pay Dora M  
Flippo the sum Twenty five dollars  
the same being for land bought  
of her and a vendor lien retain  
ed until paid

Gives under my hand  
and seal this Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1906  
W D Rousseau *Seal*  
W

---

On or before 25<sup>th</sup> day Nov 1907 I promise to  
Mary J. White the sum of twenty five dollars  
for value received, it being the purchase  
money for my interest in her mother's  
estate witness my hand and seal  
this 30<sup>th</sup> day March W. D. Rousseau. *Seal*

The above handwritten statements were made by Will Dave Rousseau for the purchase of land with a promissory note for \$25.00 to Dora M. Flippo. Later he paid Mary J. White \$25.00 for her interest in her mother's estate.

## SOME LEGENDS AND STORIES OF LIM ROCK

As any thoughtful reader can observe, most of this writer's effort at telling the Lim Rock story has had the philosophy and working conditions of the working person as the centerpiece of emphasis. Making a living was difficult for nearly everyone.

Benjamin Rousseau and his family have been kind enough to share some of their thoughts and information to be recorded as part of the legacy of the times. Their mother, Dora Gentle Rousseau, died while the children were still young. In 1932, not long after Dora died, their father Charlie, at age 38, also died. They are buried in the Johnson Cemetery.

Their deaths left five young children. The children moved into the home of their grandparents. Will Dave and Ellen Tipton Rousseau raised the children in Shiffman's Cove. The grandparents were used to crowds at their home. Will Dave was a farmer and Primitive Baptist preacher and a leader among the association churches. At conference time 75 or more people might spend the night at his farm. Many people today remember Elder Will Dave as having performed the marriage ceremony when they got married in the 1930's.

Benjamin remembers his father as being a salesman for Zenoil Products and Health 'O. He would travel to peddle his products. His products were pie fillings, marshmallow creme, and soft candy in five-gallon cans. Charlie would put on his company identification badges and make his business calls.



*Hurshel and Bernice Stephens Rousseau*

When Charlie died, he left two cars. Hurshel got one and Benjamin got one. The Great Depression was raging. It was difficult for anyone (much less a ten-year-old boy) to even get gasoline for a car. Benjamin offered to sell his car to an acquaintance for \$10.00. The man did not have the \$10.00. He made a counteroffer of \$9.75 because that was all the money he had. Benjamin accepted, and the new owner drove off in his bargain car. Other instances are known when people just moved off and left their perfectly good cars or gave them to neighbors who, more or less, later abandoned them. People did not have cash to repair and operate cars.

Benjamin fondly remembers how hard his family worked to secure each other's economic needs. Gathering fodder is especially vivid in his mind. Fodder is the leaves, or sometimes the stalks, of corn after the ears of corn have been gathered.

Sometimes a short stick would be used to knock the leaves to the ground. Then they would be gathered. This procedure would help to avoid contact with the skin. Most often the leaves would be gathered with one hand and stacked in the crook of the other arm. When the arm was full, the gathering was called a hand. A blade of corn was used to wrap around the hand of fodder and tucked to secure the bunch. Three hands were called a bundle.

If the whole stalk was cut, it could be shocked tepee style in the field. If only the leaves were gathered, they were usually stored in the barn until they were fed to the farm animals as forage. Fodder was often gathered at night after the dew had formed. The moisture would help prevent the corn thistles from sticking into the worker's skin. The prickly surface of the leaves often would leave one's skin raging with a rash.



*From left: Alta Saint, Jordan White,  
Anita Olinger, Opal Rounsavall, Joshua White.*

As Benjamin and other family members worked in the moonlight gathering the winter's supply of animal feed, he would often look up as the clouds gathered across the man in the moon. His reflections were, "It looks like someone is burning a brush pile on the moon." Little did he, or anyone at the time, envision that man would, within forty years, go from fodder gathering in the moonlight to men walking on the moon.

One of his first real, money-making jobs was cutting logs west of Stephens' Gap near Woodville. His wages were \$1.25 a day with 25 cents going for transportation. If his ride did not show up, he walked the several-mile trip from the head of Shiffman's Cove.

Walking was no big deal to most youth of Lim Rock. The Rousseau children were used to walking. They walked from their home in the cove to Lim Rock School. If the weather got too bad as the children walked from school, their uncle and aunt, Henry and Sallie Swearengin, near the mouth of the cove would intercept them to get them to spend the night at the Swearengin home.

When the Lim Rock School burned, the children and others in Shiffman's Cove walked up the mountain by way of the Coffey Narrows Road to Nat School. Often the children would make their own paths and trails without adult assistance to get to Nat School. Later when their uncle, Dave Rousseau, established the first school bus route with his open, farm truck, getting to school was not so demanding.

Benjamin was asked to share his experiences at Lim Rock. Much of the information in the following statements is in his own words. Of course, it is realized that stories like that of Bradford Houk may be legends. This writer did not try to document. Instead other people, especially at Nat, were questioned. The story basically remained the same except some people had varying numbers when referring to the Federal troops. Each person that was interviewed was equally emotional about the possibility that Bradford was murdered. It is an observable fact that the sinkhole where Simeon Perry Houk supposedly hid is situated in the mountain above the Houk-Rousseau farms.

Beat No. 32 RECEIVED OF Rousseau, W. D. NO. 7185

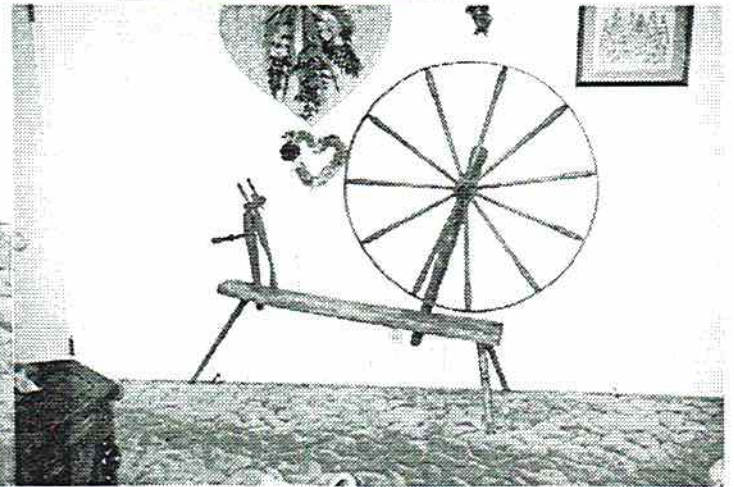
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

In full amount of taxes due the State of Alabama and County of Jackson, for the year 1947:

TOTAL VALUE REAL ESTATE	480	Total Value R.A.P.	1947
TOTAL VALUE PERSONAL PROPERTY	10	480	
Total State and County Tax			8 64
Less Homestead Exemption			3 05
Net State and County Tax			5 59
School District Tax No. 1			
School District Tax No. 2			1 44
Assessor's Fee			
City of Scottsboro			
City of Stevenson			
City of Woodville			
City of Paint Rock			
Total			7 03
Interest State and County Tax			
Interest School Tax District No.			
Interest City Tax No.			
Collector's Fee			
Citation Fee			
Decree			
Advertising			
Total Taxes, Fees, Interest and Costs			

How Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Collector: \_\_\_\_\_

Beatrice Rousseau Wilbourn, of Huntsville, still owns the spinning wheel mentioned in the story. The spinning wheel belonged to her great-great-grandmother Tobitha Murray Houk.



It was passed along to her grandparents Will Dave and Ellen Rousseau. When it became time to distribute Will Dave and Ellen's estate, each of their children received a share. Among other things, son John was to receive a "stand of lard." His sister, Louinda, was to receive the spinning wheel. Louinda saw no real need for the obsolete wheel. She saw a real need for the five-gallon container of lard. She asked her brother to swap their inheritance. She got the lard. John got the wheel.

Today John's daughter, Bea, takes great pride in the antique. The spinning wheel was a major topic for discussion during the Rousseau-Houk reunion on June 5, 1993.

## THIS IS ONE FAMILY'S LIFE IN EARLY LIM ROCK IN THE WORDS OF BENJAMIN ROUSSEAU

I would like to share a little information about the people who lived at the Simeon Perry Houk home in Shiffman's Cove.

I see from the information that I have before me that Michael Preston Houk and his wife, Lydia Layman Houk, moved into Shiffman's Cove between 1825 and 1828 since their first child born in Shiffman's Cove was born in 1827. [Editor's note: See pages 61 and 64] I am not sure they lived at the same farm where their son, Simeon Houk, built his house; if they did, it was probably the log house that set behind the house we lived in as I grew up from 1922 to 1940.

The old log house had a chimney at the north end made of limestone rocks. The logs were cedar. We used this old house for storage of canned food, potatoes, and many other things like weaving looms, spinning wheels and corded beds that had been used before my time.

As I remember, this house was sold by my grandfather, Willie D. Rousseau, to a pencil mill in Fayetteville, Tennessee about 1937 or 1938.

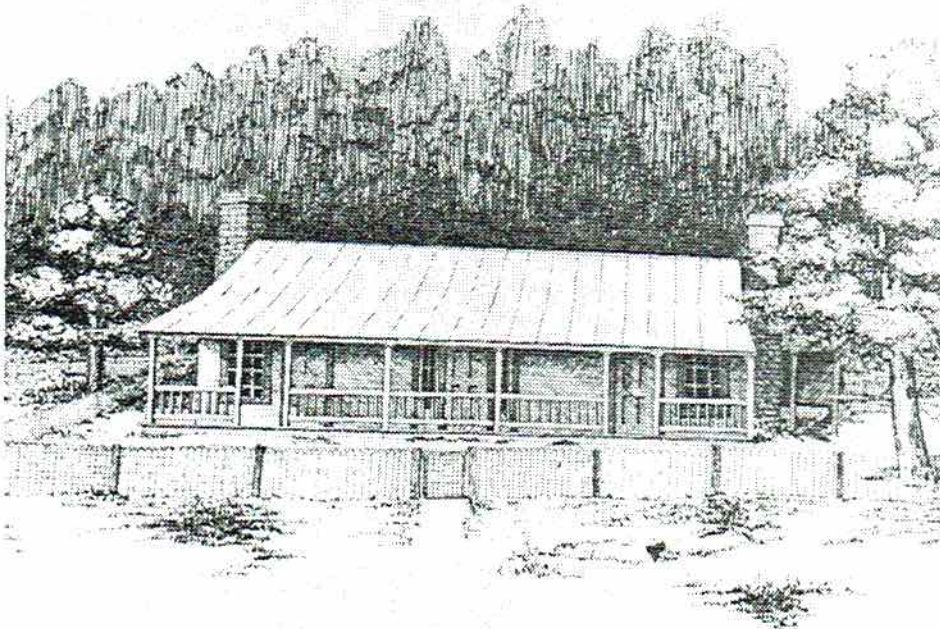
I am not sure when Simeon Houk built the house I grew up in that is still standing on the farm in Shiffman's Cove. I am sure it was before the Civil War, because there were three hundred Union soldiers who spent the night there during the war.

They could not find Simeon Houk to kill him. He was hidden in a hole in a fifty-foot bluff that is several hundred yards from the house. That hole he hid in was called the sheep hole and was located about a hundred yards from the spring that ran down in dug-out wooden troughs to the house below.

The Union soldiers thought Grandpa Houk had been feeding the Rebel soldiers. They wanted to find him to kill him. I did not ever know whether he had fed any Rebels or not. Since they could not find him, they found his sixteen-year-old son, Bradford Perry Houk (born 22 Sept. 1848), and killed him instead. They killed him on the side of the mountain sometime in 1864.

The women were not harmed by the Union soldiers so they went up on the mountain and carried Uncle Bradford's body down for burial.

The soldiers went into the big log smokehouse and carried out all the meat. What they did not want they hung on the rail fence in front of the house and burned it, fence and all, before they left the farm.



*An Artist's View of the House*

Simeon Houk was forty-six years old in 1864 when they invaded his place. He lived there until January 4, 1879 when he died at age sixty-one.

He was a wood craftsman and built a beautiful white and blue four-room house of sawed lumber. He covered it with red cedar shingles. I later helped to remove the shingles and replace them with the metal roof that is on the house today.

I lived in this house with my grandfather and grandmother, Willie D. Rousseau and Ellen Tipton Rousseau, and my siblings. My siblings were Archie M. Rousseau, Hurshel B. Rousseau, Marjorie Rousseau Whitaker, and Eunice Rousseau Bradford. I lived there from 1932, when our father died, until 1940 when I left home to be on my own.

## **THE HICKORY NUT HARVEST AS PASSED ON BY BENJAMIN**

*This is how I remember a story, as it was told to me, of a hickory nut harvest of many years ago. I do not know the exact year. It was when the cut was being dug through the mountain between Lim Rock community and Peters' Cove, northeast of Woodville, Alabama. It is known as Stephens' Gap, where the railroad still carries trains today through the cut. The time would have been between 1840 and 1865. The workmen were*

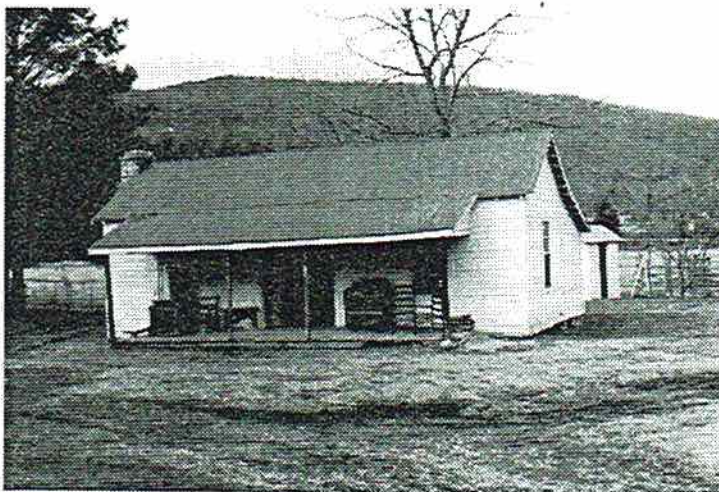


building the railroad through that area. Grandpa Simeon Perry Houk and two of his young sons were traveling from the head of Shiffman's Cove to visit a family in Peters' Cove. When they came to Stephens' Gap they saw a lot of nice hickory nuts beside the road. The sons decided they wanted to gather a supply. They let their dad go on, with a promise to pick them up on his way back.

Grandpa gave his consent and left them, while he made the trip to Peters' Cove. When he returned to the hickory nut trees, to his surprise, he came upon one of the railroad men trying to take a bag of nuts away from his little boys. He became very angry and chased all the workers to their camp shack. He dared them to come out. He felt like he could whip the whole gang. They must have felt that way, too; because as the story was told to me, they never came out to challenge that big three-hundred- pound hunk of man.

These are Benjamin's thoughts on his Uncle Bill Houk when Lee Highway (72) was built in 1932. When Lee Highway was later routed to the south, the State assigned number 35 to the old road.

### THE BILL HOUK PLACE



I would like to say something about the Bill Houk place located between the highway and the railroad at the east end of Stephens' Gap.

William Midas "Bill" Houk was the son of Simeon Perry Houk and Tobitha Murray Houk. He was born 12 July 1845 in Shiffman's Cove, Jackson County, Alabama (Lim

Rock Community). He married 22 Nov. 1866 to Henrietta Bowers.

I don't know when Uncle Bill bought this farm or when they moved there. I remember when the new highway was built across the farm in the thirties. The log house they lived in was torn down and another house was built closer to the railroad. The new house was built of sawed lumber and is still there.

Uncle Bill's daughter, Cassey Houk, married Marion Johnson. They lived there until they died.

## THE ROUSSEAU-DOTSON HOUSE CONNECTIONS



As we were viewing the old housesite and tumbled down chimney of the Dotson place, I was reminded of some of the people who had lived there in my lifetime.

The family that came into my mind the strongest was the mother and stepdaddy of my half sister when she was a little girl.

I remember soon after Lorene and I were married, we caught a bus going east from Huntsville. We got off the bus at the road that goes up to this housesite. This trip was in the summer of 1942. My sister, Joyce Ann, was ten years old at that time.

Walter and Gertrude Guffey and Joyce Ann Rousseau (Davis) lived there in the year of 1942.

## THE HAUNTED HOUSE



*Elnora Benson Rousseau Guess*

I thought of something that happened when I was about seven or eight years old at the Simeon Perry Houk farm in the head of Shiffman's Cove.

This event took place in 1929 or 1930, long after my Grandpa William David "Will Dave" and Grandma Ellen Tipton Rousseau had purchased the Houk farm. They purchased the farm with an agreement to take care of his grandmother, Tobitha Murray Houk, and his mother, Lydia Ann Houk Rousseau, as long as they lived. The money payment was four hundred and seventy-five dollars for the Houk farm. They raised their six children there. When the youngest son, Calvin, was nineteen years old, he became engaged to a young lady whose name was Elnora Benson of Larkinsville, Alabama. They got married October 12, 1929, and moved into the little log house at the foot of the mountain on the north side of the Houk farm.

The house needed some repairs before the newlyweds could move in and settle down for their new life together. Some men went to work and did the repairs. Uncle Calvin and Aunt Elnora moved in.

A short time after Uncle Calvin and Aunt Elnora moved in, they would hear some unusual noises in the house. The noise sounded like something cracking or perhaps like a gun snapping. They pondered the situation and decided they would try to find out what was going on around there that needed explaining.

Maybe someone had been shot in this house. It might be haunted or "hainted" as they would say in those days. If that was the case it was a spiritual happening.

He thought of his father, Will Dave Rousseau. Elder Will Dave had been a Hard-shell Baptist minister for many years. He just might find out what this spirit wanted or why it was there.

He went to see Grandpa. He asked Grandpa if he would come out and spend the night to see what the problem was. Grandpa agreed to visit and look into the situation.

That night the family had a big log fire going in the huge fireplace. After a while the family all went to bed. Not long after they retired, Grandpa heard this popping noise. He, too, wondered what it was. Since he couldn't see any reason or cause for this noise, he thought it might be that God wanted to give a message to someone there.

Grandpa had studied the Bible for many years and read where people spoke to spirits when they did not understand their presence or what they were about. He decided he would speak to the spirit and see what message might be made known.

He said, "In the name of God, what do you want?" Well, the spirit did not answer him in any way. The mystery remained unsolved.

This problem went on until some time later. No one, not even the preacher, had any idea why the house was haunted. Then someone started observing the new repairs to the house. Among other things, there was a new ceiling. In order to do this repair, they had to put in new ceiling joists. The new joists had been hewn from green cedar trees. As the green cedar dried out by the heat of the log fires, the joists would sway and crack.

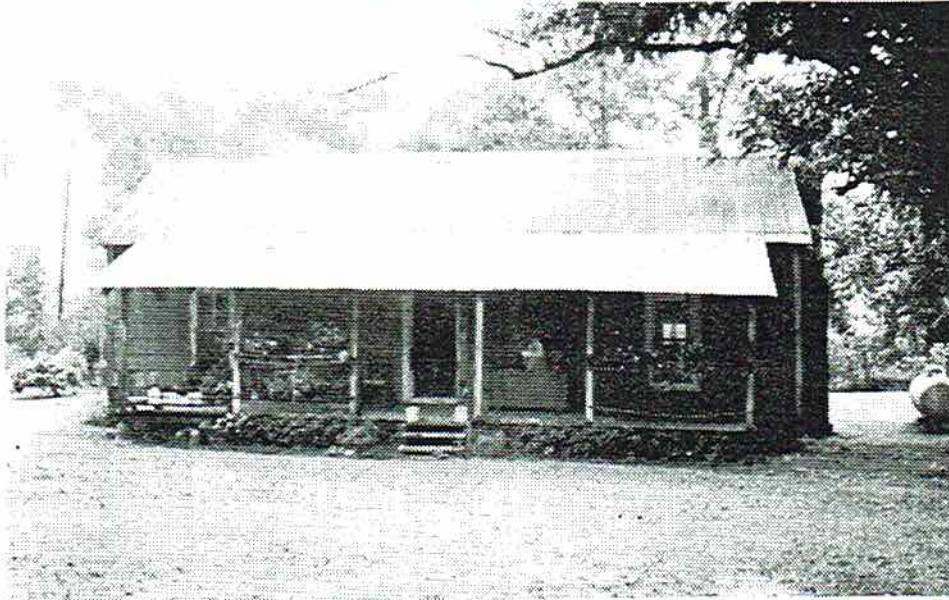
Everyone who was puzzled about this problem was happy to know the house was not haunted.



Among The 1100 Visitors

Attending the Limrock/Aspel Heritage Day were Jina Rousseau Bearden, seven-month-old Chloe Bearden, Barry Rousseau, Hollie Bearden, Jonathan Rousseau Lynne Rousseau and Alta Saint. They were among the over 1100 people who passed through and stopped to visit that day.

## SOME SAD TIMES



*I remember the Harrison home and what happened while we lived there from 1928-1932.*

*The year we moved to the Harrison place was 1928. William Monroe (Will) Gentle and his wife, Nora Hartman Gentle, and their several children had lived there. I was six years old when we moved there in the fall after the Gentle family moved out.*



*Charlie and Dora Jane Rousseau*

*My father, Charlie Chatman Rousseau; my mother, Dora Jane Gentle Rousseau; my older brother, Archie*

Morgan Rousseau; my younger brother, Hurshel Bradford Rousseau; and my oldest sister, Bessie Marjorie Rousseau made up our family.

Will Gentle had a red mare with a white blaze face and white stockings. He sold the mare to my father. The next year when I was seven years old, he started me off plowing this mare to a little one-horse plow. Before we bought her, Will Gentle's oldest son, Milton, plowed her on this same farm.

Not many months after I started farming there, Milton Gentle was killed on the railroad. He died from a blow to the head. They brought his body to the Harrison family cemetery on the farm from where he had moved. I was farming with the same mare he had used to plow all around where he was buried. We made a couple of crops with Old Nell, the mare. In the fall my father let her go free while she was not needed for work on the farm. It was free-stock range in Shiffman's Cove and in the Lim Rock community.

Old Nell strolled out of the cove and went down about four miles to Lim Rock where she felt that the grass was greener. Soon she got on the railroad. Along came a train and killed her on the same track where Milton Gentle was killed.

The railroad company paid my father for Old Nell. It was about twenty-seven dollars.

I still plowed on the same farm a few more years after the death of Milton and his mare. As I sat down on a tomb rock in the cemetery and cooled under a tree for a while, I meditated on the sadness of the incidents and why they had to happen.

The Harrison place was not so good for my family and me. In February of 1929 my mother died there in that house when my sister Eunice was only nine days old. Then in 1932 my father died in the same house from a knife wound to the head.

After Father died, we went to live with our Grandfather and Grandmother Rousseau at the Simeon Houk place.

The last year I farmed, I plowed on this same farm in 1941. I thought about all I had experienced on this same old Harrison place which belonged to Dave Stephens during these trying years.

I decided that was the last farming I ever wanted to do. I left Shiffman's Cove and the Lim Rock community. I went to Huntsville, Alabama and got a job and have made this town my home ever since.



*Benjamin and Lorene Rousseau*

Benjamin in a very poignant message says that as he left the farm for the last time, he walked, with a heavy heart, slowly down the road out of Shiffman's Cove. He was leaving his roots of several generations. He paused near the "Old Indian Cemetery" at the mouth of the cove to reflect. As he sat on a boulder that served as his Crying Rock, he wept. Emotions are usually high when a person leaves home for the last time to seek a new life. He found his happiness and his Lorene in Huntsville. He and Lorene Isbell Rousseau, of Hazel Green, have made their home in Huntsville raising two children and enjoying their two grandchildren.

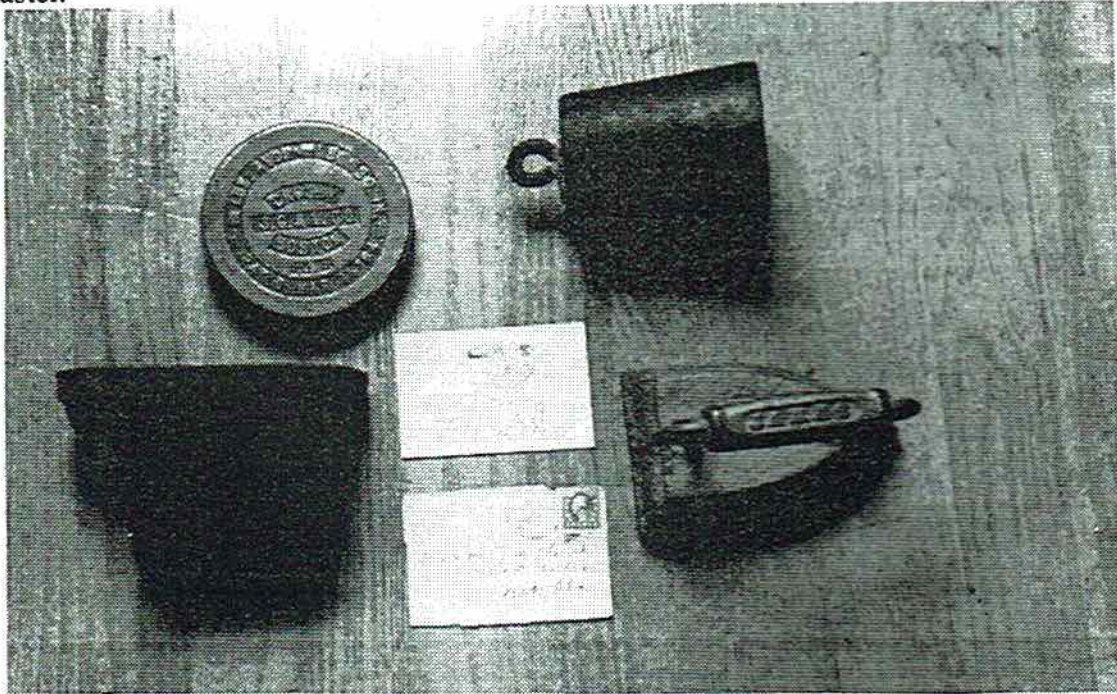


Faye Saint Pritchett held her grandchild's (Evans Pritchett--age 2 months) award for being the youngest person at the Lim Rock-Aspel Heritage Day. Note that Faye is surrounded by hand tools of the Rousseaus from the 1930-1940's.

## THE NAT-LIM ROCK CONNECTIONS

In the 1920's and before, mail was left off at post offices and stations for people to pick up as general delivery. Most post offices were located along railroads and stage lines. Before 1920, post offices began mail delivery into remote areas. The mountains north of Woodville were really remote. Little communities had been established here and there, some distance from the post office. The little community on top of the mountain north of Woodville was a prime example.

Horseback riders from Woodville began to leave the mail off at Nathaniel Wisdom's home. People in the community would go to Nathaniel's place to pick up their mail. Woodville would send the mail to Nathaniel Wisdom's place. Soon the post office accepted as routine the idea of delivering mail to Nat. A post office was established at Nat with Nathaniel Wisdom as the postmaster.



*This picture shows some of the memorabilia collected by Bill and Hazel Houk Holcomb. The items reflect how some things were in the 1920's. Bill's father was a blacksmith. The smoothing iron on the left is homemade. It was made from a tire of a wagon wheel. The tire was bent to the desired shape and the space filled with scrap metal. The handle was "swedged" in place as it was wedged and fused in place. People had to make much of what they needed.*

*The pea, or "P," was a standard weight or balance that was used on scales to weigh things such as cotton. Before the word "scales" came into use it was called "steelyard" or commonly called "stil'yerd." When the scale was in common use, nearly everyone called the balance a pea. Our fathers and grandfathers heard the word as the letter "P" or the word pea and passed it along. Nearly everyone today who ever had any experience with weighing farm products still says the word as they heard it.*

*A check with hardware stores and old catalogues will refer to the item as "poise" pronounced (poiz). A little research in the dictionary will take the word a little further and call it*



"peise" pronounced (pāz, pēz). So there you are--a word that was twisted while the object was in use. When the object slipped into history, the word slowly slipped from the common vocabulary.

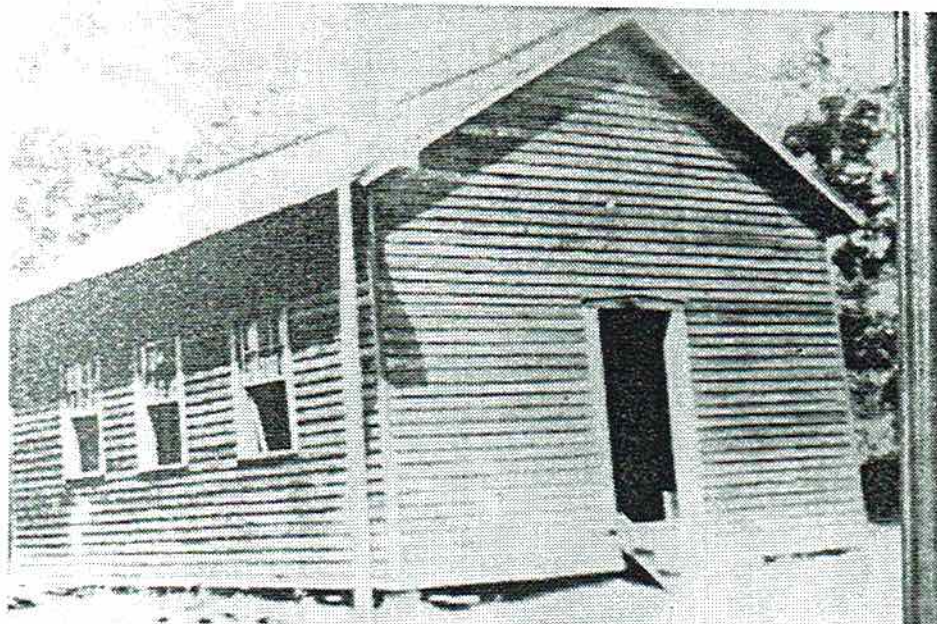
The letter announced the birth of a male relative in Mississippi. It was from the S. D. Lee's to Mr. and Mrs. Houck, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Gillis; Nat, Ala. The letter was postmarked in Mississippi in 1920 to Nat, Alabama, using a one-cent stamp for first-class mail delivery.



Jewel and Modena Smith Houk: Jewel was the son of John Michael Houk and Tennessee Braxton Maynard Lee Houk.

Today many of the residents of Nat are the descendants of the Houk family and other families who settled the mountaintop community. The residents make it perfectly clear, "We live at Nat. You spell it N-A-T."

*Wm Houk et al*  
*To Bees*  
*D. Beebin Beavers*  
*Filed 30 July 1879*  
*Charles Taylor*  
*Gettys*  
*Bees on land in Nat*  
*13.000 20.9 Pay 378*  
*1879*  
*more*  
*more*  
*Dec 1879*



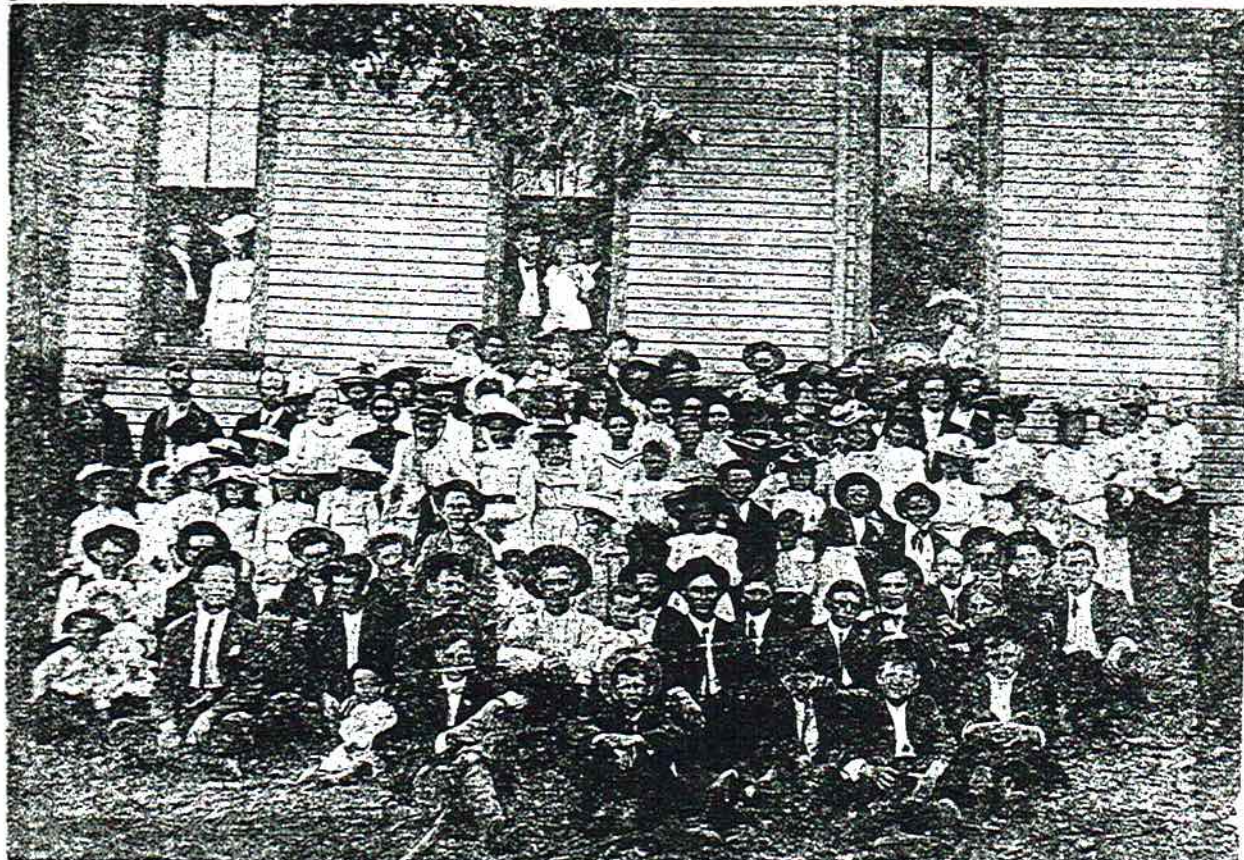
*The Nat School building was burned in the mid 1940's. It was located on County Road 8 and across the road from where Ollie Houk now lives.*



*This scene shows the Nat School and several of the students around 1936. Many of the students came from Shiffman's Cove. The students were: (back row left to right) Elizabeth Rousseau (Frazier), Homer Rousseau, Julina Carver (Rousseau), Nellie Mae Hackworth (teacher), Oma Pockrus, Ruth Peek, Roy Thrower, Freddie Pockrus. Middle row, left to right: Esmand Rousseau, Hazel Houk (Holcomb), J. M. Pockrus (with hat). Front row left to right: Elzie Pockrus (son of Offie), Gene Wales (straw hat), Roy Wales (brother of Gene), Archie Rousseau, and Roy Hasty.*

The one-room school thrived until the late 1930's. Children from Shiffman's Cove climbed the mountain and went to school in the grades-one-through-ten school. Jewel Houk and Harold Ross of the Nat community went to Shiffman's Cove to recruit students in order to keep the Nat School open. Jewel was a school trustee. Most of the recruits were relatives of the recruiters. The Rousseau and the Pockrus families furnished most of the students.

It was just as close for the youth to go to school at Nat as it was to go to Lim Rock. The Lim Rock School burned in the 1930's, thus, offering even more encouragement for the youth of Shiffman's Cove to enroll at Nat. Everyone was used to walking. Mountain walking was no problem to the strong muscles of youth as they climbed the mountain trails to school.



*Students and residents of the community gathered for this picture taken at the Green Academy.*

In addition to the Nat School, the community also had its Green Academy. Some people of the community, then and now, refer to it as The College. It actually was a high school or finishing school to prepare youth for college. The academy was located on the east side of the present County Road 8 on Bill Holcomb's place. It is about one tenth of a mile north of the Holcomb homesite. Only a few scars on the landscape indicate a structure was once there.

The Academy was built around 1890 by the Missionary Association of the Congregation Church, headquartered in New York. It was at first a two-room school with a cottage for teachers. After a year or two it was enlarged and more teachers were added. The tuition was \$1.00 a month to attend. Several local students attended. Mary Elizabeth (Mollie) Berry (Woosley), Annie Mae Woosley's mother, went to school there. It is said that a few students also enrolled from Madison and Marshall Counties. The school did not stay open long before it faded into history. It closed before 1926. Its doors were closed and even the building site has returned to its natural state.

It is said that each person deserves fifteen minutes in the spotlight. The same may be true

for a community. Nat had its fifteen minutes in the limelight, center stage. It had its school. It had, and has, its church. It has its cemetery where the honored dead are buried.



*The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on the left was the second church building of Nat and was replaced by the current building shown on the right.*

Like nearly all communities with fourth-class post offices and one-room schools, changes had to happen. The post office closed. The one-room school closed and students were bused to Woodville. Later in about 1946 the school building burned.

Many of the landowners of Shiffman's Cove had moved from the mountain around Nat. Levi and Mary Ann Harrison had left the mountains for their farm around the cave in Shiffman's Cove. Two of the Harrison daughters married into the Pockrus and the Gentle families. Ida Harrison married Willie Pockrus. These three families owned much of the farm land. Their descendants still own much of the land in Shiffman's Cove.

Esther Harrison married Jeremiah Gentle. Esther's daughter, Ossie Smith, tells the story of her mother's working in her childhood community of Nat. She often tried to help her old community by substitute teaching at Nat School. In the 1930's parents had to unite and give their time to keep the schools open. She often rode a mule from her Shiffman's Cove home to Stephens' Gap and up the mountain by way of the Ox Road and Stephens' Gap Road to Nat. The road came out at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church near Nat School.

William (Bill) H. and Hazel Houk Holcomb today live at Nat. Hazel is the daughter of Jewel and Modena Smith Houk. She has fond memories of her father's community efforts to try to keep the community alive. Hazel went to school at Nat through the tenth grade before being bused

to Woodville for the other two years. She remembers that the school did not have its own water source. Students carried the water for half a mile from springs. Water was kept in a bucket. Each student had their own cup or made one from a sheet of paper. Water was dipped from the bucket and poured into each student's cup.

Carrying water was the usual means of obtaining household water. Some homes were built near springs. A few others dug wells. Most households carried water from springs or borrowed from friendly neighbors who shared their wells and springs. Wash benches were permanently set up at the waterfalls or near springs. On wash days women would carry their laundry down the mountains to the springs. They spent the day doing the wash.



*In March 1993 Hazel Holcomb demonstrated one of the earliest telephones in the community. Hazel's father's family helped settle Nat.*

Julia Johnson Gray remembers that when she lived at home with her parents Marion and Cassie Johnson east of Stephens' Gap their home was used as a switchboard. In the 1930's if a call came from Woodville or Scottsboro to Shiffman's Cove or Lim Rock, it came by way of her home. The telephone would ring and someone would have to pull a switch on the wall to connect the other line in order to transfer the call to its destination.

Bill and Hazel's home is rich with other evidence showing early living at Nat and Lim Rock.

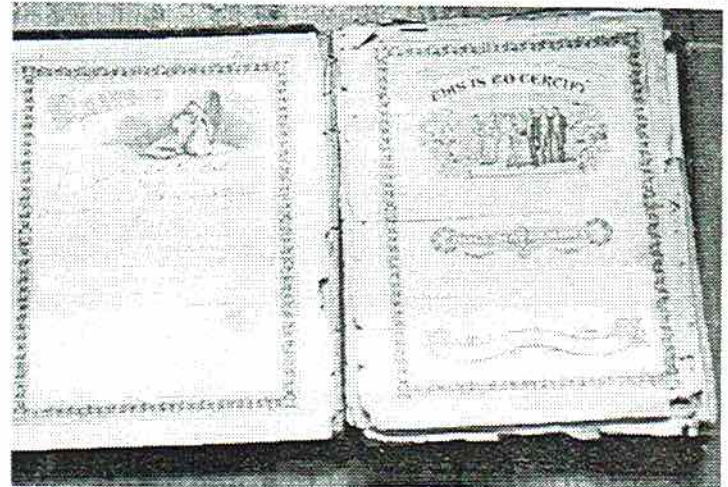
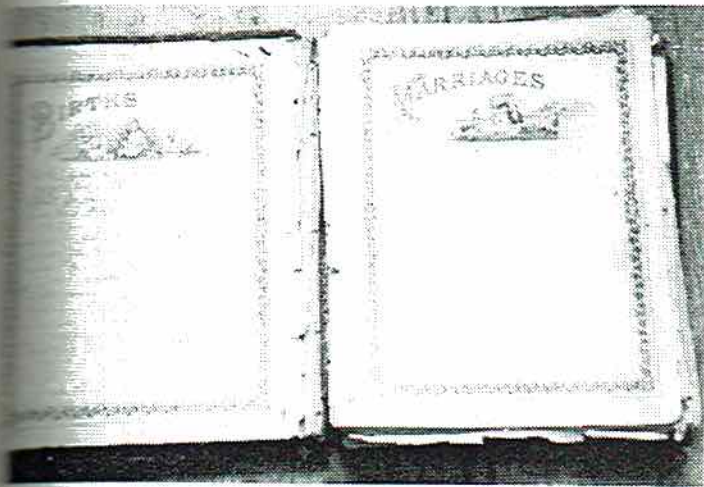


John Michael Houk (1855-1939)



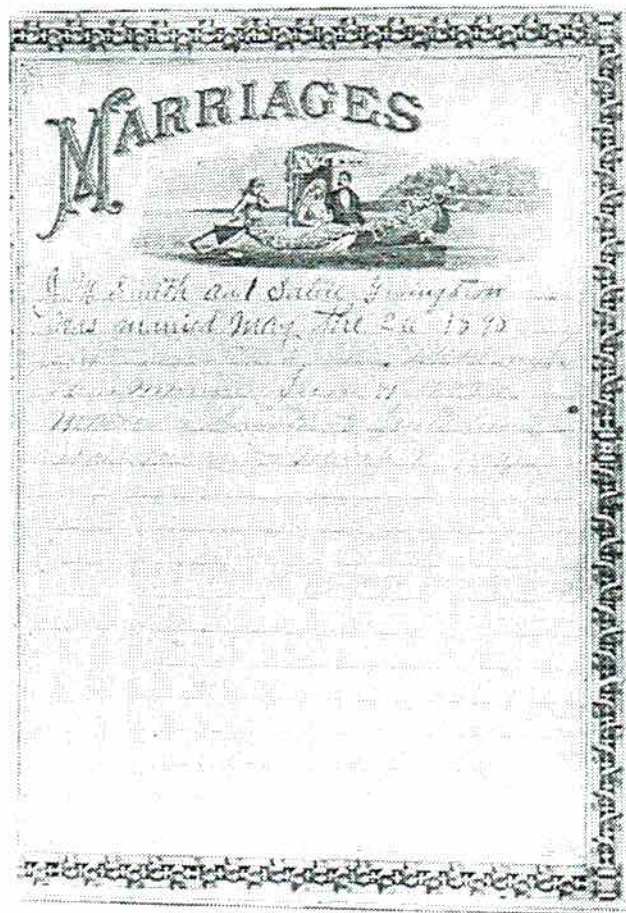
Tennessee Braxton Houk  
Aunt Tennie

*Hazel Holcomb's grandparents are shown. Tennessee Braxton Maynard Lee Houk, was given her name by her father who was from Tennessee and was favorably impressed with General Braxton Bragg of Civil War fame. Thus, her two given names became Tennessee Braxton. Many of her relatives, even today, call her Aunt Tennie. Assigning names to children in such a manner was a common practice for the time.*



*The family Bible was an important document for families in earlier times. Families recorded their histories in their Bibles. Births, marriages, deaths and other important events were recorded in the family Bible.*

## BILL AND HAZEL HOUK HOLCOMB'S FAMILY BIBLE



The family Bible was often used as references for given events including legal matters.

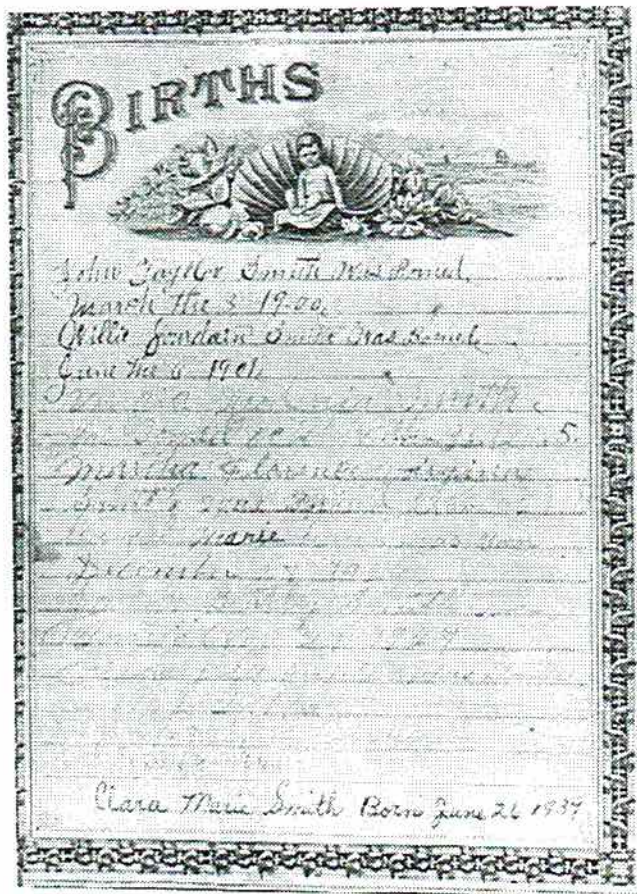
Shown above:

### MARRIAGES

J. M. Smith and Sallie Livingston  
was married May the 26 1898

Jurde Smith & Sallie McClough  
was married June 7 1926

Modena Smith & Juell Houk  
was married March 1 1926



Shown above:

**BIRTHS**

John Tayllor Smith was Borne  
 March the 3 19-00  
 Willie Jourdain Smith was Borne  
 June the 6 1901  
 Virgia Modenia Smith  
 was Borne october the 31 1905  
 Martha Florence Virginia  
 Smith was Borne Nov 22 1915  
 hazal marie houk was Born  
 December 27 1926  
 James Bentley Smith was  
 Borne Nov 27 1927  
 Charly lee Smith was Borne  
 July 2 1930  
 James M. Smith was Bornd  
 July 9 1864  
 Clara Marie Smith Born June 26 1939

Another sheet:

**BIRTHS**

John f livingston was Borne  
 feb the 14 1858  
 Salley Livingston  
 was Bornd october  
 The 15 1881  
 Joe Livingston Borne  
 march the 20  
 1880





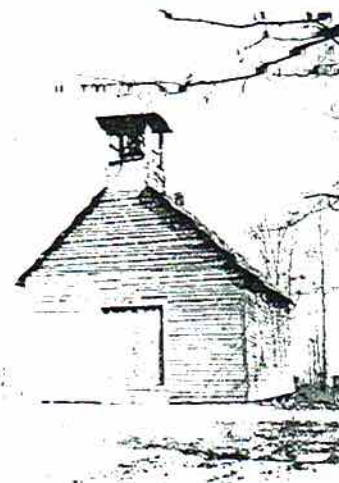
**DEATHS**

John Tayllor Smith Died  
 April the 15 1900

Martha Flornce Virginia Died October  
 the 6, 1920 John flavious Livingston  
 dide July the 20 1936

was Bornd feb the 17 1858

Ellen Livingston was Borned July the 20  
 1860



Lim Rock parents seemed to prefer the Bible to choose the names for their children. These names from the Bible were frequently used: Will Dave for William David, Jeremiah or Jeremiah Milton or Jimmar, Ephraim or Eph, Rubin or Ruben, Esther, John, Elizabeth, Matthew or Mathy, Jesse or Jess, Ruth, Simeon, Levi, Mary, Andrew, James, Nathan, Jacob or Jake, Benjamin or Ben, Lydia.

In those days there were no TV, radio, or books in the home to help standardize language; therefore, it often got garbled. A child might be born and no thought would have been given for a name--especially how to spell it. One would be chosen after the fact. A mother might say, "I like the name of the city down on the plains, called Orbin or Arbin." The name might be given to a child and it would be recorded in the family Bible. No one would look up that the name was really Auburn.

A man might not be able to spell his wife's name. She might be called, or spelled, Eliza or Louisa or Louise. Tubbs might be spelled Tubs at times.

Later in life someone who had an unusual moniker attached to their life might learn to mumble a lot. Someone might ask of someone else their name and they would reply,

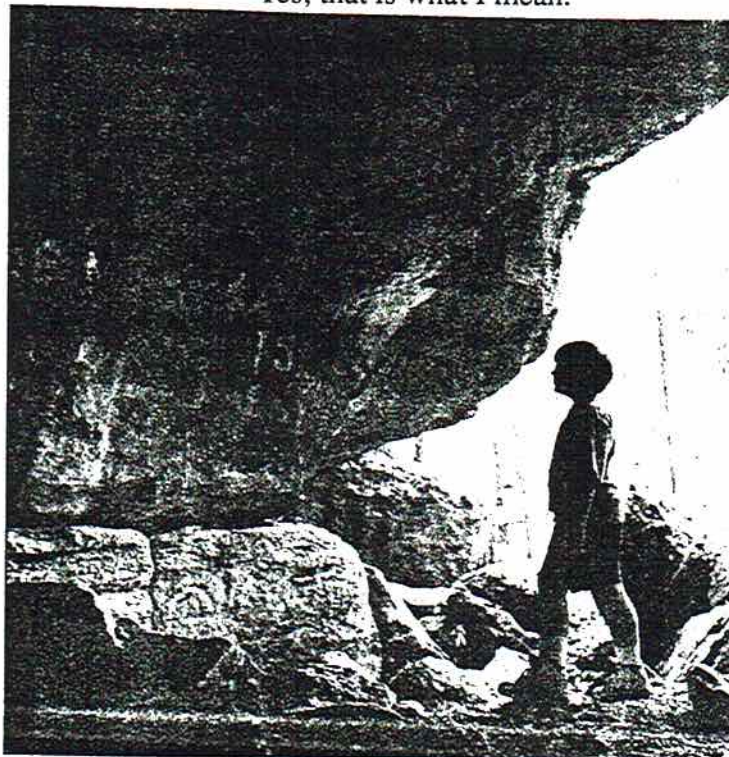
"Mum-mum-um."

Then, "How do you spell it?"

"M-a-t-h-y, I guess."

"I see, you mean Matthew."

"Yes, that is what I mean."



This place near Isbell Spring used to be a gathering spot for the community in Lim Rock.



*Ollie and Delphia Little Houk and their daughter Christine Houk Dean are shown at the Houk home at Nat in March 1993. Ollie held a picture of his father, Mack Houk, and his uncle Simeon Houk. Delphia held a picture of her parents, Clarence and Inez Hill Little.*

88-year-old Ollie is the son of James Mack David and Ada Fowler Houk. Hazel Holcomb and Ollie descended from Simeon Perry and Tobitha Murray Houk. The Ollie Houks came from Paint Rock Valley to Nat several years ago and live on County Road 8. Christine also makes her home at Nat.

In his earlier years, Ollie was a banjo and fiddle player. He often entertained the community with his country playing. In the 1920's and the 1930's much of the community's entertainment was by local people who could play country music.

Christine and her husband Derward Dean take much interest in their family history and in preserving things of local historic interest. They have preserved pictures of the school and other interests by hanging them in their church, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

## THE "COFFINNAIRS"

There was considerable communication and social interaction between the people of Nat and Lim Rock, especially with Shiffman's Cove. Many of the residents were related to each other.

It was fairly easy to come from Nat to the valley. It was very difficult to go from Shiffman's Cove to Nat unless travelers walked. The Stephens' Gap Road or the Ox Trail, or Ox Road as the road was called, was almost impossible to go up the mountain with ox or mules pulling a wagon. It was much easier to go to Nat by going several miles through Stephens' Gap west to Woodville, and then go north up the trail that is now County Road 8.

The people of Nat, when they needed to go to shop at Scottsboro or Lim Rock, would come down the Ox Road to Stephens' Gap and proceed to town. Often they came down the mountains near Will Dave Rousseau's place in Shiffman's Cove. They could then go north around the foothills of the mountain to Johnny Kay Hollow and then turn south on what is now County Road 80. The trip down the mountain would take less than an hour while the trip down the western side of the mountain would take much longer.

Richard Jones of Nat recalls his childhood days in Nat. He says oxen or steers were used by several families of the mountain. They were the poor man's beast of burden, costing considerably less than a pair of mules or horses. Also they were adapted for work in mountains. The ox was the major work force as the land was cleared for the Skyline Farms of the 1930's.

Other people of Lim Rock remember that last working ox team was seen in the area in about 1940. The team was observed snaking logs from the mountains around Blowing Cave in Gentle's Cove.

The people of Nat used "the Coffinnairs" or "the Coffinnars" to bring their wagons down the mountains to Shiffman's Cove. The walkers from the cove used the same passage to go to school at Nat or to visit friends and relatives. The passage exited into the cove near the Houk-Rousseau farms.

An attentive listener can hear many people of the Nat community, and all across the valley of Lim Rock, calling the passage from Nat to Shiffman's Cove as the "Coffinnairs" or "Coffinnars." The listener should listen even more carefully as some people put a slight twist on the word.

The word might sound the same as "bows 'n ar's" (the things Indians used as they hunted for game). Carpenters would "nar" a board down to make it fit into a specific place. A woman would do the same for a piece of cloth to make it fit a table. The same twist of the language was used as travelers searched for and used the mountain "nars." In the case of the "Coffinnairs" the mountains look as though a giant hand had pressed down and narrowed the mountains into a navigable passage.

The mountain passage came out at Nat near where there was a settlement of people named Coffey. Travelers to and from Shiffman's Cove used the mountain narrows. The two words ran together and became the "Coffinnairs." It is interesting to hear some people correct themselves as they go from "Coffinnairs" to "Coffinnars" to the Coffey Narrows of Nat and Shiffman's Cove.

## HOUK-ROUSSEAU FAMILIES

### HUSBAND: SIMEON PERRY HOUK

BORN: 15 May 1818-----PLACE: Boyd Creek, Sevier, Tennessee  
MARR: -----1838 (?)--PLACE: Jackson, Alabama  
DIED: 4 Jan. 1879-----PLACE: Peters Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FATHER: MICHAEL PRESTON HOUK I  
MOTHER: LYDIA "LIDDY" LAYMAN

### WIFE: TOBITHA MURRAY

BORN: 24 Dec. 1818-----PLACE:  
DIED: 12 Jul. 1912-----PLACE: Peters Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FATHER: (UNKNOWN) MURRAY  
MOTHER:

### CHILDREN

#### 1. GEORGE WASHINGTON HOUK

M BORN: 5 AUG. 1839---PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED:----1856 DIED: 18 Nov. 1912  
TO: VERNA NELSON

#### 2. LYDIA ANN HOUK

F BORN: 1842 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1862 DIED: (?)  
TO: REUBEN C. ROUSSEAU

#### 3. JAMES MARION HOUK

M BORN: 13 Aug. 1843 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 12 Aug. 1865 DIED: (?)  
TO: SARAH ELIZABETH TAYLOR

#### 4. WILLIAM MIDAS HOUK

M BORN: 12 Jul. 1845 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 22 Nov. 1866 DIED: (?)  
TO: HENRIETTA BOWERS

#### 5. BRADFORD PERRY HOUK

M BORN: 22 Sept. 1848 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: \_\_\_\_\_ DIED: 1864 (?)  
TO: <NEVER MARRIED>

#### 6. MARTHA CALDONIA HOUK

F BORN: 16 Oct. 1849 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 23 Aug. 1866 DIED: (?)  
TO: JAMES M. "BUD" RUCKS

#### 7. SARA ELIZABETH HOUK

F BORN: 24 Apr. 1851 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1870 (?) DIED: (?)  
TO: WILLIAM "BILL" JEFF SMITH

#### 8. MARGARET MELVINA HOUK

F BORN: 13 Jul. 1854 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 16 Nov. 1871 DIED: (?)  
TO: JAMES W. MANNING

#### 9. JOHN MICHAEL "MIKE" HOUK

M BORN: 28 Jun. 1855 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 9 Sep. 1875 DIED: 2 Aug. 1939  
TO: MARY ELIZA MANNING

#### 10. MILDRED MELISSA HOUK

F BORN: 18 Jul. 1857 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1873 (?) DIED: 8 Oct. 1942  
TO: WILLIAM McDONALD "DOCK" STEWART

*[Editor's Note: Kenneth W. Houk's research on the Houk-Rousseau families shows that Simeon Houk's parents, Michael Preston Houk and Lydia Ann Laymans (Lemons), came from Sevier County, Tennessee. The last 3 of their children were born at Lim Rock: Minerva Malvina Houk 1827, Michael Preston Houk III 1832, and Elmira Margaret Houk 1838. Apparently Minerva was the first Houk child born at Lim Rock. Could it be that she was the first non-Native American child born at Lim Rock, in Shiffman's Cove? Other children of Michael and Lydia Ann were Annie, Elizabeth, and Salathiel.]*

**HUSBAND: REUBEN CHATMAN ROUSSEAU** \_\_\_\_\_

BORN: 7 Dec. 1842 PLACE: Jackson County, Alabama  
MARR: 1862(?) PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
DIED: 22 Sep. 1904 (?) PLACE: Peters Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
FATHER: JOHN ROUSSEAU  
MOTHER: MARTHA

**WIFE: LYDIA ANN HOUK** \_\_\_\_\_

BORN: 1842 PLACE: Shiffman Cove, Jackson, Alabama  
DIED: (?) PLACE: Jackson, Alabama  
FATHER: SIMEON PERRY HOUK  
MOTHER: TOBITHA MURRAY

**CHILDREN:**

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 1864 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1885 (?) DIED: 1949  
TO: MARTHA ANN WILBURN

2. JOHN SIMEON ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 4 Oct. 1867 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1877 (?) DIED: 24 May 1941  
TO: LUCY ANN BATES

3. WILLIAM DAVID "WILL DAVE" ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 12 Sep. 1870 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1890 (?) DIED: 2 Aug. 1948  
TO: ELLEN C. TIPTON

4. FRANCIS MARION ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 22 Aug. 1872 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1896 (?) DIED: 8 Jun. 1933  
TO: RUTH TIPTON

5. DORA MAYS ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 1 May 1876 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1890 (?) DIED: 25 Mar. 1927  
TO: WILLIAM LEWIS FLIPPO

6. MARY JANE ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 16 Apr. 1879 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama  
FIRST MARRIED: 1900 (?) DIED: 31 Jul. 1947  
TO: JOHN LAFAYETTE WHITE

**HUSBAND: WILLIAM DAVID "WILL DAVE" ROUSSEAU** \_\_\_\_\_

BORN: 12 Sep. 1870 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

MARR: 1890 (?) PLACE: Jackson, Alabama

DIED: 2 Aug. 1948 PLACE: Peters Cove, Jackson, Alabama

FATHER: REUBEN C. ROUSSEAU

MOTHER: LYDIA ANN HOUK

**WIFE: ELLEN C. TIPTON** \_\_\_\_\_

BORN: 14 Jul. 1875 PLACE: Jackson, Alabama

DIED: 10 Nov. 1947 PLACE: Peters Cove, Jackson, Alabama

FATHER:

MOTHER:

**CHILDREN:**

1. DORA KATHERINE ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 17 Nov. 1892 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1915 (?) DIED: 17 Feb. 1961

TO: CLUDIE THOMAS POCKRUS

2. CHARLIE CHATMAN ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 13 Apr. 1894 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1919 (?) DIED: 28 Nov. 1932

TO: DORA JANE GENTLE

3. MAGGIE ANN ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 20 Jan. 1896 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1914 (?) DIED: 22 Sep. 1966

TO: JAMES EDDIE HARTMAN

4. LOUINDA N. ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 1897 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama Died: 1958

FIRST MARRIED: 1911 (?) Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

TO: WALTER VAN GENTLE

5. JOHN WILLIAM ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 26 Apr. 1902 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1923 DIED: 24 Nov. 1981

TO: JULINA CARVER

6. ANDREW CALVIN ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 26 May 1910 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1932 (?) DIED: 24 Jun. 1968

TO: ELNORA BENSON

1911--Front left: Will Dave Rousseau,  
John Rousseau, Ellen Tipton Rousseau,  
Calvin Rousseau (being held), Dora  
Rousseau. Back left: Charlie Rousseau,  
Maggie Rousseau, Louinda Rousseau



**HUSBAND: CHARLIE CHATMAN ROUSSEAU** \_\_\_\_\_

BORN: 13 Apr. 1894 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

MARR: 1919 (?) PLACE:

DIED: 28 Nov. 1932 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FATHER: WILLIAM DAVID "WILL DAVE" ROUSSEAU

MOTHER: ELLEN C. TIPTON

**HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES:**

GERTRUDE WALLINGSFORD \_\_\_\_\_

**WIFE: DORA JANE GENTLE** \_\_\_\_\_

BORN: 21 Apr. 1900 PLACE: Jackson County, Alabama

DIED: Feb. 1929

FATHER: JEREMIAH M. GENTLE

MOTHER: GEORGIA ANN JOHNSON

**CHILDREN:**

1. ARCHIE MORGAN ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 6 May 1920 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 3 Jul. 1948 DIED:

TO: FLORA MAE TALLY

2. BENJAMIN HAROLD ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 6 May 1922 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1942 (?) DIED:

TO: EDITH LORENE ISBELL

3. HERSHEL BRADFORD ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

M BORN: 28 Jan. 1924 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1947 DIED:

TO: WILLIE BERNICE STEPHENS

4. BESSIE MARJORIE ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 29 Apr. 1927 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 7 Feb. 1948 DIED:

TO: CLAYTON [NMI] WHITAKER

5. DORA EUNICE ROUSSEAU \_\_\_\_\_

F BORN: 4 Feb. 1929 PLACE: Limrock, Jackson, Alabama

FIRST MARRIED: 1950 (?) DIED:

TO: CLAUDE HARLON BRADFORD

*[Editor's Note: Much of the genealogical information on the Houk- Rousseau families was furnished by Benjamin Rousseau. He had secured some of his information from his cousin and family historian, Kenneth W. Houk.]*



# THE HOUK FAMILY

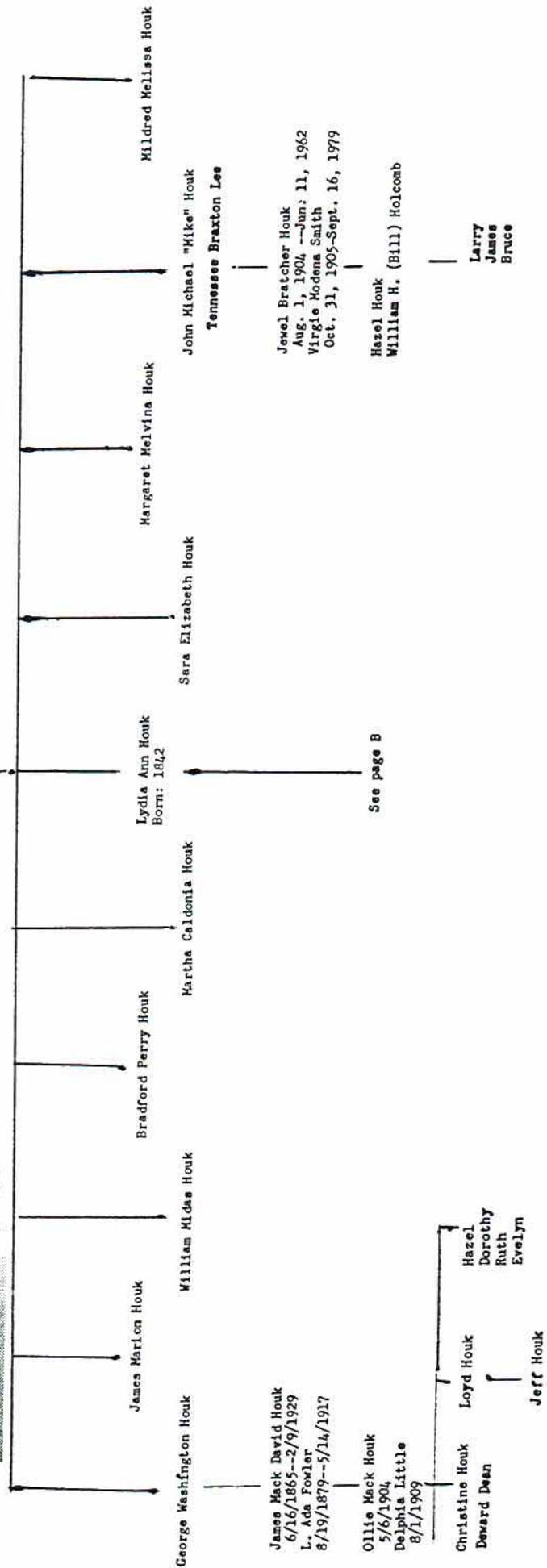
John Adam Houk  
--- Gibson  
Sevier Co., Tenn.  
Michael Preston Houk  
12/3/1794 1860  
Lydia Ann Lemons (Laymons)  
1796-- 1860/70 (?)

## Others

Simeon Perry Houk  
Born: 5-15-1818  
Died: 1-4-1879  
Married: Tobitha Murray  
Born: 12-24-1818  
Died: 7-12-1912

Minerva Malvina Houk 1827 All three  
Michael Preston Houk III 1832 born in  
Elmira Margaret Houk 1838 Shiffman's Cove

June Rousseau Pockrus, the  
fiddler, is a descendant of  
Lydia Ann Houk.  
Aubrey Dalaney  
(banjo)

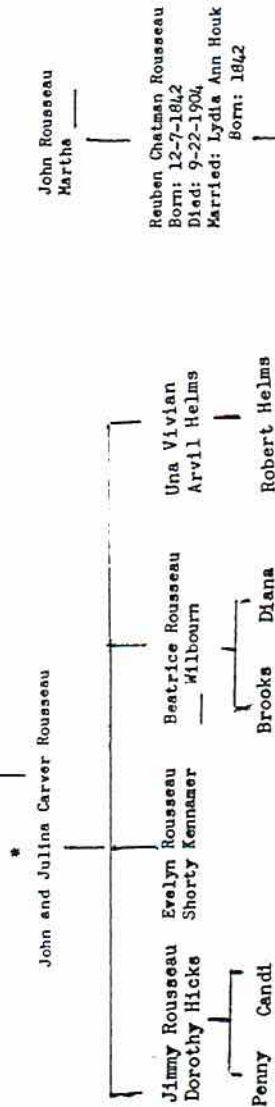


See page B

THE ROUSSEAU FAMILIES

Ruth and Ellen Tipton were sisters.

Frank Carver  
Maudie Stewart



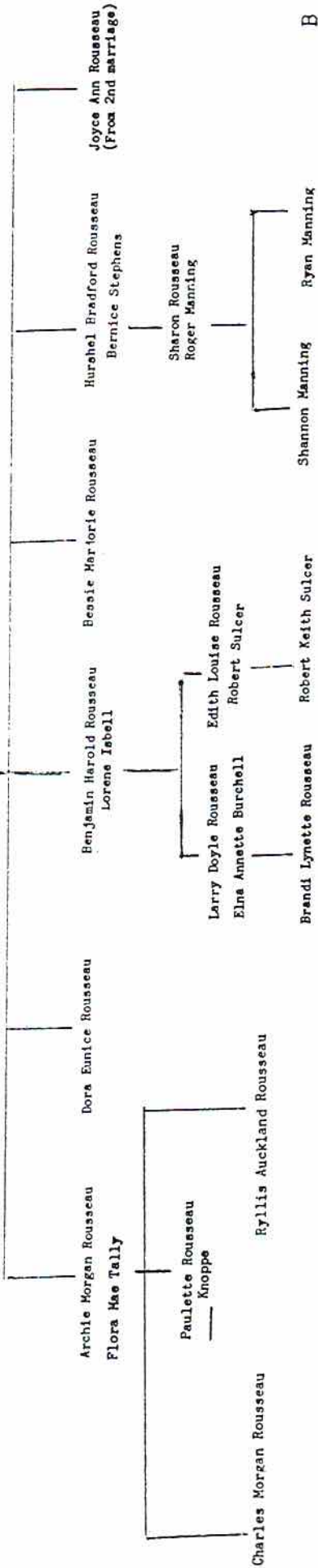
George Washington Rousseau    John Simon Rousseau    Mary Jane Rousseau    William David "Will Dave" Rousseau    Dora Mays Rousseau    Frank

Ellen C. Tipton

See page E

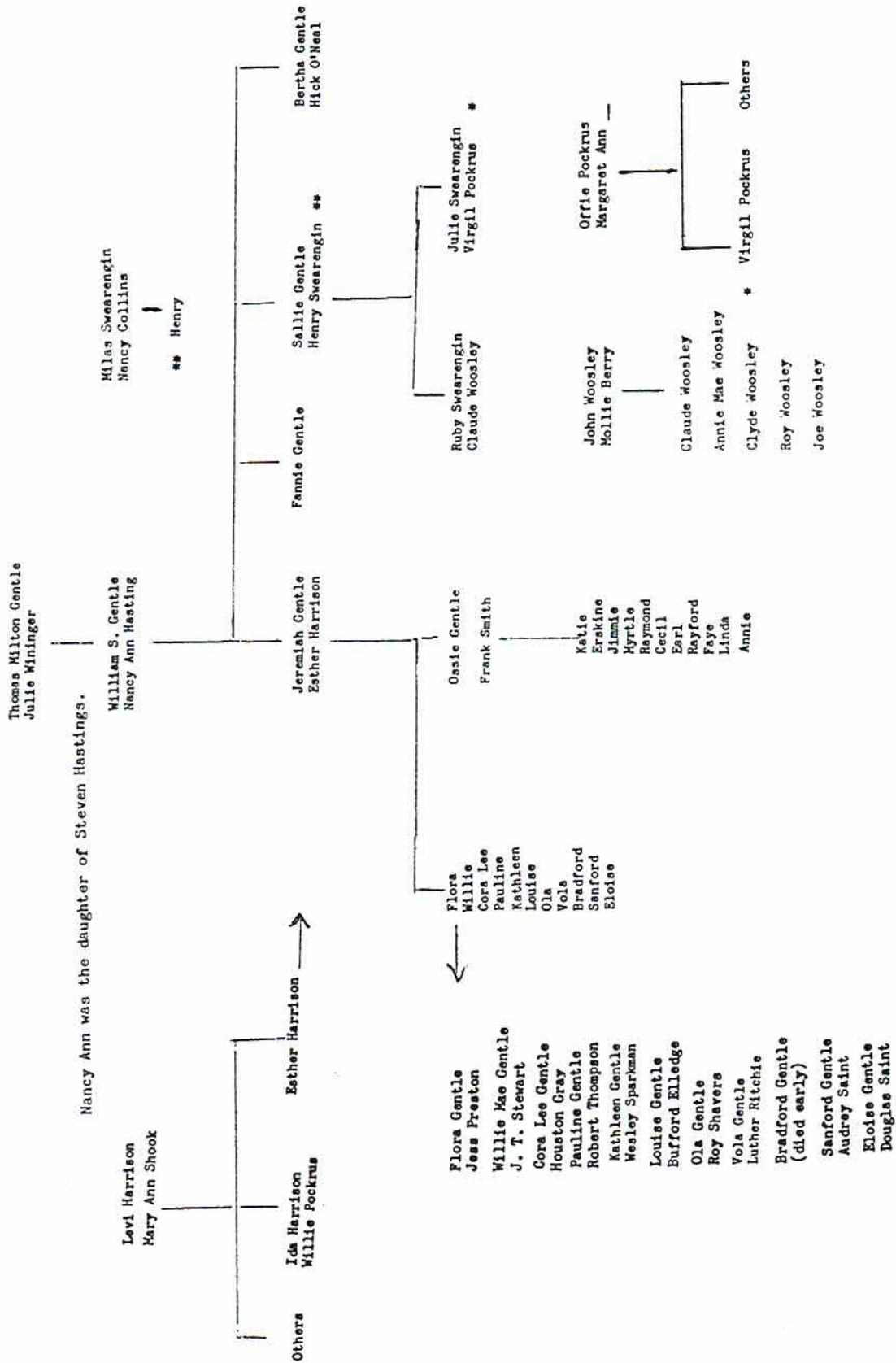
Dora Katherine Rousseau    Maggie Ann Rousseau    John William Rousseau    Charlie Chatman Rousseau    Andrew Calvin Rousseau    Louinda N. Rousseau

See page C

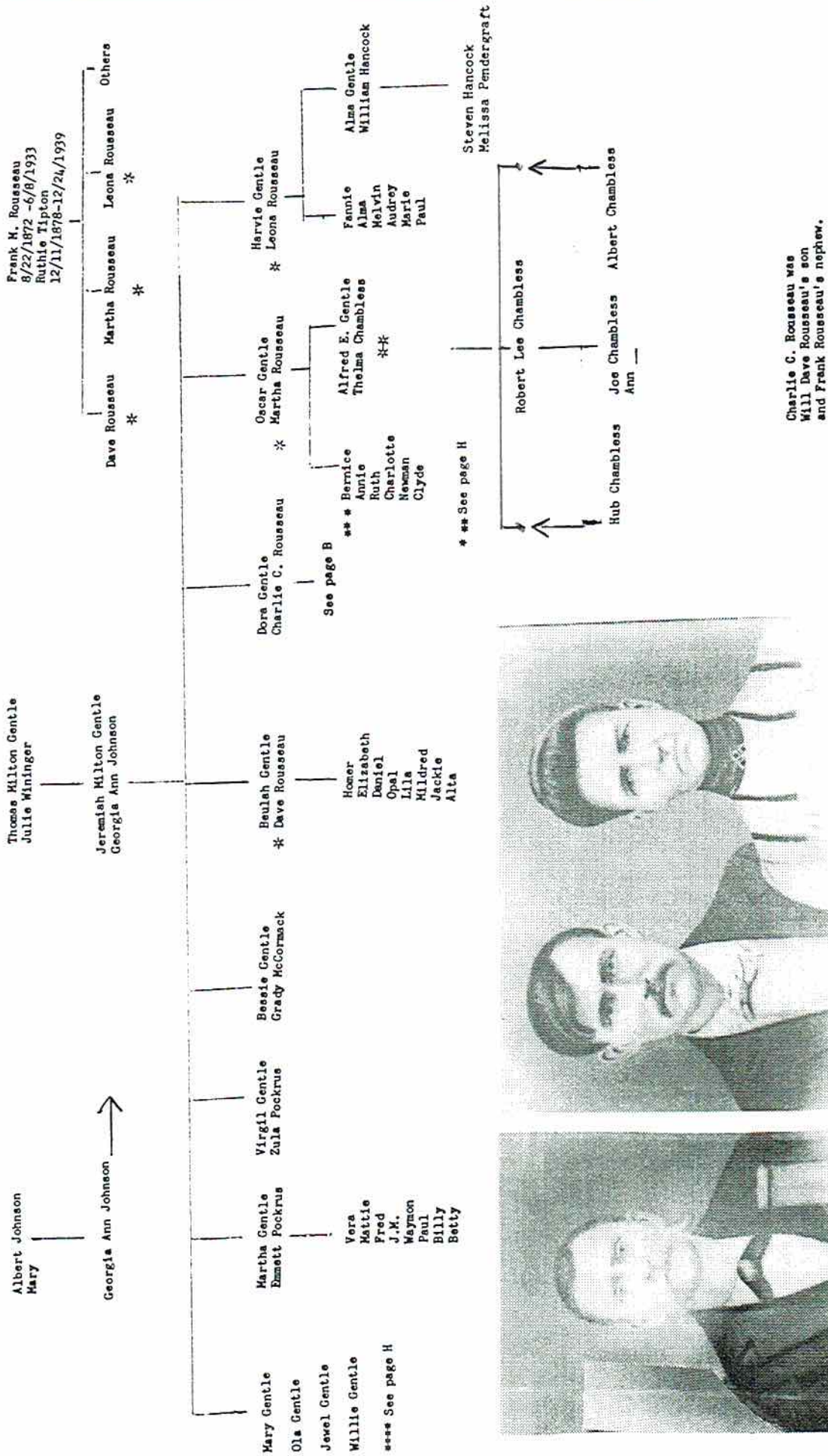




THE GENTLE-WININGER MIX



THE ROUSSEAU-GENTLE FAMILIES MIX



Charlie C. Rousseau was Will Dave Rousseau's son and Frank Rousseau's nephew.

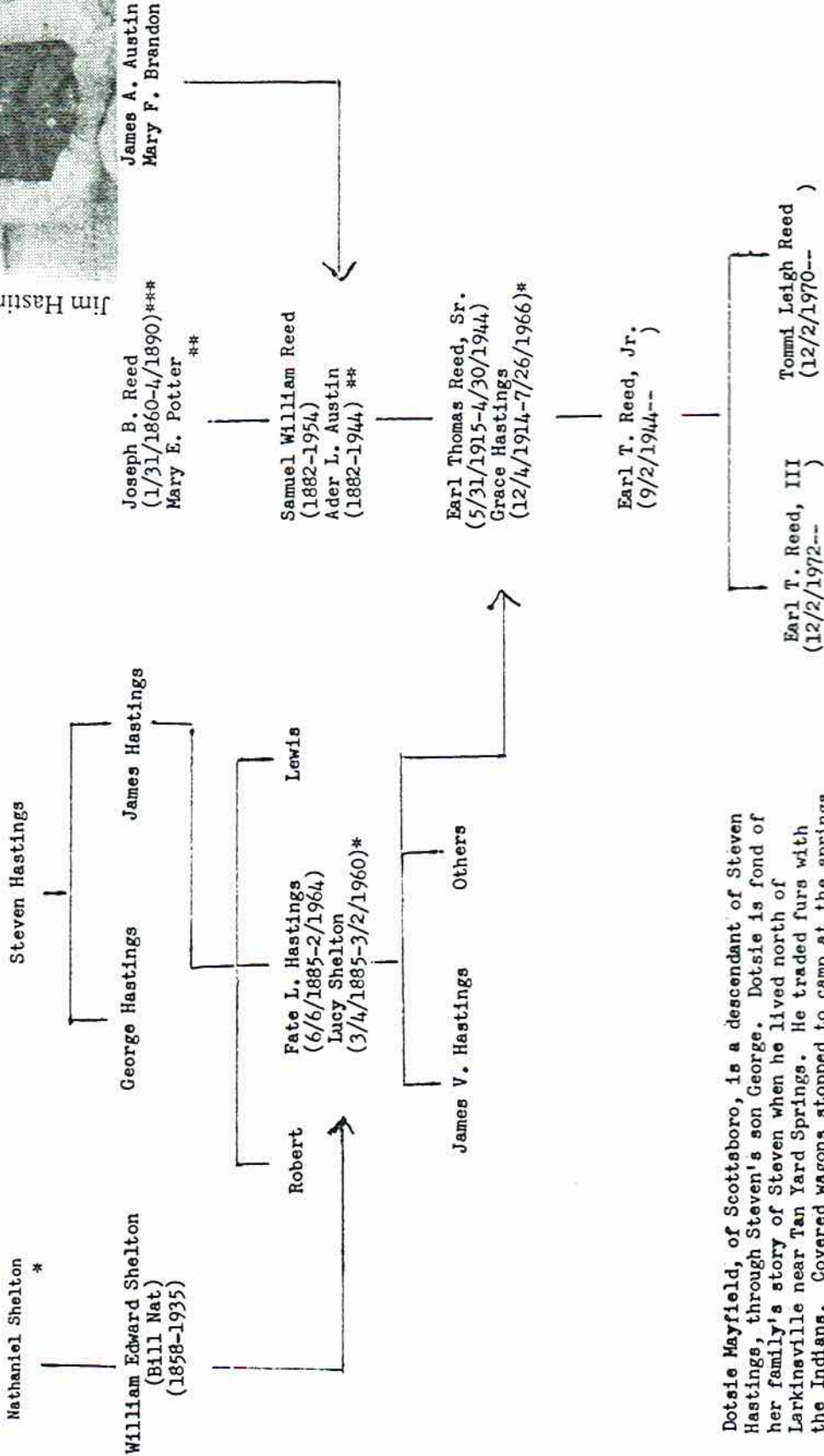
\*\* Thelma is the daughter of Hub and Gertrude Chambless



Thomas Milton Gentle

Jeremiah Milton Gentle  
Georgia Ann Johnson Gentle

REED--SHELTON--HASTINGS CONNECTIONS



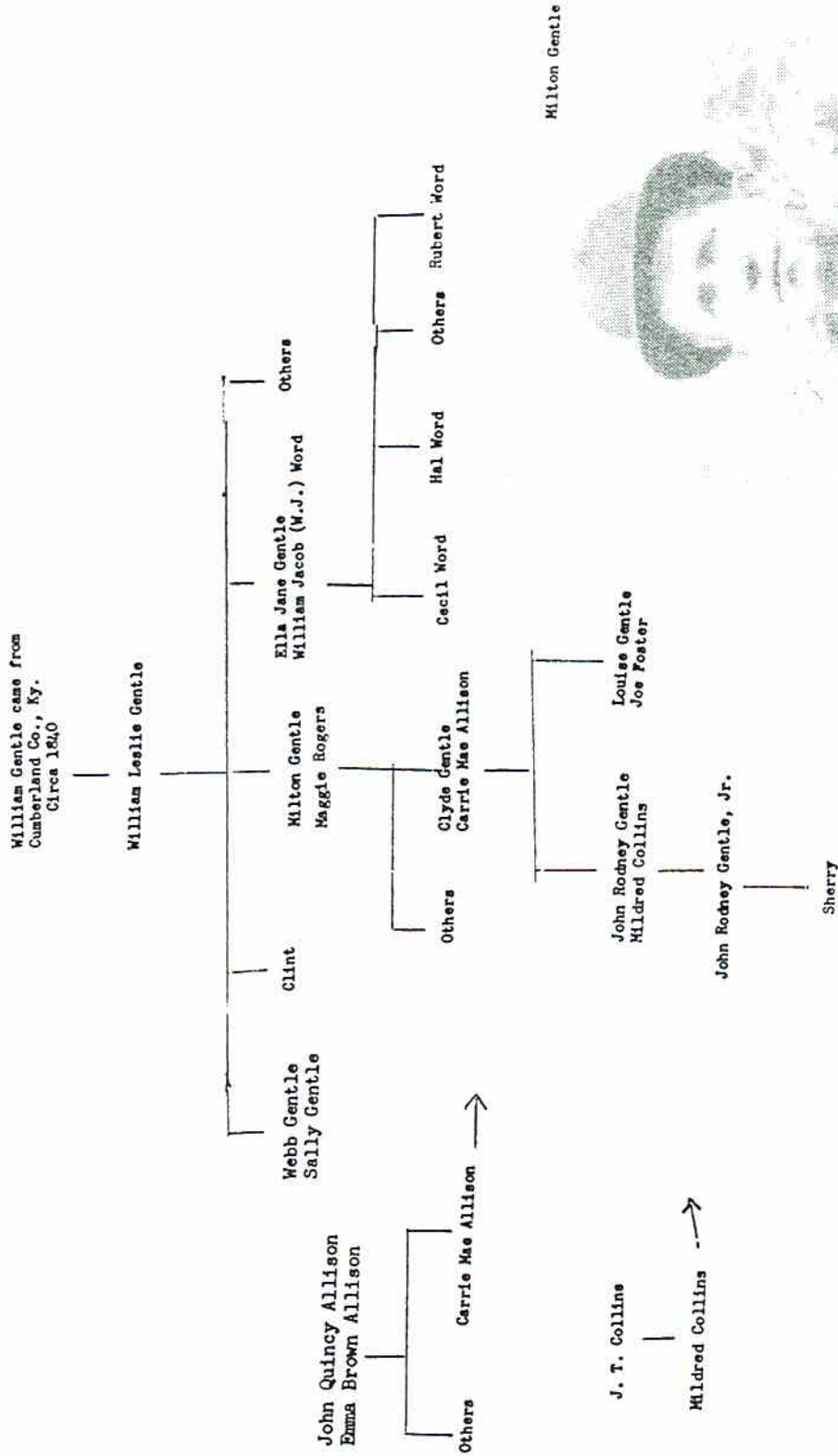
Jim Hastings (Fate's father)

Dotsie Mayfield, of Scottsboro, is a descendant of Steven Hastings, through Steven's son George. Dotsie is fond of her family's story of Steven when he lived north of Larkinsville near Tan Yard Springs. He traded furs with the Indians. Covered wagons stopped to camp at the springs near his tannery. He was also a blacksmith. He served as a Methodist minister.

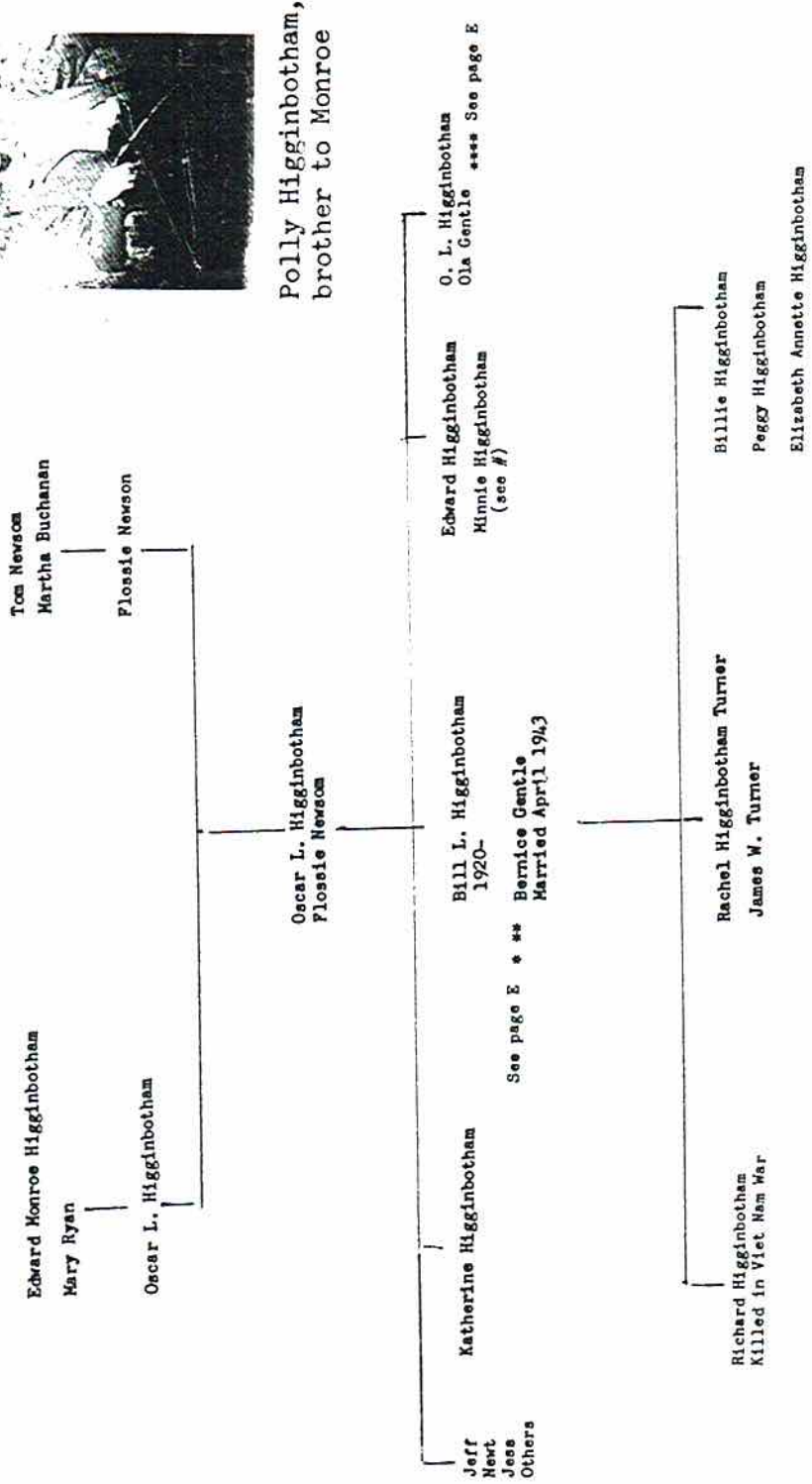
Legend has it that he went blind. Even with his handicap he would board his buggy to go to Larkinsville for supplies. His team was trained to take him to town and return safely to his home on Cumberland Mountains.

\*Buried in Hall Cemetery at Larkinsville  
 \*\*Buried in Shelton Cemetery at Scottsboro  
 \*\*\*Buried in Burgess Cemetery near Scottsboro

THE GENTLE-WORD CONNECTIONS



HIGGINBOTHAM-GENTLE FAMILIES



Polly Higginbotham,  
brother to Monroe

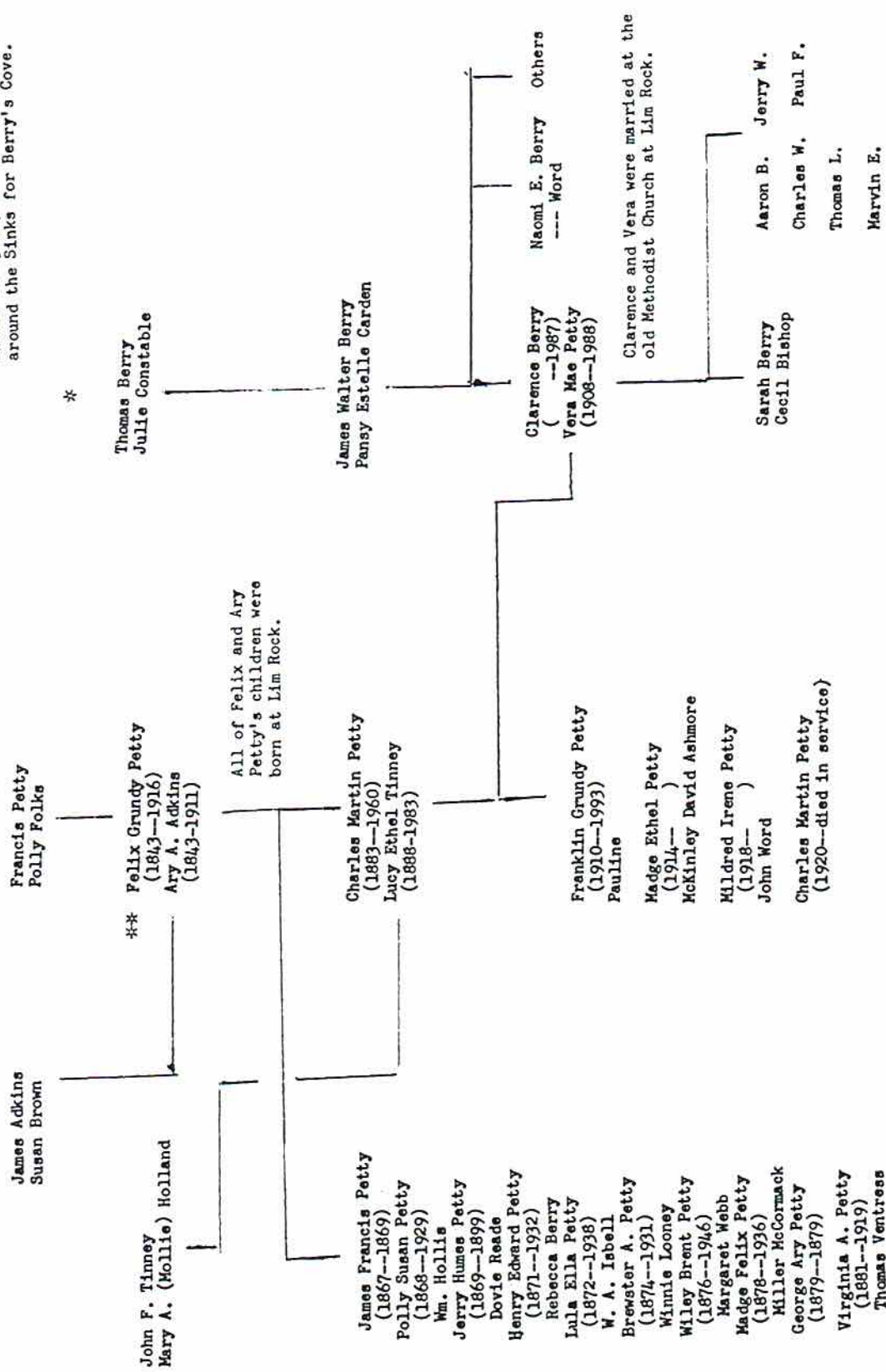




BERRY--PETTY FAMILIES

\*\* Felix Grundy Petty was a Corporal in the Confederate Army.  
He was born in Giles County, Tennessee on Feb. 28, 1843.

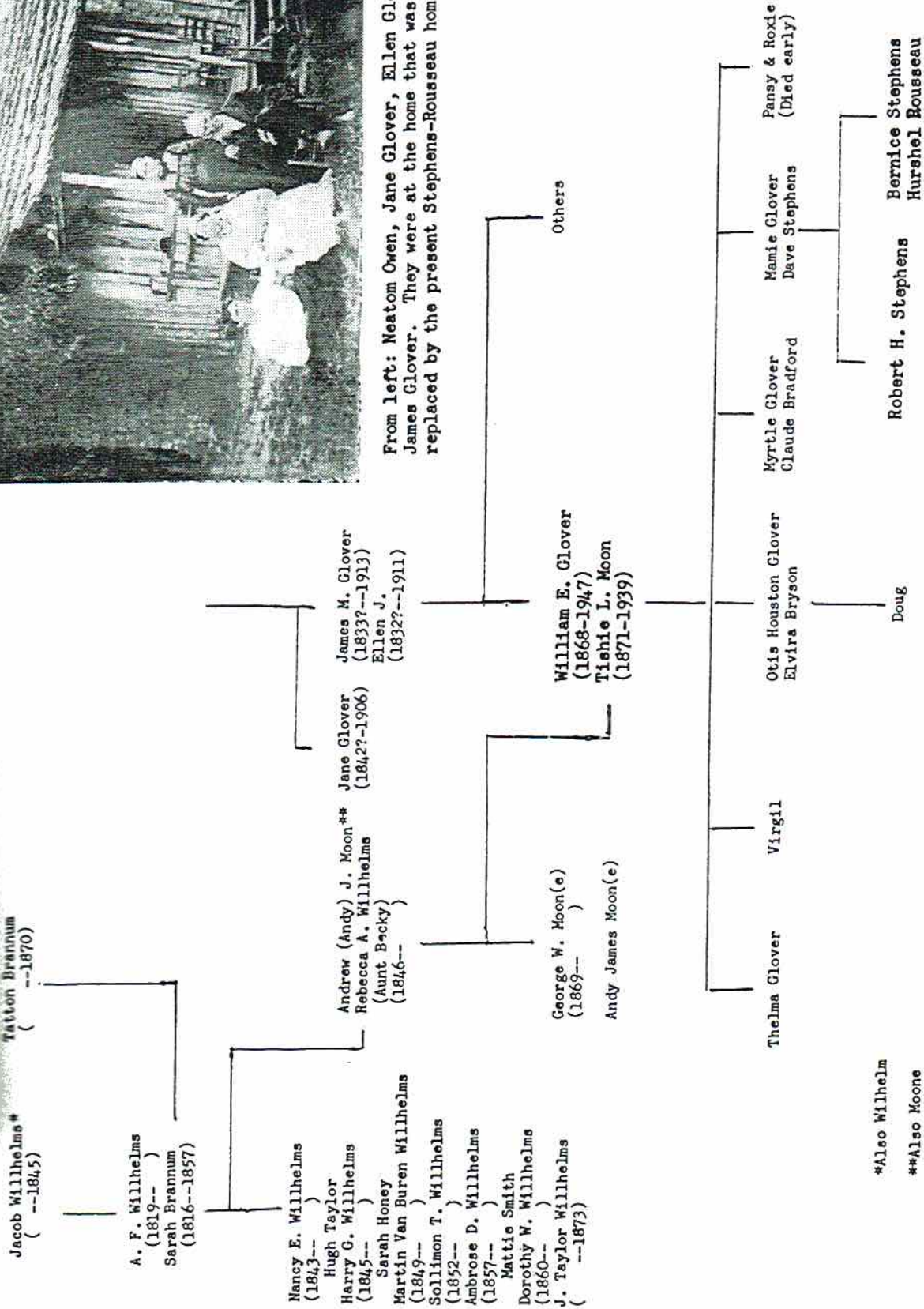
\*Thomas Berry's parents traded the land  
around the Sinks for Berry's Cove.



The information on this page was furnished by Sarah  
Elizabeth Berry Bishop, presently of McKenzie, Tennessee.

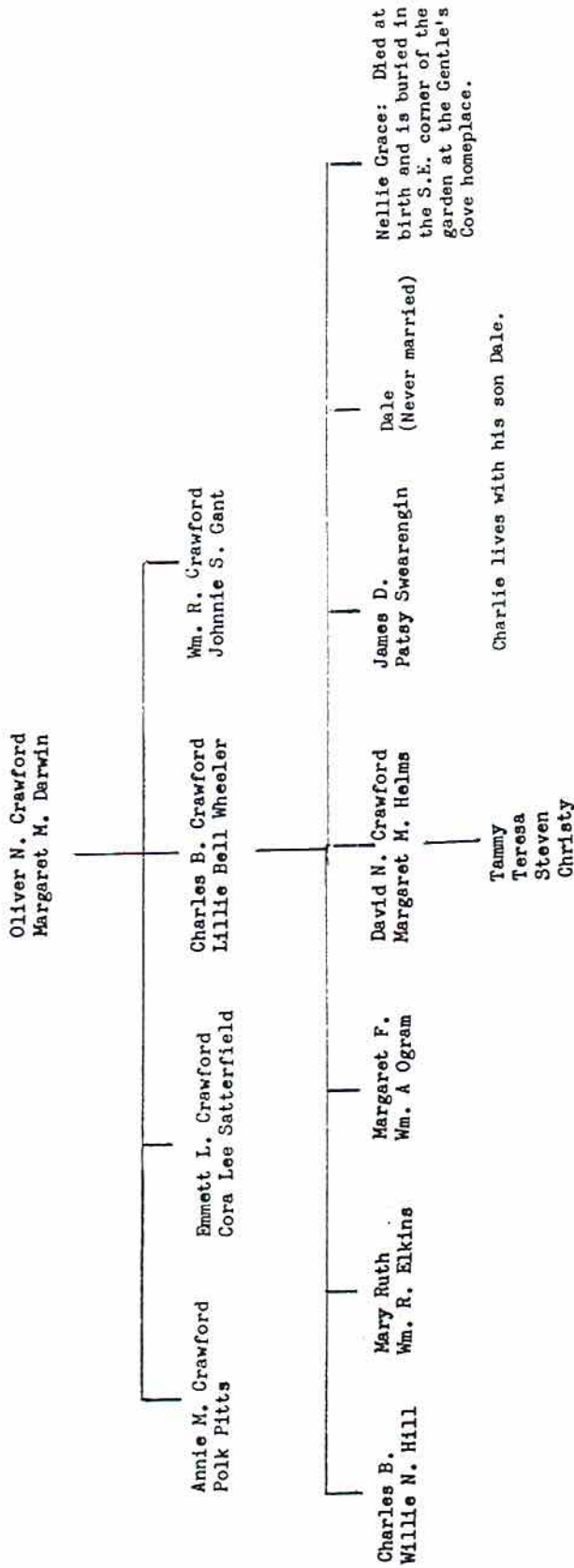


From left: Neatom Owen, Jane Glover, Ellen Glover, James Glover. They were at the home that was replaced by the present Stephens-Rousseau home.



\*Also Wilhelm  
\*\*Also Moone

THE CRAWFORD FAMILY



ELECTRICITY COMING TO TOWN; A PART OF ONE MAN'S RECOLLECTIONS

\*Most of this information was furnished by David Crawford of his and his family's memories of Lim Rock.

"My father moved the family to Lim Rock in the fall of 1942 and settled for a while in Gentle's Cove near the Isbell Springs. Much of the family's work centered around the family-owned hay baler and sorghum mill. Of course, both machines were portable and were transferred and set up on various farms as the need arose.

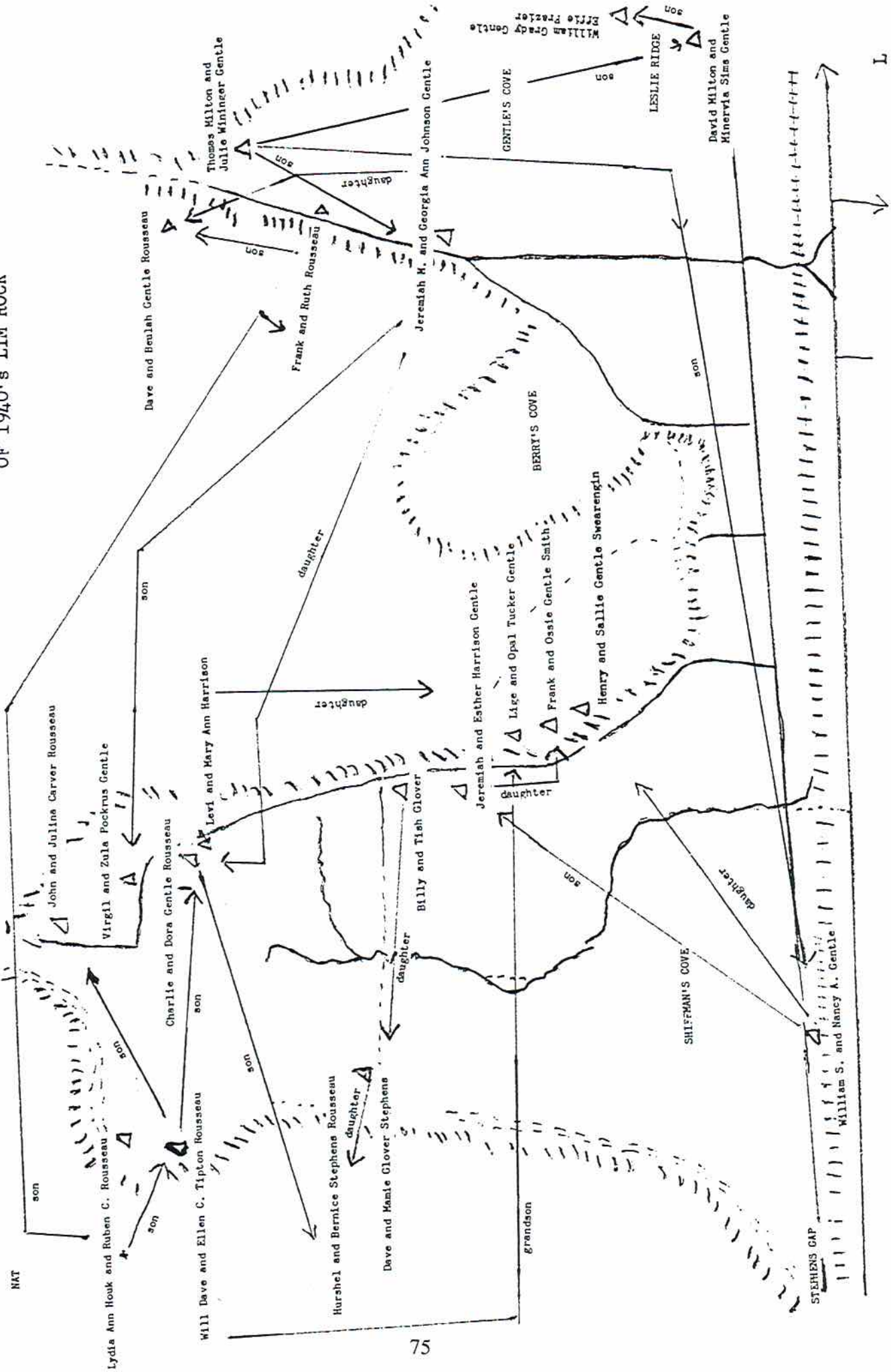
One of my fondest memories was when the first survey began for power poles to bring electricity into the coves. A number of the people were not ready to welcome the new source of energy. They did not want the old ugly poles ruining their fields and would often move the stakes to the property lines.

The courses were eventually run, poles were set and the lines strung. The houses were wired. Most of us children had never experienced turning on an electric light. Each day when we got home from school, we would rush to pull the string to see if today was the day.

Practically no one wired their home for plugs. They were interested only in lights. Each homeowner was given the option of a 50¢ per month bill for lights only or \$1.00 for lights and plugs for appliances. Most of those who opted for electricity chose the 50¢ bill.

The first appliance we bought was an electric churn. Next we secured an electric fan, given to us by my older sister who had grown up and left home. Next we got a refrigerator. Few people trusted the electric stove. They were afraid of electricity and feared that the stove would set the house on fire. Besides, the stove got hot so fast the inexperienced cook would burn the food."

RELATIONSHIPS OF SOME FAMILIES  
OF 1940's LIM ROCK



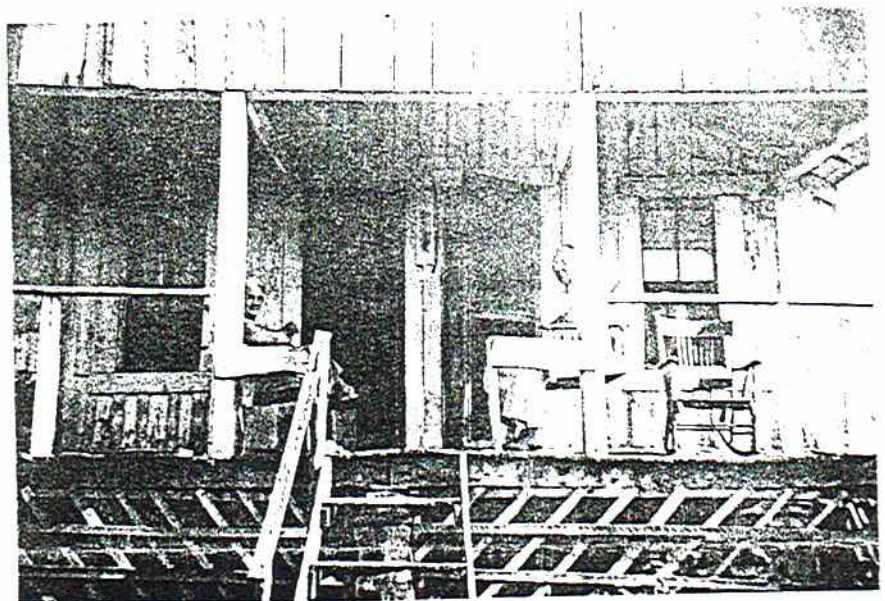
## THE HIGGINBOTHAMS



*Bill L. Higginbotham*

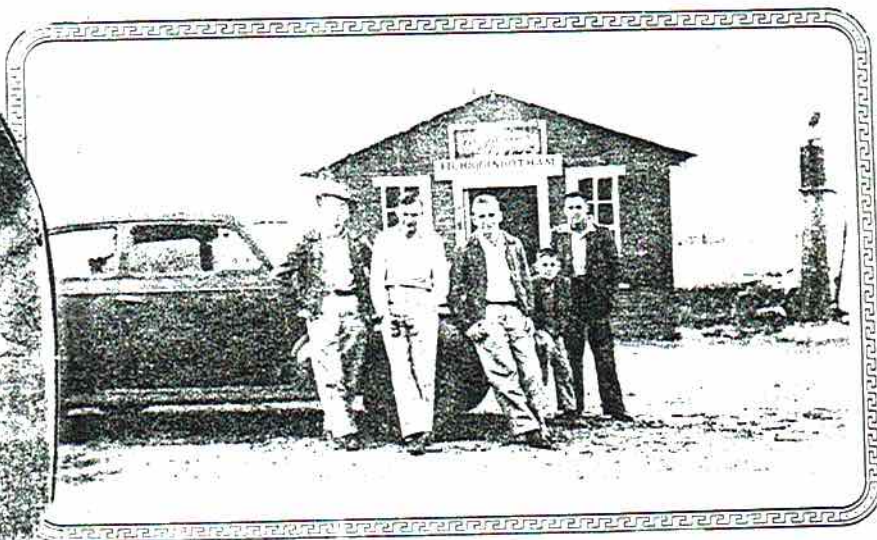
Bill (1920- ) recalls his life at Lim Rock. His parents and grandparents were also residents. In April 1943 Bill married Bernice Gentle, the daughter of Oscar and Martha Rousseau Gentle. Their daughter, Rachel Higginbotham Turner, was born at Lim Rock before the family moved to Scottsboro where Bill would be near his work.

Rachel grew up in Scottsboro and married James W. Turner. James is the son of the “shot lady”; the Jackson County health nurse who visited the schools to administer the shots and vaccinations to students. Both the Turners also like to recall the early life at Lim Rock.



Oscar and Flossie Newsom Higginbotham, Bill's parents, raised their family on the Old County Road or Round the Mountain Road. This road was the main wagon road (now County Road 542) that connected south Lim Rock with Stephens' Gap before Lee Highway was constructed. Bill remembers the Old County Road as having been maintained by the residents who lived on the road.

Oscar was a product of Lim Rock. Flossie came from Decatur and was the daughter of Tom and Martha Buchanan Newsom. Oscar, as all youth of the day, began to work early. As a teen-ager he worked at the Word Sawmill. At about twenty years of age, he became the telegraph operator at the train station. In the 1920's he owned and operated the Higginbotham Grocery Store. In about 1926 he sold his store to Willie Gentle. Lee Highway displaced the store and Willie built another store across the new highway.



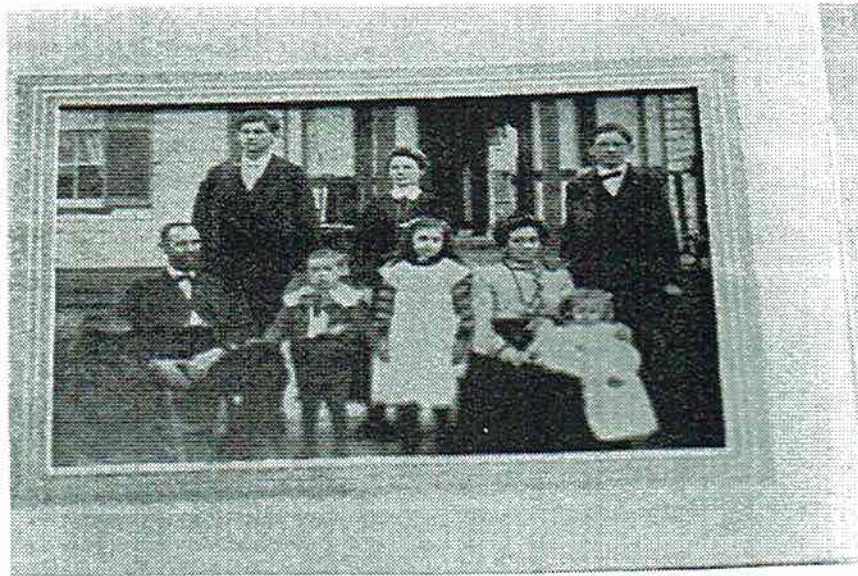
Ed Higginbotham's Store Circa 1930  
From left: Newsome Higginbotham, unknown,  
George (Bunk) Wallingsford, Jett Higginbotham,  
Joseph (Joe) Woosley

*Edward Monroe Higginbotham held two of his grandchildren, Oscar and Flossie's children.  
From left: Edward and Katheleen.*

Edward also owned and operated a business at Lim Rock. Edward had married Mary Ryan also of Lim Rock. He owned and operated a shoe shop across the road (119) from Clyde Gentle's Store. He shared the building with the resident physician (Sherrell).

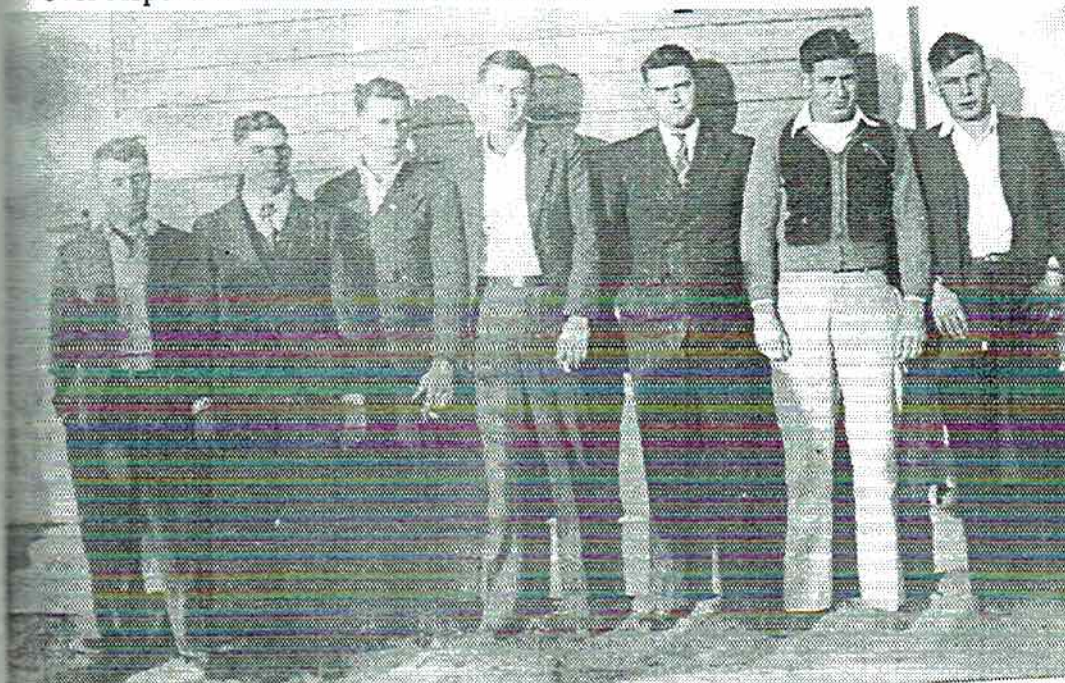
Edward is remembered today by some of his grandchildren as having a great skill as a cobbler and having the ability to take raw material and make a pair of boots or shoes to meet the specifications of a customer. Several of his descendants still live at Lim Rock, farming and running the local farm nursery.

When Clyde Gentle's store closed, the post office was moved upon the hill and across Highway 35. It was near the old rock quarry in a private home with Minnie Higginbotham serving as the last acting postmaster in 1956.



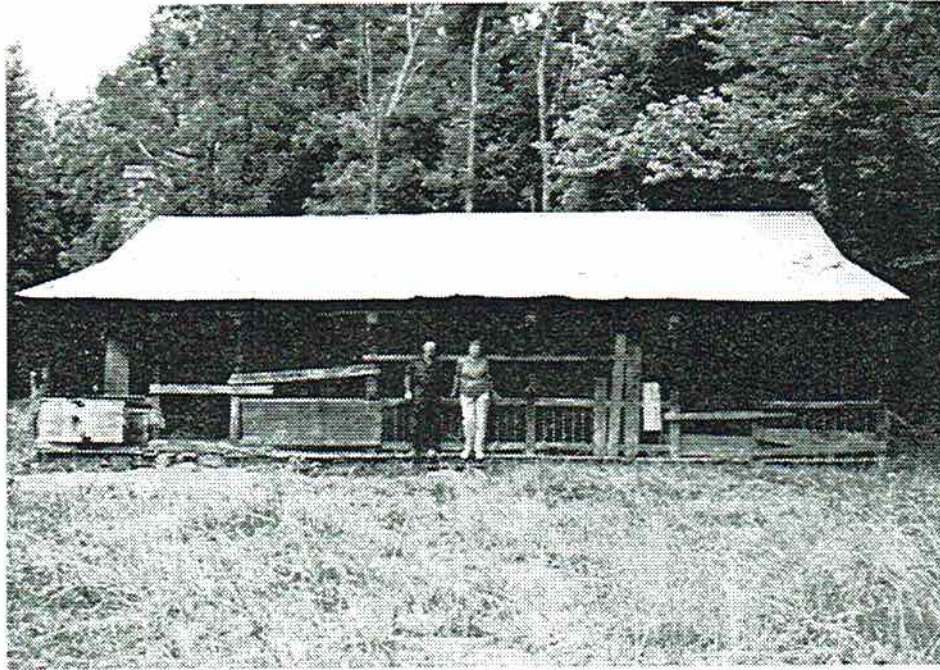
W. D. (Bill) Woodall remembers his grandparents with his priceless photograph that was taken at the Smith's Aspel home (circa 1898). Seated left to right: Dr. William B. Smith, Wendell Smith, Vesta Lou Smith, (Mrs.) Lou Kelly Smith, Florence Smith. Standing left to right: Mark Kelly, Sue Smith, Maynard Kelly. Mark and Maynard Kelly were Lou's children of her first marriage. Sue Smith was a niece of the Smiths.

Bill's father, Dallas P. Woodall, married Vesta Lou Smith. Dr. Smith made house calls all over Aspel and Lim Rock for \$2.00 a visit.

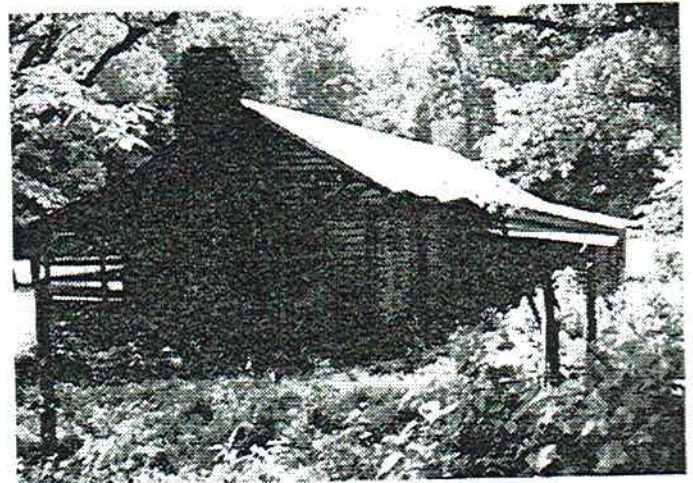
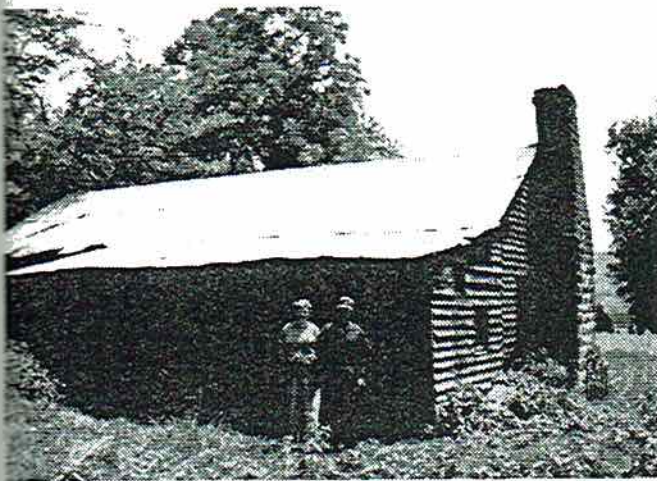


At Clyde Gentle's Store:  
Ed Higginbotham,  
Raymond Reid,  
Alfred Gentle,  
Verbon Stewart,  
Homer Johnson,  
Carl Stewart,  
Joe Chambless

## THIS HOME STILL COMMUNICATES



*This home was probably built between 1853-1859. The kitchen, the back room, and the part that extended over the water trough have been torn away. Today, June 19, 1993, Shorty and Evelyn Kenamer show off one of their prized possessions.*



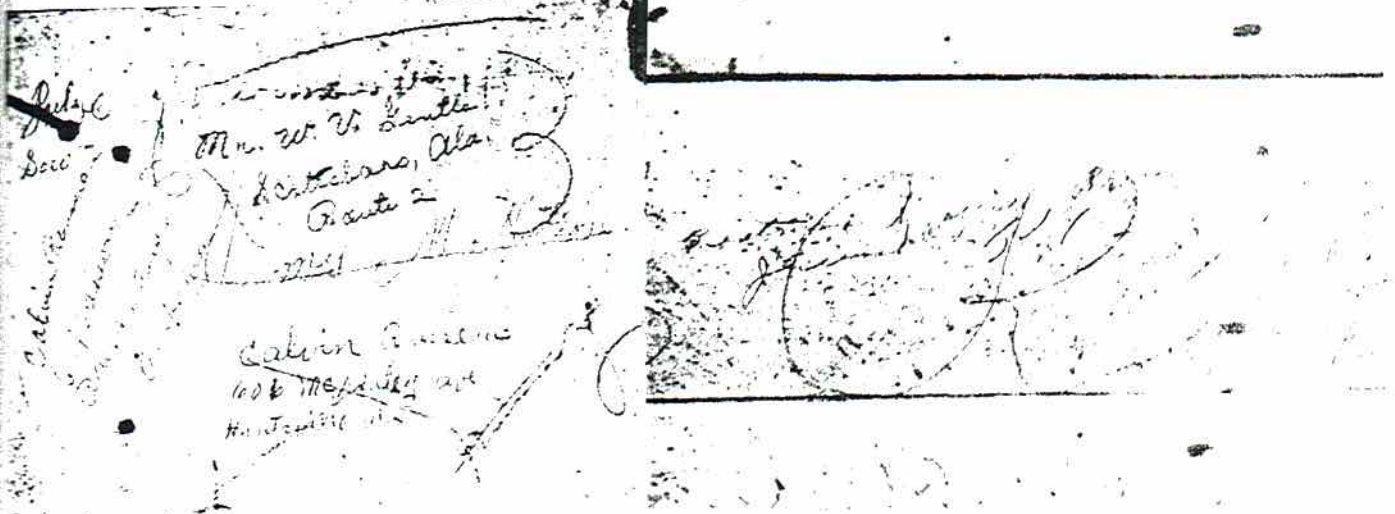
This home is laced with so many memories that it is difficult to stand in its presence and not shed tears. Memories were so heavy in the minds of the persons gathering ideas for this story that tears ran freely. This is true especially for those whose essence is Lim Rock.

Babies were born here. People were converted to the Christian faith. People died. One boy may have been murdered by the Federal troops when they occupied the farm. Legend has it that



he was murdered, because the troops could not locate his father to kill him. The place was sacked and looted by the troops. The house stood. Strong people survived and built their futures. The family unit built on love and respect was strong and functional. Each family member knew their role and that each one fit into the family pattern.

The Houks, Rousseaus, Tiptons, Carvers, and a combination of these families owned or occupied much of the land at the head of Shiffman's Cove until about 1950. Evidence of their existence and influence is still strong. Their children and grandchildren still remember.

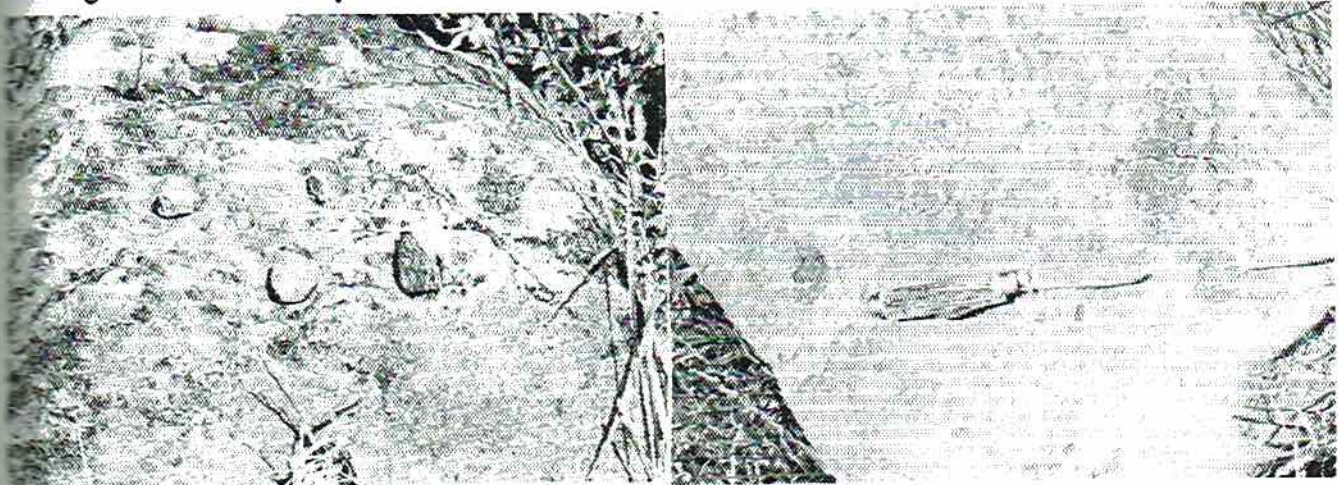


*Writings on left:*  
*Calvin Rousseau*  
*601 McKinley Ave.*  
*Huntsville, Ala.*

*Mr. W. V. Gentle*  
*Scottsboro, Ala.*  
*Route 2*

*Right:*  
*Beatrice Louise Rousseau*  
*June 27, 1924*

Walls and rocks in the yard show that families and young people once lingered there. Writing and signatures on the walls show that young couples professed their love for each other. Others left their names on the walls and notes about themselves. Scrawled dates go back more than fifty years. Most of the ones who left their signatures for us to see and made their announcements to the world are gone from this world. As one studies the walls, memories and imaginations flow freely.

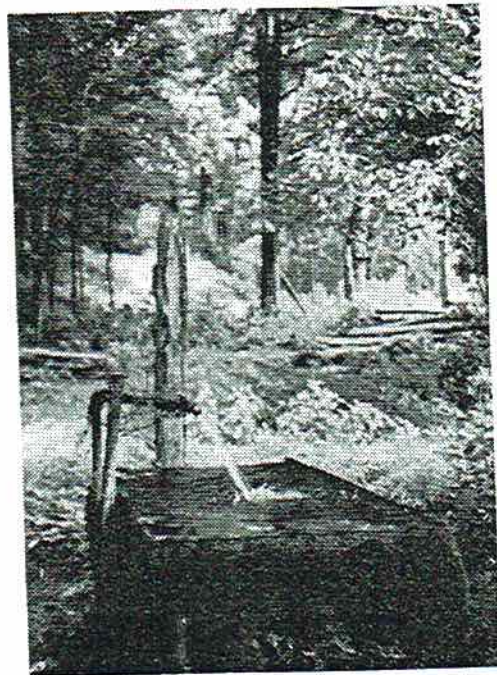


Rocks on the yard carry their own stories. John Rousseau was born there. As he and his brothers and sisters grew up, they spent much of their time in the yard and mountains. Agate and other rocks were gathered in the mountains and were cut and shaped into play things. The pictured yard rocks still lie where they were 75 years ago. John showed his children and son-in-law, Shorty Kennamer, the pits that he made in those rocks. Those pits were precisely made to serve as molds and dies for the agate so he could sculpture stone marbles to his liking. He made his "taws." Taws were the main marbles with which to shoot. Those stones are deliberately, and with affection, left in place. Now their story is shared with others.

All of his life John loved the outdoors. He liked to fish and hunt. He knew the hangouts of animals. He joked all of his life about the time he sold his brother, Calvin, a "coon" track that he had discovered in the mountains. He received 50c for the important information.

Will Dave farmed and preached for a living. Among other things, he raised goats. Some of these would be used to feed the large crowds that gathered at his farm during the association meetings.

Will Dave Rousseau was a Primitive Baptist minister. Many young couples went to him to get married. They, today, share their stories of beginning their life together. Some have their memories written on the walls. Some spent part of their honeymoon with the Rousseau family. This old home has seen life, death, war, developing love, Christian meetings and fellowship, courtships and honeymoons. It has seen it all. It gives much of it back with its many reminders.



Who today could have the skill to hew the perfectly fitted rocks used to build the two chimneys? These limestone rocks look as though they were gathered in the local mountains and hewn precisely to fit the spot. Stepping stones show the same perfection.

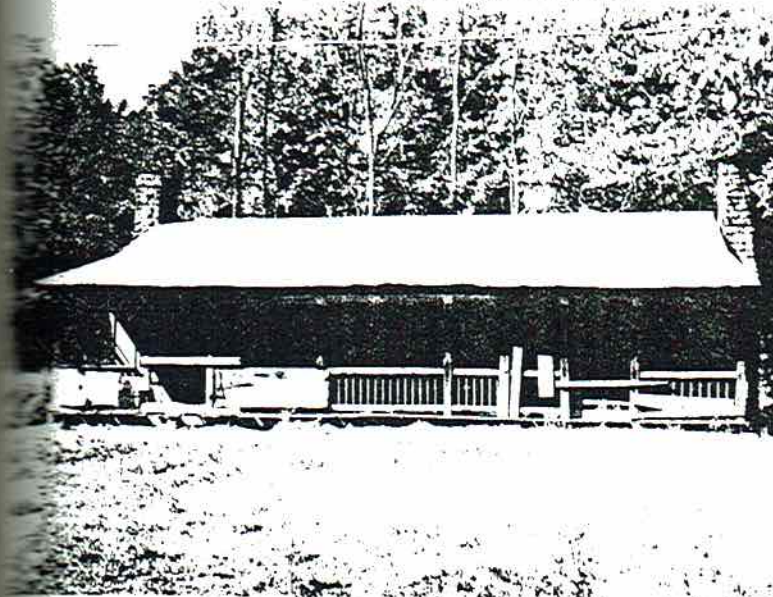
Who could afford the cedar posts and lumber that was used? Even though the home is over one hundred forty years old, the lumber shows no signs of having been affected by time and weather.

The watering trough that is used today for cattle is the same system that was used at the turn of the century to bring water to the house. Originally a spring high in the mountains had been harnessed. Water was brought down the mountain with flumes or hollowed-out logs to the porch area of the house. Pipes were installed nearby and the gravity-fed flow pushed the water up through a half-circle pipe to make the water flow behave like an artesian well. The water flow went into a huge wooden vat with a cooling spray that radiated out for several feet in all directions. Many people used this cool water as an excuse to linger for a moment or to "set a spell" with a friend. Milk and other foods were kept in the trough, full of overflowing cold water. This effort at food storage, plus the cave storage for some homes, was the only method of refrigeration at the time. Some people put jugs of milk on a rope and lowered them into the well.

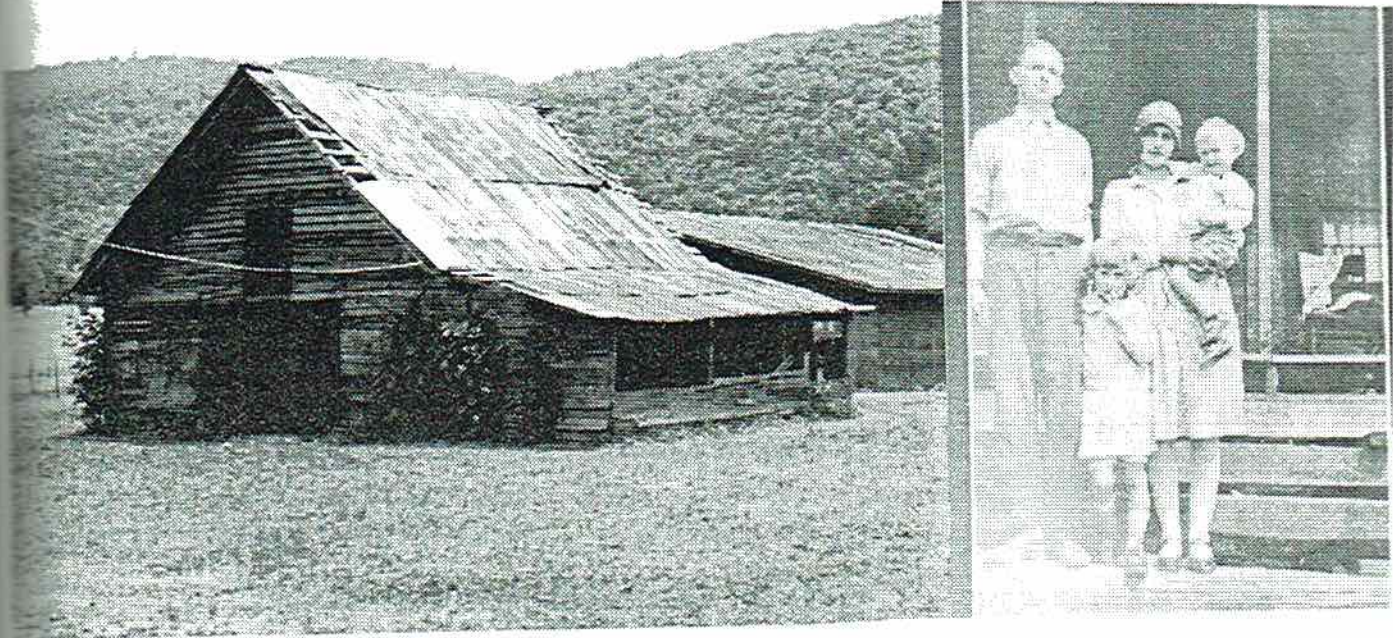
This is the setting that Will Dave and Ellen used to attract the dozens of people who would often come for a few days for their church's association meeting. It was the place where young couples would sit on the porch together or perhaps sit on the boulders of the yard. It was a place where memories were made and recorded on the walls and rocks.

John built the barn at his father's place after he was grown and he and his wife, Julina Carver, lived on the adjoining farm. He and his brother, Calvin, set up their own sawmill nearby and sawed their own lumber. John cut and snaked out the timber before he did his own sawing according to his own plans and specifications. He kept his blueprints tucked away in his mind as his work progressed from trees to a building.

Later he moved his family to the house nearest the Gentle Cemetery at Stephens' Gap. That home still shows his skills as a carpenter and designer. He set up his sawmill nearby and continued to turn out his lumber. Jimmy, his son, lives in a modern home across the road from where his parents lived out their last years.



Evelyn remembers her grandfather's home. She also remembers her nearby, childhood home. Her home was the last house at the head of Johnny Kay Hollow. The house and barn are still in good shape. The house has been remodeled. The hand-dug well was covered by the extended roof and was very much a part of the house. Water was drawn using a bucket and windlass. The soil was rich and grew good cotton and corn. Gardening and truck patches kept the family well-fed during the growing season. The crops were canned and stored for winter.



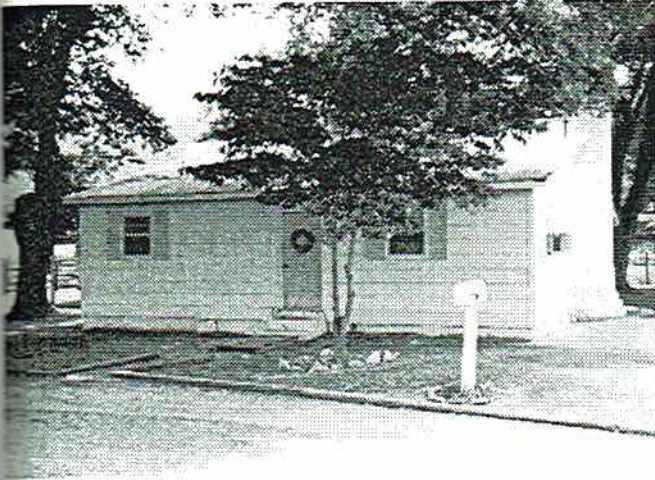
*John, Julina (holding Evelyn) and Beatrice.*

The barn was large. A vertical pole was installed between the house and barn. Hay was shocked high around the pole to save storage space. It also allowed the farm animals to eat at their pleasure instead of waiting for a set feeding time.

Johnny Kay Hollow was the berry capital of the area. People from all over picked blackberries and fought snakes. Fear of snakes was real and justified. Whole families and nearby families would go together on berry-picking parties. Berries were harvested by the bucketful and washtubful. As the pickers returned home with their pickings, they were amply entertained as they watched each other fight the crop of chiggers that had found their source of food by embedding on the pickers. The chiggers were picky in choosing their spots to embed. The pickers were too modest to scratch but hurt too much not to.

John and Julina's home often served as a gathering place for the community. Dances were held with local fiddlers and guitar pickers serving up the music.

## THE ROMANCE OF SHORTY AND EB



In 1941 Woodville was a long way from Lim Rock. Buses ran. Trains ran. People rode Number 35, or 36, or 43 (also called Joe Wheeler) between the towns. When they got off the train they still might have miles to go. Evelyn lived several miles from the train station.

Did this distance deter Shorty? No. He had "sidled" up to Eb and received a favorable wink. He occasionally rode his bicycle from Woodville to Shiffman's Cove. At the end of his visit he rode back to Woodville.

Most of the time he rode a bus or train from Woodville. If he rode a bus he got off near Stephens' Gap and walked through the fields and over the roads the several miles it took to reach the Rousseau place. If he came by train he got off at the station at Lim Rock. This trip added a few more miles to his day of "sparking." If he did not catch a wagon ride, he walked those miles also. His efforts paid off though. Fifty years later, the two are still looking out for each other. They still have the love for each other and for John's place and especially for Grandpa Rousseau's place.



## CHURCHES

The Lim Rock community has been served primarily by the Methodists, Primitive Baptists, and the Missionary Baptists. The Church of Christ also has a church in the community.

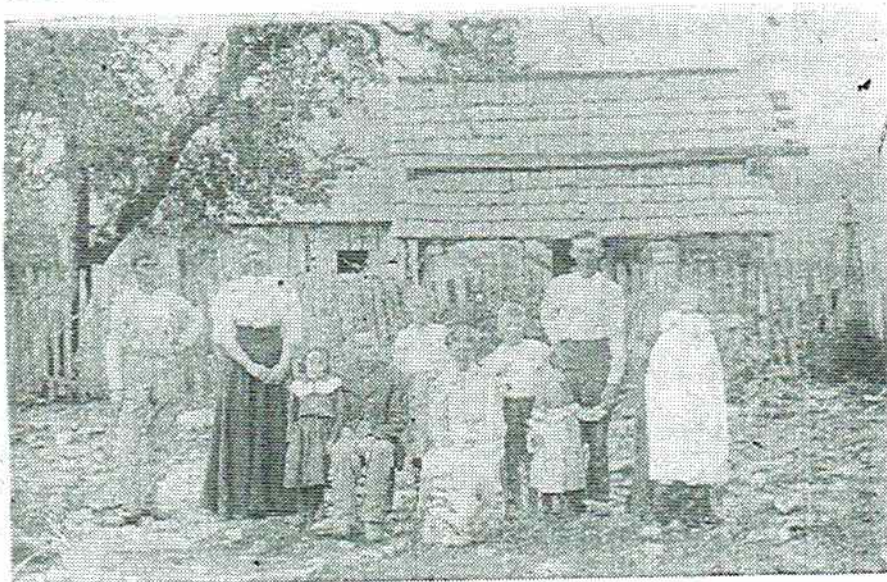
The Methodist Church has had several names and has been located in at least three different places. In early Lim Rock it was located behind Clyde Gentle's store and across the road from the Grist Mill.

In the 1930's it was located across the road from the present Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. While it was located there it also served as a school building. During the late 1930's the lots of both the Methodist and Baptist Churches were often covered with wagons as people from far and near came to the services. Now the Methodist churches are united into the Lim Rock United Methodist Church which is located at the corner of Highway 30 and County Road 119.

Mt. Ararat Baptist Church has served the community in its present location for most of Lim Rock's history. It was organized in 1880.

The Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church is in Shiffman's Cove. It was originally located on the other side of the road about three tenths of a mile south of its present location. Simeon Perry Houk was a representative from this church in 1845 to the Mud Creek Association near Hollywood. This was the first record of the church as having sent a representative to the association.

The present Jenny's Chapel Church of Christ is located on or near the site of the Jenny's Chapel Church that was burned in about 1910. It also served as a school and was destroyed by fire in about 1924. It is named after Jenny Womack who led the community to get the original building constructed.



Jenny Womack (far right holding baby) with her family: They were at their home near Jenny's Chapel. This house was occupied for many years by Sanford Brown.

Deceased  
 None Resident  
 Moved by Letter

Church Book Aug 1906

L	1.	Ar Mc Cormack	Deceased
	2.	victory Mc Cormack	Deceased
	3.	JAMES Mc Cormack	None Resident
X	4.	Gorgia Ann Gentle	
X	5.	Nancy Ann Gentle	
X	6.	Birtha Gentle	See Page 7
	7.	Lelia Miller	None Resident
X	8.	John Shell	Joined By Letter Married by Letter
X	9.	Fanna Shell	Married by Letter
X	10.	Bell Gentle	Transferred from [unclear] church
X	11.	Ben Mc Cormack	None Resident
X	12.	E Mc Cormack	None Resident
X	13.	Mary Mc Cormack	None Resident
X	14.	Ellen Kelgan	None Resident
X	15.	Salley Gentle	
X	16.	J B Bishop	None Resident
X	17.	Martha Bishop	None Resident
X	18.	Meley Bishop	
	19.	Alvina Gale	None Resident
	20.	Robert Gale	None Resident
19	21.	Sallie Reese	Deceased
X	22.	Pearl Mc Cormack	Deceased
X	23.	Sam J Mc Cormack	

X	24	Jermiah	Gentles Jr.		
+	25	Ester	Gentles Jr.		
+	26	Alora	Gentles		
+	27	Cordia	Shelton	Home Resident	
+	28	Frank	Shelton	Gentles	
+	29	Vergal	Gentles		
	30	Horris	Shelton		
+	31	Dollie	Higginbotham	Home Resident	
+	32	Okley	Manning	Home Resident	
+	33	Salvage	Wright	Home Resident	
+	34	Linsley	Shelton	Home Resident	
X	35	Nellie	Sherrill	Home Resident	
X	36	Amanda	Hall	Home Resident	
X	37	Rev. H. L.	Payne	Home Resident	
	38	James	Davis	Home Resident	
	39	Jamie	Davis	Wife of J. C. Davis, D.C.	
X 19	40	Mettie	Shelton	Wife of J. C. Davis	
X	41	John	Shelton	Jan 1916	
Feb 27/1916	42	William	Shelton		
	43	Marquise Ann.	Shelton	Home Resident	
+	44	James	Carden	Wife of J. C. Davis	
See page 7					

Earl Bishop supplied this Church Roll.



## FOOT WASHING



*This recent scene shows a Primitive Baptist Church's membership practicing the time-honored custom of foot washing.*

The ancient and honored custom of washing feet was, and is, practiced in the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church located in Shiffman's Cove. The church building has been moved as shown on the maps from one side of County Road 80 to the other side and about one half mile further north. Some of the present members were members as children in the 1930's. Beatrice Rousseau Wilbourn, John and Julina Rousseau's daughter, now lives in Huntsville; but she worships in her childhood church. Her cousin, Hurshel Rousseau, still lives nearby and is a member.

Nelson Varnell in his book on the churches of Jackson County reported that Simeon Houk was a delegate from the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church of Shiffman's Cove in 1845 to the Mud Creek Association. Mud Creek is near Hollywood. Nelson says 1845 was the first year the church was represented in the Association.

The Huntsville Library has the minutes of The Baptist Church of Jesus Christ on Paint Rock River and Larkin Fork, 1821-1863. Those minutes show church membership consisting of both whites and African Americans in 1842.

The Paint Rock church ordained Simeon Houk to the ministry on the first Saturday in August 1842. After the ordination Simeon was often the church's representative to other churches. He also served on panels to determine when others were to be ordained.



*Will Dave and Ellen Rousseau*

For many years Elder W. D. (Will Dave) Rousseau was the minister for the Bethlehem Church. He also preached at Hollywood. He caught a train at Lim Rock to get to his assignment. His home often served as the meeting place for the Association as he and his wife, Ellen, served as host and hostess. Their grandson Benjamin Rousseau, recalls that their home often served as the meeting place for sixty-five or more overnight guests. They came to the Rousseau home in Shiffman's Cove in wagons, prepared for overnight church activities. Usually the meeting lasted for three days. Ellen's kitchen would go full blast with her making fifty or more biscuits at once in her special pan and oven. She cooked about 300 biscuits for each meal. Crackling bread was cooked in the Dutch oven on the hearth with coals on top and banked under it while it was mounted on 4-5 inch legs.

The church regularly had meetings with about three days of preaching and dinner-on-the-ground. The community was welcome to join the covered-dish affair. It drew strong community support and was well-attended. Dozens of tables were set up outside. They were filled with food and the atmosphere was filled with fellowship.

Foot-washing ceremonies were observed on a regular basis, perhaps once a year, in the 1930's. Today it is observed twice a year. Today as in the 1930's, the church shows modesty and humility in its practices.

Women worshipers always wore long dresses and sat on one side while the men sat on the other side. It seems that the separation of the sexes was more a custom than a teaching of the church. It was just done. Like the Shakers of old, the faith and practices were simple and direct. Members put the foot-washing example of the Bible into practice to show humility.

When foot-washing time came in the service, women turned their pews facing each other. They washed only each others' feet. Wash pans were used during the services. After washing, the feet were dried with towels.

Men did not have to turn their benches. The elder or preacher joined the other men for the ceremony with no special recognition. Today men and women sit together in the church service. When foot-washing time comes, they separate as before.

Elders, deacons, messengers, or members could, and can be, "turned out" at any given time if their perceived behaviors did not, or do not, conform to the church's teachings. Acceptance of membership or turning out took, and takes, a vote of the church's membership. If a person was, or is, turned out they can still attend the church. They could not benefit from any of the church's activities.

Some members and visitors of the Bethlehem Baptist Church attended their Saturday service June 19, 1993. They sat on a pew saved from the old church. Some of the members informally refer to the old church as Acorn Hull Church.

When this church was built in about 1965 it was constructed on a site donated by Calvin Rousseau.



Seated from left to right: Elnora Benson Guess, Pauline Stewart Wright, Stella Brown. Standing left to right: George Guess, Elder Leon Etheridge, and Hurshel Rousseau

Bethlehem Church

Bethlehem Church, located in Schiffman's Cove, about three miles northwest of Limrock, Jackson County, Alabama, was constituted in June 1844 as an arm of Union Church. Members who lettered out of Union Church to compose the membership of Bethlehem Church were Elder Simeon Houk, his wife, Tobitha, A. T. Stevens, Mary Moon, S. Stephens, Elder Levi Isbell, Matthew Summers and Austen, a man of color.

Bethlehem Church was admitted into the Mud Creek Association in September 1844 and remained until 1867. The church was readmitted into the association in 1908.

Known ministers called and ordained at Bethlehem Church were W. D. Rousseau and Fred Stewart. Other pastors who also were members of this church were Simeon Houk, Levi Isbell, James R. Isbell and Grady Kilpatrick. Pastors whose membership was at other churches in the association were Holland Crumbly, Clifton Johnson and Leon Etheredge.

Deacons:

W. Brad Stewart	1909-1927 (ordained at Union Church in 1907; joined Bethlehem Church in 1909; returned to Union Church in 1927)
Andrew J. Pockrus	
Henry Swearingin	
Hershel Rousseau	
Terrell Hughes	

Church Clerks:

W. E. Eldridge	1908
Joe Stewart	1909-1914
W. Brad Stewart	1915-1926
Henry Swearingin	1927-1930
Izora Sherill	1931-1944
Henry Swearingin	1945-1954
Mayme Stephens	1955-1983
Elnora Rousseau Guess	1984-1990

The current clerk's address is Route 2, Woodville, AL 35776

Bethlehem Church, continued.

Messengers to the Mud Creek Association:

Levi Isbell	1845-1853
John Wright	1845-1854
Matthew Summers	1845, 1851
William C. Isbell	1846, 1853
James R. Isbell	1847-1852
A. G. Talkinton	1847-1854
Simeon Houk	1848-1861
William R. Lindsay	1858-59
William C. Maples	1858, 1861
J. K. Murry	1858, 59
Talton Branham	1859
George W. Houk	1861
A. J. Pockrus	1908-1924
W. D. Rousseau	1908-1946
W. Brad Stewart	1915-1926
J. C. Stewart	1915, 18, 25
W. G. Berry	1917-1932
Fred Stewart	1918, 1925
W. B. Stevenson	1918
Milus M. Swearingin	1919-1935
T. R. Rice	1921
Alvey Byram	1922
Henry Swearingin	1925-1959
C. Collier	1928
J. R. Miller	1929
George Rousseau	1935
Izora Sherrill	1936-1942
Mayme Stephens	1937-1971; 1974-1980; 1983; 1986
Mary Byram	1945-1950; 55; 61; 62; 65; 66
Dora Pockrus	1945
Ellen Rousseau	1945
Dora Byram	1946-1948
Pearl Elledge	1946
Maggie Hartman	1947-1952
Elnora Rousseau	1948-1972; 1976-1979
Elnora Rousseau Guess	1980-1990
Gene Byram	1949-1951; 54; 55; 1959-1974; 76; 1978-1983; 1985-1989
Grady Kilpatrick	1955; 56; 66
Doris Kilpatrick	1956-1958; 63; 69; 73
Beatrice Wilbourn	1960; 74; 77; 82; 84; 87; 89; 90
Hershel Rousseau	1961-1990
Ella Byram	1962
Dan Porter	1971
Terrell Hughes	1972
Gordon Lusk	1972-73
Mary Jo Byram	1976; 84; 85; 88; 90
Kathy Brewer	1981

Bethlehem Church, continued.

Membership:

The largest number of members was 34 in 1858; the smallest number was 6 in 1990. During most of the years from 1908 through 1930, the membership ranged from 20 to 30.

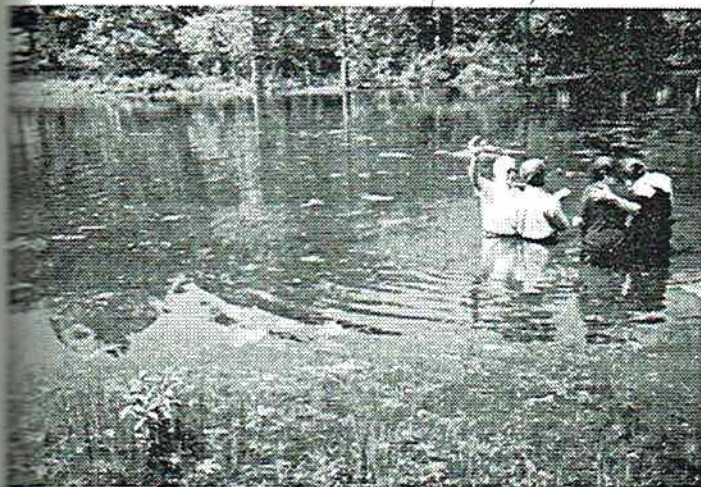
Monthly services are held on the third week-end, Saturday afternoon at 2:00 PM and Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Communion services are held in May and October.

Source: Handwritten and Printed Minutes of the Mud Creek Association, Alabama, 1821-1990.

Note: Church Clerks were not listed in the minutes prior to 1908.

Mrs. Elnora Guess is current clerk; she may have the church minutes which would be in more detail than the association minutes.

*The above information about the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church was furnished by Beatrice Rousseau Wilbourn. The pictures of an outdoor baptism in 1993 by another Primitive Baptist Church were also furnished by her.*



This Bible is part of the church's property. It appears that the Bible was the family Bible of the Swearingin-Gentle families and was left as part of the church's references.

### Family Register

**Parents' Names**

Husband I. H. Swearingin was  
 Born June 2nd 1888  
in Jackson County Ala  
 Son of M. M. Swearingin  
 and Nancy J. Swearingin

Wife Sallie Gentle was  
 Born July 18th 1892  
in Jackson County Ala  
 Daughter of W. S. Gentle  
 and Nancy A. Gentle

**PARENTS' NAMES**

Husband I. H. Swearingin was  
 Born June 2nd 1888  
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 Son of M. M. Swearingin  
 and Nancy J. Swearingin  
 Wife Sallie Gentle was  
 Born July 18th 1892  
 in Jackson County Ala  
 Daughter of W. S. Gentle  
 and Nancy A. Gentle

### Births

Ruby M. Swearingin was born March 24 1913  
Julia Nancy A. Swearingin was born Sept 11 1915  
Milvus S. Swearingin was born Sept 11 1914  
Lucy Estell Swearingin was born Sept 6 1917

Ruby M. Swearingin was born March 24 1913  
 Julia Nancy A. Swearingin was born Sept 11 1915  
 Milvus S Swearingin was born Sept 11 1914  
 Lucy Estell Swearingin was born Sept 6 1917

### Marriages

I. H. Swearingin and  
Sallie Gentle was married  
June 2nd 1912

Claude B. Woolley and  
Ruby M Swearingin was married  
Nov 5th 1932

Virgil Pockrus and  
Julia Nancy A. Swearingin  
was married April 7 1935

**MARRIAGES**

I. H. Swearingin and  
 Sallie Gentle was married  
 June 2nd 1912  
 Claude B. Woosley and  
 Ruby M Swearingin was married  
 Nov 5th 1932  
 Virgil Pockrus and  
 Julia Nancy A. Swearingin was married April 7. 1935

### Deaths

Milvus S. Swearingin died

Milvus S. Swearingin Died

## CROSSTIE MAKING

Shelbyville, Tenn. Jan. 5, 1940.

Dear Mr. Tucker :

I am paying .70cts. for 7 x 9 x 8½ Red Oak and .45cts. for 6 x 8 x 8½ fob Cars in Car load lots sizes loaded separate.

At Stevenson or any other point on the N.& C. Ry.

Write me if you are going to put some on.

Yours Very Truly,

F. F. Webb,

Shelbyville, Ten.

Many people's livelihood depended upon wood products. Wood was the source of heat in most of the homes. In addition to a heat source, trees were used to make crossties. Crossties were, and are, used to tie the rails together on the railroad. Men had to compete with mechanization, the sawmill, when they made crossties. It was difficult for a man to hand-hew a tie and sell it as cheaply as if it were cut at the sawmill. We still hear the same voice today when jobs are being displaced by machines.

When an egg breaks at one end, crack the other end, and it can be boiled without the contents coming out.

<i>Tree logs by Proctor</i>	58	13
<i>3 cut up</i>	3	14
<i>19 to road</i>	19	11
<i>12 ft cut up</i>	36	12
<i>Ball</i>	35	58

Black Draught—A good laxative—purely vegetable

A skilled tiemaker could make 10-12 ties in a day. When a suitable stand of trees was located, two men with a crosscut saw would fell the trees and cut the logs to the desired length. Usually one man would work alone to hew the tie. He would first notch one side of the log using a double-bit ax. Several notches would be made from one end of the log to the other. Then the log



would be rolled one fourth turn and that side would be notched. All four sides would be notched the same way. Sometimes only one side would be notched before the slab was removed. The slabs were split off by using either a double-bit or a poleax. When the slabs were removed from all sides or entirely from one side, the broadax was then used to smooth the sides or side to the desired dimension.

When the tie was hewed and smoothed, it was ready for delivery to the buyer. The tiemaker would get 25-35c for a tie. The tie would be carried on the shoulders of two men to the nearest wagon road. It was the custom that if two men carried one on their shoulders, one would have it on his right shoulder and the other on his left. The tie or pole seemed to balance better that way. Also, the two men had to work as a team. Should one man drop his load before the other one was ready, serious harm could result.

Working with timber was dangerous. Treecutters had to know how to fell a tree. It could fall the wrong way or kick back or a dozen other things that would offer dangerous conditions. After the trees were cut and the logs prepared for crosstie hewing, there was still danger. A man usually placed one foot on the log for his balance and the balance of the log as he swung his sharp double-bit ax or the broadax.

One crosstie maker shared his tale of danger with his friends all of his life. As he swung his sharp ax, it glanced off the log and ripped through his shoe as though his shoe was hot butter. He fell to the ground in great agony with pain that was almost unbearable. After a while he felt that something had to be done or else his life would be in grave danger as he worked alone in the mountains. He found the strength to remove his shoe, only to find that the ax had opened his shoe all the way through and never touched his foot. The psychological pain was as real as physical pain would have been. This story was told for many years to the amusement of friends.

## LUMBER CAMPS

Railroad companies often built single-room shacks for men to exist in while they worked for the railroad. Lumber camps were often built near a sawmill for workers to have the simplest of shelter while they worked for the sawmill. This story may be typical of the lumber camps in the South in the 1920's and the 1930's.

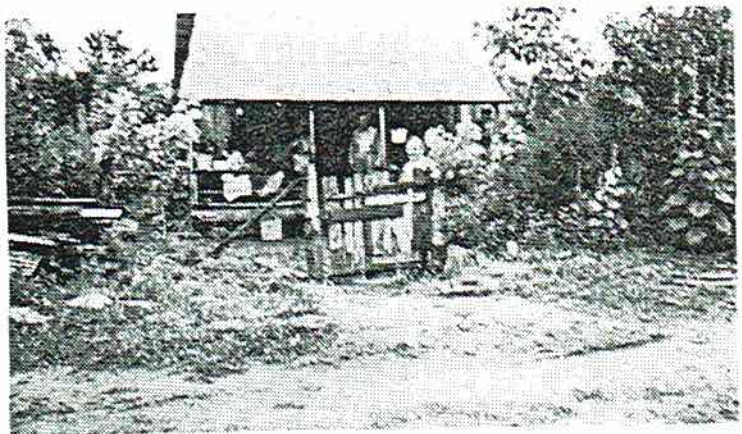
One man who is now in his 80's remembers the hard life of such a camp. He was from a large family and had to leave school in the seventh grade to find work. His first job was at a sawmill. As he earned his meager wage, he dutifully delivered it back to his father for a pooled effort to feed the family. His father hurt because of the hard times and his limitation to care for his family as wanted. Nevertheless, the boy who had to drop out of school went on to be a highly successful person in the lumber business, offering financial security for his family with a sense of thankfulness.

This young man had to move on from his first job at the mill to another community and a lumber camp. He and three other young fellows lived in a tent. The tent had an elevated floor and was heated by a woodburning stove using the wood slabs as fuel.

Water was brought from a nearby spring. Bathing was done in the creek. After the young workers had been settled for a while they worked out a scheme for bathing. They tapped a spring that would bring water to a metal tank that was mounted seven to eight feet high. The sun would warm the water. He and the others could take a shower and have warm water on warm days.

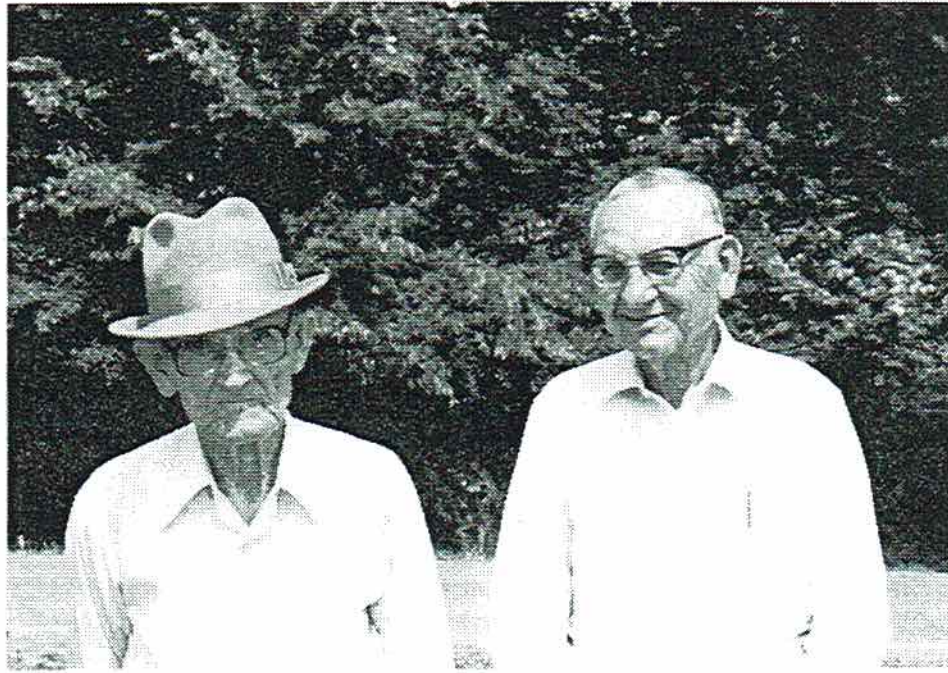
A few feet away from their tent were four young African Americans who were also trying to make their way with the same hard conditions. They built themselves a one-room shack, using scraps from the mill. They all struggled to survive by the sweat of their brows.

### THE BISHOP--SHELTON FAMILIES' LIM ROCK



*Talton (T.V.) and Martha Morris Bishop and their Chinch Row house at Lim Rock. Martha died in a house fire at the head of Gentle's Cove on December 7, 1941.*

In about 1907 T. V. Bishop moved his family from Cedartown, Georgia to Sand Mountain and then to Lim Rock. They raised their family at Lim Rock. Earl, one of their children, was about four years old when they moved.



*Long-time friends, from left, Earl Bishop and Bill Woodall joined the group to plan for the 1993 Lim Rock-Aspel Heritage Day. At age 90, Earl claims the title of the oldest resident or former resident of Lim Rock.*

Like most young men, Earl went searching. His search ended when he met Annie Shelton. For sixty-six years they cared for each other until her death in 1986. She is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Scottsboro. Earl's reflection upon his life is that of one at peace with himself and the world as he said, "I have had a good life. I have had two good homes; at my childhood home and after I married."



Earl received the Heritage Day award for being the oldest Lim Rock resident. His children, Inez Butler and Cecil Bishop looked on.



*The Sheltons*

*Standing left to right: Grady,  
Boots, Orville, Dee, Tip  
Sitting left to right: Estelle,  
\*Annie, Maude, Ethel*



*Left to right: Annie  
Shelton Bishop, Paul  
Stewart, Maude Shelton  
Berry*

*The Sheltons lived near the Isbell Cave in Gentle's Cove. Earl and Annie lived in the Shelton home for about two years. Today the house is used as a hunting lodge.*





*Left to right in both pictures: Earl and Porter (circa mid 1920's)*

Earl recalls the time when, as a young man, he and Porter Wallingsford with mule teams hauled timber out of the mountains to load onto the railroad cars at the Lim Rock train station. Earl reminisces of Lim Rock as a timber town.



*Earl, with his son J. B. (1924-1990), shows off the main means of transportation.*

Earl, before he owned some land, moved from rental to rental where there were nearby jobs. In the 1940's he lived in Shiffman's Cove. During some of these years he raised Arabian horses for Houston Glover on the John Rousseau place at the head of the cove. Some of the horses were expensive for the day-- bringing \$3500 or more each when they were sold out of state. Houston (the son of Billy and Tish) and Elvira Bryson Glover had bought the farm but continued to live in Huntsville.

Earl Bishop is like a high-fidelity recording as he, with clarity, recalls the details of the life at Lim Rock. He, like most young men of the 1920's and the 1930's, lived where he could and worked at what was offered. He was the barber at Obe Hurt's store until it closed. The barber shop moved to Clyde Gentle's store where John Rousseau became the barber.

His memory says there was the Isbell-Malone Bank next to the Hurt store. Tales passed along to him by some older residents during his young years told of gambling that took place in the bank. In the 1880's a death occurred in the bank due to a gambling dispute, according to Earl's stories.



*Webb and Sally Gentle at their home on Leslie Ridge*

Webb Gentle, Clyde's uncle, operated a cedar sawmill across the road from Clyde Gentle's store. Webb bought and sold cedar posts and cedar to be used for pencils. His post yard was very much a part of the business landscape.

Near the Clyde Gentle's store were the weighing scales for wagons and their cargo. Corn was weighed before it was loaded aboard the train cars for shipping.

In about 1912, Bill Woodall's uncle, Paul Smith, operated the Lim Rock gin for a while. The gin was located just east of the present Highway 11 and near the present Highway 35.

Near the gin, Mitchell's wagon shop operated in about 1912. The shop made all parts for wagons. The parts were shipped by train to Bane Mitchell of Stevenson. Ed Smith was the "team boss." He took care of the horses, mules, and wagons. Lee Smith, one of the young employees, hand pumped water from the well-known Lim Rock well to the boilers of the band mill. Lee was known as the pump boy.



*Standing on the log wagon from left are Les Rousseau, Ed Smith, Earnest Holder, Earl's brother Charlie Bishop, and Lee Smith. The girl is Lee's sister. This log wagon was one of the four or five wagons that were used to get the logs to the wagon mill. The building in the background was the mill workers' living quarters. Such buildings, known as "the workers' shacks" were common around sawmills.*

In addition to being a barber, Earl did several jobs as the opportunities presented themselves. He operated sorghum mills as an expert molasses maker. He hauled crosssties and timber. Such was part of the life of one man's family at Lim Rock.



## THE GLOVERS

On August 16, 1993, Elvira Bryson Glover shared her knowledge of the Glover family. Some of her points have been made before in this effort at telling the Lim Rock story. Her points are told in a fresh manner and offer much insight into the customs of the people and the history of the area. They are well worth repeating. Some of her information was taken from the notes of the Glover family Bible. Elvira has done her share in compiling many interesting stories of the Glover--Wilhelm (Willhelms) families.

### Remembering Rebecca Ann Wilhelm

*Rebecca Ann Wilhelm was known to the family as "Aunt Becky" (Ref. Glover family Bible). She was born 28 Dec. 1846. She is buried in the Glover Cemetery at Limrock.*

*Her first marriage was 25 July 1866 to Andrew (Andy) James Moon(e). Children of this marriage were: George W. Moone, 2 Dec. 1869; Tisasy (Tishie) Lee Moone, 18 Sept. 1871 (Also given as Tishielee); and Andy James Moon. They lived in a log cabin in Shipman's Cove.*

*Her second marriage was to William Lemley, 3 Aug. 1880. Their son, D. Thomas Looney Lemley, was born 4 Nov. 1881.*

*Aunt Becky's third husband, much to her children's dismay, was "Bunt" Peters. Aunt Becky was living at the time with her daughter Miss Tish and Tish's husband, W. E. Glover. The Glovers did not approve of the courtship, so she ran away and got married. Becky called her new husband "Mr. Peters." Mr. Peters or Grandpa Peters was a character. They moved into their own log cabin on Lee Highway, now Highway 35.*

*Grandpa Peters believed in having a rooster for every hen. He let them roam through the woods. He is remembered for gathering big baskets full of eggs. He would stride through the woods without stopping for bushes or brambles, and as a result, had many rips and tears in his clothes.*

*The story is told that at one time when Becky was away, Mr. Peters was left alone to "batch." He used up all of the everyday cups and started using her new, Sunday, Sears & Roebuck cups and saucers. Becky returned as he was sitting at the breakfast table, drinking coffee. "Mr. Peters," she cried, "what do you mean, using my Sunday cups?" Mr. Peters casually picked up his rifle and shot off the handles of all the cups left on the shelf.*



Thelma and Mamie had to stay with the Peters when they were sick. They hated to do this, because "Mr. Peters" was so strict with them. Once when Thelma was staying with them, he got up early on a winter morning and was carrying a bucket to the well--which was at the end of the long, icy porch. He slipped and fell on the slick porch and tumbled into the water barrel. He couldn't get out, so he had to call for Thelma to help him. The family all thought this was very funny, but "Mr. Peters" felt differently!

### Remembering Otis Houston Glover

He was born in a log cabin in Shipman's Cove, where his mother and father and family lived in one room and his grandmother and grandfather lived in the other. The two rooms were separated by an open dog-trot. The kitchen was detached, and in back of the room where William Edward Glover and Tishia Lee Moon Glover lived.

Houston was the baby of a family of five children. The Glovers had lost one child in infancy, and one child at an early age.

He walked to school in Limrock, a distance of several miles. It was a one-room schoolhouse, heated by a wood stove.

Houston's father was a blacksmith. His anvil is now at Burritt Museum in Huntsville, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Tucker:

I can't begin to send you all the information that I have. I have decided that the best thing I can do is to tell you about my impressions of Limrock when Houston and I were first married.

This was in 1935, during the depression. I was a city girl, born in Petersburg, IL, and Houston would not take me to "The country" as we called it--meaning his family home in Limrock-- until after we were married. I am sure that he thought that I would not accept his family, but I was most impressed with their honesty, their simple life, and their unusual customs.

After we were married, we lived in a two-room apartment in Huntsville, where we both worked. Houston borrowed Virgil's car and made arrangements for me to meet the family.

It was a cold, rainy day in February. About halfway into Shipman's Cove, we slid off of a bridge and had to walk the rest of the way through the woods. I had on a navy blue wool suit, a blue taffeta blouse, and

blue suede pumps. Imagine my embarrassment when I arrived after walking through the bushes and brambles.

All of the family were gathered to meet the bride. Houston was 27 years old--and a bachelor, they thought! Of course I was viewed with much curiosity, as he had been more or less engaged to another girl for a long time.

The family lived in the original log cabin where all of the Glover children were born. I found the typical Limrock sitting room, which had two full-size beds in it and cane bottom chairs arranged in a semicircle around the fireplace. They had no electricity or running water. The bathroom was the usual outhouse. The dining room was filled with a long, narrow table, with benches on either side and a chair at each end. Mr. Glover sat at the head of the table and all of the assembled men were served first. The women served the food, and after the table was cleared, they ate at the "second" table. The children ate what was left, at the "third" table. There were no screens at the windows, which did not bother me at the time, (February), but later on, in the summer, it did. Flies were "shooed" away with tree branches. They usually returned as soon as the diner sat down to eat.

The cuisine was fascinating. I had never seen such an elaborate menu. They served baked chicken, fried chicken, and chicken and dumplings; baked beef or pork, fried meat, and beef stew; numerous boiled vegetables and several cakes. Custard pies were stacked on top of each other. Apple cake was stacked in thin layers. (I never learned to cook an apple cake like that.)

I later learned that Mr. Glover would sit on the front porch and invite everyone who passed by to stay and eat with them.

As they had no television, they sat around the fire and talked. Then when a family started to leave they would start getting their coats and stand around the door, saying, "Well, you-all come." The answer was always, "You-all come back," and this went on for awhile.

I don't remember what vehicles they came in, but I know that cars were scarce and the "home folks" (Miss Tish, Mr. Billy and Myrtle, who being an old maid lived with them) didn't have a car. Usually it took about two hours to drive up to the farm from Huntsville, and Houston always wanted to start about 7:00 AM. We were finally able to buy a used car and could go to the farm in it. Houston's friends kidded him by saying that when he slammed one door, the other one flew open. I think it was a DeSoto Coupe.

Mamie (Glover) and Dave Stephens lived across the field, near the family cemetery, in a big house with a

porch on all sides. I liked all of Houston's family, but especially Mamie and Dave.

One of the first things I noticed about the people at Limrock was that the men always walked in front of the women. I never figured that out, unless it was to protect the women from rattlesnakes or stray dogs, or because walkers usually had to walk in the ruts in the road or through the woods, overgrown with brambles.

The May Meeting was an important time for the community. Mr. Billy would always save one pig and fatten it for Miss Tish to prepare for the many guests at the May Meeting. They never knew who was coming but they all prepared for as many guests as they could accommodate. When all the beds were occupied, pallets were made on the floor. Plenty of food was cooked, some of it in advance. I remember that they would fry the sausage and keep it in crocks, covered with grease, until they were ready for it. Of course, the hams were cured in the smokehouse. Eggs were saved up. Cakes and pies were baked ahead of time. I never attended a May Meeting, but it was a big event.

Mr. Billy made split oak baskets for use, not to sell, and not for beauty. He taught some of the children how to make them, but cutting the trees and splitting the wood was too much work; so none of them remembered how to do it. I found a small basket, in very bad repair, in the attic and had a replica made from it. The basket makers in Tennessee advised me not to have it repaired because this would lessen the value of it. I wonder whose it was and who made it?

Miss Tish developed cancer of the mouth and lived a good while in very bad health. When she would have really bad times, and they thought she was going to die, they would call us--at any time, sometimes 3:00 AM--and tell Houston that if he wanted to see his mother again, he would have to come at once. By this time our son, Doug, was about three years old. We would pile into the DeSoto and drive up to the farm.

The people in the cove, friends and relatives, would come from miles around and "sit up" with her. They would sit around the fire and eat and drink coffee and wait to see if she died. The family seemed to like this custom of caring. The family and friends seemed to eat all night, at least until the supply of food was exhausted, as it was about 4:00 AM. Soon after that it was time for the poor, tired women to fix breakfast, which consisted of biscuits, sausage, eggs, butter, jelly and coffee.

We slept in the "lean-to" on a feather bed. If we looked out, we could not see a light anywhere because no one had electricity. Sometimes we would hear a fluttering of wings in the chimney or hear an owl hoot.

They didn't have a bathroom. People would go "outdoors" to the edge of the yard to relieve themselves. The men shaved from a washbowl, before a mirror hanging on the back porch. Everyone used a common towel and drank from a water bucket and dipper which sat on a shelf on the back porch. The women washed from a bowl and pitcher in the bedroom. Many years afterwards, when they finally got electricity, Houston built them a bathroom after a pump was put in the well.

When Miss Tish died, there was even more of a gathering. They had to "sit up" with the corpse, all night. She was not taken to a funeral home as far as I can remember. I think the women prepared her for burial. After a long and emotional funeral, with much weeping and hollering, she was carried across the field by pallbearers and buried in the family cemetery.

Several years later Mr. Billy died from a fall in the yard. He hit his head on a rock. They did have a funeral home take him to Scottsboro to prepare him for burial; but his funeral was held in the sitting room. He, too, was buried in the family cemetery as were his parents, James M. and Ellen Glover, and Mr. Billy's aunt, Miss Jane Glover.

I have heard that Mr. Billy broke his arm from a fall from his horse when he was first married. When the doctor set it, it was stiff, and he never could bend his arm after that.

Old folks were cared for by their children in the family home as long as they lived. At the Glover place, after the old people died, their rocking chairs were placed in the attic and saved.

After Mr. Billy died, the will was read. He left the "home place" to Virgil, with the stipulation that Myrt could live there the rest of her life. The farm at the end of the road up in Shipman's Cove was left to Mamie, Thelma, Virgil and Houston. None of the others seemed to care about the old "hillside farm;" but Houston wanted it, so he bought out the heirs and started improving it.

Houston loved the farm and the mountain and spent lots of time and money on it. At first, with Claude Bradford's help, he raised cotton and corn. It became so hard to "row crop," that he turned the fields into pastures and started raising cattle and hay.

He had a few farm horses to help with the work. I decided to learn how to ride and took lessons. I became interested in horses and on a trip to Barnesville, MD I bought an Arabian filly. Houston thought this was the craziest thing I had ever done. I figured that an Arabian horse wouldn't eat any more than a plow horse. I undertook to feed her and hired a man to train her when she was three years old. We bred her several times but

it was hard to sell an Arabian for anything like what they are worth. We would lease her out to other recognized breeders. One of the stallions we had trained by a trainer in Decatur. We finally sold him for much less than his real value. Later he was shown a lot and was later sold for a good price, but we lost track of him.

We now (1993) have Starlet, the mare who is 28 years old, and one of her offspring. Orion, a nice gelding, is about 17. Mostly, they just eat and sleep.

Conditions changed after TVA and World War II. Remember the old song, "How are you gonna keep them down on the farm after they've seen Paree?" Well, things changed after the war. The men left home to get jobs and finally the depression hit. Many of those who had left returned to the country when they lost their jobs. They lived with their families. They always had plenty of meat and vegetables. Many of those who left home worked in cotton mills in Huntsville. Myrt and Mamie always grew more vegetables than their families could eat. They always had a supply of tomatoes and beans to share with whomever visited them.

Another big change was when TVA brought power to all. Families could install pumps in their wells. Everybody who could afford to bought a washing machine. The washing machine sat on the front porch, as there were no utility rooms in the houses, no room for them inside. Also, it would be close to the well, as water was pumped up, but not yet brought into the house.

Even before bathrooms, the television sets became popular-- with antenna attached to the roof of the house. It was not unusual to see the washing machine on the front porch and a television antenna attached to the roof. These were indications of prestige, new things that everybody had to have. The yankees who migrated South to work at Redstone Arsenal made fun of this practice, but little did they know what it meant to us!

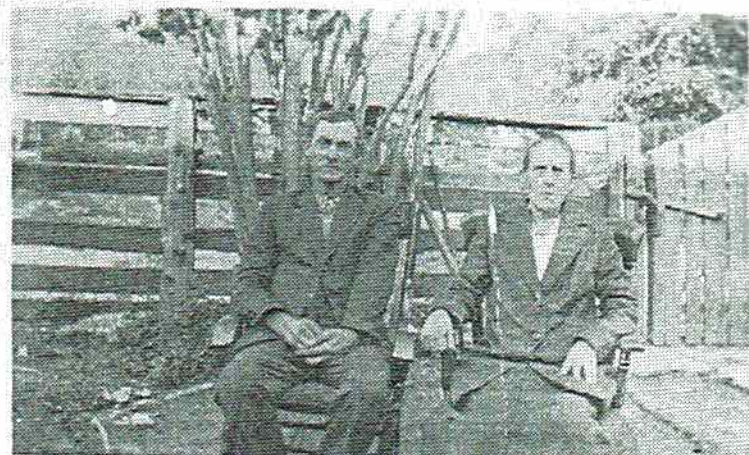
Elvira Bryson Glover  
Houston Glover



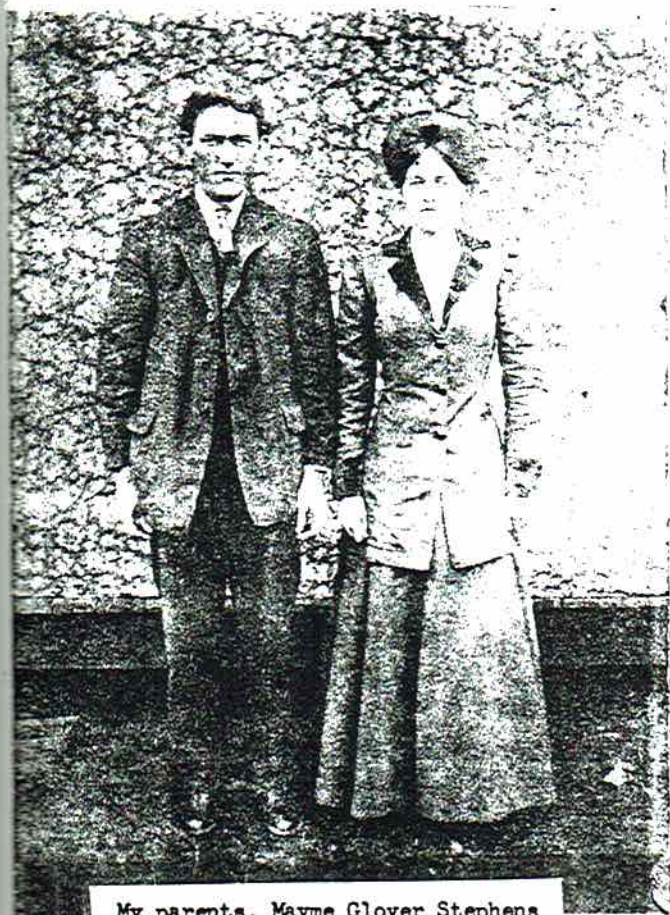
FROM BERNICE STEPHENS ROUSSEAU'S PICTURE COLLECTION



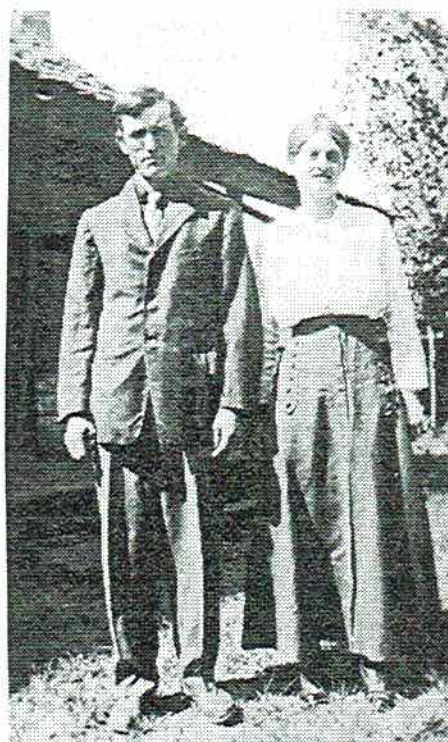
This picture of Grandfather William E. (Billy) Glover (1868-1947) was etched in metal.



My grandparents, Billy and Tishie L. (Aunt Tish) Glover (1871-1939), at their home in Shiffman's Cove.



My parents, Mayme Glover Stephens and Dave Stephens, soon after they married on February 23, 1913.



Dave and Mayme Stephens at the Glover home.

This article or ad was run in a newspaper advertising Milton Gentle's Store.

M. GENTLE

Stands Foremost Among  
The Merchants of the  
County.

The town of Limrock is situated nine miles west of Scottsboro, on the Southern Railway. We are proud to have it represented in these columns by so substantial and progressive a business man as Mr. Gentle, whose record there is a shining example of thrift and industry.

Almost opposite the railroad station stands a large, spacious store, well built and furnished with every convenience and facility for the handling of a live, up-to-date business. It is by far the largest establishment of its kind in the place, both in point of size and quality and quantity of stock on hand. Beside the store stands a small, insignificant structure whose dingy, weather-beaten boards show plainly that it has endured the force of more than one winter, a building hardly large enough to give one shelter, and yet it stands as the Alpha of Mr. Gentle's success. It was in this building that the genial proprietor of the large structure first commenced to battle with the world as a merchant. Though not large, still it was large enough to contain a \$25 stock, which afforded a starting point from which a business has developed whose stock at the present time aggregates \$10,000.

Mr. Gentle took possession of his store in the year 1881, and there conducted business until he found that his quarters were wholly inadequate,



and then he built his present establishment and moved in, which was in 1893.

The interior of his store is a model of neatness; the large, spacious shelves being well filled with everything necessary to the demands of the country and town people in the vicinity. His stock includes general merchandise, groceries, hardware, and in fact, everything which could possibly be desired.

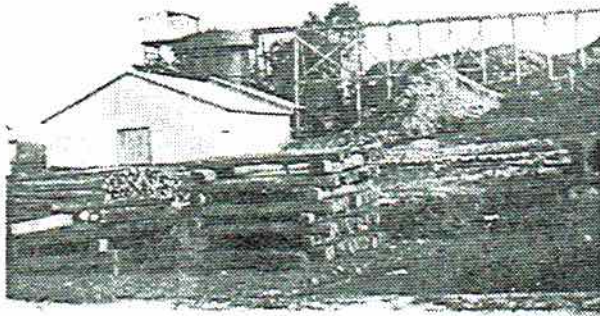
Mr. Gentle is a man of sterling qualities and worth, being known and admired throughout this region. As a tradesman he has always given satisfaction and his large patronage stands as a ready testimony to his ability.

Mr. Gentle has not only been before the people of his community as a store-keeper, but is a large dealer in lumber and timber, and also owned and controlled the lime kilns here, and manufactured that product for eight years.

SCENES FROM LIM ROCK AS SHOWN BY MILDRED GENTLE'S PICTURE COLLECTION



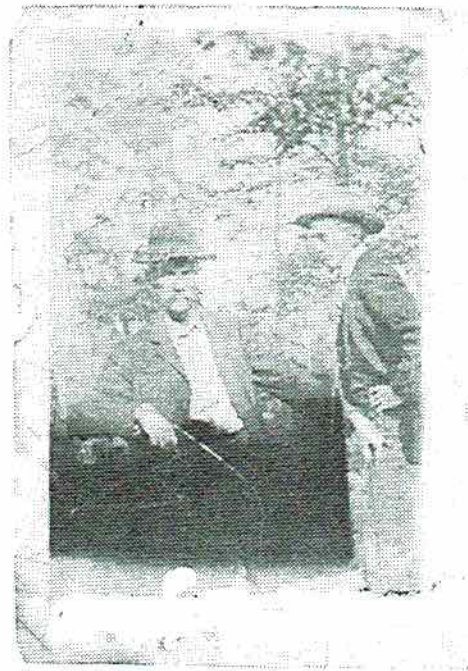
The building on the right was the 1881 store before the new one was built.



Lime Kiln



Clyde Gentle and the 1930's Methodist Church Building



Polly Higginbotham, left and Clyde Gentle



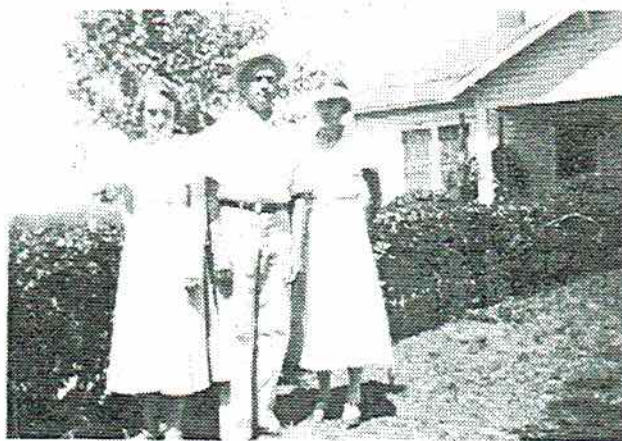


John Quincy Allison  
 Emma Brown Allison  
 Grandchildren Rodney &  
 Louise Gentle--Circa 1925



Milton and Maggie Gentle

Rodney won the election.



Clyde Gentle  
 Carrie Mae Allison Gentle



**RODNEY GENTLE**  
 Requests the Honor of Being  
 Your STATE

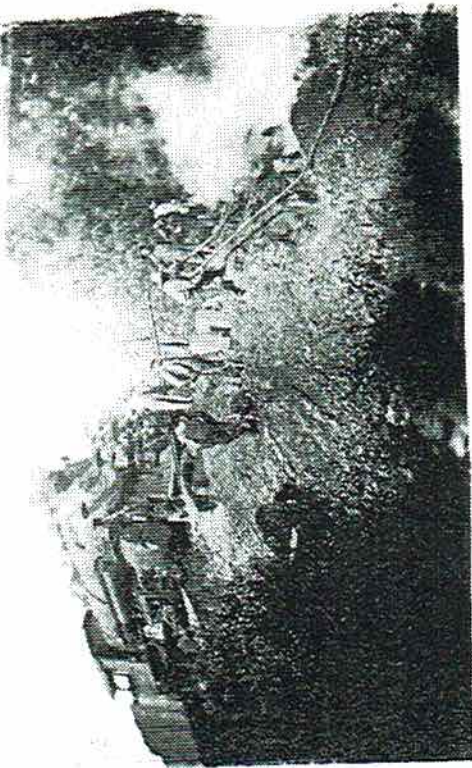
**Representative**  
**PLACE NO. 1, JACKSON CO.**  
 Representing each of you  
 Faithfully, Honestly, Sincerely  
 Subject to the Democratic Pri-  
 mary, May 2, 1950.

**"SUPPORT ME TO SERVE YOU"**

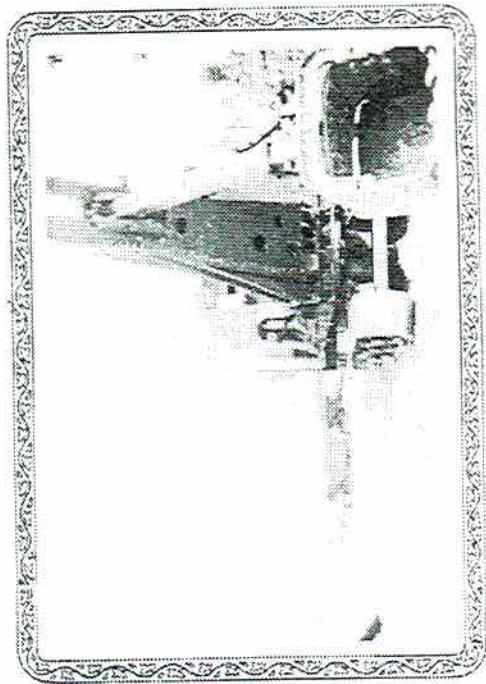
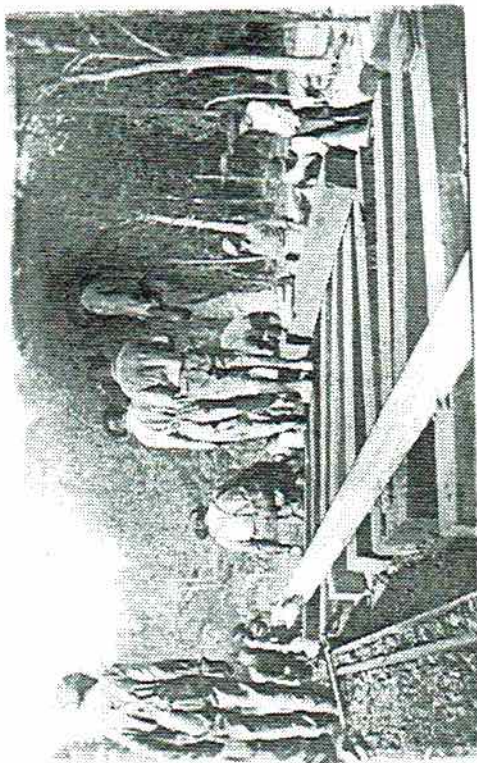
(Paid pol. adv. by Rodney Gentle, Limrock, Ala.)



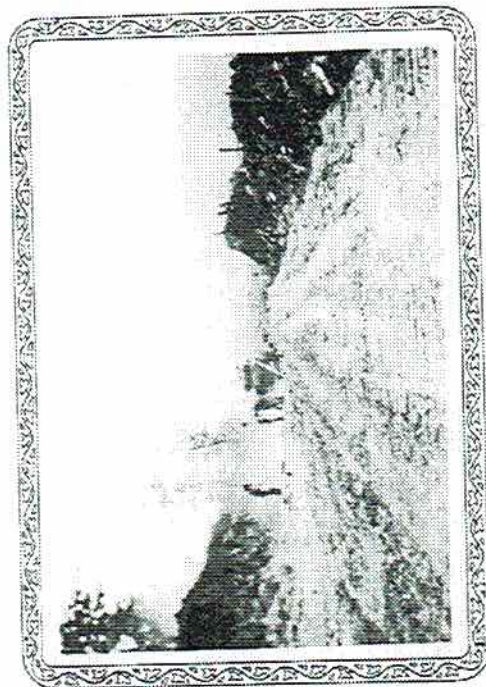
From left: Buddy Cox,  
 Rodney Gentle,  
 Louise Gentle--Circa 1925



Railroad Building at  
Lim Rock



Building Lee Highway  
Circa 1932



## THE WORDS



In January 1993 eighty-nine-year-old Hal Word remembered his family and their life at Lim Rock. His father, William Jacob (Jake) Word married Ella Jane Gentle, daughter of William Leslie Gentle. This marriage and the children of this marriage tied the Word family with the Milton Gentle family. Milton's son, Clyde, became a merchant at Lim Rock. The Word family became business leaders of Scottsboro. Hal thinks that his great-grandfather William Gentle came from Cumberland County Kentucky to settle at Lim Rock.

The Word-Gentle families are forever bound to each other. They also shared an aptitude for business.

Jake settled in Lim Rock, the home of his bride. In about 1900 they built a home at the intersection of the present County Road 30 and 527. Hal says there was no road west from the family home. A field road went west with a ford in the creek. Travelers and local people had to keep the road clear by using axes and saws on the undergrowth in order to keep it passable.

Jake went into the sawmill business. He moved his mill to a new location after a stand of timber was harvested. He located across the road from Clyde's store. Later he moved it to Gunter's Mountain near Grant. Hal remembers the hard work his father did to make his business succeed. About 1908 some of the Word family would, in a wagon or buggy, drive Jake (W.J.) to Aspel on Sunday afternoons. Jake would be left off at the foot of the mountain to begin his long walk up the mountain to his sawmill on Gunter's Mountain. He would spend the week batching in his cabin. On Saturday afternoon he would come down the mountain to meet his family who had returned to a designated pickup spot to take him home.

Jake wanted much for his family. He worked and planned to make good things happen. He wanted his children to go to school. In about 1900 Lim Rock was struggling to even have one-room schools. Those that were open were a long distance away from many families.

Newspaper articles say Jake built a small one-room school across the road from Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. It was across the now County Road 30 and 82. It was for his children and a few others.

Hal says that the Word family left Lim Rock in 1911 when he was just beginning school. They moved to Scottsboro for better opportunities in education and business. History has shown that the family succeeded in both areas. Some members of the family have succeeded in several business areas including the car and lumber businesses.

[EDITOR'S NOTE]: The above picture was the last one of Hal. It was made June 19, 1993. Hal B. Word died July 3, 1993 before this story made it to press. He was buried in Scottsboro's Cedar Hill Cemetery.

## EDUCATION



*This one-room school at Nat was typical of the ones located in Shiffman's Cove, across the road from Mt. Ararat Church, and at Jenny's Chapel.*

Of course, Lim Rock, like the rest of Alabama, at first had no schools. People did the best they could to teach their children at home. Formal education was missing. As the population grew and clustered, Alabama made some effort to get involved in educating the children. Local people had to bear most of the leadership responsibilities in getting schools built, staffed, and serviced.

A few one-room schools were built about 1900. Shiffman's Cove had its school built near Frazier's Springs. It was mostly manned by local parents who gave of their time to try to educate their children. It lasted for a few years and then closed.

Shiffman's Cove's children also went to the one-room school at Nat which was located on top of the mountain on the western side of the cove. Nat School later competed with the Lim Rock School to draw students so it could survive and stay open.

Jewel Houk and others of Nat came to Shiffman's Cove to recruit students in order to keep the school open. Young children and youth walked up the foot trails of the mountains to get to Nat. People now in their 70's tell of their experiences in the one-room school and the long mountain climbs to get to classes. The school accommodated grades one through ten in combined classes with each student working at their own rate of speed, wherever they might be. Each student had to supply whatever he used. Teachers were not well-trained but were determined to educate the best they could.

Esther Gentle, as told by her eighty-three-year-old daughter Ossie Smith, would before daylight prepare a mule for the long ride up the mountains each morning to substitute teach in the school. Parents were called upon to sacrifice to try to keep schools open. This was especially true in Alabama from about 1929-1936 when the State's education system nearly collapsed.

Nat did survive these critical depression years. Later it closed and students were supposed to go to Woodville. Like so many of the landmark schools, Nat School closed and burned in the 1940's. Schools had a way of burning during the lean years. The only sign of the school is a nice, well-kept, open lot across the road from Ollie Houk on County Road 8. Ollie is a descendant of the original Houk family who worked hard to keep the community education going.

Another one-room effort to educate Lim Rock's children was located about one mile south of Highway 35 at the intersection of County Road 11 and 541. Jenny's Chapel Church of Christ is now located on, or near, the site of the school. Jenny Womack is given credit by local old-timers as having led the movement to get the church built. It also served as a school. She secured community contributions and sponsored fund-raisers to get the needed funds to build the structure in about 1910. The building burned around 1924. The present Jenny's Chapel Church building replaced the destroyed building.

Teachers were not well-trained and their knowledge of child psychology was limited. Classes were combined. Students were often kept back or retained until some vague standard could be met as interpreted by someone with poor knowledge of subjects or children. Children just simply quit school.

One person who grew up in the neighborhood said one fellow stayed in first grade over and over. He grew older and got embarrassed and discouraged. There did not seem to be a way to get out of first grade and the school. All avenues of escape seemed to be blocked to him. He solved his problem by burning down the schoolhouse. After the school burned, the students began attending the Lim Rock School.

A third one-room school at Lim Rock was built across County Road 30 from the present Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. The Lim Rock School was later constructed across County Road 82

from the one-room school. Newspaper people and some local people attribute this one-room school to the effort of the Jacob (Jake) Word family. This family had built their home just west of the school at the intersection of the present County Road 30 and 527. There was no place for children to go to school except to Nat or Shiffman' Cove, or the Jenny's Chapel School. These schools were miles away so the Word family built the school for its children and a few others. This building was later used as the Methodist Church. The church continued on and was a major influence in the community through the 1930's. The church was again used as a school when the Lim Rock School was destroyed by fire in the 1930's. The school was rebuilt and was used until it closed in 1972.

There were other one-room schools to serve the children of Lim Rock. Bessie Gentle McCormack who is in her 70's remembers as a child how she walked miles to her school. She and other children of Gentle's Cove walked east through the fields and across Leslie Ridge. They walked through the Blue Springs area to Lizard Ridge. The school is remembered as the Lizard Ridge School. It closed in the mid 1930's.

If schools did not have formal names, children placed their own names to their schools. Gentry Hastings and his friends called such a school the Squirrel Hill School. It was located on the flat spot or table on the hill above Obe Hurt's store and Bill Flipppo's grist mill near the rock quarry. It closed in about 1900.

Alabama began an earnest effort to improve its education system in the 1920's. Serious effort was begun to fund the schools. An effort was made to close the one-room schools and to consolidate them. Teachers began to get better training. The state tried to set a minimum seven-months school year. In 1929-30 the state average school year was 150 days. Poor counties and remote areas like Jackson County and Lim Rock did not fare so well.

The economic bottom fell out. The economy came crashing down with the Great Depression. Alabama and Jackson County had no money to fund schools. The Alabama Supreme Court had ruled that education was not an essential element of government; therefore, schools could go unfunded while other functions of government would be funded first.

In 1932 the State Legislature reduced school funding from 10-30%. Teachers, who kept their jobs, were paid with warrants. Many banks closed. Warrants could not be cashed because the state had no money. A few individuals took advantage of the risks involved with the warrants and cashed them at 85-90% value. Store owners would do this at times--provided the warrant holders would trade at their store. Thus, the store owner got the discounted warrants and the profit from the purchases. The teachers who had earned the warrants took a licking in both directions.

One teacher tells the story that she had done some work at Livingston State Teachers College in teacher education. She taught in 1932 in order to get money to return to Livingston to earn her degree. Instead, the state paid her in warrants at \$50.00 a month. Her principal more or less borrowed her warrants so he could buy a car so he could get to work. He was nice though, he

gave her mortgages on his milk cow and his cotton patch. Economics being what they were, the principal could not repay the loans when due. The cotton patch failed, but the teacher did get the cow. The car dealer agreed to accept the warrants on a reduced basis if the principal would buy a car. Later, the teacher did get her pay and her degree. She had a long, distinguished career in education.

Some people have what it takes to get rich regardless which way the market goes. Some individuals and store owners who had enough cash to take advantage of the discounted warrants went on to get rich off the risks of people who were unable to take chances.

School terms were reduced. Teachers were not paid. A few people volunteered to freely give their time. Parents volunteered to substitute in order to keep the schools open. Interviews with the people of Lim Rock who were students in the 1930's say the school year was often 3-4 months. The school may not have opened one year. Certainly, it was difficult for students to know when school was in session. There were split sessions. Teachers, like everyone else, had to earn cash. Some picked cotton alongside their students. There was a time to close to plant the crops and a time to get out for harvesting. Children were needed at home to help make a living. Attendance was poor. Money, clothing, and necessities were hard to come by in order to go to school. No one was around to encourage students to stay in school. Books and supplies were almost nonexistent. The drop-out rate was high. Nevertheless, most people of Lim Rock succeeded. Many went on to very successful careers. Some became well-educated in formal education.

This article is copied from *THE DAILY SENTINEL*, Scottsboro, Alabama, Thursday, June 10, 1971, Page 11. (Editor's note: Some of Jake Word's descendants and others questioned that Jake personally built a school.) \*

## HISTORY OF LIMROCK SCHOOL

By Janis Wright

*The earliest school at Limrock was located above highway 72, just across the road from the present Limrock railroad crossing. It began around 1900, and was a one-room affair. School was taught for 3 months and the grades ranged from one to eight. Mr. Clyde Gentle, a longtime Limrock resident, remembers "everyones short-legged overalls and clean white shirts". Mr. Gentles also adds. "There was no certain grade. We mastered a reader on one level and then moved to the next." Early teachers at this school included*

Mr. Horace Vandiver, Mr. Richard Rousseau, Misses Eula Owens and Mamie Blackwell.

During this same period, a school was built at Shiffman's Cove. Each parent contributed one dollar per year for their child to attend school there. Students were called "a dollar scholar". Teachers here included Messrs. Andrew Houk, Harry Houk, Sam Winniger, Will Owens, Newman Brown, and Misses Pearl Isbell and Cornelia Owens.

\* In 1910, Mr. Jake Word built a one-room school just across the street from the present day Arat Baptist Church - so that his sons could go to school. Limrock school was torn down and lumber used for building a house. Shiffman's Cove sent their benches to be used at Mr. Word's new school, and both these older schools consolidated with the new Limrock school. Teachers here included Messrs. Ed Johnson, Sam West and Kirk Patrick.

In 1923, Aspel school consolidated with the Limrock school. The one-room building had become overcrowded, and a larger school was needed. In 1925, Mr. Mitt Gentle donated 5 acres of land east of the one room school. The present school was built on this site. When it began, 12 grades were taught. The new building consisted of 6 rooms and a gymnasium but the gym soon fell into disuse and was torn down. Mr. Clyde Hooper is the only student who completed all 12 grades at the Limrock school. He graduated in 1931.

In 1927, the first school bus began serving the school. It was driven by Mr. Dike Woodall. In 1948, the school got electricity - much to the disheartenment of several students. Previously, on dark, rainy days, school simply shut down. Now, it could proceed normally. In 1962, the school had its first telephone installed. In 1967, Larkinville consolidated with Limrock.

Several outstanding men have passed through the Limrock school. George and Albert Shelton, working for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Society, have measured solar eclipses for the U. S. Government with highly technical scientific instruments, and lead field parties to several South Atlantic Islands to accurately determine their position for NASA. These islands are important tracking stations in space flights.

Mr. Earl Reed, NASA mathematician, has solved several difficult problems in space technology at the Huntsville Marshall Space Flight Center. Mr. James Victor Hastings, a government seismologist, has done much field survey work on the earth's magnetic field all over the world. In 1969, a mountain in Antarctica was named for him.

Mr. A. A. Clemens, present County Superintendent



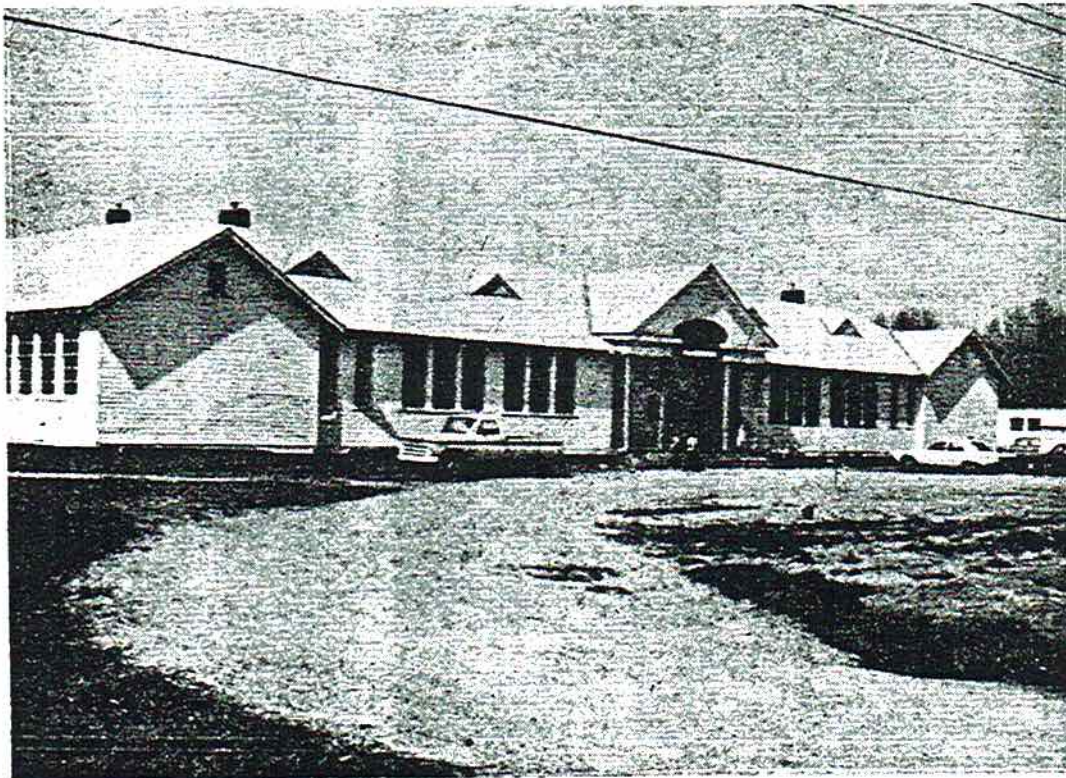
*of Education, served as principal of the Limrock school from 1957 to 1961.*

*Today, Limrock school has a faculty of four. Mrs. Vinnie Hess is principal, and teaches 7th and 8th grade. Mrs. Nila Siler teaches grades 1-3, Mrs. Janis G. Wright teaches grades 4-6, and Mrs. Lena Sanders is remedial reading teacher.*

*The school has 86 students enrolled. Mrs. Minnie Higginbotham is lunchroom manager, and Mr. Harland Moore is school custodian.*

Janis (Ed) Wright wrote this article as a young, beginning teacher at Limrock. She is still teaching in the Jackson County Schools.

On August 31, 1972 the school closed its doors for good. The school's youth were then bused to the school in Woodville. The building was torn down and the 5-acre, school building site reverted to the Milton Gentle estate.



**LIMROCK SCHOOL**

## Limrock School Closes

When the school bell rings August 31, Limrock School will not respond. The Jackson County Board of Education has decided it will be more feasible to close the school and transport the students to Woodville or Scottsboro.

Limrock School has a long and interesting history and figures prominently in the lives of many residents and former residents of Jackson County.



Bill Woodall furnished this picture of his 1930 team at Lim Rock. Bill remembers playing on the outside ball court. Later a gymnasium was built and the team played by the light of Aladdin lamps. Bill transferred to Woodville and played on the team there.

Standing left to right: Clyde Hooper, Bill Berry, Rupert Wallingsford, James Stewart, Archie Hastings, principal from Georgia W. G. Harris. Sitting left to right: Verbon Stewart, Bill Woodall, Elmer Gattis, Otis Lusk.

Archie Hastings is Gentry Hastings' brother. Rupert Wallingsford is Ruby Wallingsford Hastings' first cousin.

# Certificate of Promotion

This is to Certify that Euadell Tucker  
has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study as prescribed for the  
Sixth Grade of the Linnrock School  
and is therefore entitled to this testimonial and to admission to the  
Seventh Grade  
Given at Linnrock this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1940  
J. R. Kemmerer, Jr. Prin. Bertie Kemmerer  
*Teacher*

RECEIVED GRADY CO. 1940

122

LIMROCK

# High School

BE IT KNOWN THAT

Glyde Aston Hooper

123

Has honorably completed the REQUIRED Course of Study prescribed by the  
and by his attainments and commendable deportment is entitled to this

## HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

**Diploma**

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals at Limrock, Ala.  
this Thirtieth day of January Nineteen hundred and Thirty-One

W G Harris

Principal

E. F. Caldwell  
Trustee of Board of Education  
J. J. Hedgcock  
Secretary of Board of Education



Lim Rock School Group



It is believed that this picture was made in about 1900 at the one-room school that was on the hill above the Gentle's Store. Local people refer to the school as Squirrel Hill School. Note that nearly all of the children were barefooted. Clyde Gentle is the boy on the front row with the crutches. Ossie Gentle, Clyde's sister, is the 4th person from left on 3rd row.



J. R. Kenamer, Principal



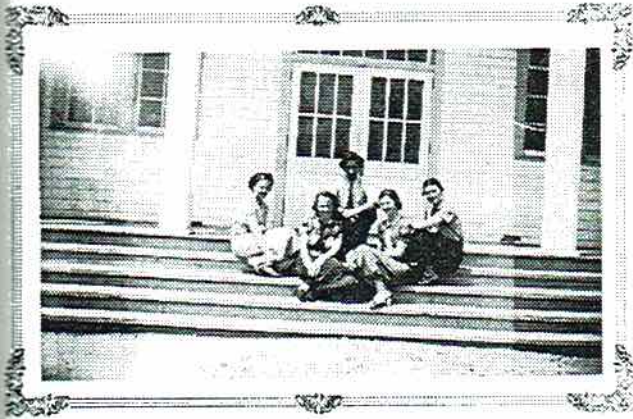
Faculty in 1942:  
Front left to right: Annie Mae Woosley,  
Bertie Kenamer  
Back left to right: Nannie Harrington,  
Mildred Baker, Beulah Kenamer



Bertie Kenamer, Teacher



Annie Mae Woosley, Teacher



Faculty 1937-38

Beulah Kennamer, 1st grade;  
 Ollie Ruth Matthews, 2-3;  
 Annie Mae Woosley, 4th  
 Mary Alice Stewart, 5th-6th;  
 Dennis Hicks, Jr. High



1943 Ninth Grade

Left to right front: J. R.  
 Kennamer, Edith Higginbotham,  
 Ora Delaney, Elizabeth Berry,  
 Naomi Byrum. Back: (? boy),  
 Lorene Brown, Nora Delaney,  
 Hurley Dickerson, Cecil Bishop,  
 Evelyn Rousseau.



Ninth grade class of 1943 at the 50th Class Reunion in 1993. Left to right: Lorene Brown Johnston, Nora Delaney Hooper, Ora Delaney Jones, Hurley Dickerson, Evelyn Rousseau Kennamer.



1993--Cecil Bishop and  
Elizabeth Berry Bishop.  
(See Chart I)



1993--Edith Higginbotham  
Woodall

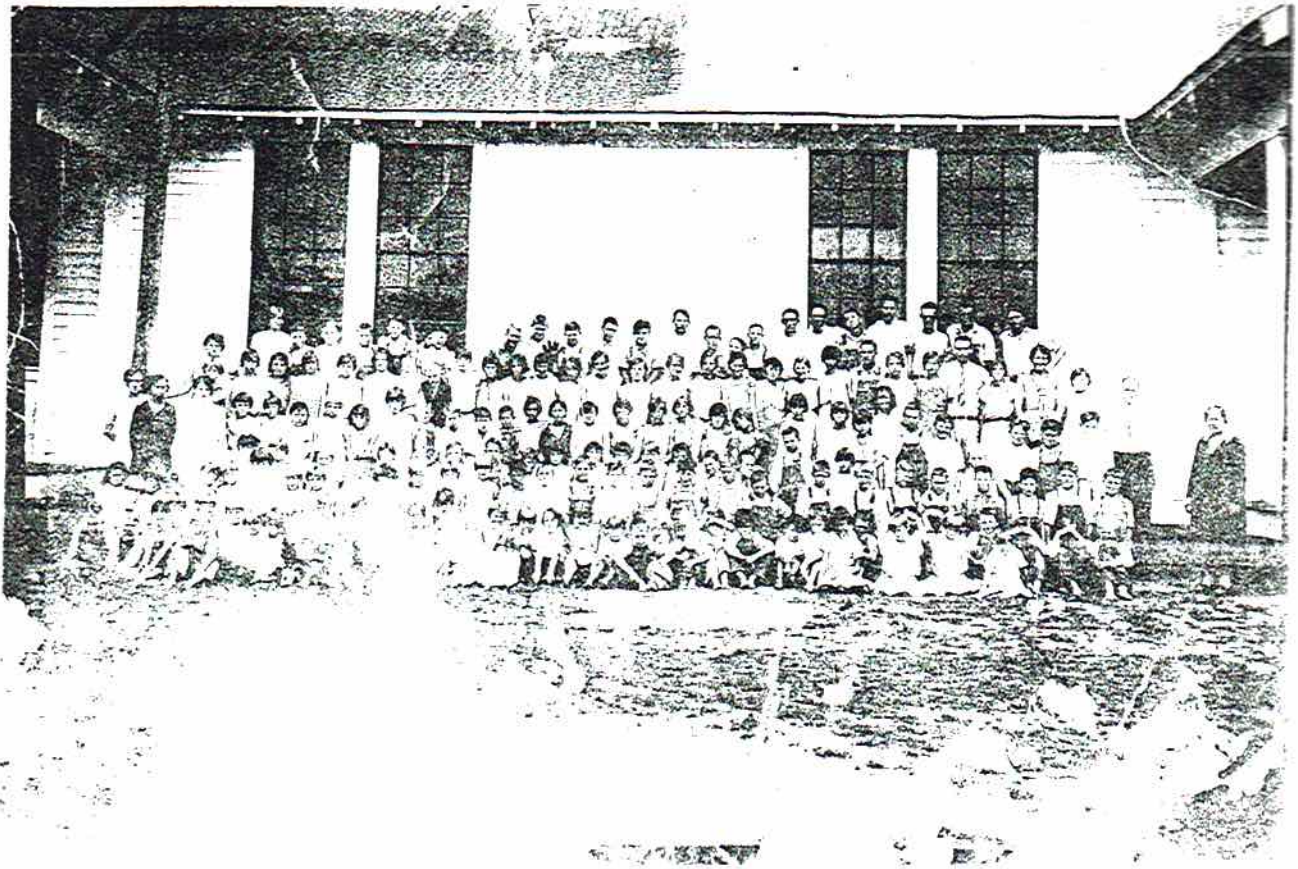


Left: Seated from left--Blanche Ehringer, Cecil Bishop, (behind Cecil) Billie Wayne Berry, (?), Jack Davis, Billy Gentle, Una Vivian Rousseau, Lena Wallingsford. Standing from left: Howard Adams, Hurshel Rousseau, Beatrice Rousseau, Ed Berry, Sara Davis, Evelyn Rousseau, Benjamin Rousseau, Inez Berry, Opal Tucker, Bernice Stephens and Vola Gentle.

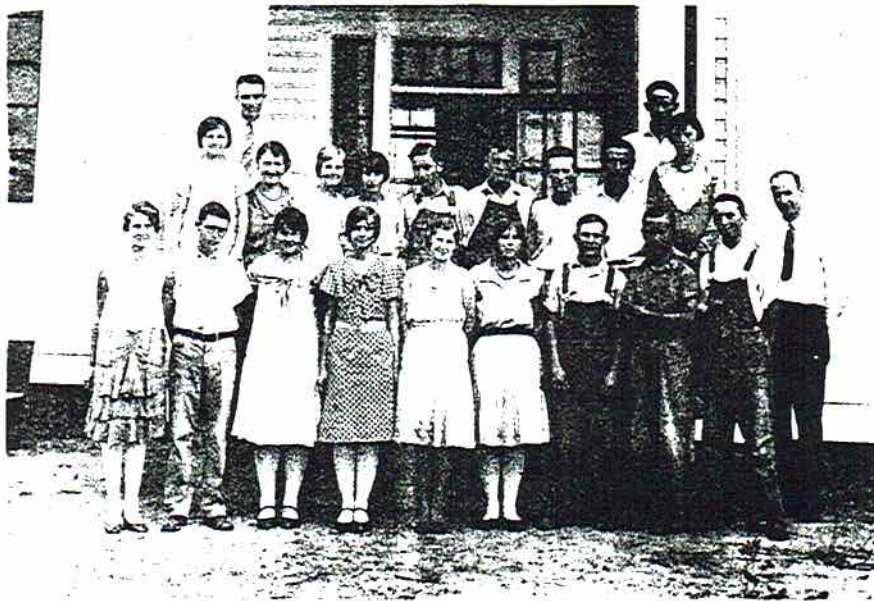


Right: These students were part of a ninth grade class of the 1940's at their class reunion in 1971. Front row left: Audrey Gentle Tidwell, Elizabeth Woosley Ferguson, Elaine Dulaney Maynor, Doris Johnston Reed. Back left: Jessie Higginbotham, Edwin Gray, Jimmy Sparkman, Billy Brown, Glen Bradford.

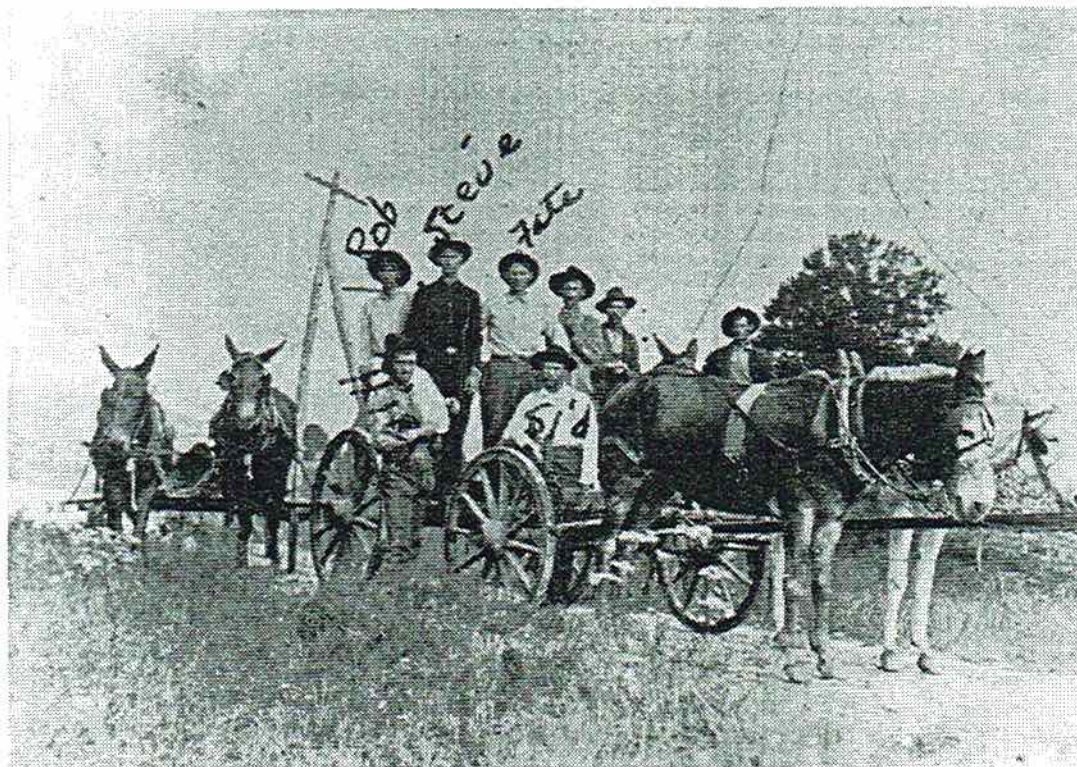




Lim Rock School Group



## Hastings - Shelton - Reed



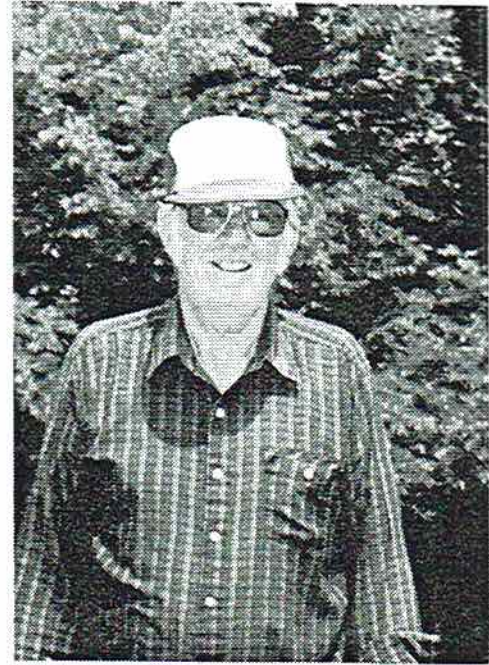
This is a typical work scene at Lim Rock in about 1915. On the ground from left are Hic O'Neal and Sid Shelton. On the wagon from left are Robert, Steve, and Fate Hastings. The last three men are unidentified.

At first William Edward Shelton was known as Little Nat in honor of his father, Nathaniel Shelton. Later he became known as Bill Nat.

Some of his children became interested and actively involved in the Geodetic Survey with the United States Government. In about 1926, his son George received a commission with the Survey. This interest was carried on by Vic Hastings, Bill Nat's grandson. Vic has done much of his work as an adult with the Survey.



*Bill Nat (W.E.) Shelton (Circa 1934) with 2 of his sons; George (left) and Horace.*



## JAMES VICTOR HASTINGS

Vic represents more than one generation of the Hastings family at Lim Rock. He was born at Lim Rock and finished school there. After graduating from Woodville High School he earned a degree in engineering. His work with the United States Government as a geophysicist has let him travel and do scientific work from pole to pole.

While doing scientific work in the Antarctic, he was honored for his efforts by having a mountain named in his honor. It was named Mount James V. Hastings.

After retiring from work with the United States Government he returned to his Lim Rock. He purchased his grandfather Shelton's estate near Stephen's Gap and built a modern home there. Since his retirement he has been actively involved with his own private land surveying company.

## EARL T. REED'S MEMORIES

Earl, like so many people who spent their formative years at scenic Lim Rock, reminisced with delight. His roots of several generations are there. His father, Earl Thomas Reed, Sr., died before Earl was born. Grandparents, Fate and Lucy Hastings, helped to raise him until their deaths in the 1960's. Grace Hastings Reed, his mother, died in 1966.

The Lim Rock School offers some memories. The school had changed a little from the 1930's when he went to school there in the 1950's. The old hand-dug well had been closed and a new drilled well was near the school building. Now the school had electric lights and water fountains.

Even with this progress, outhouses were still part of the scene. When the girls' facility was condemned, they took charge of the boys' facility and the boys took to the north woods. The boys had to use the woods north of the campus until a new girls' restroom could be built.

Combination classes were still in vogue. School population was not big enough to have one room for one class. Certain grades were combined in one classroom. The idea of combination classes worked well for some students. They learned the next class before they got there because they could listen in as the teacher conducted discussions for the next grade. Earl earned a double promotion due to the combination classes.

Earl feels blessed for getting a good education foundation through the ninth grade at Lim Rock. After finishing high school at Scottsboro, he went to Auburn University and earned a Master's Degree. In 1979 he earned a Master's Degree in computer science at University of Alabama, Huntsville, and has followed this career for years.

Even though he has lived in Madison County for all of his professional life, he yearns for his Lim Rock and may someday return there to make his home.

## THE GENTLE--McCORMACK-ELLEDDGE FAMILIES



*Bessie and Grady celebrated their wedding anniversary with their family.*

In January 1993, eighty-one-year-old Bessie Gentle McCormack told about her life in Gentle's Cove. Most of the information she has of her grandparents came from her older brothers

and sisters. Their grandparents on the Gentle side died before Bessie established a strong impression and memory of them.

Thomas Milton and Julie Winger Gentle were her grandparents. Thomas Milton Gentle was born in Jackson County in 1838. Some of Thomas' descendants today remember stories that he left Gentle's Cove to join the Federal troops in the Army of Ohio. They also say he received an eye injury during his military time that later caused him to go blind. A few people who are in their 80's remember him from the stories of their parents as having remembered him for his handicap as much as for his ability. He was referred to as "Blind Tom." He became a Methodist minister in the Lim Rock area in the 1870's.

Bessie's other grandparents were Albert and Mary Johnson of Gentle's Cove. They later lived in Albert Chambless' house at the end of now County Road 527. Albert and Mary Johnson operated a store from their home and barn, selling groceries and other things. They are buried in the nearby Johnson Cemetery.

Bessie's grandparents, Thomas and Julie, were the parents of her father Jeremiah. He was called J. M. or Uncle Jimmar (Jeremiah). He was called uncle because he was older than the other Jeremiah. The other Jimmar was his nephew, the blacksmith from Shiffman's Cove.

In the 1920's and the 1930's, Uncle Jimmar bought and sold furs as one means of making a living. Trappers would sell their catches to him. He would stretch the hides on boards and let them dry or season in an outbuilding. After the furs were cured, they were packed into wooden boxes and shipped to the fur companies.

One of Bessie's fondest memories of her parents, Jeremiah and Georgia Ann Johnson Gentle, was their casket making. Many people had to have homemade caskets for economic reasons. Other people preferred to have handmade caskets. It was the custom of the times to make caskets for members of the family or as volunteers to make one for a needy neighbor. Bessie's own words describe one of her special memories of her father's work with caskets. "I remember the special one he made with beautiful pine boards that he had bought. It was padded with nice, white cotton and lined with white satin. The outside was covered with nice, black material and black lace. The reason why I so fondly remember this incident was because I was small and got to help him. I held the material in place while he secured it with tacks. He finished the casket by placing on some beautiful silver carrying handles."

Bessie married Grady McCormack who died April 17, 1992, a few months after moving to Scottsboro. Grady is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery at Scottsboro. Grady and Bessie had spent most of their years together at Lim Rock and Woodville, adding to their early memories that had begun in early Lim Rock.



*Bessie and her sister, Jewell Elledge, enjoyed their family reunion in June 1993.*

Jewell married Vernie Elledge. They made their home in Huntsville, Alabama. Vernie was the son of Joe and Pearlmae Elledge. Vernie is buried in the Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. Joe and Pearlmae are buried in the Erwin Cemetery of Lim Rock. Bessie and Jewell are the only two surviving children of Jeremiah (J. M.) and Georgia Ann Johnson Gentle.

## **TALES FROM THE SWEARENGINS AND WOOSLEYS**



*From left are Ruby, Sallie, and Julie. Right: Ruby and Claude Woosley*

Ruby Swarengin Woosley remembers her family and their life in Shiffman's Cove. Henry and Sallie Gentle Swarengin and their two children, Ruby and Julie, lived in the first house north of the Primitive Baptist Church. The church was later relocated further north.

The Swarengin home, like many homes of the day, had more than one generation living at home. Henry's parents, Milas and Nancy Collins Swarengin, lived there with their extended family.

Sallie's parents, William S. and Nancy Ann Hasting Gentle, lived across the creek and its footlog from the Swarengin home.

Ruby explained in her own words. "We lived in the first house after leaving the Pike going into Shippman's Cove after passing the Primitive Baptist Church. We lived in an old two-room log house with a side room for the kitchen."

The house was heated with a fireplace. Later when the house was remodeled, it was discovered that the original logs were secured together with wooden pegs. This method of securing logs was a common practice for the times. The house was nestled into a natural opening on the edge of the mountain. The opening seemed to have been made for a homesite.

The homesite had no potable water supply. A creek was near. That water was used for farm animals, fishing, making molasses, washing clothes, and other uses. Drinking water was carried from the well at the bottom of Buckeye Hill which was about three tenths of a mile away.

Ruby continued, "In about 1930 our house needed a supply of drinking water. The Primitive Baptist Church was having its association meeting starting on Friday to run through Sunday. My Grandfather Swarengin, challenged himself before my Grandmother Swarengin, that he would like to hand dig a well for the meeting. My grandmother approved of the project and designated the spot for digging at the end of the porch. On Monday he began the dig. Grandmother drew the dirt and rock up as Grandfather filled the buckets with his diggings. On Friday evening, as he had promised and scheduled, he called up to Grandmother to send down a dipper. With much satisfaction Grandfather sent up a dipperful of water."

That well served the Swarengin family and other families with an ample supply of water for several decades. Both the church and the house have been torn down.

Ruby remembers that she and Julie worked the fields like men. Of course, most women of the day did. Ruby worked alongside her father doing all kinds of farm work including plowing with a two-horse turn plow from sunup to sundown. Sawing logs, chopping wood and all other farm work were part of the women's work as they were men's work.

Later she married Claude, the son of John and Mollie Berry Woosley of Berry's Cove. For seven years she and Claude lived in the house on top of Buckeye Hill. Again they had to carry water from the well at the bottom of the hill several hundred feet up the steep hill to the house. Laundry was carried down the hill and done at the well.

Julie married Virgil Pockrus, the son of Offie and Margaret Ann Holder Pockrus.

The Swearengin home was located on a field road, perhaps the first road, into Shiffman's Cove. In the late 1930's and early 1940's their home was used by neighbors to gather to tell and listen to stories. Radio had not yet been widely introduced at Lim Rock. Ghost stories and human interest stories were told convincingly and with enthusiasm.

The Swearengins were kin to the Rousseau children who lived at the head of the cove. Their home often served as a sanctuary to the children when they were walking home from school, especially when the weather was bad.

## **E. SANFORD BROWN, THE VETERINARIAN**

(August 9, 1897-June 14, 1987)



In 1910 when Sanford was thirteen years old, his family came from Beech Grove, Tennessee and settled in the Lim Rock area. He grew up in the area and married Annie Barclay. They had eight children. Sanford and Annie are buried in the Union Cemetery at Woodville.

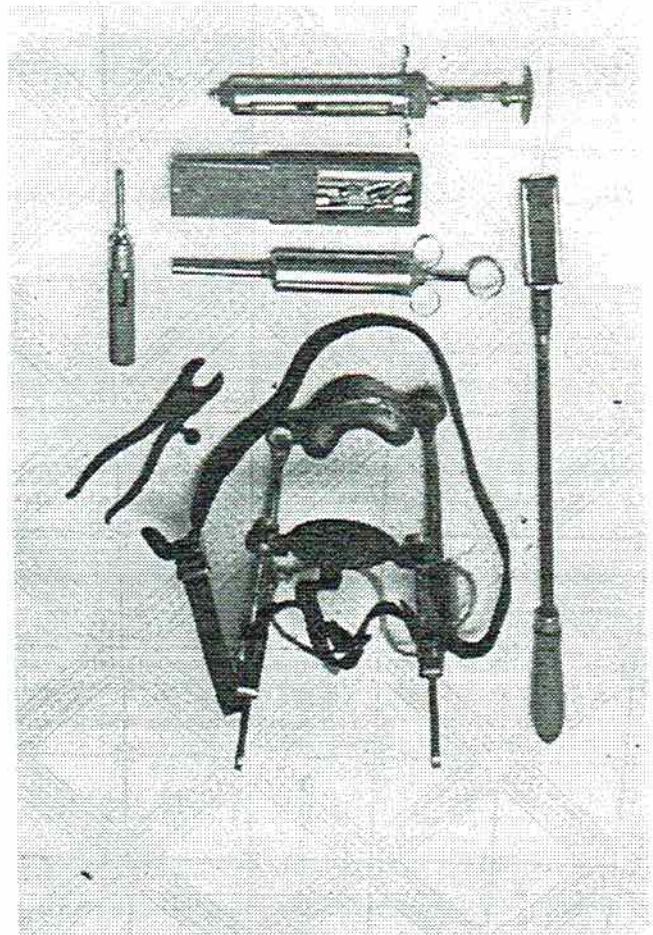
Some of his children still live at Scottsboro and Lim Rock and were of much help by sharing information as information for the Lim Rock story was being collected. Kenneth Brown, Oran Brown, and Lorene Brown Johnston remember their father with fondness as they tell his story as he worked to support his family and be of service to his community.

Sanford had no formal training in veterinary medicine. Early on he had an intense interest in animals and learned to treat them as he cared for them. For several decades he practiced his



profession and learned on the job.

Much of the time he lived and farmed near Aspel. Sometimes after a long day farming he would walk for miles to Lim Rock or other places to answer the call of a sick animal. He would put his tools in a flour sack and carry them over his shoulder as he made his circuit. Often he would have to wait until the crop was gathered in the fall to collect his \$1.50 fee. Even though he lived to be ninety years old, and until 1987, he never owned a car.



*In March 1993 Oran reminisced while holding his father's eyeglasses and "grip." He sat before his father's veterinary tool chest. Many of the tools that Sanford used are shown in the second picture. The instruments shown include a tooth file, needles, pill plungers, and an instrument called an equine mouth speculum that was used to prop open the mouth of a horse.*

Oran often assisted Sanford by giving shots, ringing hogs, and doing other things. When the wonder drug penicillin came on the market, it was used to treat both animals and people. Oran would pick up his father's prescription for a bottle of penicillin costing 31c. The bottle of medicine was enough to give about ten shots for a horse or cow.

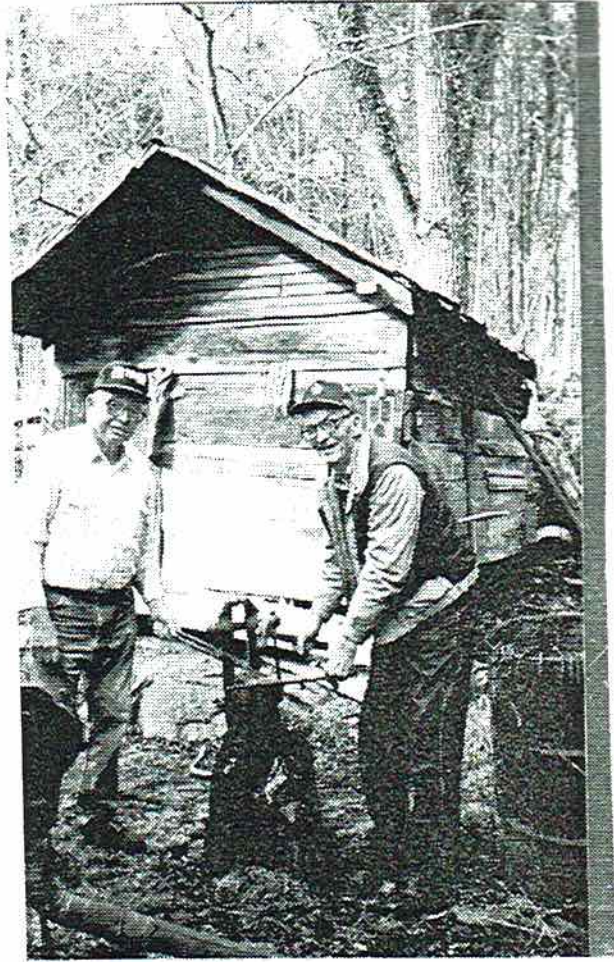
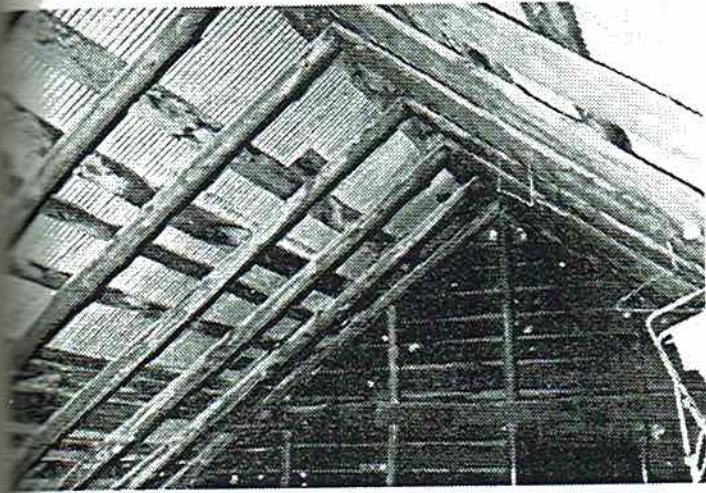
## BOYD AND LORENE JOHNSTON'S CHOSEN PARADISE



*From left: Boyd and Lorene Johnston and Oran Brown*

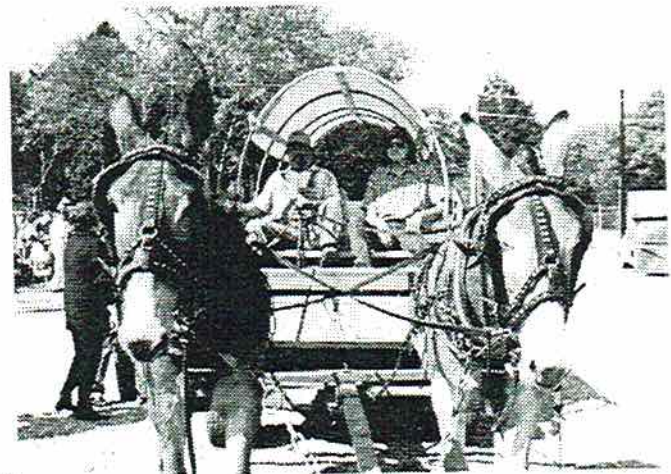
In 1949 Boyd and Lorene Johnston bought the Andy Talkington home and farm and mountains at the head of Berry's Cove. They have raised five children there. Their six grandchildren enjoy coming to their grandparents' home to explore the mountain stream and all the wonders of the outdoors.

The Johnstons state that their home is probably over a hundred years old. The house was built for a residence for a timber harvester. It began as a one-room home. Later another room and a dogtrot were added. Over time, the house has had other additions. The dogtrot was enclosed and extra rooms have been added for a den and kitchen.



*The picture on the left shows how people improvised and made out with what they had. Cedar trees were cut from the farm and made into rafters. The loft was made into a large sleeping quarters for the children .*

*The picture on the right shows brothers-in-law Boyd Johnston and Oran Brown as they demonstrated their blacksmith skills as they used the vise, hammer, anvil, bellows, and other pieces of equipment that came from Jeremiah Gentle's blacksmith shop. Boyd is a skilled craftsman, including the art of fixing shoes and shoeing horses and mules.*



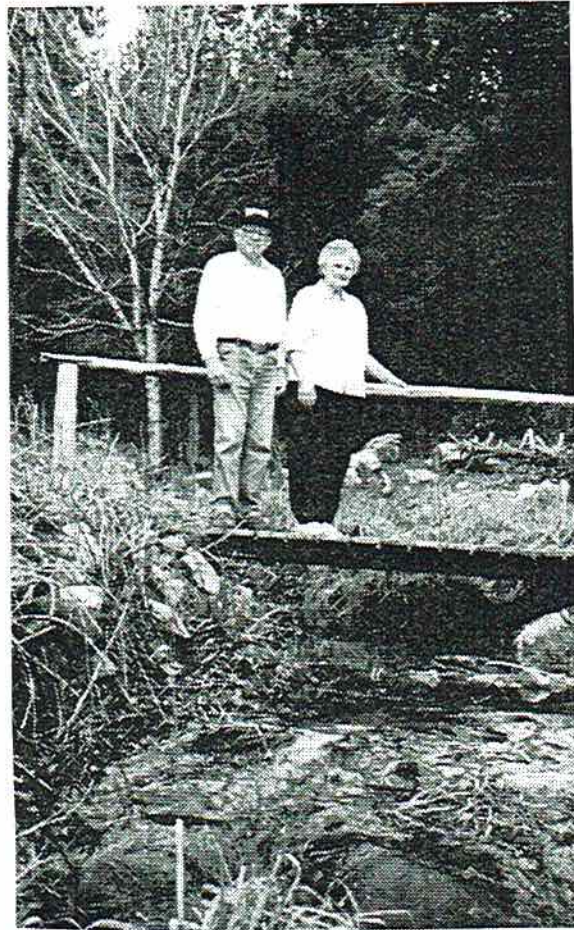


For many years water for the Johnston house was secured from a mountain spring high above the house. The water was brought to the home by handmade troughs or flumes hewn out of cedar logs (above). A bucket or barrel or wooden container was at the end of the trough to always have a ready supply of cool water. This technique was a common way to pipe in water for any house that had springs above the housesite. Later, plastic pipes replaced the open flume. Even though it has been many years since the cedar troughs were used, they are still in good condition and show no evidence of rot or deterioration.

Boyd demonstrated a technique that was frequently used to preserve and season animal hides. The hides or skins of animals were stretched to the maximum on the sides of buildings. Boyd was stretching the hide of a deer.

Some people became quite good at tanning hides of animals to be used for leather products. A tanned ground hog hide could be used to cut into thin strips for shoelaces and string for all kinds of uses.

The Johnston home is located at the end of County Road 82 at the head of Berry's Cove. Its location is scenic, with a picture-perfect setting. A pure mountain stream runs within a few feet of the house. The site is high enough to be free from flooding. Traffic cannot approach the home. Visitors to the estate have to walk a footbridge to get to the house. Any traffic on the road can be assumed to be someone going to visit the Johnstons.



*These two pictures show Boyd and Lorene as they, with pride, showed off their treasured homesite.*

Boyd shows much of the self-reliant, hardy spirit and attitude that many people of Lim Rock had during the 1930's and the 1940's. He has hunted, trapped, skinned animals for their furs, farmed, blacksmithed, and many other things. When his power goes off, he can relax by his fireplace or woodburners. If times get too rough and tough for some people, he can use his mule for transportation. He can gather his own garden and eat his own venison and be independent of much of the outside world.

Some of the lumber in the house was hand planed. The people who built the original house also were self-sufficient. They had their root cellars and their smokehouse and work area.

The house has been home for several families. Many children have been born there. The Woosley, Berry, and Talkington families have lived in the house. Some of them had many children. The house, no doubt, holds memories and favorite stories for many people. It is said that one family had fourteen children and they all were at home at the same time.

One of the interesting tales had to do with one of the families that lived there and had

the children's sleeping quarters in the loft. The children could look over the wall into the kitchen as their mother prepared the family meals.

Many families used animal fat for several purposes. It was rendered out and used to rub on shoes to keep them pliable and waterproof. It was used for first aid to place on boils on the skin to make them come to a head. It was used to rub on sore joints in an effort to help "rheumatiz."

It is laughed about today as the tale goes that the mother was in the kitchen rendering out the fat of an animal. Supposedly the lard was an aid to sore joints when it was applied. The children were in their loft bedroom as the enticing scent of food drifted into the sleeping area. The mother left the kitchen and one older boy thought the stewer full of delicious-smelling meat was his breakfast. He went down and ate his share. When his mother returned to her task she was suprised when she discovered that her renderings of a skunk were gone. She was amply rewarded with compliments by her son for having prepared such a fine meal. It is not known if the boy ever suffered from arthritis.

Boyd and Lorene are happy and proud of their achievements. They have a splendid isolation with its rewards considering the problems in more populated places.



### *THE JOHNSTONS*

*Seated from left: Marsha Johnston Fretwell and Sharon Johnston Bell. Second row from left: Boyd, Lorene, Jack Johnston, Brenda Johnston Austin, Helen Johnston Pritchett.*

## SOME CHANGES IN ONE PERSON'S LIFETIME



*From right are Kenneth, his wife Evelyn Mullins Gentle, and his sister Mary Belle Gentle Dean.*

It is obvious that sixty-seven-year-old Kenneth Gentle feels that the world has shrunk since his boyhood days in Lim Rock. He, like nearly all youth of the Great Depression, felt the sting of economic problems. Grady Gentle, his father, and his family lived near their relatives the Robert (Rabbit) Gray family on Leslie Ridge. Rabbit had several children. One of his sons was Houston (Rooster) Gray. Both Rabbit and Rooster influenced Kenneth's life and helped form his philosophy.

Kenneth reminisces how his father, Grady, would struggle to make ends meet for his family. In 1936 during the depth of the depression, Grady would supplement his income by hunting rabbits and selling them to customers on the passenger trains. Breadwinners did what they could to earn a nickel--with 25c being sufficient to feed a family beans for several days. The train passed through Lim Rock about 7:30 a.m. coming from Sheffield to Chattanooga. It returned about 5:00 p.m. Employees on the train placed their orders at the depot in the morning and picked them up on the return trip.

The customers were real smart. They required that each rabbit have one furry foot left on the dressed carcass. This requirement was to insure that the order was correct and not filled with somebody's housecat.

Other people also filled such orders for both rabbits and squirrels. Sometimes they pooled their harvest to satisfy each others' orders.

In addition to the above, later experiences show how large the world was to a boy of five in 1931. Kenneth's mother, Effie Frazier Gentle, had not seen her parents of Paint Rock for about one year. Twelve miles were a long ways away. There were few cars. Bus or train fares were beyond the reach for a family of five. Grady and Effie borrowed a buggy from friendly neighbors, the Allisons. They borrowed a mule from Robert Gray. They loaded their family aboard the buggy for the four-hour, one-way trip to Paint Rock. It took a long day to make the round trip and have a little time for the children to visit Grandpa's and Grandma's house.

Kenneth's other relatives also furnish some of Kenneth's memories of humorous incidents in his life. One incident was when one of Rabbit's grandsons, about five years old, was "helping" his grandfather, Rabbit, demolish an old barn. He, like many youth of the time, had been taught to use tobacco in all forms. Rabbit was upon a shaky part of the old building as he said, "A man could meet his death if he fell off this shaky beam." His grandson, with the best of humor and timing, said, "Grandpa, if you do, I get your snuff."

A boy of twelve would hunt with Rooster and Miller Berry, a neighbor. Miller was the designated lantern carrier because of his vision problem. Anyone who ever hunted at night knows that the light carrier is the honored one and the one with a distinct advantage over the others in the hunting party. He is like the driver of a car. He calls the shots and is head of the party. Kenneth says that when Rooster's dog, Old Banjo, got on the trail of a raccoon, Miller showed much excitement as the sound of Old Banjo's baying reached his ears. He would begin running in the direction of the baying. As he ran, the twelve-year old, along with Rooster, tried to keep up--only to be met with slaps across the face by bushes that were cocked by Miller as he ran and forgot his vision problem and that others were with him. If anyone ran close behind the lantern he was "swarped" across the face with the cocked limb. If he got behind, he was lost in the dark. Carrying the light had its advantages even over owning the dog. To the coon hunter's sorrow, Rooster sold Old Banjo.

Kenneth grew up and moved to Huntsville in 1942. After serving in the military he returned to Huntsville for a job with defense-related work. One of the jobs he held was in maintenance in a research laboratory as researchers tried to develop a gas laser.

Many years after leaving Lim Rock and while on another job that was also reducing the size of the world, Kenneth and a co-worker, J. B. Burkett, were working on a project. During their leisure time they were discussing how things were fifty years before. Coon hunting entered the conversation when J. B. said he once had the best of all coon dogs named Old Banjo. They surprisingly concluded that Old Banjo was the same friend that Kenneth knew as a twelve-year-old. J. B. had bought Old Banjo from Rooster. Kenneth concluded that this incident, plus the work in space travels have proved his world of 1926 has indeed shrunk. All of this in one lifetime is astonishing to a boy from Lim Rock.



## THE DEPRESSION YEARS AND ONE MAN'S STRUGGLES

The listed documents show some of the efforts of one man and his efforts to support his family during the Great Depression. He had moved his family from Huntsville so that he, and they, could get odd jobs in the country. When the siege of "hard times" lifted, he moved back to Madison County for jobs in the city.



ESTABLISHED 1871.

NEW YORK OFFICE:  
85 CHAMBERS ST.

### IVER JOHNSON'S ARMS & CYCLE WORKS

SHOTGUNS · RIFLES · REVOLVERS · BICYCLES  
VELOCIPEDES · JUNIOR CYCLES · BABY WALKERS

FITCHBURG, MASS. July 2, 1936.

Mr. T. G. Tucker,  
Lin Rock, Ala.

Dear Sir:

In response to your recent letter, we are sending you separately a Price List of Parts, for IVER JOHNSON firearms.

When ordering, please mention the numbers as well as the names of parts wanted, and be careful to give full particulars, such as the model, calibre, finish, et cetera.

As we cannot open accounts for small items we will thank you to send the money, including postage at a cent and a half per two \* ounces, with your order to which we promise our best attention.

Please remit by post office or express money order. For small amounts, under one dollar, stamps will be acceptable.

Yours very truly,

IVER JOHNSON'S ARMS & CYCLE WORKS

ECG:T

\*NOTE: If this quote were given today it would be about 52¢ for first class or about 20¢ for bulk rate.

This letter has several interesting features. Among them is a postage comparison with today. Also, it shows an effort to develop the skill as a gunsmith.

STATE OF ALABAMA, JACKSON COUNTY

33.15 Scottsboro, Ala., Nov. 7 1936

On Feb 16, 1936 We promise to pay R. H. McAnelly  
 or order Thirty three & 15/100 DOLLARS

for value received with interest from date, payable at \_\_\_\_\_  
 and to secure the payment of this note and any other sums we may owe the payee before this note is paid, we mort-  
 gage, sell and convey to said payee unincumbered property, as follows:

PAID March 11, 1940  
By R. H. McAnelly

Our entire crops of corn, cotton and produce, and all rents accruing to us for the year 1936 and hereafter said payee  
 or his endorsee to take possession of and sell the same whenever he deems himself insecure, after ten days notice of  
 time, place and terms of sale by posting; and hereby waive all exemptions under the laws of Alabama or any other  
 State or of the United States; and we agree to pay a reasonable attorney's fee for collecting or securing same if not  
 paid when due. Witness our hands and seals.

WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Scottsboro, Ala., Mar 4 1941

Mr T. G. Justice  
Mississippi Rd 2  
 In Account With  
**R. H. McANELLY**  
 FURNITURE and UNDERTAKING

Am't of Note	\$ 33.15
Am't Paid	28.15
Bal	\$ 5.00

Thanks

Hays	1800
	250
	200
	200
	<u>2450</u>
	3.65
	<u>2815</u>

Mar 27/1937 By Cash	2.00
10/8/37 By cash	250
Oct 14/37	200
Oct 14/37 By Pigs	1800
Total	2000
10/27/38 Cash	26.50
June 5-1940 work	100
July 27/1940	45
	<u>2715</u>

STATE OF ALABAMA  
 JACKSON COUNTY  
 I, R. H. McAnelly, Judge of Probate, hereby cert-  
 ify that the within NOTE was filed in this office  
 for record on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
 1941  
 at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M. and recorded in  
 Mortgage Record \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_  
 The within security was the following mortgage  
 tax has been paid on the within as required by  
 law.

Some of these items are almost too personal, too current, and too painful to publish. They were recently rediscovered in the principal's trunk several years after he had died. Each document tells its own story of one family's efforts to climb out of the economic disaster.

In 1936 the man's five-year-old son died. These listed bits of evidence show the "note" for the funeral expenses and methods used to repay the loan. Hogs, cash, and work were used to repay the debt.

Order for Products of the  
**BLAIR LABORATORIES**  
 LYNCHBURG, VA., U. S. A.

Date 12/13 1940

Name Mrs Tucker

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Time to be delivered \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY	NAME OF ARTICLE	AMOUNT
	Receipt of Mrs Tucker	\$3.00
	on house Rent	
	J. R. Dent	

Just a "Peep" into the big Blair line of more than 300 famous products. All of them sold under our Gold Seal Guarantee, by Blair Home Service Dealers in every community.

**Blair's Verifine Flavorings:** Famous for extra strength and their fine flavor. Contain no alcohol. Will not cook out with the heat or freeze out with the cold. Popular with good cooks everywhere. Fourteen Different Flavors.

**Ole' Virginia Pie Filling:** A ready-to-mix pie filling makes delicious pies and puddings quickly and easily. Simply add sugar and water. No chance to fail. Five delicious flavors: Chocolate, Cocomanut, Lemon, Vanilla and Butterscotch.

**Dr. Blair's Cream of Cucumber:** A remarkable complexion cream that is "Used in place of face powder". Makes the skin soft, smooth and fair. Stays on all day. Will not rub off, invisible when properly used.

**Dr. Blair's Snow White Hair Beautifier:** For softening and beautifying the hair. Makes coarse, unruly hair lay right. Splendid for the scalp. Removes dandruff scales. Gives the hair beautiful lustre and life.

"There's a good Blair Product for every member of every family."

This receipt shows a rent payment. The back side of the receipt is an interest item showing some ads that were current in 1940.



Date 2/16/40

Rec of J. G. Tucker  
 \$15.00 on  
 Radio in full  
 S. E. Shelton



The family bought a new \$15.00 radio in 1940.

Thomas G. Tucker  
 2/2/1882--9/26/1958

In April 1940 a notification of an offer of employment with the WPA was received. Until a WPA job was found, other jobs were secured. The Work Projects Administration was one of the government's efforts to put people back to work. This program was used to employ people to work on public projects.

WPA Form 417  
FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

## NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION

4/18/40

Tom G. Tucker,

(Name)

Limrock, Ala.

(Address)

You are hereby notified that you have been certified for employment by the Work Projects Administration for a period of 90 days. It is required that you register with the United States Employment Service and receive an occupational classification before assignment. As soon as an assignment to work can be made you will be notified. If you have not been assigned within 90 days after this notice, your certification will be canceled unless you notify this office in person or in writing that you are still in need, seeking work, and available for an assignment.

Signed Miss Willene Hyde

(Name)

WPA Interviewer, Scottsboro, Ala.

(Title)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 16-70191

A joint venture of cutting fence posts, especially cedar posts, was made with W. V. Gentle in July 1940.

The envelope was "backed" in 1941. Addressing envelopes was referred to as backing the envelopes. The cost of a first-class letter had gone from 1c in 1920 to 3c. Of course, today in 1993 the same stamp costs 29c.

The project was building the military camp, Peay, at Tullahoma, Tennessee. It was later used to house German prisoners during World War II.

Lim Rock Ala  
 July 27/40  
 Sulworth Lumber Co  
 As I am tied up in  
 other work at present  
 cant get your post  
 as soon as I thought  
 I could I am turning  
 the whole job over  
 to J.G. Tucker he  
 will put them to you  
 at once this is the  
 man trade with  
 him he is OK.  
 W.V. Ginter.



NO. W-985 QM-2

**HARDAWAY-CREIGHTON COMPANY**  
TULLAHOMA, TENN.

CAMP PEAY

PAID TO ORDER OF  
**TOM G TUCKER**

REGULAR HOURS	40 0	RATE	45	AMOUNT	18 00	
OVERTIME HOURS	11 0	RATE	675	AMOUNT	7 43	
433 14 4286					TOTAL AMOUNT	25 43

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

CHECK DATE AND PERIOD ENDING  
 MO. 21 DAY 30 YR. 40

BADGE NO.  
 5192

O. A. B.  
 25 PAY \$ 0 25 DOLLARS 18 CENTS

NON-NEGOTIABLE

EMPLOYEE'S STATEMENT

The paycheck stub shows an hourly and weekly wage for a skilled employee who had to leave his family at Lim Rock and go to Tullahoma to "board out" for the time period. During this time frame nearly every piece of lumber for a building had to be sawed by handsaws. The given wages were earned by filing the handsaws and doing carpentry.

The regular hourly wage was 45c. Anything over 40 hours was time and half or 67 1/2c an hour. This employee worked 51 hours in the week noted. The take-home pay was \$25.18. Social Security tax had been in place for only a few years. In the beginning an employee paid one per cent of his pay as contrasted today with several percentage points. This employee paid 25c in Social Security taxes from this week's earnings.

## HOMER JOHNSON'S FAMILY

The 1930's experienced a vast expansion of the TVA backwaters around Aspel. People who had homes and farms in the flood plains had to scramble for farms in the higher elevations. TVA helped to relocate these families. Lim Rock received some of these families.

The J.P. Wynn family lived in the flood plains near Aspel. J. P.'s daughter, Veda Wynn Johnson, tells of her school days at Aspel. During high-water times she was transported from her home by "skiff" to where she could walk to school. Her family's farm in Sauty Bottom was later covered by the backwaters of Sauty Creek.

In 1937 the Wynns bought the Cass Staples farm just west of Willie Gentle's Store and south of the newly constructed Lee Highway 72. The home they bought faced the mountains south because that is where the main road ran from Stephens' Gap. Rocks today are piled on the side of the old road marking its course. Of course, it closed to through traffic when the new highway was constructed. The homes situated on the old wagon road had lanes constructed to the new road.

Before 1932 the wagon road was known as the Old County Road or the Old Lim Rock-Stephens' Gap Road or Around the Mountain Road. Residents who lived along the roadway gave a few days each year to maintain and keep the road open. It had served as a wagon road and stage road from Woodville to Lim Rock to Aspel.

Several homes had been constructed near the springs. These springs had been dug out and were the source of water for several homes. They have over time been filled in and no longer run. J. P. bought the house and farm near the springs. The house was redesigned to face the new highway. His daughter, Veda, married Homer Johnson. After Homer's death on December 7, 1991, she continued to live there with her daughter and son-in-law (Herbert and Sandra Johnson Barnes) living nearby. Homer is buried in the Cedar Hill Cemetery at Scottsboro.

Homer loved Lim Rock with its mountains, streams, and great stories. He passed this love along to his son-in-law. Herbert retells some of Homer's stories that were passed along during their good times together. They together liked to explore the old wagon road into the nearby mountains called Double Gate. This road connected Stephens' Gap with Caney Cove.

Homer passed along through Herbert about the time when Homer was a little boy at home with his parents Marion and Cassie Johnson near Stephens' Gap. Homer was too little to get aboard a mule. Marion would place Homer on a mule behind a sack of corn for the grist mill at Lim Rock. Homer would ride alone around the Around the Mountain Road to the grist mill. When he got there the miller would lift him and his corn off the mule. The corn would be ground into meal. Then Homer and the meal would be put back on the mule for the trip back home.

Such was the way people cared for each other. This act of caring was no less important

than when Homer and Veda lived at home with their extended families caring for Veda's parents and her 101-year-old grandmother until their deaths. Veda still lives there with her fond memories.

## PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER

The rolling store was a convenience to the residents in the distant coves. Rodney Gentle drove the rolling store from Clyde Gentle's store to the remote areas. People often referred to him as the "peddler man." Later when he was serving in the State Legislature, Mildred took over driving and operating the rolling store.

It almost seems as though given things were meant to be. Merchants knowing each other. Their children getting to know each other. T. G. (Pete) Collins of Hollywood, and later of Scottsboro, ran his rolling store into the Lim Rock areas before Clyde Gentle began to operate his. Their children, Mildred Collins and Rodney Gentle, met somewhere along the way.

Rodney, like nearly everyone else of Lim Rock, knew the train station agent, Bill Johnson. He knew many of the train personnel, as did the people at other train stops like Hollywood. Rodney "took a shine" to Mildred. They began their "sparking" long distance. Each Saturday afternoon Rodney would take a letter to the station at Lim Rock and his friend Sims, the conductor, would hand carry the letter to Hollywood where he would personally give it to Mildred who was anxiously waiting for the train. No postage was needed in this act of friendship. The romance developed and is still in bloom at the Gentle home at Lim Rock.

John Rodney, Jr. today laughs with gusto as he recalls with his father an incident when Rodney was the peddler man. Rodney would park the rolling store in his yard between runs. Rodney, Jr., like all five-year-olds, liked to explore and enjoy the unknown. He boarded the big truck and sampled the goodies.

One of the goodies happened to be what looked like a box of chocolate chips. He ate the whole thing. In a few hours he began to hear two kinds of gripes--his and his father's. He was more concerned over his own. In a few more hours his concerns turned into a flood of activities.

In fact, he says, his feet could not move fast enough from the big house to the outhouse! He learned to read well after that experience so that when he saw a box of delicious-looking chocolate morsels it did not read EX-LAX. He still enjoys chocolate, but the flash-back is still with him.

He makes the best of the situation. Some memories are slow to die. He has a delightful sense of humor about the incident. Also, Rodney did not have to mow the grass between the two buildings for a few days, due to Junior's little feet whipping the grass down to the roots as he

frequently fled in panic down the beaten path.

The rolling store was not always available and some people wanted to go to town to do their own shopping. Beatrice Rousseau Wilbourn likes the story about her father when he went shopping in Lim Rock or other places. John Rousseau lived at the head of Shiffman's Cove. He would often gear up his mules and wagon to go the four or five mile trip to the store. As he came down the cove he would stop at each home to get orders from each family to voluntarily shop for them. One family might have one or two chickens to sell to buy supplies. Another family might send its eggs. Another might send cash. He did this act of kindness as a service to his neighbors.

Bea continues to say that her father stopped at Billy Glover's house to take the Glover order. Billy's daughter Mamie, who later married Dave Stephens, placed her order for John to buy her three yards of domestic so that she could make brother a pair of drawers. Domestic was bought by a friendly neighbor and paid for with eggs so that a girl could help her family by making her brother a pair of homemade undershorts. Times were a little different in the 1930's than they are now.

On second thought, perhaps, not. It must be inherited. A half century later John and Julina's daughter, Evelyn, received state-wide recognition for her effort in helping people.

The Daily Sentinel,  
Tuesday, June 1, 1993  
Page 4,



### *Kennamer honored for service*

Evelyn Kennamer, left, was recently selected as winner of the 1993 Alabama Gerontological Society's Individual Award of the State of Alabama, for outstanding contributions to the welfare of older Alabamians. The award was presented by Chuck Sprague, right, vice president of Central Bank of the South, at the AGS Awards Luncheon in Birmingham. Kennamer is a volunteer for CASA and Christmas Charities of Jackson County.



Evelyn Rousseau Kenamer is well-known for her volunteering throughout Jackson County. She is also well-known for her efforts at promoting the Houk-Rousseau reunion each year.

## **BITS and "DOBS" OF HUMOR**

Seeing the light sides of life helps ease the burdens of when our plates get full with the heavier moments of life.

People now laugh at the time, they say, when an old first grader burned down the schoolhouse because he saw no other way of getting out of school. His friend is credited with an equally humorous incident when he approached the burning building with his books strapped together for ease in "totin'." He tossed the whole bundle into the fire saying, "I don't need them any more."

Some people may not have enjoyed school, but nearly everyone felt obligated to help others. Emotions were often expressed in simple ways like when a father was getting his son to cut his hair. The son, either on purpose or accidentally, cut a gap through his father's hair. The error was immediately discovered by the father who gave serious chase of his fleeing, panic-stricken son. There was no catching the youth as he heard his father scream to him, "Wait for me, you S.O.B.! I am going to knock you in the head with this rock." Of course, he did not catch his son and the incident was forgiven.

Radios and cars were just being introduced and only a few people understood either one of the miracles. One person was known for his survival skills when he told his friends that they should take to the mountains when they saw a car coming.

Border radio was at its prime. High-powered United States and Mexican radio stations were located along the Rio Grande River in Mexico. A few clear-channel stations were located throughout the United States. These stations furnished most of the programs listened to at Lim Rock and throughout the United States.

AM radio was the only kind of radio at the time. Static from storms made listening very uncomfortable at times. Local people did not understand such strange things. This lack of knowledge led one radio owner to instruct his family not to listen to those foreign stations, because it would put too much strain on his radio.

Children did not always understand happenings either. Such was a time when a young boy raced home in fright to tell his mother that there was a dead man down at the church. It was the custom for either men or women to go into a frenzy of shouting when they got into the spirit during a church service. Sometimes these shouters would work themselves into a state of

exhaustion and fall prostrate into a dead faint on the church-house floor. The young boy who rushed home with the news did not understand the situation.

Other children also misunderstood a situation. As they walked home from school they had to pass a cemetery. Just about everyone feared cemeteries. Quietness and a sense of respect or reverence had to be observed as one passed a graveyard. Often as the children passed the dreaded place they heard groans and loud voices. They fled the area in great haste, feeling that they were hearing the footsteps of "haints." Later they learned that a local elderly man went to the cemetery to offer up his prayers. The man felt that he should say his prayers loudly so that the Lord would surely hear them.

Experiences were limited for everyone, especially for children. Children sometimes were several years old before they saw people of any race other than white. One eighty-three-year-old white woman tells of the first time she ever knew of any other race. She was five or six years old and was left at home to baby-sit her younger sister. Her mother had assigned her a limited area in the yard. She was not to leave the parameter. She had ventured too far before. She got her legs striped with dog fennel by her mother. Her mother had used the cedar-like weed as a switch.

The little girl knew her job and her restricted area. Nevertheless, she loaded her little sister onto her shoulders and ventured through a hole in the fence to go outside the assigned bounds. She wiggled and wobbled her way through the hole in the fence trying not to injure herself nor her little sister. As she was trying to get organized on the other side of the fence, she got up off her crawling position only to come face-to-face with an older African-American male. She had never seen anyone like that. Fear engulfed her as though her mother had sent another form of punishment. She, with her little sister on her shoulders, went back through the hole in the fence as though it was a wide-open gate. After that experience, her little sister was in good hands.

Some people's memory fails at times. At other times a person may say something as a joke. The saying is so funny it lives on and later is taken as the truth. In any case, the fellow called on the blacksmith at Lim Rock to "sha" his mules. When approval was secured, he said he would have to go home to get his mules because he had forgotten to bring them.

When he returned with his wagon and team he brought a few things to sell at the Gentle Store across the road. Among those things were his eggs. He pitched the sack of eggs off the wagon along with the other things. To his surprise, when he began to gather up the things, he found his eggs broken. He explained his surprise with a question, "Why should they break? They were double-sacked." Obviously, he had a bad day.

Each of us may be eccentric and act or talk funny at times. Each spring the community of Wininger had its decoration and dinner-on-the-ground. The Wininger families had settled in the community and the community took the family name. Many residents of Lim Rock looked forward to attending the festivities. Families attended, but especially young couples liked to go. They had their chance to make their own trails up the mountainside and to be alone for a few

hours. As they trudged the trails they gathered sweet shrubs for their fragrance and "sheep sher" or sheep sorrel for its taste. Huckleberry picking added fun and food to the trip. Some of these former young people still reminisce of their spring outings at "Ynigger."

Children learned to work early. They learned cooking, housekeeping, farm work, getting by, and other family chores. Mothers, aunts, and grandmothers taught the girls to cook and make a little bit go a long way. Food could not be wasted even if mistakes were made.

An aunt was teaching her niece to cook. She reached for the salt and got the wrong ingredient. She realized her mistake and together they tried to scoop it from the food. Of course, they were not successful. Instead of throwing the food away they continued with its preparation, with the aunt looking mischievously at the niece and saying to her, "We don't have to eat any of it, do we?"

Today as the story is retold, there is no mention as to what happened to the people who enjoyed a "dost" or dose of "purgative" or laxative in their well-prepared dish of food. Instead of getting salt, the aunt had gotten Epsom salt.

Isolation can bring on competition and distrust by a community and by individuals of that community. Nearly everyone at Lim Rock was "kin folks." The same situation existed at Woodville. When a person began to look for a mate, often the search had to be beyond the community.

When outside boys "came a courting" the girls of Lim Rock, they were sometimes met with a hail of rocks. Local boys feared the competition and often greeted the outsiders by seriously throwing rocks at them as the visitors came along the roads into the coves.

It is doubtful that this kind of greeting was the reason why an older man left town to find himself a wife. His first wife had died. He felt a sense of loneliness and some desperation. He used some ingenuity and it worked well for him.

Legend, perhaps with some exaggeration, has it that he had to advertise his availability. He placed a note in a crate of apples. That crate of apples was shipped. The next thing he knew, he heard from a lady in Tennessee.

He rushed off to Tennessee and soon they were wed. They returned to Lim Rock to make their home. The story still is told that they both were good people and made each other good company for the rest of their lives.

## THE LEGEND OF BABY BERRY

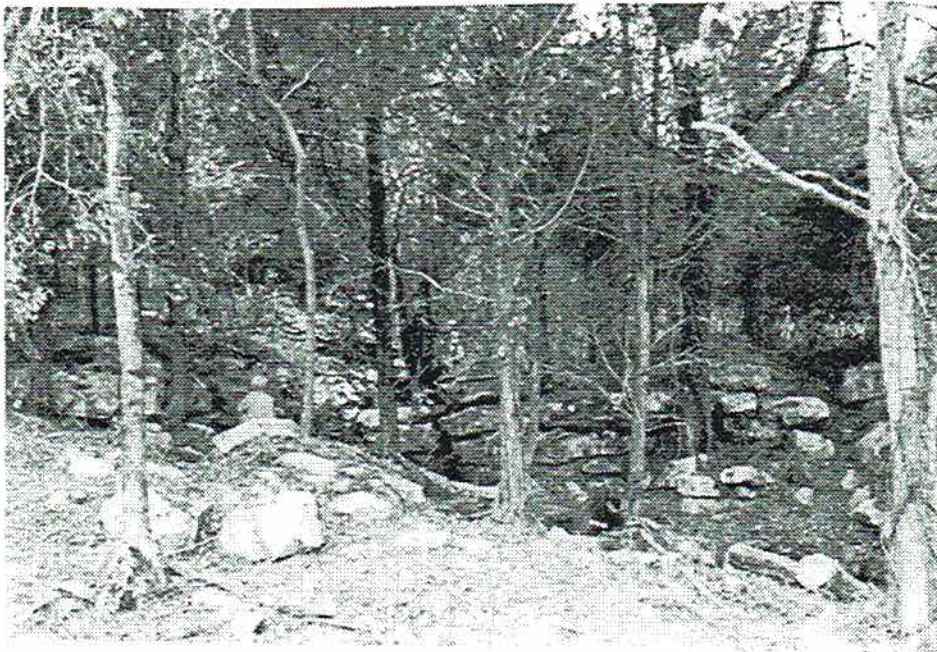
This story is passed along by Boyd Johnston, who learned it from his late friend, Willie Van Berry (1892-1982).

The grave marker carries no first name. The grave is located .3 mile due north from the Berry Cemetery in Berry's Cove. It is a single grave in an overgrown hedgerow. The hedgerow is near the roadbed where a wagon road forked to become two roads that led into the mountains at the head of the cove. There were two or three cabins in the foothills at the head of the cove.

The baby girl was only three weeks old when the buggy accident took her life. Her parents buried her beside the road where she died. Someone remembered to mark her grave, but forgot to tell us her first name. They marked her grave simply with a nice headstone saying:

Dau. of  
W. C. and M. J.  
Berry  
Sept. 18, 1895  
Oct. 11, 1895

Someone also remembered to mark her lonely resting place with two rose bushes. The two wild rose bushes were in full bloom with their May radiance when this story was being recorded in May 1993.



Children played on the rocks around the Lim Rock Springs during the Lim Rock-Aspel Heritage Day.

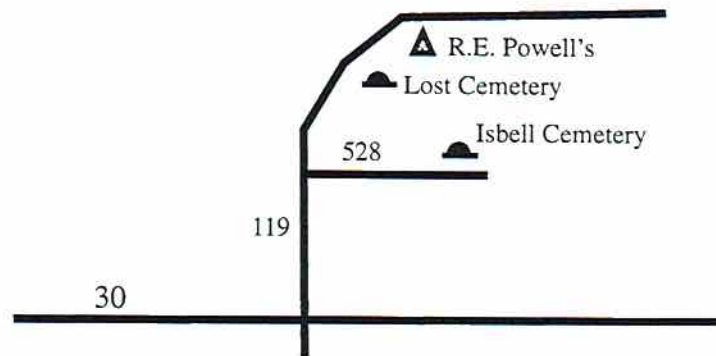
## THE LOST CEMETERY

Three or more graves once marked the landscape in Gentle's Cove. Several people who are in their 70's recall the stories of their parents and grandparents as having labeled these graves as Indian graves. The graves were marked with mounds of common rocks. Some fairly large flat rocks were also used. Farmers and others over the past fifty years have removed the rocks and left the spots unidentifiable as having once been the site of graves. They are lost except in the minds of a few older residents of Lim Rock.

This record and the map may serve as reminders of what once was for someone compelled to want, or have a need for, the knowledge.

1993

### MAP OF GENTLE'S COVE

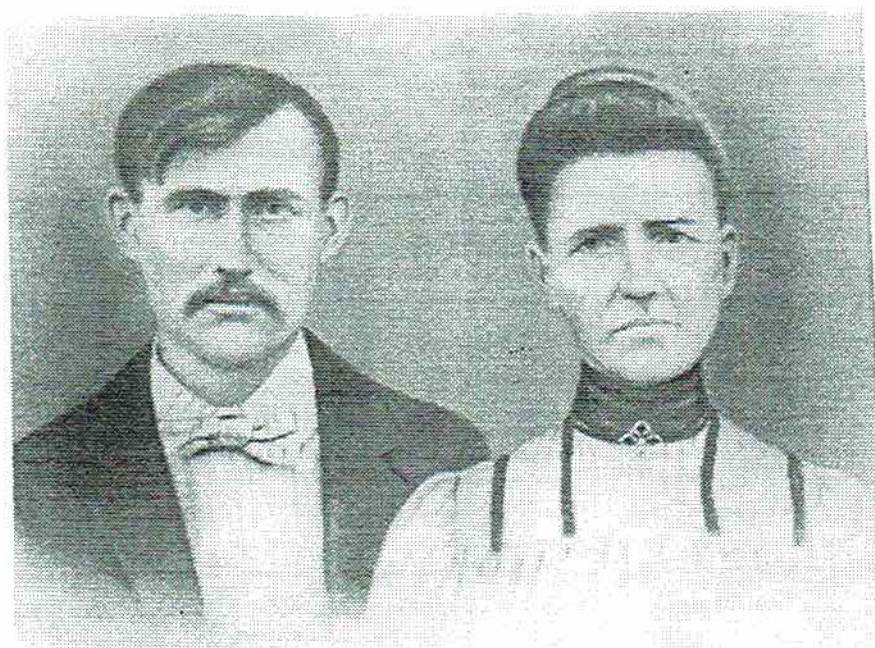


Crowd scene at Lim Rock-Aspel Heritage Day

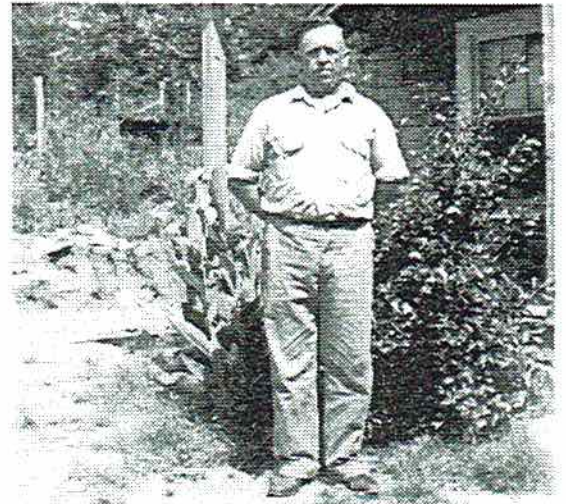
## NAMES AND FACES



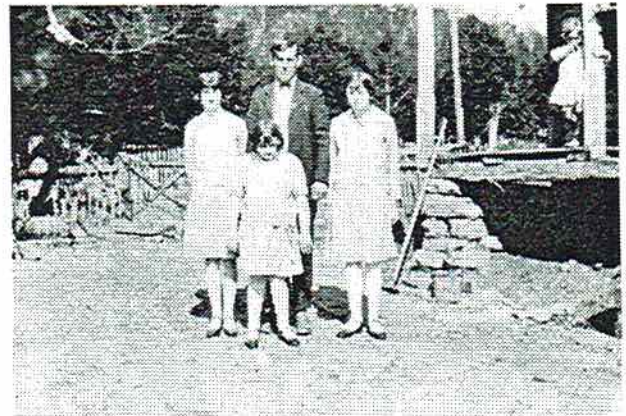
Thomas Milton Gentle and his second wife, Sarah Hasting Gentle



Jeremiah M. Gentle, son of Thomas Milton Gentle, and his wife, Georgia Ann Johnson Gentle

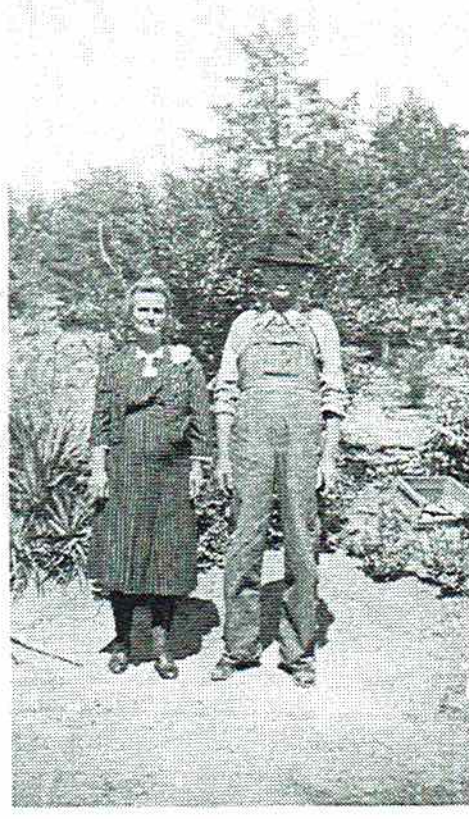
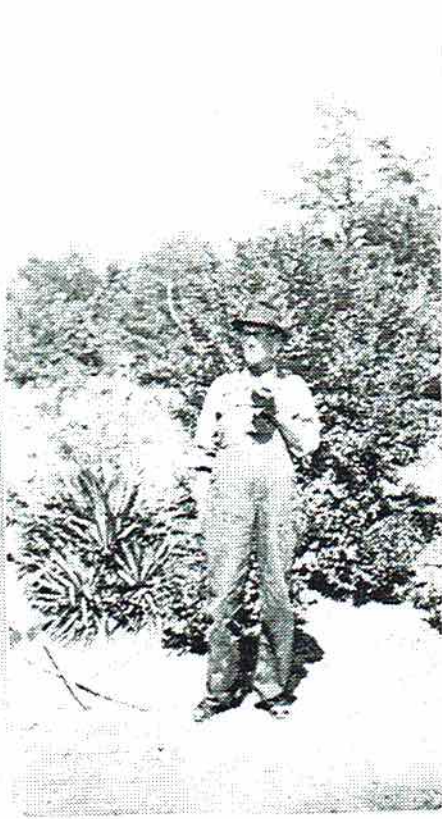


Beulah Gentle Rousseau, daughter of Jeremiah M. Gentle, and her husband Dave Rousseau

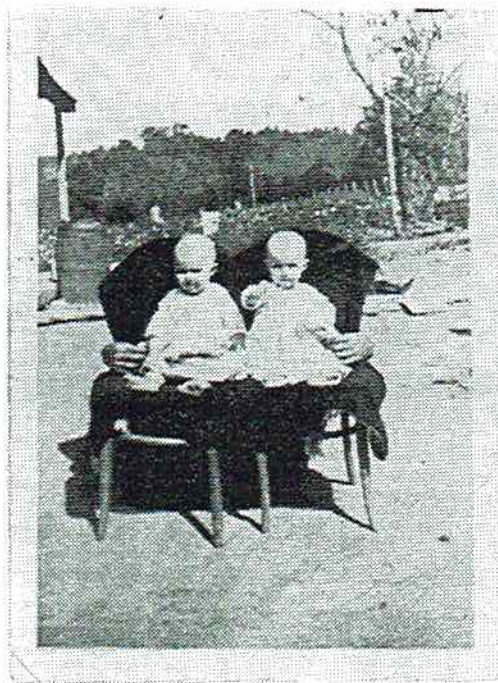


Left: Hick O'Neal and family: From left: Annie O'Neal Smith holding Nellie Pearl Smith, Hick, Bertha, Billy O'Neal, Nancy Gentle (Bertha's mother), and Fern

Right: (1930) Front: Jewel Gentle (Elledge); Back: Ola Gentle (Higginbotham-Mason), Charlie C. Rousseau, and Bessie Gentle (McCormack). Girl on porch is unidentified.



Nancy Gentle and her son and daughter-in-law, Jeremiah and Esther Harrison Gentle



Some of Esther and Jeremiah Gentle's children: Left--Ola and Louise Right--Ola and Vola





Some of Esther and Jeremiah's grand and great-grandchildren: Left--Son-in-law Frank Smith holding Butch and Ricky, two of his grandchildren. Right--Frank and son, Earl, in 1959 showed off their giant tomato vines.



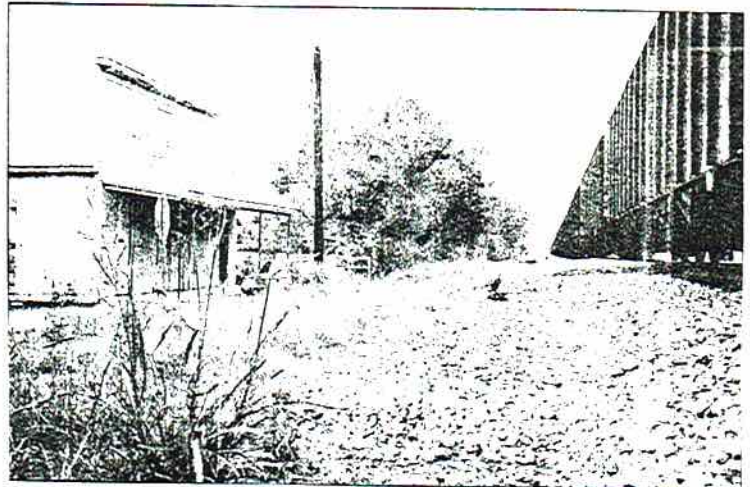
Above from left: Glen Hastings, Ronnie Whitaker, and Woodrow Sims played their instruments. Left: Martha Smith Wells displayed her quilting skill at the Lim Rock-Aspel Heritage Day.



From left: Clyde Hooper, Pearlie, Hazel and Clem at the family's old home



Willie Hooper in 1990 at her new home



Robert H. Stephens  
(1918-1987)



Inside of Gentle's Store

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CHILDREN OF LIM ROCK?

These are some present addresses as of Summer 1993.

NAME (Include maiden name)	ADDRESS
1. Kenneth Gentle	713 Wells ave Huntville AL
2. Larene Brown Johnston	Rt. 2, Box 757, Woodville, al. 35776
3. Hershel B. Rousseau	Rt 2, Box 785 Woodville, al 35776
4. Donald Hastings	Rt 2 Box 185 Scottsboro 35768
5. Winford (Jack) Rousseau	138 old Big Cove Road, Bernards, al
6. Elizabeth Frazier	Rt 2 Box 214 Scottsboro Ala,
7. Evelyn Rousseau Kennamer	Rt 1, Box 224 Woodville, Al
8. Martin Tucker	Tanner, Alabama
9. Leonard W. Dugg	Scottsboro, Ala.
10. Benjamin H. Rousseau	1500 Risson Ave, Huntville AL 35890
11. Carl B. Rousseau	Rt. 5 Box 89A, Scottsboro, al.
12. Ruby S. Woolly	615 Walsh St Scottsboro AL.
13. Ossie S. Smith	737 Cypress Row - D. Madison AL 35758
14. Jewell S. Ellledge	712 Risson Ave., Huntville, AL 35801
15. G. E. Hunt	Rt 2 Woodville, al
16. Luther Boyd Johnston	Rt. 2, Box 757 woodville al. 35776
17. Ora Brown	Rt 2 Woodville
18. Gentry Hastings	Rt. 2, Scottsboro, al. 35768
19. James Frazier	Rt 2 Scottsboro al. Box 214
20. Thomas L. Bragg	Rt 2 Box 783 Woodville AL
21. Rodney G. Smith	102, Box 209, 35805
22. Myrtle S. Keyes	25649 Evans Ave Elbert, al 35620
23. Ruth Lee	Rt 2, Box 222, Scottsboro
24. - Linda Luffey Brady	1002 Babo Section Rd Hazel Green, Ala
25. Archie M. Rousseau	605 W. Lippeltree, Scottsboro 35768
1. Bessie Gentle McCormack	314. Sharon St Scottsboro
2. EDWIN GATTIS	3416 CONGER CT Huntville AL 35805
3. Thomas W. Gattis	200 N. main St Uxbridge AL 3549
4. Martha "Smith" Miller	Lim Rock, Al.
5. Johnnie L. Marland	Box 90 M A B Dutton, AL

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CHILDREN OF LIM ROCK?

These are some present addresses as of Summer 1993.

NAME (Include maiden name)	ADDRESS
1. Dorothy Hilda Rousseau	Rt 2 Box 805 Woodville, al.
2. Mike Wells	Rt 2 Box 807 Woodville al.
3. Frank Ross	Rt 2 Box 218 Scottsboro, ALA
4. Mary Belle Smith Dean	170 Kellys WAY HARVEST AL
5. Alta Faye Rousseau Saint	RR 2 Box 731 Woodville, al.
6. D. R. Renamer	RFB OX 224 woodville ala
7. <del>James Stewart</del>	AL 2 BOX 752 woodville ala
8. James Stewart	Rt Box 231 Scottsboro
9. Earl Bishop	409 HIGH ST Scottsboro, AL 35768
10. DAVID H. FRAZIER	LESLIE RIDGE - LIM ROCK
11. JAMES V. (Vic) HASTINGS	RR 2, Bx 681 Woodville Ala. 35776
12. Lila Estree Rousseau Stewart	Rt. 2 Box 753 Woodville, Ala 35776
13. Edward G. Stewart	Rt. 2 Box 753 woodville ala. 35776
14. Mildred Rousseau Saint	Rt 2 Box 755 Woodville, al. 35776
15. Bernice Stephens Rousseau	R. 2 Box 785 Woodville, al. 35776
16. Bertha Tucker Coffey	Janey, Ala. 435 Boyer RD
17. Opal Tucker Gentle	Janey, Ala.
18. Laurel Coffey Allen	Janey, Ala
19. John L. Gentle, Jr	Lim Rock
20. Jimmy Rousseau	Lim rock
21. Gene (Wells) Manning	Rt. 5, Box 145, Scottsboro, AL 35768
22. Beatrice Rousseau Wilson	Huntsville, al 35810
23. Lyle Bishop Butler	408 West St. Scottsboro, al. 35768
24. <del>Will Campbell</del>	Rt 2 Box 181 Woodville AL 35776
25. Vola C. Ritchie gentle	1209 Grace St. Huntsville
6. Majorie Rousseau Whitaker	904 John St. Tusculumbia Tusculumbia Ala.
7. Hazel Gentle Lust	112 Parks ave Scottsboro
8. Roberta Campbell (Lust)	Rt 4 Scottsboro Ala
9. Frank Stephens	2019 Chamberg Dr NE Huntsville, Ala
10. _____	_____

### World War II (1941-1945)

Freeman Adams *	T. W. Gattis	Benjamin Rousseau
Howard Adams *	Alfred Gentle	Daniel Rousseau
Rayford Berry *	Cecil Gentle *	Homer I. Rousseau *
Samuel (Bunk) Berry *	Jack Gentle *	Hurshel Rousseau
J. B. Bishop *	Kenneth Gentle	Jake Saint
Harlon Bradford	Newman Gentle	James Saint
Hugh Bradford	Rodney Gentle	Wheeler Saint
Jack Bradford	Clayton Gray	Roy Shavers
Walter Bradford	Otis Gray *	Cletis Shelton *
Hal Brazelton	Gentry Hastings	William Sherrell *
Albert Brown	James V. Hastings	Lester Sparkman
Oran Brown	John Luke Hastings	Bobby Stewart *
Robert Brown *	Raymond Hastings *	Ernest Stewart *
Joe Chambless *	Bill Higginbotham	Harrison Stewart
John Chambless *	Edward Higginbotham	Homer Stewart
William Chrisman	Jeff Higginbotham	James Stewart *
Jack Davis	Oliver Hodges *	Orban Stewart
Edward Derrick	Ralph Hodges *	Verbon Stewart *
Hurley Dickerson	R. C. Hodges *	Wendall Stewart *
John R. Dulaney	R. L. Hodges	William Stewart
Robert Dulaney *	Tedford Hodges *	Delbert Thomas *
Walter (Bud) Dulaney *	Clyde Hooper *	Edgar Thomas *
Clyde Frazier	Rayford Hooper	Howard Thomas *
David Frazier	Robert Hooper	Carl Towers *
James Frazier	Hugh Isbell *	Fred Wallingsford
Julian Frazier	Robert Isbell *	Oscar Wallingsford *
Milton Frazier *	Homer Johnson *	R. C. Wallingsford *
Virgil Frazier *	Wayne Keeton	Joe Woosley *
Rice Gant	Leon Knight *	Roy Woosley
Edwin Gattis	Troy Pockrus *	Alston Wright *
Elmer Gattis *	Billy Putman	Lindsay Wright *
Glenn Gattis *	Archie Rousseau	

### World War I (1914-1918)

Lawrence Berry	Dalton Frazier	Ira Pockrus
Will Berry	Ben Gentle	M. D. Stephens
Harold Brown	Virgil Glover *	Fred Stewart
Herbert Brown *	Pat Johnson	Milt Watson
Newman Brown	Horace McCormack	Mose Watson
Ross Bullman	Otis McCormack	Tom Watson
Herbert Chambless *	Sam McCormack	

## LIMROCK TODAY

March 1993



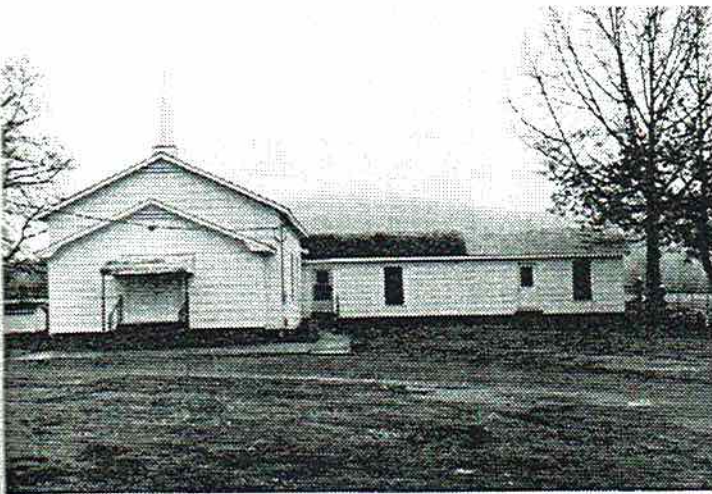
Jimmy Rousseau's modern home is near Stephens' Gap on County Road 30. Jimmy is the son of John and Julina Carver Rousseau.



The Alley's Kountry Korner Store and the Limrock Fire Hall are at the intersection of County Road 11 and Highway 35.



Left: The Jenny's Chapel Church of Christ is on County Road 11 about 1 mile south of Highway 35 at the intersection of County Roads 11 and 541. Right: The Limrock United Methodist Church is located at the intersection of County Roads 119 and 30.



Left: Mt. Ararat Missionary Baptist Church is located at the intersection of County Road 30 and 82. Right: Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church is on County Road 80 in Shiffman's Cove. (see map)



September 1993:

Pictured are some of the county leaders that Lim Rock has furnished. There are others past and present. These nine listed courthouse employees are residents or former residents of Lim Rock. Front row from left: Anita Olinger, Alta Saint, Linda White--all office staff. Middle row: Jim McCamey--Emergency Management; Mike Wells--Sheriff; Teresa Wallingsford--office staff. Back row: Bob Hodges--Circuit Judge; Leonard Griggs--Circuit Court Clerk; Paul Mount--Deputy Sheriff.

Rodney Gentle is also of Lim Rock and has served in state and county leadership roles. He served in the Alabama House of Representatives. He also served as the Director of Jackson County Emergency Management.



## LIM ROCK-ASPEL HERITAGE DAY

OCTOBER 9, 1993



These pictured people met for the first organizational meeting to prepare for the homecoming. From left front row: Shorty Kennamer, Kenneth Gentle, Oran Brown, Tom Bragg, Opal Rounsavall, Evelyn Kennamer, Marlin Tucker. Middle row: Rodney Gentle, Ossie Smith, Evelyn Gentle, Elizabeth Frazier, Ruby Woosley, Babs Alley, Jewell Elledge, Benjamin Rousseau, Jack Rousseau, Don Hastings. Back row: Myrtle Keyes, James Frazier, Alfred Gentle, Boyd Johnston, Lorene Johnston, Hurshel Rousseau, Ron Alley, Gentry Hastings.

One thousand five people registered for the first homecoming. Many others were present. All ages were present. Several states had local people to return to their roots.

The activities were "dinner on the ground," games, wagon rides, crafts, blacksmithing, and many other events. People mostly wanted to visit with old friends.

Dianne Patteson Payne  
(weaving)





June Rousseau Pockrus (Wayne) joined a group to play for a Lim Rock gathering. From left are: Richard Rousseau, June, Woodrow Sims, MacArthur Rousseau and Chris Stewart. June is a daughter of Reuben Rousseau and the granddaughter of Frank and Ruthie Rousseau. Reuben was an accomplished country fiddler. He and a group played country music for President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1930's.

Reuben passed along his ability to June. June carries on the tradition of Lim Rock with country fiddling and with considerable achievement in early American ballads and hoedowns.



Mike Dowell demonstrated how to do blacksmith work.  
Roy Samples showed how to bottom chairs with cane.



Ossie Smith demonstrates how to make homemade lye soap at the recent first Lim Rock-Aspel Heritage Day.



**Dressed Up For The occasion**  
These ladies got dressed up for the first ever Limrock/Aspel Heritage Day. They are Lorene Johnston and Flora Arthur.



Boyd Johnston heats horseshoes.

LARRY O. GLASS  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Thursday, October 14, 1993

## Limrock/Aspel Heritage Day Great Success

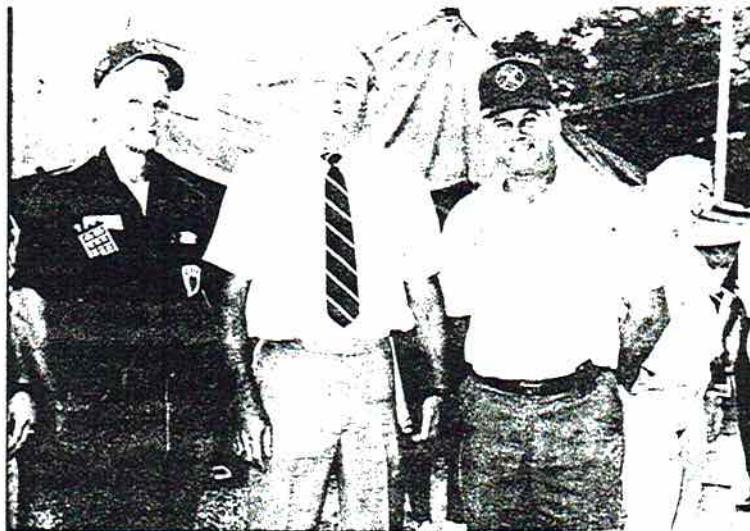
"Nothing I can say will contribute to these two communities Limrock and Aspel any louder than the number of people here today," Jackson County Circuit Judge Robert L. Hodges told the over 1100 people who attended the first ever Limrock-Aspel Heritage Day held Saturday at Limrock-Aspel Fire Hall. "I wish my father were here to see, my ancestors. I have never seen this many people here before and that is the highest tribute that can be made today."

"It was a huge, wonderful success," said Heritage Committee Chairman Winford Rousseau. "We had never had a Limrock Day. Marlin Tucker first stirred up the interest in such a day by his books. Then the rest of us just fell into place and it turned out to great day."

"It's tentatively planned to be a part of Jackson County's 175th Anniversary celebration," said Rousseau, who was raised in the Limrock-Aspel community, but is now retired from civil service and living in Huntsville.

"The two communities have a lot in common," said Rousseau. "We shared the same school. We shared the same churches. We went from church to church together. So it was only fitting that we held our celebrations together."

Jackson County Sheriff Mike Wells spoke, "I too, want to thank everybody for coming out. We've had a wonderful day. This has been great. I've seen people here I haven't seen in years and I've seen people here today I'll probably never see again. That's one reason why we need to have this type of day."



Judge Hodges Speaker At Special Day

Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Robert L. Hodges (center) was the special guest speaker at the First Annual Limrock/Aspel Heritage Day. Hodges is shown with James Stewart and County Sheriff Mike Wells.

## AN ADDRESS AT LIM ROCK - ASPEL HERITAGE DAY

OCTOBER 9, 1993

BY BOB HODGES

*Before you take anything else I say seriously, I want to read to you my father's business card he used at Hodges Drug Store for over thirty years:*

*"Robert Leslie Levi Buchannon Fairbanks Hodges Jr.  
...born on land lying NW one-fourth of SE one-fourth of Sec 10, Township 4, Range 7 E, Berry's Cove North Lim Rock, Ala....Now located in trading business about 12 mi. NE born site...*

*Come'n see me...*

*Telephone: Day: 2 longs and 1 short*

*Nite: 2 longs ana half..."*

*As you can see, he never forgot where he came from, and he was one of the best representatives of the Lim Rock Chamber of Commerce who ever served.*

*My roots go back here at least three generations before me, and my memories of this community go back to the years of my childhood just before World War II. I want to share some of them with you today, because the heritage of a place, to me, means what culture that place has left us--that unique and special quality a community has that is measured not just by its physical boundaries and its geographical features, but by its people: who they were, what they believed in, and what they raised their children to be. And so, as I began thinking about what to say today, I considered many memories of this community and its people, and the special place it has occupied in my heart and in my family. It began, for me, over sixty years ago, when three brothers left the cotton fields here on a sharecropper farm and moved ten miles up the road to the big city of Scottsboro. Each of them, my dad, my Uncle Mess and my Uncle Charles, never missed a chance to remind travelers who stopped in Hodges Drug Store that Lim Rock and Aspel were not just places you passed by on your way from Woodville to Scottsboro - Lim Rock and Aspel, to them, was an oasis where you could come from Huntsville or Scottsboro or wherever else and quench your thirst for plain and simple beauty and good solid working people who loved a good laugh and a rocker on the porch in the evening after a plate of pinto beans and corn bread and turnip greens, and the sound of the*

animals in the barn at night. The stuff a farm boy never finds, no matter how long he has been gone from the farm and no matter how far removed he has become in his dress and his income from that simple beginning. The stuff he always longs to return to, and he can only find in a place he called home.

From my great grandfather George Johnson Hodges, known to the folks in this community only as Crockett, to my Grandfather Bob, for whom I was named, to my father, I learned legends of the people who lived here. They were told over and over to me and to others in my hearing so many times that they have become the stuff of this community. Whether they ever really happened or not is now not important to me when I think of them and of this community - what is important is the humor and the dignity of those who were portrayed in the stories I heard and the respect of the storytellers for them and for this community.

My memories begin with evenings spent with my grandfather here as a very small child on the porch of a two-story log house which sat just over yonder around the curve from the Methodist Church. And I remember the smell in the springtime in those evenings of freshly turned earth, and of his eagerness over the crop he thought he could coax out of it, and of our watching and waiting for the sound of the Joe Wheeler to come churning through the night, its whistle blowing for the people of Lim Rock.

I remember Clyde Gentle's Store, where my father had his first job as a boy clerking and keeping up with the eggs and the chickens on the rolling store, and the smell of pine wood floors and kerosene, and the sight of mule harnesses hanging from pegs, and glass jars of candy, while we waited for the Joe Wheeler to return me to Scottsboro after a weekend. Even as a child, there was a sadness on leaving, a sense that the old man in the overalls who was waving bye to me as the train pulled out from Clyde Gentle's Store, and so many others like him in this community, were somehow special parts of my beginning that I wanted to come back to and hold on to until I understood the peace and the simple virtues of this place.

I remember cotton fields and hoes and long pick sacks and the hot day in the field when my grandfather and Charlie Stewart watched me drink in gulps from a cool thermos jug and then cackled and told me it was a chamber pot they kept under the wagon for themselves.

Some of the past citizens of this community, many of them now dead and gone, have become legends in my mind because of the stories I was told about them. The athletes in Lim Rock took on superhuman proportions for me. Doctor Rayford Hodges swore to me in the drug store

as he was sipping his coffee, time and again, that Rabbit Gray, the catcher for Lim Rock's baseball team, played barefooted and once caught a foul ball that traveled 200 feet and never got higher than his head. My father swore to me that Shine Lusk kicked a fifty yard field goal barefooted for Lim Rock's football team, against the wind, in the closing seconds of a big game against Aspel.

The people of this community were always church-going people on Sundays. My father's earliest memories were of being carried in a wagon by my grandfather to the Primitive Baptist Church. He remembered it well, because when they got to my grandfather with the footwashing, he always let out a cackle when they got to the foot with the stub of a little toe he had cut off when cutting railroad ties.

I have to say that the business and economic picture for Lim Rock and Aspel has improved a great deal in the past few years. How can you not call it economic progress when you got Pinky Bradford out of town?

The people of this community have always stood out for me as being folks with a never-give-up attitude. Through the droughts, the flooding rains, the bitter winters, the poverty of the depression, the great tornado that swept through Paint Rock and here, the infant flu deaths that struck family after family - through all those times when it seemed that a mother and father and children could not possibly hold up for another day - your ancestors and mine- and some of you who are older and here today - squared up your shoulders and spit on your hands and went back to work and endured. I think that never-give-up attitude is best remembered by me in a little story my grandfather told me that happened back in the late twenties. My Uncle Mess, an older and larger boy than my father by far, had my father down, pinned flat to the ground, pummeling him at will, when my grandfather discovered them on his way back from milking. "What's going on here?" he asked. Immediately, my father who was flat on his back and taking a mighty whipping, said: "Papa, you better get him off of me or I'm gonna kill him."

The generations of people of Lim Rock and Aspel before us were hard-working, church-going, mostly quiet-spoken people, it seems from my memory and from stories I heard. But in all that toil and adversity they faced as farmers and farmers' children, there beat within many of them the pulse of a sense of humor that no other community surpassed.

My father never got past the little nine-grade schoolhouse that used to sit down the road over yonder, and he always envied his older brother Charles for being so bright and for getting a college education.

There came a day when my father's old school teacher came in the drug store to get a prescription filled and my father waited on her. I was working there as a teenager then, and he had some conversation with the lady, and then called all of us employees over to meet her. We gathered around, and he said, "Now, Miss Birdie, tell all these people what you just told me." She looked at us and said: "He was the brightest student I ever had. He made all A's and he could work any problem I ever gave him. He was a brilliant student." My father swelled up and beamed at all of us, and the little old lady made her way to the store going out, and she turned, looked back at my father, and said: "Charles, it sure was nice to see you again."

My grandfather and my father had the same name, except for the junior and senior that separated them. One day a juror summons came to the drug store delivered by the sheriff and made out to just R. L. Hodges. My father made a call to the courthouse and discovered that, by the birthdate, it was intended for my father. He called my grandfather to the store and told him he had a jury summons delivered there for him. My grandfather took the subpoena, never said a word, went to the courthouse the next week and served on the jury. Many months went by, with never another word being said. Then, just before Christmas, Mr. Brad Stewart, a long time friend and customer of my father's delivered a nice big country ham to my father as a gift, wrapped in brown paper and labeled "R. L. Hodges." My father put it on a table on the back of the store until he could take it home at quitting time. In comes my grandfather, walks straight to the back room, picks up the ham, and starts out the store. "Papa!" screamed my father. "Papa - that's my ham!"

"Son," my grandfather said, "If that was my name on that jury summons, that is my name on this ham." And off he went.

Lim Rock and Aspel people have always been known as good neighbors. My grandfather Bob Hodges' neighbor was Charlie Stewart, who lived on the next farm down the road toward the schoolhouse. One cold January day, when the snow was on the ground and more predicted, a Saturday, my grandfather told Charlie that he was taking his wife and children down to Paint Rock Valley to sit with a sick relative for the night, would be gone the whole weekend, and would Charlie milk the cow and feed the mule the next day. Charlie readily agreed to help out. The next morning, more snow having fallen during the night, and bitter cold, Charlie came trudging up in the darkness, milked the cow, set the pail on the back porch, fed the mule, and on his way out through the snow, just as he passed my grandfather's bedroom window, my grandfather threw up the shade and



the window, and said, "Much obliged, Charlie." You don't find good neighbors like that any more.

There are many, many other stories I could tell which reflect the solid kind of people who founded this community and those who came after them. It says something about what we revere in this community and its people that those of us who have ties here come back and back again and are here today to celebrate it.

Someone once wrote that you can never really go home again, but I think we can, time and again, in our memories. Less than thirty days before my father died, just before Christmas of 1983, we took our last ride together. He was so frail I had to help him in the car, and he was so weak he could hardly talk above a whisper. "We'll go any where you want," I said, as I backed the car out of his drive way.

"I'll show you," he said, and he just, from then on, pointed his finger where he wanted me to turn. We came here, and we rode through Aspel and by Jenny's Chapel and past Gentry Hastings' house and down to Pinky's Service Station to say hello and then by the old Clyde Gentle Store where he first worked as a boy, and then on we went, by the fields where there used to be cotton and by the piece of ground where the barn and log house once stood, and around the curve where the old schoolhouse once stood and then out into Berry's Cove where he was born, until he became too tired to continue. He wasn't talking during the ride, but both of us were thinking of these communities and his childhood and all of the years that had brought him full circle back to here. You see, he never ever forgot that this was home. And you never ever forgot to take him in. That is why I am here today, and that is why I thank you for letting me be a part of it. The phone number has changed for us - it's no longer "2 longs and 1 short", but our "trading business" as he said on his card, is still about 12 miles northeast of Berry's Cove, and, for our family, this is still home.

The End

Perhaps there is too much of the Hodges family in this piece - but then, I suppose, in going home again, all of us must take the trail that is most familiar to us.

With personal regards,

  
Bob Hodges

# **CEMETERIES OF LIM ROCK**

JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

COMPILED

By

**Marlin D. Tucker**

**Lora P. Tucker**

January 1993

(205) 232-1454

Route 1, Box 265  
12229 Spring Road  
Tanner, Alabama 35671



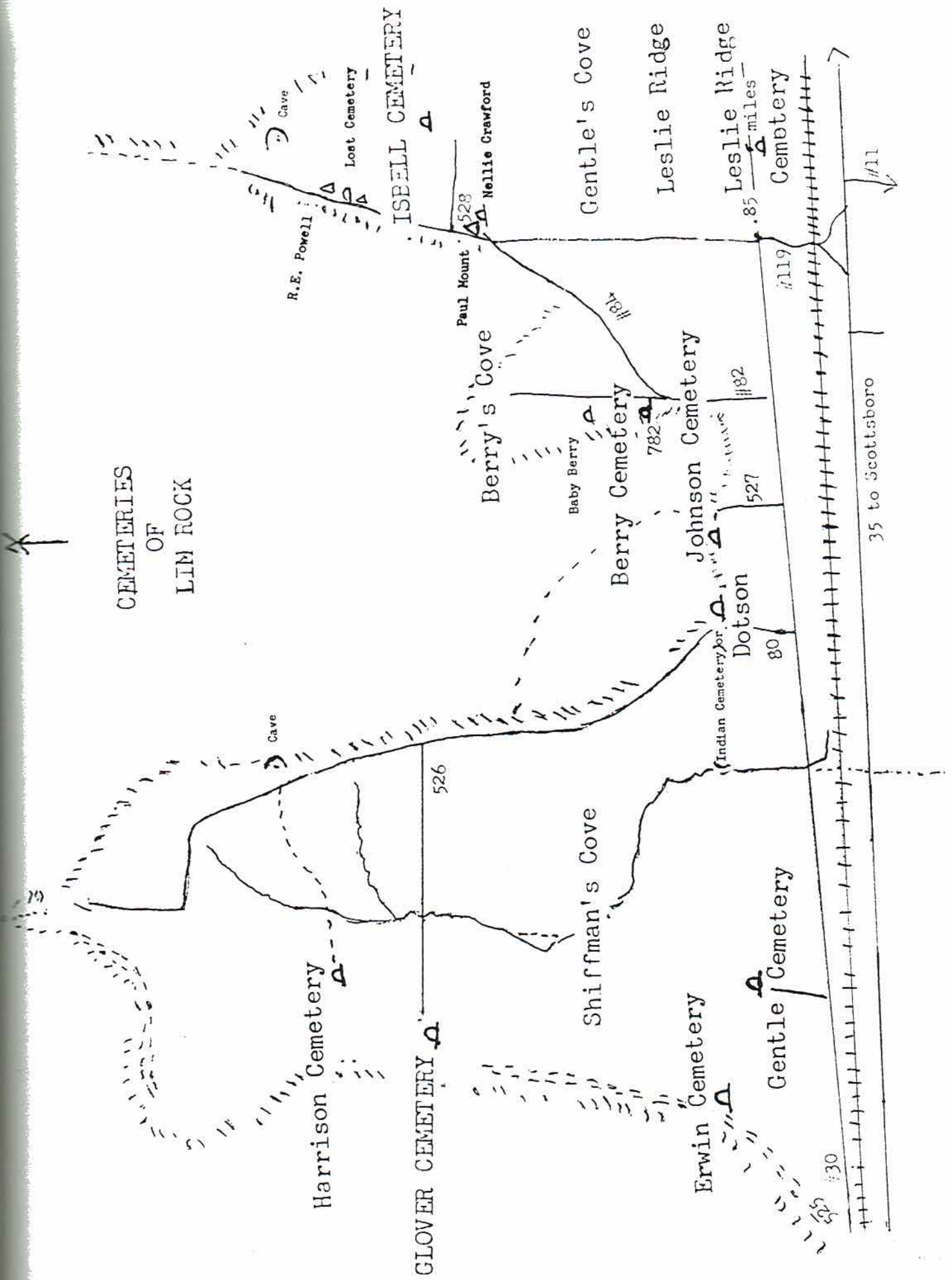
GLOVER



GENTLE



# CEMETERIES OF LIM ROCK



Harrison Cemetery

GLOVER CEMETERY

Erwin Cemetery

Gentle Cemetery

Shiffman's Cove

Berry's Cove

Berry Cemetery

Johnson Cemetery

Dotson

ISELL CEMETERY

Gentle's Cove

Leslie Ridge

Leslie Ridge

Cemetery

R.E. Fowell

Paul Mount

Nellie Crawford

Cave

Cave

Lost Cemetery

.85 miles

#82

#119

#111

35 to Scottsboro

526

782

527

80

#30

This information on the cemeteries of Lim Rock was assembled in January 1993 by Marlin D. and Lora P. Tucker. A decision was made to print this information as a separate bound booklet. It will also appear in Volume 3 of Lim Rock by Marlin D. Tucker. Some of the cemeteries have not been used in many years. A few of them, especially the Gentle Cemetery and the Erwin Cemetery, are in current use.

An effort will be made to indicate the condition of each of the cemeteries should a civic group or a few persons want to keep check on the upkeep.

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### NAMES OF CEMETERIES:

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|    | Some local people say Gentle Cemetery on<br>Leslie Ridge. |            |
| 2. | Isbell Cemetery in Gentle's Cove                          | page 4-5   |
| 3. | Berry Cemetery in Berry's Cove                            | page 6-7   |
| 4. | Johnson Cemetery  | page 8     |
| 5. | Dotson (Dodson) Cemetery or<br>The Old Indian Cemetery    | page 9     |
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## 1. LESLIE RIDGE CEMETERY

Some local people also vaguely call this cemetery Gentle Cemetery. Hal Word has marked his Uncle Clinton Gentle's grave and two members of Clinton's family. Hal's mother was the daughter of William Leslie Gentle.

This cemetery is badly overgrown. It needs some attention to prevent abandonment in a few more years. There may be one grave unmarked except for a common limestone rock.

### Marked graves:

Clinton E. Gentle

Jan.9, 1859

Jan. 18, 1917

Emma J. Gentle

1869-1905

(foot)

Mother

Delie Holdman

Gentle

Married Dec. 24, 1890

## 2. ISBELL CEMETERY

The Isbell Cemetery is located in Gentle's Cove. It is overgrown in a thicket of about 100 feet by 200 feet. Grave sites cover about 75 feet by 75 feet. It has not been used in years. Many graves are well-marked. Some are marked by local limestone rocks. Some are enclosed by wrought iron fences. A few have been enclosed by hewn limestone blocks.

### Marked graves:

Mary  
wife of  
B. G. Allen  
Born  
Oct. 3, 1823  
Died  
Oct. 31, 1896

Jennie Barclay  
1859-1934

William Hunt (or Hont)  
Hand carved and couldn't be read)  
Nov. 4, 1873

Jess W. Isbell  
born Aug. 30, 1829  
Died June 10, 1913  
Blessed are the dead which  
die in the Lord

Jesse W. Isbell  
Co. A  
H. ALA  
(rest can't be read--buried)

In Memory of  
Levi Isbell  
Born Oct 26, 1819  
Died Aug. 25, 1889  
Since thou canst no longer stay  
To cheer me with thy love  
There to meet with thee again  
In yon bright world above

Lockey T.  
Isbell  
Born Mar. 19, 1861  
died  
Feb. 9, 1919

In memory of  
Margaret  
wife of  
Levi Isbell  
Born Feb. 29, 1828  
Died Sept. 18, 1899

Rev. Miller  
Isbell  
Born  
Sept. 9, 1831  
Died  
April 5, 1897  
A Loving Husband,  
A father dear lies  
buried here.

Mollie M.  
Isbell  
Born  
Nov. 27, 1864  
Died  
Oct. 18, 1895  
Her spirit smiles  
from that bright shore  
softly whispers weep no  
more

William Isbell  
Born Nov. 1, 1870  
Died Mar. 11, 1901

## ISBELL CEMETERY (continued)

Willie Susan  
Dau. of  
John & Eliza Isbell  
Mar.10, 1874  
Apr. 19, 1903

Asleep in Jesus  
John O.  
McCormack  
Mar. 2, 1888  
June 12, 1921  
(foot)  
J.O.M.

J. A.  
Daughter of  
Wm. & M. A. Latham  
Born  
June 1, 1878  
Died  
Nov. 16, 1882  
(foot)  
J.A.L.

Approximately 25 unmarked  
graves

M. A.  
Wife of  
Wm. Latham  
Born  
Mar. 4, 1836  
Died July 6, 1881

Amanda Isbel  
wife of  
T. J. Long  
July 2, 1862  
Dec 31, 1899  
Since I can no longer stay to  
cheer thee with my love,  
I hope to meet thee in that  
bright world above.

Emma A.  
Dau. of  
T. J. & A. L. Long  
Dec. 2, 1886  
Dec. 15, 1900  
(foot)  
E.A.L.

The golden gates were opened  
wide. A gentle voice said come  
and angels from the other side  
welcomes loved ones home.



### 3. BERRY CEMETERY

Berry Cemetery is located in Berry's Cove and is well-marked and maintained.

Marked graves:

Boyd Berry  
Dec. 7, 1880  
May 3, 1975

BERRY  
Mother  
Mary M.  
Jan. 13, 1851  
Dec. 16, 1916

Father  
John A.  
Mar. 17, 1851  
Sept. 12, 1926

BERRY  
Davis A. Minnie M.  
1879 1938 1890 1972

BERRY  
Thomas Davis  
1855-1908  
(foot)  
Father

Julie Ann  
1857-1901  
(foot)  
Mother

Eula Owen Berry  
Aug. 26, 1875  
Feb. 6, 1946

Harold W. Berry  
April 23, 1928  
Dec. 18, 1953  
He was the sunshine  
of our home.

Thomas L.  
Berry III  
Jan. 30, 1980  
Feb. 29, 1980  
(foot)  
Baby

(Foot)  
H.W.B.  
Harold William Berry  
Alabama  
SFC Co B 151 Engr Combat BN  
April 23, 1928 Dec. 18, 1953

Brother  
Waillon V.  
Berry  
Nov. 10, 1920  
Oct. 8, 1933  
Dearest brother thou  
hast left us  
here. Thy loss we deeply  
feel, but as God that  
hath bereft us. He can  
all our sorrows heal.

Infant son  
J. W. & E. Berry  
Born & Died  
Nov. 7, 1917  
Gone to Heaven

Willie Van  
Berry  
Apr. 7, 1892  
Dec. 4, 1982  
None knew thee but  
to love thee.  
(foot)  
Father

Kenneth B. Berry  
SGT US ARMY  
KOREA  
Mar. 3, 1930 Jun. 13, 1982

Mother  
Johnie Vernon  
Berry  
Jan. 6, 1894  
May 1, 1935  
A Tender Mother and a Faithful  
Friend.  
(foot) J.V.B.

## BERRY CEMETERY (continued)

Henry E. Petty  
1871-193  
(foot) HEP

Sarah E. Petty  
1879-1909  
(foot)  
SEP

Lottie Petty  
Mar. 29, 1902  
June 10, 1916  
Gone to Rest

Clyde E. Woosley  
May 15, 1909  
June 27, 1987

### WOOSLEY

John F.	Mollie B.
1896-1961	1872-1933
(foot)	
Father	

Joseph M.  
Woosley  
Oct. 2, 1911  
Aug. 26, 1978  
Blessed are the merciful

Lockie V. Berry  
Wife James M. Young  
Born (missing--broken)  
Died Oct 18, 1904

1 unmarked baby grave

#### 4. JOHNSON CEMETERY

The Johnson Cemetery is located at the end of County Road 527. It was named after Marion and Cassie Johnson. It is still maintained. It has seven graves unmarked except by local limestone rock. Cassie was the daughter of Bill Houk.

##### Marked graves:

Myrtle E. Gentle  
June 12, 1909  
Oct. 16, 1947

There are 7 unmarked graves  
except with common rocks.

Mary  
Johnson  
April 27, 1851  
19  
She was the sun  
Shine of our  
home.  
(foot)  
MJ

Albert  
Johnson  
June 30, 1851  
Feb. 25, 1922  
He is not dead  
but sleepeth.  
  
(foot)  
AJ

##### JOHNSON

Marion M.  
Sept. 24, 1873  
June 9, 1939

Cassie  
Nov. 23, 1878  
Apr. 17, 1948

##### GONE HOME

A. Quincy  
son of  
A. & M. E. Johnson  
Born  
July 6, 1881  
Died  
Nov. 20, 1898  
(foot)  
AQJ

##### ROUSSEAU

Dora Gentle  
April 23, 1900  
Feb. 13, 1929  
(foot)  
DGR

Charlie C.  
April 13, 1894  
Nov. 28, 1932  
(foot)  
CCR

## 5. DOTSON or DODSON CEMETERY

Many local people refer to this cemetery as the Old Indian Cemetery. It has not been used for more than 75 years. There are several grave markers that have withstood the years and are easily readable. This Cemetery is named after the William Dodson family. This family was one of the earlier families at Lim Rock. About 10 grave sites, perhaps several in each enclosure, are walled up with hewn limestone blocks. Some of these rocks have toppled because of tree roots and time. It would be an easy task for 5-6 people to lift these stones back into places.

Some of the single grave enclosures have sandstone slabs covering the whole grave. Many grave sites are unmarked except by the local common limestone rocks. The grave sites cover about 75 feet by 75 feet in a grove of about two acres of woods.

### Marked graves:

In  
Memory of  
George W. Consort  
of Caroline Williams  
Born Aug. the 25th, 1808  
Died Mar. the 24th, 1861

In  
Memory of  
Lucinda daughter  
of Wm. and Mary Dodson  
Born Dec. 29, 1826  
Died July 5, 1849

In  
Memory of  
Manerva Jane  
Wife of O. Cotton  
born April 8th, 1829  
died July 16th, 1849

-----HALAE  
daughter of James P.  
and Martha  
Dotson who  
departed this life May  
the 16th D. 1837 aged 4  
years 6 months and  
26 days

### (Inside a walled enclosure:)

In memory of  
William Dodson  
born June 10, 1793  
died May 11, 1872

In memory of  
Mary  
wife of  
William Dodson  
born  
Feb. 21, 1792  
Died  
Oct. 7, 1872

## 6. GLOVER CEMETERY

The Glover Cemetery is at the end of County Road 526 in Shiffman's Cove. It was named after J. M. and Ellen Glover, the parents of Billy Glover. It has 11 unmarked graves. It is fenced with chain link fence and is well-maintained by Billy and Tish's grandchildren who live nearby.

### Marked graves:

Marcus Gene  
Gentle  
Stillborn  
Aug. 29, 1960

Ellen J.  
Glover Born  
June 9, 1832 (?)  
Died Feb. 24,  
1911  
(foot)  
EG

J. M. Glover  
Born April 23, 1833 (?)  
Died June 9, 1913

Miss. Jane  
Glover Born  
June 11, 1842  
Died Oct. 8, 1906

Pansy  
Glover  
Born Jul  
28, 1900  
Died July 28, 1900

Roxie  
Leona  
Glover  
Born June  
1, 1904 Died  
Sept. 5, 1908

### GLOVER

Tishie L.  
1871-1940  
(foot)  
TLG

William E.  
1868- 19 (not marked)  
(foot)  
WEG

## 7. HARRISON CEMETERY

This cemetery is located on the Levi Harrison farm in Shiffman's Cove. The oldest marked graves date about 1900.

Today the cemetery is fenced with chain link fence with a secured gate. It is about 50 feet by 50 feet enclosure. The latest interment was probably in 1975. It is reasonably well maintained today with indication that flowers were recently left. There are seven marked graves and two or three graves unmarked except with common limestone rocks.

### Marked graves:

#### FINLEY

Father	Mother
Arthur H.	Ethel B.
Finley	Finley
May 6, 1890	Sept. 10, 1893
Nov. 27, 1939	Oct. 6, 1975
His memory is blessed.	Her memory is blessed.
(foot)	(foot)
Father	Mother

Levi	Mary Ann
Harrison	Harrison
June 19, 1854	June 7, 1869
Jan. 9, 1916	July 2, 1911

Gone but not forgotten.

(foot)	(foot)
Father	Mother

Zeldia Orzora  
Houk  
Born  
Sep. 27, 1899  
Died  
Nov. 17, 1901  
He carries the lambs in  
His Bosom  
(foot)  
ZOH

POCKRUS  
Ida J. Pockrus  
Nov. 29, 1883  
July 28, 1926  
Our Loved One  
(foot)  
IJP

ACR  
Andrew Calvin Rousseau, Jr.  
July 19, 1930  
Infant  
ACR

## 8. GENTLE CEMETERY

This cemetery is located on the Bill and Nancy Gentle farm. It has been used mostly by Bill Gentle and his descendants. It is used today and is well-kept.

### Marked graves:

Bradford G.  
Gentle  
Apr. 2, 1962  
Feb. 19, 1978  
Gone, but not forgotten  
(foot)  
Son

Carlene Woosley  
Feb. 4, 1948(?)  
July 8, 1949(?)

Jennie Ruth  
Woosley  
Oct. 11, 1938  
Oct. 11, 1938

Wm. Bradford  
Son of  
J. R. & E. O. Gentle  
Apr. 20, 1925  
July 12, 1937

A little time on earth he spent  
Till God for him His angel sent.

Maurvelle Ann  
Woosley  
Apr. 27, 1935  
Apr. 27, 1935

### GENTLE

Esther  
Aug. 20, 1890  
Nov. 16, 1972

Jeremiah R.  
Mar. 4, 1891  
Mar. 24, 1952

There are 3  
unmarked graves.

Nancy A.  
Gentle  
Jan. 18, 1864  
Aug. 14, 1939  
A tender mother and  
A faithful friend

W. S. Gentle  
July 29, 1865  
Mar. 29, 1917  
Gone but not forgotten

Woodmen  
of  
World Memorial

Lucy E. Swearengin  
1917-1918

## 9. ERWIN CEMETERY

The Erwin Cemetery is well-kept and is in current use today. There are many unmarked graves. It has one metal fenced area that appears to be an early family plot, perhaps the Erwin family.

### Marked graves:

A.J. Derrick  
May 13, 1850  
Feb. 19, 1920  
Resting in Hope of a  
Glorious Resurrection

Sherman Boyd  
Son of  
Marion and Cora  
Derrick  
Aug. 26, 1909-Aug. 20, 1910

Cora Frazier  
Derrick  
Wife of  
Marion Derrick  
Feb. 14, 1885-Sept. 22, 1910

Walter Lesley  
Infant Son of  
Marion and Viola  
Derrick  
May 7, 1924

### DERRICK

Ella F.  
Sept. 12, 1884  
Oct. 27, 1919  
In loving memory

Dotson D.  
April 1, 1880  
March 14, 1940

Joe E.  
Elledge  
July 29, 1889  
July 1, 1932  
Gone, but not  
forgotten

Harold Dotson  
Derrick  
Oct. 5, 1922  
Aug. 1, 1942  
Dearest brother, thou has left us,  
Here thy loss we deeply feel,  
But tis God that hath bereft us,  
He can all our sorrow heal.

Mother  
Pearlie Mae  
Elledge  
Oct. 26, 1888  
July 19, 1976

### Infants of D. Derrick

Harvey  
Aug 30, 1902  
Dec. 12, 1902

Beddie L.  
March 4, 1918  
March 4, 1918

S. E. Elledge  
Born  
Aug. 1, 1874  
Died  
Dec. 31, 1917  
At Rest

Maldy  
Derrick Born Nov. 2  
1861 Died Oct. 16, 1904  
Wife of A. J. Derrick

Myrtle Derrick  
(Lewis) (Valley Leaves 9/84)  
May 19, 1907  
May 7, 1941  
In Loving Memory

Sister  
Vivian P.  
Elledge  
Nov. 29, 1919  
Oct. 30, 1937  
(foot)  
Vivian Elledge  
1919-1937



## ERWIN CEMETERY (continued)

<p>J. W. Frazier Oct. 18 1847 Mar. 7 1923</p>	<p>M. M. Frazier Dec. 26 1853 Jan. 28 1928 At Rest</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SHERRELL</p> <p>Oddie Lee Sept. 11, 1892 Apr. 21, 1951 A light is from our household gone, A voice we love is still. A place is vacant in our home That never can be filled.</p>
<p>Mother Emley E. Gossett B. Oct. 22, 1857 D. Aug. 15, 1933</p>		<p>Annie Lou Smith Oct. 2, 1914 Oct. 24, 1942 ALS</p>
<p>Daughter Tody Posy Bo. Sep. 3, 1922 D. SE. 26, 1933</p>		<p>Rest in Peace Cecil H. Smith May 8, 1940 Feb. 5, 1989</p>
<p>Martha Green 1879(?) 1937</p>		<p>Earl Clifton Smith Jan. 1, 1942 March 22, 1990 Rest in Peace</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HOLDER</p>		
<p>James (Jim) Mar. 4, 1870 May 18, 1925</p>	<p>Mildred Fronie A. Sept. 3, 1873 Dec. 2, 1949</p>	
<p>Thomas Eugene O'Neal Apr. 14, 1948 Apr. 14, 1948 (foot) Son</p>	<p>(From Valley Leaves Sept. 1984) Jimmie Smith Mar. 19, 1933 June 27, 1933 Our Darling</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SAINT</p>		
<p>(foot) Elijah Saint Dec. 7, 1883 Apr. 25, 1947</p>	<p>(foot) Ida B. Saint June 25, 1896 May 10, 1985</p>	<p>John Raymond Smith Dec. 7, 1937 July 24, 1955 Gone but not forgotten</p>
<p>OUR DARLING Cecil Shelton Aug. 11 - Sept. 6 1916 BABY</p>	<p>Lou Ella Gentle Shelton Mar. 12, 1894 Dec. 16, 1925 (foot) Mama</p>	

## ERWIN CEMETERY (continued)

Smith

Ossie Gentle  
Jan. 13, 1911  
(blank)

John Frank  
March 10, 1902  
Aug. 27, 1966

Jarrett  
Stewart  
Sept. 6, 1876  
Apr. 22, 1936  
He died as he lived  
a Christian

Copied from Valley Leaves Sept. 1984:  
"Note: Five graves here marked  
only with fieldstones and  
surrounded by a metal fence. One  
of these graves had a Spry Funeral  
Home Marker as follows:

Fay  
Holliman  
Tucker  
Mar. 14, 1931  
Oct. 31, 1936  
A Sunbeam From  
The World Has Gone

M{iss?} Carrie Erwin  
Died .....197...  
{illegible}"

A plot marked Derrick has 6  
unmarked graves.

Samuel Jordon  
Wallingsford  
April 2, 1882  
June 23, 1941  
Asleep in Jesus

Maggie C.  
Wallingsford  
Oct. 11, 1884  
Sept. 26, 1957  
Asleep in Jesus

### WILSON

Tommy Charles  
1956-1974

James Larry  
1949-1961

William Franklin  
1954-1959

(foot)  
Tommy

Gone but not forgotten  
(foot)  
Larry

(foot)  
Frankie

### WILSON

"Mom"  
Katie E.  
May 31, 1930  
(Died 12/15/92  
but not on stone)  
(Katie E. Smith Wilson)  
(foot) Katie

Married  
Apr. 29, 1948

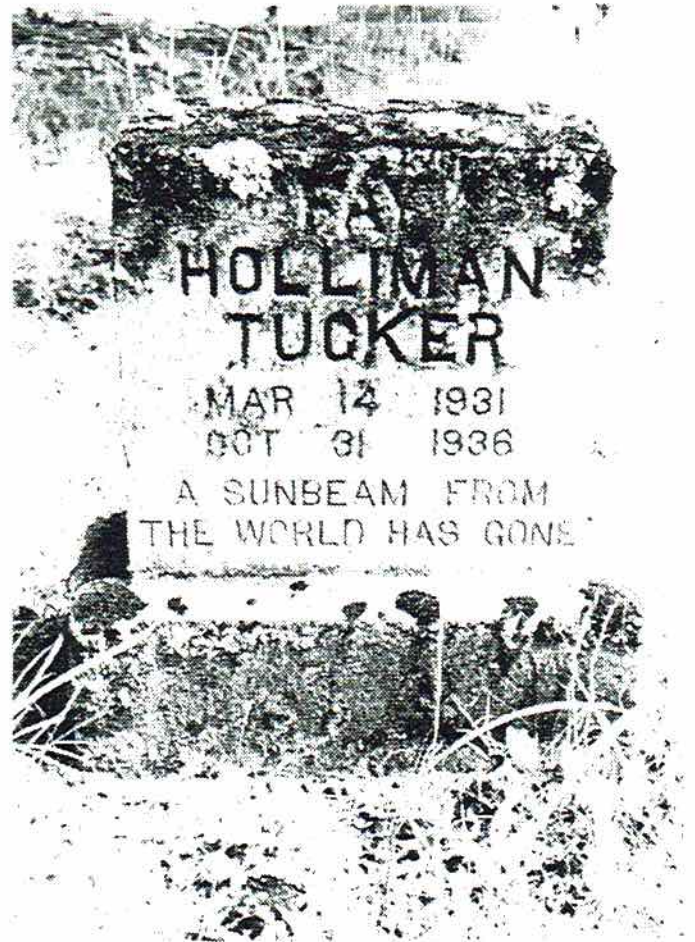
"Dad"  
James W.  
July 27, 1929  
Jan 28, 1989

(foot)  
Jim

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